



## **PHILIP READ MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

### **Calendar Year 2011**

The Philip Read Memorial Library continues to be a vibrant, busy and well-used facility. It is a popular space for community meetings with 45 non-library-related meetings held this year by 8 different groups (about one a week). Our public computers are heavily used by patrons and many bring their laptops to use the WiFi. We welcome the pupils and teachers of the Estabrook School, who are using the library. In 2011, the Philip Read Memorial Library had 9,076 patron visits and checked out 12,797 items.

Our regular programming such as children's story time is well attended. Diane Rogers is the primary reader and incorporates crafts or special activities in each program. We again had a special story hour and pictures with Santa in December. The summer reading program —“One World, Many Stories” was very successful with programs led by Laura White (Fly Away), Carol Greenan (crafting dragon masks), the 4-H Club (Foods Around the World), and John White (rock collecting). Author readings were held with Nancy Kilgore (former Plainfield resident) and Adell Farley Harvey. The library was again open for Trick or Treaters on Halloween. We had 199 visitors and gave out treat bags and paperback books.

Among the many special programs held this past year were children's theater performances during the summer at the Plainfield Town Hall (7 plays); a slide show and talk by Sarah Gillens on her visit to Scotland and the locations of the “Outlander” series of books, a nutrition story hour with Kim Moss, fingerprinting with Police Chief Roberts, a nature walk and construction of fairy houses in the McGough's field and monthly book discussions. In conjunction with Plainfield's 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, the library sponsored Dan Grady's Marionette show at the town hall. A group of children continue to meet almost every Saturday morning for card and board games.

As a community service The Friends of the Philip Read Memorial Library sponsor the clean-up of Rt. 12A through the Adopt-A-Highway Program. The library has a food collection box for the Plainfield Food Pantry. The Friends of the Philip Read Memorial Library constructed the library float for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The theme of the float was “Plain School 1890,” with Mindy Taber typecast as the teacher instructing a group of local children. Used on the float was the bell from the old Plainfield Village school.

Staff development is an important ingredient to keeping our library current. To that end, I, as library director, attended a number of conferences and workshops such as the bi-monthly Librarians of the Upper Valley (LUV) meetings, workshops on Library Management and Collection Development and Weeding, and the Annual New Hampshire State Library Convention in Manchester. The trustees attended the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association's annual meeting. A workshop on Downloadable Audio and E-Books for staff and trustees was held at the library. Our library patrons' use of this service doubled over last year.

The Friends of the Philip Read Memorial Library continued their fundraising efforts on behalf of the library. The main fundraising events were the Annual Book and Bake Sale; the Maxfield Parrish Vintage Print Sale (jointly with the Stage Set Committee); sales of Maxfield Parrish items, a Holiday Dance sponsored by Randy Budner and his band—Loose Cannons, and a quilt raffle (donated by Maria Guzman and Colleen O’Neill). The Friends group also sponsored a Sunday afternoon Ice Cream Social with games and music by Randy Budner. The Friends of the Library are always willing to assist us and new members are welcome.

The James Tasker Covered Bridge Fund Committee awarded the library a grant of \$700 to purchase a computer and barcode scanner for the forthcoming automation project. The Plainfield Energy Committee obtained a grant for an energy audit of the building and a report will be forthcoming in 2012. Image Magazine included the Philip Read Memorial Library in an article on Upper Valley libraries with a full page story and color photo (taken by Des Hudson).

The major project that the staff and volunteers will be working on this coming year is automation of the card catalog. The Philip Read Memorial Library and the Meriden Library have joined a consortium with the Howe Library in Hanover to automate our catalogs and circulation functions. Contracts have been signed with Howe and a software company, prep work and system setup has begun, training will begin soon and then the collection will be imported into the program. This has necessitated many meetings of the library directors with the Howe project manager. Being able to join with the Howe Library on this project means a much lower cost for the libraries. It will be an exciting year.

Other services available at the library are WiFi, Internet, public computers, passes to the Currier Art Museum (Manchester) and the Windsor Precision Museum, trash and landfill stickers available for purchase, Fax, copier, interlibrary loan, downloadable audio and e-books. Databases available for patron use are Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest.

Thank you to our many volunteers who put in approximately 50 hours each month. Their help with the multitude of regular tasks and their computer expertise are invaluable. Thank you to Zethan and Joah Moss who have volunteered to shovel the walks this winter.

Work on the next phase of construction--the lower level which will hold a much needed community meeting room, a local history research room, junior and teen rooms, was begun last spring but was put on hold after a code review turned up some changes since the original construction. The architect drew up some revisions which were approved by the fire engineer and work will resume this spring. As promised, the Friends of the Philip Read Memorial Library have been raising the funds to finish this work and we will not ask for tax dollars. Contributions are welcome and needed for the building fund to finish this project.

We are all very thankful for the help given to make the library so vibrant. Thank you to the many residents who donate books, tapes, movies and magazines, and other needed items. We are ever grateful to our volunteers and to the community for your support.

*Nancy Norwalk*, Library Director



Story hour with Santa at the Philip Read Memorial Library. Photo: N Norwalk



Postmaster Jean Temple and the Reverend Harold Jones working the Stamp cancellation event 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Photo: Rod Wendt