

New Hampshire
LIBRARY TRUSTEE

The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association

Volume 27 No.3 Autumn 2011

What's Inside

- Board Happenings 2
- NHLTA Technology 2
- Message from the President 3
- NHLTA Award Winners for 2011 4
- One City, One Book Program 4
- Quiz 4
- Help Wanted! 5
- Center for the Book 5
- Library of Congress Traveling Exhibit: Gateway to Freedom 6
- New Addition to NHLTA Board 6
- Browsings of a Bibliophile 7
- Internet Sites for Advice and Fun 7
- Quiz Answers 7

**"Autumn.. the year's last,
loveliest smile."**

William C. Bryant

THE THREAT TO INTERLIBRARY LOAN VAN SERVICE

The intent of the New Hampshire Legislature to curtail New Hampshire State Library Interlibrary Loan Van Service will lead to severe repercussions on all New Hampshire libraries. Here is an outline showing the history and status of the legislation that has led to a need for library personnel, trustees, and patrons to show an enthusiastic outreach in support of the current state library four-van service.

HB1 – this bill had a high impact on state budgets, among them dramatic cuts to the State Library budget. (passed)

Outcome: Layoffs: 4 full-time, and 2 part-time employees were laid off.

Impact on Van Service: Two of these full-time employees were doing supplemental van delivery.

HB 2

224:215 Department of Cultural Resources, Federal Funding. *It is the intent of the general court that the department of cultural resources review the federal program guidelines for which it receives federal dollars to support library programs and seek to amend its 5-year plan to use funding that had been designated to support 3 of the interlibrary vans for other purposes. Furthermore, the review shall include a determination of programs or services the department could offer using federal library program funds. The department shall file a report of its findings with the house finance committee on or before November 30, 2011.* (passed)

Outcome: Michael York, State Librarian, will file the required report with the Chairman of the House Finance Committee.

A call for one van to serve 22 routes throughout New Hampshire, would severely impact the ability of interlibrary loan to operate in a timely and efficient manner. The increase of materials to be delivered and the number of libraries in need of interlibrary services has grown dramatically.

Trustees, librarians, staff, patrons, and book lovers throughout New Hampshire are welcome to send support for State Library vans and defeat the potential intentions of this Amendment. Send letters relating to your positive experiences with interlibrary loans to michael.york@dcr.nh.gov.

In June of 2012, the new 5-year plan will be created, negotiated, and approved until 2017.

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WATCH FOR THE RED COVER!

**NEW REVISED TRUSTEES MANUAL
COMING OUT SOON**

A new revised Trustees Manual is being printed
and will be delivered shortly to your library.

**NHLTA TO PARTICIPATE AT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER (LGC)
70TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Wednesday, November 16 10:00 am to 3:15pm
Thursday, November 17 8:00 am to 3:15 pm

Radisson Hotel, Manchester

NHLTA TECHNOLOGY

The LISTSERV FOR TRUSTEES is up and running. Subscribe at: <http://maillist2.nh.gov/mailman/listinfo/nhlta-l>. Reach all trustees; start networking and sharing ideas. Contact Dave Hallenbeck (the administrator of the LISTSERV mailing list) at dth@concur.mv.com if you have any questions.

Improvements are constantly being added to the NHLTA WEBSITE. Of note are resources from workshops that are available in PDF format on the Resources & Links page and FAQs covering general questions about situations that arise while performing the job of trustee.

Connie Kirwin

Plan Ahead!

2012 NHLTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2012

SERESC Conference Center, Bedford, NH

SCHOLARSHIPS

Part of the responsibility of NHLTA is to help deserving people achieve goals in the library world. This is through scholarship money that is available for workshops, conferences, college library courses, and modular library courses.

Please contact: Betsy Solon, Treasurer

2 Shady Rock Road, Brookline, NH 03033

E-mail at elsolon@yahoo.com or call 603-249-9453

Scholarship information is also available on NHLTA website: www.nhlta.com

Liaison from State Library

Michael York, State Librarian

271-2397 cell: 603-419-7100
Michael.York@dcr.nh.gov

New Hampshire Library Trustee Newsletter Staff

Editor and Graphic Design: Carol Theoharous

The New Hampshire Library Trustees Association newsletter is published quarterly. Contributions of articles, items for the Calendar of Events, and editorial correspondence are welcome.

Please submit by December 1, 2011 for the winter issue and send to Carol Theoharous via e-mail to cimit31@gmail.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Boards of Trustees will soon be preparing budgets for 2012. Because of the economic downturn, it is bound to be a tough and challenging year. Boards may be asked to hold the line again, or to cut back on already strained budgets. Boards compete for funding with Fire, Police and Highway Departments, and other important municipal services too. All this at a time when costs are rising and the demand for library services is increasing.



Adele Knight, President of NHLTA

Because, as personal budgets dwindle, people look more and more to their libraries for Internet use, periodicals, downloadable books, DVDs and more. Often, readers that were in the habit of buying books now check them out from the library. Some benefits are less tangible but still affect budgets' line items. Patrons save money as they seek entertainment in the form of programs, movies and activities held at the library. Children look forward to story hour, arts and crafts, and other programs designed especially to appeal to them. However, there are associated costs with the increases of service and library usage in the form of wages, supplies, and even utilities.

Libraries have a positive and constant impact on their communities. It may be difficult to put a dollar figure to the sense of camaraderie that comes about as people of all ages meet their friends and neighbors at the library, but it is ever important. I hear over and over again from trustees that they consider their library a community center. **And, that is because libraries offer something for everyone, and often go the extra mile to do so.** For example, some libraries offer extended hours during storms to provide a warm, comfortable place for patrons to visit and take out books, charge cell phones, or check their email. Others make special efforts to reach out to the elderly, or to help a child with special needs by utilizing Interlibrary Loan to obtain a selection of otherwise unaffordable or unavailable books. Or, encourage reading by making books available to children who have expressed a real interest in a particular topic.

It is important to promote libraries by speaking up, speaking out, and speaking for them whenever and wherever possible. Make your community aware of all the benefits and services that are provided by your library. Let your community know why those budget dollars are so important. I offer a few suggestions:

- * Submit articles about your library services to the town newsletter.
- * Do a cost analysis. If you equate the cost of books, magazines, DVDs and programs to real dollars saved by borrowing rather than purchasing, it makes an impact. One library creatively presented this analysis on a mock FORM 1040.L.

- * Track statistics so you can demonstrate any growth in daily attendance, program attendance, Interlibrary Loan usage, and circulation.
- * When preparing your budgets, include a narrative for every line item that explains why you are requesting that amount of money. For example, if you are recommending an increase in salary for a staff member, demonstrate that you have done your homework and know what similar staff in similar libraries are being paid. Or, list the cost of every item in your maintenance budget including service contracts.
- * Invite town officials and budget committees into your library to see for themselves what the appropriations provide. How can they not be impressed?
- * Ask the officials to share their goals. Tell them about the goals for your library. You may find that many of your goals are mutual. **The more others know about your library, the more likely it is that you will gain their support.**
- * **Help all libraries by supporting the Interlibrary Loan van service.** Go to the NHLTA website, www.NHLTA.com to learn about ways that you can help.

In summary, Libraries provide essential services and make a huge and constant impact on the communities they serve. Trustees should continue to speak out and advocate for recognition and funding for their libraries.

CONGRATULATIONS!
NHLTA AWARD WINNERS FOR 2011

SPECIAL LIBRARY SERVICE CONTRIBUTION AWARD
FAMILY OF ALEXANDER J. COREY * LITTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR
BRUCE COTTER * WIGGIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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

LIBRARY DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR
LYNN CHRISTOPHER * HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY
DENISE Van ZANTEN * MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY

ONE CITY, ONE BOOK PROGRAM IN NASHUA

One City, One Book, part of the Nashua Reads Program an offshoot of Center for the Book, has fired Nashua residents with a citywide project to read the same book, this year's selection "Song Yet Sung" by James McBride. Nashua has planned book clubs, courses, plays, and a special library visit by the author.

According to Wendy Thomas in an article published in *The Telegraph*, "Each year since Nashua Reads' inception in 2003, the library has also partnered with the Rivier Institute of Senior Education to hold a 5-week course relating to that year's title. The Friends of the Library have taken on a major role in the Nashua Reads program. A committee of Friends reads widely all year, screening books and authors to help the library choose one with just the right appeal for the Nashua community. In addition, since 2009, the Friends have sponsored Beyond the Book, visits by the authors to the city, where Nashua Reads participants can hear them speak, chat with them over wine and cheese, and get their books signed." This is generally used as a fund raiser.

Keeping in touch with your local papers is vital for trustees. *The Telegraph*, every Thursday, provides a listing of local libraries Amherst, Bedford, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, Nashua, Pelham, Wilton, and Windham with information about each library and its programs.

QUIZ: (answers page 7)

1. What has to be broken before it is used?
2. In what 5 countries do polar bears live in the wild?
3. What does man love more than life
Fear more than death or mortal strife
What the poor have, the rich require,
And what contented men desire,
What the miser spends and the spendthrift saves
And all men carry to their graves?
4. What is the singular of opera?
5. What do the initials DVD stand for?

HELP WANTED!



Ruby Matott and Debra DeCota, Library Technicians, delivering and picking up materials from Kelley Library.



Overcrowded conditions

The State Library Van pulled up to the Kelley Library in Salem on its three times-a-week call to transfer an allotment of books for interlibrary loan. The quantity of bags allowed had been dropped to half the number because of the limitation of 2000 pounds of content per load and the loss in the number of weekly deliveries; changes imposed by major lateral budget cuts throughout New Hampshire.

The curtailment of the quantity of service is due to the impact of House Budget Bills 1 and 2 (HB1 and HB2) that severely cut the budget of state facilities including the State Library. As a result, two full-time employees that were supplementing the van drivers lost their jobs. With fewer drivers, Michael York, State Librarian, was faced with solving the necessity for the continuation of 22-route deliveries using what remained of a staff that was already performing multiple tasks.

Mr. York is in the challenging position of balancing a drop in personnel with an increase in activity to uphold the goals of the State Library’s van delivery service. Meetings between library personnel, the state library, and community leaders are underway to discuss possible resolutions.

At the end of November, Mr. York is responsible for preparing and presenting a report to the Chair of the House Budget Committee defending the need for the current number of vans covering New Hampshire to continue their services.

What you can do...

Send letters and support to michael.york@dcr.nh.gov.
How did Interlibrary Loan service help you?

Speak up! Speak out! Speak for Libraries!

CENTER FOR THE BOOK CREATION

Next year the Center for the Book of the Library will celebrate its 35th anniversary. It was established in 1977 “to organize, focus, and dramatize our nations’s interest and attention on the book...”

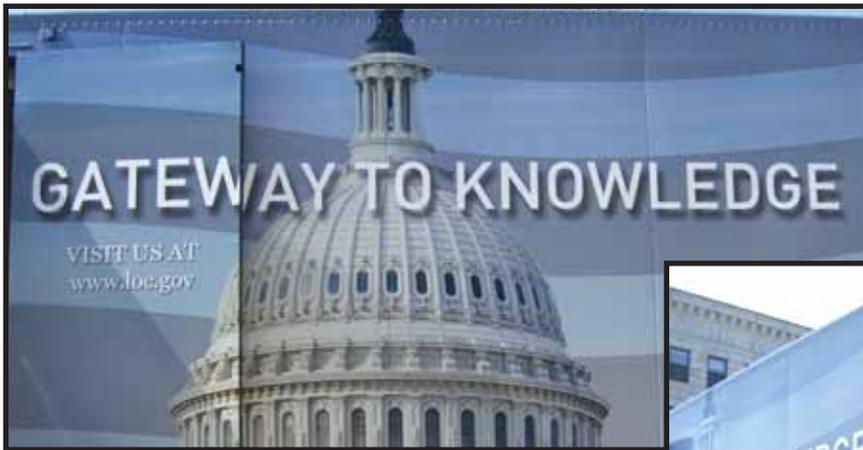
“As the national library of a great free republic, we have a special duty and a special interest to see that books do not go unread, that they are read by all ages and conditions, that books are not buried in their own excess, under their own dross, not lost from neglect nor obscured from us by specious alternatives and synthetic substitutes.”

“The Center for the Book hopes to serve as a catalyst in the book world, working through and with other

organizations to stimulate interest in the book, to explore issues related to the crucial role of the printed word in our culture, to encourage reading, and to encourage research about books and about reading.”

“For the book is the most conservative and the most liberal, the most traditional and the most revolutionary of media, the most atheistical and the most reverential, the most retrospective, and the most futuristic. It is our duty to keep that mission energetically alive. The book is the reservoir of all the ideas that we have forgotten, and will be the reservoir for ideas still unborn.”

From Center for the Book Internet Site



On August 30th and 31st, a truck drew up in front of the New Hampshire State House containing copies and videos of a variety of documents from the vast collections of the Library of Congress.

Being the world's largest repository of knowledge and creativity, the Library has 125 million items including books, print materials, sound recordings, photographs, maps, sheet music, and manuscripts.

The exhibit was a taste of what the Library has in store for visitors to its beautiful buildings and its wealth on the Internet site. It was filled with a variety of topics that the preparers felt would stimulate the different stratas of the United States population. It did fulfill that purpose but the texts were long and the videos were "stopping" areas during the exhibit that prevented a flow in the circulation of visitors.

The best "take-away" was a brochure entitled the "Gateway to Knowledge." Inside is a history of the Library, description of the collections, description of the buildings housing its collections, and the latest additions. There are also summaries of programs including education, preservation, and digitization. *Frequently Asked Questions* is particularly significant.

Further fruits of this outreach effort, initiated in the 1990s by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, now can be found on the Library's website in three areas. These are the digital sites of American Memory (memory.loc.gov/), which brings more than 15 million items of significance in U.S. history and culture to learners everywhere; and the World Digital Library (www.WDL.org), launched in April 2009 in conjunction with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and numerous national libraries around the world. Finally, access to a rich trove of information can be found through special educational outreach programs (www.loc.gov/teachers) that help educators harness the Library's primary-source materials and lesson plans to engage youngsters' critical-thinking skills.

NEW ADDITION TO THE NHLTA BOARD

The Governance Committee of NHLTA nominated Bruce Cotter, Chair of the Trustees of the Wiggin Memorial Library in Stratham, to serve on its Board of Directors. His expertise in fundraising and grant writing makes him an invaluable addition to the NHLTA family. Bruce was instrumental in helping a nearly defunct California repertory company eliminate an \$800,000 debt.

Bruce, born in Nigeria, has been married to wife Betsy for 32 years. They have two children, Kristen 22 and Colin 21. He is a collector of rare and fine press books. Bruce is

currently serving a second three-year term as trustee at the Wiggin Memorial Library where, in addition to chairing the board, he previously headed up their fundraising committee. He continues his career in software sales with Exact Software.

"...about the budgetary and political threats to libraries," he said, "its important for all of us to do our part to continue New Hampshire's historic commitment to libraries as a valuable resource to the community."

Marcia Burchstead



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TRAVELING EXHIBIT

A pen and a drop of ink
Makes the whole world think.

*Ancient Persian saying
from Persian manuscript exhibit*

BROWSINGS OF A BIBLIOPHILE**“THE HELP”**

Oh, do I have a book for you! It is excellent ... unlike anything I've read in a very long time. (In fact, I'd say I haven't read a book this good since “Gone with The Wind”, when I was eleven.) The book is “The Help”, by Kathryn Stockett. It's her first, and I'm sure we'll be reading her work for a very long time.

My daughter Laura called last week raving about it. She was surprised I hadn't read it. It's been out for a few years. Laura called Sunapee's Abbott Library to reserve it for me, and they told her they already had a waiting list. So, she drove over from Hartland, Vermont, to bring me her library copy, which wasn't due for another week. She stayed only for a hello and a hug, and I got right down to it. Nothing else got done. I was into a good book!

The story takes place in the early 1960s, and it's told by Aibileen, a colored maid who works for a wealthy couple in Jackson, Mississippi. Her good friend Minny, who holds the same kind of job, is also a major player in the narrative, as is Miss Skeeter, a white, college-educated young woman, who is a writer. Miss Skeeter knows all the wealthy families in Jackson and belongs to their bridge club and their league. In her heart she has a soft spot for the lives of the black “Help” in the town.

The racial attitudes of the sixties are clearly depicted, and there are times you shudder – remembering how it “used to be.” Everything is Black or White. Talent, decency, intelligence – these attributes don't seem to matter unless they are separated by the color of your skin.

A major part of the job of the colored *Help* was raising the white children of the wealthy employers, who were too busy. Aibileen has raised more than a dozen white children of several families in her time as *The Help*. Presently, she's raising, and potty-

training, and disciplining, and loving little Mae Mobley. Her Mama doesn't have the time, and Daddy just doesn't care. The passages of Aibileen and little Mae Mobley together are so engaging. Some bring tears to your eyes. Little Mae doesn't care if Aibileen is black. She loves her.

As Mae grows from infancy to almost three years old, she and Aibileen have “secret story” times. When Laura gave me the book, she said, “Mom, you'll love the story about Martian Luther King. When you get to this part...and I don't want to spoil your experience by telling you too much, you'll just burst!” I waited. And finally! Well, you'll see.

Undoubtedly, *The Help* is just about the best. Read it! Enjoy! Have your children read this. It's an excellent history lesson, and, incidentally, there are no prurient passages to be concerned about. I'm heading out to buy my own copy.

I'm sure you've seen the television previews of the movie “The Help”. Laura and I went to Hanover to see the movie. It was so well done. The screen writer followed the book beautifully. (I have found that often the movie that follows a book strays from the meaning of the story and takes undue license with changes and elaborations.) The movie was excellent! And the Nugget theater was full.

P.S. Enjoy the lovely, colorful fall season. Be well. Who knows what we'll review for the winter issue.

Emma Smith
Education Committee, NHLTA

INTERNET SITES FOR ADVICE AND FUN

NH Humanities Council | nhhc.org

www.nhhc.org (eventkeeper) for Calendar of Events

Policy on Meeting Rooms in libraries

Boston Public Library and click on Meeting Room Policy & Procedures
Pollard Memorial Library Meeting Rooms
Fresno County Public Library Meeting Room Policy

Smithsonian Institution

San Diego Zoo

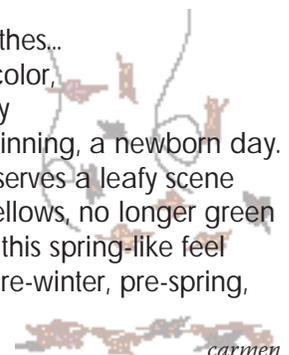
Surrey (Vancouver) Public Library (architecture and Canada reference)

Man Booker Prize (highly prized award for literature)

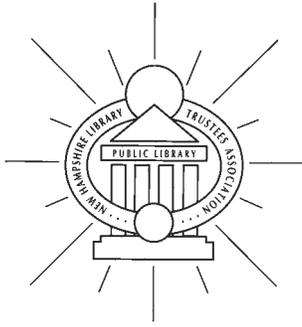
QUIZ (page 4) ANSWERS:

1. An egg
2. Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Norway,
3. Nothing
4. Opus
5. Digital Versatile Disc

Autumn breathes...
Exhilarating color,
a slight decay
A joyous beginning, a newborn day.
The mind observes a leafy scene
Rusts, reds, yellows, no longer green
Inhale deep, this spring-like feel
It's autumn, pre-winter, pre-spring,
It's real.

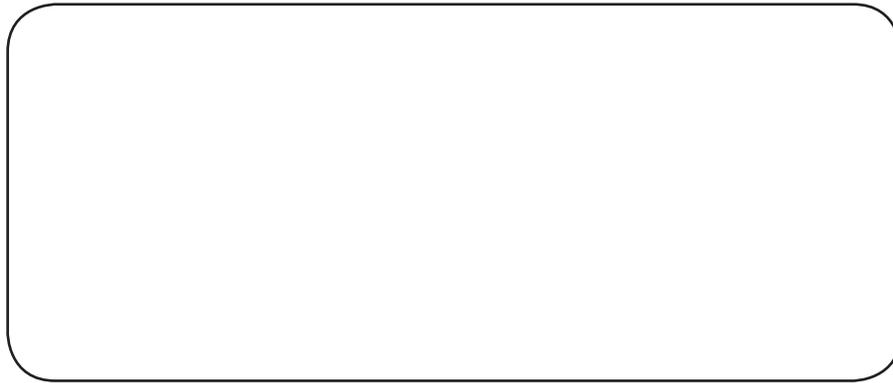


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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 5 - NHLTA Monthly Board Meeting, 10:00 am
Local Government Center, Concord
(meetings are held on first Wednesday of each month)

Wednesday, November 2 - NHLTA Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 16 and Thursday, November 17
LGC 70th Annual Conference, Radisson Hotel, Manchester

Wednesday, December 7 - NHLTA Board Meeting

Monday, May 21 - NHLTA 2012 Spring Conference,
SERESC Conference Center, Bedford (save the date!)

