

Friends News of Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont

New Board Member

AT THE JUNE 2016 BOARD MEETING, the Friends elected Betsy Wagenknecht as the newest member of the Board; at the same meeting, she graciously accepted a position as editor of this newsletter.

Since this is the first newsletter from her practiced eyes and capable hands, we thought you'd like to know a little about her.

She was born in Fitchburg, MA, and has worked as a radiologic and ultrasound technologist as well as a library program planner, library event

planner, newsletter editor and all-around library organizer for many years.

She's the wife of Dr. Walter Wagenknecht and the mother of Brendan, James and John.

The Friends feel very lucky to have Betsy editing our quarterly newsletter.



Annual Appeal/Membership Drive

THE MISSION of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library, an independent nonprofit organization, is to support the Brooks Memorial Library through advocacy, public relations, and fundraising.

The Friends support lifelong learning programs, such as the Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesday lecture series, which last year saw some 750 attendees. It funds many purchases of equipment and supplies, such as recent purchases of several iPads and Kindle readers and an iMac

for filmmakers. It provides many season passes to area museums, such as Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, Shelburne Museum, Mass MOCA and Smith College Art Museum. It also sponsors many of the activities centered in the Children's Room. It does not support library personnel, facilities or capital requests.

Please watch for the Annual Appeal letter, which will arrive sometime in October. We hope you will generously support this Fund Drive.

Brooks Memorial Library Survey

ENCLOSED in this newsletter you will find a copy of a survey being conducted by the Library. The Board of Trustees is in the process of writing a new five-year plan, and your input

would be greatly appreciated. Please respond by October 31st. You may drop it off, or mail it to:

**Surveys: Brooks Memorial Library
224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301**

Children's Room Summer Programs Wrap up

by librarians Lindsay Bellville and Paige Martin



THANKS TO THE FRIENDS OF BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, the Children's Room was able to offer a number of fun and exciting programs during this year's Summer Challenge "On your mark, get set, READ!"

Kids were invited to try out yoga, Zumba, hula dancing and Tae Kwon Do during our seven week Tuesday afternoon introductory class series. These free classes introduced the basics allowing children 5 and older, and their grownups, to explore different activities before committing to full classes. Thank you to our various instructors: Yoga-Cyndy Gray, Zumba- Emily McLoughlin, Hula and Bollywood Dance-Amity DeAngelis, and Martial Arts-Rouleau Holley's Tae Kwan Do.

For children 5 and younger and their families, we were also able to offer three different Tuesday morning programs. Over 200 children and adults attended these sessions! We started the summer with a Parachute play class led by Assistant Youth Services Librarian Paige Martin. We followed with a four week series of *Sing and Dance with Robin* lead by Robin Morgan who offers the same series at KidsPlayce throughout the school year. The last Tuesday morning class series offered was a Family Dance Class, taught by local Sobo dance instructor, Cyndal Ellis.

Additional funding from the Friends allowed us to expand our Thursday STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programming which

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 6:00PM. It is a short walk to the rear entrance of the Library, and there is an elevator to the First Floor. There is one handicap parking spot nearest to the walkway to the Library.



currently consists of monthly LEGO and Strawbees workshops.

We held two marble run making workshops where kids designed and built marble runs and mazes using paper plates, paper cups, cardboard, and Popsicle sticks.

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center presented Healthy Habitats workshop in which kids explored the factors which make healthy habitats for animals.

Another popular event this summer was our traveling makerspace party that came one Thursday afternoon to show kids how to use design software for 3D printers. The father-son duo brought a 3D printer too so that kids and adults could watch the

printer in action. Also at this event were auto-bots and “Little Bits” for kids to explore when they weren’t designing or watching the 3D printer. This event was so popular and we received such positive feedback that we hope to host another similar workshop here in the fall.

Weekly take home activity bags supplemented our STEAM programming further. Kids explored motion by making catapults from Popsicle sticks and rubber bands, created structures using marshmallows and toothpicks, and making parachutes.

Thank you again to the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library for helping us to provide thought-provoking and movement-orientated programs for children and families this summer. Here’s to a good fall that is filled with similar free programs and opportunities.

Seeking New Board Members

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library is actively seeking new candidates who might be interested in joining our ranks. We would love to have some representation from library users with children, as well as someone who is comfortable with technology and could assist us with a more active web page presence. If you, or someone you know fits this description, please have them send a brief resume to the Library to the attention of Joyce Marcel, President, Friends of The Library.

Library Renovation Update

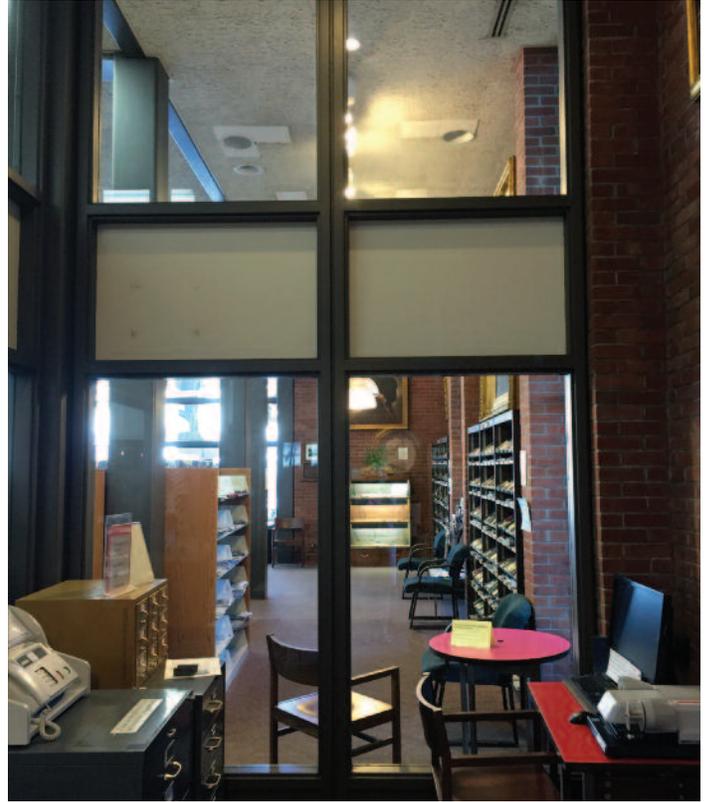
WORK IS SET TO BEGIN in early September on renovations to the library. The project is expected to last through December.

The first phase will begin in the meeting room. The Main floor will be adding an ADA compliant restroom, a reworking of the reference area, a new storage area and space for a reference office in the "Glass Box."

The Mezzanine level will get increased fine arts storage and reconfiguration of local history, as well as an entrance to the new meeting space in the "Glass Box."

The Upper Level Children's area will receive new shelves and lights, the meeting room will get a makeover and there will be a new teen area located near the upper entryway.

Funding for the renovations will come from investments of The Ronald Read bequest.



Friends 11th Annual Holiday Book, CD & DVD Sale December 1, 2 and 3

THE ANNUAL FRIENDS of the Library "**LIKE NEW**" book sale will be held in the library on Thursday, December 1 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM, Friday, December 2 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM and Saturday, December 3 from 10:00AM to 3:00PM.



We will be offering gift wrapping on Saturday from 11:00AM to 1:00PM for items purchased as gifts. Remainders will be on sale until December 17.

We depend on the generous donations of patrons and Friends of the Library supporters. We are accepting donations now. You may bring your donations to the main circulation desk whenever the library is open.

In order to ensure the quality, a staff member will inspect the donation before it is accepted. Please call Therese at 802-254-5290 x106 if you have any questions or you have a large quantity of boxes to donate. Please note that this is the "like new" sale, so all donations

should be in gently used and in good condition. We will accept both hardcover and paperback books, fiction and non-fiction, as well as music CD's and DVD's. You can view an acceptable donations guideline on the Friends web page.

All proceeds from these sales support Library programs, Children's Room events and programs, funds for special programs, equipment needs and materials and services for the Library.

Brooks Memorial Library Survey

BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY is writing its new five year plan in a time of big change for libraries, and we want to know what you think! Please fill out this two-page survey and drop it off or mail it to the Library: 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 by October 31st please.

What is important to you at your library?

Some of these resources are already available, and some we may offer based on your feedback.

Please use the following scale:

1 = Very important **2** = Somewhat important **3** = Not important **4** = Don't know/care

Technology (e.g., phone/computer/software)

- instruction/classes
- finding and evaluating information
- online classes (e.g., art, voice, language, drama, sports, etc.)
- downloadable content (e.g., e-books, audio, video, etc.)
- tools to digitize personal materials (e.g., photographs, papers, etc.)
- access to online resources (e.g., Ancestry.com, Foundation Center Directory, etc.)

Services

- assistance in research and finding information
- social service professional on site
- equipment that can be borrowed (e.g., telescopes, fishing poles, musical instruments, etc.)
- personalized suggestions of good books to read
- cultural programs to support lifelong learning (e.g., lectures, readings, author appearances, concerts, etc.)

Building

- comfortable spaces for reading, working, and relaxing
- book and shelf consolidation to free up space for things such as tech centers
- quiet spaces for study
- small meeting rooms for public use
- community bulletin board
- library services and resources available at additional locations around town

Children and Young Adults

- early literacy programs for preschool children
- activities for school-age children
- activities for teens
- programs for homeschooling families

Community

- "human library" where local experts can be consulted on site
- "community catalogue" of local and regional resources
- conversation groups on a multitude of topics and in a variety of languages
- partnerships with local organizations and agencies to expand outreach and services to underserved areas of the community

Brooks Memorial Library Survey

LIBRARIES ARE EXPANDING beyond their collections of books and media. Some libraries offer classes, some loan out tools and gear, some connect patrons with community resources, and some provide space for business incubators, conversation salons, or makerspaces.

As we plan for the future, how do you think we should allocate our resources?

1. What are your favorite things to use the library for, both online and in person?

2. What would you like the library to offer that is not now available?

3. What do you think is the most important thing our library does or could do?

4. If you could create your dream library, what would it include?

5. What else would you like us to know about you?

*Thank you. If you would like to hear about the survey results, what is the best way to contact you?
(If you wish to remain anonymous, that's fine!)*

Name Phone and/or Email:

First Wednesdays 2016–2017 Series



THE VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL FIRST WEDNESDAYS LECTURE SERIES

begins in October on the Main Floor of the library and continues at 7PM on the first Wednesday of each month. **Please note the venue change for the November lecture.**

Visit vermonthumanities.org/first-wednesdays to see the full 2016–2017 schedule of First Wednesday events.

The Brooks Memorial Library First Wednesday lectures are made possible by the generous support from: Brattleboro Camera Club, Brattleboro Savings & Loan, Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, Friends of Brooks Memorial Library, New Chapter, Inc., Starr LaTronica, The Richards Group and World Learning, Inc.

OCTOBER 5 • Catherine Sanderson **The Science of Happiness**

Amherst College professor Catherine Sanderson describes cutting-edge research from the field of positive psychology on the factors that do (and do not) predict happiness, and shares practical ways to increase one's own psychological well-being. A UVM Humanities Center Lecture on Happiness.

Underwriter: University of Vermont Humanities Center

NOVEMBER 2 • David Brancaccio **What This Country Needs is a Secretary of the Future**

David Brancaccio, host of NPR's Marketplace Morning Report, considers one way our democracy might get beyond the short-term focus of politics and address long-term challenges such as sustainability, infrastructure, and healthcare. It's an approach suggested to him by a beloved author.

Location: Centre Congregational Church.

Underwriter: Vermont Public Radio

DECEMBER 7 • Huck Gutman **America's Greatest Twentieth Century Poet, William Carlos Williams**

UVM professor Huck Gutman considers how William Carlos Williams changed American and world poetry forever by creating a new poetic language and new poetic forms. A Pulitzer Prizes Centennial program.

Underwriter: Chroma Technology

JANUARY 4 • Peter Travis **Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: Still Funny After All These Years**

Dartmouth professor Peter Travis discusses the genius and enduring humanity of Geoffrey Chaucer, the 14th-century "Father of English Poetry."

FEBRUARY 1 • Marlene Heck **Building Monticello**

Jefferson never knew the Monticello of today—in perfect condition, impeccably furnished. Dartmouth College senior lecturer Marlene Heck explains the lifelong project Jefferson called his "essay in architecture."

Underwriter: Carole and Geof Gaddis

MARCH 1 • Suzanne Brown **Jane Austen in Her Time**

Jane Austen lived in exciting times, and yet until recently was considered "untouched by the political, intellectual, and artistic revolutions of her age." Drawing on Austen's novels, Dartmouth visiting assistant professor Suzanne Brown shows how Austen was in fact a keen observer of her era's values who both shared and critiqued them.

Underwriter: Merchants Bank

APRIL 5 • Erin Sassin **Reinventing the Family Home**

Middlebury College professor Erin Sassin examines how American reformers and homeowners have, in pursuit of "the simple life," attempted to reinvent the form and idea of the single-family home, from farmhouses and communal experiments to the current tiny house phenomenon.

Underwriter: Crosby-Gannett Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation

MAY 3 • Colin Calloway **The Indian World of George Washington**

Dartmouth College professor Colin Calloway discusses the first president's relations with Indian peoples and considers how Native American nations and lands shaped the man who shaped the republic.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Supporting the
Library with funding,
programming, and
technology

friendsofbrookslibraryvt.org

www.facebook.com/FOBML

friendsofbrookslibraryvt@gmail.com

802-254-5290

Brooks Memorial Library

Friends

OF BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Fall Children's Programs

The 35th Annual Design-A-Plate workshop will be held in October.
The date will be determined as remodeling of the meeting room progresses.

