

PHILIP READ MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Trustees Report – Calendar Year 2007

As always, thank you for all your support in various ways to the Philip Read Memorial Library. The library is a thriving community center with patron visits and computer use increasing again this year. Our programming increased this year, also.

Story time for the younger children continues to be a very important part of the life of the library. Diane Rogers continues to be the main reader and shares her storytelling gifts every month on the third Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Another ongoing program is the “Coffee & Conversation—Ladies Night,” which occurs on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to Katie Sheehan for organizing this.

In the past year, the following groups met regularly at the library: Plainfield Water District, Girl Scout/Brownie Troop, Women’s Investment Club. There are other groups who meet occasionally; eg the town finance committee.

The summer reading program “Reading Road Trip USA” had 40 children participating and the books read totaled 352. The summer program was complemented with these special events: “Travel Games,” “Painting—Views from Your Car Window,” “Traveling Story Time,” Valley Quest-Plainfield Village tour.”

Other programs held this past year were a poetry reading with poet/author Laura Foley of Cornish and two meditation workshops led by Ida Burroughs. We also took part in the state-wide Children’s Poetry Day in April by holding a poetry writing workshop with poet Pamela Harrison of Norwich, VT, for school-age children, and a poetry story hour for younger children led by Diane Rogers. A series of three well-attended Forestry Workshops led by the New Hampshire Extension Service took place in the library.

Over 60 libraries throughout the state held programs and activities based on the junior book “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” by Ann Brashares. A pair of jeans traveled the state between libraries. Upon arrival, each library was responsible for decorating a portion of the jeans and sending it off to the next library. In preparation for the jeans’ arrival, we held four programs. Trina Scheie, Lindsay Pullen, Ramya Kuppa, and Grace Sylvia wrote and performed (twice) a skit based on the book. We had two sessions where participants brought their own jeans and decorated them. Library patrons voted on the best decorated pair; Charlotte Grzegorowicz was the winner of a gift certificate donated by Hubert’s Clothing Store.

A reception in honor of Chris Demarest, Meriden resident and children’s author/illustrator, was held. Chris displayed and sold his original book illustrations twice during the year. He generously donated half of the sale proceeds to the library.

A state-wide program titled, The Big Read, featured the book “Fahrenheit 451” by Ray Bradbury. We sponsored two programs: a book discussion led by Scholar Laura Rubenis and a lecture on “Civil Liberties in Post 9/11” led by Scholar Richard Hesse. These programs were partly funded by the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

The cleanup of Rte. 12A through the Adopt-A-Highway Program was managed again by a group of dedicated volunteers. For the July 4 parade, our float, “American Book Classics,” featured children dressed as book characters with posters of the books. Thanks to Ken and Chante Norwalk for the art work and children. We also participated in The Newcomers’ Breakfast sponsored by the Plainfield Historical Society and two baseball-related summer reading programs: one with the American Library Association; the other with the New Hampshire Fisher Cats.

Our library director, Nancy Norwalk, was a guest speaker at the March Senior Luncheon. She also attended the Librarians of the Upper Valley (LUV) meetings, as well as being a speaker on Fundraising for Library Construction at a LUV meeting. Nancy also attended the New Hampshire State Library Conference in the spring at the Mt. Washington Hotel.

Our main fundraising events were our Annual Book and Bake Sale; the Maxfield Parrish Vintage Print Sale (jointly with the Stage Set Committee); and a performance of “Cornish Castles,” a play about Maxfield Parrish (partially funded with a grant from the New Hampshire Council of the Arts). Another benefit for the library was a dance offering. Diane Sangermano and Richard Caruso led afternoon dance workshops followed by an evening dance with DJ John Tomeny. Our bi-annual Artist-Designed Handmade Book Auction was held and over 100 artists from Plainfield, the Upper Valley, around New England and other parts of the country took part. A gift basket raffle was held on the 4th of July.

The library continues to be well-used. Patron visits increased by 3.5% and computer use by patrons increased 26% over last year. Since the library addition was finished in 2004, circulation (items loaned out) has increased by 10.6% and patron visits by 39.7%. Use of items within the library has increased substantially. The additional hours on Wednesday have been very popular. We are always looking for ideas for items to be displayed in our exhibit case each month. If you have ideas or any collections, please contact Nancy Norwalk. Other services we provide are the sale of town trash stickers and the loan of free passes to the Currier Art Museum in Manchester and the American Precision Museum in Windsor.

The trustees and library director are very thankful for all the help given to make the library so vibrant. Thank you to the many residents, who donated books, tapes, videos/DVDs and magazines, as well as other needed items. Donations of books are always welcome.

Our usual volunteers put in 48 hours each month. We rely heavily on our volunteers; and, in fact, continue to look for more volunteers. The Friends of the Library are always willing to assist us and new members are welcome.

We met with the architects to begin Phase II of the building—finishing the basement level. Our goal is to have the basement finished by the end of 2008, beginning of 2009. What an added bonus that will be when complete. As promised, we are raising funds to finish this work and will not ask for tax dollars. Contributions are welcome to the general building fund as well as to “The Alice P. Hendrick Memorial Children’s Room.”

One last—and very important—item to announce: Diane Rogers has been hired as our second aide. We are very happy that Diane is back working with us. She is a definite asset to the library along with our director, Nancy Norwalk and our other (and very important as well) library aide, Ruth Stalker.

As we have stated in the past and continue to believe, the foundation of our success is twofold—the tremendous effort put in by our many volunteers and the solid support of community members. For these, we are truly grateful and say thank you on behalf of the library.

Submitted by, Trustees: *Anita K. Brown, Jennifer Frederick, Beth Williams*

PHILIP READ LIBRARY PROPOSED BUDGET	Budget 2007	Actual 2007	Proposed 2008
On hand Jan. 1			
Encumbered Purchases	694.00	694.00	630.00
Checking Account	450.00	450.00	1,492.00
Subtotal	<u>1,144.00</u>	<u>1,144.00</u>	<u>2,122.00</u>
Income:			
Town appropriation	49,537.00	49,537.00	53,976.00
Trust fund income	2,800.00	2,900.00	3,200.00
Fines and damaged books	500.00	500.00	500.00
Gifts	100.00	41.00	100.00
Books sales	725.00	732.00	725.00
Grants	0.00	426.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	68.00	0.00
Income	<u>53,662.00</u>	<u>54,204.00</u>	<u>58,501.00</u>
Total	<u>54,806.00</u>	<u>55,348.00</u>	<u>60,623.00</u>
Expenditures:			
Salaries	27,532.00	25,591.00	30,903.00
Payroll Liabilities	2,106.00	1,957.00	2,364.00
Library materials	7,235.00	7,356.00	7,455.00
Audio-visual materials	1,265.00	1,353.00	1,300.00

Supplies	1,500.00	1,464.00	1,500.00
Postage	250.00	271.00	250.00
Computer tech./out services	600.00	872.00	700.00
Professional activities	885.00	807.00	885.00
Programs (includes grant exp.)	400.00	558.00	400.00
Electricity	2,895.00	2,720.00	2,895.00
Telephone	1,080.00	1,088.00	1,080.00
Fuel	4,000.00	4,779.00	5,850.00
Water	290.00	265.00	290.00
Maintenance	2,300.00	1,866.00	2,300.00
Elevator	900.00	851.00	995.00
Miscellaneous	300.00	186.00	300.00
Furnishings	500.00	474.00	500.00
Transfer to sick pay	74.00	74.00	26.00
Encumbered purchases	694.00	694.00	630.00
Total Expenses	<u>54,806.00</u>	<u>53,226.00</u>	<u>60,623.00</u>