



PHILIP READ MEMORIAL LIBRARY Calendar Year 2012

The Philip Read Memorial Library is a thriving facility in the center of Plainfield Village. The library is vibrant with activities, people, information and services. During 2012, 9048 patrons visited the library and checked out 13,025 items, an increase over last year. Available at your library are books, magazines, audio tapes/CDs, movies, museum passes, e-books and downloadable audio from our membership in the New Hampshire State Library consortium, databases such as Ancestry and Heritage, meeting space, programs, computers, Wi-Fi and more. The public computers and Wi-Fi continue to be heavily used. Eleven town organizations used our space regularly for their meetings.

2012 saw many new projects this year. Our website had a makeover. We are indebted to the late George Adams, who designed our website in 1997 (the first in Plainfield), when code had to be written by hand, and had maintained it since. He and Mike Sutherland re-designed the site this year. While keeping some of the original features, much information is being added, including the on-line catalog, which is in process. Teagan Atwater set up a Facebook page for the library. In addition to passes for the Currier Museum of Art and the American Precision Museum, passes to The Fells in Newbury, NH, are now available.

The major project begun this year is the automation of the library collection in partnership with the Howe Library in Hanover. Volunteers at both libraries have been adding our holdings into a computer system, which will replace the card catalog and the hand-stamp circulation system. Philip Read expects to go on-line with the system later in 2013, joining the Meriden Library in this automated system. Thank you to all the volunteers who are working on the automation project and who helped with many other library tasks. This year, 27 volunteers worked 750 hours to benefit our library.

I wish to thank Diane Rogers for her many years of contributions to the library, first as a volunteer and then as a library aide. Diane has read for countless story hours, organized many activities and fundraisers—from the library talent shows to raffles and everything in between. Her many innovative ideas have improved the library and helped make it an exciting place. She has always been willing to go along with all my “fun” projects. The other staff members and I miss having her work at the library.

Regular programming which continued throughout the year were: for children--story times, craft activities, Saturday morning board and card games, children’s plays at the Plainfield Town Hall with the Papermill Theatre (7 plays),

movie nights (made possible by the purchase of a digital projector with a grant from the Tasker Bridge Fund, the Summer Reading Program—Dream Big, Read (with five programs); for adults—book discussions. Special children’s programs held were: participation in the Plainfield School’s “Poem in a Pocket” project; readings with children’s author/illustrator D. B. Johnson (“Magritte’s Marvelous Hat”); author Henry Homeyer (“Wobar and the Quest for the Magic Calument”) and illustrator Josh Yunger; “Born to Hunt,” a live bird presentation from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science; the Civil Air Patrol with Joah and Dana Moss; Christmas story time and photos with Santa; and at Halloween, handing out treats and paperback books to 158 children. Special adult programs held were: a one-day felting workshop followed by four felting classes taught by Brian East and Amy Rawson; computer lessons; “A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes” (a slide and lecture program); and a workshop on “Teaching Math and Science through Children’s Literature” with Jeff Robbins. The library also participated in the State-Wide Read Program on Edgar Allan Poe during October with a Poe exhibit, book discussion and a theater performance, “Poe, Poe, Poe” by Eclectic Entertainment.

As director, I was kept busy attending meetings of the Librarians of the Upper Valley, attending a leadership workshop in Hanover, the Small Libraries Summit in Concord, and several sessions of automation training. We were fortunate to receive grants from the Claremont Savings Bank (\$850) for programming and the Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLiF) for children’s books. CLiF made a formal presentation to us of the new books at the Plainfield Elementary School and a separate presentation for local day care providers at the library giving each child a book to keep. A storyteller appeared at each program. In the fall, I invited the Plainfield and Meriden Fire Departments to visit the library for a tour and training on the alarm and elevator systems. I was honored to read at the Community Christmas Celebration.

The Friends of the Philip Read Memorial Library continue to be active in supporting the library with fundraising and help with projects, such as participation in the Adopt-a-Highway Program, cleaning up a two-mile section of Rt. 12A. Their major fundraisers continue to be the Annual Book Sale, the Maxfield Parish Vintage Print Sale in October, and the sale of greenhouse plants in the spring donated by Ellen Oberkotter. The Friends of both libraries built the 4th of July float.

Work to complete the downstairs of the library addition has resumed. The new required exit on the north side has been completed, electrical work finished, and dry wall and insulation work begun. It is hopeful that the meeting room will be ready for use soon. As promised eight years ago, the Friends of the Library are raising all the funds for this area, and no tax dollars will be used. Funds still to be raised are for the finish flooring and bookcases. Contributions to the Friends of the Library Building Fund for this purpose can be sent to the library and are tax deductible. Another longtime goal is to replace the lighting in the original two rooms. The Plainfield Energy Committee has worked with us in

having energy audits performed and we will be applying for grants to do this work.

Thank you all for making the Philip Read Memorial Library a true community center, for the outstanding help from all our volunteers, for donations of all types, and the continuing support of our patrons. This coming year will be even more busy and exciting.

Nancy Norwalk, Library Director