



# WOODS HOLE LIBRARY NEWS

Spring 2011

Volume 10, Issue 11

## WHPL's New Century

2010 was, for the Library, a year of celebration, during which we enthusiastically commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding with many memorable community events. While reviewing the history of the Library, we also thought hard about its future, and how it can, as an institution, continue to provide for the community's needs in its next century of existence.

The future will be met with a continued commitment to the Library's mission, preservation of its resources, and an ever-present awareness of changing times and expectations. Our founders did an outstanding job of building a long-lasting home for the Library in a charming and durable stone building with a "one-hundred year" slate roof. That slate roof's lifetime, however, is just about over, and it needs to be replaced. The Board of Directors has contracted local roofer Tom Chase to remove and replace the slates, so expect to hear some activity overhead in the Library.

Currently reviewing the Library's future needs is the Long-Range Planning (LRP) Committee, made up of five representatives each from the Library Board and the Woods Hole Historical Collection & Museum Committee (WHHCM). The LRP committee is charged with working toward "*better integration of the library and historical elements of the corporation, which will include revitalization of the WHPL campus through restoration and possible expansion of Bradley House and conservation of the archive.*" It may come as a surprise to some Library patrons that the Library and WHHCM operate as a single

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## CLAMS Celebrates 20 Years

Change is almost invariably accompanied by skepticism, and WHPL's entrance into the world of shared library resources in 2005 was not without its share. Despite the fact that CLAMS was launched in April 1991, it would be fourteen years before our board of trustees was convinced of its importance.

CLAMS is a consortium of 32 libraries with 35 physical locations on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. Offering online magazines, newspapers, health, business, and reference information, books, videos, ebooks, and audiobooks, its online catalog is available around the clock through home and library internet connections.

WHPL did not join CLAMS until January 2005. Former directors Cam Larrey and Elaine Tripp saw the benefits of resource-sharing between libraries and promoted our membership in the organization. In spite of board resistance, the turning point came when Rose Larrey, mother of Cam's husband Lou, gave a large gift to the Library restricted exclusively for costs associated with joining CLAMS. We were on our way...after about three and a half years of preparation, involving many volunteer and staff hours to barcode the Library's materials!

That year the town of Falmouth increased the Library's town funding, without which the costly membership would have been impossible. Since joining CLAMS, the Library's circulation has increased steadily due to the availability of so many more materials. Because of

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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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## Judith Stetson to Speak at WHPL Annual Meeting



The annual meeting of the Woods Hole Public Library Corporation will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at 8:00 pm at the Library. A tribute to the 25th year of publication of the magazine *Sprintsail* by its editor Judith

Stetson will follow a brief business meeting. *Sprintsail*, a biannual journal of the history of Falmouth and vicinity, is published by the Woods Hole Historical Collection. Ms. Stetson will speak about the magazine's evolution over a quarter of a century, touching on some of its significant contributions to knowledge of the history of our local communities.

In its inaugural issue in the summer of 1987, editor Mary Lou Smith wrote, "As we launch this new *Sprintsail*, A Journal of Falmouth History, we hope it will prove to be as useful and 'handy to have around' as the old spritsail boat. We want it to be jaunty and trim, good for all weather, fun to use, and valuable to year-round and summer residents alike. To this community of Falmouth, with its splendid maritime past, we offer this *Sprintsail* for pleasure, adventure and exploration of the currents of local history."

Judy Stetson has been on the editorial board of the magazine since its inception. She authored an article, "The Enlightenment," which was published in Volume 3 of the young publication. In it she discussed the transition on Cape Cod in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the general use of oil lamps which relied on animal and vegetable fats to the new electric lights, touted for their safety as well as improved illumination, beginning in Falmouth in 1909.

Ms. Stetson's interest in preserving stories of local historical interest led to her assisting in writing and editing "The Book of Falmouth," published for the town's Tricentennial in 1986. Perhaps it was that experience which whetted her appetite for delving into archival boxes

## WHPL's New Century

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organization under the same 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; what we now know as WHHCM began in the mid 1970s as a Library committee organized to mount an exhibit in honor of the nation's bicentennial. The successful exhibit continued on to become a strong and popular component of the Woods Hole community.

Bradley House and property were donated in full to the Woods Hole Library Corporation in 1949. The WHPL Board of Trustees rented the building out for income, and it served as a doctor's office for many years. Since being occupied by the WHHCM, the museum has expanded to include a small boat museum, a boat restoration barn, and the Yale Workshop. Bradley House's archive and historical preservation space is in need of considerable attention, with possible total renovation of the building required to ensure its future. In the spring of 2010, architecture students from Rhode Island School of Design used redesign of Bradley House as a semester project for acquiring skill at turning real needs into design plans. Twelve students presented their projects in the form of blueprints and scale models to the community. While no one student's plan offered the perfect solution, each contributed useful creative ideas to an overall plan for an improved space.

According to its chairman, the LRP committee is making good progress. In future newsletters we will certainly report on its progress. The LRP committee would welcome your ideas and suggestions about the future of the Library campus and activities. Members are WHPL vice president Shirley Wozena (chair), Nancy Bundy, Vicky Cullen, Jennifer Gaines, Prosser Gifford, Anne Halpin, Margaret McCormick, Paul Ferris Smith, Susan Witzell, with Sarah Elizabeth and Bob Pelletreau alternating attendance.

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in search of subjects for upcoming *Sprintsail* issues. There is no sign that her interest has flagged over a quarter century. Indeed, the most recent issue includes an article entitled "Woods Hole in World War II," with excerpts collected and contextual notes by Ms. Stetson. It is no surprise that she has been chosen as one of this year's Falmouth Heritage Award winners. We look forward to her discussion of the *Sprintsail* and its history at WHPL's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 12. The community is cordially invited to attend.

# Remembering Phyllis Goldstein

## An Exceptional Library Member and Patron



*Phyllis Goldstein with her son, Brian Switzer (left) and Michael Toner (right).*

During the long, dark days of a particularly harsh Woods Hole winter, the Library lost a staunch supporter and dear friend. Phyllis Goldstein died at home of renal failure on January 25, 2011. A voracious reader, she had long been a Library member, and her interest in theater made her especially appreciative of the unique collection of scripts and theater-related writings housed in the Ratcliffe Room.

Goldstein's interests were myriad, and she participated in the life of the Woods Hole community for many summers, placing her exceptional stamp on diverse areas. She was a tennis champion in the MBL tennis club, the leader of folk-singing for all ages at the MBL club for 45 summers, and for decades she, with the MBL director, led the July Fourth parade through the village, the sound of her piccolo announcing the arrival of Woods Hole's best-attended annual event.

In 2003 she and her husband, Moise Goldstein, moved to live full-time in Woods Hole from Baltimore, retiring to their home on Gardiner Road. She was soon active in the Woods Hole Woman's Club and taught theater to interested students at the Morse Pond School. Two years later she approached the Library with an idea for a fundraiser theater performance. In May, 2005, she and Muriel Gould performed, to a full house upstairs in the Library, a staged reading of "Vita and Virginia," adapted

from the play by Eileen Atkins. It was Goldstein's enthusiasm and love of acting that led to her organizing an annual Library fundraiser theater performance, an event that marked the real beginning of spring almost as reliably as the Library's annual plant sale. Over the years Michael Toner and Lydia Sargent joined the cast of these performances, which always bore the stamp of Goldstein's energy and discriminating taste. She brought Chekhov to life with performances of "The Brute" and "The Marriage Proposal." In 2009, she selected three one-act plays by Tennessee Williams, her role as an elderly, homeless spinster in "The Unsatisfactory Supper," particularly memorable. Last spring a full-length play, "Painting Churches," by Tina Howe, was staged over two weekends, a successful run which included Goldstein, Toner, and Sargent.

Goldstein was also a frequent participant in Story Hour for Grownups. One of her finest readings was of "The Epiphany Branch," by Mary Gordon, in which an eccentric loner observes and comments on the varied patrons of her local branch library in New York City. Until Goldstein's deteriorating kidney function and hospitalizations this past winter interfered with her mobility and steely determination, only a conflict with a Sunday afternoon Patriots game or out-of-town travel kept her from attending Story Hour readings.

The Library is grateful to have been given Phyllis Goldstein's personal library collection. The diversity of material is not surprising in light of her numerous and varied interests. In addition to a large collection of works of fiction, the donation includes cookbooks, books on nutrition and health, folklore anthologies, folk music collections, and books on Israel. A collection of theater scripts and play anthologies as well as theater histories, drama criticism, and works on acting technique will enhance the Library's theater collection in the Ratcliffe Room. A large number of music CD's includes works of classical music, jazz, folk, and a wide range of twentieth century American music.

Phyllis Goldstein was a frequent Library visitor for decades. With her distinctive enthusiasm and energy, she will be much missed at the Library, at Morse Pond School, and throughout the village of Woods Hole. To read more on her life, see the tribute to Phyllis on the MBL website at [www.mbl.edu/news/obit/obit\\_goldstein.html](http://www.mbl.edu/news/obit/obit_goldstein.html)



## A black and white close-up portrait of a woman with short, light-colored hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a wide-brimmed, light-colored straw hat. The background is out of focus, showing foliage and the edge of another person's hat.

The familiar adage, “If you want something done, ask a busy person” surely arose with Terry in mind. She has chosen the themes of recent newsletters, devised costumes for the vintage photography venue at the Centennial celebration last summer, and has, drawing from her wide circle of friends and acquaintances, encouraged many members of the community to participate in the

Library trustees come and go, each with their own connection to the Library, point of view, and contribution. Terry's tenure will be memorable for her role in the creation of the Woods Hole Village Quilt, now a Library icon, and in particular for the enthusiasm and inspiring energy she shared with other members of the Board.

Saturday, August 13  
10 AM- 5 PM  
Book Sale

## Behind the Scenes: WHPL's Kyra Pless

"Both of my sons like to help serve popcorn at the Saturday afternoon family movies here at the Library," says Library bookkeeper Kyra Pless. "In fact, the older one even wanted to charge for the popcorn."

"I would give the money to the Library, Mom," he insisted.

Kyra, who supplied the corn popper to the staff kitchen and prepares the popcorn that her sons distribute, vetoed his suggestion. She does, however, encourage their frequent visits to the children's book collection upstairs. She herself is a self-described avid reader.



Until the fall of 2006 Librarian Nancy Babin was handling the bookkeeping for the institution. The job was becoming increasingly time-consuming, and former president Sarah Elizabeth recognized that it would be better to hire a dedicated part-time bookkeeper, freeing Nancy to devote her skills to her primary occupation. At that time, Kyra had one child enrolled at the Woods Hole Child Center and was looking for a part-time position as a freelance bookkeeper. Interviewed by the Library president, treasurer, and director, Kyra impressed the group with her background and resume.

After completing college at Rutgers University with a degree in business administration, Kyra moved to New York City. She held a series of impressive jobs, first working for a start-up marketing company whose entire accounting operation she organized. Later, as vice president/controller of a multimedia corporation, she oversaw their finances and even hired staff. Subsequently,

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## Golden Kite Winner Salley Mavor



*Photo courtesy of Elise Hugus/Falmouth Enterprise*

On Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m., the Library will host a reception to celebrate Woods Hole native Salley Mavor's selection as this year's Golden Kite Award winner for picture book illustration for her book *Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury*

*of Nursery Rhymes*. The award is given by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators to recognize excellence in children's literature, and is presented to artists and authors by their peers.

At the reception, Salley will give a presentation on the artistic process involved in creating the book and show a short film by Elise Hugus and Daniel Cojanu on her new piece, *Rabbitat*. Some of the original works from *Pocketful of Posies* will be on display, and copies of the book will be available for sale.

Salley's hand-stitched illustrations have been described as "finely detailed works of art". Over sixty nursery rhymes are included in the book, most remembered from Salley's childhood and from reading to her own children when they were young. In her artist's note at the end of the book, she says "each rhyme or song presented a unique opportunity to bring to life specific characters and their distinctive place in the world." Using naturally dyed wools, an endless variety of stitching techniques, and specially selected materials like acorn caps and antique buttons, she created little beings and environments that are a treat to behold. Each work was carefully photographed to preserve its three-dimensional quality.

Salley has a long history of sharing her artistry with the Library – she was the artistic designer of the Woods Hole Village Quilt, for which she personally stitched the center square depicting the Library. Images from the quilt have been used on a calendar, notecards, and for the Library

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# A Kindle Review

I recently acquired an Amazon Kindle, an experiment to see how I would adjust to reading from a screen. Would I miss the feel of a book in my hands? About six months into the experiment, when I'm asked occasionally, "How do you like your Kindle?" my answer is: "I like it...with the odd reservation or two...."

As advertised, the screen is pleasant and easy to read. I like the device's lightweight feel, especially while lying in bed reading. It can be held in one hand, even while reading a 700-page book! The array of available books is more than satisfactory—and not necessarily expensive, since almost all classic literature as well as books no longer under copyright are free. Since a Kindle reader is not compatible with the format offered by CLAMS Overdrive, books must be obtained through the online bookstore Amazon.com and from public domain sites *Project Gutenberg* and *World Public Library*. Wireless connectivity is built in, so a computer interface is not required to add material to the Kindle. This means that while lying in bed, waiting in an airport, or sitting on the beach, I can take a notion to acquire a book, and immediately do so, if a wireless link to the Internet is available. The impulse to read or peruse Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* or E. Nesbit's *The Railway Children* (which captured my interest when mentioned in the book I was currently reading) could be gratified in an instant. Amazing!

Another good feature is that I can sample books before purchasing. In the electronic equivalent of bookstore browsing, if I hear a book review that attracts my attention, I can download a sample that allows me to decide whether I do want to purchase it, or, for that matter, seek it at the library. I can also bring up an Internet browser on the device, and quickly look up an unfamiliar word. If I get tired of reading one book, I can easily switch to another without having to carry the books with me. Impulse reigns!

On the negative side, I can't easily decide to loan my ebook to a friend. There are ways to share books, but it seems complicated. Though the battery life is admirably long, I must remember to pack Kindle's cable and charger when I travel. On an airplane, I must turn the device off at takeoff and at landing, so I still want to carry a book or magazine.

Notably frustrating is the fact that I can't leaf through books, but must progress page by page, which is not the way I would like to handle some types of books, for example, *Drawing for the Absolute Beginner* by Mark

Willenbrink. Since this book was black and white, I did not lose any of the beauty of the book; however, a Kindle is NO place to enjoy the beautiful illustrations of a book like Salley Mavor's *Pocketful of Posies*. Even simple black and white plates are not quite as beautiful as they are on paper, so for readers to whom this is important, an ebook reader would be a disappointment.

In this reader's opinion, ebooks and ebook readers are here to stay, and are still evolving. Use of my Kindle might change my book-purchasing and book-borrowing habits in the short term, but it's hard to judge whether I will become dependent on it as a means for ingesting the written word. Will I replace it if it gets lost or stolen or stops working? Is my experiment over? I can't imagine the day when I wouldn't have contact with actual books, which is why I love the WHPL Book Sale so much and why I am a Library board member. If my vision of the future is limited, I prefer it that way. My Kindle is great. Books are better.  
— Terry McKee

## CLAMS Celebrates 20 Years

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CLAMS membership, WHPL was able to assist the Falmouth Public Library during their renovation by becoming the pickup location for patrons.

"Joining Clams has been a wonderful way for WHPL to become part of the larger library community," says Director Margaret McCormick. It is a resource we are fortunate to have come to take for granted.

### SUPPORT THE LIBRARY WITH AN ONLINE GIFT!

The convenience of secure on-line giving has been added to the library website. Clicking the Secure Donations link in the left sidebar of the main page will bring you to a site where you can choose an amount, then enter your credit card information or donate through your PayPal account, if you have one. All donations are acknowledged via email immediately and personally from the Library shortly afterwards. If you wish to be guided through the process, please see Kellie at the front desk.



## WHPL Integrating New Media

The last thirty years of the last century brought enormous change to Library materials and services. In the eighties and into the nineties, cassette tapes of language lessons and audio books were hot items for loan, as were VHS videos. Those items seem outdated and clumsy by comparison to the CDs and DVDs that replaced them. In recent years, it has become possible to borrow written and audible material from the Library without ever entering the building or removing a physical item from the premises. This material is available through the CLAMS Overdrive (<http://clamsnet.lib.overdrive.com>) system, which offers thousands of Audio books and ebooks for a lending period of up to two weeks to Library patrons who have a CLAMS card.

Audio books are available in a number of different digital formats; some can be played back on computers, some on compatible portable media (MP3) players, and some on Apple's iPod, which has its own proprietary digital encoding format. Ebooks (electronic books) too can be read on computers or on compatible electronic readers, such as the Sony Reader and the Barnes and Noble Nook. Portable devices such as the Iphone, Ipad, Android, and BlackBerry can be used as well. Titles for loan include classics, fiction and non-fiction, bestsellers, children and young adult, as well as language and music.

WHPL offers a Creative Zen MP3 player for loan to patrons who would like to try out listening to an audible book, but who don't own their own portable player. Director Margaret McCormick considered purchasing a Nook ebook reader to make available for loan as some other libraries have done, but decided against it after learning that at least one publisher has imposed a restriction on the number of times a book can be downloaded before the title is no longer available for loan electronically. This is a radical change in the rights of libraries to loan materials they have purchased and could set a precedent for other publishers. Until these issues are resolved, WHPL will not add an ebook reader to its collection.

Each new medium brings with it a wave of sometimes-unforeseen issues associated with use, and we continue to adjust to these regulations and wait out their consequences.

## Behind the Scenes: WHPL's Kyra Pless

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after moving to Falmouth, she set up and managed the accounting department of a computer software company in Marstons Mills.

The Library is hardly the large, high-pressure organization for which Kyra worked years ago in New York City, but it does have its attractions. She is a bibliophile and likes being part of the Library staff, throwing her support behind the Library's mission. She has always taken pride in her organizational skills and derives pleasure from bringing order to financial statements and making them clear roadmaps for use by her employers. Margaret McCormick, recalling Kyra's arrival, calls her a "godsend," who makes the library director's job of preparing financial reports for the state far easier, "almost a pleasure."

As for Kyra, she appreciates the flexibility of her hours, which fit well with her current lifestyle and circumstances. Summarizing the positive aspects of her position, she describes the Library as a place of comfort to its patrons, with its welcoming, family feel. The Library Board and staff realize that Kyra Pless works behind the scenes and that her face may not be familiar to many patrons and visitors. Nevertheless, they are deeply appreciative of her efforts to prepare manageable and clear financial statements that guide the Board in attending to its fiduciary responsibilities.

## Golden Kite Winner Sally Mavor

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Centennial logo. She has also loaned various works to the Library for display over the years.

Salley will travel to Los Angeles in August to accept the award at the 40th Annual Conference on Writing and Illustrating for Children. We hope you will join us on July 10<sup>th</sup> at the Library to enjoy the artistic presentations and honor Salley's well-deserved achievement in the world of children's literature. Award-winning author and illustrator Molly Bang will add to the evening by introducing Salley.

## How's Helen?



*Helen Siira Porter, at 6 months*

In our fall newsletter, we introduced our Centennial baby, Helen Siira Porter, born on September 10<sup>th</sup> to librarian Kellie Porter and her husband, Ben. As of March, when this photograph of Helen was taken, Helen had just turned 6 months old. According to her mom, who is

brilliantly juggling the demands of job and motherhood, "[Helen] is working really hard to figure out how to sit up and roll over. Her favorite activities are jumping, singing and banging her toys against the kitchen table. Helen doesn't really like to nap, but she's a really happy girl and we're having lots of fun. She loves coming to the Library because she thinks all the patrons are coming in just to see her!"

The black-and-white photograph doesn't do justice to the quilt on which Helen is posing. The quilt was a gift to Helen from Library supporter, Cindy Limberakis, who also stitched the Bradley House square in the Woods Hole Village Quilt.

By the time our patrons read this, Helen will have mastered sitting up and rolling over, and may even be experimenting with standing. I'm sure we will oblige her this summer by coming in to the Library just to see her!

## Buttermilk Scones

Director Margaret McCormick's scones are a Story Hour favorite. Margaret has been making these since 1982, when she found the recipe in an old Sunset Magazine cookbook that she picked up at a used book sale in Menlo Park, CA.

3 c flour, unsifted  
2 1/2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp baking soda  
3/4 tsp salt  
3/4 c cold butter, cut into small pieces  
3/4 c currants  
1 tsp grated orange rind  
1 c buttermilk

*In a food processor, mix together the dry ingredients. Add the cold butter pieces and process until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Dump into large bowl and add currants and rind. Make a well and add buttermilk all at once. Stir with a fork until dough cleans the sides of the bowl. (You may have to add more buttermilk.)*

*Gather dough and lightly knead on floured surface. Using half the dough, pat into a circle, 1/2 inch thick. Cut with small biscuit cutter. Bake at 425 for 12 min. Cool on rack and glaze if you like.*

*For glaze, combine 1/3 c powdered sugar and small amount of vanilla in a small bowl. Add a bit of milk or half and half. Stir. Brush tops of cooled scones. Put wax paper under the rack to catch the drips.*

## Mark Your Calendars!



Monday, May 23  
7:30 PM

*Biking in Europe* with Ben Bianchini

Saturday, May 28  
10 AM

May Festival Parade

Saturday, July 9  
10 AM-1 PM

Tag Sale and Carnival

Sunday, July 10  
5 PM-7 PM

Reception for Salley Mavor, Golden Kite Award winner and author of *Pocketful of Posies*

Tuesday, July 12  
8 PM

Annual Meeting with Judy Stetson  
talk on the *Spritsail* magazine

Saturday, August 20  
7:30 PM

WHHCM Concert featuring music once enjoyed by Fritz Fuglister. Bill Simmons and friends will perform.

**Visit [www.woodsholepubliclibrary.org](http://www.woodsholepubliclibrary.org) for a complete list of upcoming summer events!**