

MERIDEN LIBRARY TRUSTEES REPORT-2009

This was an exciting year for the Meriden Library: refurbishing the old, moving swiftly into new technology, and creating several new programs. Because of these initiatives, our patron usage of the library has increased about 40% since 2007.

The staff and volunteers worked hard to provide a variety of programs for the community in 2009. For six weeks in January and February, an enthusiastic group studied a course called "Menu for the Future," learning what exactly happens to our food from the field to the table. It was both shocking and informative. Two popular book clubs continue to meet monthly: "Tuesday at Two" reading both fiction and non-fiction, and "Third Thursday Mystery" concentrating on the mystery novel. The home schoolers met regularly for their history club. Story hour was held once a month with Rachel Stoddard and Naomi Fitzgibbons as our story ladies. Recently, we have formed a genealogy club which uses the state sponsored Ancestry.com database.

The summer reading program "Summertime and the Reading is Easy" was a joint effort with the Plainfield library in June and July. Together we used this program as the theme for our float in the town's Fourth of July parade. Our group effort paid off, and the float won first prize. We also did a joint scavenger hunt with Plainfield.

We had a very active display case this year with many interesting displays coinciding with the seasons and holidays. These sparked lots of interesting feedback and discussions with our patrons. Thanks to all who contributed their collections.

We are offering many new services. We have rotating collections of DVD's through the "Libraries of the Upper Valley" cooperative. These change every two months, so there are many new titles throughout the year. This service has become a popular addition.

We now have downloadable audio books through a state run system. Kimball Union and Plainfield libraries can use the Meriden Library site to take advantage of this new technology through cooperative buying. Patrons can listen to books on their iPods or MP3 players or in their cars. Also, the library now has Wi-Fi access and 2 computer terminals available for public use.

We are in the process of automating our collection. A state database will be available for use in 2010, including our newest acquisitions (1 ½ years) and all our adult fiction. The automation project is a slow and steady one, but we are happy with what has been accomplished this year thanks to our staff and volunteers.

We have also been able to participate in the state interlibrary loan system. This enables us to loan out books from our collection, as well as borrow books we do not have from other collections. We are now able to borrow books from Dartmouth College Libraries for the first time. If we do not have the book you are looking for, we can find it for you. Having many of our books now in the state system is a good feeling, as we become good New Hampshire State Library Citizens.

Remember, we have a blog that is updated weekly with the latest news and book reviews, www.meridennewsings.com, and soon we will have a Facebook page. We invite you to be interactive with the Meriden Library.

New signage has gone up on Route 120, a cooperative project done with the Aidron Duckworth Art Museum and Meriden grange. Soon we will have a new sign on our front lawn thanks to Jim Bonney and Rob Taylor.

Staying current and informed are an important components of our librarian's and trustees' jobs. Jeanne Thompson attended the Children's Literacy Foundation conference on marketing this summer. She also attended many Librarians of the Upper Valley

(LUV) Coop meetings. Our assistant, Lori Estey, went to a genealogy workshop in Manchester. The trustees attended a conference with other local library trustees presented by the New Hampshire Trustee Association at the Howe Library.

We, the trustees and people of Meriden, are fortunate to have Jeanne Thompson as our librarian. Her knowledge of the library and new technologies, her enthusiasm, her energy, and her endless new ideas have brought us to an exciting place in our history. Library patronage is growing steadily as she continues to provide a library that is welcoming, dynamic, and fun for young and old alike.

We would like to thank all who have made 2009 such a great year of change and progress. First, there is Jeanne Thompson, our librarian, who has led the way, and Brad Thompson who has been so supportive through both the good times and the bad. Lori Estey has been a wonderful addition as assistant, filling in for Jeanne when she was away. Also, Lori's knowledge of genealogy has helped create the genealogy club. Annamay Chapman has been extremely faithful and hard working. She is always there when she is needed. Barb Wendt has been volunteering, working hard on data entry for our automation and getting the job done. We would also like to thank the Meriden Library Association for their continued support through their fund raising activities: the winter soup and bread luncheon and the spring book sale.

There are so many more of you who have generously made donations and volunteered your time to make Meriden Library a really special place to be. Thank you all!

A Long Range Planning Committee is being formed and will begin its work in 2010. Please stop in and join us at the Meriden Library. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Respectfully submitted,
Leli Bonney Pam Abrahamson and Mark Pensen
Meriden Library Trustees



Meriden Library Proposed Budget 2009

| | BUDGET | ACTUAL | PROPOSED |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | \$2,009 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Income | | | |
| Town Appropriation | \$32,674 | \$33,354 | \$37,788 |
| Town Approp - FICA | \$1,907 | \$1,227 | \$2,465 |
| Trust Funds | \$1,100 | \$1,350 | \$1,100 |
| Gifts | \$0 | \$92 | \$0 |
| Book Fines | \$100 | \$57 | \$100 |
| Book Sales | \$200 | \$412 | \$200 |
| Copier Income | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Interest-Saving | \$100 | \$64 | \$100 |
| Interest-Checking | \$0 | \$2 | \$0 |
| Building Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Miscellaneous | \$0 | \$318 | \$0 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Income | \$36,081 | \$36,875 | \$41,753 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| Expense | | | |
| Salaries | \$19,074 | \$18,208 | \$24,648 |
| FICA | \$1,907 | \$1,227 | \$2,465 |
| Library Materials | \$6,000 | \$5,038 | \$5,500 |
| Telephone | \$600 | \$509 | \$540 |
| Electricity | \$1,200 | \$921 | \$1,000 |
| Fuel | \$4,000 | \$1,644 | \$3,000 |
| Water | \$500 | \$400 | \$500 |
| Supplies | \$700 | \$605 | \$700 |
| Postage | \$300 | \$355 | \$300 |
| Professional Activities | \$400 | \$89 | \$400 |
| Programming | \$200 | \$248 | \$200 |
| Maintenance | \$700 | \$1,641 | \$2,000 |
| Equipment purchase | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Computer | \$500 | \$433 | \$500 |
| Building Fund | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Miscellaneous | \$0 | \$2,628 | \$0 |
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| Expense | \$36,081 | \$33,947 | \$41,753 |
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