

# NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVID & JOYCE MILNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Published by the Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library



B  
I  
B  
L  
I  
O  
F  
I  
L  
E  
S  
S  
U  
M  
E  
R  
0  
8

## WILLIAMSTOWN READS!



This year our "one town ~ one book" program took a slightly different turn. Instead of one book we had 8 books, each one about some aspect of food, eating and cooking. The program was designed like a menu, offering readers a choice of various types of stories, from "appetizers" to "dessert." The two "main course" books were *Animal Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver, and *Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. These books focused on the theme of "buy local ~ grow local" sustainability and the importance of fresh, unprocessed, foods.

The program featured 28 events and drew over 500 children and adults. The month began with a kick-off gala evening at the library, featuring shopping/tote bags for all that attended and checked out one of the books on the menu. There were book discussions, a trip to the Culinary Institute of Art, in NY, an exploration of chocolate, a henna tattoo workshop with Indian food, and a local cookbook author panel. The month-of-food celebration ended with a silent auction, "Art `a la Carte," showcasing phenomenal plates and bowls designed by local artists ~ an event that raised \$2,700 for the library.

We would like to thank our nearly 40 partners who helped make this event a wonderful respite from the cold doldrums of February. Will we do it again? Stay tuned...



## DOWNLOADABLE VIDEOS

Our library's regional network, C/W MARS, has subscribed to a collection of 284 PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) videos that are now available on the C/W MARS digital books site:

(<http://digitalcatalog.cwmars.org>).

Funds for this purchase came from the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System.

These PBS videos are part of the "maximum access" (in other words, always available) collection. This means they are always available for checkout by patrons, even if another patron has already checked out the title.

Some of the series available for download are:

*Africans in America*  
*America in World War II*  
*American Experience*  
*Art in the 21st Century*  
*Frontline*  
*The Conquistadors*  
*Egypt's Golden Empire*  
*Scientific American*  
*In Search of Shakespeare*  
*Liberty! The American Revolution*

Individual titles & biographies include:

*Can You Afford to Retire?*  
*Diet Wars*  
*The Kennedys*  
*Eleanor Roosevelt*  
*Eugene O'Neill*  
*Napoleon*

# NEWS & NOTES FROM THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

3

~Mindy Hackner

A surprise phone call early this winter granted us another year of the very popular Alice Shaver Foundation program called the Milne Book Challenge. The grant supplies hardbound classic and popular children's books to independent readers who have finished a required number of books. At last count, 220 'little shavers' have earned about 800 titles. The program is great fun. We're thrilled to be teaming up with the Youth Center so that children who find it difficult to get to the library on a regular basis can read and report books. And we have participants from as far away as Dorset, Vermont, in the north to Lenox in the south. Many parents are reporting that their children are getting the idea of reading just for the sheer delight of uncovering a good story and characters they would like to know. We have a full shelving cart of great books and often special order so that children can collect exactly what they want. For more on the Shaver grant, check the link on the library's website.

The 2008 summer reading program is "Wild Reads at your library!" What better theme for bringing wolves into the library for children to meet and understand (at a safe distance, of course). The wolves will be here July 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, and then travel on to neighboring libraries. Davis Bates will be performing in early July and we will launch the program by marching in our animal masks in the town parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Other plans include Monday "lunches with the librarians", great prizes for "timed" reading, the new E-vanced electronic book logs (especially for travelers), a movie party in August, nature crafts, games, booklists, and weekly story times.

Visitors to our room will notice some changes. Most noticeably, the VHS tapes and DVDs are now on the high book shelves behind the plush purple chairs. Always a high circulation item, film was lost and hard to browse in the art area. Parenting books have moved to the corner by the computers and a new MAC computer, for summer-time registrations, in the alcove by picture books. We're also busily making overhead signs to direct parents and children to our many different materials. Please feel free to let us know what works, and what doesn't.

Many thanks to Rita Watson for her tender, loving care of the children's garden in the back courtyard. We hope to spend many hours out there this summer and hope to see you out there as well.

Our library recently participated in the Western Massachusetts Poetry Slam Championship series, which turned out to be a lively and fun event, open to teens and adults. Of the eight poets who performed, three finalists were selected to go to a regional competition at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA.

We've also seen the start-up of a Teen Book Club at the library, motivated by several teens who wanted to participate in an informal book discussion group. The club, which is run totally by the teens, meets once a month. So far, they've chosen four books to read and discuss. They are hoping to recruit some new members, since they would like to see the size of the group enlarged to ensure dynamic discussions.

The Youth Chess Club (which had initially been intended as a teen club) has been ongoing over this

past year, with a dedicated group of players attending once a week.

Jonathan Berch, a Williams College student, has been mentoring this group for two years now, but we are looking for someone to fill in for him while he is away this summer so that we can keep the continuity. New players are always welcome, and meetings are late afternoons on Wednesday, usually 4:30 ~ 6:00 pm. At this time, the age range is 9 ~ 13 years old.

We will be offering a Teen Summer Reading Program again with prize drawings each week and offerings of three teen workshops: photography, in collaboration with the North Adams Public Library; video production, run by WillNet; and art, yet to be defined.

We keep building and enhancing our teen collection, despite our limited space in the computer lab. Our Y.A. Playaway collection (pre-loaded digital books) is also growing and is now located in the Y.A. Room.



Helen reads to an attentive crowd for a traditional story time. Story times are Tuesday & Wednesday mornings at 10:30. In the background, a colorful mural of storybook characters was added to the picture book corner this spring.



## YOUNG ADULT NEWS

4

~Helen Olshever



## TRUSTEE CORNER...

The Board of Trustees of the Library bids farewell to Linda Conway, who will be going off the Board after two consecutive terms.

Tom Sheldon will continue on the Board to serve a second term, and the Trustees welcome Jeanne Driscoll, who was elected in May to serve the board position vacated by Linda.

Please keep your eye out for the Board of Trustees' Annual Fund Letter in the next few weeks. The Board is beginning to plan for development and renovation of the library's basement.

## THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL BOOK SALE

5

~ Pat McLeod

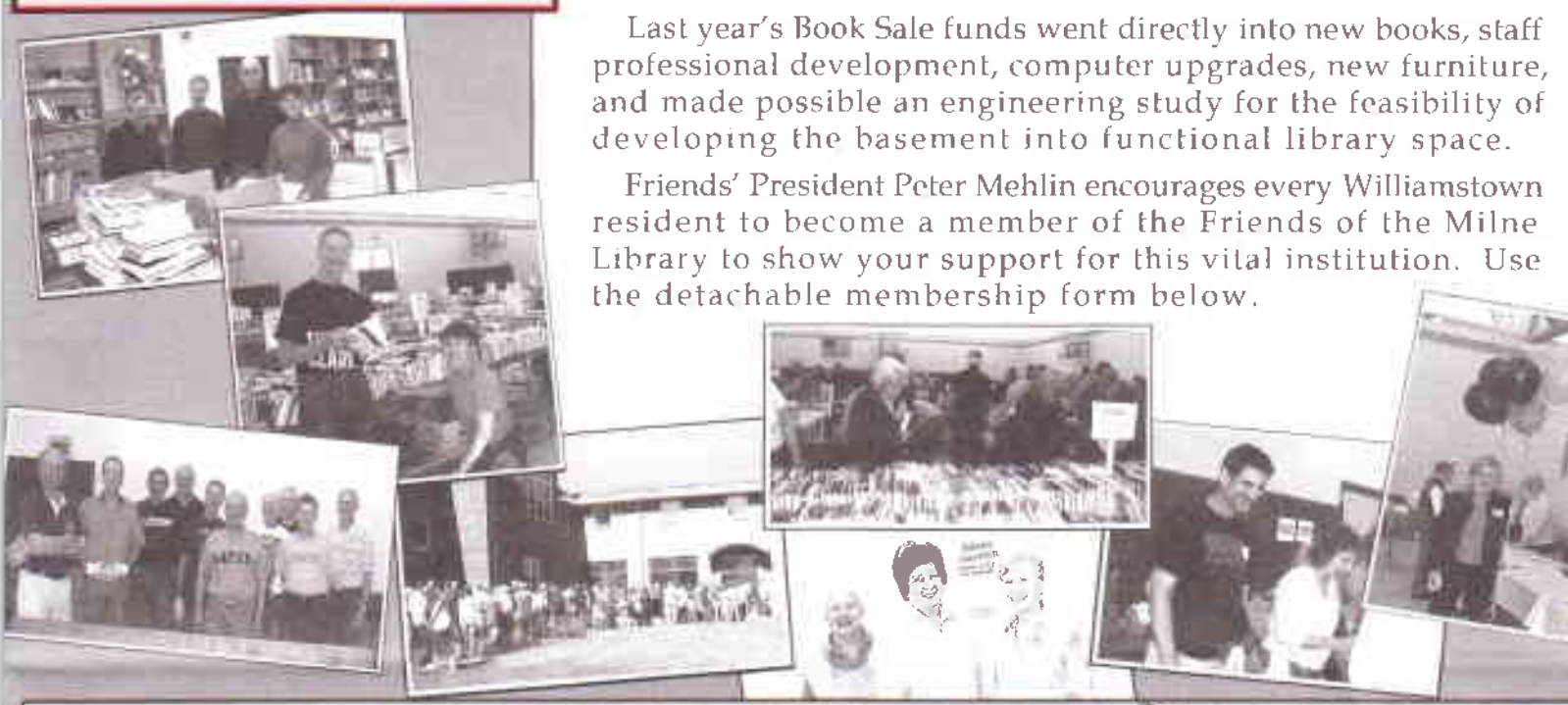
The Friends' ever popular and very successful annual Book Sale raised approximately \$23,000 this year. Book donations are collected every day the library is open. They are sorted and priced by volunteers weekly. Finally, the books are moved to the elementary school gymnasium during the school's April vacation, and for two days, there is a frenzy of shopping.

The Silent Auction had its best year ever, and Josie's Café was again wildly popular, satisfying our book buyers' cravings for cakes, cookies, and other goodies.

The Friends would like to thank the numerous volunteers who make this sale happen every year, the Williams College track, wrestling, and football teams, for pitching in on the heavy lifting, and Williams College Buildings and Grounds for providing the tons of tables that are needed.

Last year's Book Sale funds went directly into new books, staff professional development, computer upgrades, new furniture, and made possible an engineering study for the feasibility of developing the basement into functional library space.

Friends' President Peter Mehlin encourages every Williamstown resident to become a member of the Friends of the Milne Library to show your support for this vital institution. Use the detachable membership form below.



**YES!** I want to be a Friend of the Library at the membership level indicated below.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$ 5

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$10

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting \$25

Benefactor \$50

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your check, payable to the Friends of the Library.

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

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JOE &amp; GAIL COLPOYS

Joe and Gail Colpoys moved to Williamstown in 1994, from Croton-on-Hudson, NY, after Joe retired as a guidance counselor. Gail began volunteering at the Milne soon after their move, and Joe joined her about six years ago.

Every Thursday they arrive way before the library opens and start by shelving the large amounts of material returned on the previous Wednesday night.

Gail handles the books and Joe puts away all the media. "A great team effort. I know that when they leave, everything is put away and organized. I look forward to the doorbell ringing before 8:00 am. Joe and Gail are at the door, always smiling and in great spirits," states library director, Pat McLeod.

Gail and Joe are the parents of Liz Costley, former Library Trustee, and parents-in-law to Tom Costley, a Town Selectman.

They also have two grandchildren, Luke and Cate Costley, and the entire family is active in many community

organizations and efforts.

"I enjoy coming every Thursday and talking with the library staff. And it's a sense of accomplishment when it's all put away," claims Gail.

The Milne Library could not maintain its high level of service without the devoted support of over 35 volunteers. Each day they assist with shelving material, processing interlibrary loans, mending books, and organizing our book shelves. A big thanks goes out to Gail and Joe!



**Library Director** • Pat McLeod

**Associate Director** • Deb Felix

**Children's Librarian** • Mindy Hackner • **Children's Library Assistant** • Helen Olshever

**Reference & Interlibrary Loan** • Fern Sann, Laura Dankner, and Priscilla Coulter

**Circulation** • Juliana von Haubrich, Patt Patterson, Marvel Monette, and Sam White

**Errands** • John Los

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

**Wednesday** • 10 am - 8 pm

**Saturday** • 10 am - 4 pm

**Newsletter Contributors...**

Juliana von Haubrich, *designer*

Pat McLeod, *writer*

Mindy Hackner, *writer*

Helen Olshever, *writer*

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



**Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library**

1095 M

Williamstown, MA 01267 • 413-458-5369

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 121  
Pittsfield, MA