Supporting the Library with funding, programming, and technology

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Friends News of Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont

News from Trustees and Friends

Ronald Read Bequest

In 2015, Brooks Memorial Library was the recipient of a large bequest from the estate of Ronald Read. This $1.5 million addition to our endowment allowed the trustees to begin making changes and improvements that patrons requested:

- Thursday morning and Saturday afternoon hours were restored.
- We began planning for the major renovation which is now in progress. Along with other improvements it will provide more small meeting places, add a handicap accessible restroom on the main floor and provide for a new meeting room for teens.

The majority of the Read bequest has been placed in the Library's permanent endowment. It has long been the policy of the Board of Trustees to invest responsibly. Board policy states: "Only the interest, dividends, and, if necessary, a portion of capital gains, the combined sum of which is not to exceed 4% of principal, (based on portfolio value on January 1st of any given year,) may be spent."

The purpose of this policy is to insure the long term growth and preservation of the endowment. This insures a sustainable and viable Library well into the 21st Century. It allows for the distributions of funds for special programs and resources as well as for designated projects as identified by staff.

Annual Appeal Update

This year, we combined the Annual Appeal with the Friend's membership drive. Everyone who supports the library is recognized as a Friend. As of press time for this newsletter we have received $7300 in donations, Thank you one and all!

We thought you would be interested to see where the Friends have spent money from these drives, as well as fundraisers, so we put together a partial list of Friends contributions to the library in 2016:

Recorded Books LLC—Indieflicks

One Click Digital—eAudio and eBook titles

First Wednesday Programs

Plymouth Rocket/Tixkeeper (for Museum passes)

Constant Contact, emarketing

ProQuest-Ancestry.com

Green Mountain Library Consortium

DearReader.com-new book alerts

Museum passes:

- Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art
- Shelburne Museum
- Bennington Museum
- Mass MoCA
- Hildene
- Historic Deerfield
- Magic Wings
- Smith College Museum
- Tasha Tudor Museum

Little Green Light (data base)

Lynda.com

Foundation Center

LibGuides

ArtistWorks.Recorded Books

Hardware (laptops, iPad, iMac)

Partial Contributions: $26,000 ■

New Board Member

AT THE OCTOBER 2016 BOARD MEETING, Karen Duggan was elected as the newest member of the Board.

Karen is a Kindergarten teacher at the Guilford Central School.

Some of the many organizations she has volunteered with over the years are: Cub Scouts, United Way, Reformer Christmas Stocking and the Vermont Red Clover Book Award Committee.

Karen is married to Moss Kahler and they are parents to Jeffrey, a senior at the Mass Maritime Academy.

Among her hobbies are knitting, kayaking, traveling and reading! ■

Holiday Book Sale

THE FRIENDS' 11TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOOK SALE was a great success. As of press time we have earned $3,500 dollars.

We have also earned $1,100 dollars through November 30 from our Amazon sales. All donations are sorted for quality and if deemed suitable are posted on the Friends' Amazon page.

These sales would not be possible without the patrons who generously donate their books, as well as the many volunteers who put in hours sorting books, setting up shelves, stocking the shelves and taking everything down at the end of the sale. Therese Marcy, Circulation Manager and Volunteer Coordinator does all of the advance planning as well as recruiting volunteers for the sale. Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped in this important fundraiser. ■

Bob Oeser, our very own Elf on the Shelf!

Manning the checkout are Friends Board Members (pictured l. to r.), Jackie McElroy, Sue Dyer and Joyce Marcel.

Samirah Evans Concert

by Joyce Marcel

THE SAMIRAH EVANS CONCERT was a huge success!

The library looked beautiful. We closed down all the fluorescent lights and used the overhead chandeliers alone, which made the space look sleek and silky. We had to move a lot of furniture to make it look like a jazz venue, but we did it and it was a perfect place to hear good music.

Then, Dan Kasnitz did a splendid job with the sound.

And then, of course, there was the audience. On a night when there were so many interesting events scheduled in town, we filled the library. I think our head count was over 140. We had chairs jammed in everywhere and people were sitting on tables on the balcony.

But most of all, there was Samirah! She poured her heart out to us and was brilliant, open, vulnerable, funny and so alive! Her version of "St. James Infirmary" — wow! The song she wrote about her lost child was heartbreaking and left many in the audience in tears. Her story about singing "Mississippi Goddam" and bringing down the church steeple was hilarious. And these were just a few of the highlights.

Someone wrote on Samirah's Facebook page, "Thanks Samirah for trusting us," and the Friends can only humbly say the same thing.

Samirah generously donated a percentage of her CD sales to the Friends. And we raised over $2,200 dollars!

To everyone on the Friends board, from Kate Wylie who did such a splendid job on the publicity, to the furniture movers, to the ticket takers who got so swamped by incoming customers that they couldn't keep a head count, to Samirah and Dan and the library staff and all of you who came to the show, thank you! ■

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.

IndieFlix

THIS IS A STREAMING SERVICE that gives movie lovers access to over 8,000 independent shorts, features, documentaries and TV and web series from many countries, film festivals and film schools.

These can be streamed on your computer, tablet, Smartphone, or through your TV with Roku or Apple TV.

You access this from the Home Page at the Library's website. Choose the icon for digital media and follow the links and prompts. ■

Trivia Night

CALLING ALL TRIVIA BUFFS!

The Brattleboro Sunrise Rotary Club will be holding a Trivia Night on Monday, February 13, 2017 at the American Legion Hall, 32 Linden St, Brattleboro from 6:30PM to 8:45PM. This will be a benefit for The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library.

Teams can consist of 4 to 6 players. Bring your friends or join a team when you arrive. Dinner is provided by Entera Catering and a cash bar will be available as well. Admission is $20 and includes dinner and a donation to the Friends. Be sure to arrive early, as the games begin at 6:30PM. Join us for a great time and support the Friends as well. Everyone wins! ■

Upcoming Fundraisers

THE FRIENDS' are currently exploring some options for Spring Fundraisers. We don't have firm dates for these events yet, but keep checking our Facebook page for updates.

A Family Game night is being planned just in time to get us through the mid winter doldrums!

The concert with Samirah Evans was so successful; we would like to do another concert in the spring. We are currently exploring options with different performers. We will keep you posted.

We would normally do another Book Sale in the spring, but with the ongoing construction at the library, storage space is at a premium. We are probably going to wait until the Strolling of the Heifers to hold our next sale. If you have donations, it is best to call the library at 254-5290 to see when they will accept them. ■

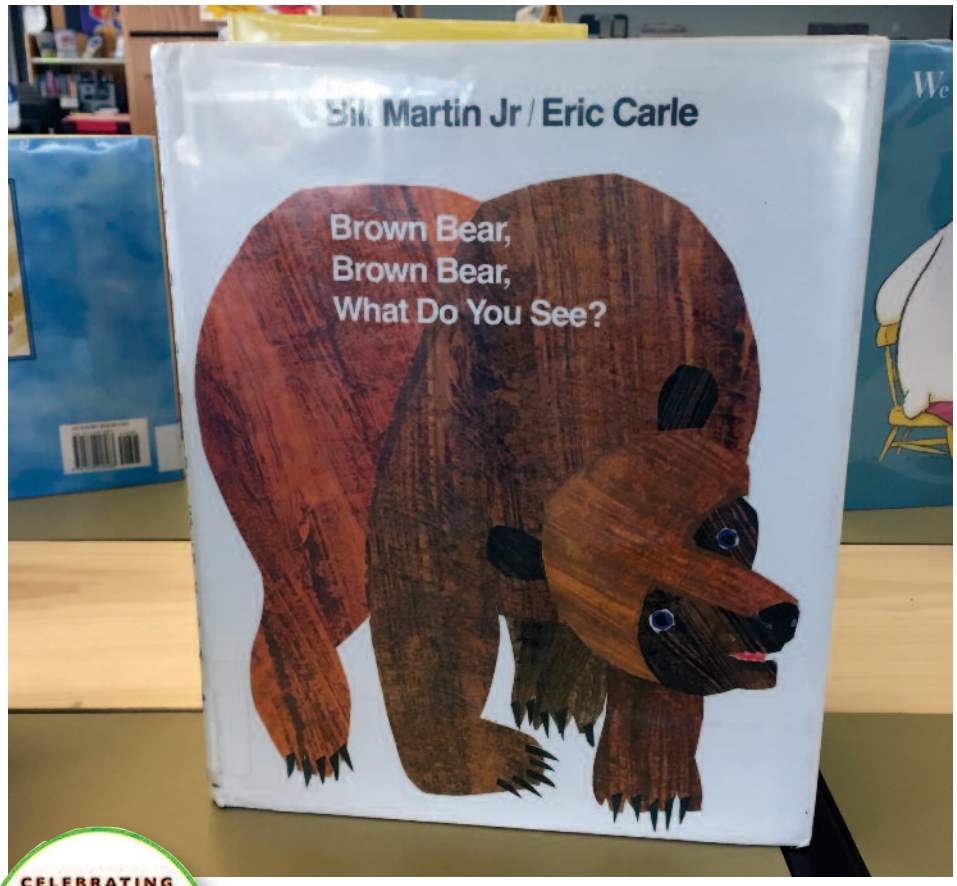
Newest Database for Library Patrons

THE FRIENDS RECENTLY FUNDED the online database Lynda.com — giving library patrons access to a video library of more than 6,300 top quality courses and more than 267,000 video tutorials taught by industry experts. Some of the skills covered are Web Designing, Digital Illustration, Photography, Pro Tools music program, Power Point, Excel training and Photoshop.

This new service can be accessed from home through the library's website. Open the library's homepage, choose "databases," and scroll down to Lynda.com. Click on this link and the screen will open. You log on with your library card number and pin number. Your pin number is the last four digits of your phone number. ■

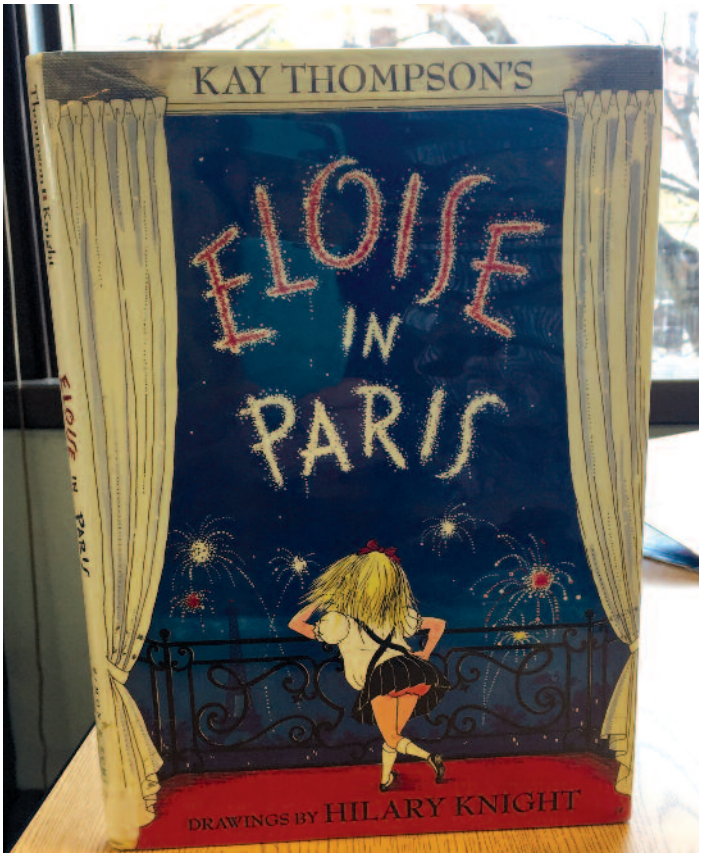
Happenings at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

THEY CURRENTLY ARE HAVING AN EXHIBIT on "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" The book turns 50 years old and artwork from this book will be on display, as well as some other collages from Eric Carle and his other collaborations with Bill Martin, Jr. One of the original collages from the 1967 book has been restored and will also be on display. This exhibit runs through March 19, 2017.



Beginning on February 12, 2017 there will be an exhibit "It's Me, Eloise: The Voice of Kay Thompson and the Art of Hilary Knight." This will include more than 90 pieces from the Eloise books, as well as other pieces from Hilary Knight's career.

The library has a pass for this museum, as well as many others. When the weather is too cold outside, winter can be a great time to head inside and check out some of these great resources the library has for patrons. ■



Rhyme Time at Brooks Memorial

This activity is held in the Meeting Room for children 5 and under and their caregivers.

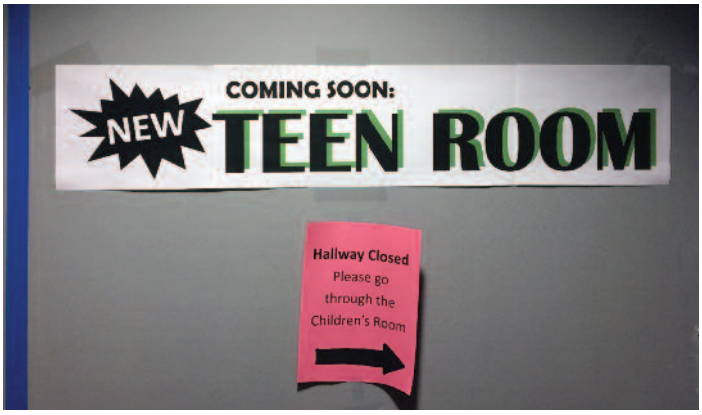
Renovation Updates

CONSTRUCTION is ongoing, but major progress has been made.

The third floor Meeting Room has been remodeled; new lights have been installed in the Children's Room; the Technology Room has been moved and remodeled and work has begun on the Teen Room.

On the Mezzanine Level the door has been cut through the glass box and the floor laid for a new space. There is new space for Art Storage with built in shelves, and Local History has a dedicated research space.

On the Main Floor, the new handicapped accessible bathroom is complete, and work is progressing on a new small meeting space and reference office. ■



First Wednesdays 2017 Series

THE VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL FIRST WEDNESDAYS LECTURE SERIES began in October on the Main Floor of the library and continues at 7PM on the first Wednesday of each month.

Vermont Humanities
Because Ideas Matter

Visit vermonthumanities.org/first-wednesdays to see the full 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.

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.

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Kindle Readers

DON'T FORGET that the library has a number of Kindle Readers to check out.

They are preloaded with assorted titles, and can be borrowed for two weeks. Stop by the Circulation desk for more information.