



The Friends Forum

The Friends of the Watertown Library
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November ~ December 2015 ~ January -2016

The President's Column

The Friends of the Watertown Library
Annual Report 2014-2015

The Friends of the Watertown Library board members, members and volunteers work together to raise funds for capital improvements and programs for the Watertown Library. The Friends make an annual donation to the Library. The Friends Board usually meets monthly. Other committee meetings are held as necessary to prepare for our programs. The Friends publicize our activities for members and the public to promote cultural activities and interest in our Library.

Linda Merriman, Program Director continues to develop lively programs to support the Library's community outreach with cultural programs. During the summer months we participated in the 3 nights on Main St. giving out books to children and entertaining with a balloon man. We want to attract new members to the Friends.

The Friends Winter and Spring luncheon celebrations are enjoyed by our members. We have approximately 60 Friends in attendance. The Friends members donate wonderful gifts for our raffle table, a fun activity enjoyed by all. At our Spring luncheon, Friends were entertained by Isabel Carrington and Jeremy Driscoll. They told wonderful old folktales to the beat of a drum. At the luncheon the Friends contributed \$ 15,000 to the Library.

On Oct.15, 2014 at the Watertown High School, we had our speaker Carl Bernstein, *All The President's Men* for this year's Friends Read Together Program. This was the 25th anniversary of the Watergate break-in. Mr. Bernstein told stories of the background of getting the Washington story.

Officers Vice-President Rita Wolfe and Secretary Cis Davidson work together efficiently keeping our minutes and correspondence. John Treleaven, Treasurer, continues to guide us with his monthly fiscal reports. He submits our annual fiscal report to the board. He also is our photographer.

Queenie Mraz, Fund Raiser, Manager of the Book Nook, oversees our volunteers and the sales of the Book

Nook, which is our principal fundraiser. The volunteers collect, clean, sort and shelve donated books. In addition to our regular half price hard cover book sales 3 times a year, we have a half price Saturday sale in conjunction with the Farmer's Market. The Nook also runs other specials during the year reflecting our book donations.

The Friends celebrated the Library Association's 150th anniversary and anticipated the celebration of our 25th anniversary in business this year. It was no small feat considering all the time and hard work to grow from one small room to the entire lower floor of the Library. The Friends have received encouraging reviews from customers, writers and other book store owners.

Christine Guiditta, Membership Chair, continues working to expand our memberships for individual, family, sponsors, patrons and businesses. Currently, there are approximately 200 members, 13 complimentary memberships, and 4 Business members. Cindy Eastman, Newsletter Editor, produces a quality quarterly publication. The newsletters give the members information on past and upcoming library events.

Cate Winter, Publicity Chair, is efficient in getting our publicity to our newspapers. Sue Jean, volunteer, coordinated our wonderful Friends 10th Annual Poetry Contest for students in grades 1 to 8 in Watertown and Oakville. The theme celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Library and the 25th anniversary of the Book Nook. A reception to honor the students was held on May 19, 2015. Stop and Shop and Adams sponsored the reception. There were 441

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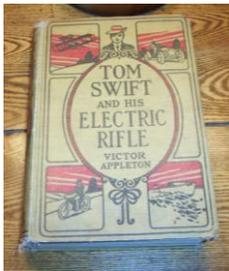
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BOOK NOOK NEWS

AS YOU MAY KNOW, I read a lot, mostly non-fiction mystery/suspense. I love to solve problems along with the author. However, once in a while I find an old children's or non-fiction book that really intrigues and excites me, such as the two I am into now. First, *Tom Swift and His Electric Rifle* published in 1911 which was part of a series for young men. In looking it over before researching it, I wondered what an "electric rifle" could be until I got to page 17 and read:

"There are no batteries, but the current is a sort of wireless kind . . . It's just as if you concentrated a charge of electricity . . . into a small globule like a bullet. It flies thru space and strikes the object aimed at . . ."

I thought, "This sounds like a Taser, but not in 1911!" Well, as it turns out "Tom Swift's" authors, (there were several), had more amazing ideas such as "Tom Swift and His Wireless Message", "Tom Swift and His Air Glider" and others – yes, in the early 1900s. The inventor of the Taser, Jack Cover (1909-1974) an aerospace scientist, was such a big fan of "Tom Swift" that he gave "Tom" a middle initial of "A" and there is your acronym for TASER – Tom A Swift's Electric Rifle!



This fits right in with the second book, *Inventing: How the Masters Did It*, by Byron Vanderbilt, published in 1974. This book has not only stories of the inventors but their inventions as well. In the book's Foreword by the publisher, Eugene Grace, M.D., it is mentioned how forward thinking they all were and yet sometimes just solving an everyday problem and ending up with something that changed our world.

Do you recognize the following inventor's names? Some we use all the time and never connect with an actual person: Lazlo Biro, Robert Bunsen. Rudolf Diesel, Joseph Lister, Louis Pasteur, Alfred Nobel, Henry Shrapnel and many, many others. Do you know what they invented that we use today?? Who says old books and non-fiction aren't exciting enough!!

SO, SPEAKING OF FORWARD THINKING, this brings us back to 1990 when Joan Rintelman, Library Director, began to think about having a small used book store in the Library in order to perhaps make a few extra dollars for the Friends. After doing some research on the subject, she proposed the idea to the Friends of the Library. The suggestion was looked into, discussed and voted upon. Yes, they said, let's do it! Eleanor Edmond and Shirley Crepon were on that committee.

AS YOU KNOW, the rest is history and we just celebrated our 25 years in business! What a celebration it was. Many thanks to the party committee, you did a magnificent job! The progress of the Book Nook consisted of a lot of time and hard work by the various Volunteers who either worked at the desk, serving as cashiers or in the workroom as Sorters and Pricers. We could not have kept growing into a fine used book store without you. Thank you all! When you open a new business it takes quite some time for the public to become aware and, most importantly, to return. We have an excellent following at this time with many faithful customers – we could not have done this without them either! Thank you all!

WHILE I AM IN A THANKING MOOD, I must include those who voted to honor Eleanor Edmond and me with the Edith Campbell Pelletier Award for "Extraordinary Service to the Watertown Library Association." Eleanor was instrumental in getting The Book Nook started and we worked together on the store and other Friends projects over the years. I was deeply grateful to be considered, and especially honored, in the same category as Eleanor Edmond. Thank you all!

Queenie Mraz

"The journey of a lifetime starts with the turning of a page." ~ Rachel Anders

entries from grades 1-8 with 8 first prize winners and 16 honorable mentions winners. Robin Osborn, volunteer, leads the popular ongoing book clubs at the Oakville Branch and Watertown Library. Many thanks to all our members and volunteers for a successful year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Kennedy, President



Deb Krayseske and Carolyn Riolo are accepting donations for the wonderful basket raffle at our Christmas Luncheon. All donations should be new and in original wrapping. Suggestions for donations include: bottles of wine, chocolates, nuts, coffee, tea, scratch-off lottery tickets in any denomination, sunscreen, Bath & Bodyworks hand soap, body cream, etc., dominoes, scrabble, cards, gift cards (any denomination) to Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Chubba's, Rock Garden, Ro's, Daveluy's, Roma's, etc.

Donations should be received by **November 27th**. They may be left in the kitchen of the Book Nook marked to Deb/Carolyn for the raffle.

Thanks to everyone who can help us!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

- Thank you to the many members who have sent in their renewal payment
- Contact me or any Friend if you have not received your renewal letter
- Your continued support of the Watertown Library is greatly appreciated.
- The categories for general renewal are: Individual \$10, Family \$20, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100
- The categories for business membership are: Bronze \$50, Silver \$100, Gold \$250, Platinum \$500
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to join the Friends!

Christine Guiditta
cguiditta@optonline.net

PLEASE support our Business Members

**DR. BAKER DDS ~ UNITED TECHNOLOGY
 CARVEL/G BURGERS ~ LIFEWORKS
 SIEMON COMPANY ~ HEALTH COMPLEX
 WATERTOWN LIONS
 COPEWASTE SOLUTIONS
 THOMASTON SAVINGS BANK
 STATE FARM INSURANCE**

The Friends of the Watertown Library Association was pleasantly surprised to receive an Official Citation from the State of Connecticut General Assembly at our 25th anniversary celebration at the Library. It was presented to Barbara Kennedy President of the Friends and Queenie Mraz, Manager of the Book Nook, by Representative Eric C. Berthel, 68th District and Senator Robert F. Kane, 32nd District.

The Citation was in recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the Book Nook providing quality literature to our community and recognizing the efforts and the outstanding Friends volunteer work over the 25 years.

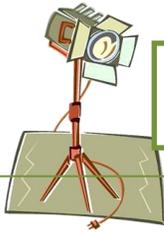
The Friends wish to thank the General Assembly and in particular Rep. Berthel and Sen. Kane for coming to our 25th celebration and presenting it to the Friends.

The citation of recognition is deeply appreciated. Our Volunteers work hard over the years to make our Library a treasured community asset for all to enjoy. We are in the process of having the Citation framed. It will soon be hung in the Library for your perusal.

~ Barbara Kennedy, President



**Update!
 The citation is framed and on display at the Watertown Library!**



Spotlight On:

Town-Wide Read

An Evening with James Benn

On Wednesday, October 21st Watertown welcomed James Benn as our guest speaker to talk about this series, Billy Boyle, and in particular *A Blind Goddess*. Mr. Benn entertained us for over an hour with all his stories of how he got into writing and how he came upon the idea for the series of fiction during World War II. Over the years, as Billy Boyle has been growing with a new book every year, Mr. Benn has had the privilege of meeting and speaking with many veterans of World War II and they loved telling him stories of how things really were during those times. Mr. Benn has been able to draw from these encounters and incorporate them into his books and that is what helps bring them to life. His newest book, *The White Ghost*, incorporates JFK and PT 109. All his life, Mr. Benn has been fascinated by the Kennedy family so it was only natural that he would try and figure out a way to put this into this series. If you missed the evening you missed a real treat, but plan ahead and spend your upcoming snowy days reading his books. You will not be sorry.

– Linda Merriman, Programs

Learn more about Connecticut author James R. Benn at www.jamesrbenn.com.



Save the Date!
Annual Holiday Luncheon
 At the
 Watertown Golf Club
 December 10, 2015 ~ 12 noon



November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 2pm - Oakville Book Club	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 7pm- Mystery Book Club	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving 	27	28
29	30					

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Looking for a great gift or book to read by a cozy fire?... 		1 2pm - Oakville Book Club	2	3	4	5
6	7 Hanukkah begins	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Hanukkah ends	15	16 7pm- Mystery Book Club	17	18	19
20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	...Don't forget! December is the Half-Price Book Sale	

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5 2pm - Oakville Book Club	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 MLK Day	19	20 7pm- Mystery Book Club	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

**THE FRIENDS
READING GROUPS
2015 - 2016**

...at the OAKVILLE BRANCH Tuesdays ~ 2 PM

November 3: Sarah Dunant, *In the Company of the Courtesan*
 December 1: Maureen Gibbon, *Paris Red*
 January 5: Sue Monk Kidd, *The Invention of Wings*
 February 2: E. L. Doctorow, *The March*
 March 1: Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*
 April 5: Christina Baker Kline, *Orphan Train*
 May 3: Robin Sloan, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*
 June 7: Anthony Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*

The Mystery Book Club Wednesdays ~ 7 PM at the MAIN LIBRARY

November 18: Edna Buchanan, *Contents Under Pressure*
 December 16: Dave Barry, *Big Trouble*
 January 20: John D. MacDonald, *One Fearful Yellow Eye*
 February 17: Carl Hiassen, *Native Tongue*
 March 16: Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Sherlock Holmes Mysteries*
 April 20: Peter Lovesey, *The Last Detective*
 May 18: Lee Child, *Worth Dying For*
 June 22: Stephen King, *Joyland*

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