

STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Stockbridge, Massachusetts

End of Summer, 2010



FROM ROSIE SCHNEYER, LIBRARIAN

We had a busy and hot summer here at the Stockbridge Library, but thanks to air conditioning we stayed comfortable. Please feel free to stop by to read your favorite newspapers, magazines, or a good book in the comfort of the Bement Room, in any weather, in any season.



The Bement Room is a comfortable place for working and relaxing

We welcome two new staff members. Barbara Dowling, most recently with the Trustees of Reservations, joined us earlier this year. She is helping us with a number of projects, and you will frequently see her at the front desk. Vicky Cooper has returned to the Stockbridge Library after working at the Lenox Library and in the Pittsfield public schools. As children's librarian, Vicky has started a story and craft program on Wednesday mornings, 10 to 11 a.m.

Popular circulation items this summer were the museum passes. These passes allow for free admission to some of the most popular attractions in the area, including Hancock Shaker Village, the Norman Rockwell Museum, the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, Chesterwood, MASS MoCA, the Mount, and many more!

UPCOMING EVENTS: *News from John Hyson, Programming Committee Chairman*

The Programming Committee has organized a series of free Sunday afternoon events. All events will be held on Sunday at 4 p.m. Events are subject to change: Check the library website for updates: www.stockbridgelibrary.org

• **John Demos (Oct. 24)** is Samuel Knight Professor of History at Yale University, and author of several histories of early America, including *Entertaining Satan*, and *The Unredeemed Captive*, which received the Francis Parkman and Ray Allen Billington prizes in American History and was a finalist for the National Book Award.

• **Julianne Boyd (Nov. 14)** is artistic director of the Barrington Stage Company, which she co-founded in 1995. She has directed many productions at BSC, including *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *West Side Story*, *Follies*, *The Game*, *Mack and Mabel*, *South Pacific*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She has also worked extensively in New York City and in regional theatres.

• **Marilou Hyson (Jan. 9)** is a consultant on early childhood education for the World Bank in Indonesia and Vietnam, and

for Save the Children in Bhutan and Bangladesh. For 16 years, she served on the faculty of the Department of Individual and Family Studies at the University of Delaware. She will speak about early childhood development and education in different cultures.

• **Seth Rogovoy (Feb. 13)** will speak about his recent book, *Bob Dylan: Prophet, Mystic, Poet*. Mr. Rogovoy is editor-in-chief of *Berkshire Living*. For nearly 20 years, he was a rock and jazz critic, primarily for the *Berkshire Eagle*. He also hosts a weekly cultural commentary program on WAMC Northeast Public Radio Network.

• **Dan Klein, (March 13)** is the co-author of the New York Times bestseller, *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar*. He has written many non-fiction books, mysteries and thrillers, including the Elvis Presley mystery series (*Kill Me Tender*, *Blue Suede Clues*, etc.). *The History of Now* is his first literary novel. Klein is also a playwright, and his work, *Mengelberg and Mahler*, is being performed at Shakespeare & Co.

Presentations are followed by a reception and refreshments.

THEY DID IT AGAIN! *Book Sale exceeds past profits*

They did it again! Book Sale co-chairs Rudy Hoeltzel and Marty Gottron once again exceeded estimated income with a very successful three-day book sale.

Starting at the beginning of March, volunteers sorted, classified and priced thousands of donated books twice weekly at the old Town Hall. Marty kept the volunteer sorters on schedule, and she and Rudy checked and harvested books from the donation boxes at the Post Offices and other locations. They contacted donors of large numbers of books, arranging for pick-ups and deliveries to the Town Hall. Posters were prominently displayed in Stockbridge and surrounding towns. The rented tents were put up two days before the sale began and all the signs were installed above the tables. Over 800 cartons of books and CDs were moved into the tents and put out on the tables and on pallets below. Volunteers organized the shifts for the three-day sale beginning July 9, at 9 a.m. Benches loaned by the Marian Fathers were placed around the perimeter of the lawn for customers to sit. And at the close of the sale, remaining books were sold to a dealer, and after that transaction there were no leftovers. In the three years that Rudy Hoeltzel has chaired the Book Sale, the gross income has tripled. Nearly 75 volunteers worked to generate a record income of \$24,000 from the Stockbridge Library Book Sale. – Marion Adler

NOTES FROM LENORE SUNDBERG, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The financial health of our Library is our board's primary responsibility, and to balance our budget we depend on various fundraising events. Two such events occurred this spring. The first was a silent auction of works donated by 10 local artists, which took place on April 30 – the same date as our Annual Meeting – and also featured a talk on the Berkshire art scene by Berkshire Eagle columnist Charles Bonenti.

The second event was our Irish Fling on May 28, a festive evening celebrating things Irish in Stockbridge. Held in the beautifully decorated gym in the Stockbridge Town Offices building (Terry Wise's cut-paper "lace" was amazing!), the evening featured Irish tunes sung with style by our own Irish songbird, Maureen O'Flynn, accompanied by Rob Putnam on guitar and Teresa Mango on harp. All three of these wonderful musicians donated their talents to this event. Pittsfield writer Kevin O'Hara read passages from his books, *A Lucky Irish Lad* and *Last of the Donkey Pilgrims*. His tales of life in his large Irish family are full of tender humor.



*Peter Putnam and Maureen O'Flynn
provided musical pleasure*

In light of our Irish theme, Police Chief Rick Wilcox offered a special tribute to Mary Flynn, Stockbridge Selectwoman extraordinaire; and current Selectwoman Deb McMenemy read a tribute to the Fitzpatrick family, whose Red Lion Inn anchors our Main Street and whose philanthropy has enhanced many Berkshire cultural venues including the Stockbridge Library. Irish-born Stockbridge artist John Ffrench was remembered too - his wonderful calendar images graced the walls and also provided the illustration for our Irish Fling party invitation.

In addition to music and words, we enjoyed delicious Celtic-inspired treats prepared by Stockbridge caterer Cathie Kavanaugh. Though he is not Irish, Louis Caropreso's smiling eyes and experienced auctioneering brought a lively spirit to our Irish and library-themed auction. The "Irish Fling" raised \$12,000 for the Library.

Our Annual Appeal letters were mailed out on July 30, and we hope that you will again support the work of our wonderful library. Our town provides about 36% of our budget; the rest we must raise through fundraisers and our Annual Appeal. Please join our community of supporters and give as generously as you can!

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS FOR THE SHADY PORCHES

It was a beautiful day on July 31, when 19 residents of an earlier Stockbridge came to visit. They were the front line of the library's Shady Porches program. Each lively character shared his or her memories of the neighborhood and welcomed guests onto the porches they inhabited for the afternoon. Our thanks to the volunteer performers, our Shades, who recreated those past residents: Susan Coles, Joe Schorge, Jeffrey Bradway, Tom Daly, Josh Hall, Judy Daly, Rick Wilcox, Barbara Dowling, Pat Jaouen, Chet Kalm, Pat Flinn, Claudette Webster, Mary Balle, Gary Allen, Caroline Young, Deb McMenemy, John Hyson, Rudy Hoeltzel, and Claire Williams.

Behind every Shade were numerous other volunteers who helped make the program run smoothly. Mary Balle and Pat Flinn led their program committee of Mary Hoeltzel, Jorja Marsden, and Anna Smith. They provided every detail that a ghost could want. They also recruited and trained the greeters and parkers for each site.

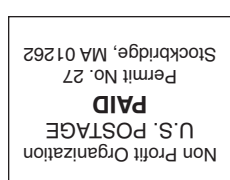
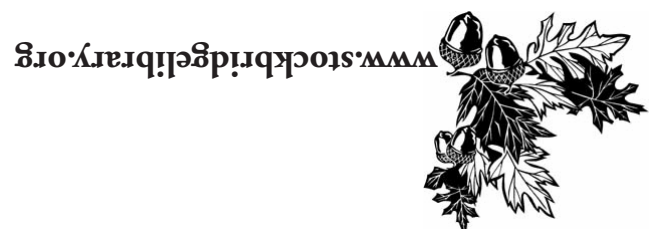
Tom Daly trained the Shades in their ghostly behavior; Caroline Young made sure that they were dressed appropriately. Alice Wilmot and friends provided the lovely tea at the library. In preparation for the program, several local historians held sessions to share historical information. They were Richard Jackson, Bernie Drew, Carl Sprague, Susan Merrill, Josh Hall and Lion Miles.

The owners who opened their porches to us made it a very special day: Hillary Beadell, Jim and Cathy Daily, Don and Judy Goudy, Jack Fitzpatrick, Liz and Jim Murray, and Arthur and Ginger Schwartz. These hosts and the underwriters of the program enabled us to try a different way to share the neighborhoods of Stockbridge. Thanks to all.

OTHER NEWS ON LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES FUNDING

During the next year, several items in the Library's Historical Collection will be temporarily leaving the Museum & Archives for conservation work. An attempt will be made to restore an early daguerreotype of Agrippa Hull taken by Anson Clark. A collection of deeds related to western expansion by early Stockbridge residents will be removed from their current housing, cleaned, and reorganized. Finally, an 1855 wall map of Stockbridge will be copied and the original will be stored for safer access.

All of these projects will be funded by the Stockbridge Community Preservation Fund, which was approved at the town meeting in May. Thanks to All. – Barbara Allen



THE STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01262
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED