

Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
VOLUME 4, No. 1 SUMMER 1994

Our Move to Pine Cobble

Our library has been given both a wonderful gift and an extraordinary opportunity. Joyce and David Milne have generously offered the main building of the Pine Cobble School for use as a public library. On August 30 at 7:30 p.m. there will be a special Town Meeting at which residents will vote to accept the Milnes' gift to Williamstown. Those of us who have been closely involved with our library are tremendously excited by this prospect.

Like all big changes, however, this one raises some questions and we would like to use this special issue of Biblio-File to deal with some of

*those issues. If you have further questions please stop by the library and ask to see either the case statement entitled *The Campaign for Our Public Library*, the Schematic Designs submitted by the architects or the program statement prepared by Annette Jenks and Joyce Jack. Much work, thought and love went into these documents and we want to share them with all of you.*

QUESTION: Why does the Library have to move?

ANSWER: Many factors contribute to the necessity for this move. The lack of space in the present building has been a problem for years:

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Director Joyce Jack with architects Frank Pitts and Donald Pulfer at the first Open House on July 24.

We're moving...



Contributors:

Frances Buitenheim
Liz Costley
Alan H. Green
Joyce Jack
Stephanie Johnson
Elizabeth Wright



Williamstown Public Library



The House of Local History's Position

Despite our affection for the Botsford House, the majority of the Board of Directors feels that moving with the library to the Pine Cobble site will better enable the House of Local History to pursue its mission which is "to promote knowledge of the town's history by collecting and preserving materials, mounting exhibitions, presenting educational programs and facilitating research."

Sharing space with the library makes sense in several ways. It will be far more convenient for the many people who visit our exhibits during their routine library trips and the researchers who need to utilize material from both the library and the House of Local History to have the two organizations located together. Our curator only works seven hours a week, and, even with dedicated volunteers, we could not begin to match the number of hours that our exhibits can be open at the library site. In addition, the Pine Cobble building has a lesser fire risk than the Botsford house and lends itself better to the

installation of an efficient, modern climate-controlled storage area for our collection.

For all of these reasons, when invited to do so by the library trustees, the Board of Directors of the House of Local History voted in July 1993, and again that December, to move with the library to Pine Cobble. We have had representatives on both the Designer Selection and Planning Committees, and we are currently negotiating a lease with the library trustees.

Our space at Pine Cobble, more than double our present area, offers exciting possibilities for new and unique exhibits and programs. If you support an expanded House of Local History, please attend the Special Town Meeting on August 30th and vote for the town's acceptance of the Pine Cobble building.

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

*Susan Bernardy
David Loomis*

*Henry Flynt
Annette Jenks*

Who will march in your parade?

This question was dealt with by young writers Marion Evans, Colleen Gerrity and Erin Pinckney at a Summer Writing Workshop given by Liz Costley at the library in July. The participants were each asked to imagine what people, objects, places, food or words that were meaningful to her would go marching down the street in a parade celebrating her life. After brainstorming together, the writers settled down and created some fine pieces of prose.

For Marion Evans, blueberry bagels with butter and walnut-cinnamon scones were the first to line up in her parade, followed by her very first dog, Max. In Colleen Gerrity's parade, one of her favorite authors, Lois Lowry, joined Colleen's parents and sister in their march down Main Street. A plane flew overhead, skywriting the first word she ever said: *yes*. Erin Pinckney's parade included a band dressed in purple crimson and gold playing flutes, pianos and cymbals, as well as a long line of horses from Oakhollow Farm.

Who would march in *your* parade? It's a fun way to think about the important parts of your life and a good way to have fun writing. Try it!

NOTE: The Costleys' family parade consisting of Liz, Thomas and daughter Kate has been joined by their son Luke Thomas born July 22 (his father's birthday!) weighing 8lb. 15oz. ♪

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' book sale a major volunteer effort

The Friends of the Public Library wish to express their great appreciation to everyone who worked so hard to make this year's August Book and Good Food Sale a huge success. First and foremost thanks go to co-chairs Linda Conway and Barbara Lesser who not only did a masterful job of coordinating this event, but did so with great imagination, good humor and inexhaustible patience. Thanks go also to the literally hundreds of people who have donated books and food, to those of you who have lugged and sorted and priced the books, especially Patti Siskind, and last but not least to all of you who came and purchased books. Without your help we couldn't begin to mount this event. This year's sale is a special one as the proceeds will go to help furnish the children's room at the new library.

FOCUS ON LARGE PRINT COLLECTION

In response to continuing demand, our library has dramatically increased its Large Print collection with the addition of about 70 general fiction and non-fiction titles. Further, each month we receive a new bestseller in large print, the latest being John Grisham's *The Chamber*. Many of these purchases are made possible by the gift last fall of \$300 from the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary in North Adams. Their support and generosity is greatly appreciated. ♪



Wayne Wilkins and Joan Hunter at the Open House.

or around the circulation desk, no space for the piles of books and tapes that have been returned, no office space for the staff. The building is beautiful but in need of constant and costly repairs to the roofs and suffers from old, inadequate electrical wiring. The gaps in the foundation make it not only possible but easy for rodents to move in and out freely; there is evidence that the children's room, built in 1974, is pulling away from the main structure of the building.

Our library does not fully comply with local safety codes and it does not begin to meet the needs of the physically challenged as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which went into full effect on January 26, 1992. To correct the structural problems involved in its use as a public library and to bring the Botsford building into compliance with ADA and with local safety codes could cost as much as \$600,000. Architectural plans for renovating the existing space and building an addition on the rear of the building to provide adequate space estimated the cost of such a project at \$2.3 million. Parking would still be problematical. Many of us are unaware of these difficulties because a dedicated staff has continued to function efficiently in what is a virtually untenable situation. Circulation has grown from 66,366 in 1988 to 89,469 in 1992 an increase of more than 35%. The number of patrons has risen to 5,183. The space has remained constant. All of us enjoy visiting the library as patrons; would we enjoy working there as members of the staff?

Our Move. *Continued from page 1*

the lack of shelf space has forced the staff to stack books on top of or behind other books, space is inadequate even for existing library programs and activities, there is no space for quiet study, no space for young adults to work on research projects, no space for volunteers to work, no space behind, in front of

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QUESTION: What are the advantages of moving to the Pine Cobble site?

ANSWER: Space and cost — the most for the least! By moving to the Pine Cobble site, our library will more than quadruple its current space, going from 3,500 square feet at the Botsford house to 13,500 square feet in the new location. Below are a few specific examples of the kinds of space Pine Cobble will offer us:

COMPARISON OF SPACES FOR SPECIFIC LIBRARY USE

	PRESENT SITE	AT PINE COBBLE
CHILDREN'S ROOM	864 square feet	2132 square feet
QUIET STUDY ROOMS	NONE	322 square feet
ADULT STACKS	722 square ft on main floor	3,182 square feet
HOUSE OF LOCAL HISTORY	1,406 square feet	2,975 square feet (minimum)

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QUESTION: Do we really need all of this space?

ANSWER: YES. Our Director, Joyce Jack, working with the staff and with Patience Jackson from the Board of Library

Continued on page 4

1994 Summer Programs for children successful again!

"TICKET TO READ" a fun trip for children

Two-hundred-fifteen young people participated in our summer reading program at the library called "Ticket to Read." Participants each kept a log of the books read during the project and prizes were awarded for reaching specific goals. Materials for the program were provided by the Massachusetts Regional Library System with additional support from the Friends of the Library. On August 5 the closing "Prize Program" was held during which there were drawings for 30 small prizes, to the great excitement of the children who had earned their "chances" by visiting the library.

Many thanks go to our local sponsors who backed the program with premiums: Subway on Spring Street provided free 6-inch subs and Howard Johnson's on Main Street donated junior ice cream sundaes to all those children who finished the program. Our thanks go to everyone who helped — the summer programs encourage the children to keep reading all year long

Our Move ..Continued from page 3

Commissioners, developed a comprehensive program statement, a document which defines very specifically what our library needs: how many bookshelves to house our growing collection of over 35,000 books, cassettes, videotapes and magazines, how large a space for children, for young adults, for reference works, for meetings and for technical services. Pine Cobble has the space that our library needs so that our collection can expand to the 50,000 items that would offer the variety and selection that a town like ours requires. It would also enable us to offer reference areas, quiet study spaces and public access computers to students of all ages, especially young adults.

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QUESTION: Why does the Pine Cobble option save us money?

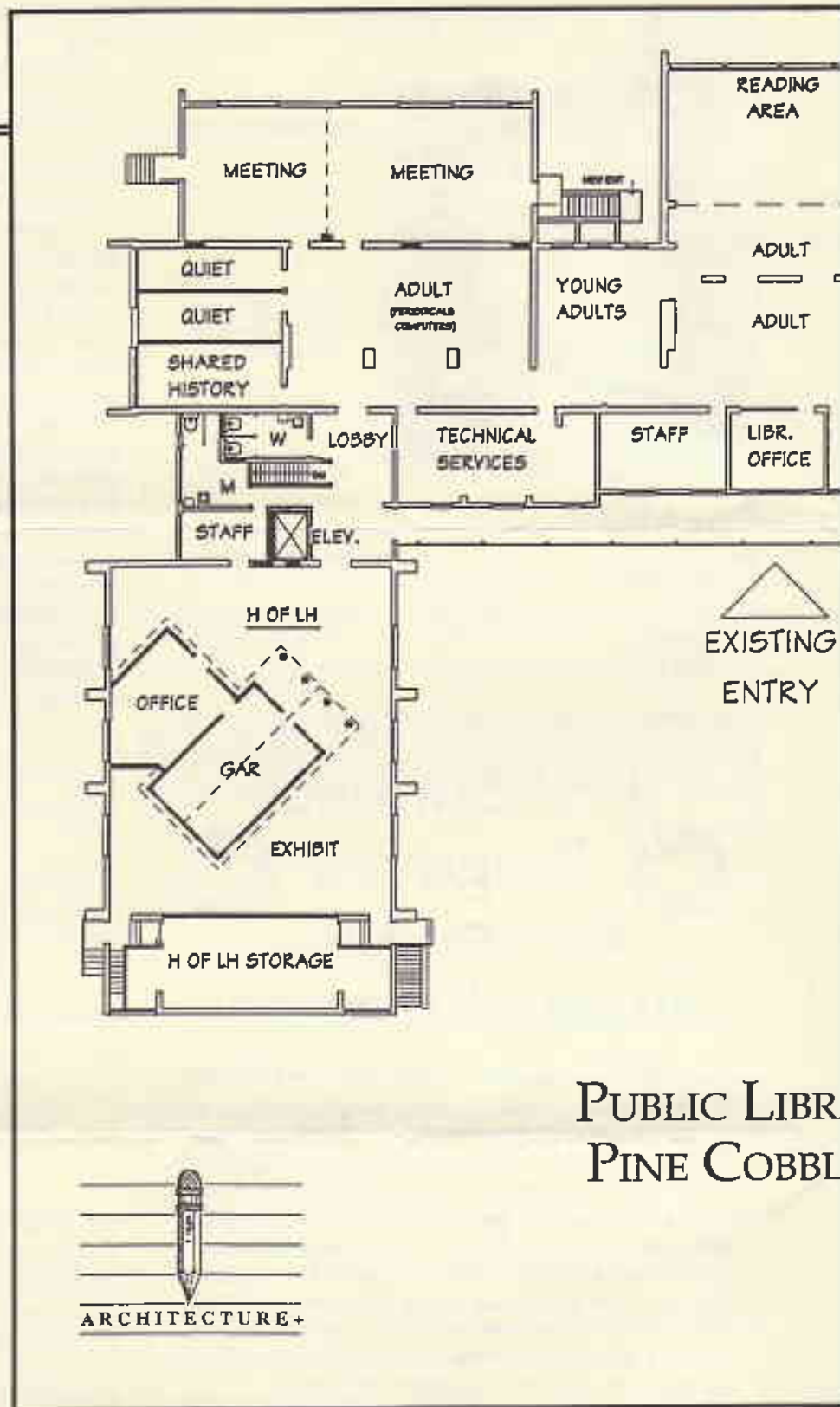
ANSWER: With Pine Cobble we have a single-story, structurally sound building, much of it on a concrete slab, that will accommodate the weight of bookcases. The necessary renovations are all interior and no additional space needs to be constructed at this time. If necessary, the renovation work can be accomplished in phases as funds become available, we can "pay as we go." Most significantly, however, is the fact that the Pine Cobble building is a *gift!* If the library had to purchase a different building, or a site on which to construct a new building the cost would be prohibitive!

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QUESTION: What is all of this going to cost and where is the money coming from?

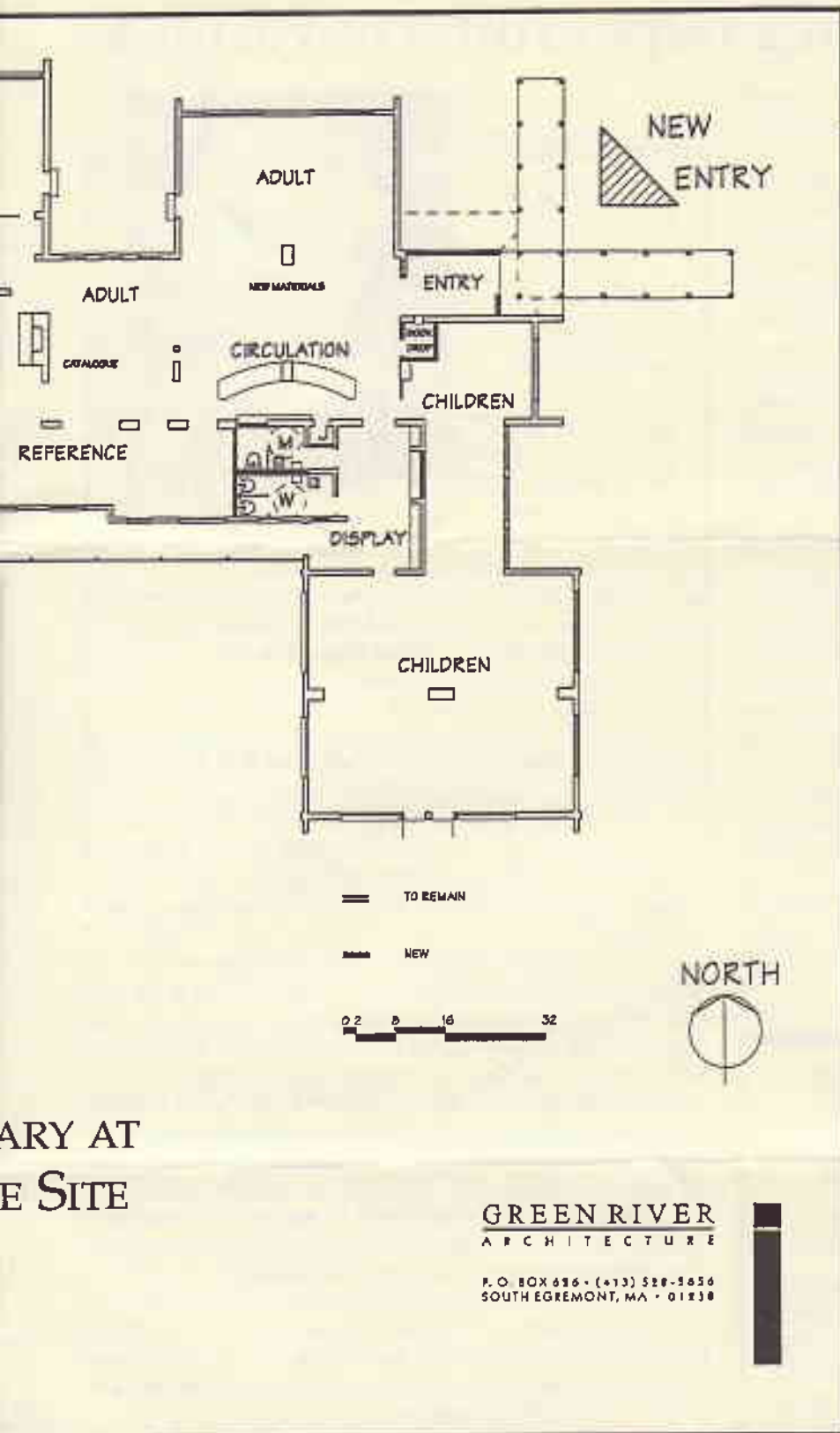
ANSWER: Two categories of cost are to be considered: the expense involved in renovating the Pine Cobble building to meet our needs and the cost to operate our library in a significantly larger space. Let's look at them separately starting with the renovation costs.

RENOVATION: Throughout the spring, a 21-member planning committee chaired by Director Joyce Jack, met regularly with architects Don Pulfer and Frank Pitts to explore possibilities and options for transforming a school into a library. From those meetings, a design emerged which everyone involved felt was an optimal use of the existing



PUBLIC LIBR
PINE COBBL

space. Many of you had a chance to tour the building at the Open House on July 24 and to examine those plans, a copy of which are on pages 4 and 5. In addition to specific use of space, the architects and the committee explored the value and the necessity of incorporating energy saving items such as new windows and doors, insulation, lighting etc. that would have a specific payback period and would then save significantly




ARY AT
E SITE

OPERATING COSTS: The current library budget for fiscal year '95, approved at the Town Meeting last May, is \$149,050 which includes: salaries, materials, maintenance and \$6,225 for all utilities. Based on his knowledge of the Pine Cobble building and its operating costs, architect David Westall has estimated annual utility expenses at that site of \$20,200 including telephone. The trustees therefore anticipate an additional \$14,000 in operating costs for the new library. It is hoped that the actual figure will be lower because of the priority placed on energy-efficient features in renovation plans and the expectation that part of the utility costs will be paid by the House of Local History which plans to lease space in the building, but prudence dictates that the working figure be \$14,000. Understanding the financial difficulties facing Williamstown, the trustees of the library have voted to use funds from the three following sources to meet the additional operating costs for the foreseeable future. The total of this revenue exceeds the anticipated need.

1. Funds totaling about \$8,000 which the library receives annually from the state and which is not part of its budget from the town,
2. Funds from the Friends of the Library who have pledged a generous portion of the proceeds from their fund-raising projects, particularly their book sale.
3. Rental income from spaces in the basement which the library expects to lease as soon as the basic renovations are completed. The space will be advertised, with certain criteria specified.

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We are embarking on an exciting voyage into new territory. Most of the terrain has been carefully explored and well charted, but there will always be surprises. We invite you join on us on this voyage, and we ask for your support on August 30. 

on operating expenses. Some alternatives were adopted. The specifics are available in the Schematic Design, copies of which are at the library and available to everyone. Based on all of these considerations, the architects have submitted an estimate of \$1,080,900. The library expects to raise this money through private contributions of all sizes and through federal grants — NOT from the town in ANY form.

Two book discussion groups to offer novel ideas

Two completely different book discussion groups are being offered this fall and winter at the library. The public is invited to attend both groups.

Starting September 13 at 7 p.m. and for seven alternate Tuesday evenings thereafter, Elizabeth Wright will lead a group in exploring books she has chosen which relate to the theme: "Generations: Growing Up, Growing Old." Among the eight books Ms. Wright has chosen are works by novelists: James Joyce, Henry James and Toni Morrison. (see below for complete schedule and list of books).

Ms. Wright, who earned her Ph.D. from Boston University in American studies, taught for 18 years before changing careers and moving to Williamstown. For the last seven years she has been a leader in fund raising and development for organizations such as Williams College, the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, Northfield Mount Hermon School, and the Appalachian Mountain Club. She earned her M.A. in teaching from Harvard and her B.A. from Radcliffe College.

She said she wanted to offer a book discussion group here this fall because, "There is nothing I enjoy more than talking to people about books and the library is a perfect place to do it."

In winter, beginning January 16, Michael Belknap will offer a 10-week book discussion group which will meet alternate Monday evenings to explore the subject of "Being American" and what that means in these changing times. Mr. Belknap organized and led the library's discussion group last winter on the subject of, "The American Dream." The group met 10 times to discuss works by such authors as: Edith Wharton, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ralph Ellison and the questions their works raised on the subject.



Michael Belknap

WINTER BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

"Being American"

Led by Michael Belknap, at the Williamstown Public Library, alternate

Mondays at 7 p.m. starting January 19, 1995 and going through May 21. Works to be read include: *The American* by Henry James, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, *Native Son* by Richard Wright, *Love Machine* by Louise Erdrich and *Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston. A complete list of the books and specific dates will be published in the fall.

Suggested background reading for the course is Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, the Perennial Library 1988 edition.

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

"Generations: Growing Up, Growing Old"

Led by Elizabeth Wright at the Williamstown Public Library alternate Tuesdays at 7 p.m.



Elizabeth Wright

- September 13 *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce
- September 27 *What Maisie Knew* by Henry James
- October 11 *Call It Sleep* by Henry Roth
- October 25 *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- November 8 *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris
- November 22 *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan
- December 6 *Tell Me A Riddle* by Tillie Olsen
- December 20 *Ironweed* by William Kennedy

He said he chose both topics for exploration because he believes they illuminate critical issues that affect us today. He said he feels "ultimately, we read to understand ourselves better and as Americans we cannot understand ourselves without understanding our country and its myths."

Mr. Belknap said that last year there was "such a terrific group of interested and interesting people that it was a challenge to try and be able to repeat the experience - in a different way - this year."

This year's readings of works, by such authors as: Willa Cather, Richard Wright, and Louise Erdrich, will explore what "Being American" means and lead to discovering differences of opinion in answer to such questions as whether we now, or ever had a common culture, whether the idea of Eurocentricism is obsolete? Are we first of all Americans, ethnic group, members, or individuals? is the goal of "one people" achievable? Desirable?

A graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Law School, and Cambridge University in England, Belknap is a former corporate lawyer and currently a real estate executive as well as a professor of law specializing in land-development issues. He has served as chairman of the Board of Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, and resides in Canaan, N.Y.

Several copies of each book for the discussion groups will be available at the library, and local book shops will be given the reading list as well.

NEW! "CLASSICS VIDEO COLLECTION" AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

The trustees and director of the library are pleased to announce an expanded video collection which will be available to our patrons in September. The collection was "jump-started" by the generous donation by Joyce and David Milne of 166 videos from the HighCroft School. This wonderful educational collection includes:

- * More than 20 *National Geographic* videos including the Human Body and American Government series;
- * 10 Sierra Club and Jacques Cousteau nature videos;
- * Great Events Video Library news videos for the years 1960-1969;
- * ABC documentaries on each American decade from 1900 to the present;
- * Classic entertainment/comedy: *Treasure Island*, *Gulliver's Travels*, Laurel & Hardy and Marx

- * Brothers movies, early classic television dramas;
- * Non-fiction videos on travel and financial subjects;
- * *Reading Rainbow* program videos;
- * PBS-aired series such as *The Story of English and Life on Earth*;
- * Time-Life Series on *The Living Planet*.

Since the HighCroft collection includes so many fine non-fiction and children's videos, the funds earmarked for videos in the library's budget will be used to purchase additional films on video to comprise a "Classic Entertainment Collection." Finally, if you have quality commercial videos of recent films that you no longer use, the library would be grateful to include them in the collection. You may be tired of *North by Northwest*, but lots of people would love to see it again.

Good news for aficionados of the spoken word:

NEW BOOKS-ON-TAPE AVAILABLE

A rapidly growing group of patrons has come to depend on recorded books when driving, doing dishes, working in the garden or just lying down with a cold cloth on their heads at the end of a long, hard day. For all of us, here are the newest additions to the collection.

NEW FOR SUMMER

The Horse You Came in On by Martha Grimes
Smila's Sense of Snow by Peter Hoeg
The Fist of God by Frederick Forsyth
Jazz by Toni Morrison
The History of War by John Keegan
Decider by Dick Francis
Outer Banks by Anne Rivers Siddons

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
The Hidden Life of Dogs by Elizabeth M. Thomas
Delta Wedding by Eudora Welty
Suspicion of Innocence by Barbara Parker

NEW FOR FALL

Heat by Stuart Woods
The Day After Tomorrow by Allan Folsom
Dixie City Jam by James Lee Burke
Gather Together In My Name by Maya Angelou
Downtown by Anne Rivers Siddons
Interview with The Vampire by Anne Rice
Natural Causes by Michael Palmer
Men are From Mars, Women Are From Venus by John Gray, Ph.D.
Zlata's Diary by Zlata Filipovic
Nop's Hope by Donald McCaig

In addition to our permanent collection of audiobooks, we get selections from the Bookmobile every nine weeks, thanks to the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. ♪

Thank you...

Our library has many reasons to be grateful to Zane Lumelsky, not the least of which is our new logo, used here for the first time. Zane has also generously donated his time and considerable talents to the creation of a slide show on what our library means to different individuals and to the brochure about our upcoming move. All three of these projects have generated support for the library at this critical time. If you haven't seen the slide show yet, come to the Open House on August 28 and take a look.



Zane Lumelsky

Community Calendar

Sunday, August 28: Library Open House at the Pine Cobble site. 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. The public is invited to come and see the new space and the plans for renovations. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, August 30: Special Town Meeting to vote on accepting the Milnes' gift of the Pine Cobble building to the town of Williamstown for the new library. **7:30 p.m. at the elementary school. We need a "yes" vote in order to move our library to Pine Cobble. Please give us your support for this critical vote.**

Monday, September 5: Library closed for Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 13: First meeting of the fall book discussion group "Generations: Growing Up, Growing Old." Book to be discussed *Portrait of The Artist As A Young Man* by James Joyce. 7 p.m. at the library.

Tuesday, September 27: Second meeting of fall book discussion group. Book to be discussed *What Maisie Knew* by Henry James. 7 p.m. at the library.



NEWS OF AND FROM THE LIBRARY STAFF



Last winter Marcia Gross and children's librarian Jeannette Twardowski braved the winter storms every week commuting to SUNY Albany for a graduate course in Cataloging. Their newly acquired expertise will make the library's collection more easily accessible to all of us. Special thanks go to Shahram Amiri, the director of the Center for Computing at Williams College, who arranged for Marcia and Jeannette to open the Internet accounts that they needed for their course work. Both staff members enjoyed their professional development experiences and Marcia is continuing with her graduate studies in library science at SUNY-Albany this fall.

Marcia will be joined by Sharon Bailey, the newest member of our staff, who is pursuing a master's in library science. Sharon has replaced Joanne Erenhouse who moved to Oklahoma City to attend OCU Law School. If you haven't yet met Sharon, please introduce yourself the next time you

see her at the circulation desk.

Director Joyce Jack has been named a "Member at Large" to the Executive Board of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS), where she will represent the interests of our library. The WMRLS provides us with all of our inter-library loans, bookmobile services and the materials for our summer reading program. They also sponsor many daylong staff development workshops. This year, the region administered a grant that provided our library with a brand-new 486 computer, complete with Windows and a collection of software programs.

Debbie Felix is working on automating the library's budget operations while Nancy Morin has taken on the responsibility for the romance and western collections. If you have a favorite author or title in this genre, be sure to mention it to Nancy!



Friends of the Williamstown Public Library

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