Supporting the Library with funding, programming, and technology

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Friends News of Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont

Little Free Libraries

THE FRIENDS are delighted to announce a unique fundraising opportunity made possible by the Brattleboro Rotary Club. The Rotary's Literacy Project Committee, headed by Chairperson Joe Little, has constructed seven Little Free Libraries and donated them to the Friends as a fundraiser for the library. These are small, sturdy, weather-proof boxes (kind of like bird houses), with a capacity for about a dozen books, that get mounted in public places. Passers-by are free to browse the books, take the ones they want to read, and perhaps leave a few behind for others to enjoy.

The Rotary's Little Free Libraries have been painted by local artists Robert Craig Aldrich, Bob Cincotta, Pat Little, John McCarthy, Susan Rosano, Kim Stice and Suzy Worden, all of whom donated their time.

We will be selling six of them outright, at $250 to $300, and holding a raffle for the seventh one. They will be on display at the Library and available for sale beginning April 9.

For those of you not familiar with the concept of a Little Free Library, check out this website: littlefreelibrary.org.

We think they would be perfect for neighbors who want to join together and install one in their neighborhood or for a business that sees a lot of foot traffic. Since Brattleboro is such a literary community, we are confident they will prove popular.

All the proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to support the library with programs or materials to enhance the library's mission.

We are extremely grateful to the Brattleboro Rotary Club for involving us in this project. ■

"If we didn't already have libraries, they would now have to be invented.
They are the keys to American success in fully exploiting the information highway of the future."

James Billington, Librarian of Congress

Raffle Fundraiser

WE WILL BE HOLDING a raffle for one of the "Little Free Libraries" donated to the Friends by the Brattleboro Rotary Club.

The Little Free Library will be on display at the Library beginning April 9. The drawing will be held on the last day of the spring/summer book sale: June 2. The winner will have the option of filling their library with a selection of books chosen from the sale.

Raffle tickets at $5.00 each may be purchased at the Main Desk at Brooks Memorial Library whenever the library is open. ■

Just Desserts

THE FRIENDS are celebrating National Library Week (April 8 to 14) with a dessert fundraiser and "friendraiser" on Friday, April 13, from 7:00 to 9:00PM at the Brooks Memorial Library.

The Friends will be offering a selection of desserts as well as tea and coffee. Various prizes, many handcrafted by area artists, will be raffled off. The cost is $10.00 per person and includes dessert and coffee as well as 3 raffle tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased at 3 for $5.00.

We will also be holding a separate raffle for one of our Little Free Libraries. These raffle tickets may be purchased for $5.00 each.

Come join us for an evening to socialize with other Friends and make some new ones.

Bakers Needed!

THE FRIENDS are looking for volunteers to bake pies, cakes, cookies or any special dessert for which they are famous to help support our Spring Dessert Fundraiser.

The event will be held on Friday, April 13, from 7:00PM to 9:00PM.

If you are able to help, please contact us at friendsofbrooks libraryvt@gmail.com, attention Betsy. You may also contact Therese at the library 802-254-5290, ext 1206.

Thank you. ■

Book Sale at Brooks Memorial Library

THE FRIENDS of Brooks Memorial Library will be holding their spring/summer Book Sale on May 31–June 2, the weekend of the Strolling of the Heifers. On Thursday and Friday, the sale will be open 10:00AM to 6:00PM; on Saturday, 8:00AM to 1:00PM.

Please note the early opening on Saturday. This allows our patrons time to browse and buy before they settle in to their preferred spot to watch the parade. (We can hold the purchased books while you watch.) The parade usually passes by the library between 10:30AM and 11:00AM.

Titles will cover a wide range of subjects, both fiction and non-fiction. This year there will also be a large selection of classical music CD's, opera CD's, audio books and books on the subject of film.

The books have been donated to the Library by community members and then sorted for quality and by subject matter by Library volunteers. Prices will range from $.50 to $2.00, with special interest and coffee table books priced higher.

Donations in good condition will be accepted at the Library until May 21. For more information about acceptable donations, check out the donation page on the Friends website (friendsofbrookslibraryvt.org/donate) or contact Therese Marcy at 802-254-5290, ext. 1206.

Proceeds from the book sale help the Friends purchase materials, present programs and provide services which help enhance the mission of the Library.

If you are interested in volunteering, the Friends can use help with setting up before the sale, breaking down after the sale or cashiering on the days of the sale. To make arrangements, please contact Therese Marcy at the number above. ■

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.

Book Page

THE FRIENDS are funding a trial subscription of *Book Page* for our patrons, a colorful monthly publication full of book reviews, interviews with authors, and other features for book lovers. You can find copies of it now at the library; in the future it will be available around town.

Pick up a free copy, take a look at it, and let the librarians know what you think; your feedback would be much appreciated.

2018

Friends

OF BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Please make checks payable to:
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224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

❑ Yes, send me the newsletter.

❑ I wish to be a Friends volunteer, please contact me.

❑ Please contact me about employer/ organization sponsoring a Friends program.

Friends of Brooks Memorial Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Llama Llama Celebration

Report by the staff of the Children's Room

OUR " LLAMA LLAMA I LOVE YOU: a story time celebration of Anna Dewdney" event was fantastic! Over 250 people attended. The amazing turnout was a true testament to Anna's talent and the beloved character she created.

Hailey Cogliano

The event took over the entire top floor of the library. Breakfast was served in the Meeting Room. Special thanks to Prudence Baird who coordinated and helped to bake some of the delicious breakfast foods. The Spicy Lime teen room was emptied out and turned into our story time room. The Children's Room had our Make-A-Valentine-for-Llama-Llama craft table, as well as the main attraction, Llama Llama himself!

We couldn't have held this event without the help of the Friends. A huge thank you to the Friends for helping us bring Llama Llama to life by covering the rental cost of the Llama Llama costume and purchasing the paperback and board books to be given away to all the children who attended the event. The money allowed us to purchase 50 board books and 78 paperbacks. We originally thought we would have lots of books left over, but we ended up giving away 115 books at the event!

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made this event such a success, especially staff member Francisco Mugnani and volunteer Roland Boylan, who each made the Llama Llama come to life. Despite having a fan inside, the costume gets VERY hot, so having Francisco and Roland take turns as Llama Llama was great.

A big thank you to the companies who donated food: The Works for the bagels, cream cheese and coffee; Brattleboro Co-op for the clementines and juice; and the Commonwealth Creamery for the yogurts. ■

First Wednesdays 2018 Series

THE VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL FIRST WEDNESDAYS LECTURE SERIES began in October on the Main Floor of the library and continues at 7:00PM on the first Wednesday of each month.

Vermont Humanities
Because Ideas Matter

Visit vermonthumanities.org/first-wednesdays to see the full 2018 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.

APRIL 4 • Barry O'Connell
An Emerson for Our Time

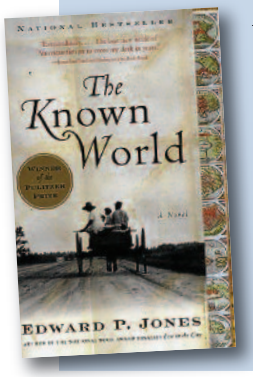
Drawing on Ralph Waldo Emerson's essays "The American Scholar," "Self-Reliance," and "Experience," Amherst professor emeritus Barry O'Connell explores the many ways Emerson's writings continue to offer insights that can make our lives more open and fruitful.

MAY 2 • Jim Maroney
Georgia O'Keeffe: A Critical Look

PHOTO: TODD WEBB

Georgia O'Keeffe lived 99 years and produced over 2,000 works in her 75-year career. James Maroney, the former Head of American Paintings at both Sotheby's and Christie's in New York who conducted her estate appraisal after her death, presents a critical evaluation of her best work.

JUNE 6 • Judith Frank
The Known World and the Literary Character



Amherst professor Judith Frank discusses Edward P. Jones' 2003 Pulitzer-winning novel *The Known World*, described as "a masterpiece that deserves a place in the American literary canon," and considers what its unusual approach to characterization can tell us about slavery, personhood, and novel-reading. Books available to read in advance (NOT required).

Journalism Film Festival

IN RECENT TIMES there has been a great deal of talk about "real" news and "fake" news and how to tell the difference. Jumping into the fray, the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library proposed a film festival that looked at journalism from an unusual and extremely palatable perspective: how it has been treated by Hollywood.

To pull this off, the Friends joined up with the town's two newspapers, the *Brattleboro Reformer* and *The Commons*, and the Latchis Theatre to show five films over the course of six months, with discussions afterwards.

The films were: *Deadline, USA* starring Humphrey Bogart, *All the President's Men* starring Dustin Hoffman and Robert Redford, *Ace in the Hole* starring Kirk Douglas, *Broadcast News* starring Albert Brooks, Holly Hunter and William Hurt, and the winner of the 2016 Academy Award for Best Picture, *Spotlight* starring Michael Keaton and Mark Ruffalo. The Vermont Humanities Council provided additional funding for the last film.

The films were shown for free, but people were happy to fill the "Donations" jar on their way in. Speakers after the films included Susan Smallheer of the *Rutland Herald*, Jeff Potter of *The Commons*, former *Brattleboro Reformer* editor Kate Casa and author and investigative journalist Leah McGrath Goodman, formerly of *Newsweek*. Randy Holhut, the news editor of *The Commons*, moderated.

The series was a success, with several audience members asking for another festival next year. Friends are grateful for their partners in this endeavor. ■

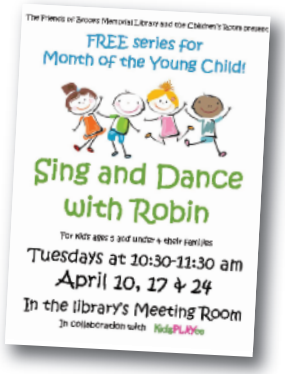
Spring Break Children's Room Activities

By Lindsay Bellville, Youth Services Librarian

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN for the kids to do over spring break? The Children's Room has a full week of free events for kids of all ages.

The events kick off on Monday, April 16 at 1:00PM, with the showing of the movie **"Wonder"**, based on the bestselling book.

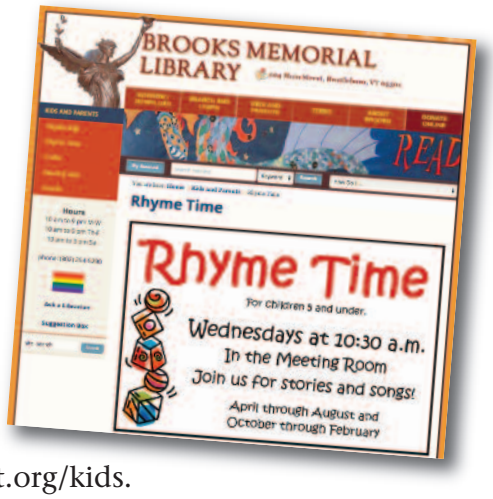
On Tuesday, April 17 at 10:30AM, we will have **Sing & Dance with Robin**, for children ages 5 and under, sponsored by the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library.



On Wednesday, April 18 at 10:30AM, join us for stories and songs during our weekly **Rhyme Time**. This program is for children 5 and under with their caregivers.

On Wednesday, April 18 from 1:00 to 3:00PM, we will create homes for our magical friends during our **Fairy Houses & Gnome Homes workshop**. Building materials will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring additional materials from nature to make their homes unique. **This workshop is intended for children ages 6 and up, since sharp scissors and hot glue guns will be used. Please call the Children's Room at 254-5290, ext. 1210 to register.**

On Thursday, April 19 between 1:00 and 5:00PM, we will be hosting our monthly **LEGO-palooza workshop**. Come see what you can build using the library's Legos. Children are not able to keep the Legos.



All these events are **free** and will be held in the Meeting Room located next to the Children's Room on the top floor of the library. For more information on upcoming events, please visit our website at www.brookslibraryvt.org/kids. See you at the library! ■

In Memoriam

WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED to report that Frankie Gibson, longtime member and Vice President of the Friends, passed away on January 1, 2018. She will be greatly missed-for her tireless volunteer work, her spunky personality, and her generous spirit.

At Board meetings we knew we could count on Frankie for many things: to favor generous responses to funding requests; to rescue us from procedural dilemmas with her expertise in Robert's Rules of Order; to share with us her amazing institutional memory about the history of the Friends. Our Board meetings will not be the same without her.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family and friends. ■

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the 2017 Annual Appeal and Membership Drive

The following have contributed to the Annual Appeal as of the publication of this newsletter:

Anonymous (5)
Andrew Adam
Ruth Allard and Erik Schickendanz
Nancy Barber
Orion and Carol Barber
Katherine Barratt
Pamela Becker
Sarah Bedichek
Joan Benneyan
Berkley & Veller, Inc.
Tony Blofson and Denise Paasche
Allan and Frances Boucher
Leah and Farren Bratton
Connie and Dean Bresnahan
Fred Breunig and Patrice Murray
Robert Buckley and Jennifer Rowe
Steven Budd
Marilyn Buhlmann
Mary Byrnes
Roger and Kim Canon
Jerry Carbone and Kathleen Maisto
Hollis Purdy Carlisle
John and Mary Carnahan
Linda Cassidy
Joann W. Coonrod
Peter A. Cooper
Carol Corwin
Lisa and Douglas Cox
Judith A. Davidson
Andy and Robin Davis
Carol Davis
Becky Day
Nancy E. DiMauro
Susan and Paul Dyer
Zon Eastes and Peggy Spencer
Milton and Sylvia Eaton
Helen Egan
Nancy Eng*
Richard Evers
Peter Falion and Elizabeth Tannenbaum
The Brunton/Fuller Family
Philip L. Feidelseit
Peter Lin Fisher
Isabelle Gander
Jean Giddings and Thomas Ehrenberg
Peter and Christina Gibbons*
Francis S. Gibson
Sara and Bob Glennon
Connie and Tom Green
David Grist-Weiner
Francine and Howard Groverman
Eva M. Grubinger
Cindy and Michael Hanley
Alison S. Hannon
Wendy Harrison and Peter Elwell
Christopher Paul Hunt and Freddie Hart
George and Rose Haynes
Charles and Mary Henderson
Karen and Randy Hesse
Wilma A. Horton
Wendy Houlihan
Mary Ide
Wendy Innis
Harriet Ives
William Jacques and Hilke T. Breder, M.D.
Steven B. John and Kimi Hasegawa
Elaine Johnson
Mary Lou Johnson
Jim Johnson and Meg Lyons
Moss Kahler and Karen Duggan
Geoff Kane
Kathleen Keller
Marty Kelly
Gail Kennedy-Haines and Bill Wilmot
Janis Kiehle
Lynde and Connie Kimball
John and Linda Kohler
Barbara Kono
John G. Kristensen
Jo-Ann Larkin
Heather Lesage-Horton
Tom Lewis and Eve Fox
Paul Love and Hollie Bowen
Joyce Marcel
John and Leslie Markey
Mary W. Mathias
Larry P. McIntosh
Patricia Mc Namara
Nancy L. Miller
Junio Anthes Moody, Katie Wilson and Jubilee Anthes
Eric and Dale Morse
Barbara Morrison
Tom Murray
Kimmerly Nace and Michael H. Earley
Cristina and Alfred New
New Chapter
Ellen O'Beirne
Susan Olson
Ralph Palmer and Claudia Jacobs
Joanne Patalano
Robert and Sen Pen Pu
Paul and Patricia Putnam
Shoshana Rihn
Denise Rivers
Jane Rosser and Ken Vitale
Gilbert K. Ruff and Susan J. Bonthron
Leo Schiff and Joy Hammond
Erin Schulman
Ellen Schwartz
Robin H. Scudder
Martha Siporin
Felipe Sipowicz and Janet Hulnick
Jane Southworth
Joseph Spano and Mary Heninger
Devin Starlanyl
Russell and Doris Stephens
Jayne Stout
Elizabeth V. Swift
The Vermont Country Store
Bob and Karen Tortolani
Elizabeth B. Trousdell
Nick and Joan Thorndike
Susan Troy
David Twombley
John and Elizabeth Ungerleider
Eve Valentine
Allen and Dorothy O. Vander Meulen
Betsy and Walter Wagenknecht
Adam Waite
Ray and Jeanne Walker
Janet Wallstein
John P. Wesley
Muriel Wolf
Carol Young

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Annual Meeting

THE PUBLIC is invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 1:00PM. The meeting will be held in the meeting room on the top floor of the library next to the Children's Room.

At 2:00PM following the meeting, on the Main Floor of the library, Jeff Danziger, political cartoonist, will be reading from the *The Full Vermonty: Vermont in the Age of Trump*, a book he co-wrote with Bill Mares. The book features writings from a host of local contributors, all giving their take on life in the age of Trump.

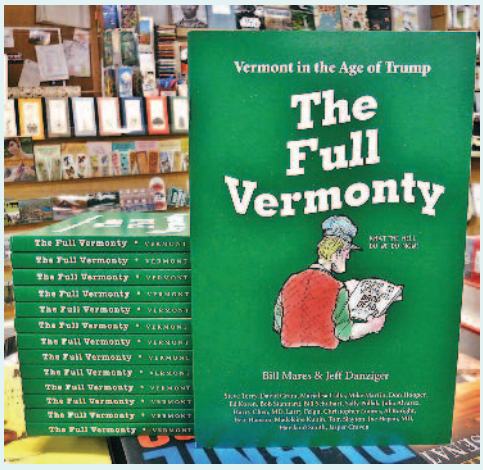

PHOTO: KEVIN O'CONNOR