

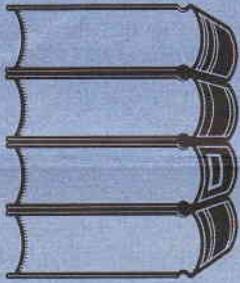
# Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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## Do You Know an Adult Who Can't Read?

Northern Berkshire Reads is a literacy program funded by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and the Massachusetts Department of Education. In cooperation with the public libraries of Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown, this program will provide free tutoring in reading, writing, math, and English for speakers of other languages. Adults 16 years and older who are no longer in school qualify for this service. At present, we are looking for 10 tutors to begin training in the fall of 2002. Word-of-mouth communication is essential for this program. For more information, contact Dedee Hynes at 664-0078.

## Town Elects New Trustees

by Mary Jo Carpenter

Our community elected two new trustees to the David & Joyce Milne Public Library last month: Linda Conway and Stewart Jones.

Linda has been involved with the library in one way or another since coming to Williamstown in 1986. Before moving here, she was managing editor for Houghton Mifflin in Boston, and since then she has compiled several cookbooks and worked on a variety of editorial projects. An interest in the local library came quite naturally.

She co-chaired the annual used book sale in 1994, the last year the sale was held under a tent in front of the Botsford House on Main Street. Subsequently, she was asked to be president of the Friends of the Library, serving for four years during a period of dynamic growth and change – the move to the former Pine Cobble School, the hiring of a new director, and increased town awareness and support of the library.

“Working with the library has always been a very gratifying experience — there is a matchless spirit of cooperation and energy,” she commented. “I look forward to learning about the needs and projects of this post-automation period and helping in any way I can.”

### First time elected

A retired physician, Stewart has been on the board for almost a year, but this is the first time he stood for election. He was previously appointed to the board to fill a vacancy.

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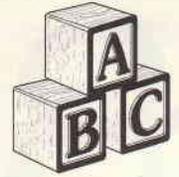
## Friends Give \$29,000

Thanks to a recent gift of \$29,000 from the Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library, along with \$10,000 from the Trustees, the library is undergoing some great improvements and additions. New shelving and a new floor plan for shelved material have created room for more books, videos, and audio materials. Professional signs will come later in the summer. The staff is enjoying refurbished administrative offices. The remainder will supplement the book and library materials budget and maintenance of the grounds. Come in and see what's new!





# The ABC's of Libraries



by Pat McLeod

*Editor's Note: Continuing our series on library basics, Director Pat McLeod explains how individuals can support the library financially.*



## is for Giving

**give (giv) v. giving** To make a present of. To donate.

Private donations are vital in maintaining the library's central role in this community. The library benefits from various sources, and the purpose of this article is to clear up any confusion about how to give to your library.

### Library Trustees Annual Fund

Every spring, the Library Trustees send a fundraising letter to Williamstown donors of past appeals. This letter is also available at the circulation desk. The money raised through this effort augments the library's operating budget from the town. In the past, the Annual Fund has paid for expanded Saturday hours, improvements in carpeting, lights, and shelving, and a new magnetic locking system. The Fund also supplements the budget for books and other lending materials. This year's money will go towards a computer lab that will provide Internet and computer training and access.

### Friends of the Library

Since its inception in 1989, the Friends of the Milne Public Library has supported the library with financial gifts totaling more than \$200,000. Projects funded by this group range from the first coin-operated photocopier to the computer automation of the library's catalogue and circulation. There are two ways to give through the Friends:

**Membership** – The group's annual membership drive

runs in the fall. In appreciation for their support, approximately 500 Friends of the Library receive a 10% discount at Water Street Books. Information about joining is available at the circulation desk.

**Fundraisers** – The Friends organization is very active and successful in raising money. A used book sale raises more than \$16,000 annually and is a popular community event. The group also has raised money through a Quilt Raffle, the sale of book bags, and movie showings.

### Planned Giving

Bequests and planned giving are an important vehicle for supporting the library. The library's Sally Tenney Osborne Garden and Fund is a fantastic example of how an endowment can have a lasting impact on the entire library community. If you

Your gifts make all the difference in assuring that the David & Joyce Milne Public Library is one of the finest in Berkshire County.

are interested in naming the library in your will, please contact Pat McLeod at 458-5369.

### Other Giving Opportunities

The library welcomes contributions in honor and in memory of family or friends. Such gifts are used to expand the library's collections. Customized book plaques identify commemorative materials. This year, the library received donations of more than \$1,100 in memory of local resident James S. Conway. These donations funded a new travel section. The library also welcomes gifts to support its building and grounds; again, contact the library director with your ideas.

*In addition to working at the library, employee Patt Patterson volunteered to be in charge of all non-print media such as videotapes, CDs, and audiotapes.*



# ANNUAL BOOK SALE:

## *A Great Community Event*



*Gail Colpoys helps Josie Eusden sell delectable refreshments at Josie's Cafe in the school cafeteria.*



*Eager customers come prepared to haul off lots of great book bargains.*

Another successful Friends of the Library annual used book sale came and went on April 19-20. It raised more than \$16,000 to be used for library enhancements. The silent auction alone raised more than \$3,000.

"People have no idea of the work involved in this sale," said sale co-chairperson Judy Madden, referring to eight months of sorting and pricing books, transporting boxes of books from the library to the elementary school gym, not to mention the volunteers who worked at the sale itself. "There are so many people who have been involved along the way or are involved at the sale. It's such an amazing community effort."

Some of those volunteers were members of the Mount Greylock Regional High School football and baseball teams and the Williams football team. And Williams College loaned tables, chairs, and dollies to the event. Dozens of cooks and bakers donated their efforts to Josie's Café.

Organizers are already looking ahead to next year's sale in the gym of the new elementary school. Book donations may be dropped off at the library any time during open hours.



*Bill Fuhrmann prepares and stashes an extra box of books that will be used to refill the tables during the sale.*



The Friends thank Nancy van Arsdale for photographing the book sale.

*Book sale co-chairperson Judy Madden tidies up the tables during the sale.*

*Joan Hunter, Judy Madden, and Jeanne Blake discuss the price of a book.*





# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Miriam "Mim" Steel has been a faithful library volunteer for over 15 years. She began in the old library and worked on the vertical file for a previous director, Annette Jenks. The years have moved on but Miriam remains a dedicated library user and volunteer. Currently, she is relabeling the mystery collection, having finished typing spine labels to ensure that every book in the fiction section has one.



Miriam and her family moved to Williamstown in 1966; her husband Bill is a Williams graduate. They raised two children, and their two grandchildren are Williams College alumni. Miriam is a world traveler, and she enjoys walking, golf,

bird watching, reading, and the Sunday *New York Times* crossword puzzle (which she usually finishes by Tuesday). Miriam works several days a week in the library, except when she and her husband move to their summer home on a peninsula in Michigan.



## A Message from the Trustees

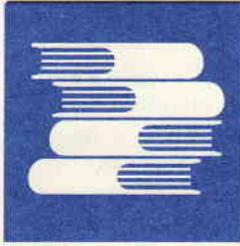
*We'd like to thank the many individuals who have responded so generously to our fifth Annual Fund letter. This year's fund will focus on technology, specifically the possibility of creating a computer lab with more terminals and increased access to technology instruction for patrons. Another goal is to purchase new furniture for reading areas, making our library even more welcoming and comfortable. And as always, we would like to earmark some funds for improving our collection.*

*We have received over \$8,000 so far, about two thirds of the amount we raised last year. In these difficult times, we realize there are numerous demands on people's resources, and we are deeply grateful that the library remains a priority for so many. If you haven't yet responded, or if you weren't on our mailing list, it's not too late. We all need our library, and our library needs all of us.*

*We also would like to thank Kim Rozell for six years on the Library Board of Trustees and welcome new Trustee Linda Conway.*

## Biblio Bytes

- The library loans out free passes for up to 4 people each to the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield.
- The library offers over 8000 e-books that can be accessed through the website.
- The library's magnifier/viewer makes small print easier to read.
- The adult fiction is now shelved next to the circulation area.
- Ask for a new floor plan at the front desk.



# News from the Children's Room

by Mindy Hackner

Most everyone has heard about our state's current financial crisis and its effect on many state-funded programs. Unfortunately, one of the victims is the Berkshire County bookmobile. This is tough news for small libraries that depend on the bookmobile to spice up their collections on a rotating basis. Luckily, we will still receive visits from the Hatfield bookmobile once in a while.

The silver lining for Williamstown is the permanent addition of more than 400 children's titles, chosen from those books that won't be moving to the Hatfield bookmobile office. Among the new acquisitions are some wonderful old copies of rare books by Vermont artist Tasha Tudor and library-bound editions of classics like *Make Way for Ducklings*. But library patrons everywhere might want to watch the state budget carefully and support their local libraries whenever possible.

This influx of books was particularly convenient since much of our annual Children's Room budget was used to purchase other media such as audio books, music tapes and CDs, puppets, and videocassettes.

## Williamstown Book Award

One exciting adventure has been working with Madeline Levy and a small committee to help establish the new Williamstown Book Award. This project, funded by the Williamstown Elementary School Endowment Fund and the Friends of the Library, will award special honors to a 4th-to-6th-grade level children's book. In the running will be 25 titles published since 2000. The grants will pay for multiple copies of these books to be placed in the public and elementary school libraries. Children will read these books and select a winner next spring. Ms. Levy hopes this will grow into an annual event, similar to a book prize from the state of Vermont, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher book award.

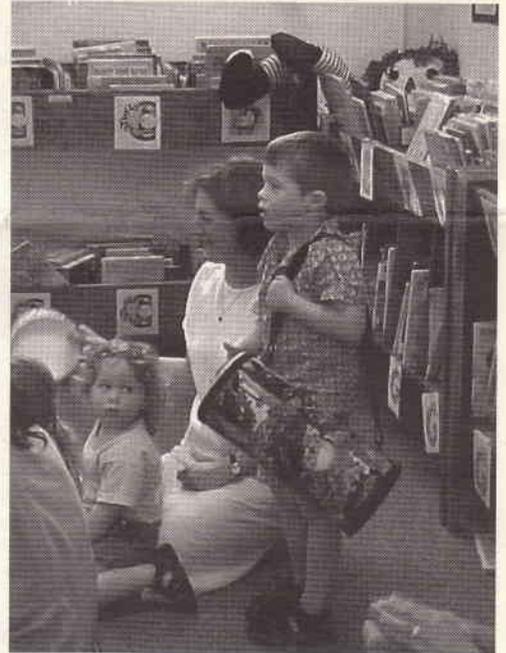
Another addition to the children's collection is a set of about 80 new small books designed specifically for children who are just starting to recognize and sound out words. Funded by the Friends of the Library, these books were recommended by reading specialist Jeanne Roy, to complement the existing Early Reader section. Parents and young children can identify these Beginning Reader books by the green tape on their spines.

## Summer Reading

And get ready for "A Star Spangled Summer!" The statewide summer reading program will kick off at our library after the June sign-up. We are planning eight weeks of fun reading from June 24 to August 16. One of this year's highlights will be the return of Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell for an evening of stories and music in the back courtyard. We also hope to have some very special visitors in person and on-line.

As in years past, we'll have reading logs, fun reading activities, lots of displays, and some contests. This year children can collect "shares" (instead of book bucks) for the books they read. These shares then can be used to purchase building materials for a northern Berkshire Habitat for Humanity "home." To help children understand the impact of their reading rewards, we will be building our own house in the children's room out of Popsicle sticks and watching it grow from a dream into a reality. We're calling the program "Building Community," and we hope to generate lots of discussion about what it takes to make a home.

As always, watch our web site at [www.milnelibrary.org/kids/kidshome.html](http://www.milnelibrary.org/kids/kidshome.html) for news about more summer fun and all the other programs at our library.



*Williamstown families enjoy many free programs in the Children's Room.*



Continued from page 1

"I had no idea of being a library trustee," Stewart recalls, "but Liz Costley persuaded me to try it out for a year. I soon learned that the board does a great job of running the library and felt good about being a part of it."

Noting that his only previous commitment to community service was as a tennis coach at Mt. Greylock Regional High School for seven years, Stewart talked about wanting to give something back to the community. "I've learned that it's a lot more complicated than just buying

books," he commented, "but we're lucky that it's such a fine library, and we have great support from the Friends and the town."

### Goodbye to Kim

Retiring after six years is Kim Rozell, who served two years each as secretary, chair, and treasurer. "I leave with a great sense of personal accomplishment," she said. She is particularly proud of bringing in director Pat McLeod, getting the full operational funding from the municipal budget, and surviving the 1996 move to the current location.

"I had always taken libraries for granted," she said, "but now I know what's involved in maintaining a good library. I never cease to be amazed at what the library means to the adult population in this town."

Linda and Stewart join trustees Liz Costley, Lisa Hiley, and Linda Becker. The trustees meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the library. The public is welcome. For more information please contact chair Liz Costley at 458-5894.

Special thanks to designer Alicia Smith for donating her services to the Friends!

## Library Staff

**Library Director** • Pat McLeod

**Associate Director** • Deb Felix

**Children's Librarian** • Mindy Hackner

**Reference & Interlibrary Loan Librarian** • Fern Sann

**Children's Library Assistant** • Helen Olshever

**Circulation** • Nancy Morin, Patt Patterson, Marvel Monette, Priscilla Coulter, Norma Delisle, Milt Pharr

**Students** • Veronica Bosley, Darlene Forde, Emma Markland, Jessica Tierney, Nathan Fowle

**Errands** • John Los

### Hours

### Contributors

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** • 10 am - 5:30 pm

**Wednesday** • 10 am - 8 pm

**Saturday** • 10 am - 4 pm

Susan Abrams, *editor*

Mary Jo Carpenter

Mindy Hackner

Lisa Hiley

Pat McLeod

Alicia Smith, *designer*

Nancy van Arsdale

Visit the library's website at [www.milnelibrary.org](http://www.milnelibrary.org)



*Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library*

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