

# Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
VOLUME 9, NO. 2 *Published by the Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library* FALL 1999

## On Being a Friend

by Judy Weber, president

On this tenth anniversary milestone, it seems appropriate to consider the meaning of being a Friend of the Library.

Being a Friend can take many forms. It's sorting books and baking for a book sale, working on fund-raising projects, helping with mailings, suggesting interesting programs, distributing publicity, and serving on the board. It also means becoming a member.

By now you have received a separate letter asking you to join or renew your membership in the Friends of the Milne Library. People have asked me, "How much are the dues?" We don't have dues, we have membership. We ask you to give whatever is a comfortable donation. What's important is that you become a Friend. Our goal is to have every resident become a Friend.

During the past ten years, the Friends have raised a total of more than \$170,000. Significant contributions have been made to the library for automation, computers, equipment, and furniture.

At our annual meeting on Wednesday, December 15, at 5:00, the nominat-



## Now We Are Ten!

Ten years ago a handful of people founded the Friends of the Williamstown Public Library. Today, 585 households belong to the Friends of the David and Joyce Milne Public Library, and we are still growing!

To thank our many supporters, we're having a party. On Sunday, November 21, from 3:00 to 5:00, the library will be the scene of festivities celebrating a decade of growth and change.

Local authors and illustrators will be on hand to share their creative experiences. Children's books will be read by their authors. A quilt by Beth Nesbitt will be raffled. And the Billville Baileys will enliven the scene with their happy music.

A special feature will be the launching of the new Local Authors Collection (see article below).

Everyone is invited to this festive celebration. Bring your entire family and join in the fun. Please call the library at 458-5369 so we can estimate numbers, and mark your calendar today.



ing committee will offer its candidates for the year 2000. We will also be saying good-bye to retiring board member Renate Kopynec. Renate was one of our first board members and has been active for the past nine years. Also retiring

from the board is our membership chairperson, and my right arm, vice-president Virginia Fletcher. Thank you, Ginny and Renate.

And don't forget to join the Friends of the Milne Library. ☺



## Local Authors Collection to Be Established

The Friends' tenth anniversary party on November 21 will launch the Local Authors Collection. Published writers and illustrators from Williamstown will be in attendance, and an informal panel discussion will focus on the role Williamstown has played in authors' creative lives. One writer referred to Williamstown as the best place he knows to write; do others feel the same way?

Although the library has a great many books by local authors, these volumes have never before been displayed in

a designated area. Special spine labels on "dummy books" on the regular shelves will direct readers to the Local Authors Collection. Librarian Pat McLeod, with the help of volunteers Leith Colen and Judy Reichert, is organizing the transfer of books from their present locations and the addition of books newly acquired, thanks to the generosity of their authors.

Response to the call for local authors has been excellent. The goal is that eventually the collection will be a complete representation of Williamstown authors. ☺



# The ABC's of Libraries



by Pat McLeod

*Editor's note: Continuing our series on library basics, Director Pat McLeod focuses on the ordinary bookmark, which has achieved new status in the computer age.*

## B Is for Bookmark:

### From Saving Your Place in a Book, to Saving Your Place on the Internet

book·mark (bŌŌk'märk') *n.* A marker, as a ribbon, placed between the pages of a book to mark the reader's place.

This definition from *Webster's II University Dictionary* describes the bookmark we all know in its many shapes and textures: a slip of paper, an embroidered swatch of cloth, a photograph, or an embossed leather strip. It is a bookmark that librarians highly endorse; we discourage the horrible practice of folding down the corner of a page (called "dog-earring"). Bookmarks mark our spot in a book, so we can return later.

The Internet has great places to visit and explore, and a similar feature, also called a *bookmark* or sometimes a *favorite*, allows you to return easily to an interesting site. Millions of websites are now available on the Internet, and many of their addresses are long and hard to

remember. With a bookmark, you can easily reenter a site with just a click of the mouse.

Bookmarks can be organized by subject, such as Food, Travel, Stocks, News, Sports, etc. They can be stored hierarchically in a tree structure inside folders that you set up and name.

Newly available on the Internet is a program called "bookmark manager." You can download the software, and with it store bookmarks and launch those sites from any computer.

Many sites on the web recommend bookmark lists, which claim that they have compiled a list of the "best" sites for specific topics, such as art or ancient history.

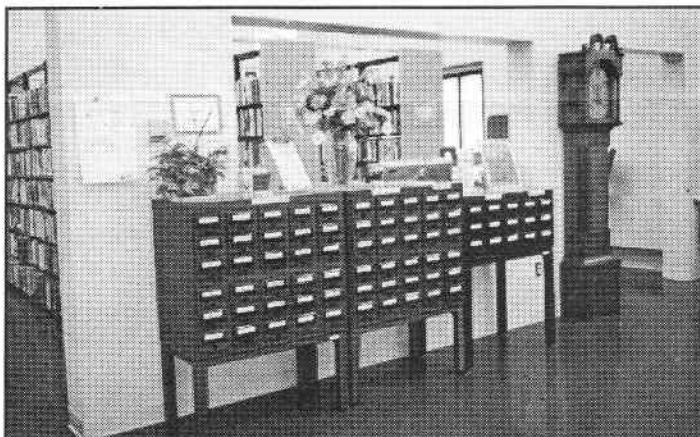
Libraries use bookmarks to visit websites that are useful in helping our patrons with research, recreation, and information. Our reference librarian, Fern Sann, uses bookmarks to locate census data, gain access to *The Boston Globe*, or find books on Amazon.com. Our children's librarian, Mindy Hackner, uses bookmarks to find quickly such highly recommended children's sites as Ask Jeeves or Dogpile.

I hope the next time you slide your bookmark into your book, you will think of the Internet and the transformation of this familiar object.

In the next issue of *BiblioFile* I will feature "C is for Cataloging: Cards vs. Computers." ❧

## Annual Fund

Joan Hunter and Wayne Wilkins report that the second Annual Fund drive has reached \$14,050 to date, with 143 families contributing. This generous support has allowed the library to open on Saturday afternoons until 4:00, a service requested by patrons in a library survey. Annual Fund monies also support the addition of a Young Adult library assistant, Julie Sumner. Neither of these services could be covered by the operating budget, but both are important. The Annual Fund can make a real difference. Joan and Wayne express their grateful appreciation to all donors and note that it is not too late to participate. Please pick up a form at the circulation desk and help us improve our library!



*Automation is progressing, but the familiar card catalog will still be around for a while.*

## Automation Update

by Pat McLeod

The plans to automate the card catalog and circulation continue to progress. We have joined a cooperative system, called CWMARS, which has a primary purpose of resource

sharing through a shared database. CWMARS has 48 full-member libraries (public, academic, medical, and regional) and nearly 80 online affiliates (public and school system libraries).

The Milne Library will thus participate with over 120 libraries. This means that you will be able to search the collections in all those libraries, and we can request an inter-library loan from those libraries. You can also walk into any of those libraries with your Milne Public Library card and borrow, free of charge. The CWMARS insignia will be identifiable on the door of a CWMARS library.

Our schedule has been delayed somewhat by CWMARS, but we will start reregistering our borrowers in late October. The new public access catalogs will be installed in November, but for now the card catalog will remain.

Automation will continue to be very gradual, but as we enter more books into the database we will begin to automate their checkout. Media collections – videos, audio cassettes, tapes, CDs, and CD-ROMs – will be the last items cataloged and will continue to be manually circulated for many more months.

Eventually, automation will help us to serve you better and quicker. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of automation, please let us know. ❧

# News from the Children's Room

by Mindy Hackner

The 1999 summer reading program "Funny Things Happen When You Read!" was a wonderful success. About 150 children participated, reading a total of 1,925 books! Our thanks go to local merchants for their many donations, to the staffs of the library and the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System, and to the Friends of the Milne Public Library.

A grant from the Friends allowed us to add a few books to the roster of "funny fiction," paid for the printing of suggested reading lists and the very popular incentive "book bucks," and kept a basket of small prizes filled throughout the summer. Participating children also received a calendar of summer events and a log book for tracking their progress. Two children started reading independently just to earn those "bucks."

Special thanks also go to several Spring Street merchants (especially our guardian angel Michelle at "Where'd You Get That?") who donated gift items for a small bazaar to celebrate the happy completion of a summer of fun. Thanks are also owed to Stop 'n Shop for providing produce for lots of "funny food,"

to Bruce Koscielniak for allowing us to peek inside a writer's mind, to "Henry the Juggler" who traveled from Amherst



*Funny hats were part of the summer fun.*

to entertain us on a beautiful summer evening, to Liz Costley who introduced three great Young Adult novels to our teen readers, and to those many parents who read with and encouraged their

children throughout the season. All summer, the room was alive with children excited and amused by books. It was great!

We are already hard at work on Summer Reading 2000. The region's theme will be "Open a Book - Open a Frontier!" We plan to travel backward through time, concentrating on the idea of setting out on a journey. What would you bring? What would you need? How would you plan? With whom would you travel? What would you expect to find? The theme also lends itself nicely to a scientific or futuristic pursuit. There will be time to explore science fiction and space, medicine, or underwater adventure. If you have any creative brainstorms about this theme, drop by the children's room at the library and share them with me.



## Michael Belknap to Return as Book Discussion Group Leader

The 2000 Book Discussion Group will begin in January, with Michael Belknap as book discussion leader. He will be remembered as the leader of past series organized on a theme, such as "Houses in Literature" in 1997.

Michael Belknap earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard College, with a major in English, and has degrees from Harvard Law School and Cambridge University. He is a former corporate lawyer and real estate executive and taught at the Rutgers School of Law. He has served as chair-

man of the board of trustees of Shakespeare and Company and currently resides in Canaan, New York.

The theme for this year's series is yet to be chosen, but it will surely be as appealing and wide-ranging as past themes. For this series, the library will supply the books.

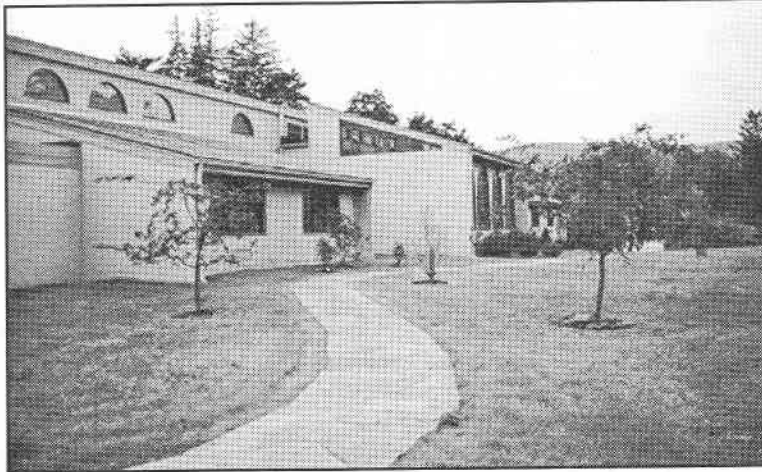
Discussions, which are free to all, will take place Monday evenings, one a month, from January to May at the library. We will begin posting information in late November and hope you will join us.

# Landscape News

by Joan Hunter

The Landscape Committee is proud to announce the near completion of the beautiful stone walkway leading from the sidewalk to the Sally Tenney Osborne Garden. This project was made possible through the generosity of members of the Sprague family, who have built the walkway as a memorial gift in remembrance of Florence Antoinette van Zelm Sprague. The walkway is a fitting tribute to Florence Sprague, as her gardens and collections of books brought her great joy in her lifetime. A final engraved stone will be added to complete this project. We thank the Sprague family for their generosity and appreciate how much the walkway adds to the beauty of the library grounds.

We also wish to thank all those good souls who struggled with dragging hoses to water our trees and gardens during the very dry summer: Jeanne Blake, Mac Brown, Mary Jo Carpenter, Liz Costley, John Howgate, Joan Hunter, Sarah Shepard, Patricia Siskind, Lauren Stevens, Sally Sussman, and Judy and Larry Weber. We look forward to a rainy spring! ∞



A stone walkway to the Sally Tenney Osborne Garden has been donated in memory of Florence Sprague.

## Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday - 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday - 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Library Staff

Pat McLeod - *Library Director*

Deb Felix - *Associate Director*

Fern Sann - *Inter-Library Loan & Reference Librarian*

Mindy Hackner - *Children's Librarian*

Julie Sumner - *Young Adult Library Assistant*

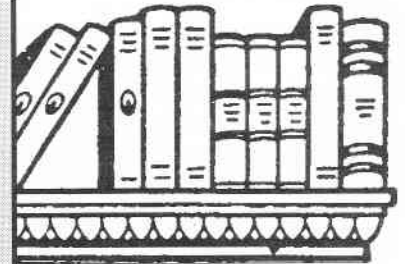
*Circulation* - Nancy Morin, Patt Patterson, Priscilla Coulter, Marvel Monette,

Norma Delisle, Jonathan Miles, Julie Sandy, Kristin Harris

*Children's* - Autumn Trotter

Check the library's website at [www.bcn.net/~willieb](http://www.bcn.net/~willieb)

E-mail us at [pmcleod@williamstown.net](mailto:pmcleod@williamstown.net)



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## Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library

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