

Friends News

of Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont

Brooks Friends and the Fine Arts

By Howard Burrows

FIRST, THANK YOU! You can see the results of your financial contributions by examining the art displayed on all three floors of Brooks:

- Statues have been cleaned, treated, renewed, and preserved by conservator Billy Myers.
- We have moved La Becquee off of the checkout counter to a new pedestal near the Spirit of Life sculpture in the front window.
- The Snow Angel is much brighter, now located near the elevator on the mezzanine, and new lighting for it is coming soon.



- The Three School Girls have been cleaned and polished and are near the elevator on the top floor.

Note also the new, more secure, mounting of pictures throughout the library. Less visible is extensive work that volunteers and a contractor have done measuring the dimensions of all items in the collection (over 350!),

designing and building new shelving in our new Fine Arts archive, moving the pieces, and re-inventorying and auditing the full collection.

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Recently-Funded Library Services

SINCE LAST SPRING, a number of wonderful library services have been wholly or partially funded by the Friends. Here are some highlights:

- Kanopy (online movie-streaming resource)
- Acorn TV (TV programs from the U.K., Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand)
- Mango Languages (online language-learning service)
- Children's Room programs
- First Wednesdays Lecture Series and other adult programs
- Fine Arts restoration work
- Museum pass for Historic Deerfield (18th century homes and museum)

- Museum pass for Magic Wings (butterfly conservatory and gardens)
- TixKeeper for museum passes
- BookPage subscription (monthly book reviews)
- DearReader.com (new book alerts)
- Technical services (renewal of website hosting and Adobe license for iMac)

The Friends contributions to these and other services have totaled \$10,500. The Friends Board of Directors would like to thank everyone for their ongoing and generous support of the Annual Appeal and other fundraisers. ■

New Digital Media

THE FRIENDS have recently funded subscriptions to two exciting video services: Kanopy and Acorn TV. Your library card now gives you free access to both.

Kanopy partners with public libraries and universities to provide film and television programming that bridges cultural divides, helping bring people together. Acorn TV provides television programming from England, Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand; NPR has hailed it as the “Netflix for the Anglophile.”

To sign up for Kanopy:

1. Go to the library’s website (brookslibraryvt.org).
2. Click on the Digital Media button below the slide show.
3. Click on Kanopy. When the Kanopy screen opens, click on SIGN UP to create an account. (This is a one-time registration that will enable Kanopy to recognize you as a library cardholder whenever you want to watch movies.)
4. When you receive a verification e-mail, click on the verification link, and you will be brought back to Kanopy’s home page.
5. To start watching, enter your library card number (without spaces) and your library password (usually the last 4 digits of your phone number). If that doesn’t work, give the library a call, and a staff member will help you reset your password.
6. A window will pop up explaining how it works, and you’ll be all set to start watching!

You’ll have access to 10 films per month. Each time you log on, the number of films you have left will appear as a small number in the upper right corner of the screen. Kanopy is also available as a mobile app, and it works with digital TV services like Roku.

The sign-up process for Acorn TV is somewhat different. Acorn is one of several services on the library’s RB Digital platform, so to



access Acorn, you’ll need to set up an account with RB Digital. *If you already have an account, you can skip the following steps.*

1. Go to the library’s website (brookslibraryvt.org).
2. Click on the Digital Media button below the slide show.
3. Scroll down to the “rb digital” block, which contains Acorn TV, and click on it.
4. Click on REGISTER. (This is a one-time registration that will allow RB Digital to recognize you as a library cardholder whenever you access Acorn or its other services.)
5. Create your own username and password, and click on REGISTER.
6. You will be brought back to the RB Digital Brooks Library home page.
7. Click on the set of three small parallel lines in the upper left corner, which will open a sidebar.
8. In the sidebar, click on ENTERTAINMENT.
9. Click on ACORN TV — BRITISH TV.
10. Click on CHECKOUT.
11. A CHECKOUT CONFIRMATION box will pop up. Click on the ACCESS button.
12. On the next screen, click on the ACCESS button.
13. On the Welcome to Acorn TV screen, create a password and click on the ACCESS ACORN TV button.
14. You will be brought to the Acorn TV homepage, and you’re now set to start watching!

You have unlimited access to the programming for 7 days, after which you’ll continue to have unlimited access in 7-day cycles.

RB Digital is also available as a mobile app, and it works with digital TV services like Roku.

If you have any difficulty, do not hesitate to call the library for help at 802-254-5290.

The Friends hope that you enjoy these new services. Your feedback is always welcome. ■

Libraries Rock! Summer Challenge

By Lindsay Bellville, Youth Services Librarian

THE TOP FLOOR of Brooks Memorial Library was a rocking place this summer and not just because of the musical notes decorating the room. Our Libraries Rock! Summer Challenge was a big hit, with 162 children and 43 teens participating.

The return of “Sing and Dance with Robin” was a perfect match for this summer’s theme. On eight Tuesday mornings, little ones and their caregivers joined Robin Morgan in the Meeting Room to sing funny songs, make music and, of course, dance. “Sing and Dance with Robin” is presented in collaboration with KidsPLAYce, and we are grateful to the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library for sponsoring this toe-tapping program.

A big thank-you goes out to Bellville Realty for sponsoring our annual “Monday Movie Matinee” for the thirteenth year! Bellville Realty purchases the movies we show and has donated over 100 DVDs to the Children’s Room!

The Mineralogical Society gave their time for our “Rocks Rock!” event and lent us a wonderful

assortment of rocks for kids to explore at our weekly Discovery Station.

Lizi Rosenberg from the Brattleboro Food Co-op led the “Salsa and Salsa” event, where kids learned the dance and then learned to make the food.

Congratulations to all our young readers who worked hard to complete their levels and earn prizes and to the teens who read all summer long.

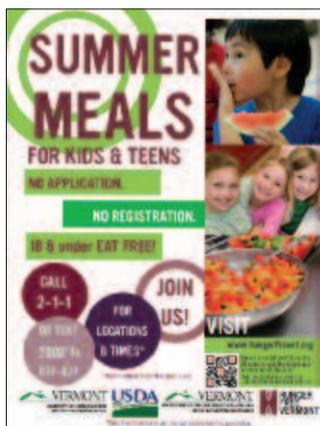
To produce the children’s summer programming, it takes more than the dedication of our staff and volunteers; it takes community support, and we were lucky to receive that support in both time and funding. Our warmest thanks to Baker’s Hallmark, Beadniks, Bellville Realty, Brattleboro Food Co-op, Burger King, Domino’s, Dunkin Donuts, Enright and Co., Fast Eddie’s, Latchis Theatre, McDonald’s, Putters at Kampfires, Sam’s Outdoor Outfitters, Taco Bell, and Twinkle Town.

Keep an eye out for more information about our 37th annual Design-a-Plate workshop, to be held Saturday, October 20, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. ■

Summer Food Service Program

By Lindsay Bellville, Youth Services Librarian

FOR THE FIFTH YEAR, Brooks Memorial Library participated in Vermont’s Summer Food Service Program, which provides free lunch for children aged 18 and under. From June 25 through August 10, “Lunch @ the Library” served 385 meals — a 50% increase over last year. We could not provide this valuable program without the help of our amazing lunch program volunteers. We would like to thank Beau Foshee, Diane Heileman, Ben Hunt, Pat Ireton, Garett Nuite, Tim Sanborn, Martha Siporin, Jessica Swift, Robin Westen, Mary White and Ash Young for donating their time each week to help feed local children.



And this year we had a couple of visitors during mealtime:

■ Shyla Floss from the Vermont Department of Health joined kids and parents to talk about how to stay healthy, highlighting the new hiking trail guide available at www.windhamregional.org/trails.

■ Lizi Rosenberg from the Brattleboro Co-op kicked off the summer by teaching kids how

to make their own yummy ice cream and then returned at the end of the summer to make sweet dessert tortillas. ■

Holiday Raffle Baskets

LAST YEAR we started a Basket Raffle that began with the holiday book sale and went through to the last day that “remainders” were for sale. It proved successful, and we thought we would hold it again this year.



We are certain that we have many Friends with creative minds who would enjoy assembling a gift basket, and we would welcome any donations.

Last year we

built them around a theme. It can begin with a book, but it doesn't have to — your imagination can run free.

If you have any questions or are interested in helping out, please contact Betsy at friendsofbrookslibraryvt@gmail.com (Attention: Betsy), or leave a message with Therese at 802-254-5290. ■

Concert Fundraiser

A FEW YEARS AGO the Friends were thrilled to present a concert featuring the great New Orleans jazz/blues singer Samirah Evans, now a Brattleboro resident, who shared with us some of her life's story in song. It was a powerful, emotional concert that is still remembered fondly to this day.



Now we are bringing Evans back to sing with her close friend Evelyn Harris, an 18-year veteran with the internationally-acclaimed black women's a capella ensemble Sweet Honey in The Rock. Harris is a high energy-performer, composer and arranger.

The show will be at the Brooks Memorial Library on the evening of Friday, October 19, at 7PM. Tickets are on a sliding scale to accommodate all. Watch our website and Facebook page for more details coming soon. ■

Friends 13th Annual Holiday Book, CD & DVD Sale

November 29 and 30 and December 1

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the Friends' Annual “LIKE NEW” book sale, to be held at the library:

- Thursday and Friday, November 29–30, from 10AM to 6PM
- Saturday, December 1, from 10AM to 2PM

Remainders will be on sale until December 17.

Most books in this sale are \$3, with some special and coffee table books priced higher. This is a great opportunity for early holiday shopping at affordable prices. And this year we will also have a table with some unique items, priced somewhat higher and appealing to the more eclectic shopper!

For the sale to be a success, we depend on the generous donations of books, CDs and DVDs by library supporters. You may bring your donations to the main circulation desk whenever the library is open. To see the donation guidelines visit friendsofbrookslibraryvt.org/Donate.

If you have any questions or a large quantity of boxes to donate, please call Therese at 802-254-5290.

The proceeds from these sales support the Library's events and programs such as First Wednesdays lectures, Children's Room events, digital media and equipment needs and services. ■

First Wednesdays are Back!

THE VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL First Wednesdays Lecture Series will begin on October 3rd and continue on the first Wednesday of each month. The talks are held on the Main Floor of the Library, beginning at 7PM.

To see the full 2018–2019 schedule of lectures held across the state, visit vermonthumanities.org/first-Wednesdays.

The 2018–2019 series at Brooks Memorial Library is made possible by the generous support of Against the Grain, Brattleboro Auto Body & Detailing, Brattleboro Food Co-op, Brattleboro Savings & Loan and Park Place Financial Advisors, Friends of Brooks Memorial Library, New Chapter, The Richards Group and Windham World Affairs Council. ■

OCTOBER 3 ■ Anne Alstott The Public Option

The size and role of government is an ongoing debate in the US. Big government began with Lincoln; it was essential to preserving the Union during the Civil War. Yale Law School professor Anne Alstott asks if there are challenges today best addressed by public solutions rather than private action.

Depicting the lives of southern sharecroppers, writer James Agee and photographer Walker Evans resisted journalistic conventions and raised important questions about the nature of documentary work and art.

Underwriter: The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with Pulitzer Prizes

MARCH 6 ■ HUCK GUTMAN Wordsworth: Plain and Simple

William Wordsworth was a strange yet pathbreaking poet who resisted writing poems that preened in being poems. UVM professor emeritus Huck Gutman discusses how someone so “plain” and “simple” became the most revolutionary, and probably most influential, poet of the past 250 years.

Underwriter: Chroma Technology

APRIL 3 ■ REEVE LINDBERGH Two Lives

Reeve Lindbergh, daughter of aviator-authors Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh, discusses the intersection of fame and privacy as the spokesperson for one of the most famous families of the 20th century.

Underwriter: Carole and Geof Gaddis

JANUARY 2 ■ Julie Kalish Finding Your Voice in 2019

For those with New Year’s resolutions to write, or simply write more clearly, Dartmouth writing instructor Julie Kalish leads an interactive exploration of the principles of context, audience, tone, purpose, and message.

APRIL 30 (NOTE DATE: TUESDAY) Harold Holzer Lincoln Memorial Sculptor Daniel Chester French: The Making of an Icon

Biographer Harold Holzer tells the story of one of the great sculptors of the 19th century — creator of the Lincoln Memorial, “The Minute Man” of Concord, Massachusetts, and the “Spirit of Life,” which was created for Brattleboro’s park, stolen, and recovered.

Underwriter: Crosby-Gannett Fund

FEBRUARY 6 ■ Tim Spears The Making of Let Us Now Praise Famous Men

Middlebury professor Tim Spears looks at the 1941 publication of *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*.

Use Your Bean!

DURING THE MONTH of September, the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library will be among three designated organizations that will benefit from the Brattleboro Food Co-op's Bag-A-Bean program.

How It Works

Whenever customers bring in their own grocery bag, bulk food container or travel mug, the Co-op thanks them with a 5¢ credit or a bean that they can drop into one of three containers benefiting local non-profits. Each month the Co-op selects three non-profits on a rotating basis. For every pound of beans placed in the container, over \$14 is donated to that container's organization. Donations can range from \$100 to \$500!



The Bag-A-Bean program works to engage shoppers in reducing waste by rewarding them with the opportunity to donate their savings to a local non-profit. Both the environment and the non-profits benefit!

The Friends of Brooks Memorial Library are grateful to the Co-op for this opportunity to benefit the library and all the programs and services that the Friends provide to the community at large. ■

Donor Appreciation Night

THE BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library will be hosting a special get-together to thank those who donated to the Annual Appeal over the past year. The event will be held at the library on Friday, September 21, from 6 to 8PM.

Many of the resources the library is able to provide would not be possible without the generous donations to the Annual Appeal, as well as to other fundraisers held by the Friends and their supporters.

Highlights of these resources will be showcased at Donor Appreciation Night. The Fine Arts Room will be opened, and recent restoration work will be discussed. In the top floor Meeting Room, samples will be shown from our new video-streaming services — Kanopy and Acorn TV — available now to all our library cardholders. Come enjoy some popcorn and see how to sign up!

Ice cream, appetizers and beverages will be served on the Main Floor.

Invitations have been mailed. Please RSVP by September 15 so that we can plan accordingly. Hope to see you there! ■

Annual Appeal/Membership Drive

THE FRIENDS of Brooks Memorial Library and the Board of Trustees will once again be combining the library's Annual Appeal with the Friends Membership drive. Whoever contributes to the Appeal will automatically become a member of the Friends (unless they request otherwise).

We were very fortunate last year with donations exceeding \$12,000. Thank you all for your support!

Please watch for the Annual Appeal letter arriving later this Fall. We hope you will respond generously. ■

In Memoriam: Deborah L. Tewksbury

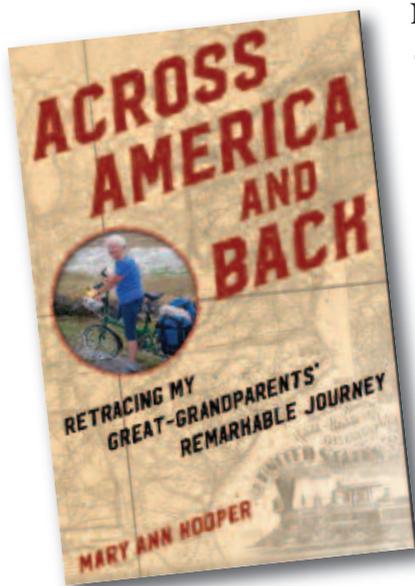
BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY was the site for a wonderful afternoon celebrating the life of beloved staff member, Debby Tewksbury. Debby's family and friends shared stories and pictures of her, including videos of the delightful songs she would sing at the close of the library day.

The afternoon was filled with fond memories of a remarkable woman. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family and friends.



Across America and Back

COME TO A PRESENTATION by author Mary Ann Hooper about her book *Across America and Back — Retracing My Great Grandparents' Remarkable Journey* just published by the University of Nevada Press.



Mary Ann grew up on Sunset Lake Road in Brattleboro, and her family was prominent in the town in the 19th and 20th centuries. Her grandfather Howard C. Rice was publisher of the Brattleboro Reformer, and her father John S. Hooper was editor and then publisher of the Reformer from 1950 to 1971.

Her book is a memoir based on diaries and

documents handed down in her family and a travelogue of two family journeys: her great grandparents' transcontinental train trip to California in 1871–72 and her retracing their route in 2008.

Filled with rich details of time, place, and culture, Mary Ann's compelling narrative is also a thoughtful account of how the American West has changed over the last 150 years. She is deeply concerned about the environment and supports John Muir's philosophy of celebrating, not conquering, nature, so her book returns to this theme time and again. She also treats readers to her entertaining encounters on the trip and escapades on her folding bike.

The event is hosted by the Brattleboro Historical Society and the Brooks Memorial Library in the library's upstairs Meeting Room on Wednesday, September 12, from 7PM to 9PM. Mary Ann will give a short presentation with photos and a reading, followed by questions and discussion. Her book will be available to buy, and she will be happy to sign copies. Refreshments will be on hand. ■

Brooks Friends and the Fine Arts

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There are over 400 books in addition to the items in the catalog.

We are now looking for expertise/interest in the following three areas:

- We need someone, or a small team, to plan and mount monthly exhibits for adults and for children. One idea is to have the exhibits reflect social, environmental, or other issues of current interest in our region.
- We would like to train a team of volunteers who could maintain the collection. This would entail everything from polishing and auditing to more extensive work, under supervision, to preserve and renew some of the pieces.
- In order for our collection to become part of regional efforts, we would like someone to explore tools to improve the discovery of items in our collection by outside organizations. With this in mind, we expect to continue training sessions to produce and enhance Wikipedia articles about our collection. From there, we'd like to learn how to author metadata entries in Wikipedia's database. These, in turn, might lead to increased use of our library's website as one component in an expanding web of knowledge in which Fine Arts might play a central role.

Please contact the Friends if you want to suggest or help with any Fine Arts project. ■



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.





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