Our Friend at Eight Cousins

What is the Siren song of books that lures us into a bookstore or a library? Some of us feel lonely without a book at hand, at times necessitating a last-minute dash to pick up a book or two before our library closes for a holiday weekend.

Carol Chittenden, owner of Eight Cousins Bookstore in Falmouth, has larger goals than meeting our short-term desire for the companionship of a good book. Listening to her speak, one realizes that Carol sees books and reading as integral and essential to building and maintaining a civil society where intelligent discourse and mutual understanding are crucial elements.

Just as the King instructed the White Rabbit, Carol begins at the beginning. She starts advising expectant parents at the Falmouth Hospital’s prenatal preparation classes, and has created a flyer on language development for seven stages from birth to kindergarten. Eight Cousins’ staff is trained to match each reader’s age, culture, and interests with the level and content of the books. They view the individual child in terms of age and also gender. It is important to reach a few inches beyond the child’s current stage. “For instance,” says Carol, “just because a kid likes helicopters doesn’t mean one should limit one’s search to helicopter books. Give something else, such as a book about tugboats or diggers.”

When the child reaches the very important stage of “middle childhood”—the elementary school ages—Carol believes that he or she is developmentally ready and sufficiently independent to investigate the world outside himself as well as to explore his or her individuality within. “The task of childhood is to discover one’s identity and determine who one is. To accomplish that task, kids need space, both concrete and abstract, and books offer almost infinite opportunity to explore that space.” A child can roam and delve to his heart’s content within the safe yet essentially limitless boundaries of imagination.

Carol offers advice and opinions on selecting books, based on years of experience in providing books for children. She observes sadly that parents and grandparents gravitate to the same old favorites, rather than selecting books with an open mind. “… it is our job to open the world to the child and to help open the child to himself or herself.” An expert in the children’s book trade, Carol remarks that colors and images on book covers project both gender and racial “tags.” Often white adults will not buy books that depict children of color. An exception is the new

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A Woods Hole Story

Once upon a time there was an artist named Amy who won a grant to come to Woods Hole to pursue her interest in art and photography. Here, she fell in love, got married and had a wonderful colicky son named Rafe, whom she loved very much, but he cried a lot. “You must get out of the house,” said supportive husband Rick. “Take a class,” he said. So, she did: “How to Write a Children’s Book and Get It Published”, at a nearby night school. With her classmates Amy visited an amazing local bookstore called “Eight Cousins.” There she handled all the board books, and became fascinated with them.

“Write a baby book on sushi,” said funny husband Rick. “Call it Rockabye, Sushi.” “Huh,” said Amy as she rummaged in the kitchen drawer for a pair of scissors and started gathering bits of paper and cloth from around the house. Before she came to Woods Hole, Amy had worked in a Sushi restaurant, so she knew a lot about sushi. She wrote words for the book, words with rhyme and rhythm...

I see take-out tekka maki, kappa maki packed to go.
Temaki-style hand roll with uni urchin roe.
...words that children might not understand, but that would amuse them. “Send your book to a publisher,” said night school teacher, Dave. So she did. And Tricycle Press in Berkeley, CA, wrote to Amy and said, “We love your book, but we need you to do more, to do a whole series of baby books on food. Can you do that?” “Hmmm,” said Amy. “Of course you can,” said Amy’s friend Jenny. “You can do a book on Mexican food and call it ¡Hola! Jalapeño.
You can do a book on Jewish food, and call it Let’s Nosh.” And so Amy said she could. And every year for the next six years, she wrote and snipped and glued together and published six more books! She read the books to her best audience, Rafe and daughter Ruby. But that’s not all she did... Amy went back to school to study to be a radiologic technologist. She got a job doing medical imaging at the local hospital. She brought her children regularly to the Woods Hole Public Library where they continue to enjoy and read many books together... happily ever after.

Bud Waters: Author and Friend

If you are at all familiar with children’s book authors who have Woods Hole roots—and there are quite a few—you might be interested to learn of John F. Waters, who has contributed over thirty books to this genre. Donna Due Brown recalls family friend and babysitter Bud Waters, who has written numerous books for kids, many with science themes, published under the name John F. Waters. A number of his books can be found in our own children’s book section.

In June, 1949, John “Bud” Waters arrived in Woods Hole from Boston aboard a train loaded with cargo and passengers bound for Woods Hole and the islands. After he disembarked, he stopped for a moment to watch the conductor single-handedly turn the steam engine around on a giant turntable (in what is now the steamship parking and bus assembly area) so that the train was facing back to Boston. He had come to Woods Hole to work at the MBL Mess Hall. Under the supervision of Miss Bell, he worked there in subsequent summers for $18.00/week, including room and board. Thus, he recalls, began his love affair with the village of Woods Hole and a fascination with the sea and its animals.

In 1957, Bud met his future wife Barbara, a Smith coed working as an MBL chambermaid, and in the same year Bud became the first Director of the Woods Hole Teen Center, located in the basement of the Woods Hole Community Hall. It was a popular destination for Saturday night record hops, and a good place to hang out on rainy days. His relationships with many of those teens have lasted until today. When Bud and Barbara married in 1959, they were pleased to have the distinctive mailing address P.O. Box 1, Woods Hole. Bud became a staff writer for the Cape Cod Standard Times in Hyannis while Barbara raised their four children and taught swimming lessons at Stony Beach. Together they enjoyed seashore rambles on Nobska and Stony Beach with their children and Saint Bernard dog Moses.

In 1967, Bud co-wrote his first book with Barbara, entitled Saltwater Aquariums. With easy access to the Bureau of Fisheries, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the MBL’s world famous library, he began writing science books for kids. Bud went on to become a Continued on P. 7
Nurturing Young Readers

If one were to look over Margaret McCormick’s résumé, it would be clear immediately how she came to choose her profession as director of a small library. From her teen years on, Margaret has hung out, volunteered, and been employed in libraries as diverse as the Cranbury, NJ Public School/Town Library and the Rutgers University Library. With some nurturing from the director of the Cranbury Library, and her own interest in books and children, Margaret was a natural to pursue a career as a librarian with a special interest in Children’s Literature.

Margaret feels strongly about the importance of reading aloud to children. Her son Thomas says he believes he absorbed more vocabulary from listening to books read aloud to him than he ever learned in school. In her opinion, Jim Trelease, author of “The Read-Aloud Handbook”, offers an impressive list of suggested books.

“Young Adult literature is exploding right now, particularly fantasy literature,” she says. “It is important for young people to have a diet rich in diversity in their reading...including old classics and modern works.” Some of her personal favorites include the Maude Lovelace books (The Betsy-Tacy Books, c. 1940) and the Philip Pullman series (His Dark Materials, c. 1995.) But the list goes on and on.

Realizing how the encouragement she received at a young age influenced her, Margaret hires Woods Hole teens to assist the librarians during the busy summer months. She encourages them to interact with patrons, not just duck into the stacks to shelve books.

She is particularly proud of the Summer Reading Program for Children, which has thrived for over 15 summers. It is uncomplicated – every week children bring in their reading log and receive a coupon for a novelty food treat from a Woods Hole vendor. Continuous reading and a trip to the Library become a regular routine in their lives. Game night, another of Margaret’s initiatives and a regular Library event for over 10 years, also sets up the Library as a gathering place for fun and social interaction, while kids are simultaneously surrounded by books and other media available for loan or just browsing. In addition, the summer Tag Sale is run completely by children, under adult supervision.

Other programs include Reading Aloud, Knitting for Children, Film Series for Kids, and numerous craft classes, where Margaret can be seen quietly guiding the children to enjoy and benefit from what is being offered to them. And, perhaps nurturing a librarian of tomorrow.

Read a good YA book lately?

by Kellie Porter

Young Adult fiction is in the news these days, thanks to popular “cross-over” series like The Hunger Games and Twilight, but there is much more to this genre than escapist plots and sparkly vampires. Personally, after finishing a particularly dense adult novel, I like to cozy up with a YA novel for the diversion it provides. Besides, finishing a novel in one sitting is pretty satisfying!

Some suggestions from the Young Adult section:

When You Reach Me, by Rebecca Stead
Part mystery, part time-travel fantasy, this little gem of a novel draws inspiration from Madeleine L’Engle’s A Wrinkle in Time. Sixth grader Miranda begins receiving mysterious notes whose meaning she must unravel to prevent a tragic death. Issues with friendships, families, and being a 12-year-old are touched upon with grace. A great family read, this book can be enjoyed by all ages and genders, and is quite deserving of the 2010 Newbery Medal.

Tender Morsels, by Margo Lanagan
With the popularity of grim Scandinavian crime mysteries, this selection, a modern retelling of Grimm’s Snow White and Rose Red, is appealing despite its rather dark opening scenes. Liga, a young woman who has been abused in her past, attempts to protect her daughters from the violence and suffering that she has experienced, by keeping them safe in her own personal heaven. As children are wont to do, her daughters grow up and the real world breaks in. Now Liga and her girls must learn to reconcile beauty and brutality in this Young Adult novel dealing with issues that are far from juvenile.

Also recommended: Room by Emma Donoghue

The Invention of Hugo Cabret, by Brian Selznick
This graphic novel is the inspiration behind Martin Scorsese’s latest film, Hugo. The orphaned Hugo lives behind the walls of a Paris train station. After a chance encounter at a toy booth, he unravels a mystery that goes beyond his wildest imagination. Beautifully illustrated with sparse text, this book transports you to another world. Read it if you want a delightful escape, and then read Selznick’s next work, Wonderstruck. Both books present engaging adventures in an exquisitely creative form.

For a list of upcoming library events, visit www.woodsholepubliclibrary.org
Changes on our Board

The wise investment strategies of Bill Mackey and Carol Reinisch have protected our endowment during this period of market volatility. Bill’s legal advice has been invaluable as well. They both step down after completing two terms on our Board and will be sorely missed.

Catherine Cramer, chair of the new Events Committee, must step down after one term since her work commitments will make her less available. She has generously shared the concert space in her home for intimate musical Library fundraisers, and expects to maintain a close connection to the Board and the Library.

Carolyn Bunker withdrew as Treasurer of WHPL and WHHCM in February when family health problems took priority. Wendy Nies has graciously taken over her position.

As of February Suzanne Currier has withdrawn from the Board to become our Development Consultant as the Bradley House Renovation Project enters an exploratory phase. Her first successful effort in this role was overseeing and implementing the conversion of our database to DonorPerfect, a change that will help us keep better track of members, gifts, and grants.

Duncan Aspinwall was welcomed to the Board in December as liaison member with WHHCM.

Our Board of Trustees is a cohesive group and it is with fondness and regret that we say farewell and thanks to departing colleagues.

Carol Chittenden...

Continued from page 1

series by Alexander McCall Smith featuring Precious Ramotswe as a child solving her very first case in The Great Cake Mystery, “a Number 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency book for young readers.”

Generous in sharing her knowledge and experience, Carol offers other intriguing observations. She notes that boys tend to restrict themselves more than girls in their book choices. She also thinks that kids feel freer choosing their own books in a library than in a bookstore. In her view, a special feature of the Harry Potter and the Hunger Games series is that these books appeal equally to boys and girls.

Carol’s passion for books and reading and her sheer determination have provided our community with a rich supply of reading material for all ages. We are truly fortunate to have the opportunity to walk into her store, itself a portal into the complex and colorful world of children’s literature.

Librarian Kellie Porter reads to her daughter Helen from a treasury of nursery rhymes, a current favorite of Helen’s, along with alphabet books and books with monkeys.

Wooden Boat Talk at Lillie

WHPL announces a special summer presentation by America’s premier photographer of wooden boats, Benjamin Mendlowitz. His photographs have appeared on the cover and in feature articles of Wooden Boat magazine for over thirty years. His Calendar of Wooden Boats® and other books are devoted to revealing the timeless beauty of classic wooden boats.

Tickets ($25 per person) will be available for sale at Eight Cousins, Bank of Woods Hole, and Woods Hole Public Library (508-548-8961). We hope you will join us for this special event on Sunday, July 15th, at 8pm, at MBL’s Lillie Auditorium. Proceeds benefit the Library.
The Chappy Cellists and the Chappaquoit Cello Quartet brought the rich sound of their music to the Woods Hole Public Library on January 28 for a benefit concert. The library was packed with family, friends, and music lovers enticed by the opportunity to hear two cello quartets perform.

All eight cellists are students of Nikki Patton’s Chappaquoit Cello Studio in West Falmouth. The Chappy Cellists are fourth and fifth graders from Falmouth, and the Chappaquoit Cello Quartet are high school players, three of whom are from Falmouth. Ms. Patton teaches her students not only how to play the cello, but also how to perform graciously and confidently, showing respect for their instruments, the music, and the audience. The students’ poise and self-confidence were as remarkable as their music.

Some of Ms. Patton’s youngest students sat cross-legged on the floor in front of the cellists to get a better view. It was clear that they were inspired by the older cellists.

The Chappy Cellists started with a D Major scale. Ten-year-old Celeste Newman is the principal, signaling the start of each piece and keeping players Qianlong Xu, Nell Bowen, and Ava Warner together.

The Chappy Cellists performed from memory, sometimes playing in unison, often playing in parts, which meant they had to play their own part and be aware of how their part fit in with the others’. They played “French Folk Song,” “Allegro,” by S. Suzuki, and Minuet No. 2 by Bach.

The Chappaquoit Cello Quartet had a more demanding program: eight classical and folk music pieces. Led by principal cellist Emily Farris, 17, of Nauset High School, the group includes Courcelle Stark, Kaylee Lino, and Kurran Singh. All are fine cellists who have been studying cello since they were little.

They began with “Cantabile” (anonymous), a slow and plaintive piece, played with much expressiveness. The “Suite Hispaniola” by contemporary composer Carole Rabinowitz had a nice Spanish rhythm, and Giovanni Palestrina’s “Ave Regina Coelorum,” written in the 16th century, was presented with quiet dignity.

Next was a concerto by Telemann from the 1700s. There were quick passages in the first movement, each student passing the melody to the next, followed by a slow and deliberate second movement. The third was crisp and energetic.

Cesar Franck’s “Panis Angelicus” was quietly reverential. “To A Wild Rose” was lovely, gentle, and evocative, and Jay Unger’s “Ashokan Farewell” was beautiful in its melancholy.

“Italian Song,” by Carol D. Critelli had a lyrical melody and also gave the cellists an opportunity to show off their pizzicato (plucking the strings) and for each to solo.

At evening’s end, the audience showed their deep appreciation of the hard work and talented performance of all these young cellists.

Contributed by Marilyn Rowland, who writes about the arts for Notes on the Arts (notesonthearts.com) and takes cello lessons from Nikki Patton.

New Children’s Literature DVD

Library of the Early Mind, a documentary film exploring children’s literature, is available for loan at the library. The film features nearly forty prominent authors and illustrators, such as Madeleine L’Engle, Gregory Maguire, Chris Van Allsburg, and Norton Juster talking about their work. In interviews, they share their views on the importance and impact of children’s literature.

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.
Bookplates/Book Funds

Have you ever opened a Woods Hole Library book and noticed a bookplate with a simple but evocative inscription? Perhaps you saw a plate that read:

_In memory of Judy Silverstein (1959—1984)… who loved to read._

These particular books stand out just a little from other books in the library—causing a reader to pause and reflect that this book is connected not just to the Library, but also to an individual who must have loved books and the Library. Maybe you wondered about how that bookplate came to be there.

Bookplates came into use in the Middle Ages, one of the earliest plates being a fifteenth century woodcut image placed into books belonging to a German monastery. In the following century German painter Albrecht Dürer created at least six bookplates, and through subsequent epochs plates became popular as wealthy book owners sought to secure and show off their private collections. Also known as _ex libris_, bookplate images followed fashion trends, some depicting majestic angels or elaborate coats of arms, until simpler designs such as wreathed or beribboned borders took their place. There was a period of popularity of cupids and dragons, pagodas, urns and seashells. Chess pieces, sailing ships, and scientific instruments all had their day. In the late nineteenth century English illustrator Aubrey Beardsley created a number of bookplates, many featuring his fascination with erotica and with depictions of the grotesque. In recent years simple bookplates for personal use have been available in bookstores and stationers, while societies and clubs devoted to the collection of unique bookplates have been established.

At the Woods Hole Public Library, as in numerous other libraries, bookplates identify books purchased through gifts to the Library in the form of book funds. This type of gift is one of the best ways to help the Library expand its collection. Usually established to honor a family member or friend, living or deceased, there are two basic types of book funds, **short-term** and **endowed**. **Short-term** funds expire when the funds run out, unlike **endowed**, which, thanks to continued donations and investment interest, live on. Endowed book funds not only support the purchase of dozens of books each year for the Library’s general collection, but may also support acquisitions for our special collections.

The essence of an endowed fund is that only the earned interest is spent; the principal is never invaded. Some funds place buying restrictions for purchases in a particular category like art or science. **Unrestricted funds**, on the other hand, offer the

Library Director greater latitude to select books and media for the collection wherever she perceives the greatest need.

One particular fund, the Silverstein fund, has grown considerably since it was first established in 1999. Starting with a substantial initial gift from Arthur and Frances Silverstein in memory of their daughter Judy, the fund has grown, both through continued generous contributions over the years and also from interest on the invested funds, to a healthy self-sustaining fund. This endowed fund supports purchases of non-fiction materials on a continuing basis.

A list of book funds is available on request from the Library Director, as is information about how to establish a fund. As for bookplates, unless a fund is specified as anonymous, the honoree is acknowledged with a personalized bookplate inside each book purchased through the fund. The donor is welcome to participate in the design and wording of the bookplate that will be placed in books purchased in that fund’s name. Just as endowed funds help maintain the vitality and variety of the Library’s collections, each bookplate can remind the reader of the honored individual, whose memory is evoked every time a funded book cover is opened. Please consider an endowed book fund as a thoughtful and meaningful way to support the Woods Hole Public Library and to help readers remember your loved one for years to come.
A vase with flowers

Join the Library’s new Flower Club! Brighten the Reading Room by delivering a vase of selected blooms to the Library year round. Sign up for the weekly rotation at the front desk and we’ll send you a reminder.

Library Holds Winter Potluck Dinner

On Saturday, March 17th, Library and WHHC&M board members, staff, and spouses gathered under twinkling lights for a potluck dinner upstairs at the Library. Seated at formally-set banquet tables adorned with spring flowers, diners enjoyed each other’s company and a delicious assortment of main courses followed by desserts. The Library, well known for hosting concerts and parties, hopes to make this much-enjoyed evening an annual event. Find a dessert recipe on the back of the letter.

Annual Meeting Speaker

On Tuesday, July 11, at 8:00 p.m., the Library will hold its Annual Meeting. After the brief business part of the meeting, Cathy Norton, retired director of the MBL Library, will speak on World Wide Access in New Digital Libraries. A graduate of Regis College and Simmons Graduate School of Information and Library Science, she oversaw the creation of the electronic library that serves the MBL Library’s holdings to the scientific community worldwide. She is a member of numerous professional library and information technology organizations and a past President of the Boston Library Association. Cathy is currently a Library Scholar in the new Center for Libraries and Informatics at the MBL and serves on the board of Neighborhood Falmouth. Don’t be intimidated by the technological sound of the subject... Cathy is an entertaining and engaging speaker, who has not limited her ambition merely to connecting people via computers. She has enjoyed another career as a certified justice of the peace and has officiated at the weddings of many a Woods Hole couple.

Bud Waters ...

Successful children’s author, under the name John F. Waters. In Watching Whales a fifth grade class goes on a whale watching expedition, and is thrilled to see a humpback whale breach and to experience the feel and smell of a whale’s spout. Most of his books for kids focus on marine science. A Jellyfish is Not a Fish, The Crab from Yesterday (life cycle of the horseshoe crab), The Mysterious Eel, Neighborhood Puddle (vernal pool), and many others total over 30 hardcover books. Two books were Junior Literary Guild selections and seven were named to the list of Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children.

Bud and Barbara Waters now live in Chatham, where he continues to write. He has expanded genres to young people’s historical fiction, including Night Raiders Along the Cape. Night Raiders is set in Woods Hole during the Revolutionary War. A young boy uncovers the British plan to attack the Woods Hole Militia and must act to save his Patriot friends along the Cape.
Thanks in large part to the determined advocacy of 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. CLAMS enables its members to borrow from the collections of sister libraries on the Cape and Islands, 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 next few newsletters, we will visit a few of the CLAMS libraries and report on our findings. We hope some of our readers will visit these other libraries when traveling around the Cape and Islands.

Spécialité de la Saison: CLAMS Centerville

On a warm day in late March the front door of the Centerville Library is propped wide open. To the left inside the open door is an attractive reading area. Comfortable chairs and a couch are arranged in horseshoe fashion in front of a fireplace, over which hangs an oil painting of a large, fuzzy cat, eying the observer from atop a pile of books.

It would seem that a generous family donated their home to be used as a library, the small rooms flowing one into another. Yet the vigilant librarian at the front desk, who has stepped up with a friendly offer of assistance, says the library was deliberately built in this fashion, with the goal of projecting warmth and comfort. As for the cat, she says, there once was a cat named Dotty, who adopted the library and became a friendly fixture. One year a local artist donated a painting of Dotty for the library’s annual spring fundraiser auction. The librarians hoped someone would buy it and give it to the library. But there were hardly any bids. The savvy auctioneer encouraged everyone to make a small bid of $25, then accepted ALL of the bids, thus raising $1200 for the library and, in addition, handing the painting over to be placed above the fireplace.

Surrounding the couch and chairs is the fiction section, flowing into non-fiction in the room beyond, deeper in the library. To the right are the public computers, an alcove of reference books, and in the center of the area to the right, on a long table, is an architect’s model of an expanded Centerville Library. The trustees are in the middle of a capital campaign to enlarge the library, at the back. The new space, occupying two stories, will offer handicapped-accessible restrooms, an elevator, versatile meeting space with partitions, and an enlarged reading room. There is a collection of campaign material next to the model, which the librarian has taken considerable time to open and explain, with great enthusiasm.

There is a coffee maker near the front desk, with cups, sugar, and single servings of cream. The coffee is available for free. Library Director Beth Butler explains that no one drank coffee when a donation was asked. Yet not far from the coffee, on the edge of the circulation desk, is an enormous vintage flask made of thick glass, and it is stuffed with bills. A sign on it reads, “New Book Fund.”

The other truly unique area is down a set of steep stairs toward the back of the existing building. Here, one finds an enormous on-going book sale, managed by octogenarian Alice Williams. She appears frail, but lets it be known, in a steely voice, that the success of the book sale is due to the fact that it is run by one person alone—Alice herself. A former Barnstable English teacher, she evaluates and places every donated book. Prices range from 50 cents to a dollar, and book turnover is high because of the low cost. She proudly brings in about $26,000 per year through this ongoing sale, open four days each week.

A visit to the Centerville Library is a rewarding experience. From the front of the Woods Hole Steamship Authority, the RTA bus can drop a passenger off by the Library’s front door in just under an hour. And if, after sampling the CLAMS, you are interested in dessert, the celebrated Four Seas Ice Cream Parlor is around the corner and open between Memorial Day and Labor Day.