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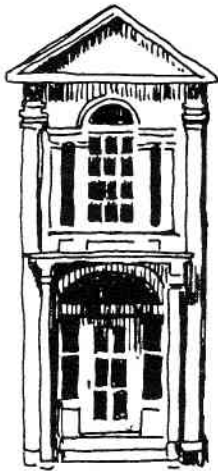
# Biblio File

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NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Volume 1, No. 1 February 1991

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**Editor:**

Mimi Evans

**Contributing writers:**

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Illustrations by Mimi Evans

## Friends are truly friends

The Friends of the Library was formed nearly two years ago to support the activities and services of the library. Members have contributed their time and talents in various ways to enable the Friends to greatly enhance the library's effectiveness.

After last spring's membership drive, the Executive Board asked the staff to create a "wish list." What a good time we had making that list! And then we could only watch with amazement when, so quickly, our wishes came true.

The first big item from the list was the coin-operated photocopy machine. Having it available to the public has saved countless hours of staff time. Previously, staff members were the only ones who were allowed to operate the photocopy machine in the office. This meant that a staff member had to stop work to assist anyone who asked for copies.

Thanks to the work of the drafting class at McCann School, the second big item was the creation of the picture-book bins in the children's room.

Teacher Bill Fuhrmann assembled them and stained the wood and Al LePak

Painted the metal frames. The unpaid labor worked in conjunction with the Friends who paid for the materials. A grand effort!

Then quickly followed other new acquisitions: a VCR for the children's room, a new projector, bookmarks with the library's hours and phone number. And watch for some beautiful new benches which are already purchased and waiting to be set out on the front lawn next spring!

A cutback in programming loomed because of the tight budgets required of all town departments. But whenever the Friends were asked, they funded these programs and even paid for the refreshments for all the programs held at the library.

Additionally, they sponsored the summer book sale and a wonderful program given by Deborah Burns on the origins of the Shakers in America.

What a great asset the Friends are to the library. May they prosper and multiply.



## Interlibrary loans available

With the weekly assistance of volunteers Peggy Lapine and Sara Clark, the library's collection of books is being entered into the C.W. Mars Database for sharing with other libraries.

About 10 books per month are presently loaned to other libraries.

In 1988 the Williamstown Public Library went on line to access books from other libraries. Patrons of the library frequently request books that are not in our collection and are pleased to have them available in a few days. Statistics for the use of interlibrary loans have increased from 413 books during 1987 to 865 books in 1989.

Please come in with your request!

## Trustee goals: expand, renovate

It's been said that libraries are the DNA of our culture. (Let's hope it's libraries and not sitcom programs!)

The trouble is, our town library-- the double helix of that DNA if you will -- has serious problems. It needs a larger circulation desk, an expanded reference section, more stack space, more office space, more work table space, a larger children's room and handicapped-accessible entrances.

In addition, because of budget constraints, the library is being operated by a skeleton staff who are working under trying conditions.

If we don't tackle these problems, we will eventually have a library that will be diminished and demoralized.

The trustees are committed to renovating, restoring and expanding the library on its present site, with the present historic building as an anchor.

The library we envision will have a greatly enlarged children's room, expanded stack facilities, high-tech equipment and improved facilities and equipment for the staff.

During the past few years, Annette, the trustees and staff have been engaged in a comprehensive evaluation of the library: its service to the community, its needs, its goals, identification of priorities, timetables for reaching both short and long term goals and general cost projections.

Now we are ready to act. We have drawn up preliminary plans for a 3,500-square-foot expansion of the library and are in the process of estimating its costs and analyzing the feasibility of our undertaking a capital campaign to defray much of these costs.

Let's rally to the cause and make sure that our cultural genes are given a chance to be invigorated in a larger and richer environment.

# The October Project

*"The new office is a testament to the power of volunteers..."*

Many hands made light work of the project which converted a drafty storage room into a cozy new office for Annette Jenks.

Volunteers at the library will remember the space behind the main office as a chilly place to hang their coats or swap paperback books. Bulky cupboards took up most of the usable space, and the light from the single window failed to dispel the gloom.

Today, thanks to many workers, the 14-foot-by-9-foot room is warm and cheerful. Sunlight streams in the two new windows. There is new track lighting on the ceiling and new pink carpeting on the floor. In the main office, Marcia Gross and Debbie Felix have a little more elbow room and working space.

The project was the brainchild of Stephen Shoreman who envisioned a way of increasing existing office space without altering the actual building. Volunteers responded readily to the call for help and the "October Project" was underway.

Construction began on Saturday, Sept. 8, when Dr. Robert Wicksman showed up at 9:55 a.m., crowbar in hand, ready to go to work. A few hours later as the plaster dust was flying, Tom Green-

wood appeared on the scene and was immediately made foreman of the project, a position he fulfilled with quiet expertise and unflinching courtesy.

Work continued throughout September, October and November. The built-in cupboards were dismantled, plaster and lath walls were pulled down, and gradually replaced with insulation and sheetrock. A second window was put in, and a new ceiling installed. The old clunky radiator gave way to new baseboard heating and enough electrical wires and lines were installed to satisfy the highest of high-tech needs.

Dedicated volunteers like Sam Cherubin, Bob Wicksman, Oz Tower and Ralph Renzi kept the work going, fueled by their own enthusiasm, Debbie's coffee and an occasional jelly doughnut. Wayne Felix spent countless hours crouched in the basement trying to get the bugs out of the new heating system -- and succeeding! A painting crew, spearheaded by Peter Buttenheim, rolled coats of "narcissus" on the new walls, and painted the trim a sparkling white.

On the first of December, Dick DeMayo installed the last lighting fixtures, well in time for the "office warming" the next day.

The new office is a testament to the power of volunteers, and to the affection that Williamstown has for its library. Throughout the fall, people came forward spontaneously and generously to offer supplies, encouragement and help. The library, trustees and staff are grateful to all of the following people who "made it happen:"

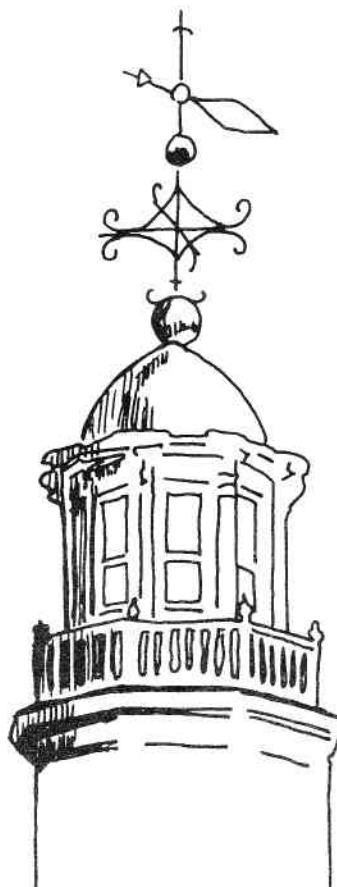
Charles Bonenti  
Noel Buckley  
Frances and Peter Buttenheim  
Sam Cherubin  
Dick DeMayo  
Wayne Felix  
Brent Filson and "the boys"  
Bud Fisher  
George Gavagan  
Tom Greenwood  
Larry Gross  
John Los  
LCS Rubbish Removal  
Felicia and Milton Pharr  
Ralph Renzi  
Patti and Julius Siskind  
Stephen Shoreman  
Anne Skinner  
Oz Tower  
Brad Valentine  
Peter White  
Bob Wicksman

## Many hours of storytelling for children — and adults — each week

Several story hours are conducted in the children's room every week. We are happy to welcome the children and teachers from the Williamstown Community Day Care, the Williams College Day Care and the Rhythm and Rhyme Nursery School on a regular basis. On Thursday afternoons at 3:30 p.m., a story hour is conducted for the public.

Story hour usually consists of the reading of several picture books and the showing of one or two movies provided by the Western Regional Library System. On occasion, special programs are conducted.

We are very happy to welcome any other group to the library for story time either on a regular basis or on a special occasion. We also welcome volunteers to read for story hour or to provide other



forms of entertainment for young children.

If you are interested in volunteering your services or would like to schedule a story time for your group please call us!



## Computer club meets monthly

The Williamstown Computer Club meets monthly on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the library. Clyde Bailey from North Adams and frequent guest speakers discuss topics of interest at each meeting. A monthly *Williamstown Public Library Computer Club News* is published each month by Clyde and mailed to members.

Members are encouraged to share their knowledge with each other through contacting each other directly and providing support. Most of the members are IBM and Macintosh users. If you'd like to join, please drop by the next meeting.

# Why expand the library now?

Why expand the library now? First, consider what the library provides Williamstown. There are over 30,000 books, thousands of magazines and newspaper files, hundreds of audio tapes and records, videotapes and an IBM computer with over 50 software programs. All of this is serviced by a staff of seven librarians and 11 volunteers. We have a reading room, reference room, children's area and work spaces. The library also provides space for meetings and study groups.

Williamstown is well-served by its library, but every visitor must realize how busy it is and wonder how so much can go on in such a limited space. Circulation has gone up in each of the last three years. Over 1,000 new books are acquired each year and even after judicious discarding it is almost impossible to find space for new material.

The library is a living body, changing and growing, reflecting the needs and interests of the community. It is the one place where, at no cost, you can find material which will help you whether for education, diversion or relaxation. All are welcome!

Now we must face the facts. Simply put, the library must expand. It does not have enough space to do all that it can do for the town and its people.

After careful consideration, the library trustees concluded that adding 3,500 square feet of usable space to our pres-

***"The library is a living body, changing and growing, reflecting the needs and interests of the community."***

ent building would be the least costly way to serve our needs for the foreseeable future. Adding to the present building will preserve a handsome structure originally built in 1815 which, 50 years ago, E. Herbert Botsford donated to the town for use as a library and the House of Local History. A campaign will soon be underway to seek contributions toward expansion costs, the town to provide the balance. We hope you all will help. This would be a fitting thank you for Mr. Botsford's gift of 50 years ago, and a gift to those who come after.

**Peter White**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

# About this newsletter

We are pleased to reactivate our newsletter because it is one of the best ways we know to make the largest number of people aware of what is happening at the library. News releases in the local newspaper are fine, but to give more complete coverage of the services available at the library, we need our own newsletter.



The newsletter is being written for you, to remind you of all the ways that you can benefit from what the library offers. Public libraries are unique institutions. Where else will you find books, cassette tapes, toys, software, videotapes, magazines and even Polaroid cameras free of charge to adapt to your own schedule? In this day of additional fees and taxes, the library is still the best bargain in town and we will continue to retain the philosophy of free access to all our citizens. All you have to do is take advantage of it!

Actually, we are the happiest when we are the busiest. When we see people find enjoyment or enlightenment from what we have painstakingly worked to gather and offer to them, our own satisfaction is guaranteed.

So come to the library to see us. The door is open six days a week and members of the staff will be happy to help you. Read this newsletter and subsequent newsletters to be aware of free programs and new additions to our collection. Enrich your life and the lives of your family by making a library visit part of your routine. Many people do!

**Annette R. Jenks**

## TOP SHELF

The library staff named the following books as their top choices from all their recreational reading in 1990:

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|---|---|
| Debbie --                                   | <b>Bred To Win</b> by William Kinsolving<br><b>Bum Steer</b> by Nancy Pickard   |
| Inez --                                     | <b>The J. Alfred Prufrock Murders</b> by Corinne Holt Sawyer<br><b>Murder In Gray and White</b> by Corinne Holt Sawyer<br><b>Mysteries</b> by Haughton Murphy |
| Annette --                                  | <b>The Face of a Stranger</b> by Anne Perry<br><b>View from Thornhill</b> by Dee Hardie (non-fiction)   |
| Jenette --                                  | <b>Under the Lake</b> by Stuart Woods<br><b>Strangers</b> by Dean Koontz  |
| Jen also recommends these children's books: | <b>Number the Stars</b> by Lois Lowry for fourth grade and up<br><b>The Waldo Series</b> for all ages   |
| Nancy --                                    | <b>To Hear a Nightingale</b> by Charlotte Bingham<br><b>Morning Glory</b> by LaVyrle Spencer<br><b>Dark Angel</b> by Sally Beauman                            |

# An evening with author Jim Trelease

"The Read-Aloud Handbook *spent 17 weeks on The Times bestseller list*"

The Friends of the Library in conjunction with the Williamstown Public Schools' Parent Teacher Organization and other community groups are sponsoring "An Evening with Jim Trelease" on Friday, March 1, 1991 in the Renzi Room of the Williamstown Public Schools.

We are excited to have him as a guest speaker. For 20 years Jim Trelease was an award-winning artist and writer for a New England daily newspaper. During

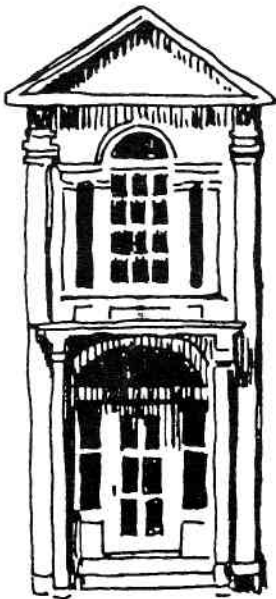
this period he visited classrooms as a school volunteer, talking with students about the joys of reading.

In 1979, he self-published a 30-page booklet for parents and teachers on the subject of reading aloud. Seeing the success of this booklet, Penguin Books signed him to do an expanded edition in 1982.

By the time a second edition was published in 1985, the *Read Aloud Handbook* had spent 17 weeks on *The New*

*York Times'* bestseller list and had a half-million copies in print.

The father of two children, Jim Trelease warns of the dangers from children "overdosing" on TV and he offers a step-by-step plan by which parents can apply his techniques. A nationally recognized speaker, Trelease has been a featured speaker for most of the major reading and library associations in America, as well as more than 100 parent groups each year.



## 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: Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

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

Williamstown Public Library  
762 Main Street  
Williamstown, MA 01267

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