
Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Volume 2, No. 1

Spring 1992

Trustees select architect for expansion project

The trustees of the library take great pleasure in announcing that architect Norman S. Baier has been selected to design the expansion and renovation of the library. A partner in the firm of Galliher and Baier of Simsbury, Conn., he was the unanimous choice of the Design Selection Committee from among the 18 competing firms. Mr. Baier brings to our library not only his professional background in architecture but a special expertise in libraries. A member of the American Library Association (LAMA), he has been the responsible partner in 11 library construction and expansion projects in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York. Three of these projects won design awards including those in Shrub Oak, N.Y., Avon, Conn., and Stratford, Conn.

A graduate of Middlebury College, Mr. Baier received his degree in architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he received academic honors and was elected to Scarab, the honorary architectural society. His interest in libraries began with his first project and grew over the years.

"Libraries," he says "are most often exquisite, delightful buildings. They may have become too small or fallen on evil days through lack of funds, but when they were built they were the pride of the community." Mr. Baier adds that "generally the people associated with libraries are wonderful to work with because they're very educated and very participatory. They don't just hire an architect and disappear."

His expertise has made him a featured speaker at annual conferences of the Connecticut Library Association on topics such as "Library Design Process," and "Expansion of Historic Libraries." Last year, he spoke in Atlanta on "Libraries for the Future: Planning Buildings That Work."

When he is not planning workable libraries for the future or renovating historic buildings, Mr. Baier is often on the ski slopes. A member of the National Ski Patrol System, he frequently skis at Jiminy Peak and is familiar with the Berkshires and with Williamstown. We look forward to working with him on our own library.



Contributors:

Frances Buitenheim
Marilyn Coll
Meg Dodds
Alan Green
Annette Jenks
Paula Murphy
Felicia Pharr
The Library Staff

Designer: Mimi Evans
Illustrations by: Mimi Evans

Hours

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

Friends' community quilt project progressing

Last fall, the Friends of the Library organized a community quilt project to mark the library's 50th anniversary at its present location, and the response has been overwhelming. Patrons have created wonderful squares that tell stories, depict scenes or represent their own personal responses to the Williamstown Public Library. From all the work that has been received so far, it is clear that our patrons have many different reasons to love the library. The completed squares will be stitched together in an album, or story, quilt to hang over the fireplace in the library.

Those who have not yet finished their squares are asked to return them as soon as possible so that we can begin the task of assembling the quilt. On April 9, during National Library Week, the Friends are having a lemonade social at 7:30 p.m. to hang the quilt and celebrate the library's golden anniversary at 762 Main St. We will be joined by the House of Local History which is planning a special exhibit in honor of the festivities.

If you have any questions about the quilt, please call Marilyn Coll at 458-4653.

Library Literacy Program helps a new citizen

In January 1991, S., a married woman from Taiwan, requested help in speaking English. Arrangements were made to have her meet with a local tutor at the Williamstown Public Library. After a few months of regular sessions, S. decided to apply for U.S. citizenship and began studying American history and government with her tutor.

On the appointed day in June, S. traveled to Boston for the test that she both looked forward to and dreaded. As the test began, the examiner fired questions at her with numbing rapidity. He demanded that she respond without hesitation and S. felt overwhelmed by the constant barrage. In protest, her mind shut down and she became speechless. The examiner then advised her to make a second attempt within six months.

In September S. received a notice for a retest in mid-October. Immediately, she and her tutor shifted into high gear and began double sessions every week. She studied Colonial history, the writing of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, names of congressmen, Supreme Court justices; memorized them all and studied some more.

S. returned to Boston on Oct. 16, 1991 and faced the same examiner. He barked questions at her, as before but this time she delivered the answers unhesitatingly. He smiled as she began to recite the names of the Supreme Court justices. He interrupted her after the sixth name and raised his hand in a victory salute. S.'s ears rang with his proclamation, "Good, very good."

In November S. was awarded her U.S. citizenship at the swearing-in ceremony in Boston.

The literacy program that helped S. attain citizenship has been sponsored by the Williamstown Public Library since 1990 and made possible by a \$4,000 grant obtained through Phil Wick of the Williams College Financial Aid Office. Coordinators Paula Murphy and Thomas Cummings supervise the 13 teachers and 11 students who are currently involved in the program. Classes are all on a one-to-one basis and are held at the library's literacy center, using the growing collection of print and audio-visual material. Students in the program may want help with English as a second language, like S., or they may need help with basic reading/writing skills. Anyone over 18 years old is eligible for the program which is free of charge, and the library encourages inquiries from potential students. The tutors include both adults and college students, all of whom volunteer their time to serve in the program. They are trained by Literacy Volunteers of America, who are offering a series of three classes on March 7, 14 and 21. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved in the literacy program either as a student or a teacher should call the library at 458-5369.



Volunteer Betty Rosse (right) helps Jeannette Twardowski move books.

PEOPLE AT THE LIBRARY:

Betty Rosse

"To read is knowledge," says library volunteer Betty Rosse. Betty has been teaching and helping children to acquire a love of books and reading for most of her adult life. A graduate of North Adams State College, her first job was teaching first and third grade at the Mark Hopkins Training School. Her second "job" was encouraging her own children, Glenn and Diane, to read.

From 1965 to 1983 Betty taught in the Williamstown elementary school concentrating on second- and third-graders. When her husband Jim retired in 1983, the Rosses moved south, spending part of the year in Port Orange, Fla. Betty had some unaccustomed leisure time and decided to volunteer at the local library figuring that "since I had always been associated with books and children that I could help there." After three years of sunshine, the Rosses decided to move back home to North Adams. When Betty showed up at the Williamstown Library one day in 1987 and asked if "they needed any help," children's librarian Jeannette Twardowski replied "desperately!"

Since that day, Betty has been volunteering two mornings a week year-round with only occasional breaks to travel with her husband. She works at least four hours each morning shelving books, sending out overdue notices, helping with the inventory, updating the card catalog, decorating the bulletin boards and, more recently, working on the computer to help install the new automated circulation system donated by the Friends of the Library. Her least favorite task is repairing damaged books, and the one she enjoys the most is manning the circulation desk where she gets to interact with the library's youngest users and their parents. In recent years, Betty has seen a growing dependence on audio-visuals rather than print media, and she is concerned that television, tapes or videos make reading books seem difficult and tedious to children. In her own family, she is doing what she can to combat this trend; her 4-1/2-year old granddaughter Alicia has just gotten her first library card. It's a real rite of passage in the Rosse family.

News from the Friends of the Library

Since the last newsletter the new Christmas decorations for the library have been stored away, the well-attended and greatly appreciated Great Balancing Act Panel and Helen Hackett Kelly's "O World..." presentation of Edna St. Vincent Millay's letters and poems have taken place. Renate Kopynec provided delicious refreshments for the Great Balancing Act Panel, and Scott Avery generously donated his wonderful goodies for Helen's program.

Our last program before the summer will be the Green Thumbs Panel on March 19 at 7:30 p.m. The panelists' varied backgrounds combine classic horticultural education with extensive hands-on experience. Mary Southerland, a representative of Agway, holds a bachelor's degree in plant science from Cornell University and a master's degree in botanic garden management from the University of Delaware. As a student, she apprenticed at the world-renowned Kew Royal Gardens in London and at the Edinburgh Botanic Garden in Scotland.

Panelist Martha Storey will bring an interesting perspective as publisher and editor of gardening books at Storey Communications, while Libby Bartels, of Bartels and Devriese Associates Architecture & Landscape Design, will speak on landscaping. Jim and Kate Annichiarico will share their expertise as the owners of Mount Williams Greenhouses Inc. Barbara Barnett from the Williamstown Garden Club has agreed to be on the panel as well as Sam and Elizabeth Smith, the owners of Caretaker Farm. We hope to see you all there.

The quilt project is going wonderfully. Please see Marilyn Coll's piece.

Thank you, thank you for your continued support.

It's important to remember that your contributions supplement the library's budget, which has been reduced this year at the request of the town's Finance Committee. Thanks to you the library has: a new drum for the copy machine, new phones, a new stepladder and the staff has

House of Local History preserves and celebrates our heritage

Our town is rich in history and steeped in tradition, and the House of Local History seeks to preserve that heritage.

The Board of Directors recently launched a membership drive to help support this valuable work. The House of Local History offers the public a fascinating selection of objects, photos, documents from the town's distant past to the 20th century. Through cataloging of historical artifacts, topical exhibitions, public lectures, research assistance, genealogical resource service and consultation it seeks to preserve that past.

New and long-term residents – the House of Local History can be of interest to you. Please consider becoming a member. Your modest yearly dues will preserve this important organization. For a free brochure, please phone 458-2160 or send your request to: Nancy Burstein

Curator of the House of Local History
Williamstown Public Library
762 Main St.
Williamstown, MA 01267

taken the first steps toward installing a new automated circulation system. When the trustees begin the campaign to raise funds for the expansion of the library, the Friends will contribute to it.

Shortly, there will be a new plaque in the library commemorating the founding members of the Friends of the Library. The Board also has set aside money to keep the library open on weekends during the summer and to print new bookmarks with the summer hours. Speaking of summer, the Fillers have kindly agreed to run the book sale again on Aug. 13, 14 and 15. Please contact them at 458-5382 if you would be willing to help now with pricing and other jobs.

*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 | \$ _____ |

Thank you, all our friends, old and new!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 7, 14, and 21: Literacy Volunteers of America training for tutors. Contact the library for details at 458-5369.

March 19: Green Thumb Gardening Panel sponsored by the Friends. 7:30 p.m.

March 22: Exhibit and panel discussion on the history of the Williamstown school system developed and presented by Deborah Burns. One of the Historic Lecture Series sponsored by the House of Local History. 3 p.m.

March 24: Wellness Works. Discussion of health-promotion and risk-reduction programs, including information on health-related materials available at the library. 7:30 p.m.

March 31: Library's Computer Club. Everyone is welcome. 7:30 p.m.

April 5: Historic House Restoration. Judy and Dave Loomis will demonstrate techniques they learned and used while re-

storing their 200-year-old farmhouse. Sponsored by the House of Local History. River Bend Farm, 3 p.m. Call the library for directions if needed.

April 9: Lemonade Social and presentation of the album quilt celebrating the library's golden anniversary at its present location. Sponsored by the Friends. 7:30 p.m.

April 28: Library's Computer Club. 7:30 p.m.

May 17: The Great Fires. Hank Flynt will show movies of the fires that destroyed the Kappa Alpha fraternity house at Williams College and the original Pine Cobble School. Sponsored by the House of Local History. 3 p.m.

May 26: Library's Computer Club. 7:30 p.m.

June 7: Annual House of Local History Open House and Tea. Everyone is cordially invited to come and see the latest exhibit. 3-4:30 p.m.

TOP SHELF

The library staff recommends the following selections from the library's list of new books:

- **Neither Here nor There: Travels in Europe**, by Bill Bryson. Sharp insights and hilarious accounts of Bryson's travels.
- **Trial by Fire**, by Harold Coyle. A suspense novel about a military coup in Mexico, with diplomatic and political overtones.
- **Rising Sun**, by Michael Crichton. A thriller about the international electronics industry and the Japanese "takeover" of the American economy.
- **Fortunate Lives**, by Robb Forman Dew. A novel featuring the mother and teen-age son who appeared in Dew's first book, *Dale Loves Sophie to Death*.
- **Requiem: New Collected Works**, by Robert Heinlein and **Tributes to the Grand Master**. Yoji Kondon, editor. A collection of the works of one of the more-popular contemporary science-fiction writers, and the story of his passion for space exploration.
- **Eight Steps to A Healthy Heart**, by Robert E. Kowalski. The author offers a program to reverse heart disease based on his own successful experiences with changing his lifestyle.
- **Kiss**, by Ed McBain. A novel of the 87th Precinct.
- **Guardian Angel**, by Sara Paretsky. The seventh in a series featuring popular private eye V. I. Warshawski.
- **Bygones**, by LaVyrle Spencer. The saga of a contemporary family.
- **Unto The Sons**, by Gay Talese. An epic tale of the Italian emigration that occurred early in this century.



Friends of the Williamstown Public Library

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