



# Library Update

Brewster Ladies' Library Association

January-February-March 2009

## Schools, Libraries and Censorship: Library Partners with Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School

In January 2009, the Brewster Ladies' Library is collaborating as a resource partner for a Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School (CCLCS) Seminar: Exploring Banned and Challenged Books. Each term students at CCLCS choose an elective course - or seminar - which then meets twice a week for ninety-minute sessions allowing students to delve deeper into topics of special interest. When eighth grade Language Arts teacher, Amy Woods, suggested creating a seminar to address issues of censorship and the importance of celebrating the right to read freely, Young Adult Librarian Kathleen Mahoney agreed to collaborate.

The seminar will explore the history of banned and challenged books around the world including in American classrooms. Students will trace the events leading up to the destruction of the Library of Alexandria, learn why the Spanish Conquistadors destroyed the Mayan codices, and discuss the Nazi book burnings. Although book burnings are no longer an accepted part of our culture, censorship is still an issue in the United States. In 2007, the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom received 420 reports of attempts to ban materials from school curriculum and library bookshelves. The office also asserts that the majority of challenges go unreported.

The class will investigate the issue of censorship from multiple perspectives and ask why groups and individuals ban books. They

will examine their own thoughts on the freedom to read, and what limits, if any, should be set and by whom. During the seminar, students will have the chance to read challenged books intended for a middle-grade audience and engage in discussion and debate.

"As a teacher, I am acutely aware that even today books are being challenged and banned in libraries and school districts across America." says Woods. "The questions we must ask ourselves, however, are: What are the effects of censorship on students? Does it really matter if a book is banned? I want to encourage my students to debate these issues and form their own opinions. I would also like to open the debate to our community to hear personal stories and opinions on censorship."

The American Library Association reports over 3,000 attempts to remove books from schools and public libraries between 2000 and 2005, including:

*Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling

*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

*Captain Underpants* series by Dav Pilkey

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

*Forever* by Judy Blume

## From BLL Director

Suzanne Teuteberg

I was fortunate to be invited to attend a recent two day program entitled “New England Lifelong Access Libraries Institute” offered by the Libraries for the Future organization.



The Institute discussed the role public libraries might play relevant to the upcoming explosion in the number of adults 50 and older, who in contrast to earlier generations, are healthier, more active and more committed to ongoing community engagement. Research on adults in their retirement years indicates that their lifestyle is enhanced when there are multiple social and civic connections, ongoing learning, and opportunities for making meaningful contributions to the larger society.

The Lifelong Access Libraries Institute is designed to educate and prepare librarians and public libraries for this transformation by immersing the participants in presentations about: aging, learning, work and work after work, health and community engagement. Also, other librarians who have already begun actively engaging the 50+ adults, provided us with practical “Stories from the Field” by sharing their approaches to adult services reflecting this coming “age wave”.

For more background information about this initiative, please consider reading the following article: “PatronSpeak: What Boomers Want” which appeared in *Library Journal* (15 July 2007) available at: <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6457208.html?q=baby+boomers>

This coming spring, the Brewster Ladies’ Library intends to begin to define our vision for a service framework for the 50+ or baby boomer generation.

## From BLLA Board President

Chris Kenney

During the past year, we’ve continued to enhance our collections and our programs.



Please stop by our upgraded Teen Room to inspect the many exciting improvements. Partially supported by a \$20,000 grant from the federally funded Library Services and Technology Act, these physical improvements are described elsewhere in this Newsletter but do not include the many programmatic and service improvements developed under the grant by Teens and Tweens Librarian, Kathleen Mahoney.

A new grant of \$10,750 from the Eddy Foundation will be devoted to improvements in the Children’s Room during the upcoming year. We are grateful for this support and I am particularly pleased with the library director’s and staff’s fund-raising efforts.

While the current economic situation is of concern to us all, if you haven’t already renewed your Library membership for 2008/09, and are able to do so, your support would be deeply appreciated. Your continuing support is instrumental in the ongoing development of innovative services aimed at all facets of the community.

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

*Chris Kenney, BLLA President*

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## Recent Volunteer Activities

On November 6th, seventy people attended the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party with piano music played by Nauset High School student Karl Thompson, delicious food and punch served by Board and Staff members, and an array of gifts. Two new book carts were presented to the Library in honor of the outstanding service of all 2008 Volunteers. The past year saw over 200 individuals volunteer for the library serving more than 6,800 hours!

At the end of November, a crew of Board members and Volunteers decorated the Library for the holidays and strung the outdoor lights. And on December 11th, eighteen volunteers wrapped gifts for the Department of Social Services holiday party held in the Library for foster children throughout the Cape and Islands.

Happy New Year greetings and thanks to all our Volunteers for all you do! The Library could not provide its current level of service without your support.



*Daryl Bladen was also thanked by the Board*



*Brewster Garden Club's decorated holiday tree*

## The Brewster Ladies' Library Endowment Fund

The Library's Endowment was created by Neil Bantly and his founding committee shortly after completion of the new building in 1997. The Fund receives gifts to the Library and invests them to grow principal and generate earnings which are used to supplement the Town of Brewster's annual contribution and the income raised by the Library Association. The Endowment Fund's earnings provide greater financial stability and can be used for purposes not supported by the Library's other sources of income.

Gifts to the Library are credited to the Endowment when so designated by the donor, and where there was no apparent conflict with the intent of the donor, other funds donated to the Library are sometimes added to the Fund for investment by the investing firm.

Current members of the Endowment Board of Trustees are: Pat Eggers, President; Tom Hughes, Treasurer; Bob Bassett, Secretary; Paul Dubé; Sharon Marotti; and Anne O'Connell, Treasurer of the Association and ex officio member of the Endowment Board of Trustees. The Board meets with the investing firm 4 times each year to review and manage the Endowment portfolio.

Board members may serve for two, three year terms. This spring the Endowment nominating committee will be searching for three replacements for the Board. Interested volunteers are encouraged to send their résumé and other appropriate material to Pat Eggers, President, Endowment Board of Trustees, Brewster Ladies' Library, 1822 Main Street, Brewster, MA 02631.

## Dates to Remember

January 3rd -30th		<b>January Art Show</b> Cape Cod Viewfinders Photography Club
January 2	1:00 p.m.	<b>Friday Foreign Film</b> <i>The Trap</i> - Serbian with sub-titles
January 10	10:00 a.m.	<b>Story Hour</b> Ahoy Matey! Pirate Stories & Craft
January 10	1-4:00 p.m.	<b>Artist Reception</b> meet this month's featured artists
January 11	2:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday Concert</b> John Dirac Guitar and Vocals
January 14	1:00 p.m.	<b>Book Discussion</b> <i>People of the Book</i> by Geraldine Brooks
January 17	10:30 a.m.	<b>Mid-Morning Musicale</b> with Gordon Brooks and Susan Godoy
January 18	1:00 p.m.	<b>Silent Movie Event</b> featuring master pianist Richard Hughes
January 27	6:30 p.m.	<b>Author Speak</b> - Shirley Vogel discusses her book <i>wHispers</i>
February Art Show		Cape Cod Art Association Camera Club
February 6	1:00 p.m.	<b>Friday Foreign Film</b> <i>Under the Bombs</i> - Arabic with subtitles
February 8	2:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday Concert</b> Paul Nossiter performs Mardi Gras Jazz
February 10	1:00 p.m.	<b>Book Discussion</b> <i>The Zookeeper's Wife</i> by Diane Ackerman
February 12	4:00 p.m.	<b>Valentine Craft</b> Make a Valentine! Ages 4 and up
February 14	1:00 p.m.	<b>Children's Program</b> "A Beautiful Future" multicultural music
February 17	10:30 a.m.	<b>Story Hour</b> Multicultural stories & craft
February 18	10:00 a.m.	<b>Story Hour</b> Mardi Gras stories & craft
February 28	1:00 p.m.	<b>Teen Program</b> iMovie Workshop, Part 1 (registration requested)
March 3rd-28th		<b>Art Show</b> Abstract Artists Group Show
March 6	1:00 p.m.	<b>Friday Foreign Film</b> <i>We are Together</i> - Zulu with subtitles
March 7	9:00 a.m.	<b>Dr. Seuss Breakfast</b> Celebrate Read Across America Day!
March 7	1:00 p.m.	<b>Teen Program</b> iMovie Workshop-Part 2 (registration requested)
March 10	1:00 p.m.	<b>Book Discussion</b> <i>American Pastoral</i> by Philip Roth
March 14	3:00 p.m.	<b>Artist Reception</b> meet this month's featured artists
March 22	2:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday Concert</b> Bill Hardy & Beth Sweeney Celtic music

## Teen Room Facelift

If you've visited the library in the past several months, and have glanced into the Teen Room, you've probably noticed several changes. Perhaps it was the fresh paint job, the tools all over the floor, or maybe the yellow caution tape draped across the room's entryway?! The room will soon include a custom-made computer shelf that relocates the workstations to an interior wall and makes them handicapped accessible. We've also added two Macintosh computers, revamped the network connections, and added a new color and black and white printer for the four computer work-stations.

Improved magazine and DVD collections for teens are now housed in dedicated shelving displays and the fiction and non-fiction book collections are now found on either side of a handsome new serpentine bookcase. The metal bookshelves which lined the walls will be moved to another area of the library, allowing us to inject some color into the room with posters and a do-it-yourself bulletin board system.

The renovation was conceived and designed by local teens who participated in choosing the color scheme, selecting the furnishings, and even performing some of the physical renovation! They have created a new look and feel that one experiences walking in the door. Whether teens come in to do homework at the new study tables, relax with an iPod in one of the boomchairs, or check out many of the new books, this space now provides a welcoming environment for Brewster's teens.

We'll be hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony and kick-off party in the new year and hope to see you all there!



Sarah Kumiega working on facelift

## Children's Events

### January

Saturday Story Time – January 17 – 10 a.m.  
Ahoy Matey!!! Stories about pirates, a craft and snack. Come dressed as a pirate character. Ages 3 and up.

### February

February 12 – After school valentine craft program. 4p.m. Make a valentine decoration and card for a special someone. Ages 4 and up.

“Multicultural Literature Read-a-thon” for Brewster students from February 9 -March 7.

The following multicultural activities will be offered here during winter break February 15- 21:

- Saturday, February 14 – 1 p.m. “A Beautiful Future” Multicultural Music and Dreams. An interactive music show for children. All ages

- Tuesday, February 17 – 10:30 a.m. Multicultural stories and craft with Anne Moore, Brewster School Librarian and Claire Gradone, Brewster Ladies' Library Youth Services Librarian. Ages 4 and up
- Wednesday, February 18 – 10:30 a.m. – Celebrate Mardi Gras with Creole stories and a Mardi Gras mask craft. Ages 4 and up.

### March

Celebrate Read Across America Day March 7 - 10 a.m.

The Dr. Seuss, Green eggs and pancake breakfast. Dr. Seuss will read *The Cat in the Hat* plus a visit from the Cat in the Hat himself. Please sign up at [www.brewsterladieslibrary.org](http://www.brewsterladieslibrary.org) or in the Children's room.

**Brewster Ladies' Library Association**  
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## **Bulletin Board**

### **Foreign Films - All at 1 pm.**

February 6, 2009 **Under The Bombs**

During a cease-fire in the Lebanon-Israel conflict of 2006, Tony, a Christian taxi driver, brings Zeina, a Shiite woman from Beirut to scour the rubble of local towns for Zeina's son. Despite their different backgrounds they have much in common. 98 minutes; Arabic with subtitles. Not rated. Official selection of the Sundance Film Festival.

March 6, 2009 **We Are Together**

A look at the Agape Orphanage, housing about 30 AIDS orphans, a place appropriately named after the Greek word meaning unconditional love, run by the aging "Grandma" Zodwa Mqadi, in the Natal. 86 minutes; Zulu with subtitles; Rated PG. 2007 Tribeca Film Festival Audience Award – Best Director.

### **Silent Movie Show**

January 18, 1 pm. Silent movie master pianist Richard Hughes takes you on a trip into the past when films were black and white and there were no sound tracks. The program opens with Ragtime and Novelty piano pieces of the 1920's era followed by a series of short films with Richard playing the piano.

### **Library display case:**

**January:** Mickey Mouse Through the Years

**February:** Handmade Sailors' Valentines

**March:** Carvings of the Snow People – Inuit Art