

Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Library Landscape Plan Blooms

The Trustees of the Library have begun work on an overall landscape plan to beautify the grounds and educate the public on a variety of trees. Working with landscape designer Sarah Shepard, the trustees are pleased to report that more than 15 trees have already been donated for the plan. Because no money has been set aside for this project, donations are welcome. Joan Hunter or Sarah Shepard are contacts for those interested in making donations.

The master landscape plan is posted on the library bulletin board. The primary goal, according to Shepard, is to create a landscape that requires a minimum of upkeep while providing inviting spaces, educational information and beauty. With this in mind, donations of trees include Korean mountain ash, sweet gums, yellow wood, kutsura, European beech, silver linden, Chinese stewartia, homestead elm and red chestnut. Each tree will have an identification sign, and those trees given in memory of someone will have a separate memorial plaque.

Tree costs plus installation range from \$165 to \$400; benches cost about \$500. The landscape plan is ongoing, so keep your eyes on the increasingly beautiful library grounds.



Betsy Taylor is joined by Joan Hunter, Zane Lumelsky and Patricia Brundage at the dedication of the Sally Tenney Osborne Garden.

Seen Any Good Movies Lately?

By Steve Satullo

How would you pick the 100 greatest films of all time? Various methods have been tried: international critics' polls, editorial board consensus, individual scholars' compilations. One thing most lists have in common is that more than 90 percent of the top titles can be found in the Milne Public Library's Video Archive.

A couple of years ago A&E Monthly distilled a list of "The Best Movies Ever Made" by totaling and averaging rankings from four well-known film guides. The list actually makes a useful reference to the Video Archive since so many are in the collection. Look for copies annotated with Archive catalog numbers in the blue binders containing complete title lists.

A&E's list is also useful in maintaining and adding to the collection. For example, just among the "best of the best" titles, we've recently added restored prints of Kurasawa's *Seven Samurai* and Hitchcock's two British classics, *The Lady Vanishes* and *The 39 Steps*, as well as widescreen transfers of Truffaut's *Jules and Jim* and Spielberg's *Schindler's List*.

In the next best category, we've just acquired the comic mysteries *And Then There Were None* and *Green for Danger*, the explosive thriller *Wages of Fear*, the von Sternberg/Dietrich epic *Scarlet Empress*, and newly remastered versions of Fritz Lang's *M* and Satyajit Ray's *Panther Pachali* along with the rest of the Apu Trilogy.

Needless to say, all these films come highly recommended, but the beauty of

the Video Archive is that you can pick freely in the confidence that all the films therein have some merit or redeeming value. I can't guarantee that you will like every last one, but each has at least a vocal minority of proponents.

So — only the best, but not all of the best. Not yet anyway. There are so many films we would love to add, but the library's budget is limited. So if you appreciate free access to the best of film history, the library invites you to help underwrite the growth of this unique community resource.

How to Underwrite Video Archive Acquisitions

Your donation will go directly to acquisitions and even give you a vote on added titles. Each \$5 donation earns

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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

The Friends of the Library have had their usual busy spring and want to offer the following THANKS:

☛ To everyone who helped make the Book Sale (including Food Sale and Children's Fair) on April 24 and 25 another great success — book donors, sorters and markers, cooks, cashiers, heavy lifters, floor volunteers, local merchants, the Williamstown Public Schools, Williams College Lehman Service Council, Mount Greylock Regional High School baseball team. Our profits were more than \$14,000.

☛ To all who have sent in their Friends membership forms. This year our mailing went not just to former Friends but to every household in Williamstown. We hope to add many families to our list of supporters. All the membership fees go toward supplying the library with goods and services that are not covered by the operating budget. Recent contributions include computers and printers, office furniture, large-screen TV, funding for Internet classes and summer reading program for children. Future needs include the costly automation of the book circulation system. It is not too late to join the Friends and receive a 10 PERCENT DISCOUNT AT WATER STREET BOOKS UNTIL NOV. 1, 1999. Our next campaign will be in the fall of 1999, to separate it from the Annual Fund recently inaugurated

by the Library Trustees for operating and endowment funds.

☛ To Ginny Miller and Betsy Taylor, who provided fall, winter and spring flower arrangements for the library foyer. If you would like to contribute your talent to this beautification effort, please leave a note for Linda Conway at the circulation desk, or call her at 458-8525.

☛ To Friends who are bringing the library into the video age by filming programs and originating a series for children — Judy Weber, Bud Riley, Phyllis Riley and Robin Sullivan. Watch for "Bookmark for Children" (ages 4-12), to begin on Willinet (channel 17) in July. A series of eight programs features a variety of occupations; during the first half of the show the guest is interviewed in his or her workplace. The second half is a story hour at the library with a guest reading children's books on the same subject. Filmed so far are programs with police chief Michael Kennedy and illustrator Robin Brickman, produced and directed by Judy Weber and Robin Sullivan.

☛ To outgoing library trustees Zane Lumelsky, Joan Hunter and Peter Just who have so ably overseen the move to our new facility, and to former Friends board members Liz Costley and MacAlister Brown, recently elected to the board of trustees.

Construction Update

During late winter into this early spring, the unexpected sound of saws and drills could be heard throughout the library along with the invasion of dust that signals: construction! Phase Two of the library's continuing renovation program is now well underway, scheduled to last until late July. While the noise and dust are somewhat disruptive, staff and trustees are pleased to note that when this last round of improvements is finished the following major projects, unaffordable to us during our first phase of renovation, will be accomplished:

- Our fire alarm and intrusion alarm systems will be modernized, with an instant reporting system installed to alert police or firefighters immediately upon need.

- There are brand-new windows with screened ventilation units in the children's room, and new ventilators in the reading room windows. ALL the windows in the library will have sturdy, removable screens to keep insects and birds out and make summer a more pleasant, VENTILATED season in the building.

- The controls for the heating system will be completely replaced with a state-of-the-art monitoring system.

- Structural steel supports will stop the floor from sagging in the periodicals room; new doors will be installed in the reference area and the House of Local History; a reading nook with a big window will be created in the children's room. Several unused doors will be eliminated, gaining the library useful wall space.

- The south-facing roofs will have ice-and-water shields and drip-edge added to prevent leaking at the perimeters, a current problem.

- The entire exterior of the building will be painted a New England gray with contrasting trim, uniting the facade and improving the appearance of the library.

The funds to support these latest improvements come from the \$200,000 state construction reimbursement grant awarded to the Milne Public Library in September 1996 through the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program administered through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The library is most grateful to the state for its continuing support of library construction.



Book Sale coordinator Judy Smith and Friends president Linda Conway confer at the annual Friends Book Sale which raised over \$14,000.

Computer Club News

The library Computer Club meets on the last Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (September through June). During the past year the members have focused on learning more about the Internet. Future topics include genealogy and digital cameras. Peter Charbonneau of Williamstown directs the club, whose purpose is to share information and solve problems in support of its members. All levels of users are welcome.





Children's and Young Adults' Summer Reading to Unlock the Mystery

This year's summer reading program's theme is Unlock the Mystery, READ! There will be mysteries aplenty including police dogs, dancers and singers. Keep track of your reading and receive prizes and /or participate in weekly mystery programs at the library.

June 11-19 - Summer Reading Registration — Sign up for the reading program and receive a reading log and list of activities. At the time of registration, each reader will set a weekly reading goal and keep track of his or her summer reading in the log. Each week the goal is reached and progress is initialed by a parent in the reading log, the reader will receive a surprise at the library. Surprises will be awarded each Thursday during regular library hours. Also, on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. a different mysterious activity will take place each week.

Teen and Youth Writing Program to Include Fantasy and Cartooning

Leeayne Moore, a local writing instructor, will conduct writing programs with an emphasis on fun for elementary students and teen-agers. Each program will run for one week. Registration is required, so sign up well in advance at the library. Adventure and Fantasy Writing for 9- to-12-year-olds will be offered from June 22 to 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the library. A Teen Writing Workshop will be offered for ages 11-13 from 12:30 to 2 each day, June 22 to 26. From June 29 to July 2, Cartooning, Comics and Games will be featured for 9- to-12-year-olds at 10:30 while the teen writing will focus on science fiction and fantasy from 12:30 to 2. Ms. Moore is funded through the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council.



Summer Reading Registration						
14	15	16	17	JUNE	18	19 20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	JULY	1	2	3 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	28	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Movies...

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you a vote for a desired film. A list of videos earmarked for the Video Archive can be found in a green binder at the circulation desk. Whenever the votes add up to the purchase price of the title (which can vary from \$15 to more than \$100) that title will go into the next video purchase order.

I would also like to put in a plug for what I call the other two legs of my film programming "tripod:" the Open Screenings of videos from the Archive at the Clark Art Institute, and the free-floating film discussion group called the Cinematheque. Both successfully made use of some of the recent acquisitions mentioned above, in trial runs this winter.

The Sundays at 4 Open Screenings at the Clark will be institutionalized in a summerlong series called "The Whole World of Dancing," scheduled in support of the major exhibition "Degas and the Little Dancer." For more information about this series or the Cinematheque, contact me at 458-2303 ext. 215.

Editor's Note: Steve Satullo is the former co-owner of The Either/Or Bookstore, and it is his video collection which the Milne Library purchased last summer that is now in circulation.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Linda Conway	Liz Costley, editor
Joan Hunter	Alan H. Green
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Thoughts from Hunter and Lumelsky as They Leave Library Board

Thoughts from retiring trustee Joan Hunter: "After five very full years as a Library Trustee, I have decided to step off the board and focus my attention on the Annual Fund, building an endowment, and helping facilitate the landscape plan for the public library. These very important projects need to proceed, and I can best serve the library by devoting my energy in this direction. I have considered it an honor to serve as a trustee, and I have gained much more than I have given. Seeing so many patrons enjoying our new library, watching new programs develop, seeing the time and talents given by the Friends, and working with our dedicated staff have been a few of the rewards. I look forward to a lifelong relationship with the library!"

Thoughts from retiring chair of the trustees, Zane Lumelsky: "It has been seven years since I was asked to volunteer for our town library. I agreed that it was time to give something back to all the libraries that, over the years, have given me so much. I quickly discovered, however, that no matter how much you give to the library you always receive more in return. As I retire as trustee and board chair, I invite you to step forward, roll up your sleeves, and pitch in. Our library needs your time, expertise, and support — and will give YOU so much in return. Because public libraries are truly a reflection of a community's soul, I know that Williamstown has a bright future indeed. Thank you for the privilege and pleasure to serve our community as library trustee."



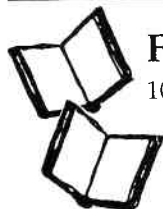
Williamstown Authors Sought for New Collection

Judy Reichert and Leith Colen seek donated works from local poets, playwrights, composers, illustrators and authors for a new collection to highlight Williamstown's talents. Interested authors are asked to leave a copy of their book at the library, attention Joyce Jack. Please contact Judy, Leith or Joyce if you have suggestions for this exciting collection.

Library Wish List:

If you are able to supply any of the following, please let Joyce Jack know!

- room-size air conditioner
- portable movie screen
- clean white sheets or rags for stuffing children's room dolls
- person able to frame artwork for the library
- volunteers to weed beds around the library



Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library

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