

FRIENDS

The Newsletter of the *FRIENDS* of the Brown Public Library

ANNUAL MEETING

Author Doug Wilhelm will present a talk on his book *The Revealers* at the Friends Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 27th, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Brown Public Library.

The program will explain what motivated him to write *The Revealers*, based on his experiences of being bullied in middle school. This book has been strongly received by young readers, teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, parents and others. In 2004 the book was nominated for the Teens Top Ten List of the American Library Association.

Mr. Wilhelm graduated from Kenyon College in Ohio, and then travelled from Europe to India and Nepal. After moving to Vermont he became a full-time, self-employed writer. He currently lives in Weybridge, Vermont with his family.

The FRIENDS Annual Business Meeting and refreshments will follow the presentation.

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GOOD FRIEND REMEMBERED

Libby Hambleton, a library volunteer for over 15 years and a mainstay at the circulation desk on Monday afternoons from 2:00-5:00, died on January 14, 2011. Libby helped out at the library at other times as well, frequently on short notice, and would cut through the church parking lot from her home on Central Street and be at the library in just minutes. She took an interest in people of all ages, and they responded to her friendly and caring manner.



Libby was competent, efficient, and willing to tackle any project. It didn't matter to her if the job was large or small – if it needed to be done, she was there. She took a leadership role in the 100th Anniversary Campaign, which expanded the library and joined it to the Northfield Historical Society.

Libby helped to get the *Northfield Now and Then* cookbook reprinted. When there was water in the basement, she found a mop. When a plant needed

repotting, she took it home and brought it back minutes later in a bigger pot.

Many people at the library, both staff and patrons, knew Libby and counted her as a friend. She had a wonderful energy and contagious smile and will be greatly missed.

READING DISCUSSION SERIES

Join us for the mouth-watering series "Gastronomy: Novels about Food and Culture." One of the best ways to learn about a culture is through its food, and these four novels highlight the Persian- and Arab-American, Italian-American, Chinese, and Indian cultures.

Book discussions will be held Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the library. The schedule for the series is:

February 7

Crescent by Diana Abu-Jaber
Scholar: Helene Lang

February 28

Paper Fish by Tina de Rosa
Scholar: Nat Frothingham

March 14

Last Chinese Chef by Nicole Mones
Scholar: Pat Stuart

March 28

The Mistress of Spices by Chitra Divakaruni
Scholar: Gina Logan

These programs are free, open to the public, and are ADA accessible. Books are available at the library. Feel free to attend any or all sessions.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the FRIENDS of the BPL. As I enter my fourth year as President, I look forward to discovering new opportunities to support the BPL. Each way in which we are asked for support is given a lot of thought before making a decision.

The success of the BPL is due to our friendly, competent staff and to all our wonderful volunteers. We are very lucky to have them.

Marilyn Peace,
President of the *FRIENDS*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our new treasurer, Carolyn Demasi, submits the following report:

The following is an approximate accounting of *FRIENDS* finances in 2010. Exact figures will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

In 2010, total income for the *FRIENDS* was approximately \$1,900, most of which was from memberships. Over the course of the year the *FRIENDS* spent about \$1,300. Of that, programming accounted for about \$850. The summer reading programs portion of that amount was \$550, and the remaining \$300 was paid to the Vermont Humanities Council for the New England Uncovered Reading/Discussion series.

Other expenditures included \$275.00 for a rose garden in memory of Hazel Moot (see photo) and \$40 for a file cabinet. Publication and mailing of the newsletter was approximately \$100, and "other expenditures" made up the balance.

As of December 31, 2010, the *FRIENDS* had about \$7,400 in the bank---\$1,600 in checking and the rest in a Northfield Savings Bank CD.



BPL memorial rose garden for Hazel Moot, long-time library trustee who died January, 2010.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership in the *FRIENDS* now stands at 124 families. Thirty-four joined in the *Best Friend* category and 48 joined in the *Good Friend* category. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter for 2011 membership renewal forms.

FRIENDS IN ACTION

Pat Stuart led a discussion of Katherine Paterson's book *Day of the Pelican* in the Fall of 2010.

On Saturday, November 6, 2010, The Vermont Library Trustees Association Conference was held at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. Sue MacMartin, Philo Hall, Ingrid Wilson, Marilyn Peace, Judy Plumley and Patricia Babcock attended.

The keynote speaker was Sally Gardener Reed, Executive Director of the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates and Friends.

They learned the many benefits of having 501(c)3 tax status and also learned about invigorating a Friends group and common problems that arise.

"VERMONT READS"

The BPL and the Roxbury Free Library have been awarded a "Vermont Reads" grant from the Vermont Humanities Council. Various programs will be held in **April** and **May** related to Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which was first published in 1960. Please contact the library in late winter for more details.

DUES ARE DUE

It's time once again to remind *FRIENDS* members to send in their annual dues. More than 90% of the *FRIENDS* operating budget is generated from membership dues. Without your continued financial assistance, the *FRIENDS* would not be able to sustain its program of support for the BPL.

A proposed change in the dues structure will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Please see the insert for more details.

During periods of recession library use by the public *does* increase. As such it is particularly important to support BPL activities during difficult financial times.

Please take a moment to renew your membership by completing

the membership and dues information on the last page of this newsletter. You can mail your dues to the BPL or drop them off at the library during your next visit.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Employees: Farewell to Diana Colby, who worked evenings. Diana's great knowledge of books and authors will continue to benefit the library. She has volunteered to continue to read book reviews and suggest titles for purchase.

Volunteers: Farewell to Nancy Evans Shiok, who served as Treasurer of the Friends and also volunteered at the circulation desk, and to Rachel Rose, who volunteered Friday afternoons.

New faces at the circulation desk belong to Rachel MacMartin and Doug McKenna. And welcome *back* to Margaret Snelgrove.

Trustees: Holly Lane left the Board in late 2010 just prior to the birth of her son, Calvin Westlake Lane. Holly had taken a leadership role in fundraising activities, especially the Labor Day Bake & Gift Sale and the dollhouse raffle.

Nancy Braman and Nikki Hebert will both leave the Board in March. In addition to her 3-year term on the Board, Nancy has also served as volunteer Treasurer of the library for almost 6 years. Nikki, like Holly, has played a major role in fund-raising activities.

WEBSITE SUCCESSFUL

Floyd Stuart continues to manage and maintain the library's popular and very informative website. If you've not recently visited us on

the Web, go to: <http://www.brownpubliclibrary.org> and see what a friendly, easy-to-navigate site Floyd has created. New information is always being added. Bookmark us!

Floyd has also offered to teach short workshops on topics such as: Navigating the Internet, E-mail for Beginners, and Basic Word Processing. Please call the library if you'd be interested in taking one of these workshops.

BPL WISH LIST

Here is a list of library needs submitted by Sue MacMartin, Library Director:

- ❖ More volunteers, including those with an interest in technology (to help with computer updates or the BPL website, or to create and maintain a Facebook page for the library.)
- ❖ Unabridged audio books on CD for adults and children
- ❖ Quality DVDs, especially for children & young adults.
- ❖ "Read-Alongs" (books and accompanying CDs) for children
- ❖ Language CDs
- ❖ Heavy-duty computer furniture (desks or chairs) in good condition

THE BIG READ

The BPL has been invited to participate in a state-wide National Endowment for the Arts "Big Read" grant. As part of the grant the library will be hosting a

lecture and a book discussion in April:

"The Burden of History: American Soldiers and the Vietnam War," a lecture by Steven Sodergren, Studies in War & Peace Program Director and Assistant Professor of History at Norwich University -- **Wednesday, April 13** at 7:00 p.m. in the Northfield Community Room.

Discussion of *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien. Discussion leader will be Lea Williams, Associate Professor of English with a specialization in military literature, Norwich University – **Wednesday, April 20** at 7:00 p.m. in the Northfield Community Room.

Books are available at the library.

A "Big Read" symposium will be held at various locations in Northfield on **Saturday, April 30**.



FRIENDS is published annually by the *FRIENDS* of the Brown Public Library. Members who have suggestions or are interested in contributing a news item should contact the editor, Kay Schlueter, at 485-6942.