

FRIENDS

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

ANNUAL MEETING

Professor and author Woden Teachout will present a program entitled, *Capture the Flag: A Political History of American Patriotism* at the *FRIENDS* annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, March 24th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the BPL.

The program will explore the colorful history of the American flag as a lens into the political uses of patriotism. Professor Teachout will examine how the flag has been captured and claimed by a wide range of our fellow citizens to uphold their versions of the American dream. These stories will be used as a means to explore the changing notions of what it means to be a patriot. Her well received book by the same title was published in 2009 by Basic Books.

Professor Teachout holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has taught at Harvard and Middlebury Colleges. She is currently Professor of Graduate Studies at Union Institute & University and lives in Middlesex.

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

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FRIEND REMEMBERED

Hazel Moot, 88, passed away this past January. Hazel was a longtime member of the *FRIENDS* and a Library Trustee from 1985-1994, serving as Chair of the Board from 1987-1994. She was one of only three library trustees designated as "Trustee Emeritus."



Hazel and her husband, Richmond (who predeceased her in 2008), were generous contributors to the library and were active in the 100th Anniversary Campaign which raised funds for the addition connecting the BPL and the Northfield Historical Society.

Hazel compiled a history of the BPL entitled *The First 100 Years: Northfield Vermont's Public Library 1895-1995*. This very informative resource is available in the library's adult reading area.

For many years Hazel's influence could be seen by anyone entering the library building. Before word processing was available, she used her skill in

calligraphy to make many of the library's interior signs. Many of her special things (her Winnie the Pooh characters, for example) were often on display at the BPL for the public to enjoy.

Hazel will be missed. The library has benefited greatly from her many years of dedicated service.

BPL TRUSTEES

In March, 2009, the *FRIENDS* and the BPL Trustees sponsored a surprise party for Frank Plumley, who was retiring from the BPL Board of Trustees after serving for over 11 years, five of those as Chair. The Board, in designating Frank as Trustee Emeritus of the BPL, noted his "imagination, political and managerial skill, oversight, diligence, and persistence" and his "wise, generous and untiring leadership."

Bill Harrison, Vice-Chair of the Board, is leaving after ten years of service to the BPL. When Bill joined the Board in 2000, many changes were being discussed, including the addition of a Youth Services Librarian position, a significant increase in the library's hours of operation, and improved compensation for library employees.

After many years of service, Ingrid Eriksen-Wilson will be stepping down as Secretary of the Board. Ingrid has served as a trustee continuously since 1992. In the 1990s she helped the Board navigate the many details

of the 100th Anniversary Campaign and the construction of the addition connecting the BPL and the Northfield Historical Society.

Frank, Bill, and Ingrid have been instrumental in expanding library services to the Northfield community. Their dedication, experience, and humor have made their years on the Board both productive and enjoyable. Many thanks and good wishes go out to them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the *FRIENDS* of the BPL! I need lots of challenges in my life and serving as President has been interesting and challenging for me. As I enter my third year as President, I look forward to discovering new opportunities to support the BPL.

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

The following is an approximate accounting of *FRIENDS* finances in 2009. Treasurer Nancy Evans Shiok will provide the exact figures at the Annual Meeting.

In 2009, total income for the *FRIENDS* was approximately \$1,700, most of which was from memberships. Over the course of the year the *FRIENDS* spent about \$2,700. Of that, programming

accounted for about \$1,000; \$700 for the youth Summer Reading Program, \$100 for Vermont Reads programming, and \$200 for the "Middle Eastern Voices" reading/discussion program.

Other expenditures included \$950 for a new World Book Encyclopedia, about \$200 for children's furniture, and another \$200 for flower pots. Publication and mailing of the newsletter was roughly \$100, and "other expenditures" made up the balance.

As of December 31, 2009, the *FRIENDS* had approximately \$6,700 in the bank -- \$1,000 in checking and the rest in a Northfield Savings Bank CD.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership in the *FRIENDS* now stands at 125 families – slightly down from 2009. Thirty-seven joined in the *Best Friend* category and 40 joined in the *Good Friend* category. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter for 2010 membership renewal forms.

FRIENDS IN ACTION

The *FRIENDS* supported "Vermont Reads" programming in the fall. A total of 63 people participated in the programs. Four programs were held in conjunction with the Vermont Humanities Council and the Roxbury Free Library:

- A *Sampler of Japanese Culture* with Maiko Shimizu and Robert Allen.
- Discussions of the book *When*

the Emperor Was Divine and the PBS movie documentary *Time of Fear* with Lois Cooley and Pat Stuart.

- A lecture, *How the U.S. Government Treated Over 100,000 Japanese-Americans and Why* by NU professors Jack Hayes and Tom Taylor.

The *FRIENDS* purchased the *World Book Encyclopedia 2009*. The 22 volume set is consistently ranked by teachers and parents as the best encyclopedia available. The easy-to-use and highly illustrated format appeals especially to children.

A child-friendly computer station in memory of Muriel Leonard was also purchased by the *FRIENDS* along with several "Reader Rabbit" CDs. Floyd Stuart set up a donated computer with links to sites such as Sesame Street, Seussville and Giggle Poetry.



BPL PLANTS

At last year's annual meeting the *FRIENDS* voted to have the large plants in the BPL repotted. The *FRIENDS* purchased the pots, and Tom Trombly and son Teddy did the repotting as a service to the library. They did a great job – the plants are thriving. Many thanks to both of them.

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.

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

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 Isabel Nielsen and Margee Kindred. Welcome to Diana Colby and Tammy Hunt. Rachel Rose joined the BPL as a Vermont Associates trainee in the fall and left recently to take a position at the Aldrich Library.

Volunteers: The circulation desk is now staffed by Larry Garland and Marsha Hoffman. Two summer volunteers were Kayla Barrows, who helped weed the collection, and Gretchen Dunn, who staffed the circulation desk. Two new volunteers are Catrina Audet, who is helping to keep the children's area organized, and Brandy Parks, who is assisting Youth Services Librarian Nancy Munno.

NEW WEBSITE FOR THE BPL

It was reported in last year's newsletter that Floyd Stuart would assume Richard Suitor's technology duties. What was not known at the time was that Floyd would soon be developing a new website for the library. If you've not recently visited us on the web, go to <http://www.brownpubliibrary.org> and see what a friendly, easy-to-navigate site Floyd has created.

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!
- Language CDs
- Quality DVDs and audio books on CD for adults and kids
- Recent travel guides
- Flowering plants for the BPL side yard and steps this spring
- Kids' educational CDs for computer use

READING DISCUSSION GROUP

What lies hidden beneath the popular images of New England with its white spires and Yankee frugality? More than meets the eye! Beat the mud season blues by joining us as we look beneath the surface in *New England Uncovered*, a free book discussion series sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council and the Brown Public Library.

The discussion groups will be held on Tuesday evenings, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the BPL. The schedule for the series is:

March 2

Peyton Place by Grace Metalious
Scholar: Mary Hays

March 16

A Brother's Blood by Michael White
Scholar: Jim Schley

March 30

I'm a Stranger Here Myself
by Bill Bryson
Scholar: Pat Stuart

These programs are free, open to the public, and are ADA accessible. The discussion books are available from the BPL.

FRIENDS is published twice a year – Winter & Fall – by the *FRIENDS* of the BPL. Members who have suggestions or are interested in contributing a news item should contact the editor, Max Schlueter, at 485-6942.

Sue MacMartin, BPL Library Director, contributed some of the articles in this edition.