

1914 – 1998

A CELEBRATION OF THE NEW ADDITION
TO THE
JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 24, 1998

*Sponsored by the
Friends of the Jacob Edwards Library*

JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY

TRUSTEES

Paul Mills, Chairman
Paulina Dacoles, Treasurer
Marcelle Van Vooren, Secretary
Lawrence Gaine
Raymond Lenti
Daniel Morrill
Marilyn Travinski

LIBRARY STAFF

Harry R. Williams, Library Director
Jill A. Compton, Adult Services Librarian
Mary T. White, Children's Librarian
Margaret Morrissey, Circulation Librarian
Susan L. Chapin, Technical Services
Corinna Pena, Assistant Children's Librarian
Joel Mallette, Building Custodian
Samantha Baker, Library Page
Lauren Coderre, Library Page
Nikki Dalton, Library Page
Kathryn F. Lapriore, Library Page
Kristy McColl, Library Page

OFFICERS OF FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

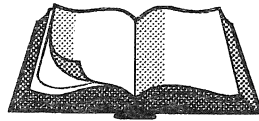
Carol Muschler, President
Roger Mandeville, Treasurer
Sue Proulx, Secretary

THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

John V. Lachapelle, Chairman, Education & Human Services
Subcommittee, Southbridge Town Council
Florence Chandler, Town Manager, Town of Southbridge
Margaret DeAngelis community representative, M.E. Wells JHS
Librarian, and member of AVID (Active Voices in Disability)
Paul Mills, Chairman, Board of Library Trustees
Lawrence Gaine, Co-Chairman, Building Subcommittee of the Board
of Library Trustees
Raymond Lenti, Co-Chairman, Building Subcommittee of the Board
of Library Trustees
Hamer Clarke, Director, Department of Public Works
Harry R. Williams, Library Director, Jacob Edwards Library

**BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO
HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF
TONIGHT'S CELEBRATION**

Big Bunny Market
Business Graphics Service
C & B Catering
Don Cadoret Photography
Elm Street Congregational Church
Globe Sign Company
Jaeger & Osberg Insurance Agency
Knights of Columbus
Les Gardner Photography
Southbridge Garden Club
Southbridge High School
Tri-Valley Elder Services, Inc.



Special thanks to the many individual *FRIENDS*
who contributed to the planning and coordination
of this event.

**TONIGHT WE HONOR THESE
CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION
DONORS**

American Optical Company Foundation

The Hyde Group

Incom, Inc.

J. I. Morris Company

Savers Cooperative Bank

Schott Fiber Optics, Inc.

Southbridge Credit Union

Southbridge Savings Bank

United Lens Company, Inc.

The Wells Foundation

~ PROGRAM ~

6:30

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Southbridge High School Choral Group
Directed by Christine Costello,
Vocal Music Director

7:00

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Legislative Leadership

Senator Richard T. Moore
Representative David M. Peters
(Minority Leader)

Recognition of Major Contributors

The Hyde Group
Richard R. Clemence
American Optical Company Foundation
Gary Bridgeman
The Wells Foundation
(Administered by Fleet Bank)
Michael Toomey

Recognition of Municipal Leadership

Florence Chandler
Laurent McDonald

Mistress of Ceremonies - Marilyn L. Travinski

POSTLUDE by the Southbridge High School Jazz Ensemble
Directed by William Bishop, Music Coordinator

Please join us for refreshments downstairs in the Pioppi Room

SELECTED HISTORICAL NOTES FROM THE JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY

HAMILTON FREE LIBRARY

The Hamilton Woolen Company offer to the operatives in their employment, the use of the Books in their Library, as per Catalogue annexed, on the following conditions, viz:

The Library will be open for delivery of Books on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from 7 to 8 o'clock.

One Book, or series, if not exceeding three in number of a duodecimo size, may be taken and detained two weeks; if an octavo size, one only can be detained three weeks: if a folio or quarto size, one only can be taken and may be kept four weeks, under a penalty of six cents per week for each Book longer detained.

No person shall be allowed to make a second renewal of any Book, if it is wanted by any other party known to the Librarian.

If a book be lost, or materially injured, while charged to any individual, he must furnish another copy of the same in good condition.

No Dictionary, Encyclopedia, Mechanical, Geographical, or other works of reference, to be removed from this Library; nor any other book without the knowledge and permission of the Librarian.

Persons taking books from said Library are required, before leaving the employment of said Company, to furnish them a certificate from the Librarian, stating that said books are all returned in good order.

(Copy of original book plate from The Hamilton Woolen Company)

In the 1860s a group of persons associated with the Hamilton Woolen Company made plans to start a library.

Having no funds, this group opened a subscription library to which subscribers paid a certain small fee which entitled them to borrow books.

There was no paid librarian, so that this job was auctioned off to the lowest bidder, who kept the books in his own house.

Townpeople were dissatisfied with the limitations imposed by this scheme, and this library closed. The Globe Mills started a library for their own employees also in the 1860s. This was located in two rooms in Wheeler's store near the mills. The books were given to the Hamilton Woolen Company by its president at that time, Gardner Brewer. John Rowley became the librarian.

In 1871, Holmes Ammidown, a wealthy New Yorker and a native of Southbridge, decided to do something beneficial for the town. He decided to finance a public library here. He built the Ammidown building and set aside three rooms on the second floor for library purposes.

Before being moved into the building, at the beginning of the following year the library for a short time was located in the Whitford building at the corner of Main and Hamilton streets. It opened in that site in February of 1871.

Ammidown financed the project liberally, and upon his death left his entire personal book collection and a great number of town histories to the library. The Ammidown sets were the best early histories of Southbridge.

The establishment, like other early town libraries, was open only in the evenings after normal working hours. It was opened only on Saturday and one week-day evening. Saturday night was a popular reading night there, with townspeople usually filling the library on the weekend evening to capacity.

In 1902 another Town native, Jacob Edwards of Boston, seeing the need for a larger and better library for the growing community, offered a sum of not less than \$50,000 to the town to build a new library building. He made this proposal at the annual town meeting that year. He donated land at the corner of Main and Foster streets for that purpose.

Actual construction of the building began in 1904. The library committee at the time headed by Francis L. Chapin, hired a first rate architect to design the structure. It was opened for circulation purposes in 1915, with the building and its contents costing about \$80,000. John Paige, son-in-law of Chapin, and also a later head of the committee, contributed much to the development of the project.

In later years, the three children of Edwards; Robert, Grace and Hannah Edwards, added a total of \$200,000 to the original bequest. The funds of the trust were given into the hands of the Old Colony Trust Co. and First National Bank in Boston.

JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY

Pledge Form/Capital Campaign

Yes, I/we will pledge \$ _____ to the Jacob Edwards Library Campaign.

I/we expect to complete this pledge over _____ year(s).

- ☐ You may expect the first payment of \$ _____ by _____.
- ☐ \$ _____ first payment enclosed.
- ☐ Please send me reminders: quarterly semi-annually annually other _____
- ☐ I am making this gift in memory of _____
- ☐ I am making this gift in honor of _____

Signature(s) Date

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

- ☐ You may use my/our names in a printed list of donors.
- ☐ My/our pledge/gift is anonymous.

Checks should be made payable to:
Jacob Edwards Library Capital Campaign

To expedite gifts of stock or securities, please call Library Director
Harry Williams at 508-764-5426

My company, _____, participates in a
matching gift program. I will forward the form to
Mr. Williams at the Library.

Gifts to the Jacob Edwards Library are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.