

Friends News of Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

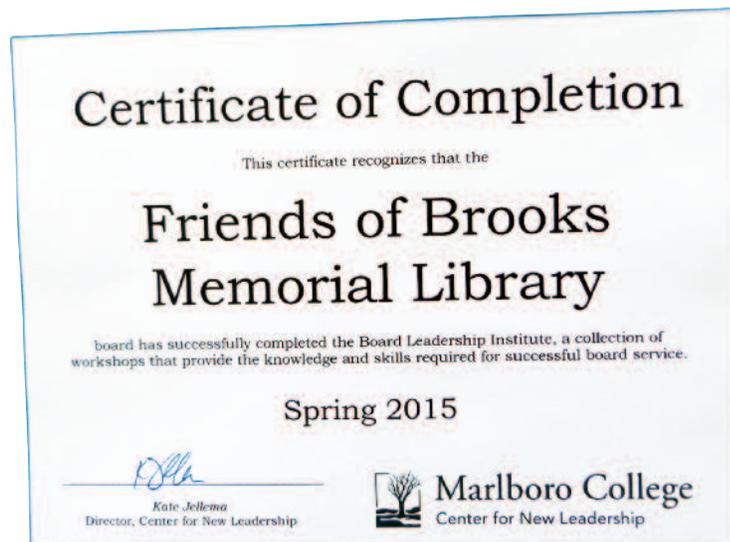
From the Board

THE FRIENDS BOARD is working diligently to increase our presence in the community, and more effectively promote and fundraise for the Library. This past year we have redesigned our logo, launched a re-branding initiative, developed a 15-minute visual presentation, and engaged in the Marlboro College Leadership Institute.

Six of our Board members attended the Institute workshops that introduce board members to important knowledge and skills for successful board service.

In addition to our active Facebook page, we are designing a Friends Web page to be launched

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Friends Web Committee members brainstorm domain names. From left to right: Mary Ide, Lisa Fricke, Bob Oeser, Joyce Marcel and Howard Burrows.

Examples of Recent Friends' Support of the the Library

THE FOLLOWING are a few examples of recent funding support for the Library from the Friends.

- **\$1,545** to renew the **Ancestry.com** subscription. Ancestry.com is an excellent genealogy tool, with computer access to historical materials from all over the country. The Friends' donation makes this enjoyable and culturally enriching package available to those who many not be able to afford or support it in their home.
- **\$1,500** for this year's public lecture series **First Wednesdays** from the Vermont Humanities Council, which last year included: "The Costumes of Downton Abbey, "Plato's Republic: Rethinking His Utopian Ideal and Delicious to the Ear: The inspiring Voice of Maya Angelou."
- **\$1,200** for **iPads** for the Children's Room,
- **\$400** for **Every Hero has a Story Summer Reading Program** in the Children's Room.
- **\$50** for three Friends Board members to join the **Vermont Library Association**.
- **\$500** for an exhibit from the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, "Illuminating Illustration: Picture Book Art Inspired by Illuminated Manuscripts." The exhibition examines modern children's book illustrations that employ the same techniques as medieval illuminated manuscripts.
- **\$2,000** for the **Biblioboard**, a web based collection of curated electronic content that provides library patrons with a fun and engaging experience interacting with multimedia collections incorporating books, articles, images, audio, and video.



Cuban Cuisine with John Verlinden Wednesday, September 16th, at 7PM in the Library Meeting Room



TO COOK IS TO LOVE is the must-have modern Latin cookbook for today's health-conscious home chef. Chef and author John Verlinden will introduce the audience to Nuevo Cuban cuisine, his lighter, healthier, more stylized version of traditional Latin cooking that infuses gusto, soul, beauty and love into everyday meals.

From the Board, continued from page 1

later this summer, and actively planning new and exciting fundraising events for the coming year.

A significant portion of our Board's maintenance and development work has been supported by independent donations earmarked for these purposes. This assures that the generous and ongoing support to the Friends is directly allocated to the needs of the Brooks Memorial Library

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the Friends' Board members. The Friends meet the third Wednesday of every month at 4:30 in the Library Meeting Room.

Board: Mary Ide, President; Connie Kimball, Treasurer; Sue Dyer, recent past Secretary; Lisa Fricke, Frankie Gibson, Joyce Marcel, Robert Oeser and Kate Wylie. Howard Burrows is the Trustee Representative at the Friends' meetings and Jerry Carbone, Director of the Library attends all Friends meetings.

"IF YOU HAVE A GARDEN AND A LIBRARY, YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED."

—Cicero, 106–43 B.C.E. Roman statesman, lawyer, scholar and writer.

The Story of the Friends

by Joyce Marcel

FRIENDS OF THE BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY?

Aren't we all — at least those of us who might be reading this newsletter — already friends of the library? So what exactly is this group with the awkward name that hovers protectively around the library, raising money for its events and services and nurturing its ideals?



The name has a long history. It comes from an organization started in France in 1913 called Friends of the Library. In America, a Friends organization appeared in the early 1920s and the movement grew rapidly throughout the 1930s and afterwards. A national organization called Friends of the Library USA was formed in 1979. In 1980, it was estimated that there were over 2,100 Friends groups located all over the United States.

In 2009, the national Friends of Libraries joined forces with the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates to become an expanded and enthusiastic group called United for Libraries. Their goal is to speak out — and to lobby state and federal governments — on behalf of the importance of library services and free public access to information in a democratic society.

“No one has a stronger voice for libraries than those who use them, raise money for them, and govern them,” they say. “By uniting these voices, library supporters everywhere will become a real force to be reckoned with at the local, state, and national levels.”

In Vermont there are 40 Friends groups, five of them in Windham County.

The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library was founded as a non-profit in 1991. Its founders wanted the group to serve as a bridge between the library, which is funded and run by the town, and the community the library serves. Then as now, truncated hours and a lack of

funds for materials were the issues that galvanized the citizens of Brattleboro to action.

Collaborative with but still independent of the library, the Friends today has a 2015–16 budget of \$41,500. It has 143 members who pay dues of \$15 and receive in return the newsletter “and our undying gratitude,” says Mary Ide, a former librarian and archivist who serves as the current president of FOBML.

Besides concerts, poetry readings, theater productions and three book sales a year, the Friends fund such various things as computer equipment, free access to Ancestry.com and the supplies for the Children’s Room’s Superhero Saturday.

“We’ve had a long and fruitful and productive history in raising relatively small amounts of money,” Ide said. “The library is a source of continuing education. It’s a source for lifelong learning. And it’s a critical component of cultural literacy — locally and around the world. The Friends help assure that the library continues to be a free and public community center.”

The Friends of the Library provide free passes to the following museums:

American Precision Museum • Bennington Museum • Billings Farm & Museum • Brattleboro Museum & Art Center • Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center • Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art • Fort at No. 4 • Hildene: The Lincoln Family Home • Historic Deerfield • Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens • MASS MoCA • Shelburne Museum • Smith College Art Museum • Tasha Tudor Museum • Vermont Institute of Natural Science • Vermont State Historic Sites • Vermont State Parks • Vermont’s History Museum

Meris Morrison — Versatile and Vibrant Librarian

ALWAYS A LOVER OF BOOKS, Meris Morrison put that love to work and forged a successful career in the world of books and information resources here in Vermont. Well-known for her many years as Director of the Brooks Memorial Library, she was at the helm when the Brooks began the expansion from a traditional print library to include multi-media collections, computers for library management, public art shows, life-long learning programs, and an on-line catalog.



Jerry with being instrumental in helping transition the Brooks into the computer world, including electronic databases and the Internet, which are now familiar to all library users but were just on the horizon in the late 1980s.

During Meris' 18 years at the Brooks Library she promoted expanding the Brooks Library collection to include multimedia, installation of community art shows and the transition of the card catalog to an automated on-line catalog. One of her first art

Meris Morrison grew up in Greens Bayou, Texas and was an avid user of the local bookmobile and the Houston Public Library. She fashioned her passion into a profession by earning a graduate degree in Library Science from Indiana University and then went on to work as a cataloger at the University of Illinois/Carbondale; as a reference librarian at the historically black college, Texas Southern University in Houston; and then on to the University of Massachusetts/Boston.

In the early 1970s, Meris spent two years at the Bennington Public Library where she worked before coming to the Brooks Library. She was appointed Director of the Brooks in 1975 and held that position until 1993 when she retired for the first time.

During her tenure at Brooks, she hired many of the library staff including current Director, Jerry Carbone; Cataloguing Librarian, Leslie Markey and Children's Librarian, Sandy King. Meris credits

shows was a display of Diane Shapiro's cloth dolls; later there was entertainment by Peter Gould and Stephen Stearns, and dance performances.

In 1993 Meris was awarded the Vermont Library Association's Sarah C. Hagar award given each year for outstanding service in or significant contribution to the field of librarianship in Vermont.

In 1991 Meris was very supportive in helping community volunteers form the important group: The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library. The Board, with input from Meris, initiated and promoted programs for the community and raised funds to help support the Library — as they continue to do today.

In 2001 she re-entered the library world as Director of the Moore Free Library in Newfane, a position she held until her second retirement in 2013.

April and June Book Sales Proceeds!

THE FRIENDS of the Library April and June book sales were a great success, raising almost \$5,000 to support the purchase of print, digital and other learning resources for the Library.

Brooks Memorial Library Summer Events

SUPER SUMMER FUN IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

Superhero Saturdays

SATURDAY JUNE 12 @ 10:00AM–1:00PM

Every Hero has a Story is this year's summer reading program. This is a free event for all ages. There are three programs for children from birth through age twelve. Each child sets his or her own goal of how many hours to read during the 6-week program.

Unbeatable Bee-zzz

TUESDAY JULY 7 @ 2:–3:00PM

Learn the amazing super strengths of the mighty bee and then build a pollinator home to help our bees! Participants must register by June 30.

Meet Your Local Heroes

SATURDAY JULY 25 @ 10:00AM–12:00PM

Come meet the heroes who protect our community. Members of the fire department, police department, public works and Rescue, along with their vehicles, will be at the library!

Superhero Crime Solvers

TUESDAY JULY 28 @ 10:30–11:30AM OR
2:00–3:00PM.

Use your sleuthing skills to help us find the stolen medallion. Participants must register by July 21.

Monday Movie Matinee @ 1:00PM

STARTS JUNE 29 @ 1:00PM

Monday movie series sponsored by Bellville Realty returns for its tenth year! Big Hero 6 on June 29, Planes: Fire and Rescue on July 20 and the Incredibles on August 10.

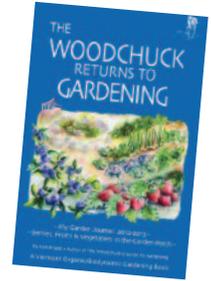
FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact the Children's Room at 254-5290 ext 110, visit our website at www.brookslibraryvt.org/kids or stop in the Children's Room.

The Woodchuck Gardener

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24 @ 7:00PM

Library Meeting Room

Ron Krupp returns to Brattleboro to talk about organic gardening in his newest book, *The Woodchuck Returns to Gardening*.



The Rachel and Shalom Show — Expanded Poetry and Video

WEDNESDAY JULY 29 @ 7:00PM

Library Meeting Room

Poet Rachel Hadas and video artist Shalom Gorewitz will fuse poetry and digital filmmaking through a collaborative process that is not illustrative or narrative, but a kind of syncretic linking.

Vermont Beer: History of a Brewing Revolution

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19 @ 7:00PM

Library Meeting Room

Join authors Adam Krakowski and Kurt Staudter who will speak about the history of brewing in Vermont and their new book, *Vermont Beer*.



Library Technology: All Your questions Answered

Join Reference Librarian Jeanne Walsh for drop-in hours at the Reference Desk on the First Tuesday of every month, 4:00–6:00PM and first Friday of every month, 11:00AM–1:00PM.



Thursday Films — Movies You Must See... But Might Have Missed

JUNE 11 *Paths of Glory*; JULY 9 *A Thousand Clowns*;
AUGUST 13 *Day for Night*;
SEPTEMBER 10 *If* (The Criterion Collection).
@ 3:00–6:00PM

Library Meeting Room

Join cinefile, journalist, Tom Bedell, for Thursday afternoon at the movies.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Supporting the
Library with funding,
programming, and
technology

friendsofbrookslibraryvt@gmail.com
802-254-5290
www.facebook.com/FOBML



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Please make checks payable to
FRIENDS OF BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
and leave at the library's front desk, or mail to

Treasurer, Friends of Brooks Memorial Library, 224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Friends of Brooks Memorial Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Any contribution above the \$15 Friend membership is tax deductible