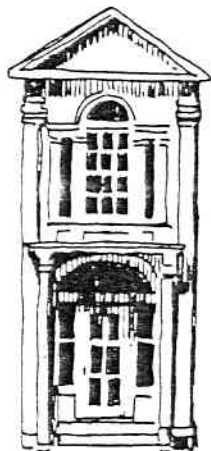

Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Volume 1, No. 4 Winter 1991



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Inez Roe Retires

Inez Roe, a familiar, cheerful presence at the circulation desk, will be retiring from the library after 15 1/2 years on the staff. She started at the library by shelving books, but quickly worked her way up to the circulation desk and acquired a reputation as our in-house expert on murder mysteries. Regular patrons have come to depend on Inez to keep track of their favorite authors' latest novels and to recommend books she knows they will enjoy. First-time visitors, out-of-town consultants and small children with lost cards or lost parents have all felt warmed, welcomed and comforted by "the nice lady at the big desk."

After her retirement on December 31, Inez will have more time to enjoy her family, including two nearby grandchildren, to read and to take occasional trips to the race track at Saratoga Springs.

December 30 has been officially designated **Inez Roe Day** -- an opportunity for her many friends to stop by and wish her well.

For a tiny person, she will leave a big hole in our library.

Friends' Quilt to celebrate the library's 50 years at 762 Main Street

The free public library is a unique American institution which has served its citizens well. More than a haven for poets and a resource for scholars, it has helped to assimilate the immigrant, to educate, inform and entertain the public and to fire the imaginations of countless children. Today's library patron can scan the daily newspaper, check out records, cassettes and videos, photocopy a recipe, borrow a sewing pattern or peruse the community bulletin board.

As one member of our Friends of the Williamstown Public Library remarked recently, "The library is the one place in town where everybody goes and where everybody is welcome."

1991 marks the fiftieth year that the Williamstown Public Library has been located at 762 Main Street. In honor of this milestone in our library's history, the Friends are organizing an old-fashioned quilting bee. We are going to make an album or story quilt to hang over the fireplace for everyone to admire and enjoy. The name of the quilt will be **The Williamstown Public Library** –

Fifty Years at 762 Main Street, and its squares will be stitched by you, the patrons of the library.

Do you remember when the library moved to Main Street? Did you learn to read at the library? Do you have a favorite book or author? Did a library book help you to decorate your home? Fix your car? Raise your kids?

If so, we want you to stitch your story on a muslin square. The squares can be embroidered, appliqued, quilted or pieced. *You do not have to be an expert!*

Children, grownups, groups and individuals are invited to participate in the project. Kits, complete with directions, will be available at the library by December 1. We need to have the squares finished by February 1, 1992, so that they can be sewn together and quilted by April 1. We are planning a Lemonade Social to celebrate the completion of the quilt during National Library Week next April.

If you need more information or encouragement or if you would like to join in "setting" the quilt, please call Marilyn Coll at 458-4653 or leave a message at the library.

Top Shelf

The library staff suggests the following as holiday gifts for the book lovers on your list.

FOR ADULTS:

FICTION:

All the Weyrs of Pern, by Anne McCaffrey. The newest in the "Dragonriders of Pern" science fiction series. \$20.

Comeback, by Dick Francis. A first-rate mystery featuring a British diplomat and, of course, horses. \$19.95.

The Deceiver, by Frederick Forsyth. A British Intelligence agent, contemplating retirement, remembers some of his past experiences. \$21.50.

The Lilac Bus, by Maeve Binchy. The hidden lives of the residents of a small Irish village by one of the better of Ireland's current authors. \$20.

The Love Child, by Catherine Cookson. This is vintage Cookson – a historical English novel featuring well-drawn characters. \$20.

New York Dead, by Stuart Woods. Woods' newest suspense novel, set in New York City. \$19.91

NON-FICTION:

Cruel Doubt, by Joe McGinniss. A local author describes the Von Stein murder in North Carolina. \$25.

In Mortal Combat: Korea 1950-1953, by John Toland. An engrossing history of the Korean conflict written from archival materials and interviews.

PrairieEarth (A Deep Map), by William Least-Heat Moon. The author's long-awaited new book focuses on the history and mythology of a county in Kansas. \$24.95.

When You Look Like Your Passport Photo, It's Time To Go Home, by Erma Bombeck. It's easy to laugh when Erma relates her experiences. \$21.95.

SOFTWARE:

Where in America's Past is Carmen Sandiego? \$39.99.

FOR CHILDREN:

Am A Little Bear, by Francois Crozat. One of series of little animal stories in which animals tell the story. Beautifully illustrated. Ages 1-5 \$8.95.

Henry and Mudge Get The Cold Shivers, by Cynthia Rylant. Seventh in a series about a little boy and his dog. Beginning readers. \$11.95.

Match Wits with Sherlock Holmes, adapted by Murray Shaw from Volumes 1-6. Great introduction to literature's most famous detective. Grades 4-6. \$9.95.

Felicity's Surprise, by Valerie Tripp. Meet a new member of the American Girl Series – an old-fashioned Christmas story. Ages 7-11. \$12.95.

The True Confession of Charlotte Doyle, by Avi. A Newberry Honor Book – exciting sea adventure. Grades 6-8. \$14.95.

Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind, by Suzanne F. Staples. Based on the writer's experiences in Pakistan. Grades 7 and up. \$13.95. Paperback \$3.99



A PATRON PROFILE: Ingrid Erickson

Ingrid Erickson got her first library card when she was four years old and new to Williamstown. She took it with her everywhere and wore it out in a month. Seven years later, her second library card still gets hard wear.

Ingrid visits the library regularly to do homework projects or just "hang out and read books." The books are mostly biographies of people ranging from Mikhail S. Gorbachev and John Glenn to Margaret Mead, Gertrude Stein and Sojourner Truth. Her favorite authors include Jean Craighead George and Mildred D. Taylor. Like most avid readers, it's hard for Ingrid to pick her "favorite" book, but she says it's probably Yoshiko Uchida's *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*. Her second choice might be *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, by Mildred D. Taylor. She loves literature on the stage, as well as on the page, and has played both

Juliet and Lady Macbeth; no mean feat for someone who just turned 11. Working with Shakespeare and Co. inspired Ingrid to try her hand at directing, and last summer she organized an amateur production of *Hamlet* in which she also played both Gertrude and the Ghost.

While she plays soccer and is on the swim team at the Youth Center, and serves as an elected mediator for her fifth-grade class at the Williamstown elementary school, reading seems to be Ingrid's favorite activity.

She learned to read before she she started kindergarden, and usually spends an hour or so every day curled up on her bed reading. She says she gets through about two novels a week. She grins and adds, "We don't have a TV. That explains why I read so much." It probably does!

News from the Friends

Maggie Chang and Glenn Andrews did a wonderful job in organizing the interesting panels on children's books and cookbooks. Water Street Books and the College Book Store lent substantial support to these events by displaying panelists' books in their stores and by contributing 10 percent of the proceeds from sales at the panels to the Friends.

We are grateful to Annette and Jeannette for helping to set up for the panels as well as selling books, and to Marilyn Coll and Bodil Wilson for organizing the refreshments. It was a wonderful idea to have sample recipes from the five cookbooks for everyone to try.

The library was filled to capacity for both of these events. For those of you who were unable to attend, there are audio tapes available at the library of both panels and, thanks to *The Advocate*, a video of the cookbook panel.

Many thanks to Norma Fox, Sherri Wobus and Ann Hodgkins, our holiday committee, who have been busy decking the halls for our Open House December 7. Betty Patterson and Joan Soper have been organizing refreshments for the event and Jeannette has gathered a group of children to trim the tree in the children's room.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

HOUSE OF LOCAL HISTORY

Up coming events:

December: Season's Greetings. Board members in period costumes will bid you a warm welcome as they serve cookies and punch during the annual Christmas Walk. Please plan to stop by the H.L.H. exhibition rooms upstairs at the library.

January: *Historical Video Images* – Hank Flynt.

We are proud to announce the return of the Historical Lecture Series, talks on topics of local interest by local personalities. Hank Flynt will kick off the new year with his engaging narrative accompanied by 16mm films.

February: *First Congregational Church* – Professor Henry Art. Professor Art presents his pictorial history of this famous town landmark, its history and people. The slide show conveys through graphic images the evolution of the building and the people.

March: *Historical School Exhibit* – Deborah A. Burns. Williamstown has been known for its excellent schools. Ms. Burns' exhibit is a timely and nostalgic look at the evolution of the town's 19th-century school system.

April: *Historic Building Restoration* – Dave and Judy Loomis. Dave and Judy Loomis of River Bend Farm will talk on their work restoring the Col. Benjamin Simonds homestead.

Future Lectures: *The Great Fires* – actual footage of fires that destroyed KA fraternity house and Pine Cobble School. *Historical Murder Mystery* – an adaptation of a well-known legend by Thorman Hulse.

Artifacts Appraisals – Learn how your historical artifacts might have figured in the town's history.

Marilyn Coll has been doing an incredible job piecing together the work on the community quilt for the library. See her article on the front page for details.

Thanks go also to Renate Kopynec for arranging the panel on January 16th called "The Great Balancing Act: Our Families, Our Jobs, Ourselves." The panel will take place at the library at 7:30 p.m.

Helen Kelly has prepared a program on Edna St. Vincent Millay entitled "O World," which she will present at the library on February 13 at 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Kelly visited Millay's sister, Norma Millay Ellis, at Steepletop, in Austerlitz, New York.

Other upcoming events are listed on the back page.

The Friends' generous contributions at the time of this writing have been/or soon will be used for: bookshelves for Annette's office, a new stereo, a fax machine and a computerized checkout system to help ease the staff's work load as well as contributing to the regular publication of this newsletter.

We thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Meg Dodds
President of the Friends



Santa's Book Worms:

A new program for the holidays

This holiday season, library patrons and their children are invited to play Santa by bringing in used children's books, in good condition, to drop down our "recycling chimney."

Donations will be distributed in Williamstown and neighboring communities in time for the holidays. The chimney will be in place and ready for your contributions between December 2 and 7.

Be a Friend!

Happy holidays and thank you all for your generous support in 1991.

The Friends would like your input on future programs. Would you please help us by checking your preferences and returning the slip to the library. Thank you!

- Readings by local authors.
- Travelogues.
- Workshop on social, financial and psychological aspects of retirement.
- Film series.
- Panel discussion on caring for aging parents.
- Other: *please* specify _____

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 7: The Friends' Holiday Open House at the library, in conjunction with the Christmas Walk. 5-7 p.m.

December 30: Inez Roe Day. Mrs. Roe, a familiar fixture at the circulation desk, has announced her retirement. In tribute to her years of dedicated service, the trustees are sponsoring an open house for her friends to stop by and wish her well.

January 7, 14 and 21: The Money Sense Program. The Berkshire County Extension Service will offer some timely tips on how to stretch your shrinking dollars,

January 16: "The Great Balancing Act: Our Families, Our Jobs, Ourselves." Sponsored by the Friends, and featuring panelists Elaine Hantman, Ph.D., Laurie Heatherington, Ph.D., and Dr. Elizabeth Whately. 7:30 p.m.

February 1: Completed squares for the Friends' community quilt are due at the library.

February 13: "O World," a program of Edna St. Vincent Millay's letters and poems, presented by Helen Kelly and sponsored by the Friends.

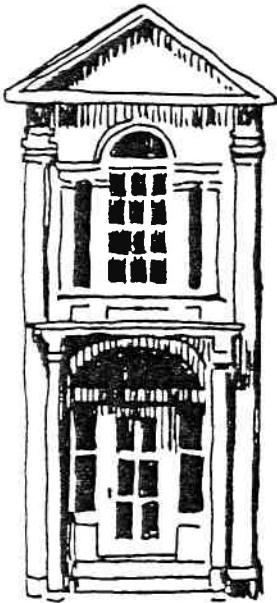
TBA February: Social Security. Milton Pharr, district manager for Social Security offices in the Berkshires, discusses the process of filing for retirement, and will answer questions on Medicare and other benefits. Date and time to be announced.

March 19: Gardening panel sponsored by the Friends. 7:30 p.m.

TBA March: NARH Wellness Works. A perennial favorite which deals with health-promotion and risk-reduction programs. The discussion includes information on health-related reading material available at the library. Date and time TBA.

April 1: Deadline for Friends' quilt to be sewn and quilted.

Mid-April: National Library Week, Friends' Lemonade Social and quilt presentation. Date and time TBA.



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday

Children's Story Hour: Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

To volunteer for library projects, please call (413) 458-5369.

Williamstown Public Library
762 Main Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

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