



# Library Update

*Brewster Ladies' Library Association*

*January - February - March 2008*

## An Update on Library Services for Patrons with Special Needs

Providing additional library services and facility enhancements for patrons with special needs has been a matter of concern for the Library administration and the Board of Directors for several years. To date, the efforts have included:

- In 2005, the Library received private funding for an assistive listening system for the Library Auditorium to enhance the sound quality for patrons with auditory loss.

- In 2006, a representative from the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided training to the library staff on how to best interact and provide Library services to patrons with hearing disabilities.

- In January 2007, an Advisory Committee composed of board and staff members was formed to focus on library services for patrons with special needs. The Committee conducted an audit of the Library facility and worked towards creating a plan that would incorporate community input.

- The Advisory Committee invited twenty key stakeholders to participate in a day-long meeting in April 2007 to determine Library service priorities for patrons with special needs. Attendees included representatives from: the Brewster Access Committee, the Lion's Club, the Sight Loss group, local public, private, and special education teachers and administrators, several patrons with special needs, other Cape Cod library staff, and members of organizations who support people with special needs (*CapeAbilities*).

- At the November 2007 Special Town Meeting, Brewster voted to appropriate \$30,000 for the installation of five "push to enter/exit" electric door openers at the Library. These devices will greatly improve access to the Library for patrons with mobility and/or orthopedic impairments. Installation should occur in late winter or early spring.

- A *Letter of Intent* to apply for federal funding through the Library Services and Technology Act and administered by the MA Board of Library Commissioners was submitted by the Library Director in December 2007. The grant application is due in March 2008 and will propose ways to better meet the needs of the visually impaired patrons.

Libraries have a responsibility to provide services for all people. The Brewster Ladies' Library has begun to address the needs of our users with special needs and we hope to continue to do even more in the near future.



## From BLL Director

Suzanne Teuteberg

Coming Soon!



Have you ever borrowed museum passes from the Library? Currently you can visit twelve museums at reduced rates as a result of the Library's Museum Pass Program (see <http://www.brewsterladieslibrary.org/resources/pass.php> for a complete listing).

The Library Association subsidizes this wonderful program on an annual basis.

And soon, within the next month or so, you will be able to go to the Library's Web site to schedule your use of these passes yourself. You can also request a confirmation or email reminder about your scheduling. Many other libraries have adopted this program with excellent results. We hope you too will take full advantage of this expanded service!

Also, a similar program for booking Library meeting rooms and the auditorium will be available on the Web site and you will be able to: check the availability of all spaces, request rooms for particular dates and times, and ask for event reminders.

Happy 2008!

Suzanne Teuteberg

## From BLLA Board President

Chris Kenney



The Association recently commissioned a study, conducted by Blaine & Co., to assess our community's perceptions of the Library and to test the possibility of conducting a major capital campaign to refurbish and improve the Library. While I'm happy to report that the Library received overwhelming positive feedback, support for a major private fundraising effort was limited.

With this in mind, and consistent with our Long Range Plan, we'll concentrate on the following efforts in 2008:

- Continue to improve library services to patrons with special needs
  - Electronic door access (thank you to the Town and voters of Brewster for their support at November's special town meeting)
  - Upgrade Braille signage
  - Seek (through a state grant) to fund cooperative programs for the visually impaired
- Continue to address building infrastructure issues
  - Water seepage
  - Excessive humidity (especially in historic area)
  - HVAC problems
- Explore expanding evening and weekend hours

Thank you so much for your continuing support of the Library and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Chris Kenney

### Foreign Film Series - Upcoming Titles

February 1st: *Adam's Apples* – Ivan is an unusually optimistic preacher who takes in convicts to help around the remote, rural church he ministers to. His newest helper, Adam, is put in charge of the only apple orchard in the vicinity. Winner at the Warsaw Film Festival – Directed by Anders Thomas Jensen. (Danish with English subtitles)

March 7th: *Her Name is Sabine* – An intelligent, moving and beautiful portrait of Sabine, a 38-year-old autistic woman, filmed by her sister, the famous French actress Sandrine Bonnaire. Winner of the Fipresci Award, Cannes Film Festival – Directed by Sandrine Bonnaire. (French with English subtitles)

## Eddy Foundation Funds Library Self Check-Out System

The Mary Louise and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation has generously funded the purchase of computer hardware and software needed to integrate a Self Check-Out System into the Library's circulation area. The CLAMS (Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing) consortium, with the Brewster Ladies' Library as an active member, has offered this self-service circulation checkout option for several years as part of the Innovative Millennium integrated library technology system.

Patrons choosing to use this system will simply scan the barcode number from their library card [CLAMS card] and scan the barcode for the item(s) they would like to borrow, completing the circulation transaction. This easy-to-use self-checkout system incorporates simple red-light and green-light icons so that even children who cannot yet read are able to use it.

The Brooks Library in Harwich has been utilizing self check-out systems for about one year and it now accounts for nearly 1/3 of all items borrowed by their patrons.

It is hoped that installation of this Self Check-Out System will occur in January or February. Stop by and give it a try!

### In Memory of

**Kristi Aresvik Putnam Hay** died at her home in Maine on October 9th. Mrs. Hay was a resident of Brewster for sixty years. She volunteered at the Brewster Ladies' Library during the 1950's and 60's and served on the Library's Board of Directors. She also served as school librarian in the 1970's and 1980's for the two elementary schools in Brewster and was instrumental in designing the school library at the Brewster Elementary School, now called the Stony Brook School. She was a strong and enthusiastic advocate for children's reading. For the past two years, the Hay family has sponsored a family-oriented summer event and purchased many children's books through donations to the Library's Kristi Aresvik Putnam Hay Fund.

**Jeff McLaughlin**, Library volunteer who spent countless hours working with Jim and Linda Mills, Book Sale co-chairs, staging this year's record setting event passed away suddenly December 5th.

### Monthly Exhibits in the Glass Display Case

By Chris Lord

We hope you saw the unique display of twenty-six varieties of Brewster-grown holly. Local resident Bill Cannon created this display from a small sample of the over three hundred varieties of holly he has on his property here in Brewster.



Bill and his wife Nancy, a volunteer in Reference, live in a house built by Bill's grandfather in 1948 and then passed along to his father. Bill's father began growing holly on the property some 30-35 years ago. Bill, who was a floriculture major at U Mass, inherited the property 20 years ago and since then he has greatly expanded the Brewster holly farm. Bill devotes much of his time to his holly farm and sells wreaths and greens to local florists. Bill states this is the largest collection of holly in New England and he is continually adding even more varieties.

Bill also teaches a course in basic gardening at the Nauset Community Education program, <http://www.nausetcommunityed.org>.

If you have an interesting hobby or unique collection that you would like to display for Library patrons, please contact Chris Lord at [clord@brewsterladieslibrary.org](mailto:clord@brewsterladieslibrary.org).

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### Dates to Remember

|             |             |  |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| January     | On-going    | <b>January Art Show-</b> Eastwind Gallery mixed media Artists  |
| January 4   | 1:00 p.m.   | <b>First Friday Foreign Film Festival</b> <i>Dreams of the Dust</i>  |
| January 5   | 2:00 p.m.   | <b>Beyond Our Borders-</b> Maasai Education Discovery  |
| January 8   | 1:00 p.m.   | <b>Book Discussion-</b> <i>The Glass Castle</i> by Jeanette Walls  |
| January 13  | 2:00 p.m.   | <b>Sunday Concert-</b> <b>Anne &amp; Caleb Paus</b> on violin & harp   |
| January 19  | 10:30 a.m.  | <b>Mid-Morning Musicale</b> with Gordon Brooks   |
| January 26  | 10:00 a.m.  | <b>Children's Program-</b> Gung Hay Fat Choy!<br><i>Stories for the Chinese New Year</i>                             |
| January 30  | 2:00 p.m.   | <b>Cape Cod Stranding Network-</b> Rescuing marine mammals   |
| February    | On-going    | <b>February Art Show-</b> Leslie Kramer, printmaker  |
| February 1  | 1:00 p.m.   | <b>First Friday Foreign Film Festival</b> <i>Adam's Apples</i>   |
| February 12 | 1:00 p.m.   | <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i> by Kiran Desai   |
| February 12 | 4:00 p.m.   | <b>Valentine Craft</b> Create Cards & Decorations  |
| February 14 | 1:00 p.m.   | <b>Wedding Stories</b> Tales from A Justice of the Peace   |
| February 16 | 1:00 p.m.   | <b>Family Literacy Event</b> featuring the Elbows<br>At Cape Cod Community College                                   |
| February 17 | 2:00 p.m.   | <b>Sunday Concert-</b> <b>Linda Delorey, Brian Bitter &amp; Chris Morris</b><br><i>Contemporary Music and Vocals</i> |
| February 19 | 10:30 a.m.  | <b>Children's Program</b> <i>The Secret World of Bubbles</i>   |
| February 23 | 2:00 p.m.   | <b>Printmaking Workshop &amp; Demonstration</b> with Leslie Kramer<br><i>Program designed for All Ages</i>           |
| February 23 | 3-5:00 p.m. | <b>Art Show Reception</b> Leslie Kramer  |
| March       | On-going    | <b>March Art Show – Weaving Network</b><br><i>A display and sale of hand-woven works by local artists</i>            |
| March 1     | 9:00 am     | <b>Children's Program</b> <b>Dr. Seuss Breakfast</b> Sign up early!  |
| March 7     | 1:00 p.m.   | <b>First Friday Foreign Film Festival</b> <i>Her Name is Sabine</i>  |
| March 8     | 1-3:00 pm   | <b>Art Show Reception</b> for the Weaving Network  |
| March 9     | 2:00 pm     | <b>Sunday Concert – Crabgrass</b> plays Bluegrass music  |
| March 11    | 1:00 pm     | <b>Book Discussion</b> <i>The Woman Who Waited</i> by Andrei Makine  |

## Volunteer Appreciation Party

On November 8th the Library's Board and Staff members hosted a "high tea" for all Library volunteers. With pots of tea on each table, plates of sandwiches and sweets, and Nauset high school student Charlie Gregson playing piano, it was an elegant and enjoyable afternoon.



Suzanne Teuteberg, Library Director, announced Book Awards for sixteen volunteers who had each worked more than one hundred hours during the preceding fiscal year. For each one, an appreciation bookplate has been placed in a new book purchased for the Library.

The volunteers so honored were: Fran Bishop, Terry Johann, Barbara Burger, Aline Johnson, Jack Clarke, Cindy Kadzik, Gerry Crowell, Dick Lockyer, Val Darlington, Jan MacFarlane, Kay Dorn, Jim Mills, Alice Fawcett, Pat Pratson, Nan Filippi, and Jeanne Sutherland.

Daryl Bladen, Volunteer Coordinator introduced all other volunteers attending the party and everyone was presented with a gift of a specially designed notepad by Karen North Wells.

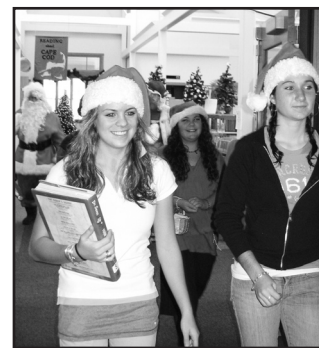
Chris Kenney, Board President introduced the Board Members and presented a special award to Jeanne Dube for her many contributions as both as a volunteer and as a Board Member.

We are indebted to each and every volunteer for their countless contributions to the Library and send a "Thank You!" to those unable to attend the party!

## Improving Library Services for Teens

Funded by a significant federal grant, the Library has launched the first phase of a two year effort to improve services to "Tweens and Teens", focusing initially on community outreach. The response has been wonderful as local school administrators, teachers, and school librarians have invited us to make presentations, hold library card campaigns, and meet with student groups.

The Library has held two successful Teen Advisory Board meetings and surveyed numerous teens for insight and advice. Movies, book discussions, and gaming nights top the wish list for possible upcoming events. College is on the minds of many who requested educational materials and speakers to assist with applications and decision-making, while opportunities to develop technology skills are also a top priority. A perceived need to add more current fiction titles and additional DVD titles will result in teens participating in selecting new materials.



Beginning in January, students from the Lighthouse Charter School in Orleans will begin a two month seminar entitled "Library 2.0", which will provide an overview of traditional and emerging library tools.

Check the Library's Web site Calendar of Special Events showcasing the efforts of this group during the week of March 2-8 as the Library celebrates Teen Tech Week.

Thursday March 13 at 4.30pm, award-winning author, Peter Abrahams will lead a discussion of his book, *Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery*. The book, written for young adults in grades 6 -10, is the first in a series of mysteries featuring a 13 year old sleuth, and has received glowing reviews in both School Library Journal and Booklist. Copies of the book are available at the library and through CLAMS.

If you are a teen ages 12 to 18 who is interested in participating on the Teen Advisory Board or teen programming at the Library, or to sign up for the book discussion, please contact Kathleen Mahoney at [teens@brewsterladieslibrary.org](mailto:teens@brewsterladieslibrary.org) or call (508) 896-3913 x-25.

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## **What's New at the Reference Desk?**

By Kathleen Remillard

“Where do I go from here?” “What do I do now?” Have you ever asked yourself these questions when you have run into a stumbling block while researching your ancestry? Usually the key is finding the right records. Almost every American, in one generation or another, has had one or more of its family members serve in America’s armed forces. Military records can often contain valuable details from regimental histories to personal information. The most useful to genealogists are compiled service records and veteran’s benefits. Compiled service records consist of an envelope containing card abstracts taken from muster rolls, pay vouchers, and other records. They provide you with your ancestor’s rank, unit, date mustered in and mustered out, basic biographical information, medical information, and military information. Veteran’s information includes disability compensation, pension payments, education and training, headstones, issuance of medals, grave markers and much more.

To help genealogists navigate the abundance of military records at the National Archives and its adjuncts the Brewster Ladies’ Library recently purchased *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present* by James C. Neagle. Neagle’s book describes the various kinds of records that are available and where they can be found. From chapters on the Types of Records to individual State Records, this resource provides information on how to research important, but often underused records. *U.S. Military Records* is a valuable addition to the Library’s genealogy collection that will provide essential information for researchers and anyone interested in military history.