

WOODS HOLE LIBRARY NEWS

Fall 2012

Volume 10, Issue 14

In this issue of the newsletter, we continue our series on local writers of children's literature, this time reintroducing a series of hidden gems for young readers by Woods Hole writer Judy Richardson, and a series of illustrated children's books by Monika Bang-Campbell. Expanding beyond books a little, we offer a tribute, written by Amy Wilson Sanger, to a Woods Hole tradition for children, Tuesday Night Folksinging in summer. Amy's books were featured in the Spring Newsletter. In addition, Woods Hole eighth-grader Tomasz Dvorak was kind enough to take some time to talk to us about his reading interests. We hope you enjoy our selections for this Fall Newsletter.

Local Books for Young Readers

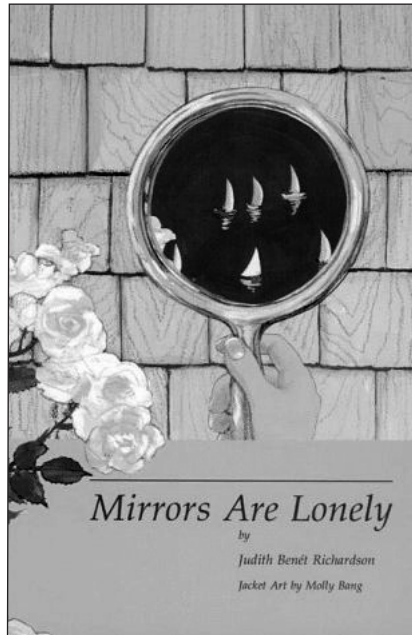
The village school is about to be closed! The new boy in town is sure this is wrong! Something has got to be done! The scene is set for local author Judy Richardson's **David's Landing**, a book that could easily slip through the cracks between the all-time must-reads and modern hot titles in young readers' literature.

Set in the fictional seaside village of Maushope's Landing, which bears a strong resemblance to our own little village (with a dash of Nantucket), the book tells the story of eleven year-old David Winter's first few months in his new home town. David is struggling to adjust to living with his marine biologist father, to being separated from his mother, and to attending a new school. He feels like a misfit, and distracts himself by nervously shaping bits of clay into the various stages of a frog's life, and by fussing over his pet iguana's comfort. As he begins to make friends and to care about his new life, he finds himself taking a big risk to save the village school.

Readers who are familiar with the area will find it fun and easy to picture David as he dashes around Maushope's Landing with his new friend

Amy, though the names and places have been re-imagined a bit. They might even think they recognize a character or two, if they've been here long enough.

David's Landing is illustrated by Molly Bang with simple line drawings which capture well the book's characters and scenes. My special favorites are Molly's renderings of Iggy, David's iguana, the gruff Mr. Jarvis, and the underside of a curiously familiar drawbridge.



To continue your fictional adventures in Maushope's Landing, move on to **Mirrors are Lonely**, also written by Judy Richardson with jacket art by Molly Bang. In it, young heroine Miranda Jones lives with her scientist grandmother in a Cape Cod cottage with a rose-covered trellis. She spends her days at the "shabby" Yacht Club and shelving books at the "smooth round rock" library. As she struggles to master sailing, she also finds her way through the awkward and confusing experiences of youth. An excerpt from the W. H. Auden poem, "Miranda's Song," provides insight into the title.

Both books were published by the Woods Hole Historical Collection and are available for loan from WHPL and from CLAMS. A third book in the Maushope's Landing series, **First Came the Owl** (Henry Holt, publisher), about a young girl who lives with her parents

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Library Hours

Mondays Noon - 5:30, 7 -9
Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 3 - 5:30
Wednesdays 10 - 5:30, 7-9
Saturdays Noon - 5:30

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Love of Reading

Young library patron, Tomasz Dvorak, was recognized at the end of seventh grade with Falmouth Academy's award for his "Love of Reading." With a bit of pride and genuine curiosity about the books that Tomasz enjoyed, we at the Library newsletter asked the Woods Hole native to consider chatting with us about his interest.

On a beautiful September Saturday morning Tomasz, backpack slung over his shoulder, walked to the Library to meet with me. He was modest when asked about the award. "I got the most points in the Accelerated Reading (AR) Program," he pointed out. Asked what he read, he replied, "I should have brought my list." However, when assured that the list really didn't matter, the conversation flowed, touching not just on books, but on Science Fairs, insect behavior, cats and their quirky predatory activities, a recent camping trip he had taken, and other subjects.

Unprejudiced by the opinions of reviewers or book club choices, Tomasz reads what he likes. The **Lord of the Rings** trilogy places high on his list of favorites. He will read it again and again he says. (He got a lot of AR points for it too.) Another fantasy favorite includes the eleven books that comprise **The Ranger's Apprentice** series by Australian author John Flanagan. In his younger years, he read the C. S. Lewis Narnia series and some of Tolkien's other books.

When I noted that he seemed to like book series that draw the reader into a fictional world, he replied that the best authors are the ones who make you feel that you are really there. Not restricted by a particular genre, he also enjoys Tom Clancy books, and is adept at comparing movie versions to written versions of the stories he has read. We discussed the



difference in the impact of the violence in Suzanne Collins' **The Hunger Games** series and William Golding's **Lord of the Flies**, which he was currently reading in school.

Tomasz spent the summer sailing Knockabouts and Mirror Dinghies in Woods Hole harbor, taking a lifeguarding class at Stony Beach, and biking around the village to see friends. Two weeks into the school year, he was feeling the loss of freedom offered by summer vacation. Asked about his extra-curricular interests, he told me he enjoys playing middle school basketball, and spoke with enthusiasm about a project he completed for Falmouth Academy's dramatic presentation of **Around the World in Eighty Days**. Using the computer software iMovie, Tomasz created an animation of Mr. Phineas Fogg's route around the world, which was projected onto a screen during the production.

As in all good discussions about books, I came away with a recommendation for a series of books that otherwise might have escaped my notice.... Larry Gonick's Cartoon History series, which I think I'll check out soon. Award or not, it seems likely that Tomasz's interest in reading will be lifelong. We hope that, as his life gets busier, he will continue to find time for regular visits to WHPL.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY WITH AN ONLINE GIFT!

We've added the convenience of secure online giving to the library website. Click Secure Donations in the left sidebar of our main page to choose an amount and then enter your credit card information or your PayPal account details. We acknowledge all donations immediately via email and shortly afterwards by hand-written snail mail. For guidance through the process, please see Kellie at the front desk.

Local books ...

Continued from page 1

in a lighthouse, is also available. Every now and then, copies of all Judy's books can be found in the Library's Book Sale Room. They make wonderful gifts to visitors who would like to take home a little piece of village character.

Judy also has collaborated with local artist Salley Mavor on the children's books **The Way Home** and **Come to My Party**. She has lived in Woods Hole since 1974.

Little Rat Series: Early Readers

by Kellie Porter

Monika Bang-Campbell is the author of three books for early readers, chronicling the adventures of Little Rat: **Little Rat Sets Sail**, **Little Rat Rides**, and **Little Rat Makes Music**. All three books are illustrated by her mother, Molly Bang. Each adventure tells a story based on Monika's own experiences growing up around Woods Hole. She spent many a summer sailing at Quissett Yacht Club and rode horses at Fieldcrest Farm. Monika seemed happy to sit down with me and answer a few questions about her delightful children's series.

What were some of your favorite children's books when you were an early reader?

Mitchell is Moving, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmet, and **Burt Dow Deep Water Man**, by Robert McCloskey. Those are the two that really stand out for me.



What was your process like when writing the Little Rat books?

The way that the first one originated was that I was telling my mother a story. I think we were in the car, and I was just telling her a story about something that happened to me when I was sailing. I decided to refer to myself as Little Rat. And so I was just telling the story, and my mom said that's a really good story, you should probably write that down. And so I did. I would sit there with my mom, and she would ask me questions, and I would tell the story to the questions that she would ask.

Was it something you had to work at? Like Little Rat has to with everything she does, which in turn causes her to get frustrated...?

There was some of that. I definitely got frustrated writing because I'm not a writer per se. It was frustrating because the editor would send back versions, and I didn't like what she had edited. I can tend to be little stubborn about things.

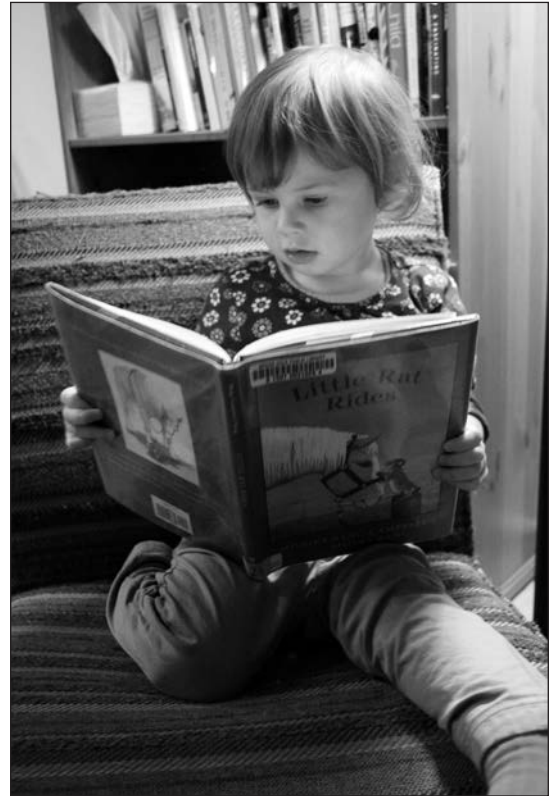
It's great that you don't shy away from dealing with some of the "big feelings" that kids deal with. I know that even at age 2, emotions like being scared are things that my daughter is working on, and she

seems to like seeing that experience reflected in what she's reading.

I hope that little kids, parents, or anybody can get a message out of my books that kids get scared about things and it's okay. I didn't want them to be sickly sweet books. It's not "Little Rat does this and isn't it wonderful." It's, "No, Little Rat did this and she really didn't like it." She gets something good out of the frustrating and scary parts of what she's experiencing. I wanted it to be funny, too, because I think kids have a really good sense of humor, and people don't always give them enough credit for that. Also, I don't want to speak down to children. I want a child to be challenged in their reading.

Any new adventures for Little Rat planned? Or do you have any other new characters in the works?

I don't think I'll branch out into another series, but there is always the possibility of another **Little Rat** book in the wings. I'll keep people on their toes – it may or may not happen!



*Librarian Kellie Porter's daughter, Helen, now aged two, enjoys reading **Little Rat Rides**.*

Upcoming Concert Series

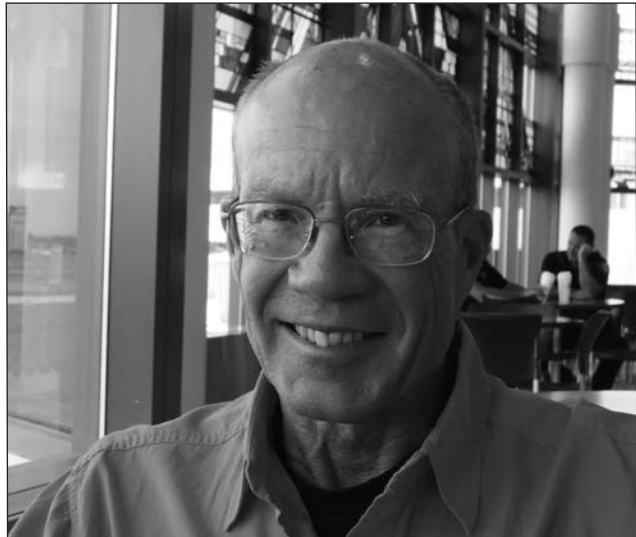
January 6 Robert Wyatt concert/discussion
February 15 Notescape

Other planned concerts include a wind quintet, a classical guitar duo, and a chamber group with harpsichord. For details, visit www.woodsholepubliclibrary.org

Terry Platt: Paying It Forward

For many of us, our earliest remembered library experiences were set at the Woods Hole Public Library. The fieldstone façade, the cozy atmosphere, and the friendly librarians all have contributed to gingerbread house memories in which we recall ourselves, as early readers, checking out heaps of books, beginning perhaps with **Make Way for Ducklings** and **Blueberries for Sal** and graduating to the satisfyingly fat Oz books of L. Frank Baum as well as beloved E. B. White classics. As teens we reveled in our freedom as readers, exploring whatever captured our imaginations.

Terry Platt, now Professor of Biology, Biochemistry, and Biophysics at the University of Rochester, first arrived in Woods Hole as a teenager, in 1959, accompanied by brother Chris and parents Ann and John. The family returned each summer only through 1962, yet forged indelible relationships with other summer residents as well as with the library at the entrance to the village. Energetic, tow-



headed fellows, Terry and Chris started their days at dawn swimming at Nobska Beach, and then turned to biking and tennis, before tracking down their mother at the library. There they found “a haven of peace with the world of literature at our fingertips (even without the internet), and an increasing treasure for us all as the years passed. It was our mother, Ann, who was really our link to the library, as she was an avid reader and strongly believed in supporting such local institutions, especially the small but critical ones.” Terry revisited Woods Hole during the summer of 1967, working under Woody Hastings in the Physiology Course at MBL. In 1978 the Platt family bought a house on Millfield Street and “it has anchored us as a home and harbor, now extending to our third generation.”

Terry, in an email exchange, went on to comment that “John and Ann brought us up with a belief in gender parity.” Thus, “in addition to being a biology

professor at the University of Rochester (since 1985), I became a faculty associate of the Susan B. Anthony (SBA) Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies around 2000, teaching a cross-listed course I designed on ‘The biochemistry of male-female differences in health and disease’ for a few years.”

In 2010, the SBA Institute asked Terry “to fill a vacancy on a 3-person judging committee” for the Kafka award, named in honor of Janet Heidinger Kafka, a promising young author and editor, who was killed when only 30 years old in an automobile accident. Endowed by Janet’s family in the firm belief that she would have done much to further the causes of both literature and women, the \$5000 prize has been awarded annually since 1976 for the best submitted work of women’s prose fiction published each year. Commenting on the experience, Terry states, “Though it is daunting and difficult to select the ‘best’ of the 80+ submissions each year, we all cherish the chance to encounter the amazing diversity of talent and imagination among these remarkable women authors. I felt that many worthy writers besides the winner deserved a wider audience, and realized that the Woods Hole Public Library was a perfect home for these books—whether on the shelves or in the book sale, they will be enjoyed and valued by a global population of readers that move, whether by accident or intention, through our small but robust community.”

Terry’s selections for the Library are reviewed and sifted through by Library Director, Margaret McCormick, who will add many of the titles to the Library’s fiction collection. For the time being, the Kafka Award Books will be displayed together for patrons to borrow. A number of the books are short story collections, and their contents will be considered for our own ongoing Story Hour for Grownups program. This gift reminds us of the far-reaching effects our library can have on its members. Indeed we are very pleased that Terry, recalling his youthful connection with WHPL, has chosen it for this special collection of books.

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• **Holiday Gift Ideas that support the Library** •

- Gift memberships to WHPL
 - Quilt card packets
 - Gift certificates to the Book Sale
 - Roof slate craft items: drop by to see coasters, cheese trays, and other decorative items
-

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Terry McKee and Pamela Nelson, with Emma Dvorak
Contributors: Kellie Porter and Amy Wilson Sanger

Gretchen Ward Warren Shares Dance Treasures

The Ratcliffe Room, downstairs and across from the Community Room/Book Sale area, is a quiet treasure trove, hosting several unique collections which the Library has been fortunate to acquire and share with its patrons. In addition to our small, rare book collection and a number of Franklin Lewis Gifford paintings, the room holds our Thomas G. Ratcliffe Theater Collection, consisting of about 300 volumes. Ratcliffe, part-time Quissett resident as well as professional theater manager, producer, and critic, left his entire estate, including his impressive book collection, to WHPL in 1981.

This summer Gretchen Ward Warren, retired professional ballerina and Professor Emeritus of Dance at the University of South Florida School of Theater and Dance, approached Library Director Margaret McCormick with an intriguing offer. Gretchen, a Woods Hole summer resident and visitor for over 50 years, was coming to terms with the difficult realization that she could no longer keep moving and maintaining her sixty-five box



personal library of dance and dance-related books. Some rare tomes she donated to the Harvard dance collection and a large number of books of dance pedagogy she passed on to a serious young academic colleague. A number of books that she considers her personal treasures she decided to share with WHPL. They range from technical volumes to biographies, books on costume and set design to photographic depictions of dancers and dance companies. These books will be available for reference and reading.

Gretchen is reassured that she will still be able to visit these special items from her collection, all the while sharing them with the community.

Gretchen danced professionally for over 11 years, touring with the Pennsylvania Ballet, before joining the American Ballet Theater II as ballet mistress and costume designer. Recruited later by the University of South Florida, she taught, choreographed, and designed costumes there for 27 years. She has written two textbooks on ballet, large portions of which she worked on in the attic of the family's Woods Hole cottage. Woods Hole, she says, has always felt like home, the one place she has always come back to.

Summer at the Library is always a busy time, and Gretchen's gift has not yet been catalogued. Recently she and I sat side-by-side in the Ratcliffe Room while she shared some of her favorites with me. The dance biography she always recommends is **Private Domain**, by Paul Taylor. Says Gretchen, the reader does not need to be a dancer or dance enthusiast to appreciate it. Nominee of the National Book Critics Circle for best biography, it describes what it means to be a dancer, and it addresses some rarely touched aspects truthfully as well as with humor. Of **Dance and Photography**, with its photo of Fred Astaire on the cover, Gretchen says the photographs in this book by William Ewing speak for themselves. Also in the collection are books for young dancers as well as classics of dance history such as **Movement and Metaphor**, by Lincoln Kirstein. The collection, she says, will be a great resource for anyone writing a paper on the history of dance, but for the rest of us, a world of enchantment awaits our perusal.

Holiday Book Sale

Don't miss the chance to support the Library with "green" gifts for friends and family at the Library Holiday Book Sale on Saturday, December 1. Open 10 am - 5:30 pm, the sale offers a wide variety of slightly used hardback and paperback fiction and non-fiction. The sale continues during library hours throughout December.

Book donations should be dropped off during library hours, and must be in good condition. We cannot accept encyclopedias, textbooks, or moldy items.

The Book Sale Committee is looking for a co-chair to help organize and run the sale. Responsibilities include contacting committee members via email, and sorting and pricing books. Please contact Margaret at the Library.

Folksinging in Woods Hole

by Amy Wilson Sanger

Early one Saturday this past summer, the first drawbridge opening of the day revealed a new message, sprayed in orange paint during the night:

A FAIRER PLACE WAS NEVER SEEN – PHYLLIS

As Woods Hole's drawbridge graffiti goes, this example is only mildly cryptic, not advertising that it requires an insider's knowledge to appreciate it fully. Surely, most of our visitors would agree—they're standing in a pretty lovely spot. A few generations of Woods Holiens, however, would not just read those words, but sing them aloud, perhaps even in two-part harmony. The spray-painted words, a respectful call-out to the memory of Phyllis Goldstein, are lyrics from one of the Woods Hole songs so many of us recall, reared as we were over 45 summers of singing with her at the MBL club, and the words hearken to a rich oral tradition in our village culture.

Phyllis had a passion for folklore, music, and storytelling, and one important strand of her legacy in our community is her song writing. Her lyrics describe Woods Hole themes and experiences, sung to the tunes of older, traditional folk songs from around the world. This practice is not so unusual for folk singers. Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land," which Phyllis sang at the close of each gathering, is based on the tune of a Baptist gospel hymn. What is unusual, however, is for an American community to sing these songs over decades, in a secular setting filled to capacity each week, and how effectively the simple lyrics describe aspects of summer life in Woods Hole.

The song "I'm on Vacation I Guess," sung to the traditional Irish ballad called "Roisin the Beau," is one example. Each line names yet another family member, whose summer jobs range from doing science in a lab to mowing lawns on Penzance Point, from lifeguarding to teaching tennis. Most of the relatives cook at the Fishmonger. Phyllis wrote from a most cherished perspective: that of a child, whose summer life in Woods Hole is informed by extended family relationships, observing the rejoining of summer and year-round communities in common gathering places, while immersed in the bliss of undefined time. For many of us, this image describes the setting of our most significant and treasured imprinting, and may explain why Woods Hole is sometimes called "a state of mind." Is it a vacation? The child in the song acquiesces: "I guess." It doesn't matter what it's called. There is a bond between those who share the experience, and a feeling that those who do not could never understand what they're missing. It is the nostalgic undertow that draws us

back, summer after summer, and compels us to herd our children and grandchildren into the MBL club on Tuesday evenings to sing together.

Now led by Jeremy Korr and friends, the folk singing traditions continue. As in the past, the weeks are themed—silly songs, work songs, songs of the sea, songs of Woods Hole—in what most describe as a more casual atmosphere than in years past.

Our folksongs are treasures. The Woods Hole songs are a glimpse into both what has changed and what hasn't. Names have changed; "Louie's" after a couple of incarnations is now The Woods Hole Market. "Joe's" is now the location of the Fishmonger, which used to be across the street. What hasn't changed? The street names; swimming lessons at Stony Beach; and "embryo-embryology," to name just a few.

The compendium of the lyrics, compiled by Jeremy and Phyllis, is rich and contains interesting notes, for example an extra verse to "The Horses Run Around," written by Laura Shulman and her brother Matt. Perhaps one day Laura's children will add to the tradition, with verses that name the locales of their childhoods: Coffee O and Pie in the Sky.

We can only hope that this folksinging tradition, established by Phyllis Goldstein and now guided by Jeremy Korr, will continue and endure. Anyone who has ever attended this gathering on Tuesday nights in summer will understand the conviction of the participants that, indeed, on so many levels "A Fairer Place Was Never Seen."

Raising the Roof with Music

The Penzance Point home of Library President Prosser Gifford was the setting for a summer fundraiser to replace the Library's 100-year-old slate roof. Pianist Robert Wyatt's selections by Cole Porter and George Gershwin enchanted 100 attendees. A concert and musical discussion by Robert is scheduled for January 6, 2013.



Children, Caterpillars, and Monarch Butterflies

A curious contraption shows up in the Children's Room at the Woods Hole Public Library every September and October. A monarch butterfly "rearing cage," measuring three feet high and two feet square at the base, sits on a round table just inside the entrance to the kids' room. The cage is made of fine white netting with a clear plastic window on one side. A zipper similar to a suitcase's permits access. On the table beside the cage are picture books and basic science books about monarchs and other butterflies.

Becky Lash, who has taught classes at the Children's School of Science for many summers, has provided this living science exhibit at the Library for the past eight years. She thinks Margaret first invited her to set up the display after seeing something similar in Becky's kitchen. The process, refined now after years of trial and error, involves placing milkweed leaves, gathered from Becky's yard or from Dr. Redfield's garden, into a jar of water on a tray on the floor of the cage. There are eggs on the underside of the leaves, and soon fat caterpillars with black, yellow, and white stripes appear and begin to eat the leaves. Eventually the caterpillars crawl to the top of the cage and pupate. The pupae, bright green cylinders, hang from the cage's roof for ten days to 2 ½ weeks, depending on the ambient temperature, until monarch butterflies emerge. Once the butterflies are rested and ready to fly away, the librarians collect them gently in their hands and carry them outdoors, setting them on a nearby butterfly bush.

"I grew up observing and collecting various forms of wildlife. I've always kept insects and spiders in terraria in my classrooms to encourage kids to watch life cycles. At some point I went from allowing kids to catch insects for mounting and displaying to a different approach. The habitats around us have changed, and many insect populations have declined. Now I encourage observation and conservation both inside and outside the classroom. For instance, we have probably released about 60 monarch butterflies from the library display this year. In the wild, most of the eggs and small caterpillars would have been devoured by ladybugs, ladybug larvae, spiders, and by lacewing larvae."

Becky Lash, like Terry Platt and Gretchen Ward Warren (also featured in this newsletter,) has been enjoying WHPL since she was a child. She recalls, at the age of 9 or 10, arriving at the Library with her summer best friend, Louise, and spending hours reading in the children's section, before the Library's expansion and back when Ruth Schleicher was the Director. The two girls enjoyed reading series

books, especially mysteries, including the Nancy Drew books and Jerry West's **Happy Hollister** series. Another favorite series was **The Moffats** by Eleanor Estes, books chronicling the adventures of four kids living with their widowed mother in a small, New England town. Says Becky, "When I wasn't reading at the library, I read on the beach. I remember getting sand in the books. And when my parents went fishing, I sat reading in the bottom of the boat. Sometimes I made them let me go ashore on Nonamesset. I'd make a tent among the rocks from towels, and I would hide in my tent and read."

Changes on our Board

The Library Board is pleased to welcome three new members: **Linda Calmes Jones**, **Nawrie Meigs-Brown**, and **Laurie Raymond**.

Linda Calmes Jones brings to the board a lifetime of experience in the field of banking. A relative newcomer to the area, having moved here in 2009, she quickly made friends and willingly said yes to opportunities to become involved in local activities. As a member of our Library Centennial Committee, Linda helped greatly with the 2010 Centennial Celebration. She has served as chair of the board of Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich.

Nawrie Meigs-Brown has summered in Woods Hole since her childhood, and her local connections go back to the 1880s. She has volunteered her time generously to the community, serving on the Marine Biological Laboratory Board of Overseers, as the chair of the Steering Committee of the Woods Hole Historical Collection and Museum (WHHC&M), and on the Library's Long-Range Planning Committee.

Laurie Raymond has been involved in many Woods Hole organizations, including volunteering for the Library. From a position as a research assistant at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, she moved on to the Penikese Island School, then returned to school to train as a nurse practitioner, her present career. An accomplished athlete, Laurie is an avid bicyclist. She completed the seventy five-mile Buzzards Bay Watershed ride in October of 2011 and 2012, joined both years by our Library Director Margaret McCormick.

The board is also pleased to welcome back two former trustees, **Rob Goldsborough**, retired WHOI electrical engineer, and **Terry McKee**, technical staff member in the Physical Oceanography Department at WHOI. Rob served for six years on the board in the early 2000s, managing the membership database and graciously pouring wine at Library events. Terry coordinated the creation of the Woods Hole Village quilt, now displayed in the Library stairwell, and since 2007 has co-edited our newsletter.

Do you recommend the CLAMS?

Thanks to former Library Director Elaine Tripp, in 2004 the Woods Hole Public Library became a full-fledged member of CLAMS, the Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing system. Through CLAMS, members can borrow from the collections of sister libraries, with items delivered to the local library. Thus every library is in essence as large as the entire system, and yet each retains its individuality. In the spring, we reported on a visit to the Centerville library. In this issue, we spend a few hours at the “nearby” Vineyard Haven Library.

Spécialité de la Saison: CLAMS Vineyard Haven, Our Partner in CLAMS

A visit to the Vineyard Haven Public Library (VHPL), one of nearest libraries to ours in the CLAMS system, has the extra allure of being accessible directly from Woods Hole only by boat. This pleasant library is a 15-minute walk from the Vineyard Haven Steamship Terminal.

Tucked into a quiet residential neighborhood, the library is a modern edifice, complete with a startling automatic door. Inside, the rooms on the main floor are filled with natural light streaming through large windows. Straight ahead one passes the circulation desk to the left, guest “express” computers (30 minute limit) to the right, and toward the back there are periodicals on one side, across from a number of one-hour computers for VHPL cardholders. An open space beyond these computers is used for special programs, such as a well-attended reading by Lee McCormick, the recently selected Vineyard Poet Laureate. At the furthest reaches of the first floor space is a room that is reminiscent of our own Ratcliffe Room, this one bearing the plaque “Warner’s Corner.” Here one finds a large table for meetings, a theater collection, a special group of Vineyard books, and on one wall hangs a large quilt, with 32 squares depicting various evocative images, from the schooner *Shenandoah* to the West Chop Cemetery.

Having determined the layout of the first floor, I returned to one of the guest computers to see what was offered through this library, and found a number of intriguing options. “Novelist” and “Book Sizzle” (offering a source for hot titles) as well as “Mango,” an on-line foreign language learning system, all appeared worth pursuing. Someone else might be more interested in “Freegal,” which enables VHPL patrons to download three songs each week, or “Tumblebooks,” which provides eBooks and games for young children.

The spacious children’s room is also on the main floor. A children’s librarian at the circulation desk in this section makes the area especially inviting. A few young children were gathered in companionable

solitude in an open space, where there was a puppet theater as well as toys, stuffed animals, and picture books. While I was taking stock of the four computers available to kids under adult supervision, a “young man” was in earnest negotiation with the children’s librarian, completing his summer reading program. In exchange for his successful efforts, she presented him with stickers, magnets, coupons for goodies from local businesses, and a t-shirt. His name also went into a drawing for \$25 gift certificate for books from Bunch of Grapes and also into another for a day at a miniature golf course.

The Young Adult (YA) section is downstairs, a separate area entirely, free from contamination by little kids. An upcoming YA program was advertised as a Hunger Games party, an opportunity to see the movie and eat pizza.

The stacks are downstairs, with the fiction and non-fiction collections easily accessible. On the walls there is an ongoing program of Art in the Stacks, providing individual artists an opportunity to show their work. There is also a program room, used for lectures, craft activities, and story times for children.

I always come home with several VHPL souvenirs. My CLAMS card enables me to check out some intriguing item that has captured my attention, to read on the return ferry ride. The VHPL signature bookmark bears a copy of a large but charming painting near the main entrance to the library, by the stairwell. Entitled “The Book Tree,” by Vineyard artist Ted Hewett, it depicts an enormous tree, its branches filled with children reading books. Other kids are tucked between roots at its base. The message is clear: Reading is a marvelous pastime! Let me add that a visit to this friendly library is marvelous as well, always a refreshing break from the hustle and bustle of Vineyard Haven’s tourist destinations in its busy commercial district.

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

Holiday Book Sale: Saturday, December 1st, 10am to 5pm, and throughout December during regular library hours.

Holiday Party: Wednesday, December 5, 5:30 - 7 pm

Pottery Raffle: Tickets on sale at the Library and at the Renaissance Fair. Drawing at the Holiday Party.

For a list of other upcoming library events, visit www.woodsholepubliclibrary.org