



2015 ANNUAL AWARDS

Honoring Those Special Contributors Who Connect the Library with the Community

LILLIAN EDELMANN TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations, Catherine Willis

For as long as most of the trustees remember, Catherine has been the heart, soul and driving force of the **Plaistow Public Library**. They wrote that “Cathy Willis is an institution in the Town of Plaistow,” and “has set the standard for Trustee commitment and competence.” She has been tireless in her efforts, and has donated hours of her time to the library for more than three decades. “She has never been satisfied with the status quo, always encouraging the board, staff, and community to think bigger and do more.”

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LIBRARY OF THE YEAR

**Abbott Library
in the spotlight again!**

Nearly a year ago, several hundred well-wishers and library supporters attended the grand opening of the new **Abbott Library** in Sunapee. On Saturday, November 21, 2015, over one hundred library supporters gathered again to join in celebration as New Hampshire Library Trustees Association President Ed Moran presented the Library of the Year Award to Library Trustee Chair Terri Jillson-White. Among the attendees were four other NHLTA Board of Director members and architect Peter Tennant.

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DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Andrew Richmond

The **Rye Public Library** has experienced another notable year. This year, Library Director Andrew Richmond was presented with the NHLTA Library Director of the Year award. Last year, it was the Friends of the Rye Public Library who received the top award for the Friends category.

One of the criteria for nomination for the Library Director of the Year award is that the director exhibits professionalism, leadership and outstanding performance and has made notable contributions toward fulfilling the mission and goals of the library. To quote the Rye Public Library Trustees, “We feel that Andy has exceeded each of the stated criteria for this award.” “He

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Happy Holidays



NHLTA Board of Directors

Seated from left: Adele Knight, Susan Gaudiello, Loring Webster, Connie Kirwin. Standing from left: David Simpson, Jr., Janice Clark, Tina Larochelle, Ed Moran, Conrad Moses, Carol Snelling, Mark Branoff, and Marty Davis. Missing from photo is Claire Martineau

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Message from the President . . .

As we review criteria and recommendations for various NHLTA Library awards, we discover groups of enthusiastic, productive people furthering their community library missions.

As our board of directors continually seeks a successful blend of intuitional memory and fresh ideas, we hope to enlist advocates to help NHLTA along in its own mission: helping New Hampshire libraries succeed.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.



Ed Moran
e.moran@nhlta.org

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

NHLTA is actively seeking volunteers to work on a project-by-project basis or on a long-term basis. Do you have skills to share to fill in some gaps? Are you looking for something to sink your teeth into in support of libraries?

The NHLTA Board of Directors is an all-volunteer group of current and former library trustees. We need help in the following areas:

Education: Help us put together exciting and educational annual conferences, orientation sessions for new trustees, and topical workshops.

Technology: We need a computer-savvy person with experience working with MSWord, Excel, PowerPoint, and Photoshop. Knowledge of MailChimp and SurveyMonkey would be a plus.

Communications: Support the Editor in creating our quarterly newsletter with content, regional reporting, and feature articles.

For information on how to volunteer with the NHLTA, please contact Loring Webster at l.webster@nhlta.org or Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org with an estimate of the time you can offer, areas of interest, and special skills.

If you care about libraries and want to make a difference, volunteering with NHLTA is a great way to do it! 📖

NHMA CONFERENCE



On November 19th and 20th, six NHLTA directors participated in manning the NHLTA booth at the NHMA Annual conference for municipalities. This was a great opportunity for members of the board to network and advocate for NH libraries and to exchange information with town officials and other exhibitors. Shown in the photo above are Adele Knight, Past President, and Connie Kirwin, Director. 📖

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“The NHLTA assists Trustees to be knowledgeable and effective in order to serve, improve and promote NH Public Libraries.”

Article 2 in the Friends Series:

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

By Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

This is the second article in a series on Friends groups, based on a survey conducted in April 2015 by NHLTA.

One of the primary missions of Friends groups is to raise funds to support library programs and facilities. The most common fundraising activities cited in the survey were: book sale events (76%); ongoing book sale in the library (64%); raffles (45%); bake sales (31%); and plant sales (17%). A number of respondents described some of their most successful efforts which went beyond these popular activities. Perhaps your own Friends group might find inspiration in these ideas. The source of the projects listed is cited when available, should your Friends group want to contact the library for more information.

Food-centered events seem to have an appeal, particularly when they are different than the traditional bake sale. One group's annual chocolate tasting event sold out this year, and another town recently launched a baking competition they dubbed "Just Desserts" (Barrington). Tasters paid \$5 to attend and voted for their favorite dessert, and prizes were awarded to the winner and 2 runners-up. Leftover goodies were sold in a silent auction at the close of the event.



Just Desserts in Barrington—tasters enjoying the event sponsored by the Friends of the Barrington Library.

It's not all about the food, though. A number of Friends groups sponsor road races. Meredith is successful in obtaining sponsors for their event, including one that buys T-shirts for runners with their "Bookit Race" logo. Runners pay to run or walk in the race.

On a twist of the raffle idea, the Friends group in Chester held a "book basket competition," in which people were invited to make a themed basket (around a book or movie) and the baskets were then raffled. The Friends voted for the best one, based on creativity, and the winner received an Amazon gift card.

Others take advantage of local talent by involving artists and musicians in events. For example, Rebecca Rule's home town of Northwood (Chesley Memorial Library) puts on a storytelling/music concert, featuring Becky and a local band, Cordwood, performing together. The Gafney Library in Wakefield sponsors a two-month art exhibit, in which local artists exhibit two pieces, one for sale if they choose and one donated as a raffle item. The group also holds an opening and closing reception for the exhibit. Deerfield has been sponsoring their "Cabin Fever Arts & Crafts Fair" in March for the past four years, with revenue coming from "rental" of tables. And Madison capitalized on a famous past summer resident, E.E. Cummings, with "Cummings at Silver Lake Weekend" in July 2015. The event offered a variety of art, music and poetry readings, as well as a tour of Cummings-related sites. In 2014 the group sponsored a very successful Barn Tour.



Friends and visitors enjoy tea on the porch at E.E. Cummings' Silver Lake farm, an event sponsored by the Madison Friends of the Library.

Auctions also appear to be popular and successful (New Boston, Hampstead, Ashland). And, several groups rely on an annual appeal letters that generate a few thousand dollars to as much as \$20,000 per year. (Sunapee, Newfields, Claremont, and others). Other ventures ranged from a rabies clinic to Breakfast with Santa, so Friends groups have clearly expanded beyond the traditional book sale!

Fund-raising ideas are limited only by a group's imagination and willingness to work hard and sometimes take a risk. Lest you think only larger towns can carry off these ambitious events, most of those who responded to the survey are from small towns with populations of 5-10,000.

Next Article in the Series: *More Than Money! Programs Sponsored by Friends*



2015 ANNUAL AWARDS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR continued from page 1

Cathy is a fierce advocate for the staff—always working to ensure that they are valued and appreciated as essential professionals and public servants. She successfully fought to bring staff wages in line with their peers by undertaking a comparative wage survey of town employees and other similarly sized libraries. To ensure that the employees had fair benefits and clear personnel policy guidelines, Cathy worked with the library director to draft the first personnel policy.

As a fiduciary, Cathy has been the chief spokesman and defender of the library budget before both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. “She elevated the operations of the library from small town simplicity to small business sophistication” when she spearheaded the migration to a computerized bookkeeping system. It was under Cathy’s guidance that the Plaistow library grew from a room in the Town Hall to a beautiful 15,000 square foot facility.

Cathy has devoted hours to learning library law. And to further her education, she attended conferences and workshops presented by the NHLTA, the NHMA, and the Attorney General’s Office. This knowledge has been invaluable to the Board and staff.

For over three decades, Cathy has volunteered many, many hours on a weekly basis. She is always on call and at the ready to handle library issues. There is no phone call that she screens and no issue that she dodges. To name a few: when the alarm goes off at 2 a.m., the Alarm Company calls Cathy; when the power was lost and HVAC and toilets were inoperable, Cathy was on hand to make sure everyone was safe and the building was shut down; when packages are left on weekends or after hours, it is Cathy who swings by to put them inside.

I’d like to share another quote from the nomination letter: “Cathy is special to us and worthy of this distinguished award, because we can count on her to stand up for this library, always. And the Library would be a far, far poorer place without her.”

Congratulations, Cathy.

— Adele Knight, NHLTA Director



NOTICE

Scholarship Application Deadline

Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Application submission deadline is **January 15, 2016**, for Spring 2016 Semester Graduate Degree Courses (i.e., for MLS, MLIS courses).

Application forms are available on the NHLTA website: www.nhlta.org.

LIBRARY OF THE YEAR continued from page 1

Ed, followed by Terri, briefly outlined the history of this beautiful library and brought the audience up to date on its accomplishments.

The original library has continued to grow and has become a cornerstone for the community since it was first established. Mrs. Martha Abbot, who died in 1918, had donated three-quarters of her estate in memory of her husband for the purpose of establishing a library for the residents of Sunapee. The library was established in 1926. In 1984, the Mabel



Davies wing was dedicated, adding the much-needed space for volumes of books and to make the building handicapped accessible. By 2012, the collection had increased to 30,000 volumes, with 61,000 loans annually in the same square footage. The addition of a four-station computer table meant that some volumes had to be stored off site.

In 2010, the Abbott Library trustees established a new strategy to build a much-needed new library. A non-profit foundation was established to provide funding for capital expenditures. Over a two-year period, the Abbott Library Foundation raised \$1.3 million towards the \$2.7 million cost of a new library. Through the combined efforts of the Tennant/Wallace Architect, Trumbull/Nelson Construction, the Sunapee Town Manager, the Library Director, the Selectmen, Trustees, staff and volunteers, the new building had its ribbon cutting on November 15, 2014.

The 8,000 sq. ft. library now has over 900 sq. ft. of meeting space, twelve computer work stations, room for all the volumes, and has tripled the workspace for staff. The response from the community has been overwhelming since

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2015 ANNUAL AWARDS

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR continued from page 1

has consistently provided public service that exceeds expectations and has earned the respect and esteem of staff, Trustees and patrons.” During Andy’s tenure, performance measurements of circulation, program attendance, computer usage, etc., have all increased.

An excerpt from the *Portsmouth Herald* noted that when Andy learned that he had been selected for the Library Director of the Year Award, the first thing he did was to make sure that his staff got credit. “My colleagues here are equally deserving. Our staff works as a team. They are dedicated and professional.” As one example, when Andy instituted a staff-wide competency project where each staff member was tasked with one technology a month in which to become proficient, the end result was a Technology Fair with 300 attendees. Andy’s staff and members of the FOL helped attendees learn how to use the technology. Andy also promotes staff cohesion and effectiveness with periodic retreats, and urges staff to take advantage of training opportunities.

To help keep the Rye Public Library on target with electronic resources available to patrons, Andy spearheaded the acquisition of sixteen e-readers in both adult and youth collections, and introduced new technologies such as Freegal, Indieflix, and Zinio, as well as *Ancestry.com*. He brought seniors and teens together around modern information technology when Rye teens taught seniors how to use the seven

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SUE PALMATIER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT BY A “FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY GROUP”

Friends of the Lyme Library

By Marty Davis, NHLTA Director

Lyme’s Converse Free Library’s “Friends of the Lyme Library” gathered in the lovely, original Ralph Balch Meeting Room on October 5th to receive the NHLTA’s 2015 Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Library Support.

The award was presented by NHLTA President Ed Moran to Anne Baird, the chair of the Friends. Seven other members of the Friends were present in addition to a number of loyal patrons.



Since their beginning in 1983, the Friends of the Lyme Library have enthusiastically dedicated their time and energy to support the library. They have enriched the community with special educational programs and by being ambassadors for the library.

A recent town-wide survey demonstrated that the citizens of Lyme are proud of their library and support it in every way. Two efforts that raise about \$10,000 are an annual appeal letter to town residents (133 donors last year), and a used-books sale in the lobby plus an annual book sale that highlights children’s books during the holiday season.

The funds are used to enrich the welcoming ambience, the décor, and the special programs offered at the library. Last year, the Friends funded new Circulation and Information desks, magazine and newspaper subscriptions, coffee and tea for patrons, and passes to several local museums.

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the grand opening of the new library. **Look at these astounding statistics!**

Library Items (items circulated excluding online services) went from 37,776 in 2014 to 44,072 in 2015—an increase of 17%.

Patrons (Library Visits) grew from 18,218 in 2014 to 32,423 in 2015—an increase of 78% (14,205 additional visits.)

New Registrations for cards increased from 187 to 332—an increase of 78%.

The new meeting space, collaborations with local organizations such as the NH Fish and Game Department, the Town of Sunapee Police Department, and the local Council on Aging, have brought more programming for both children and adults. Other organizations such as the Sunapee Historical Society and the Lions Club now hold their regularly scheduled meetings in the library.

Trustees said they will continue to expand and exceed community expectations through innovation and responsiveness. They are very proud of their new library, and NHLTA is too.

— Adele Knight, NHLTA Director



DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR continued from page 5

iPads that had been purchased through a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation.

Another of Andy's accomplishments includes bringing to completion the Rye Public Library's Strategic Plan and developing a "road show" video to be used to present the Plan. He goes above and beyond by speaking at civic groups and acting as the public face of the Rye Public Library.

Talk about being innovative, Andy introduced *Running and Reading*, a public program where members read and discuss a topical title, then share a run. A *Vertical Volumes* program features a book discussion and indoor rock climbing sessions.

Andy keeps current with personal development by attending public library conferences, leadership programs, and training for new technology applications. He has served two terms as Chairman of the Seacoast Area Libraries Organization and participates in NEA's Read Across America at the Rye Public School.

In addition, Andy will shovel walks if necessary, build a float for the Christmas Parade, help hang art and even stack chairs after speaker events. In short, Andy will do what it takes to make the Library the cultural heart of Rye.

Thank you, Andy Richmond.

— Adele Knight, NHLTA Director



You give but little when you give of your possessions.
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

— Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

In addition, the Friends host a rotating and continual art show, including an opening night reception for each artist. In return, they Friends receive twenty percent of the proceeds from art work sold at the library. They plant decorative window boxes and flower pots in the spring and put up holiday wreathes and decorations in December. And, they support most of the children's programs, which include after-school programs for students at the elementary school which is across the street from the library.

The NHLTA congratulates the Friends of the Lyme Library on its outstanding support of the Converse Free Library.

— Adele Knight, NHLTA Director




BROOKLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

By Keith F Thompson, Outreach Coordinator

The Brookline Public Library staff, Trustees, volunteers, and Friends were pleased to welcome a wonderful turnout of community members for an Open House in September. Long-time patrons, new patrons, young and old, enjoyed displays highlighting the many programs and services available at the Library. Visitors enjoyed food and beverages, and participated in a social media promotion, while upstairs in the children's library younger patrons were treated to balloons, face painting, Legos, sand bowling and origami.

Many displays highlighted the different programs that the library hosts during the year, including a talk on New England Stone Walls, Astronomy Night at the Brookline Ballfield, Card Making, Soup Night, Pie Night, and the Edible Book Contest.

Another display chronicled the history of the Brookline Public Library, the programs and services being offered now, and the future of libraries as they continue to evolve and serve our communities. Attendees also had the opportunity to see demonstrations of services like downloadable books, e-readers and the genealogy website *Ancestry.com*.

Please visit the Brookline Public Library at 16 Main Street or at our website, www.BPLNH.weebly.com. "Like" us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/bplnh/) and follow us on Twitter: @BPL_NH. 



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR LIBRARIES

STEPHENSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY, GREENFIELD

Submitted by the Board of Trustees

The seeds for our library were planted with this momentous resolution at the Town Meeting of 1894: *A Public Library shall be established under the control of three trustees elected by ballot. The trustees are to have the entire custody and management of the library and all property of the town relating thereto and the Town, in compliance with Chapter VII section 21-26 of the Public Statutes, agrees to raise and appropriate twenty-five dollars annually for the support and maintenance of a library.**

Trustees were elected, and soon thereafter, Greenfield's first public library got underway in the basement of the school building. During the next 10 years, under the leadership of its first Librarian, Miss Annie McCanna, it thrived and eventually outgrew its basement home. Two generous Greenfield benefactors, Rev. Amzi Jones and Mr. Albe Stephenson, came to Annie's rescue and commissioned the construction of a free standing library at the junction of Slip and Forest Roads—at a total cost of \$ 4,775! The new structure opened in 1909 and has been known ever since as the Stephenson Memorial Library. (By the way, a photo portrait of a handsome Mr. Stephenson hangs for all to see on the wall of our Director's office. If anyone has a like photo or portrait of Rev. Jones, the other founder, please let us know; we'd love to see it.)

By the 1990s library space had again become an issue, prompting Mr. Peter Wensberg and his fellow Stephenson Trustees to undertake major fund-raising for an addition. Funds were secured through many generous donations, and, in 2003, a new wing was completed, providing room for books, staff, and patrons, and a basement space that is now designated as the Wensberg Room. This room, made possible by a generous gift of the Greenfield Woman's Club, has been an invaluable space for community programming.

In the Fall of 2014 Gail Smith, the Stephenson's long-serving and able Director, retired, and soon thereafter the Trustees hired Ms. Julie Steenson, the library's first professional librarian with a Master's degree in Library and Information Science.

Our new Director arrived with seemingly boundless energy and a vision to make the Stephenson into a library that would serve as a vibrant community center of art, education and culture. For these last 12 months, we have let our new Director run with this vision, and it's been an exciting ride!

In her first month we approved the revamping of the ILS (Integrated Library System) to provide the community with 24/7 online access and the staff with better usage statistics. Our walls



are now graced with exhibits of the work of local artists. Hours have been restructured to better meet community needs. New partnerships have been formed with other Town departments and other community organizations—even Congressional offices. The Trustee board has succumbed to the Director's recommendations for new computers and the replacement of old

vendors; and we have marveled at how we can have more staff and reach more people without spending more money! Many of these changes have been funded with grants, donations, and unorthodox ways of penny-pinching. For example, our intrepid Director got us accepted into the Library of Congress Surplus Books program, which has provided thousands of dollars-worth of new, current titles to revitalize the library's collection, at **no cost** to the community.

One of the Director's more notable initiatives has been her outreach to The Commons, the senior living home in town. She makes weekly visits, bringing books and filling requests, much like a Bookmobile, and she has placed one of our refurbished computers at the Commons so the library staff can provide technical assistance to the residents in their own environment

Finally, in the last 12 months we have experienced strong growth. Visits have doubled, and, in some months, tripled. Circulation is up, and the community is increasingly excited and engaged with the library. Adults who rarely visited us in past years have returned for coloring, knitting, cooking, tech help, evening programs, and yes, even books.

As 2015 winds down, the Director, the Trustees, and the patrons of the Stephenson are excited by the changes the Library has made. In sum, we have witnessed scads of new programs, and we have seen the library and its offerings marketed in ways that had never been tried before. It is tempting to chalk this progress up solely to the hard work of our Director and the magic of her professional degree. She tells us that isn't the half of it. Rather, it's mostly about listening to what the community wants and taking chances on making the appropriate changes. We're looking forward to what 2016 has to bring and the opportunity to take yet more chances.

Please stop by the Stephenson the next time you're in Greenfield, 761 Forest Road (Route 31), and ask for Julie. She'd love to give you a cup of coffee and a tour.

* From: *A Brief History of Greenfield New Hampshire - 1791-1941* Lucy A. Brooks, Greenfield Historical Society (1941) pp. 58-60



NHLTA CIRCULATING VIDEO COLLECTION

Videos that were recorded at NHLTA Conference sessions are available for circulation from the Manchester City Library.

HELP!

Does your library need help? Are your trustees tired? Do you need a bigger budget or building? Are you exhausted by trying to “defend” the library? Learn the steps toward a successful library campaign and how to effectively build relationships with local government to collaborate for a better library, and a better town! Melissa Prefontaine, trustee from Langdon Library in Newington, explains it all in this video, **“How to Fight for the Library (and not with the town): Collaborating with Town Officials.”**

FIRM FOUNDATION

Explore the advantages—and disadvantages—of forming a Foundation. What it is and what is it not, how a foundation can be used, understanding applicable RSAs, and whether a Friends group is a better choice. Terry Knowles, Assistant Director of Charitable Trusts at the NH Department of Justice and a recognized authority on charitable trusts and foundations, offers expert advice in this video, **“Firm Foundation: When a Library Needs One.”**

BE A BFF

The ideal local public library serves the community well: led by Trustees, run by staff, and supported by Friends. These three groups have the same general goal, but fine-tuning the working relationships can be “interesting.” In this video, Tom Ladd, well known NH Librarian, Consultant, and Trainer, guides and explores the ways to make a Friends Group work in **“Making Friends with Friends.”**

WARRANT ARTICLES BASICS

Learn how to make your library more visible to the community and to communicate more effectively about its value. Data-driven insights into voter attitudes are explored in a practical discussion about ways to market and advocate for your warrant article. In this video, **“Planning a Warrant Article: Advance Planning for Effective Advocacy,”** John Chrastka, Founder and Executive Director of *EveryLibrary* and president of the Board of Trustees for the Berwyn, IL Public Library will lead you along the path to success.

———— CIRCULATION INSTRUCTIONS ————

1. Make your request to the Manchester City Library using InterLibraryLoan; reference NHLTA Videos plus the Video Title using this email address: mcill@manchesternh.gov or through NHU-PAC.
2. If you are a GMILCS (Greater Manchester InterLibrary Cooperative System) Library cardholder, you can borrow the video directly from the Manchester City Library or request one and have it sent to your GMILCS Library.



TURNING DATA INTO OPPORTUNITY

By David Blake, The Marketing Mix, Inc. and
David Simpson, NHLTA Director

Could New Hampshire’s public libraries benefit from applying innovative database marketing strategies routinely deployed by many retailers? That was the topic of a recent presentation to the NHLTA Board of Directors.

David Blake was a guest at the September meeting, where he discussed how his NH-based firm works with financial organizations across North America to strengthen marketing performance by leveraging customer data—and how local libraries might utilize similar techniques to develop and deepen their patron base.

Blake has been working recently with NHLTA board member David Simpson on a capital campaign initiative of the Peterborough Town Library, and it was through that involvement that Blake began exploring how programs Blake develops for his clients could be adapted to the library environment.

“Libraries face many of the same marketing challenges that banks, credit unions and investment firms confront,” Blake explained. “Both compete for clients, relevance, and resources on a constant basis, and both have ready access to critical data that can play an important role in gaining competitive advantage toward achieving those objectives.”

His NHLTA presentation suggested several specific database marketing programs that could readily be adapted to a public library environment, while addressing and preserving privacy concerns. These included acquiring demographic insights on the patron base and overall marketplace, summarizing and trending transaction activity across key consumer segments, and organizing analytical routines to surface and monitor marketing priorities.

Simpson is currently working on three fronts to move these discussions from concept to fruition:

- A year-long pilot program is being developed where Blake’s firm will work on a *pro bono* basis with three libraries to draft and develop an effective and efficient database marketing framework.
- Workshop sessions are being explored for next year that would discuss the pilot initiative in detail and explore how others might benefit.
- A presentation is planned at the 2016 NHLTA Spring Conference that will review specific results of the pilot program and how new insights are being leveraged.

More information on workshop sessions will be made available as this effort moves forward. To request an electronic copy of Blake’s September presentation to the board, contact Connie Kirwin at c.kirwin@nhlta.org.

Blake is a principal and co-owner of The Marketing Mix, Inc., a database marketing company located in Manchester, NH. www.mktgmix.com

The New Hampshire Curmudgeon

Reflections

As we approach another holiday season I have recently become aware of how fragile our lives really are. We of the eighth and ninth decades perhaps have to face end-of-life issues either in close friends, family or ourselves. A healthy lifestyle does not always guarantee that we will escape some of these issues.

What we do have within our control is how we deal with life day-to-day. Are we friendly to all? Do we extend a pleasant greeting when we meet strangers on our travels? Do we smile on greeting? Are we willing to volunteer in our local community? Do we extend a helping hand without being asked, or do we hold back?

These two decades are ones of memories and enrichment—often with children, grandchildren and sometimes great-grandchildren. These are blessings to be cherished and opportunities for sharing. We are living in an interesting time of transition where young people, often encouraged by parents and friends to read at a young age and take advantage of their local library, are suddenly thirsting for knowledge and are turning to the written word at an ever increasing rate despite or maybe inspired by the wealth of electronic opportunities. A recent Pew Research Center Report, quoted in the *Christian Science Monitor Weekly*, stated that “Print books were more popular than e-books by nearly 3 to 1. The age group with the highest proportion of book readers: 18 to 29-year-olds.”

What a wonderful legacy we of the library community have passed to the Millennials! So we must continue to support our local libraries, and bring along those inclined to believe that libraries are a thing of the past to be replaced by the electronic age. Libraries are transitioning to ever-increasing services as patron needs expand, and are becoming true community centers of culture and enrichment. Every individual who has benefitted through a lifetime of reading can pass that benefit forward by supporting and speaking up for their local library within the community, at the polls and at Town Meeting. **Let's help preserve our heritage!**

The Wordy Whippersnapper

Reflections from a Millennial Mirror

Some general observations to share from my reading life and life on BookTube:

While paper is preferred, many people in my generation still turn to e-books for convenience or savings (there are numerous places on the web to find e-books for \$0 to \$3, and e-books can be read on a smart phone in the absence of an e-reader). But this doesn't eliminate libraries at all. Many libraries offer an e-book borrowing system (such as Overdrive), although I find a lot of people don't know about it.

For future articles on reading and the younger generations, I would suggest looking into the rise of YA (young adult) fiction and the bookish culture it's produced (blogs, fandoms, movies/TV shows, etc.), along with the rise of BookTube (YouTube channels devoted to talking about books), all of which are a bit intertwined. Book festivals are popping up around the world and gaining large followings, especially among this YA group. To quote one of my favorite BookTubers, Katystatic, “Reading is cool again, and it's awesome!”

Also, you may want to look into Call Me Ishmael (<http://callmeishmael.com/>.) They started as a YouTube channel not too long ago and are doing wonderful things. Basically, there is a number you can call to leave a message for Ishmael, telling him about your favorite book and how it's impacted you. Then they turn it into a video tribute (an example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a-xwx6AMo8>.) They announced in early November a campaign to make it more interactive for libraries and schools. They're currently crowdsourcing the funds to install what look like pay phones across the country where people can record their book stories in their libraries or listen to other people's stories. It's a fascinating and beautiful idea.

Okay, those are all my bookish thoughts for the night :)

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Northumberland Public Library, Groveton

In 1965, James Wemyss donated to the town the land on which the library was built. At the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the library, the trustees thanked him for helping the town build a new library. The first day the library officially opened was on September 29, 1965. 📖



From the left, Linda Caron/Trustee, Kathy Frechette/Helper, Gail Rossetto/Librarian, Sally Frizzell/Trustee, Ray Davenport/Assistant Librarian, and Nancy Merrow/Trustee.

UNIQUE PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

DERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cookbook Book Group

Do you enjoy cooking? Do you love to read cookbooks? Come join us for our afternoon Cookbook Book Group! We will choose a new cookbook for each meeting and make something (anything) from it to share! Discuss tips, tricks, troubles, and eat! Cookbooks will be available to borrow at the front desk. Meetings are the 1st Friday of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm (lunch!). **Yummy!** 📖

CONTRIBUTE TO THE NHLTA NEWSLETTER

Do you have a great idea for an article for the NHLTA newsletter? We encourage you to submit articles and photos to us for consideration. Topics could include events, programs, announcements or a recent success.

Please e-mail all submissions to the Editor, Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY 23, 2016

2016 NHLTA Annual Conference

By Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

The NHLTA Education Committee has been busy for the past several months planning another well-rounded annual conference, set for Monday, May 23 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Be sure to mark that date on your brand new 2016 calendar (or in your e-calendar for those who've gone digital).

This year's theme is "Libraries in Transition: Past, Present, Future." Based on the evaluations of the 2015 conference and responses to a member survey we conducted in August, workshops will address a number of topics that were rated as of greatest interest to NH trustees. We're bringing George Needham back (last year's most popular speaker) to discuss community-based strategic planning and to share what's ahead for libraries on the technology front. Other returning speakers include Terry Knowles (speaking on managing "the other money" and how to form a library foundation) and Cordell Johnston (speaking on Right to Know law and related issues).

There will be some new faces as well and new topics including community engagement, practical marketing strategies, safety in the library, and conflict resolution. We also listened to trustees of smaller libraries who asked for a special roundtable session where they can share their experiences and learn how to deal with their unique challenges: it's on the agenda!

Further details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter, and brochures will be in the mail in March. 📖

Premier Conference Sponsor




FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The content provided by this FAQ is for informational purposes only. It is not and should not be considered legal advice. Additional FAQs are available on the NHLTA website: www.nhlta.org.

QUESTION: We have a great candidate for the Library Trustee Board, but he's not a resident of our town. Can he still run for the office?

ANSWER: RSA 669:6 Qualification of Officers. Unless otherwise provided by law, no person shall hold an elective town office who does not have his domicile within the town. 📖

REGIONAL TRUSTEE NETWORKING

NHLTA encourages networking among trustees. If you need help organizing, contact Adele Knight at a.knight@nhlta.org. We will publish your meeting date/time/location in the NHLTA newsletter and on the website calendar: www.nhlta.org. Area groups that have had gatherings are: Greater Hooksett Area, Monadnock Area Trustees, North Country Trustees, Seacoast Region Trustees, Rockingham-Strafford Counties Trustees, and Souhegan Valley Area Trustees. Check with your neighboring library trustee boards and enjoy the benefits of meeting your peers and learning from each other. 

Monadnock Area Trustees Gathering

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

Twelve enthusiastic attendees (eleven trustees and one library director) from six libraries (Antrim, Dublin, Greenfield, Jaffrey, Nelson, and Troy) met on Friday, October 30 in the Dublin Public Library. For five of those attending, this was a first meeting. The Library Director offering a different perspective of library management from the other side of the (circulation) desk was helpful.

One trustee inquired about a Memorandum of Understanding between library trustees and selectmen in regard to which entity is responsible for the maintenance of the library building. This is a question that comes up often. It just so happened that a sample Memorandum of Understanding to clarify the responsibility for one library had been posted on the NHLTA website that very morning. To view the sample memorandum, log on to www.nhlta.org, click on Resources and then on Resource Materials (remember that the sample must be tailored to fit your library.)

Following a discussion about volunteer background checks, the Library Director mentioned that there was a form for reduced background check (\$10) for volunteers. A copy of the form was soon emailed to all attendees. If you would like a form, go to www.nhstatepolicedocuments.com, click on Forms-Division of State Police, click on Criminal Record Reduced Fee Form.


Other topics included budgeting and the practice, or ruling, for giving money back to the town at the end of the year.

The next informal gathering of area trustees will be at the Stephenson Memorial Library in Greenfield in January—date to be announced.

North Country Regional Trustees Roundtable

By Claire Martineau, NHLTA Director

North Country Regional Roundtable meeting took place on Wednesday, November 11 at the Whitefield Public Library. Six trustees and two library directors representing three libraries attended. One topic of discussion revolved around trustee duties and how NHLTA could help with understanding trustee responsibilities. Attendees were encouraged to use the NHLTA website to seek out answers to some of their questions. We talked about the Annual Conference and it was suggested that even if only one member from each library attended, it would still be very advantageous because information and networking gathered from the conference could be shared with the rest of the board.

For the next meeting it was requested that a specific topic be chosen for discussion with maybe a mini-workshop presentation. Due to unpredictable weather, the next meeting will probably be in the Spring of 2016. If any library in the North Country Coop area is interested in hosting, please contact Claire Martineau at c.martineau@nhlta.org. 

THREE LIBRARIES ADDED TO NH STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Excerpt from press release of the
NH Department of Cultural Resources

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources announced that three libraries have been added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The three libraries are all from a period of time when philanthropists funded the building of dozens of public libraries throughout the state.

Greenland's **Weeks Public Library**, an example of the Colonial Revival movement in architecture, was built in 1897 and designed by Portsmouth architect Charles Hazlett using funds donated by Caroline A. Weeks.

Originally a Baptist church, the **Hampton Falls Library** was renovated in 1901 by John T. Brown and

donated to the town for use as a public library. A majority of the building's finishes and decorative detailing date to the 1901 conversion, including a frescoed wall and ceiling paintings.

The Classical Revival **Rye Public Library** was donated by local resident Mary Tuck Rand in 1911 when Rye was one of only a few towns in the region without a library. Unlike the wealthy philanthropists who funded many town libraries, Rand was a single woman of modest means who wanted to share educational opportunities with her community.



**New Hampshire
Library Trustees Association**
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CALENDAR 2016

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| January 6 | 10:00 a.m. | NHLTA Board of Directors meeting
NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord |
| January 15 | | McKay Scholarship Application Deadline
Submission for Spring 2016 Semester Graduate Degree Courses
(i.e., for MLS, MLIS courses), forms available at www.nhlta.org |
| February 3 | 10:00 a.m. | NHLTA Board of Directors meeting
NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord |
| March 2 | 10:00 a.m. | NHLTA Board of Directors meeting
NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord |
| May 23 | 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. | NHLTA Spring Conference/Annual Meeting
Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Ave, Concord |

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POSTMASTER: Address correction requested.