



WOODS HOLE LIBRARY NEWS

Fall 2014

Volume 11, Issue 4

Due to our publication schedule, we rarely include articles on summer people whose creativity has enriched our Library's offerings. Here, we profile Kinnaird Fox, who has worked to bring us our Children's Carnival and Tag Sale for over a decade. In addition, we talk to David Isenberg about hosting house concerts featuring his favorite performers. We capture the essence of dance historian Iris Fanger's interview with patron-of-the-arts Nancy Lassalle, and we take a look back in time through the lens of the 1980s newspaper, *Woods Hole Weekly*.

Keep it Simple: Summer Carnival for Kids

by Terry McKee

"Every summer, when the time came to return to Woods Hole, my kids were excited to get back to their summer traditions – Science School classes, ice cream cones at Jimmy's, Library Reading Vouchers, etc..." Long-time Library volunteer and summer resident Kinnaird Fox spoke for many families when she shared that memory with me. Kinnaird herself, with Margaret McCormick's support and assistance, instituted one of those greatly anticipated traditions -- the Summer Tag Sale and Carnival for Kids, which has been held on the Library grounds every July since 2003.

Inspiration for the event was born of both idealistic and practical considerations. The Library needed to raise funds for a new computer, and Kinnaird needed to move along some perfectly useful items that she and her children had accumulated. So began the Tag Sale with Kid's Carnival, a combined event which has stayed much the same, but which changes just enough each year to keep it fresh and fun for the kids.

Good working partners, Kinnaird and Margaret completely agreed that the carnival entertainment should be simple and drawn from whatever they had to work with. "The first year, funds were raised with wheelbarrow rides, painted rocks, and fruit loop necklaces!" said Kinnaird. The concept struck

a chord as evidenced by the fact that "kids who were toddlers during those first years now run it." A committee of young volunteers gathers each year to plan the event. When the work is done, an ice cream social is held to celebrate the community effort of the carnival team.

Kinnaird's roots are in Barrington, RI, where she grew up, and New York City, where she has spent her working career. Her studies included three years at the Goodman School of Drama in Chicago where she obtained a professional certificate in theater, followed by New York's Hunter College, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese and Religion. While at Hunter, she spent a year at Bei Da (Peking University) in Beijing. Back in New York, she taught at the Center School, a four-year middle school built upon the philosophy that how a child learns is as important as what a child learns. "When the principal said 'Children First', Kinnaird emphasizes, "she really meant it." While teaching, Kinnaird completed her Masters in Education at Fordham University in New York.

Though teaching was the career she loved, Kinnaird took the opportunity seventeen years ago to become a realtor for Wohlfarth & Associates on the Upper West Side, where she lives when she can't be in Woods Hole. The change afforded her the flexible working schedule she needed to care for her own children, Sophia and Julian, now both about to finish college. In addition to being a realtor, three

continued on page 5

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

Woods Hole Public Library

PO Box 185 • Woods Hole, MA 02543 • 508 548 8961

fax: 508 540 1969 • woodsholepubliclibrary.org

Nancy Lassalle

Dance Lecture Series

by Pamela Nelson

Born and raised in Manhattan, Nancy Norman Lassalle was fortunate as a child to be taken to see the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. This company, under the famed impresario Serge Diaghilev, included Russian ballet dancers who had left their homeland following the Russian Revolution. In 1924, Diaghilev offered positions in the company to Russian émigré George Balanchine and several other dancers who defected to Europe with him. The impresario gave Balanchine an opportunity to concentrate on choreography and to collaborate with Stravinsky on numerous masterpieces, including the magnificent ballet *Apollo* in 1928. After Diaghilev died, American arts patron Lincoln Kirstein invited Balanchine to the United States in 1933, promising him both a ballet school and a ballet company.

Nancy Lassalle decided to study ballet during the mid 1940s and enrolled in Balanchine's School of American Ballet. She saw both Balanchine and Kirstein frequently at the school, where she observed the culture of ballet and its many celebrated participants. She had a deep respect for the exacting pedagogy of the expert teachers Balanchine hired, who included Anna Pavlova's last partner and a number of distinguished Russian ballerinas.

Commenting on Balanchine's ballet *Serenade*, set to Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*, Nancy said, "This ballet encapsulates the essence of classical dance, a pure form that neither tells a story nor fits the adjective 'abstract.' Balanchine said that once you put a boy and a girl on stage, what you produce is anything but abstract." She continued, "Balanchine was basically—throughout everything he did—a teacher. He invented even when he taught. He gave young people a tremendous sense of the importance of what they were doing, of what it was to be a dancer, which is a very profound way of being. From his students Balanchine drew his dancers and also his teachers. Teachers conveyed what cannot be taught otherwise. Ballet pedagogy is a person-to-person, very humane method of teaching. The human connection is crucial. Computers and movies cannot impart the essence of his method. That is what is so

seductive about the tradition. There is no other way to do this."

Following Balanchine's death, the Balanchine Foundation has controlled his choreographic oeuvre. Companies around the globe have to apply to the foundation to obtain permission to perform his work. A representative of the foundation is sent to decide if the petitioning group is skilled enough to perform a Balanchine ballet and to determine which ballet is suitable for it. Then someone is sent to teach the company the steps and nuances of the particular dance. It is a long and arduous process.

Nancy was an early member of the Ballet Society in New York City, which was formed after WWII to support dancers, choreographers, composers, and costume designers, among others. In 1948, the Society evolved into the New York City Ballet, the company Kirstein had originally promised Balanchine. Nancy has served on the boards of directors of the School of American Ballet as well as the New York City Ballet. The Society continues as a fundraising and educational organization, whose mission is to "educate, inform, and deepen knowledge of young dancers about classicism."

Nancy is worried about the future of ballet and how ballet companies are to survive in this era of financial cutbacks to traditional support of the arts.

She says, "The world of patronage is mysterious and serious. It is a real issue."

She is also concerned about the quality of dancers in training and is pleased that director Peter Martins is committed to keeping the School of American Ballet focused on classical ballet technique. Nancy speaks warmly of teaching dance students to see "beyond what is in the mirror, to see how art contributes to dance." A project dear to her heart and launched this fall is a computer app, "Ballet Society: *Conversations in*

Dance." It is an "educational resource developed for aspiring dancers... to deepen and broaden their knowledge of the nature of ballet and its allied arts." The first topic in the series is Classicism. Art and World Cultures will follow.

Nancy was immensely pleased by our community's interest in dance, and we are grateful that she has expressed her intention to continue to support the summer dance lecture series next year. Her generosity includes donating some of her dance DVDs and books to our arts collection.



The Woods Hole Weekly: A Look Back at the 80s

by Terry McKee

On a shelf in the corner of the Library Reading Room stands a journal box labeled *Woods Hole Weekly*: 1982, 1983, 1984. The Weekly, a “serious photographic/feature-style newspaper,” was edited and published by Russell H. Kendall and distributed for free. Printed on newsprint and running 12 to 16 pages, the issues are dried and yellowed with age, and the Library’s collection is not complete. But for those who enjoy a bit of local history, perusing them can still provide an enjoyable peek into the current events of those years. Through a web search, I learned that Russell Kendall boasts an impressive resumé in photojournalism and also published eight non-fiction photo books with Scholastic Publishing. As editor of *Woods Hole Weekly*, he gathered a staff of talented locals to write and take photographs for the paper.

The staff of the *Weekly* covered all aspects of Woods Hole life. Feature articles included profiles of scientists and storytellers, visionaries and dancers. A “Notes Afloat” section offered little histories of maritime events, photos of vessels that had a connection to Woods Hole, or simply observations on the waters that surround us. Well-written reviews of local theater performances and cinema movies were included, some written by poet Eric Edwards, whose poems appear as well. The *Weekly* did not shy away from serious or controversial subjects... the “Point of View” section printed editorials on timely politics, changing trends, moral issues, or just opinion pieces.

To mention a few of the events captured by the *Weekly*, a July 1982 issue had a front page photograph and article on “The Last Class” to be educated at the then 97-year old Woods Hole School before it closed its doors on June 25th of that year. That same issue had a special theme, “A Day in the Life of Woods Hole,” and combined photographs of Woods Holers just doing what they do, and pieces contributed by six local writers.

The June 9, 1983 issue displayed a photograph, taken at the sundial, of the newspaper’s staff, and was stamped “The First Annual Self-Indulgence Issue.” It celebrated the first birthday of the publication. Unfortunately, that issue was incomplete, so I was unable to get answers to some of my questions about the paper, for example, whether Classifieds and Advertising covered the costs?

Of course, the paper covered the restaurants of Woods Hole, and, in a November, 1982, issue, chef Dave Mutti, of the popular 1980s Black Duck Restaurant (now Phusion,) contributed

Thanksgiving recipes. By special request from a reader, the Black Duck’s recipe for a hearty Clams Rockefeller Soup was printed. We’ve shared this recipe with you in this newsletter. An April 1984 issue covered the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Fishmonger. Since 2014 is Fishmonger’s fortieth anniversary, we decided to print an abridged version of Kevin Hayden’s article on the back of our outreach letter. (The unedited, original version is available to read at the library.)

I was just settling in to reacquaint myself with some legendary dogs of Woods Hole, when I discovered that the February 17, 1983, issue with a front-page article on “Dogs of Woods Hole” was incomplete! Russ Kendall, the newspaper’s founder, has moved on to running a wood-fired pizza restaurant (<https://www.facebook.com/GustoWoodFiredPizza>) in Bellingham, WA. In his small photojournalistic *Woods Hole Weekly*, he left behind a pleasant legacy and some important local histories that might have been lost otherwise.

If you have any issues of Woods Hole Weekly that you would be willing to donate to the library to complete our collection, please let us know.

Dave Mutti’s Clams Rockefeller Soup

5 strips bacon
1 medium diced onion
1 clove garlic, diced in 1 tsp. salt
12 shucked cherrystone clams, diced
1 bag spinach, chopped fine
1 cup clam juice, canned if necessary
1 qt. hot cream sauce*
milk for thinning
pepper to taste

In a skillet, fry bacon until crisp. Remove from pan. Add onions, garlic, and clams. Sauté until onions are clear. Add spinach and clam juice. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes. Meanwhile heat the cream sauce. Add spinach mixture. Crumble bacon into soup. If soup is still too thick, thin with hot milk. Add pepper and serve garnished with garlic croutons. This soup is as rich as the name implies.

*Cream sauce recipe is not included in the recipe; however, it can be found in most cookbooks or on-line. To make enough for the Clams Rockefeller soup, use one that combines 4 Tb butter, 4 Tb flour, and 1 quart of heavy cream, salt and pepper.

[Reprinted from *Woods Hole Weekly*, Thursday, November 18, 1982, p.3]

House Concerts with David Isenberg

by Pamela Nelson

For David Isenberg, there has always been music in Woods Hole. As a child, David attended weekly folk music sessions at the MBL Club, at that time conducted by Canadian folksinger Bonnie Dobson, who wrote the anti-nuclear protest song, "Walk Me Out in the Morning Dew." He also attended chamber music society concerts in Falmouth with his parents. As a teen, he traveled with friends to hear folk music at the Moon-Cusser Coffee House in Oak Bluffs and Club 47 in Harvard Square. He remembers a concert by Tom Rush and Judy Collins at the National Guard Armory on Jones Road in Falmouth and another concert by the original Paul Butterfield Blues Band in a small bar in East Falmouth. Still later, he became friends with Woods Hole resident Perry Lederman (d. 1995), a guitarist who helped shape the folk revival of the 1960's, and whose playing was respected by Bob Dylan, Jerry Garcia, John Fahey, Ramblin' Jack Elliott and many other well-known musicians.

"The more music we have in Woods Hole, the better I like it here," says David, who now produces house concerts featuring a wide variety of music from folk and bluegrass to Brazilian choro and Gypsy jazz. "When I see a musician or a group I love, I want to take them home so my friends can hear them."

In 2011, David traveled to a festival in southern France "to hear two world-class mandolin players whose work I love." There he met the Brazilian group "Choro das 3," a musical family of three young sisters and their parents, whom he later brought to the United States to give concerts in his home, and then around the country. According to David, "Choro is considered the 'first music' of Brazil. It forms the basis for Samba and Bossa Nova. I call it the ragtime music of Brazil because it has catchy melodies with complex harmonies and counterpoints." One sister in "Choro das 3" plays flute and piccolo, another a 7-string guitar, and the third plays mandolin, clarinet, and piano. Their father accompanies them on pandeiro, a Brazilian percussion instrument similar to a tambourine. The family expresses great affection for David and his wife, Paula. It is clear from the way they introduce sets at their concerts that they consider David to be a member of their family and appreciate that he makes them feel very much at home in his house.

David first came to Woods Hole as a 5-year-old in the summer of 1954, when his father did research in "Prof" Albert Szent-Gyorgi's lab at MBL. The family returned a year later on a year-round basis. David

attended the Woods Hole School, then progressed to Falmouth's Mullen-Hall and the Lawrence Schools through grade 8.

In recounting his professional career outside Woods Hole, David is less enthusiastic than he is when discussing music. He received his Ph.D. in biology at Cal Tech in a lab whose focus was on the brain and cognition. David's area of interest was the speech-specific sounds of the human being, how the sounds were made, and how they were perceived. He did not want to pursue a life in academia, and his knowledge of speech processing took him for a short time to companies producing talking toys and video games. Subsequently he worked for 12 years at the Bell Labs (for a time a division of AT&T) in New Jersey, and he now produces conferences aimed at keeping the Internet open to all users and free of corporate control.

Throughout his career, David has derived immense satisfaction from bringing people together to exchange ideas and expertise in diverse areas, from discussing the future of the Internet to sharing the nuances of different musical styles. After leaving his job with AT&T, he returned to Woods Hole. Introducing Brazilian performers to the Woods Hole music scene is just one example of David's exploration of the range of musical possibilities inherent in producing his own house concerts. In many ways he is a music educator as well as aficionado, and his enthusiasm for sharing his eclectic musical taste certainly broadens the entire community's concert choices.



WHPL/Transom Radio Project

by Laurie Raymond

WHPL has a long tradition of innovative programming for adults and young children, but what of the forgotten adolescent? How can we capture this elusive and, at times, challenging group, bursting with intelligence, technical know-how and creative energy? Thanks to a generous grant from the Brabson Library and Educational Foundation, we will soon be offering a pilot program for local high school students.

WHPL has teamed up with Woods Hole-based website Transom.org to offer a week-long audio storytelling class for twelve Upper Cape teens over the 2015 winter school break, Feb. 16 - 20. Online applications will open November 12, 2014 at <<http://www.transom.org>>.

Participating students will expand their writing, interviewing, and organizational skills, as they become familiar with the recording and editing equipment and software used in radio production. The week-long workshop will end with a public presentation of these short audio pieces at the Library. Some may ultimately be aired on local public radio station WCAI.

Students will be selected from Falmouth, Mashpee, and Bourne, and will be recruited through teachers, our WHPL website, and local media. Candidates will be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire this fall, and final selection is expected by the end of the year. Other than a \$50 equipment fee per student, the workshop will be offered at no cost, thanks to the Brabson Foundation.

Jay Allison, who founded WCAI and later Atlantic Public Media, launched Transom.org in 2001. Transom is a Peabody Award winning website featuring tools and inspiration for telling stories for radio, the web, and elsewhere. Building on the success of the website, Transom started the Transom Story Workshop in 2011, an eight-week radio production course in Woods Hole. Since 2013, Transom has offered 1-week Traveling Workshops around the country.

While this will be the first workshop for teenagers offered by Transom, Rob Rosenthal, the lead instructor of the Transom Workshops, worked extensively with high school students while living in Maine, and is excited to reconnect with this age group.

Future collaborative workshops geared toward adolescents might include film production and editing, creative writing, poetry, underwater robotics, bicycle mechanics, more radio production, or other areas of interest. We hope you are as enthusiastic about this new development as we are!

Kids' Carnival

continued from page 1

years ago she joined Fenwick Keats Real Estate as their Director of Development.

Kinnaird is drawn back to Woods Hole every summer by "the community's appreciation for the pleasures of a less-complicated life, and the timelessness that comes from the village's continuing traditions." To create the Summer Tag Sale and Kids Carnival, Kinnaird has applied her experiences as teacher, mother, and performing artist. She mixes in some New England practicality, an appreciation for simpler times, and her own "Children First" principle to create a homespun and carefree event for kids. She resurrects old party games like Musical Chairs, bringing in young fiddlers to play the tunes. She conjures up a leisurely afternoon from another era by setting up an outdoor letter-writing table stocked with hand-designed note cards, and colored pens.

Kinnaird has enjoyed working with a long list of adult helpers for the event too: Kristie Proctor, Terri Silver, Grace Dodier, Marsha Due, and Joyce Marsden have all chipped in time and good spirit. Asked to comment, Margaret McCormick wrote, "Kinnaird has really shaped the Tag Sale/Carnival. She continues to inspire me to hold this event. As long as she is around and willing to help, I'll be delighted to work with her!"



Local Authors: The Sunlight Series, Book 3

Buried Sunlight: How Fossil Fuels Have Changed the Earth

Following up on *Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life* (2009) and *Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed the Seas* (2012,) Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm have partnered again to create an informative and handsome picture book in which the sun speaks to readers about how fossil fuels are formed and how their use has affected the Earth's atmosphere. Booklist's Carolyn Phelan gave the book a star (indicating a work judged by a reviewer to be outstanding in its genre) and says, "Bang's expertise and creativity in making picture books are well matched with Chisholm's solid grasp of science. Every element in the complex, beautiful illustrations supports the informative text." Author and microbiologist Penny Chisholm says, "We felt it was important that people understand the big picture behind global warming: Why burning fossil fuels is so disruptive to the Earth's systems."

Library Website Gets a New Look

Thanks to a generous grant from the Brabson Library and Educational Foundation, the Library website has received a much-needed facelift. The original site served us well for seven years, but during those years the technologies of providing information on the web have progressed. Library website designer, Tom Inoue, committed himself to working with us to implement some new features that the Board considered important to the Library's communication needs.

The new site was launched on August 1st 2014. An up-to-date calendar provides improved access to descriptions of upcoming Library events, and a slideshow presents changing images that show the breadth of activities hosted by the Library. A click will get you quick access to CLAMS books, e- and audio- books, and the newsletter archive.

More improvements are planned, including updating the information on all pages on the site. Keep checking <http://www.woodsholepubliclibrary.org> for Library news, and changes and improvements in the way we deliver it to you. As always, your opinion matters to us, so please tell us how the site can serve you better.

Local Authors: *The Power to Heal Myself* by Betty Wall

by Molly Bang

Anyone who has received a massage from Betty Wall will want to borrow a copy of her book *The Power to Heal Myself*.

Betty writes a short introduction about her most influential teachers, Mary Burmeister and Ida Rolf. Mary Burmeister learned the method of Jin Shin Jyutsu, or the Art of Knowing or Helping Myself, from its originator in Japan, and she has practiced it in the US for many years. Ida Rolf was a chemist who developed Rolfing when her son became unable to walk from tuberculosis; her massages helped restore his health. Betty not only studied with these therapists but has become a practitioner of many other forms of massage as well.

In this book Betty passes on some of this knowledge with photographs and drawings demonstrating specific finger holds and pressure points to help relieve us of worry, fear, anger, sadness and pretense, as well as bodily pains resulting from the stresses of our daily lives.

Betty says, "When we honor what is within us, we are connected to our soul and then the power to heal is available. When we are healed, we are not healed alone. All those around us benefit from our healing. The harmony spreads."

Betty spreads harmony wherever she goes. We benefit from her presence, and from this book.

Changes on Our Board

We would like to thank Duncan Aspinwall for his years on the Library Board, where he served as liaison between the Library Board and the Historical Museum's Steering Committee. He listened patiently at many meetings and relayed communications between the two very busy organizations that, despite their proximity, operate independently and often unaware of each other's activities! Thank you, Duncan, for your willingness to do double duty.

Anne Richards, familiar to many as a member of the Solstice Singers, has just joined our Board. Anne has been a Falmouth resident since 1985, and is a biologist at NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Mother of two, she has been a Girl Scout Leader and President of the Woods Hole Child Center in addition to being a singer, board member, production manager, and Children's Chorus Coordinator for the Solstice Singers. The Events Committee looks forward to reaping the benefits of her experience and expertise.

“Renewal” Project Goes on the Road

This past summer the Library hosted a new type of community art event. Entitled “Renewal,” interested individuals were invited to use discarded books from the Library’s ongoing book sale to create art. Local artists, crafters, and children, all book lovers at heart, made pieces for the show. The artwork ranged from large to small, from a giant mobile of hanging books in the main room to a miniature doll named Paige Turner. The exhibit culminated in a well-attended reception and successful silent auction on July 31, with all proceeds going to the Library.

At a Small Library Roundtable meeting at WHPL in September, Margaret was strongly encouraged to take the project idea to a Library Symposium. On October 29, she and Kellie packed the car with several portable pieces from the exhibit, heading to Sturbridge to share their project and to see what other small libraries are doing in their towns and villages.

We have plans for another community art exhibit next summer. Stay tuned for details!



Paper Dragon by the Gartner Family

HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!

Holiday Book Sale: Saturday, December 6th, 10am to 5pm, and throughout December during regular library hours.

Holiday Party: Wednesday, December 10, 5:30 - 7 pm

Pottery Raffle: Tickets on sale at the Library and at the Renaissance Fair. Check the website for photos of the pots. Drawing at the Holiday Party.

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

Music Series Needs Sponsors

The Library is actively soliciting sponsors for its successful *Listening at the Library* concert series. Although the compensation we offer to our invited performers is smaller than we might wish, nevertheless it enables us to acknowledge their artistic talents and to draw from a larger pool of musicians from a wider geographic area. Sponsorship levels range from \$100 to \$2500. The Library Board Events Committee has put together a package of information describing the levels and the benefits each offers to sponsors. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please don’t wait for us to find you. Come find us at the Library, by email at whpl_mail@clamsnet.org, or by phone at 508-548-8961. Look for details on our website at <http://www.woodsholepubliclibrary.org>.

When is Out of Date Preferable to Forever?

Do you have a desk drawer filled with old outdated stamps? The Library Membership committee can put your old un-canceled stamps, in any denomination, to good use as postage for our gift acknowledgement notes. Please bring your unused stamps to the Library, or place them in an envelope and mail them to Woods Hole Public Library, P.O. Box 185, Woods Hole MA 02543.

Thank you! Forever!



Do you recommend the CLAMS?

In which we visit the Chilmark and Aquinnah Libraries, up-island on Martha's Vineyard.

by Pamela Nelson

In Massachusetts, small libraries are defined as those serving populations under 10,000, and the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) has a dedicated advisor for such libraries. She recently conducted a roundtable at WHPL, attended by three Martha's Vineyard library directors—from Chilmark, Aquinnah, and West Tisbury—as well as representatives from Woods Hole, Cotuit, and Marstons Mills.

When I dropped by the Aquinnah and Chilmark libraries with my camera and notebook a few days after this roundtable meeting, I mentioned that I was a WHPL Trustee and one of its newsletter editors. To my surprise, I was welcomed with all the enthusiasm that might be given to a visitor presenting a letter of introduction from library philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The staff told me they had loved visiting our library, were delighted to have met our director, and were a bit embarrassed that they had not stopped in at WHPL on previous forays to the mainland. Could they show me around, give me a tour? They were at my service!

During my visit it was clear to me that, except for the overwhelming influx of visitors and summer residents in July and August, these librarians know their patrons well and are there to serve and assist them. Their interactions are personal as well as professional, and they are aware that they occupy a central role in creating and maintaining social connections in their somewhat remote communities.

The Aquinnah Library is in a compact frame building, once upon a time the classic little red schoolhouse, until the school was closed in 1968. Today's DVD collection partially conceals the blackboards which covered the front wall of the schoolroom. Photographs of children seated at their desks and another of the pupils posed outside (dated 1948) hang above one of the two public computers. The director's desk is in the old vestibule, between the separate entrance doors marked Boys and Girls. My tour guide opined that theirs might be the smallest library in the CLAMS system, certainly serving the smallest population. The collection is arranged so well that the limited space does not appear cramped. The children's section awaits an "upgrade" in the form of a few beanbags that will be installed for new seating sometime in the fall. There is a big porch off the entrance, with chairs and a sturdy railing, in

frequent use for children's activities and serving as the library's main expansion area. The building is open for limited hours three days each week, but children can count on having story time whenever they arrive and can look forward to doing an art or craft project as well. Recently they made jellyfish out of soda bottles and yarn, and there were signs for a tie-dyeing activity scheduled for that Saturday afternoon.

When a generous patron paid the entrance fee for Aquinnah to join the CLAMS system, it took some time for patrons to adjust. They had been familiar with their own collection, and found it jarring that cherished items disappeared at times and were even sent off-island. Embracing the benefits of CLAMS has been a slow process but it is gaining acceptance.

The Chilmark Library is located next to the Chilmark Elementary School and serves as the school library as well as the town library. In the off-season, the director informed me, it is one of the few buildings open in Chilmark, in addition to the post office and the gas station. In winter she sets up a café area with coffee and cookies for patrons, who come there to get together as well as to use traditional library services. The expanded 6700 square-foot library was cleverly designed. Just inside the front door is a hallway leading to a generous community room for meetings and serving as an art gallery. Bathrooms are also accessible in this entrance area. Chilmark residents can obtain a key and access the public meeting space even when the library itself is closed.

The new library space has a modular construction, lending each area a cozy feeling. The original rooms, which date from the 1820s, with wide-planked floors, comfortable easy chairs, and fireplaces, house the Martha's Vineyard collection and serve as small conference spaces. The new children's area is large and bright, and even without children present conveys energy. This room features colorful artwork and mobiles as well as picture books left invitingly open to attract budding readers. There is a separate teen area, and a recent program for teens on graphic novels featured a poster contest announcing the event.

In many ways these two small Vineyard libraries remind me of our own. Their librarians are enthusiastic and dedicated, and the communities they serve appreciate the services offered, even as small libraries unite to implement the numerous changes imposed by the digital age.

Newsletter Staff

Terry McKee and Pamela Nelson, with Emma Dvorak
Contributors: Laurie Raymond and Molly Bang