
Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Volume 2, No. 3 Fall 1992

The Friends' Third Annual Book and Good Food Sale

a great success with something
for everyone



All kinds of people found something to interest them among the 15,000 books offered for sale. Special thanks to the Fillers, to Helen Renzi and all the hard-working, loyal volunteers who made the event such success. Profits Included over \$6,000 and a lot of satisfied customers.



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Wave of the Future

Question: What contains the amount of information found in a stack of paper 30-feet high, but fits comfortably in the palm of your hand?

Answer: a CD-ROM or Compact Disk Read-Only Memory.

CD-ROMs are the reference sections of the future and, thanks to the Friends, our library now has a small but growing collection. The disks look like the audio CDs that are replacing records and tapes, but they have an incredible capacity to store information. For example, our collection has a CD-ROM entitled *Microsoft Bookshelf* which includes: *1991 World*

Continued on following page

PEOPLE AT THE LIBRARY: **Marcia Gross**

If you have ever wanted an interlibrary loan, had a question about computers, attended a writers workshop or volunteered at the library, you probably already know Marcia Gross. If you don't, you should look in the office to the left of the circulation desk and meet her. You'll find her at the computer cataloging the adult collection, updating the borrowers list or implementing the new automated circulation system. If she's not there, she's probably upstairs helping someone use the public-access computer.

Marcia has been working at the library full time for the past six years, following three years of part-time work. She began her professional life teaching in Lakeville and Cheshire and then working as a training teacher at Mark Hopkins, the campus school at North Adams State College. During her 10 years there she worked with student teachers and had a fourth-grade class of her own. In 1978, following the birth of her third child, Christopher, she retired from traditional teaching to pursue a different kind of education.

Horses had been a part of Marcia's life since childhood, and when her young daughter, Lynda, became interested in riding she said she realized "how much you can learn through horses." For the past 10 years she has been involved with the Equus Therapeutic Inc. program which uses riding as therapy for disabled children and adults. Currently, she is both a Certified Therapeutic Instructor and the Program Director. Lynda has grown up, but she is still interested in riding and now runs Oakhollo Farm where she teaches riding, as well as boarding and training horses.

Computers came into Marcia's life via her husband Lawrence, who teaches at BCC and uses them in writing labs. There were computers "around the house" and Marcia learned to use them. At the library, she says modestly, that she "just figured out" the various programs and software when our library got a grant for its public-access computer in 1989. With the same empathy and patience that she displays in her Equus work, Marcia helps the electronically handicapped become comfortable with word processing, data bases and other software on the library's computer. Like so many people who are committed to books and libraries, Marcia says that she grew up without television. She remembers reading a lot as a child, especially the summer that she consumed 30 *Nancy Drew* mysteries.

As Assistant Librarian Marcia has done a great deal to extend the library into the community. She published a newsletter from April 1987 through the summer of 1989 and obtained a grant for the popular writers series which she presented in the spring of 1988. Currently, she is an essential part of the library's monthly Computer Club. Over the last few years, Marcia managed to computerize the borrowers list and, with help from volunteers, keeps it up to date. Thanks to her efforts, we can create the mailing labels that enable us to keep you informed on what's happening at your library. We can all help to keep the list current by notifying Marcia of any changes in names or addresses.



TOP SHELF

This issue's Top Shelf is a "Back-to-School" list of non-fiction books, suggested by children's librarian Jeannette Twardowski for readers from the third grade up.

Escape From Slavery, Five Journeys to Freedom,
by Doreen Rappaport.

Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean,
by Arthur Dorros.

Living with Dinosaurs, by Patricia Lauber.

A Night and Day in the Desert, by Jennifer Dewey.

Rain Forest Secrets, by Arthur Dorros.

Earth's Vanishing Forests, by Roy Gallant.

Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf, by Lois Ehlert.

Large as Life Animals, by Joanna Cole.

Reptile, by Colin McCarthy.

The Pumpkin Patch, by Elizabeth King.

A Very Young Actress, by Jill Krentenz.

Of Swans, Sugar Plums and Satin Slippers,
by Violette Verdy.

CD-ROM *continued from previous page*

Almanac & Fact Book, Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, Roget's II Thesaurus, The Concise Columbia Encyclopedia and The American Heritage Dictionary. To look up information, users insert the disk into a player which is connected to the public-access computer and printer. The narrowing-down process is similar to the old-fashioned system of flipping through the index, except that it's done electronically and much faster. Once you've located the information you need, you can then print it on the printer and take it home with you. One piece of paper with Portia's "The quality of mercy is not strained..." speech, for example, rather than a ponderous volume of the complete works of Shakespeare. Another obvious advantage is that all of Shakespeare is still available to the next person who comes in 10 minutes later looking for "To be or not to be..." If this sounds fascinating but formidable, stop by and ask Marcia Gross to show you how it works.

Our collection of CD-ROMs currently includes the following: **Microsoft Bookshelf, The Family Doctor, Front Page News, American Academic Encyclopedia, Libraries of the Future, World Atlas and U.S. Atlas, Reference Library, Monarch Notes, Microsoft Stat Pack and Small Business Consultant, Magazine Rack, U.S. History, The Bible Library, Time Compact Almanac, National Geographic's Multimedia Encyclopedia of Mammals, Audubon's Multimedia Birds of America, and Audubon's Multimedia Mammals.**

Some summer notes & numbers

- 249 children participated in *Reach for It! Read!*, the library's summer reading program. They ranged in age from 2 1/2 to 12 years old.
- 15,000 books were donated, sorted, priced and offered for sale at the Friends' Annual Book and Good Food Sale this Aug-ust. Sale of the books brought in \$5,400, the food netted \$1,400.
- After almost 2 years in the children's room at our library, Dan Daniels, who holds a full-time position at the North Adams State library, has resigned his part-time position here. We will miss his cheerful presence on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings and wish him all the best. Special thanks to volunteer Peggy LaPine who is filling in for Dan.
- Volunteers contributed 342 hours of service to the library between June 1 and August 28, not counting help with the book sale and other special programs.
- June 22 saw the highest single daily circulation ever: 469 items were checked out of the library.
- The library has just published the 9th annual *Williamstown Fact Sheet*, a compendium of information on organizations, social service agencies as well as municipal, state and federal government offices. Special thanks to volunteers Pat Jefferys who designed the cover again this year, Peggy LaPine who cheerfully undertook the tedious but essential job of fact checking and Alan H. Green for his meticulous copy editing.

The Computer Club

The Computer Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the library. Run by Clyde Bailey, it functions as an "electronic support group." Programs last about two hours and always include a specific topic for discussion such as desktop publishing, new software or a "how to" lesson on cleaning computers. Members share problems and solutions over refreshments and beginners are welcome. One new computer owner, totally lacking in experience, confessed that he felt he was "drifting further and further from the shore." Members of the club jumped in and helped him learn the basics and even made occasional house calls when he got in over his head. The Computer Club reconvenes on Tuesday, September 29. If you have questions about the club, please call the library 458-5369 and ask for Marcia.

The Williamstown Writers' Group

In September 1990 a call for serious writers needing of support and willing to share their stories received a positive response. Since then, a group of seven writers has been meeting weekly for two years. We keep to a strict two-hour schedule, and each of us, in turn, has a half-hour to present a current work in progress. Others in the group offer critiques. Last May, we gave our first public reading, presenting works that had evolved over the course of many meetings. It has been a stimulating, exciting process, and we are grateful to the library for giving us the space and haven in which we share our craft. Because of size, our group cannot accommodate any new members, but we hope that other writers will meet and form new groups, following in our footsteps. If you are interested in starting or joining such a group, please call me at 458-9080 and perhaps I could help with the initial organization.

— Adriana Brown, Writers' Group



News from the Friends

The Book and Good Food Sale were a great success thanks to the organization and hard work of the Fillers, Helen Renzi and all of the wonderful volunteers! The sale made over \$6,000 and we now have enough money to pay for steps 3 and 4 of the program for computerizing the library.

Our thanks to volunteers Ryan Ackley, Judy, Hilary and Winthrop Alden, Susan and Andy Bernardy, Bob Carmichael, Elizabeth Costley, Ron Gallagher, Diane and Arnold Goldberg, Paul LaPlante, Sarah McFarland, Phyllis and Jerry Norton, David Peth, Margaret Pierpan, Ralph Renzi, Edith Schwartz, Martha Schwartz, Denise Sheehan, Patricia Siskind, Barbara and Paul Sylvester, Jean Vankin, Carl Wied and Catherine Winn for their help with the book sale.

A number of people said how happy they were to have the library open on Saturdays this summer — we thank all of you for making it possible.

The Our Village Series scheduled for September 17 and November 12 should be fun for the young at heart. I hope you will join us at 4 p.m. to see (and climb on) the ambulance, fire truck, police car and highway department vehicles!

Lauren Stevens will have copies of his book for sale at his slide lecture on October 15 at 7:30 p.m. and we look forward to hearing from him about hikes and walks in the Berkshires.

— Meg Dodds, President of the Friends

Be a Friend!

Please tear off and return with your check to:
Friends of the Williamstown Public Library
762 Main Street • Williamstown, MA 01267

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$ 100.00 and up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ _____ |

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Story Hour: Regular story hour has resumed for children up to 7 years of age. Come join us every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the children's room at the library.

September 17: *Our Village:* Williamstown Firemen and the Village Ambulance members will bring their vehicles and present a show-and-tell program outside the library. Sponsored by the Friends. 4 p.m.

September 19: Library Computer Club. 7:30 p.m.

October 15: *Hikes and Walks in the Berkshires:* slide lecture by local historian Lauren R. Stevens. Sponsored by the Friends. 7:30 p.m.

November 12: *Our Village:* Police car and highway department vehicles will be featured in this second show-and-tell program. Sponsored by the Friends. 4 p.m.

Library hours:

Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Closed Sun.
Children's Story Hour: Thursday 3:30 p.m. To volunteer for library projects, please call (413) 458-5369.

THE HOUSE OF LOCAL HISTORY: New officers

The House of Local History announces a new slate of officers for 1992-93. Anson C. Piper, retired Williams College professor, will preside as the newly elected president at the first meeting of the Board of Directors on September 14. Assisting him will be Mike Steele as vice president, Hank Flynt returning to the Board as treasurer, Molly Asher as recording secretary and Susan Bernardy as corresponding secretary. New board members include Annette Jenks who has been an ex-officio member, returning members Hank Bratcher and Dagmar Bubriski as well as Anne Ryle.

Currently on display at the House of Local History is *History is Now: Changes Within Our Lifetime, 1942-1992*, an exhibit encompassing recollections of Williamstown's historical past. Also featured is *History of The Opera House, 1843-1992*, an exhibit of photos and documents that chronicle the colorful past of one of the town's most famous structures.

Our town is rich in history and steeped in tradition. The House of Local History seeks to preserve that heritage by offering a fascinating collection of objects, photos and documents from the Williamstown's distant past to the 20th century. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact curator Nancy Burstein at 458-2160 for a free brochure.



Friends of the Williamstown Public Library

762 Main Street • Williamstown, MA 01267

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