



# WOODS HOLE LIBRARY NEWS

Fall 2016

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Terry McKee and Pamela Nelson, who stepped down from the Library Board in July and signed off as editors of the WHPL newsletter, introduce you to their successors, Jarita Davis and Janaye Rooney. Terry and Pamela had the privilege of “marinating” for a time on the Library’s Board, learning its mission and culture, before tackling the newsletter. Jarita and Janaye, new Board members, are taking the plunge after attending their first meeting in September! Their first newsletter adopts their chosen theme of New Beginnings.

## New Beginnings for Butterflies

by Jennifer Gaines

The Library has raised monarch butterflies for almost 10 years, but this summer broke all records, raising over 100. Under the direction of naturalist educator Becky Lash, the art of raising the insects from egg to adult in one of Becky’s net cages has been nearly perfected.

When Becky spots the tiny, pale yellow monarch eggs glued to the underside of milkweed leaves in the field, she collects them, milkweed stem and all. When brought to the Library, a sequence of hatching caterpillars from late July through late September unfolds. It takes about four days for the eggs to hatch. The first caterpillars are tiny delicate creatures with striking yellow, black, and white stripes. Their main job is to eat; in fact, their first meal is their own egg case.

As the caterpillars eat and grow, they shed their old skins four times before they reach maturity. Then the chubby caterpillars climb high, either up the walls of the cage, or on a milkweed stem, until they find a good place to attach, hanging head-down in their “J shape.” One last time, the caterpillar sheds its skin, and then its whole shape and color changes. The skin disappears, and a jade-green chrysalis appears, like a jewel with sparkling dots of gold. For twelve days the chrysalis hangs unchanged and beautiful. Then it darkens to black, looking almost dead before orange appears through the skin, and new monarch wings shine through. Finally the skin of the chrysalis cracks open

near the bottom, and a head peeks through, pulling its puffy soft body behind. The butterfly flaps its brilliant orange and black wings to harden and strengthen them. After almost a day of flapping their bright, new wings, the butterflies are ready for release.

The librarians tag the individual adult butterflies, carefully applying a small printed sticker to a hind wing. Then one at a time each is released out through the south facing window of the children’s room and into the bright sun. This begins their 2,500 miles migration to Mexico. Although these delicate butterflies can fly 600 miles nonstop, we let them go with great trepidation, whole-heartedly wishing them a safe trip.

Each time the librarians released one, as it lifted off our hands into the air we were always struck by a sense of wonder, magnified when a child was at our knees, open-mouthed in awe. The record and tag numbers of the butterflies were sent into “Monarch Watch,” a program

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- **HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY!** •
- **Holiday Book Sale:** Saturday, December 3rd, 10am to 5pm, and throughout December during regular library hours.
  - **Holiday Party:** Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 to 7pm
  - **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.
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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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## Butterflies, continued

which provides the tags and keeps a database of all tagged monarchs nationwide.

In celebration of this iconic butterfly, the Library hosted several events. On one Saturday afternoon in late September, children made costumes representing the life stages of the monarchs: caterpillar, chrysalis, or adult, or of the host plant, the wildflower milkweed.

The following Saturday, Becky Lash gave a talk about monarchs, and then the group released some of the Library-reared adults. The children were also given milkweed seeds to float into the air at another site, creating more milkweed plants and a greater habitat for future monarchs. This way, the Library helps bolster the struggling population of this astoundingly beautiful creature.



## Nationally Acclaimed Poets Visit Woods Hole

by *Jarita Davis*

This winter, the Woods Hole Public Library will host a poetry reading showcasing twelve recent alumni of the White House's National Student Poets Program (NSPP). The NSPP was developed both to recognize the existing creative talent in American students and to bring poetry into communities throughout the United States. The students who are selected serve as cultural ambassadors and actively promote poetry and writing nationwide.

Woods Hole summer resident Olivia Morgan is the force behind bringing these poets to our community. She was appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and then founded the National Student Poets Program. She has invited twelve poets to Woods Hole for an intense writing workshop, a reading at the Library, and to present their work on WCAI.

Olivia Morgan reached out to Margaret McCormick at Woods Hole Public Library who was delighted at the chance to feature such nationally recognized talent and scheduled a reading on Thursday, December 29 at 7:30 PM. We hope you will join us for an inspiring evening.

## Introducing Janaye Rooney



by *Terry McKee*

Nature abhors a vacuum, they say, and it seems that the Library does too. The hole left when former editors of the Library newsletter signed off on their last issue last spring has been quickly filled. New board members, Jarita Davis and Janaye Rooney have joined forces to continue production of the biannual publication.

Born and raised on Martha's Vineyard, Janaye crossed the Sound many times to attend Falmouth Academy. After graduation she attended High Point University and later transferred to UMass Amherst where she studied English.

Throughout college Janaye developed a love for travel. During her sophomore year she traveled to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala to help build stoves and provide water purification systems to families in a small village. During her junior year she spent a semester studying abroad in Prague and traveling throughout Europe. Before transferring to UMass Amherst, Janaye spent a month volunteering with the Osa Foundation in Puerto Jimenez, Costa Rica where she helped to relocate endangered sea turtle nests. After graduating college Janaye spent four months teaching an after-school English class for fourth graders in Ubud, Indonesia.

Upon her return to the USA, Janaye embarked on a cross-country road trip with a close high-school friend. She briefly took up residence in Boulder, Colorado where she worked as a wedding planner with Seize the Day Events. After being lured back to the Cape, she commuted to Hyannis to work in social media marketing for Stephan McMahon and Company which carried through last winter.

Currently working nights at La Cucina Sul Mare, she also plays fiddle with a Bluegrass band, Rusty Wheels. Janaye's wheels are anything but rusty; they seem to be in constant motion. We are glad she has decided to make the Library community part of her new adventure.

# Introducing Jarita Davis



by Pamela Nelson

Jarita is a published poet and an aspiring novelist. Her evocative poetry collection, *Return Flights*, was published this past April and is based on journeys she made to the Cape Verde islands, from which her maternal grandfather emigrated to New Bedford.

Jarita grew up in North Haven in a blue-collar, working-class family. As a child she fell in love with libraries, biking to the downtown library during the summers she spent with her grandparents in New Bedford, as well as frequenting her local library in North Haven. From third grade Jarita wanted to be a writer because as she said, "It occurred to me that I would have to write the book I always wanted to read."

With her mother's quiet encouragement, she applied and was accepted at Choate, as a scholarship day student. From there, she went on to Brown University, where she majored in classics. She began Latin studies in middle school, reasoning that Latin would broaden her vocabulary. Although she graduated with honors in classics and had planned to continue these studies in graduate school, she took two creative writing classes during her senior year at Brown which changed her direction. She decided to apply to a PhD program in creative writing, but first took time off to live in Rome for two years, teaching English to Italians. She used the time to assemble a portfolio of short stories to submit with her graduate school application.

Accepted with a full scholarship into the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's graduate creative writing program, she completed her MA and PhD. While Jarita found graduate school a valuable experience, she chose not to pursue an academic career upon finishing her PhD. Instead, she worked as a science editor for three

years at USGS in Lafayette, Louisiana, and then landed a similar job at NOAA Fisheries in Woods Hole. Jarita jokes that 13 years of science editing more than round out her humanities-centered education.

Jarita is also active in the local poetry scene and has taught poetry workshops and led poetry discussion groups at the Woods Hole Public Library. She was ready, when invited, to join the Library Board and to take on the mantle of newsletter co-editor this fall.

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## Coming Attractions from the National Theatre

Tickets for all shows are \$15 and may be purchased online through the FA website, [www.falmouthacademy.org](http://www.falmouthacademy.org) (click on "community events") or reserved over the phone: 508-457-9696, ext. 200. They can be purchased at the door with cash or check if the show is not sold out. The series features two showings of each production: Friday evenings at 7pm, and Saturday afternoons at 2pm. Hope to see you "at the theatre"!

### Jan 6/7: *Hangmen*, a comedy by Martin McDonagh

In his small pub in the northern English town of Oldham, Harry (David Morrissey) is something of a local celebrity. But what's the second-best hangman in England to do on the day they've abolished hanging?

Amongst the cub reporters and pub regulars dying to hear Harry's reaction to the news, his old assistant Syd (Andy Nyman) and the peculiar Mooney (Johnny Flynn) lurk with very different motives for their visit.

### Feb 3/4: *No Man's Land* by Harold Pinter, with Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen

One summer evening, two ageing writers, Hirst and Spooner, meet in a Hampstead pub and continue their drinking into the night at Hirst's stately house nearby. As the pair become increasingly inebriated, and their stories increasingly unbelievable, the conversation soon turns into a revealing power game, further complicated by the return home of two sinister younger men.

### Mar 31/Apr 1: *Hedda Gabler* by Henrik Ibsen

Hedda and Tesman have just returned from their honeymoon, and the relationship is already in trouble. Trapped but determined, Hedda tries to control those around her, only to see her own world unravel. Ruth Wilson plays the title role in a new version by Patrick Marber.

### Apr 28/29: *Amadeus* by Peter Shaffer

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a rowdy young prodigy, arrives in Vienna, the music capital of the world, determined to make a splash. Awestruck by his genius, court composer Antonio Salieri has the power to promote his talent or destroy his name. Seized by obsessive jealousy he begins a war with Mozart, with music, and ultimately, with God.

#### Newsletter Staff

Jarita Davis and Janaye Rooney, with Emma Dvorak  
Contributors: Terry McKee, Pamela Nelson, and  
Jennifer Gaines

## New Beginnings for Donated Books

by Janaye Rooney

Woods Hole Library Director Margaret McCormick estimates that the Library receives approximately 100 donated books each week and upwards of 5,000 per year. The majority find their place in the Woods Hole Library Book Sale. Any time of year, anyone, with or without a library card, can venture into the basement of the Library and purchase a book. Thus, the Book Sale serves an essential role for the Woods Hole community - that of a book store.

The Library held its first book sale at the Community Hall during the spring of 1967. The sale raised a total of \$65 dollars, which, at the time, the Library considered a success. Today the Book Sale raises more than \$15,000 per year and acts as a major contributor to the Library's budget. The basement of the Library has been transformed into a modern hub for the Library's Book Sale. Books expertly arranged into precise categories including fiction, short stories, poetry, science, math, history, and religion line the basement's wall-to-wall shelves. Whether patrons desire a chapter book for their middle-schooler, a fast-paced Dan Brown thriller for their day at the beach, or a thorough analysis of Chaos theory, the Book Sale holds a book that can fulfill their needs.

The daunting task of sorting the thousands of donated books falls upon the Book Sale Committee of many local volunteers and is spearheaded by Camilla Larry. They put aside books that a book collector might buy at a higher price, generally historical, art, and photography. Margaret remembers an old, battered copy of *Through the Looking Glass* that dated back to the 1800s and sold online for over \$100. In another instance Margaret found a well-preserved Vogue sewing book from the 1950s that later sold online for \$75.

Occasionally, the Book Sale Committee pulls popular titles from the donations to supplement the Library's collection. Other times entire collections, such as the Gretchen Ward Warren Dance Collection, might be preserved nearly in their entirety.

Alfred Redfield, former Associate Director of WHOI, and his wife Martha once lent the Library an antique copy of Pierre Joseph ReDoute's *Les Roses*. The book sat for years in the oversized section of the Library until it was rediscovered in the early 80s with a small note explaining that it was on loan from the Redfields. When the Library contacted the Redfields they agreed to permanently donate *Les Roses*. The book, which contained hand-drawn pictures of roses, sold at auction for over \$8,000.

The Woods Hole Library Book Sale operates during all regular Library hours. Large paperbacks sell for \$1, and small paperbacks sell for 50 cents, unless otherwise marked. The Book Sale also sells DVDs (\$2), audiobooks (\$2), and Puzzles (\$2). A special Holiday Book Sale kicks off on December 3rd from 10-5 and will continue throughout the holiday season. It will feature many over-sized coffee-table books along with many other literary treasures that make for wonderful gifts.

## Introducing Ralph Dagwan



by Jarita Davis

Ralph Dagwan's pleasant smile has graced the Woods Hole Post Office since 2013. Still, many do not know much about the soft spoken man behind the counter.

Ralph is a Cape Cod native, born in the Cape Cod Hospital and raised in Hyannis. He has worked for the Post Office for 42 years. He lives in Hyannis with his wife, Deborah, a retired school teacher who taught in Falmouth schools for several years. In her retirement, she serves as a Barnstable town councilor.

Ralph and his wife have always been close with their families and truly value those strong ties. When one family member was unable to care for her five children, they took them in, raised them as their own, and saw them through high school and college.

Though Ralph began studies at Wentworth Institute, he was drafted into the army during the Vietnam War and trained for combat. He was cautious about serving at such a difficult time, but the experience allowed him to see different parts of the world. Ralph was stationed in several small towns in southern Germany and also traveled to other parts of Europe, such as London.

After the service, Ralph moved to Boston where he met his wife who then taught in public schools in Columbia Point and Charlestown. Racial tensions were especially high in Boston at that time, and he wasn't prepared for some of the aggression he encountered. Nevertheless, he stayed and found work at the Post Office, running the sorting machines behind the scenes. He did not start customer service until his Woods Hole position.

When he's not working, he enjoys fishing and boating and is an usher and member of the men's fellowship at the Mashpee Baptist Church.

Since he has arrived in Woods Hole, Ralph has felt welcome. He likes seeing familiar faces as he walks around the pond and has fond memories of once stumbling upon the May Day celebration in the ball park. He often has lollipops to offer children who pass through and biscuits for the patrons' dogs. Be sure to say hello the next time you stop by!