



Library Update

Brewster Ladies' Library Association

April-May-June 2009

Libraries in the Age of Recession

A recent front page Boston Globe article highlighted the double-edged difficulties faced by public libraries in a recession. In Massachusetts if a public library budget suffers disproportionate cuts it can lead to lost state aid and an inability for its users to borrow materials from libraries in neighboring towns, exacerbating the problem. Yet, while library services and collections become increasingly important to larger segments of the population, some cities and towns find the library budget an easy target for short-term savings.

During a recession use of all library services increases dramatically. Book circulation increases as book sales decrease; library public computer usage increases as individuals terminate their internet connections to save money; DVD usage replaces commercial rentals; the children's room becomes a place for quality, free entertainment for struggling young families; teens discover that the library's resources can provide hours of entertainment; and people suddenly thrown into the job market find the library an essential center for advice on resumé preparation and other job-seeking resources.

The American public library stands as one our finest creations – open and free to all and serving all people in as many ways as there are ideas. The library educates and entertains people of all ages; provides a welcoming place for quiet reflection, for research into topics simple and complex and into areas near and far; it preserves our local heritage and provides a community meeting place

for groups of citizens. Use of the Brewster Ladies Library's collections and services has increased dramatically in the last year and we expect the increases to continue. Brewster's citizens are fortunate to have a library that continues to enhance services and whose Board is committed to working with the town to ensure continuation of services at their current levels.

"Nothing sickens me more than the closed door of a library."

Barbara Tuchman

"So the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House or the Supreme Court or the Senate or the House of Representatives or the media. The America I still love exists at the front desks of our public libraries."

Kurt Vonnegut

(In These Times, 8/6/2004)

Use statistics July-December '08 vs. July-December '07

Adult Circulation	+8.20%
Young Adult Circulation	+60.80%
Juvenile Circulation	+7.39%
Periodicals Circulation	+4.70%
Museum Passes	+4.60%

From BLL Director

Suzanne Teuteberg

Access to Digital Material



Last March as part of our evolution as an information provider in an increasingly digital world, the Brewster Ladies' Library voted to become part of the new CLAMS contract for access to digital library materials. These materials include downloadable MP3 audio book titles and music titles that may be loaded onto a personal computer and/or onto MP3 players. The CLAMS digital collection now contains 1,230 unique titles and there have been 8,188 checkouts/downloads by 1,457 patrons from 32 CLAMS libraries. Every month, Brewster patrons are in the top 5 of the 32 CLAMS libraries in both use by patrons and in the number of titles borrowed from this digital collection.

Recently audio books and music titles that can be downloaded to iPod devices have been added to this digital collection to further enhance the popularity of this service.

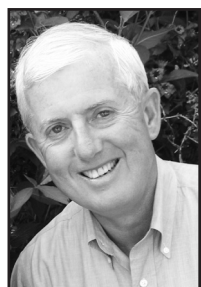
If you prefer to listen to books/music, perhaps while driving or while exercising, this digital collection would be of great interest to you. Downloadable titles are accessible from the Library's website <http://www.brewsterladieslibrary.org/>, or, by going directly to the CLAMS catalog <http://library.clamsnet.org>.

Library staff can assist you if you have any questions about this digital collection.

Enjoy!
Suzanne Teuteberg
*Director,
Brewster Ladies' Library*

From BLLA Board President

Chris Kenney



As we confront the challenges presented by the current economic downturn, I am writing to update the Association membership on the Library's current financial situation. We are finalizing our operating budget for fiscal year 2010 which begins on 7/1/09 and are committed to funding the same level of services in FY'10 that we have offered this year. At this time it appears that the Town of Brewster will be able to support the Library at its historical funding levels, but both state aid and membership contributions may decline if the current fiscal crisis continues.

The importance of the library grows during difficult economic times and all of the Association's Board members join me in thanking you for your continued efforts to sustain the library not only through your financial contributions as well as through your contributed time and talents.

Many of you are aware of the sad passing of Jeanne Dubé. There is a very moving tribute to Jeanne contained in this newsletter. However, I would be remiss if I did not personally acknowledge Jeanne as a wonderful colleague on the Board and fantastic supporter of the Library over many years. She has truly left big footsteps for us to follow.

Chris Kenney
*President,
Brewster Ladies' Library Association*

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NEW BOOKS

With Tips and Advice for Surviving Tough Economic Times



Suze Orman's 2009 Action Plan by Suze Orman. Spiegel & Grau: New York (2009)

Provides advice and tactics for managing personal finances during the economic crisis, covering such topics as credit, retirement investing, saving, spending, real estate, paying for college, and job loss. Suze Orman is author of six consecutive New York Times bestsellers.

J.K. Lasser's Guide for Tough Times : Tax and Financial Solutions to See You Through by Barbara Weltman. Wiley: Hoboken, N.J. (2009)

Offers tax-saving advice for improving one's financial situation while dealing with today's challenging economic environment, including strategies for protecting retirement savings, handling credit card debt, and dealing with job loss.

Wall Street Journal Complete Homeowner's Guidebook : Make the Most of Your Biggest Asset in Any Market by David Crook. Three Rivers Press: New York (2008)

A comprehensive guide to home ownership, even in a troubled real-estate market, covers everything readers need to know about buying, owning, and selling a home, with practical advice on how to make a profit on a home in any market, overcome potential problems if looking to trade up or cash out on a home for retirement, and more

Ground of your own choosing: winning strategies for finding & creating work by Beverly Ryle. Shank Painter Publishing: North Eastham, MA, (2008)

This book points out what we already know about traditional approaches that no longer work for many job seekers and lays out a fresh approach that does work.

In Memory of Jeanne Dubé



Thoughtful, kind, warm hearted, generous, courageous, friendly, organized and full of life. This is the way we will remember Jeanne Dubé at the Brewster Ladies' Library. Jeanne gave of herself, far more than most people. She served on the BLL Board of Trustees for almost six years and worked diligently for the Library the entire time. She served as Hospitality Chairperson - arranging refreshments for many Library events, including: Sunday concerts, Brewster is Reading campaigns, and, the Library's annual Holiday and Brewster in Bloom Open House events. She was a talented flower arranger and provided lovely arrangements for each and every season and many special displays. Pearl Mesta

had nothing on Jeanne!

The staff and board members created a unique tribute for Jeanne some months ago on the Library's website and offered public praise for this wonderful woman we had grown to know so well. Among the comments were "Jeanne's enthusiasm was infectious", "her commitment to the Library and its mission has helped make BLL a special place", "unfailingly kind and generous, Jeanne has been tireless in her support of the Library", "her creativity is amazing", and "she may be replaced on the board but her shoes will never be filled".

We shall miss you Jeanne.

A Tribute by Janet Bantley, Fellow Library Board Member

Dates to Remember

April	On going	April Art Show <i>Featuring artist Emily Daybre</i>
April 3	1:00 p.m.	First Friday Foreign Film- <i>In Love We Trust</i>
April 5	2:00 p.m.	Sunday Concert- <i>Jazzaret</i> with Celeste Howe
April 11	6:30-9:00 p.m.	Teen Gaming Night —Wii Gaming & Board Games
April 14	1:00 p.m.	Book Discussion <i>A Free Life</i> by Ha Jin
April 18	10:30 a.m.	Mid-Morning Musicale with Gordon Brooks
April 21	3:00 p.m.	Teen Movie Matinee <i>Bedtime Stories</i> starring Adam Sandler
April 22	10:30 a.m.	Children’s Program <i>Secret World of Bubbles</i>
April 23	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Teen Gaming Tournament <i>Smash Brothers Brawl</i>
May 1-15		May Art Show <i>Featuring photography by Stu Sporn</i>
May 1	1:00 p.m.	First Friday Foreign Film- <i>A Peck on the Cheek</i>
May 2	7:00 p.m.	Teen Movie Night TBD - Vote on the Teen Blog!
May 3	3:00 p.m.	Brewster in Bloom Concert - <i>Surftones</i> Barbershop vocals
May 9	10:15 a.m.	Children’s Program <i>Spring Has Sprung!</i> Science Workshop
May 13	1:00 p.m.	Book Discussion <i>Out Stealing Horses</i> by Per Petterson
May 16-31		May Art Show <i>Featuring tiles and mosaics by Mary Richmond</i>
May 22	7:00 p.m.	Author Speak: Pamela Weintraub <i>Cure Unknown: Inside the Lyme Epidemic</i>
June	On going	June Art Show <i>Mixed media by Visual Artist Cooperative</i>
June 5	1:00 p.m.	First Friday Foreign Film <i>Marion Bridge</i>
June 6	10:30 a.m.	Children’s Program- Pitter Patter Puppets
June.6	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Art Show Reception- Meet this month’s artists
June 8	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Brewster Ladies’ Library Marathon Bridge Event
June 9	1:00 p.m.	Book Discussion – TBA
June 13	10:30 a.m.	Children’s Program <i>Moovin & Groovin</i>

Brewster Ladies' Library Endowment Fund

The Endowment Trust's Experience in the Past Year

The Trust is managed by the Cape Cod Five Investment Services using a diversified investment approach designed to meet the goals established by the Brewster Ladies Library Association. The Fund is invested partly in bonds and cash equivalents and partly in equity based mutual funds. During the past year the Trust experienced some of the difficulties shared by many other portfolios but the bonds helped offset some of the drop in equities. On December 31 2007, the Fund had a balance of \$334,000; on December 31, 2008 the balance was \$256,000, a decrease of \$78,000 or about 23%. We fully anticipate the Trust will, in time, regain its original value and continue to grow.

Giving to the Endowment Trust

Donations to the Endowment Trust are fully qualified for income, gifts and estate deductions, subject to the usual limitation of the IRS code. You may want to consult your tax advisor on how to best contribute to secure a tax advantage. Gifts may be given in memory of a loved one or friend and all gifts, large and small, will remain intact while the invested proceeds will be used to enhance the services of the Library and assure its continued excellence. Many gifts are made from estates and trusts, but donations need not be large sums. Contributions to the Endowment Trust are financially productive to you and the Library.

Children's and Teen Services

Thanks to the generosity of the Mary Louise and Ruth N. Eddy Foundation some changes are coming this spring in the Children's Room. A grant received from the Eddy Foundation will provide for both new furniture and new computer workstations. There will also be some rearrangement of shelving to provide more open space for parents and children to read and for the weekly, Story Hour. New chairs have already arrived in

March. Stop by to see how all the improvements are progressing!

The Library's Teen program held a very successful iMovie workshop on February 28 and March 7. The Library partnered with Junior Tech of Cape Cod to offer the workshop and teens shot footage and created their own movies using iMovie.



Rory Broderick and her grandson Eddie at Dr. Seuss Breakfast



Joshua Brooks, Diehl Longstaff, and Tommy Higgins (L to R) at iMovie Workshop

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Bulletin Board

AMNESTY DAY

Tax day – April 15 – will also be a Library Fines Amnesty Day. On this day donate nonperishable food items for local Family Food Pantry and your overdue fines will be forgiven. We will welcome food donations from everyone!

BOOK SALE

NEW start date: July 27, 2009. Donations of books, CDs and DVDs accepted through June 20, 2009.

FOREIGN FILMS – All at 1 pm.

April 3, 2009 **In Love we Trust**

A divorced couple learns that the only way to save their little daughter Hehe, who suffers from a blood disease, is to have another child. . A story of parenthood, love, married life, betrayal, trust and giving. Mandarin with English subtitles. 115 mins.

May 1, 2009 **A Peck on the Cheek**

A little girl's search for her biological mother who abandoned her as a newborn is brought out poignantly as her search takes the family to strife-torn Sri Lanka. Tamil and Sinhaha with English subtitles. 136 mins.

June 5, 2009 **Marion Bridge**

The story of three Cape Breton sisters paralyzed by family secrets brought to re-connect with the world and one another in a story of poignant humor and drama. English 93 mins.