



Library Update

Brewster Ladies' Library Association

December 2006 - February 2007

Brewster Ladies' Library Volunteer Appreciation Party

The annual party in honor of the Library volunteers was given on Thursday afternoon, November 2nd. This year's event was a delicious sit-down tea organized by Daryl Bladen, Volunteer Coordinator and Joan Carstanjen. Entertainment was provided by harpist Sorel Colina from the Sturgis Charter School who added to the elegance of the afternoon.



Daryl and volunteers

Each year the Board and the Staff take this opportunity to formally thank the volunteers for their many, many contributions to the Library. Chris Kenney, Board President and Suzanne Teuteberg, Library Director expressed their gratitude for the ongoing work of the Library volunteers and for the extra efforts that were involved in staffing three recent Library fundraising events; the Painting Raffle, the Book Sale and the Yard Sale.

During the past year, 176 people donated more than 7,400 hours of work to the Library or the equivalent in hours of more than four full-time staff.

This year's "awards" were presented to all of the volunteers in the form of three new book carts with each cart bearing a plaque saying "In Appreciation of the Outstanding Service of Our Dedicated Volunteers, Brewster Ladies' Library 2006."

Also, each volunteer who attended was recognized by name and given a long-stemmed rose as a token of appreciation. It has been a very successful year at the Library and the contributions of the volunteers have contributed immensely to this success.



Harpist Sorel Colina



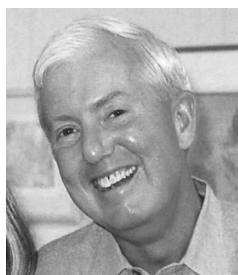
Thank you again to ALL the Library volunteers!

Library Update is published by the Brewster Ladies' Library Association

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From the BLLA Board President



Please come and join us at the Library during the holiday season, enjoy the festive decorations and consider making a bid on one of the lovely table top trees that are being offered for sale. A number of generous volunteers have handcrafted them

and any of the trees would make a wonderful addition to your holiday décor.

In 2006, we successfully completed the Library's updated Five Year Plan. Officially approved and sanctioned by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, it's a key requirement for grant eligibility and state certification. The contributions of the Brewster community at large (we held a town wide input session with more than 75 enthusiastic participants) and the ongoing efforts of a smaller group of dedicated volunteers on the working committee were critical in making this happen.

Early in the new year, we will be kicking off another vital planning activity. It will focus on how the Library can improve its services to patrons with disabilities. While the State provides an excellent range of planning tools and the Library's staff possesses significant professional expertise, only the volunteer efforts of the larger Library community will make this effort a success. Census data estimates that more than 20% of all Americans have some type of disability (sensory, mobility or cognitive). If you would like to participate in this project (whether working on the committee or simply providing input) please let us know.

Finally, by way of a modest memory jog, if you haven't already renewed your Library membership for 2006/07, please be sure to respond to our "reminder" mailing.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Chris Kenney, President BLLA

From the BLL Library Director

One of the goals included in the Library's successfully completed Five Year Plan (see Chris Kenney's column) is "To improve access to information about Brewster's history". Several important steps have already been taken which will directly contribute to the Library's ability to reach this goal.



First, the Library has applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of \$5,000 to hire professional archivists to catalog and to make preservation recommendations relevant to the Library's archival collections. Second, the Brewster Bicentennial Committee gave \$7,000 of its remaining funds to the Library at the Annual Library Association meeting last July to assist with the efforts to preserve and to provide access to Brewster historical resources. Third, a town-wide committee was officially established this September - the Brewster Archives Committee whose mission is to "collaboratively and cooperatively identify, preserve, catalog and provide public access to Brewster historical and archival records". This committee is currently composed of: two representatives from the Library, two from the Brewster Historical Society, the Town Clerk, the Town Archivist, the First Parish Archivist, and, a Brewster researcher/historian. The Brewster Archives Committee was appropriated \$32,100 of Community Preservation Act funds at the recent Town meeting to fund the cataloging and preservation of all the Town Hall archival records by professional archivists.

These initial efforts will provide a detailed inventory of appropriately preserved Brewster historical/archival records. Ultimately, it is hoped that specific Brewster historical records and collections will be digitized and made available through the Internet providing vastly improved "access to information about Brewster's history".

Suzanne Teuteberg, Library Director

From the Reference Desk

By Kathleen Remillard

Need to find – facts, words, concepts, people, places, sayings, or even images? You will find these things and even more in **Xreferplus** - a digital reference library that the Library recently subscribed to that provides full text information from one hundred high-quality reference sources, including: *Miller's Antiques Encyclopedia*, *The Ultimate Business Library*, *The Bridgeman Art Library Archive*, *A Dictionary Of Contemporary History*, and *Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary* to name just five of the reference sources.

Xreferplus is the place to start your research or reference queries as it contains over 1 million entries from the world's leading publishers including dictionaries, encyclopedias, thesauri, and books of quotations covering a range of topics. **Xreferplus** searches across topics, titles and publishers in the 100 reference sources to provide detailed answers to your questions.

You can access **Xreferplus** from the Library's web page at www.brewsterladieslibrary.org and click on the link under "New from the Reference Desk". To begin your search on **Xreferplus** simply use the barcode number on the back of your Library card to login. **Xreferplus** contains a list of topics at the top of its homepage. You can either check the relevant topic and you will be taken to that particular topic page or you may also start your search by entering a keyword in the search box.

We hope you find this new digital reference valuable and useful to you! Please see the staff at the Reference Desk for a demonstration of **Xreferplus**.



Author Speaks

Historical Fiction Author

Dawn Clifton Tripp to Speak at the Library

On Tuesday evening, January 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Dawn Clifton Tripp will speak at the Library. Ms. Tripp is author of the critically acclaimed *Moon Tide* (2003) and *The Season of Open Water* (2005), the first two books in a trilogy of novels set on Westport Point, Massachusetts and published by Random House.

Moon Tide follows the lives of three women in this small fishing village on the coast from 1913 to the Great New England Hurricane of 1938. *The Season of Open Water* is set against the backdrop of 1920's prohibition, rum running and the stock market crash of 1929 and introduces the young woman character named Bridge. Bridge works for her grandfather in his boat-building shop and is described by the author as "a willful young woman" who "begins to awaken ... to a more complete understanding of the elements of her world."

When asked about her research for *The Season of Open Water*, which details prohibition in New England in the 1920's, Ms. Tripp comments that she spoke "...with old-timers, locals, who remembered that era and could recall specific incidents which took place in Westport. One man estimated that roughly half the town was in some way involved."

Ms. Tripp received a B.A. in literature from Harvard University.

Donating to the Library

The Charitable IRA

A New tax benefit for 2006 and 2007 for those over 70 1/2

Consider making a tax-free charitable gift from your IRA to the Library

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 may offer you new opportunities for tax-free charitable giving. Of special note, the new law includes incentives for those age 70 1/2 and older who would like to make charitable gifts from potentially taxable Individual Retirement Account (IRA) funds. Making gifts from IRA funds that would be subject to tax if withdrawn voluntarily or under mandatory withdrawal requirements may be wise for many, this year and next.

For 2006 and 2007, Congress is allowing individuals with traditional or Roth IRA's to make tax-free gifts directly to qualified charities. Donors may choose to make charitable distributions in any amount up to \$100,000 per year, if so desired.

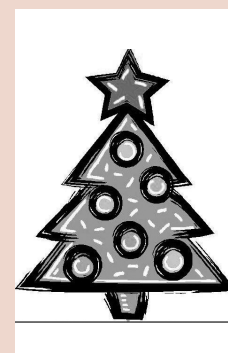
Individuals who are required to take unneeded IRA withdrawals, and others who have experienced limitations on tax benefits in the past, will find the new law of particular interest. Remember also that IRA funds may be subject to estate tax if left to loved ones other than a spouse.

To enjoy the full benefit of this two-year opportunity, you must complete each year's transfer prior to December 31 of that year. Check with your advisors about the best ways to take advantage of these new giving opportunities and help support the Brewster Ladies' Library.

Information provided by the Brewster Ladies Library Endowment Fund

The Giving Tree

Once again this Holiday season, the very special "Giving Tree" is featured as you enter the Library. The tree is decorated with ornaments that give the first name and age of a child who is in foster care under the protection of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. Sizes and special wishes are also noted on the ornament. This year, many of the names are names of teens that are in foster care. Please come by the Library to take an ornament from the tree and return a wrapped gift with the ornament attached as a gift tag. The gifts will be delivered to the children for the holidays. For the past two years the generosity of the Library patrons has been overwhelming. We hope for another successful season of giving. Thank you!



*Correction: We are sorry - the following names were inadvertently omitted from the list of donors that was published in our Annual Report.
Gifts over \$100: Jack Clarke; Barbara Goddard.*

Youth Services News

Programs and Events

Story Hour for preschoolers ages 2-5 every **Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.** Stories, songs, crafts, and snacks. (No Story Hour Dec 27)

Toddler Time for ages birth -3 every **Friday at 10.00 a.m.** Stories, free play, and snacks.

Tuesday, December 5th 3:00 p.m.

Gingerbread Craft and Story Time Ages 5 and up. Listen to the *Tale of the Gingerbread Baby* by Jan Brett, make a stuffed gingerbread doll, cocoa and gingerbread cookies will be served. Pre-registration requested.

Saturday, December 9th 10:00 a.m.

Santa will visit the library and will read some favorite holiday stories. Followed by a sing-a-long with Cathy Weidhaas. Crafts and refreshments. Bring a camera for photo opportunities.

Saturday, January 27th 10:00 a.m.

Ahoy Matey!!! Pirate Story Time with crafts and snacks.

Tuesday, February 20th 10:30 a.m. (School Vacation Week)

Frosty's Birthday party and Magic Show with Greg McAdams

Saturday, March 6th 9:00 a.m.

Dr. Seuss reads *Green Eggs and Ham* plus a pancake breakfast. Pre-registration requested.

New Library Staff Member

Kathleen Mahoney joined the Brewster Ladies' Library staff on November 29th as a part time Library Assistant in the Youth Services area.



Kathleen recently moved to the Cape Cod area and is a May 2006 graduate of the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Services.

Kathleen has contributed children's and young adult book reviews to the Hip Librarian's Book Blog (<http://hiplibrariansbookblog-city.com/>), she has conducted a study interviewing teens on the impact of Teen and Youth Councils on public library programming, she worked as an intern at the Urban Libraries Council and is a member of the online reference staff at the Internet Public Library (<http://www.ipl.org>).

This will be Kathleen's first public library position as she replaces Sarah Doyle who accepted a new position at Chatham's Eldredge Public Library in October.

Welcome Kathleen and best of luck to Sarah!



Library Painting Completed

On October 17th, painters from Hallett and Sons completed repainting the exterior of the Library building. In keeping with its history the original colors have been preserved. This project represents a first step towards preparing the Library to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the "new addition" next September.



Dates to Remember

December 8	7:00 pm	Holiday Open House @ the Library featuring: Nauset Regional High School Jazz Band, Holiday Tree silent auction winners; Refreshments
December 12	1:00 pm	Book Discussion Group <i>A Long Way Down</i> by Nick Hornby
January 9	1:00 pm	Book Discussion Group <i>Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress</i> by Dai Sijie
January 14	2:00 pm	Second Sunday Concert: Brett Saylor will perform original piano compositions
January 20	10:30 am	Mid-Morning Musicales: Gordon Brooks and Susan Godoy
January 23	7:00 pm	Dawn Clifton Tripp , critically acclaimed author, will discuss her books <i>Moon Tide</i> and <i>The Season of Open Water</i>
February 12	2:00 pm	Almost Valentine's Day Concert Christa Dulude, swing/pop/jazz singer will perform popular romantic music
February 13	1:00 pm	Book Discussion Group <i>A Bit on the Side</i> by William Trevor

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