
Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Creating a children's book

Editor:

Mimi Evans

Contributing Writers:

Frances Buttenheim

Brent Filson

Marcia Gross

Meg Dodds

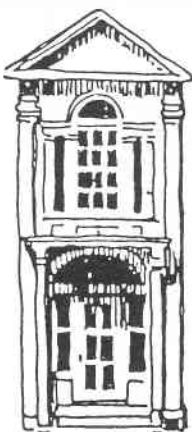
Pat Girard

Annette Jenks

Jeannette Twardowski

Peter White

Illustrations by: Mimi Evans



Everyone loves to read children's books, and many people say they have always wanted to write one.

If you're a children's book lover, don't miss the free panel discussion, sponsored by the Friends of The Library, on Thursday, Oct. 10 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the library.

On the panel will be local authors, publishers, illustrators, teachers and book sellers. A reception and book signing will follow, with books for sale from both The College Book Store and Water Street Books. Ten percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of The Library.

Panelists include: Maggie Chang, author of *In the Eye Of War*, Brent Filson, publisher and author of non-fiction books for children, Bruce Koscielniac, illustrator of several children's books including *Hector and Prudence*, Karen Lobdell who teaches second grade at Pine Cobble and manages the children's section at Water Street Books and Marjorie Allen, illustrator of *Changes*, who teaches at BCC and who is a critic for *The Berkshire Eagle*.

For everyone who loved to read as a child, reads to children now or dreams of creating a children's book, please come!

Feasibility study results are in

"...The positive feelings for the library, the service it provides, and its perceived importance to the community are impressive as is the apparent financial support for a campaign."

The above is from a report prepared by David Blackburn, an independent consultant on fund-raising for non-profit institutions. Last February, the trustees hired David to conduct a financial feasibility study, to determine whether there would be sufficient financial support within the community to proceed with plans for expanding the library facilities.

Throughout the spring, David met with over fifty people, representing a broad cross-section of Williamstown. In confidential interviews, he discussed their feelings about the library, its strengths and weaknesses and its needs. He met frequently with the trustees and staff of the library

itself, becoming familiar with its daily rhythms and routines. He even became a regular user, checking out Books On Tape to beguile the drive between Williamstown and his home in Fairfield, Connecticut.

The detailed twenty-eight page report which he submitted to the trustees on June 18 is a thoughtful compendium of impressions, conversations and good advice. Above all, it is optimistic in its conclusions concerning the viability of the proposed expansion through a combination of private and public funding. With this report in hand, and with the continued invaluable assistance of David Blackburn, the trustees have determined to proceed with the project.

The trustees and staff of the library are grateful to all who participated in this study. Without their openness and willingness to share their thoughts with David, the study would not have been possible.



Renovations begin with a new coat of paint

"Restoring the historic library building is a great idea," said Gerald Bush, Jr. who has scraped and painted the structure during the summer. "You could never get the kind of detailed woodwork in a new building today that you have right here."

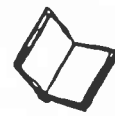
Gerald says the craftsmanship he has uncovered in removing upwards of six layers of paint from the building, which was constructed in 1817, is remarkable.

"The diagonal dentil going around the top of the building, the moldings, the fluted columns, and the wooden sunbursts over the tops of the windows make the building unique."

Gerald's work is part of the goal of restoring and renovating the library using the historical building as an anchor.

Augmenting Gerald's efforts were Eagle Scouts from Williamstown Troop 70. Under the leadership of Scout David Kaplan, the troop painted the lower portions of the building's clapboards. The activity was a community service project which David organized to meet Eagle Scout requirements.

David says, "The public library is a very important, visible building that serves a large number of Williamstown residents. When the library looks run down and shabby because of peeling paint, it reflects poorly on our community."



Library Expansion progress

The Design Selection Committee, chaired by Anita Barker, took steps to select an architect for the expansion of the library.

Notices were placed in the Massachusetts Central Register resulting in a site visit on Aug. 28 by twenty-one architects. Two were from Williamstown; others came from the Boston area, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York. Brent Filson, Chairman of the library board of trustees, and Anita Barker described the requirements for the project.

The expansion will preserve our historic building and provide badly needed space.

Formal applications were received from 18 architects after the site visit, listing their experience and qualifications. The Design Selection Committee will recommend, in order of preference, three architects for final selection. Preliminary plans and specifications will then be presented by the winning architect soon after the first of the year.

The trustees know that any building project in these difficult times is a challenge. However, the need is so clear that they are convinced there is no alternative. Further delay will only add to its cost and continue to restrict full use of this unique resource.

BOOK REVIEW

Lyddie by Katherine Patterson

If you liked Katherine Patterson's *Jacob Have I Loved*, *Bridge to Terabithia* or *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, you must read *Lyddie*. Katherine lives in Barre, Vermont and this past summer was a featured author at a whole language workshop at North Adams State College. At the workshop she introduced her new book, *Lyddie* which she had written for this year's Vermont bicentennial.

Lyddie is a poor farm girl in the 1800s. She is hired out to a tavern when her family lets their debt-ridden farm to a neighbor. From the tavern Lyddie journeys to the mills of Lowell for a better life. Her goal is to pay off her family's debts and to be free.

Lyddie takes the reader to the mills, the crowded boarding houses, the deafening looms and the ever-increasing abhorrent conditions of mill work. We see Lyddie grow and change.

This is a wonderful book for the sixth grade and above. I enjoyed it very much and recommend it to adults as well.

Pat Girard

Friends' news

Thanks to all for making our membership drive and annual book and food sales successful.

Many have asked what role the Friends of The Williamstown Public Library play. The Friends serve three main purposes:

(1) to help the library during its current budget restrictions by purchasing items on the librarian's "wish list,"

(2) to organize lectures, discussions and readings at the library, and

(3) to put aside money to be used as a contribution to the trustees' campaign to expand the library.

We hope to see you all at the Oct. 10 children's book symposium and at the panel discussion on Nov. 21 when cookbook authors talk about how to assemble a cookbook. They will share with us some of their favorite holiday recipes.

At the December Holiday Open House we hope to present the library with a quilt celebrating 50 years at its present location. Special thanks to all who have been working on this project.

*Meg Dodds
President of the Friends
of the Williamstown Public Library*

TOP SHELF

Members of the staff have named the following books as the best they have read, written by authors who are not well known or are not on the best-seller list. There is unanimous agreement among the staff that Joy Fielding's **See Jane Run** is one of the best suspense novels of 1991.

Other favorites include:

Debbie - **Financial Self Defense** and **Wealth Without Risk** both by Charles Givens
The Firm by John Grisham

Inez - **Mom Meets Her Maker, A Nice Murder for Mom, and Mom Doth Murder Sleep**, mysteries by James Yaffe

Annette - **Mrs. Pargeter's Package** by Simon Brett

Nancy - **Shattered Stairs** by Hilary Norman and **A Glimpse of Stocking** by Elizabeth Gage

Marcia - **Prized Possessions** by Avery Corman.

Be a Friend!

Please tear off and return with your check payable to Friends of the Williamstown Public Library.

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 | \$ _____ |

Thank you, all our friends, old and new!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS

OCTOBER: October 10 • 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

A symposium in which writers, illustrators and librarians discuss their personal experiences in creating and managing children's books.

NOVEMBER: November 21

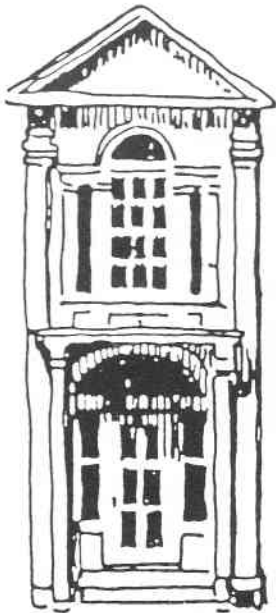
A panel of cookbook authors discuss their work and share some holiday recipes.

DECEMBER: A holiday Open House at the library.

Summer reading program

This past summer, 222 children participated in the summer reading program. They read books and then they also puzzled through word searches, mazes, hidden pictures and drew pictures of their favorites, earning a variety of prizes. At the closing ceremonies on July 31, the children were treated to the imaginations of story-tellers Dan and Eugenie Daniels. Many participants won prizes in the random drawing.

A special thanks to the Friends of The Library who provided refreshments.



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday

Children's Story Hour: Thursday at 3:30 p.m..

To volunteer for library projects, please call (413) 458-5369.

Williamstown Public Library
762 Main Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

BULK RATE
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Williamstown, MA
01267