
Biblio File

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Volume 2, No. 4 Winter 1992

Annette Jenks retires as Director



Annette reads a favorite bedtime story to her grandchildren.

It's the end of an era! After almost 40 years at the library, including 21 as Director, Annette R. Jenks has announced that she will retire effective June 9, 1993.

In her letter to the trustees, Annette said, "My interest and concern for the library will always be a part of my life, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the residents of Williamstown as Director of the library."

The library first became a part of her life in 1954 when she worked "very part time" for a few years. She took some time off to have her two daughters, Julie and Laurie, but was back by 1963. A year later the trustees asked her to succeed Laila Kuralt as director, but Annette felt that her two girls still needed more of her time and she said no. The trustees came back to her in 1971 after Sarah Tenney resigned, and this time she said yes. She has served as Director ever since.

Continued inside

News from the Friends

Happy Holidays to all! Looking back over the past year we see so many things to be thankful for. The response we received when we asked for volunteers to help with various projects and programs was just wonderful. Thank you all for your generous donations of money and time.

We hope you will join us Saturday, December 5, when the Friends and the House of Local History will sponsor an Open House during the annual Holiday Walk. Thanks to Norma Fox, Sherry Wobus and Anne Hodgkins for decking the halls of the library again this year. Thanks also to Sue Bernardy and Betty Patterson who are coordinating the refreshment committee. Refreshments will be served in the Reading Room this year, leaving more space for all of us to enjoy the House of Local History's exhibits upstairs.

The Our Village series was very well received in September and November. We thank the Firemen, the Village Ambulance crew, the Police and the Department of Public Works

Continued inside



Contributors:

Sue Bernardy
Frances Buttenhelm
Meg Dodds
Alan H. Green
The Library Staff

Designer: Mimi Evans
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"Our Village" show and tell

Thanks to all "the volunteers" to all who made *Our Village* a success.

Top Shelf

The staff suggests the following for the book lovers on your list:

- **Essentials of Italian Cooking**, by Marcella Hazen. \$30.00.
- **Moosewood Cookbook, Revised Edition**, by Mollie Katzen. \$27.50.
- **The Car Book 1993**. \$11.00.
- **Field Guide to Stars and Planets, 3rd edition**, by Jay Pasachoff. \$15.95.
- **Blueprint for a Democratic Education**, by Jonathan Kozol. \$17.00.
- **Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus**, by Francis Church. \$10.00.
- **Action Figure! The Complete Adventures of Doonesbury's Uncle Duke**, by Gary Trudeau. \$19.95.
- **The Joy of Classical Music: A Guide for you and your Family**, by Joan Kennedy. Book and CD \$22.50.
- **Naming Nature: A seasonal guide for the amateur naturalist**, by Mary Blocksma. \$12.00.

Thank you, Friends of the Library

Dear Friends,

As we approach the holidays with our own shopping lists in hand, we want to thank you for bringing Christmas to our library all through the year. Your gifts have entertained and instructed our patrons; they have made our lives simpler, easier and nicer. For everything listed below and more, our most heartfelt thanks.

"Great Balancing Act" Panel • "Oh World" Program • "Green Thumb Gardening" Panel • New phones • New stepladder • First steps to automated circulation • Extended hours – summer Saturdays • Book-marks • Community Quilt • Quilt postcards • Video-tape rewinder • Listening Center • Summer Reading Program • "Our Village" Series • "Hike & Walks in The Berkshires" Program • Thermal coffee server • Shakespeare videos • Video gift certificate from Dox • Lectern • Card table • Slide projector • Clock for children's room.

With gratitude and affection, the staff and trustees

New from the Friends continued from front page

Greylock and Pine Cobble. We also saw slides of the Snow Hole, of Eph's Cave and of the most recent rock slide on Mount Greylock.

The Friends' Board has made several purchases for the library since the last newsletter. Jen now has two more bookcases behind her desk in the Children's Room. We also bought a video gift certificate for Jen to use as well as Halloween bags and prizes for the children.

After years of carting the large coffee maker up and down the stairs, a number of you will be happy to hear that we purchased a thermal coffee server that will be available to all the clubs and groups who meet at the library. We hope that the recently ordered slide projector will be in the library by the time you read this letter.

The larger purchase we made this fall was the complete set of BBC's Shakespearean Series on video. The library now has all of Shakespeare's plays on tape. Annette has wanted these tapes for years, and we thought it would be appropriate to dedicate them to her as a farewell gift. We hope that you will be able to attend the Annette Jenks Shakespeare Series which will involve lectures and excerpts from the tapes. The three plays featured will be *Hamlet*, *Henry IV, Part I* and *The Tempest*. See the Community Calendar for details.

At the October meeting of the Friends' Board, we voted to place the money pledged toward completing the computerization of the library check-out system in an interest-bearing account for future withdrawal when needed. The success of the August Book and Good Food Sale as well as donations by the Friends made this project possible.

As you all well know, nothing that we do could be accomplished without the help of the hard-working library staff. On behalf of the Board and membership of the Friends, I would like to wish Annette, Jen, Marcia, Nancy, Debbie, Cindy and Peggy the happiest of holidays and a very happy retirement to Annette, who will be dearly missed.

– Meg Dodds, President of the Friends



Annette Jenks retires as Director continued from front page

In reflecting on her years at the library, Annette notes how much libraries have changed in the past 20 years. When she started as Director in 1971, working 15 hours a week, the library had only books and a few records. More significantly it had no shelf list, an essential item that serves as the basis for both annual inventories and the card catalog that we all use to locate books and reference material. With the help of one M.L.S. staff member and a CETA worker, Annette began compiling the shelf list of every volume in the library by hand: book by book by book by book. She and her two helpers also refiled the card catalog, "pruning 100 years of deadwood" in the process. Both jobs still serve the library well on a daily basis.

In the middle of these projects Annette was told that "Oh yes, by the way, you have to get a B.A. in order for the library to qualify for state aid." Annette was a little nonplused by this and even more so when she learned that her A.A. from Green Mountain College could not be applied to a four-year degree. With characteristic energy and determination she became an undergraduate, first at North Adams State and later at the University Without Walls at Skidmore College, eventually earning the necessary B.A. There was one year when all four members of the Jenks family were in college at once. "Once I lived through that," says Annette, "everything else seemed easy."

Back at the library things were equally busy. 1974 saw the construction of the current children's room and the advent of Bookmobile service for the main library. Annette obtained grants for: the toys and games collection, the reference section, the paperback and young-adult collections, the audio-visual collection and she ushered in the computer age with the staff computer. In 1989 she encouraged Marcia Gross to apply for a grant for the public-access computer which is located upstairs in Nancy Burstein's office. With the acquisition of the CD collection and the gift from the Friends of the CD-ROM collection, Annette has taken our library from the 19th into the 21st century. In all of this, she has had the help and support of a "good cooperative, hard-working staff."

Perhaps her most significant contribution to the library is best represented by two "books" that she has added to the collection: *The Building Program for the Library* which she compiled in 1985-86 and the state-mandated *Long Range Plan* which she completed only recently. These two works comprise not only an enormous amount of information about our library, but also a thoughtful basis for any future growth and expansion. They are an invaluable legacy to future directors, staff members and trustees and they are a testament to someone who combines vision with patience and precision.

"It's been an exciting time to work in libraries," says Annette, "and it has enriched my life. I have grown in the job." Anyone who knows Annette knows that growth is an integral part of her life whether it's growing columbines for her new garden or helping care for two growing grandchildren. In her "retirement" she plans to complete her history of the library which is almost finished, pursue her interests in genealogy and local history and help Ransom put the final touches on their new house in Shaftsbury. "I won't be bored," she says. No one was worried!

The formidable task of finding a successor to Annette will be undertaken by a trustee-appointed Search Committee, chaired by Anita Barker. They have large shoes to fill! In praising the work that Annette has done as Director, trustee chairman, Brent Filson, noted that "the library staff always puts people first, and that is the best reflection of Annette's leadership." Patrons from 8 to 80, visitors, volunteers, parents, trustees and the Friends have all basked in the warm and welcoming atmosphere at the library. We have all come to rely on Annette's knowledge, her patience and unfailingly cheerful support. None of us can imagine our library without her.

Be a Friend!

Please tear off and return with your check to:

Friends of the Williamstown Public Library • 762 Main Street • Williamstown, MA 01267

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$ 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$ 100.00 and up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ _____ |

Thank you!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 5: Holiday Walk and Open House. Sponsored jointly by the Friends and the House of Local History. Exhibits: "Opera House Memories" and "History is Now: Changes Within Our Lifetime, 1942-1992." 5-7 p.m.

January 13: First of the Annette Jenks Shakespeare Series. *Hamlet*, lecture by Mount Greylock English teacher, Dick Dodds, with excerpts from the BBC video. At the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends.

January 24: "Berkshire Lost," a slide presentation by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on structures and spaces in the Berkshires lost to development, fire and neglect since 1900. Nan Jenks-Jay and Charles Bonenti, speakers. 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the House of Local History.

February 10: Second of the Annette Jenks Shakespeare Series. *Henry IV, Part I*, lecture by North Adams State College Professor of English Meerā Tamaya with excerpts from the BBC video. At the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends.

February 13: "Barns and Discoveries," a slide presentation by Richard W. Babcock, barn preservationist, on the preservation, restoration and conversion of historic barns. 2 p.m. Sponsored by the House of Local History.

March 17: Third in the Annette Jenks Shakespeare Series. *The Tempest*, lecture by Williams College Professor of English Clara Park with excerpts from the BBC video. At the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends.

April 10: Antiques Appraisal Day. Chris Robinson will give oral appraisals of small antiques for a nominal fee. Sponsored by, and proceeds to benefit, the House of Local History.

The House of Local History:

The House of Local History can be of great interest to both new and long-term residents. Please consider becoming a member. Your modest annual dues will help preserve this important organization. For a free brochure, please phone 458-2160 or send your request to: Nancy Burstein, Curator of the House of Local History, Williamstown Public Library, 762 Main Street, Williamstown MA 01267.

Library Hours:

Mon., Tues., Thurs. and Fri., 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Wed. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Closed Sun.

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

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



Friends of the Williamstown Public Library

762 Main Street • Williamstown, MA 01267

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