Brewster Ladies’ Library Association

2018-2019 Annual Report

THANK YOU BREWSTER LADIES’ LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS
There were some major changes this past year: a new Director, four new board members, friends retiring, and new staff joining the Library team.

Throughout the year we continued to focus on preparing for the proposed Library renovation project by building up membership in the Association and providing updates at our various programs. As of now, we expect to sponsor a warrant article to seek funding for the Town’s portion of the renovation project in May 2021.

The annual Nickerson Lecture Series last October featured Robert Edsel, author of *The Monuments Men*, which drew a capacity audience of more than 400 attendees. The book, and movie, unraveled the heroics of the Monuments Men who saved great artworks and cultural treasures from the devastation of WWII. He was so impressed with our Library that he and his wife joined the Brewster Ladies’ Library Association.

The Library’s One Book One Town program this past year featured *Through a Ruby Window*, a collection of 15 stories by Susan Klein.

We have improved the ease-of-use for our Website and added additional newsworthy updates to our monthly electronic newsletter.

The Membership Committee has focused on increasing membership enrollment this year and delivered several new programs to that purpose. In July 2018, we sponsored a silent auction at the Captains Golf Course, and during Brewster In Bloom weekend in May 2019, we hosted 75 members for a sit-down breakfast in appreciation of their support for the Library. We also sponsored a New Members’ Reception and Tea in May to welcome new members to the Association.

Our Director, Cindy St. Amour, celebrated her first year at BLL. Cindy has done an outstanding job of quickly integrating into the community and successfully managing several major challenges facing the Library.

I want to thank the library staff and our many, many wonderful volunteers who continue to donate their time and talent to ensure that the library can continue to provide all the programs enjoyed by so many of our patrons. They help make our Library such a unique and special place in the heart of our community.
I have completed my first year as Director. The “Perfect Storm” description has been weathered and I look forward to working on various goals and projects that have been identified for the year to come.

Our library budget for FY19 was $832,754. There were a number of large expenses in the Repair & Maintenance portion of the budget, mainly due to the necessity of repairs to the aging elevator. With the fluctuation of staffing positions we realized a savings with wages, which offset those costs using a bottom line budgetary formula. We also were very fortunate to have received a number of large memorial donations from many generous library supporters.

Thanks to BLLA funding, we were able to introduce an afternoon coding club and purchase 10 new laptops for these classes. Wireless access points were upgraded and added in various spaces for improved connectivity. The public need for Internet and power usage will only continue to increase for many years to come.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) has announced that only two building projects will advance in FY20. Brewster has now been ranked #16. During this year, we met with the MBLC building specialist, Lauren Stark, and our new Town Administrator, Peter Lombardi, to discuss the project’s future timeline and possible funding methods.

Several grants and donations were received this year. Year 2 of the Eddy Foundation Grant was for $20,000. This provided for continuation of the framing and preservation of the Stoltenberg collection. Ron Lindholm at Cape Cod Framing continues working with this collection. Molly Karlson, Vice President, Fiduciary Trust Co., visited our library and generously agreed to allow us to retain the remaining $3,800 in the Building Grant from the 2014 Eddy Foundation Grant. We will allocate these funds for our future building project. The MA State Grant in Aid awarded Brewster $12,580 in FY19. With the combination of our Town and Association budgets, we expended $111,199 for materials, bringing us in full compliance for the State-Grant-In-Aid formula.

The demand for electronic materials in a variety of formats continues to be a library trend. An e-magazine collection of 50 titles has been added into the CLAMS Overdrive collection. The Commonwealth Overdrive catalog operated by the state now incorporates all of the Overdrive collections in the network, with reciprocal borrowing agreements.

There were a number of staff turnovers this year and one retirement. All positions have been filled, and we are fortunate to have hired some very talented and energetic people. Our volunteers continue to contribute a tremendous amount of time and talent to the Library. More than 5,779 hours were donated last year with a vast array of tasks.

Here at the library we have a long history of customer service and a reputation as one of the treasures in our town. We are fortunate to have the support of our community and take pride in keeping our commitment to serve all ages of our population, offering all programs free of charge for everyone.
The Year in Review
2018-2019 BY THE NUMBERS

Volunteers provided 5,779 hours of service to the Library. That’s the equivalent of 3.3 staff members!

The Library circulated a total of 156,846 items. Patrons downloaded 20,942 ebooks.

86,534 patrons walked through our doors – many of them frequently.

The Library sponsored 354 programs. The total attendance was 5,877 people; average attendance was 198.

FY 2018 BLLA FINANCIAL DATA

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Town Contribution</td>
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<td>Association contribution</td>
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The Year in Review
2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Kathleen Remillard Retires

Kathleen Remillard, Adult Service/Reference Librarian, retired on November 16, 2018 after 20 years of service to the Brewster Ladies’ Library. A reception in her honor was held that day, attended by numerous staff, town officials, board members, and library patrons. Fortunately, Kathleen continues to serve on the Nickerson Lecture Committee. Mary Fecteau, who assumed Kathleen’s duties, graduated from Simmons College in May with a Master of Library and Information Science degree (MLIS).

Library Book Sale Continues to Grow

The annual summer book sale again raised record funds to benefit the Library, thanks to the dedication of a corps of volunteers, led by Linda and Jim Mills and Hannah Larson. The Book Sale was continued on Sundays when the Library was open in the winter. Now, there also is a prominent display near the front desk, offering books for sale whenever the Library is open. It is carefully arranged and updated by volunteer Janice Riley.
Robert Edsel was Nickerson Lecturer in 2018

Robert Edsel, author, founder and president of the Monuments Men Foundation delivered the sixth annual Nickerson Memorial Lecture on October 13, 2018.

He is recognized as one of the foremost advocates for art preservation. What began as a question on how the monuments and art masterpieces survived the thefts and devastation of World War II culminated in Edsel’s *New York Times* best-selling book, *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History*, telling the story of the unsung heroes who saved the world’s greatest art and cultural treasures.

Committee News

The **Building & Grounds Committee** – Board member Bill Schirmacher with Director Cindy St. Amour and Custodian Rick Cronin – has been at work overseeing landscapers; weeding, mulching and pruning; maintenance of the Library property; (frequent) elevator repairs; interior painting; and gutters and siding (the latter two projects scheduled for the Fall).

The **Membership Committee**, led by vice president Joan Pernice, has sponsored several member events this year, including a social event at the Captains Course, new member coffee hour, and members-only brunch during Brewster in Bloom weekend. Members of the Brewster Ladies’ Library Association also have early access to the annual summer book sale, priority registration for the annual Nickerson Lecture, and discount on merchandise in the display case outside the auditorium. Membership in the Association supports the myriad programs noted in this report: Sunday concerts, Nickerson Lecture Series, school vacation events, among others.

The **Finance Committee**, chaired by Treasurer Robert Mauterstock, reports that the fiscal year 2018-2019 was an excellent financial year for the Brewster Ladies’ Library Association. Income exceeded expenses by $52,121. Cash gifts to the library exceeded $60,000, three times what was projected. The library book sale continued its record performance collecting more than $50,000. Investment accounts, managed by Cape Cod Five’s investment management team, continued to perform well.
The Year Ahead

Coming this Winter . . .

One Book, One Town

Brewster Ladies’ Library once again will sponsor a One Book, One Town read in January 2020. Join your neighbors and read The Bees by Laline Paull. From the Back Cover: “This brilliantly imagined debut tells the story of Flora 717, a devout young worker bee who finds herself in possession of a deadly secret. . . . The Bees and its dazzling young heroine will forever change the way you look at the world outside your window.”

Stay tuned for more information about events related to One Book, One Town in January and February 2020.

SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES 2019/2020

(All concerts are at 2:00 p.m. except May 3 at 3:00 p.m.)

November 3  The Cape Cod String Trio - Classical Ensemble
December 8  Nauset Regional High School Honors Chorus
January 5  Thom Dutton, Harper - Relaxing Harp Music with a Celtic Twist
January 19  Out Late with Diana Di Gioia - “Roots, Rock, and Blues meet witty, compelling storytelling”
February 2  Mike Dumas Satellite Band - “Boomer Rock”
February 16  Ana Glig - Classical Pianist
March 1  Rose Clancy and Max Cohen - “Traditional and Contemporary Celtic”
March 15  Ann Austin Duo - “Songs from the Great American Songbook”
March 29  Cape Cod Jazz Quartet
May 3  Peking and the Mystics - A cappella group
The Year Ahead

Frances Nickerson Lecture Series 2019

Featured Speaker is Valerie Plame

During her career with the CIA, Valerie Plame managed top-secret covert programs designed to keep terrorists and rogue nation states from acquiring nuclear weapons. She also was involved in covert cyber operations and counter-terrorism efforts. Her best-selling memoir, *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House*, focuses on her CIA experience. She also is the co-author of two fictional spy thrillers, *Blowback* and *Burned*.

The keynote lecture, featuring Valerie Plame, is sold out.

The film based on Plame’s book, *Fair Game*, will be shown in the Library auditorium at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 15. Naomi Watts and Sean Penn have the leading roles.

Joseph Wippl, who had a 30-year career with the CIA and is now Professor of International Relations at Boston University, will speak at the Library on Thursday, October 17, at 7 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public. Capacity is limited to 125 attendees.

Did you know that you can search on Trip Advisor for information/reviews about the Brewster Ladies’ Library? There are 72 Reviews All 5 stars! https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g41476-d319428-Reviews-Brewster_Ladies_Library-Brewster_Cape_Cod_Massachusetts.html

Here’s one of our favorite comments:

“Libraries are Definitely not a thing of the past in Brewster”
Glenn and Lynn Lowery were chosen as recipients of the 2019 Sarah Augusta Mayo Award. Named for one of the two founders of the Brewster Ladies’ Library, the award is presented to an active adult volunteer member whose service is truly outstanding and is significantly above and beyond the call of duty.

A truly special couple, Glenn and Lynn Lowery epitomized that description. Glenn’s passing earlier this year was a great loss to all who knew him, but his legacy to the Library continues in so many ways. He fulfilled many critical roles at the Library: vice president of the Association Board, chair of its Personnel Committee, and chair of both the Nominating Committee and Bylaws Committee. Anytime the Board needed something done, Glenn raised his hand. In addition to his Board responsibility, he also served as a volunteer at the Library.

This statement from a colleague of Glenn’s best described him: “He led with warmth. When Glenn asked, ‘How are you?’ he really meant it!”

Lynn Lowery has volunteered at the Library for a number of years, serving in the popular and demanding Children’s section with her always warm and friendly outlook.

As a couple, Glenn and Lynn not only supported the Library but supported each other in all their work for the Library. Lynn accepted the award at the annual meeting of the Brewster Ladies’ Library Association on July 18.
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