

Friends News of Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

Fall 2015

Jerry Carbone: A Visionary

by Joyce Marcel

JERRY CARBONE, the genial, gentle and quietly gifted director of the Brooks Memorial Library, will be retiring on Friday, December 18, 2015. Carbone has spent almost his entire career at Brooks, beginning in November of 1978 and taking over as its director in 1993.

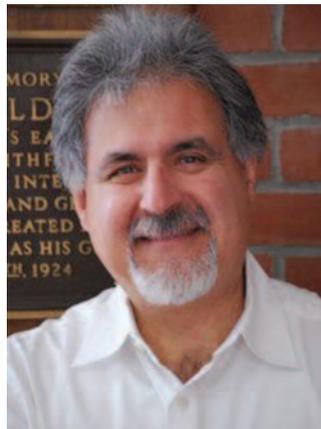
Carbone is originally from Denver. He took his master's degree in library science from the University of Texas at Austin in 1975 and found himself in Brattleboro just a few short years later.

In the letter he wrote announcing his retirement to Brattleboro Town Manager Peter Elwell, Carbone modestly said, "I have stood on the shoulders of giants."

One of those giants was his predecessor, Meris Morrison, who praised him right back.

"Working with Jerry is a pleasure," Morrison said. "He's calm and intelligent and well thought-out. He thinks things out and then goes ahead and does it. When he came in he was interested in computerization. He led us in that. His position was first to get us on line and retire the old card catalog and then push us ahead into today's world. He was at the right place for where we needed to go. We'll miss him."

Libraries are about information, and when Carbone began his career, information was found in books. When he took the reins of the library in 1993, it was the beginning of the electronic age and vast



Jerry Carbone

changes lay ahead. While the Internet and email were already up and running, the World Wide Web had only been invented a few years before, in 1989.

"The change has been so rapid," Carbone said. "Technology has changed so fast."

Carbone digitalized the library — getting rid of the card catalog was especially contentious — added computers and now even ebooks, made available on-line more than 50

databases, including Ancestry.com and *The New York Times*, and made a host of other changes. One of them was joining the Green Mountain Library Consortium, so Brooks now shares resources with libraries all over the state. He won three Vermont Public Library Foundation grants (2001–2004) that helped update the collections, upgraded the computers, cataloged the local history and fine arts resources, and made the library a more welcoming space through new lighting and furniture.

Change doesn't come easy.

"But it's like any change that happens," Carbone said. "People are resistant at first and then they adapt and even grow to like the change once they discover the potential. 'Hey! I not only have access to your collection, but I can see what the Library of Congress has! And with the consortium, I can actually request those items and they come to me!'"

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Carbone comes from a family of Italian immigrants. It's just one of the many reasons he feels strongly that libraries must remain "escalators of mobility."

"Libraries have historically provided access to people who are not part of the system," he said. "I mean in terms of inherited wealth or privilege. Libraries have always served immigrants. Even now, urban libraries have English classes for immigrant speakers. Libraries get people moving up. I know it's happened here because people come in to use our computers. And we give people one-on-one assistance in how to use them. Especially in times of recession and economic dislocation, historically you find library use increasing. If people have lost their jobs and had to give up their Internet connection, they can come here. We also have lots of free educational programs and lectures."

Carbone is not retiring because of his age, although he ruefully admits that turning 65 made him think seriously about it.

"I want to have some time to explore things which I'm interested in exploring — personal things, but close to library interest," Carbone said. "I think it's a really good time for a leadership change right now. The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library are going full speed ahead. Our annual appeal was very successful last year, and we'll continue that. The Ronald Read bequest of \$1.2



Jerry, staff and trustees 1986: Left to right George Lindsay (staff), Hollie Owen and Peg Watson Trustees and Jerry Carbone.

million will give the library opportunities to make some changes. And I've been here for 37 years."

Carbone will use part of his free time to plunge into his new love, genealogy.

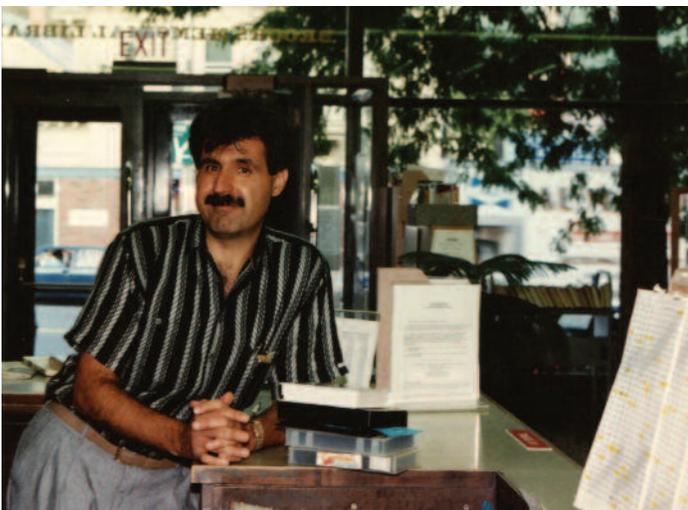
"First I'm going to do a 15-week on-line genealogy course from Boston University and apply it to solving my own family mysteries," Carbone said. "Maybe then I'll be interested in helping people do their own research. Maybe specialize in Italian-American genealogies. And I want to do some writing, too."

A committee is working hard to find a replacement.

"There's a certain serendipity-ness," Carbone said. "In 1975, (former Town Manager) Corky Elwell was involved in hiring Meris Morrison as the new director. It's been 40 years since a person has been recruited from outside the library, and that person will be hired by Corky's son, Peter Elwell. It's beautiful symmetry."

Working at the library has been a wonderful experience, Carbone said.

"I've always said that to be a library director in Vermont, Brattleboro was the best place for it to happen," he said. "It's a very supportive community, I've had a great team to work with — the staff, the trustees, the Friends and the town administration. We've had some rocky times because of budget issues, but everybody wants the library to succeed for the community. I'm hoping I'm leaving the institution in good shape — the shape I found it in when I took it over. Brattleboro people love their library."



Jerry Carbone 1992

News from the Trustees and Friends

WITH AUTUMN APPROACHING, the Brooks Memorial Library Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library are preparing to kick off our 2015 Annual Appeal. In 2014, the success of the fund drive was an indication of how much the community cares about the Library and shares in the responsibility for its future.



Examples of programs, materials and resources that Annual Appeal funds will support include:

- Children's Room special events, reading programs, crafts, games and resources.
- Technology equipment including computers, iPads and Kindles.
- Free passes to 16 regional museums and cultural institutions.
- Online subscriptions, including those for e-books, e-music, e-magazines, IndiFlix, Ancestry.com and BiblioBoard.
- First Wednesday lectures and other life-long learning public programs.
- Support for the Library's Fine Arts Collection.

In our expanding information-abundant world, the Brooks Memorial Library strives to be an information resource center that meets the needs of our local community. Your support of the 2015 Annual Appeal will help us meet this goal.

"...Welcoming Physical Spaces..." Library to Renovate

Over the summer, the Building and Grounds Committee of the Trustees convened three meetings facilitated by architect Chip Greenberg of Greenberg Associates, to assist staff and trustees in re-envisioning the library space. The result of the meetings will help make the library spaces more useable, friendly, and functional for the next decade. Based on information gleaned from staff and trustees at these meetings, and using the Library's Strategic Plan 2012–2016 as its guiding principle...“to provide welcoming physical and virtual spaces,” several priorities were identified. The priorities were:

1. Refurbish the library's community/meeting room.
2. Renovations in the children's area.
3. Transfer of the Young Adult collection to the

second floor into a newly configured Young Adult space.

4. Transfer of Fine Arts works in storage to the former Genealogy room.
5. Use of mobile technology to reduce the footprint of public access computing on the main floor.
6. Carve out more storage/work space throughout the library.
7. Reconfigure of reference/information services collections/staff space.
8. Create small meeting room space on the mezzanine as well as smaller rooms on the main floor.

We hope to begin work, which will be done in several phases, this coming Fall. Funds from the Ronald Read bequest will assist in this endeavor.

Thank You — Again — Ronald Read — Library to Restore Cut Hours

The Library Trustees are committing funds from the recent Ronald Read bequest to support staff in restoring the hours open to the public reduced in the 2010 budget reductions.

Saturdays beginning on Saturday, September 12, the library will again open 10AM to 5PM; and on Thursday, September 17, the morning hours will resume and the library will be open from 10AM to 6PM every Thursday thereby restoring the six hours cut in July 2010.

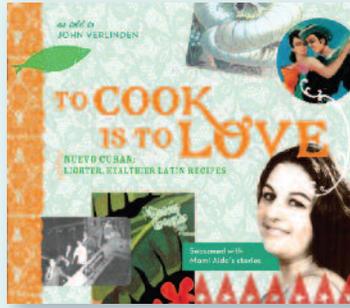
Restoring these hours has long been a goal of the Trustees. In a survey distributed to the Brattleboro community in November 2011, created to inform the 2012–2016 strategic plan, the hours open to the public were the community's largest source of unhappiness with the library. According to survey respondents, nearly 20% of them reported that “hours were poor or unsatisfactorily.” As the Trustees do not fund personnel positions, the funds will be transferred from the General Books line item into the personnel line item, and the Trustees will purchase an equivalent amount of books using endowment funds.

Pamela Becker, *President*
Board of Trustees

Mary Ide, *President*
Friends of the Library

Tasting and Talking about Nuevo Cuban Cuisine September 16 at 7PM

JOIN US for an evening with John “Chef Johnny” Verlinden, who will talk about Cuban food, culture and his new book, *To Cook is to Love: Nuevo Cuban: Lighter, Healthier Latin Recipes*. Chef Verlinden will introduce us to a more stylized version of traditional Latin cooking. As part of the evening



event, Chef Johnny, will prepare and share snacks for tasting.

Seating is limited to 50 in the Library Meeting Room so please make advance reservations to save a seat at friendsofbrookslibraryvt@gmail.com or call 254-5290 and request a seat for the event.

New Digital Devices at the Library

THE NEW DIGITAL DEVICES available at the Library including iPads, Kindles and an LCD projector and screen. The following new devices are for use by Library cardholders either in the Library or for checkout:

The iPads are touch screen devices that allow a patron to move about the Library, sit wherever they please and link to daily newspapers, use the iPad as a laptop computer, perform Internet searches, share photos, send emails, watch videos and listen to music.

The Library now has eight new Kindles that can be checked out of the Library. The Kindle is for reading any one of the 100's of books you can find on it, plus newspapers, magazines and other digital content. The Kindles are available for a checkout period of fourteen days.

The new LCD projector is a tool for presentations and lectures. It hooks up to your computer and projects content such as PowerPoint presentations, videos and graphics onto a screen for audience viewing. The Library's new LCD projector, and optional portable screen, can be checked out for three days.

Cal LaFountain — The “Go to Guy” for Technology



IN EARLY JULY, Cal LaFountain came on board as the Library's new Electronic Services Support staff member. A recent Communication Studies graduate of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Cal has been into technology since he was a young boy making 8mm movies with his friends.

Cal will focus on helping patrons with the various Library computers and new digital devices. In addition, he will be scheduling one-on-one technology appointments with patrons on Mondays from 3PM to 6PM. These personal consultations can cover any technology issue with which a patron may need assistance such as setting up an email or Facebook account, downloading e-books or using any of the new digital devices available at the Library.

Before moving to Brattleboro, Cal spent time in Tennessee and North Carolina working with the World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF). He is interested in learning more about the organic and sustainable farming communities here in the Windham County area.

Cal will also be providing ongoing support at the Circulation Desk. Cal's direct number is 254-5290 x104 or cal@brookslibraryvt.org.

Paige Martin Advocate for Youth



PAIGE MARTIN graduated from Marlboro College in 2011, and loved the area so much, she decided to stay and pursue her career here. While her academic focus was on Economics and American History, her subsequent career has involved working with

children and young adults at the Winston Prouty Center for Childhood Development and at Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS).

It was a natural move for Paige to become the Brooks Assistant Youth Services Librarian where she can use her experience of working directly with kids in a new venue — in the Children’s Room and the Young Adult Collection.

The job as the Assistant Youth Services Librarian interested her for many reasons, a main one was the opportunity to work with the Young Adult collection and coordinate events for teens in the community. Her favorite YA books are those that have dystopian universes and fantastical elements.

Working with the high school librarian at BUHS, talking with teens and middle school grade kids that come to the library, and working with other teen organizations in town, Paige hopes to begin building more relevant activities for teens both at the library and out in the community.

Kathy Johnson Balances Library Accounts

AS THE LIBRARY’S NEW ACCOUNTS

CLERK, Kathy Johnson brings over 30 years of production management and accounting experience to the Brooks Library. What started as a temporary position in the Library last February, was formalized to a 19 hour a week Accounts Manager this past June.

Kathy has an extensive and varied professional work history in the Brattleboro area. She spent 18 years at the Erving and Georgia Pacific Paper Mills starting out as a machine operator and moving on to production processing, payroll and finally accounts payable. She left Erving for a production management and accounts payable position at HCP Packaging Company, formerly Bridgeport Metal, where she worked for 25 years.



Kathy says that working at the Library is a wonderful and positive experience. The atmosphere and staff are supportive and she is impressed with the care and considerations given by staff and administration to purchasing and financial issues.

Recent Reference Desk Questions

THE FOLLOWING are a few examples of questions that our Reference Librarian, Jeanne Walsh, has helped patrons answer in the past few months.

- Step-by-step help getting free credit reports online
- Effects of bullying on child development
- Career info on becoming a veterinary technician
- Contemporary techniques for wielding medieval broadswords
- Videos about recovering from stroke
- “Books to read to my cat”
- Safety info on the nutritional supplement ephedra



Childrens Room & YA New Events and an Old Favorite this Fall

by Lindsay Bellville and Paige Martin

YA Author Skype Talk in September

New events being organized by the Youth Services Department this fall include a series of Skype talks with Green Mountain Book Award authors. Our first Skype talk will happen on September 28th at 6:30PM.

This talk will be with author Andrew Smith who wrote *Winger*, which is about a boy growing up in a prestigious boarding school, trying to fit in with his older classmates, and not fall in love with his female best friend.

The next scheduled Skype talk will be on October 28th, also at 6:30PM. This will be with author Andy Weir, and we will be discussing *The Martian*.

Design-A-Plate in October

This year marks our 34th annual Design-A-Plate workshop! What began as a fund raising event has become a yearly tradition for many local families. For the first time our Design-A-Plate event will be held on a Saturday this year.

Stop in any time between 10:00AM and 4:00PM on

Saturday October 17 to make a 10-inch melamine plate or 20-ounce melamine bowl. Each item costs \$6.00.

The workshop will be held in the Meeting Room. For more information, please call the Children's Room at 802-254-5290 x110

Makerspace Events

This fall we will be offering more "makerspace" opportunities for kids, teens, and families with a grant that we received from the Vermont Department of Libraries. Brooks Memorial Library was one of ten public libraries selected to participate in round two of Maker Programs in Vermont Libraries: *Spark a Culture of Innovation*.

Makerspaces are loosely defined as a creative space where people gather to create things, ranging from learning about coding on computers to making a craft, exploring electricity to learning about mixing colors. Please stay tuned for more information about where and when we will be scheduling these events.

Tony Barrand and Keith Murphy in Concert

November 6 at 7PM • "Jubilee Jim Fisk" and Other Songs

JOIN US for a fundraising concert with Tony Barrand and Keith Murphy on Friday, November 6 at 7PM on the Main Floor of the Library.

Nationally renowned and locally acclaimed folk musicians, Tony Barrand and Keith Murphy will perform ballads and songs from West Dover's Atwood family *Songs of the Hills* collection.

The evening will include a ballad about Brattleboro's own Jim Fisk, a notorious Wall Street financier and "Robber Baron."



Parking for evening Library events

IF YOU PLAN to attend an evening event at the Library, the Municipal Parking Lot behind the Library is available for free parking after 6PM. It is a short walk to the rear entrance of the Library and there is an elevator to the First Floor.

First Wednesdays 2015–2016 Series

THE VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL FIRST WEDNESDAYS LECTURE SERIES

will be held on the Main Floor starting at 7PM on the first Wednesday of each month.

The Brooks Library First Wednesday lectures are made possible with generous support from: Brattleboro Camera Club, Brattleboro Retreat, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, Friends of Brooks Memorial Library, New Chapter, Inc., and Windham World Affairs Council.



OCTOBER 7 • Ilan Stavans

The Legacy of Cesar Chavez

The legacy of Cesar Chavez, arguably the most important Latino leader of the twentieth century, has been marred by controversy. Ilan Stavans, editor of Chavez's collected speeches, reflects on Chavez's influence and place in history.

NOVEMBER 4 • Paul Whalen

Face to Face with the Emotional Brain

Whether one is sitting around the caveman's fire or the conference table, no signal is more important to humans' interpreting interactions and predicting behavior than the smile. Dartmouth Professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences Paul Whalen explores how the brain processes facial expressions and how that helps us understand our emotional lives.

Underwriter: Chroma Technology Corp.

DECEMBER 2 • Glenn Andres

The Buildings of Vermont

Middlebury College professor Glenn Andres examines the remarkable range, quality, humanity, and persistence of Vermont's built landscape.

Underwriter: Crosby-Gannett Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation

JANUARY 6 • Carol Berry

Vincent Van Gogh: What Influenced Him and His Influence on Art

Art historian Carol Berry considers the experiences, painters, and authors that influenced Van Gogh's work and his influence on twentieth-century artists.

Underwriter: Merchants Bank

FEBRUARY 3 • Allen Koop

The History of Health Care in the US

Dartmouth professor Allen Koop describes how America's troubled, promising, and unique health care system has been shaped not only by developments in medicine but also by social forces, economics, politics, and historical surprises.

Underwriter: Union Institute & University, MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

MARCH 2 • Nancy Jay Crumbine

Celebrating E.B. White

From *Charlotte's Web* to his exquisite essays in *The New Yorker*, E.B. White remains the master's master of elegant prose, sophisticated wit, and graceful irreverence. Drawing on his stories, essays, poems, and letters, Dartmouth professor Nancy Jay Crumbine celebrates White's versatility and enormous legacy.

Underwriter: Merchants Bank

APRIL 6 • Major Jackson

An Evening with Poet Major Jackson

UVM professor Major Jackson reads from his new book, *Roll Deep*, and discusses how poetry not only serves as a record of our existence but also enlarges us as human beings.

Underwriter: Carole and Geof Gaddis

MAY 4 • Polly Young-Eisendrath

What the Buddhists Teach: Finding Clarity in Everyday Life

How do we develop mindfulness and a compassionate optimism about a highly imperfect world? Author Dr. Polly Young-Eisendrath discusses the Buddhist model for remaining fully engaged in the ups and downs of everyday life.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Supporting the
Library with funding,
programming, and
technology

friendsofbrookslibraryvt@gmail.com

802-254-5290

www.facebook.com/FOBML

Masters of the Short Story Series

Ann Beattie on October 5 at 7PM

THE VERMONT COUNTRY STORE is sponsoring a new four-part Vermont Humanities Council reading and discussion series, *Masters of the Short Story*. All programs will be held on Monday evenings at 7PM in the Library Meeting Room with Dr. Richard Wizansky, a VHC scholar.

We are very fortunate that nationally acclaimed author, Ann Beattie, will be present to talk about her story, *Park City* for the first session on October 5th. Books will be available at the Library in early September.

Masters of the Short Stories Series:

October 5	<i>Park City</i> by Ann Beattie
November 2	<i>Selected Works of Flannery O'Connor</i>
November 30	<i>Five Great Short Stories</i> by Anton Chekhov
December 7	<i>Poetry and Tales</i> by Edgar Allan Poe

