

Biblio File

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Spring 2012

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

2011 was a banner year for the Friends, with 425 household memberships, and we have high hopes for 2012. We raise funds through member dues and an annual book sale, while the elected Board of Trustees raises funds through its Annual Appeal. Thanks for supporting both library entities!

BOOK SALE EXTRAVAGANZA

Come to our annual used book sale on Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21, at Williamstown Elementary School, from 10 am to 4 pm. Besides the fun of browsing through thousands of books and media items, you can bid on a wide selection of special silent auction volumes, sample delicious café fare, and mingle with friends and neighbors. Volunteers needed! Sign up at the library or email: friends@milnelibraryfriends.org.

BOOK NOOK

Looking for an inexpensive book to take on your next trip? Come see what's in the Nook, our summer experiment which is now a popular fixture at the library. Last June an alcove was transformed into a self-service used book store. Hard cover and paperback fiction and non-fiction for adults, young adults, and children, plus a small section of "Special Collection" books, are priced from 50 cents to \$4. The Friends will put this bonus income toward library needs and programs.

TRANSITIONS

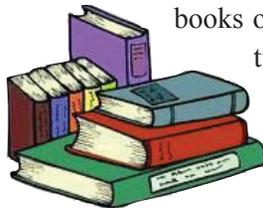
At our December Annual Meeting, Melissa Segalla and Jessica Dils were elected to the Friends Board. Officers for 2012 are: Ginny Sheldon, President; Stephen Dravis, Vice President; Michael Sussman, Treasurer; and Susan Abrams, Secretary. We paid special tribute to outgoing Board member Gay Klaus Scarborough for her 16 years of service. The public is welcome to our meetings at noon on the 2nd or 3rd Monday of the month. Please join us!

FRIENDS' COOKBOOK

Cooking with Friends debuted last April and is a handy gift for many occasions. John MacDonald's cover illustration of *Mt. Greylock—The Hopper (2005)* makes it a perfect souvenir of the Berkshires! Copies can be purchased for \$10 at the library.

LIBRARY NEWS

Director Pat McLeod reports that the Trustees recently funded new large print and media shelving. Space is being reallocated to accommodate the growing collection of DVDs, books on CD, MP3s, Playaways, and the reduced collection of VHS movies.



YEAR OF THE DRAGON

The Milne is collaborating with Bennington Free Library to celebrate 2012 Chinese Year of the Dragon, with programs, lectures, children's and community events, and suggested reading. Coming events include: April 4 at 7 pm: Shawn MacKenzie, local author of *The Dragonkeeper's Handbook*; April 14 at 11 am, family kite making day; and May 2 at 7 pm, China's Historical Firsts.

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

The Friends happily fund the rich array of creative programs offered by Librarians Mindy Hackner and Helen Olshever. In addition to summer reading materials, posters, promotions, and prizes, we provide art materials and snacks for special story times.

In 2011, we funded the *Tumblebooks* annual subscription, Ben Gundersheimer's "Mister G" concert, "Cat's Pajamas" concert, Simone's "Wonders Down Under," Kim Rozell's "African Adventure," Susan Matsui's "Visit to Japan," master storyteller Rona Leventhal, Otha Day's "Drum Songs," and "Spooky Stories at the Milne." Many programs featured themed snacks!

2012 began with a "Making Comics" workshop. Due to its popularity, a reprise with author/illustrator Melissa Mendes is planned for the spring.

TRUSTEE UPDATE

The Board has formed a Facility Review Committee to discuss improvements and/or changes to the library. Members are Ed Epping, Williams professor of art; Tom Mahar, Williams Facilities Department project supervisor; Steve Nesterak, Williams Facilities director of real estate and auxiliary services; Leslie Reed-Evans, Williamstown Rural Lands executive director; Nancy McIntire, Trustee; and Pat McLeod, Director. The committee will identify needs, set priorities, establish a time-line, and develop a financial plan to meet those building needs. The committee welcomes community input and looks forward to working with the Friends.



Friends of the David & Joyce Milne Public Library

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milnelibraryfriends.org



Trustee Mehlin and Senator Downing

sponsored by Library Supporters of Western Massachusetts, was held in late January at Pittsfield's Berkshire Athenaeum. Institutions like the Milne Public Library benefit all Bay Staters. Making sure they survive is the responsibility of all.

"Public libraries are the best value going," Board of Library Commissioners Director Rob Maier said at this year's gathering. "For \$38 per capita (on average) of local contributions and \$3 per capita in state funding, any resident in the commonwealth has access to all resources of the library. That's a pretty good bargain." Maier shared the podium with fellow Commissioner Mary Kronholm, representatives of the Massachusetts Library System, and four members of Berkshire County's legislative delegation.

The Milne was well represented by Trustees Marilyn Faulkner and Peter Mehlin, Director Pat McLeod, Librarians Mindy Hackner and Fern Sann, and Friends board members Maggie Bye and Stephen Dravis. The Milne contingent and representatives from around the county were on hand to learn about statewide library

Legislative Breakfast Report

By Stephen Dravis, Vice President, The FRIENDS

The 14th Annual Berkshire Library Legislative Breakfast,

priorities and encourage the local legislators to support that agenda. Not that those legislators appeared to need much arm-twisting.

"Growing up, I remember walking to the Pittsfield library with my mom, brothers and sister," Sen. Benjamin Downing, D-Pittsfield, said. "I have memories of walking home from school and stopping off to get work done here. (Today) I host monthly coffee and conversation events throughout the district and in a lot of small towns; 9.9 times out of 10, they're held at libraries. Libraries are places where people are comfortable and are used to coming together to talk about issues. We're incredibly lucky in the Berkshires to have dedicated municipal officers who care about libraries."

Local libraries also were praised by Reps. William "Smitty" Pignatelli, D-Lenox, Tricia Farley-Bouvier, D-Pittsfield, and Gailanne Cariddi, D-North Adams, who joined Downing at the event. In spite of that support, there are economic realities at the state level that make it difficult to secure funding for the institutions.

"Yes, there are many other programs out there looking for money," Kronholm noted. "The newest issue we face in Boston is that the federal government is beginning to deal with its deficit," said Downing, who represents 48 Western Massachusetts towns, including all of Berkshire County.