

Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
VOLUME 5, No. 1 SUMMER 1995

New Children's Librarian Patricia Malone

Patricia Malone, our new children's librarian, says that she identifies with the "apprehensive readers." She admits that she was a strong reader as a child, but that she was never turned on by books until after she graduated from Siena College in 1983 and could read anything that she liked. Pat also claims that she "was not much of a TV watcher as a child," but she does advocate the use of alternative media, like recorded books. "Some of us are going to be strong readers and some of us aren't," she says with a smile. "Listening may whet the appetites of reluctant readers."

As a child, growing up in the Albany area with her two sisters, Pat "lived outside;" swimming, boating, sledding, cross country skiing and ice skating. She first discovered the joys of children's literature after the birth of her first son, Zane, in 1985. Her interest increased when her second son, Jerry, joined the family in 1989. Today she feels strongly that children appreciate good literature just the way adults do, but she is quick to add that "the average kid's book is better than the average adult book." What constitutes good? According to Pat "good" is basically a good story. Two of her special favorites are Tomi De Poala's *Strega Nona* and *Sylvester and The Magic Pebble* by William Steig.



Patricia Malone

Like the rest of the library staff, Pat is excited about the new library. When asked what she's most looking forward to, her answer is immediate and precise. "Space!" Space to run programs more easily, like the preschool story hours, the current summer reading program and the book discussion groups for teen-agers that she would like to organize for the fall. Space to increase the collection of children's books, especially the classics, the old standards "that we all loved and are still wonderful," she says.

Pat received her master's degree in library science from SUNY Albany in 1993. She comes to Williamstown from her position as the Deerfield Valley Elementary School Librarian in Wilmington, Vt. While there she organized an *I Love to Read and Write Week* and a community concert to celebrate *Vermont TV Turnoff Week*. Her references indicate not only that she is "punctual and well dressed" but that she is "very dedicated to the profession," that she "has excellent instincts in new situations" and that she "relates very well to people." Those of us who have gotten to know Pat since her arrival in April can testify to all of the above.

If you haven't met our the latest addition to our library "family" please stop in and say hello to Pat Malone. She's eager to meet you and your children. 

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Summer reading is natural

Summer is the perfect time to read: with an icy glass of lemonade OR under the shade of a big old tree OR with legs dangling in a cool stream OR lounging on a deck chair OR on a rainy morning OR with a friend OR to a friend.

This summer the library invites children and their families to join the reading program which runs from June 20 to August 18. The *Reading is Natural* program consists of packets with an official reading log, activity pages, bookmarks and coupons. Everyone reads at his or her own

pace, keeping a record of the books they have read. The weekly programs will feature a variety of entertaining stories, music and craft activities.

Kindergarten - 2nd grade: Tuesdays 10:30 -11:30

3rd grade - up: Thursdays 10:30 -11:30

Story hours

Preschool Story Hours: Mondays at 10:30, stories with Pat Malone; Wednesdays at 10:30, Stories with Gisela Lehovec.





NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



New board members for the Friends of the Williamstown Public Library took office at the December 1994 meeting and are as follows: Linda Conway, President; Betsy Johnson, Vice President; Liz Costley, Secretary; John Howgate, Treasurer; Ginny Fletcher, Membership Chair. In addition there are seven members at large: Claire Bernard, MacAlister Brown, Barb Fisher, Renate Kopynec, Helen Renzi, Midge Safford and Patricia Siskind.

The first four months of the Board's term was taken up with the April 28-29 Book Sale and with a membership renewal campaign. The Book Sale, chaired by Helen Renzi and John O'Connor, was a resounding success, with a profit of nearly \$15,000. A satellite book sale was held at the Riverfest in May. Two more are planned for the July 1 Town Picnic and during the Massachusetts Teachers Association conference held here during the week of August 14. These three additional events should comfortably enable the final figure to surpass \$15,000.

The entire Board worked on the Big Sale in April, supported by more than 150 additional volunteers who sorted, priced and sold over 15,000 books, served as cashiers and provided goodies for the food table. New features this year included a silent auction of choice books and an art sale which produced a combined profit of \$2,000. Of the proceeds, \$6,000 has been earmarked for operating expenses for the library's new location, and the remaining funds will be used for a broad range of library equipment, furnishings and programs as needed.

Please join the 300 individuals and families who have become Friends of The Williamstown Public Library. Ask for a membership form at the circulation desk. Help to supply the extras, such as shelving, videocassettes, computers, copy machine, air conditioner, fax machine, programs for children and many other amenities, including this newsletter, that have made using our library the efficient and pleasurable experience it has become.

Linda Conway, President

Capital Campaign Raised \$585,500 So Far

Dear Friends,

The Capital Campaign for our new library has raised \$585,500 to date. We are extremely grateful to our over 600 supporters, whose gifts have ALL helped us to reach such a substantial sum. Building a new library is the most exciting project we face as a town. It is a project which will affect everyone in Williamstown because having an excellent library directly affects the quality of life we all enjoy here. If you have given, THANK YOU for choosing to make a difference. If you have not given, why not consider helping to build your own town library? You might wish to give a gift in memory of a loved one, which will become a permanent tribute to a friend. In any case, imagine how wonderful it will feel to enter our new library and realize YOU have helped build it.

Sincerely,

Joan Hunter & Wayne Wilkins, Capital Campaign Co-chairs

Low Vision: Try Our Magnifying Viewers

by Joyce Jack

About six years ago, my father began to develop macular degeneration, a frustrating eye condition in which the central vision gradually disappears, but peripheral vision remains. This was my personal introduction to the concept of "low vision," a term which includes many different kinds of visual impairments. Fortunately for those with low vision, there are magnifiers, bright focused lights, special glasses and other aids to help them see better.

The families of two people with low vision here in Williamstown have generously donated LOW-VISION MAGNIFYING VIEWERS to the library. Claire Menkel donated the first in memory of her husband, Anthony, and his pleasure in books. The second viewer was given by Buddy Jonsson in memory of Harriet Haskins Allsop and her daughter Elizabeth Allsop Doane.

These machines are essentially closed-circuit televisions which enable the user to see the page of a book greatly magnified on the screen, in high-contrast black and white. For those who find them helpful and manageable, low-vision viewers can make reading possible again.

Such machines are expensive, and the Williamstown Public Library is proud to make these viewers available to the public. One is situated in the front reading room and can be used any time for reading or for a trial examination. The other viewer will be available for longer-term loans upon arrangement with the librarian. If such a machine might be of help to you, please let us introduce you to them.

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.

The Entrepreneurial Library

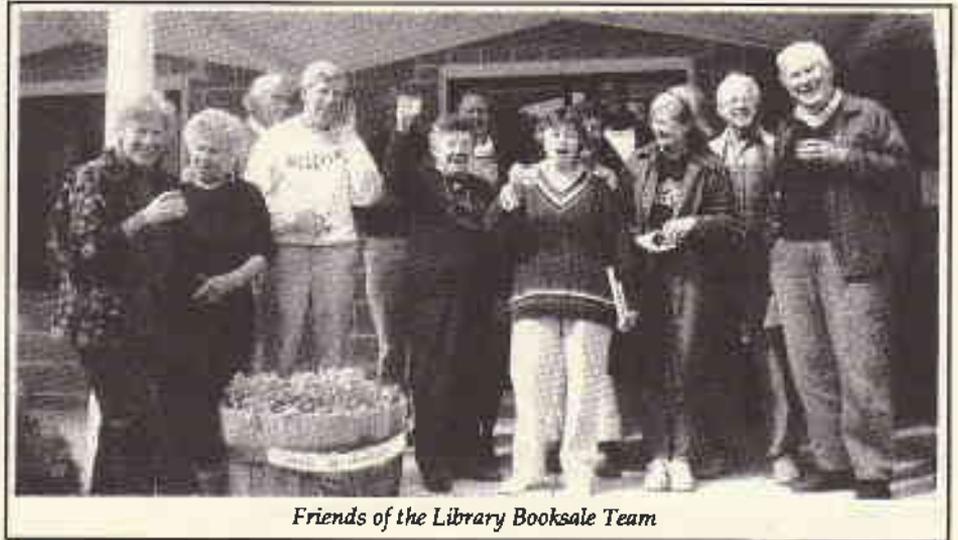
At a time when government cutbacks are forcing many libraries across the state and around the nation to reduce services or even shut down, the prospects for the Williamstown Public Library are brighter than ever.

During the past year, our library has benefited enormously from the generosity of many people. Clearly, the most significant benefit is the gift of the former Pine Cobble School site to the town for use as a library. That gift came about through the vision and diligence of Williams alumnus, John Walsh, and through the extraordinary generosity of David and Joyce Milne, for whom the library will be named. Williams College contributed \$100,000 to facilitate the capital acquisition. Through the good offices of Dr. Wayne Wilkins, Joan Hunter and our Capital Campaign Committee we have raised almost \$600,000 plus a federal grant of \$150,000. Through various activities, including book sales, the Friends of Library have raised nearly \$30,000 during the past year. We have applied for a state construction grant of \$739,200 and we will soon be forming a new, special campaign committee to solicit foundation grants and additional private donations throughout the remainder of this decade and into the next century.

These benefits stem from a very special spirit at the library. It's the spirit of entrepreneurship. During the negotiations to obtain the library as a gift, John Walsh told me that he sees the Williamstown Library now as being an "entrepreneurial library."

The word *entrepreneur* comes from two Latin derivatives meaning "come together to seize or grasp something." I urge you to come together with the staff, our director, the Trustees, the library's many committee members and the Friends to participate in our entrepreneurial spirit so that we can seize these opportunities that will help enrich the lives of Williamstown residents for generations to come.

Brent Filson, Chairman of the Library Trustees



Friends of the Library Booksale Team

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Pre-school Story-hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

ONGOING ENROLLMENT: *Reading Is Natural* programs begin. K - 2nd grade: Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30. 3rd grade and up: Thursdays 10:30 - 11:30 at the library.

JULY 11: Writing workshop with Judith Weber for 4th grade-up. 4-5:30 at the library.

JULY 14: Announcement of grant awards given under the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program. We have applied for a construction grant of \$739,200.

JULY 18: Writing workshop with Judith Weber for 4th grade - up. 4-5:30 at the library.

AUGUST 15: Party for *Reading Is Natural* participants.

WEEK OF AUGUST 15: Two-day Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library. At the new library site.

While You're at the Library, Be Sure To Climb the Stairs!

A new exhibit, *The Home Front: Williamstown During World War II*, has opened upstairs at the House of Local History. The display explores the ways in which Williamstown responded to this cataclysmic event and includes a special case for children with a child's perspective on the war years.

The House of Local History promotes interest in Williamstown's past by collecting and safeguarding historical materials, mounting exhibits, presenting educational programs and facilitating research. These activities are funded by membership dues and you are invited to support the organization by becoming a member. Ask for a membership form at the library.



Friends of the
Williamstown
Public Library

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

Individual	\$5	Benefactor	\$50
Family	\$10	Other	_____
Supporting	\$25		

Please return this form with your check, payable to the Friends of Williamstown Public Library, 762 Main St., Williamstown, MA 01267.

The Friends of the Williamstown Public Library is a non-profit organization, with donations exempt from taxation as allowed by law.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY?

NEW MAGAZINES

Architectural Digest
Kids Discover
The Economist

Martha Stewart Living
Entertainment Weekly
National Geographic Traveler

Family PC
Utne Reader (best of the
alternative presses)

NEW AUDIOBOOKS

Houses of Stone by Barbara Michaels
The Hot Zone by Richard Preston
Hardware by Linda Barnes
Sins of the Wolf by Anne Perry
Wild Horses by Dick Francis
Original Sin by P.D. James
Distinguished Guest by Sue Miller
The Hamlet by William Faulkner
Road from Coorain by Jill Ker Conway

Dalva by Jim Harrison
Gentlemen of Leisure by P.G. Wodehouse
When the Cheering Stopped by Gene Smith
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
Death of a Russian Priest by S. M. Kaminsky
Rumpole of The Old Bailey by John Mortimer
Hank the Cowdog Audio Pak #1 by John Erikson
Prairie Home Companion 20th Anniversary Collection

When are we going to move?

The answer to this question, asked daily at the library, is "in the Fall of 1996, if all goes well." Our library has applied for a state-funded construction grant of \$739,200. The grant awards will be announced on July 15. Assuming that we get this grant, Williamstown will have a completely renovated furnished and landscaped facility. If we do not receive the grant, the renovations at the new site will be scaled back to fit within a budget of the funds already raised by the Capital Campaign Committee.

In the meantime, the trustees have appointed a Building Committee which includes Tom Bartels, Frances Buttenheim, Vince Guntlow, John Hammond, John Holden, Ann McCallum and Sarah Shepherd. This committee is working with the trustees and

the architects on the final plans for the exterior of the new Milne Library and the site. Members have met with our future neighbors to discuss the new site plans including parking arrangements, and with the Planning Board. A hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals is planned.

The trustees expect that construction documents will be ready for bidding this fall, and that the actual construction will begin in December of 1995. Interior renovations will continue throughout the winter while the Interiors Committee plans the furnishing and decorating of the new library.

By August or September 1996, we hope to be ready to move. Then, as they say, "the fun begins!"

Contributors:
Susan Bernardy
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Friends of the Williamstown Public Library

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