



2015 SPRING CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 18, 2015

Grappone Conference Center

70 Constitution Avenue, Concord, NH

“RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries”

This year, NHLTA’s Spring Conference and Annual Meeting will be bigger and better than ever, with more workshops, more national speakers, and more opportunities to network with library colleagues from around the state. The inspiration for the theme of the conference is a recently released report from The Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. (For more on the report, see sidebar on page 4.)

The Keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Norman Jacknis, a technology futurist and Senior Fellow at the Intelligent Community Forum. A long-time leader in the library trustee community, Dr. Jacknis is currently President of the Metropolitan New York Library Council and past President of the New York State Library Trustees Association. He served as a member of the working group of experts convened by the Aspen Institute to examine the evolving societal role of the public library, and to shape and advance a perspective that re-envision U.S. public libraries for the future. His opening presentation will introduce conference attendees to the findings described in the Aspen Report, as well as to the strategies for action suggested.

Expanding on this introduction, Dr. Jacknis will be joined by Maureen Sullivan, past president of the American Library Association, to delve into the findings and recommendations in the report, and to offer concrete action strategies to trustees and directors. These sessions, along with others, will help library leaders re-envision their public library for the future and truly “rise to the challenge.”

Other sessions focused on understanding and embracing the future of public libraries include: “*Designing the Library of the Future: An Architect’s Perspective*” presented by Ron Lamarre, Design Principal at Lavallee|Brensinger Architects; and “*Successful Libraries for an Uncertain Future*” presented by George Needham, MLS, Vice President for Global and Regional Councils at OCLC, a nonprofit library cooperative providing research, programs and services

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TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations Doug Bencks

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

On March 5th, a large gathering of library supporters, who were also “Friends of Doug Bencks,” assembled at 7 pm at the Durham Public Library to celebrate the NHLTA selection of Doug for the Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year award. Uniformed students served as ushers and circulated



among the guests with trays of excellent pastries. There was a pervasive feeling of joy that this recognition of Doug also capped a long, very successful community collaboration to build a superb library that will serve Durham for generations. Jenna Robert, chair of the trustees, led several speakers from a podium in the large second-floor meeting room. NHLTA president, Ed Moran who presented the award to Doug, spoke of the many contributions

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Message from the President . . .

Trustees:

Attending the NHLTA Conference may prove the smartest way to help your library this Spring. Law lectures and personnel seminars will help keep a happy staff and steer around trouble. Aspen Institute speakers will discuss future trends, and architectural forums should help get the most from your space. Investment seminars should help crystallize risk/reward parameters in an often murky arena.

There is a lot happening and you may want to go in groups so you don't miss something important.

I look forward to seeing you on May 18th.



Ed Moran
e.moran@nhlta.org

“You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who had ever been alive.”

— James Baldwin

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 12–18, 2015

National Volunteer Week, April 12-18, 2015, is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities.

Make a Difference and Volunteer

NHLTA offers an opportunity to trustees to apply their skills in support of the mission and activities of the Association. The Board of Directors is an all-volunteer group of current and former library trustees. We need volunteers to work on a project-by-project basis and on a long-term basis as working members of the board.

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, special skills, and degree of passion for libraries!

If you care about libraries and want to make a difference—step up and volunteer. 

Ask the Curmudgeon at www.nhlta.org

Dear Curmudgeon,

I went to my library the other night and the lights were on but the door was locked and no one would come to the door. Why is that?

— Night Owl

Dear Night Owl,

When the library is closed the doors are locked to keep the toys from getting out and playing in the street. The lights are on because the children's books characters are afraid of the dark and hide when the lights are off. This makes for a confusing mess when staff returns the next day.

— Thank you for asking The Curmudgeon

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WHAT IS A PARALIBRARIAN?

By Eileen Gilbert, Library Director
Belmont Public Library

What is a paralibrarian? Paralibrarians are sometimes called library support staff, though many are administrators, department heads or directors. Basically, a paralibrarian works in a library, but does not have a master's degree in library science. Paralibrarians are the people most likely to be on the front lines of NH library service. Some have years of experience and considerable expertise. Paralibrarians support the missions of school, public, academic, and special libraries throughout the state by providing important services, being involved in professional development activities, and demonstrating commitment to their work.

Seventy-two percent of NH public library employees are paraprofessionals. Fifty-five percent of NH public libraries are staffed entirely by paraprofessionals, according to the 2013 Public Library report. Here in NH, libraries rely on paralibrarian service, and it's time to give them adequate support as they make the difference in our communities.

In Fall 2013, the READS section of the New Hampshire Library Association presented a program describing the Massachusetts Paralibrarian Certification system. A small group of interested library staff met in January and April 2014 to discuss the possibilities for implementing a similar system in New Hampshire. It was decided that the idea did not fall directly under any existing NHLA sections. The Paralibrarian section was approved by the general membership of NHLA in November 2014.

The Paralibrarian Certification is a voluntary program designed to recognize the involvement and contributions of paralibrarians in New Hampshire. The program works by allowing individuals to put together portfolios demonstrating their work experience, continuing education, and professional experience. There are four levels of certification, and portfolios are examined by a peer committee. We look forward to accepting our first applicants this year.

To assist people in obtaining the certification, the Paralibrarian Section plans to work with the NHLA Education Committee and other groups to sponsor library specific classes on a variety of topics, from administration to children's services.

Paralibrarian Certification is for individual library workers, but it supports library work throughout the state. Continuing professional development encourages better library service in our communities. 📖

Membership renewal invoices will be mailed April 1.

Please note our new address:

**NH Library Trustees Assoc.
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, NH 03301**

TRUSTEE ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS

Register Now for One of Three Sessions

By Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

Whether you are a newly elected trustee or have a few years of service under your belt, the NHLTA Trustee Orientation Workshop will provide you with the tools and information you need to be an effective library leader. The workshop covers the following topics and includes time for Q&A: NH laws relative to public libraries; library trustee job description; establishing library policies; budgets and the process from adoption to management; trustee meetings and the Right-To-Know law; trustees as employers; and the trustee as library advocate.

This year we are offering this workshop **three** times, including one Saturday session for those unable to attend a midweek program. Attendance will be limited to 50 participants per session, so register early to get your preferred date:

- **Saturday, April 18**, 10 am–1 pm, at the **Hooksett Public Library**, 31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett
- **Wednesday, April 22**, 10 am–1 pm, at **NHMA Concord** NH Municipal Assoc., 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
- **Thursday, June 11**, 10 am–1 pm, at **NHMA Concord** NH Municipal Assoc., 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

Please register online at: www.nhlta.org; the deadline for each session is one week before the workshop. This program is FREE. Handouts and refreshments will be provided. If you have questions or need to cancel after you've registered, please contact Susan Gaudiello at s.gaudiello@nhlta.org.

Comments from last year's workshop participants:

"The presenters were knowledgeable, interesting and great at answering questions and helping out small town libraries."

"The whole program was excellent, covering info for newly elected trustees and a tune up for the more seasoned member."

"This workshop helped me to clearly define what our board needs to address, and reinforced my resolve to make our library a greater benefit to our town."

"The workshop was well-prepared and presented and the presenters knowledgeable and passionate." 📖



to libraries in the U.S. and around the world. Mr. Needham will present ideas for managing your library in a way that will encourage positive results regardless of what the world throws at you. Expect to gain some insight that could help give you (and your library) a new lease on life and create new excitement around your library's services!

There will also be several workshops designed to help trustees enhance their skills as library spokespersons and better communicate their library's value to the community. *"Becoming a Confident Library Spokesperson"* presented by Cynthia Poltack, President of the Amoskeag Better Communications Club, will offer tips and tools to become more effective communicators. And, in *"Engaging Your Library Community through Storytelling"* Julia Campbell, of J Campbell Social Marketing, will explore storytelling as a communications tool, and explain how it can be employed through various digital media. In *"Creating Your Library Brand"* Elisabeth Doucett, MLS, MBA, will discuss and deliver practical action steps to create a library's brand.

Key to every library's success is its staff, and the Library Director is the person who provides the expertise and leadership that can make the difference between good and great. Two sessions will focus on this topic: *"Hiring for the Future: Librarians and the Changing Nature of the Profession"* presented by Simmons College associate professor Lisa Hussey; and *"Finding Your Fearless Leader: Conducting the Search for a New Library Director"* presented by HR professional Deb Caplan. Whether you need to replace a departing director or hope that your wonderful director will long outlive your service as a trustee, these are "must-see" sessions for every library.

As always, NHLTA will offer sessions covering legal issues and responsibilities of trustees. This year, in addition to Terry Knowles'

workshop *"The Other Money"* and Attorney Kate DeForest's overview of *"Library RSAs,"* we have added a separate workshop on *"New Hampshire's Right-to-Know Law."* Cordell Johnston, Government Affairs Counsel for the NH Municipal Association, will address compliance with the law and current issues, with plenty of time for Q&A.

Finally, the schedule will include sessions on popular topics. For those trustees interested in fundraising, *"Ask and You Shall Receive"* will be presented by David Simpson, a NHLTA director and former library trustee with experience as both a volunteer and a fundraising professional. Representatives from Charter Trust Company will offer guidance in *"From Financial Policies to Foundation Investments: Managing Your Library's Non-Public Funds."* And, for those involved with Friends of Library groups, library consultant Tom Ladd will explore the challenge of *"Growing Your Friends Group."*

NHLTA has again designed a program that encompasses information on the latest trends and challenges facing libraries, as well as the concrete tools and tips trustees need to ensure their local library meets and anticipates community needs.

— Susan Gaudiello, NHLTA Director

Conference Site

The 2015 Conference will take place at the Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Ave, Concord.

Directions available on their website: www.grapponeconferencecenter.com

Hotel Accommodations

A block of rooms has been set aside at The Courtyard, connected to the Grappone Conference Center, at a discounted rate of \$87 per night. Registrations must be made by April 27 to secure this rate; and refer to NHLTA when making your reservation. Phone: 603-225-0303

Registration

Brochures were mailed in early March to all NHLTA members and NH library directors. Despite the larger venue, space is limited, and early registration is recommended. While traditional paper registration is still available, we encourage members to register online, available for the first time on the NHLTA website: www.nhlta.org. Payment must be made by check. Online registrants will receive an email confirmation to print and submit with their checks.

The Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries

"The time has come for a new vision of public libraries in the United States. Communities need public libraries—more people are visiting them and using their services, materials and programs than ever before—but communities' needs continue to change."

This statement introduces the Aspen Institute's report, published in October 2014. Recognizing the challenges that communities and individuals face as we move further into the "digital age," the Dialogue on Public Libraries was launched. The year-long project involved an impressive workgroup of library professionals, policymakers, technology experts, philanthropists, educators and civic leaders, and engaged representatives from a broad range of library associations in the U.S.

The report includes detailed action recommendations and concludes with this exciting challenge: "Libraries reflect the community at its best—engaged, striving, participating, achieving, discovering, creating and innovating. The power to re-envision public libraries is the power to re-envision our communities for success in the digital era."

Read the full report at <http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/Dialogue-on-Public-Libraries>

NESMITH LIBRARY, WINDHAM

A Product of the Free Public Library Movement

By Carl Heidenblad, Library Director

Scholar Richard Rubin (former director of the Kent State University School of Library and Information Science) notes the importance of what

he has termed the free public library movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Rubin cites three social forces that were primarily responsible for the public library movement: philanthropy, women's voluntary associations, and state library laws

The Nesmith Library in Windham, NH, was certainly a product of the public library movement, but its development was both characteristic of, and somewhat different from other public-library-movement libraries.

Windhamites of the 1800s were largely Scotch-Irish farmers and tradesmen with strong connections to the Presbyterian Church. Early histories of the town indicate that these early settlers were interested in establishing schools, and that they valued education and books. As early as 1811 a small subscription library had been established and housed in the Presbyterian Church.

Thomas Nesmith lived an earnest and thoughtful life. He served briefly in the War of 1812, and was named a Colonel in the NH Militia in the early 1820s. In 1821 he served as Town Clerk. Clearly a gentleman with a strong philanthropic bent, in his will he

left \$3,000 to the Town of Windham for founding and perpetuating a public library, as well as several other very generous bequests to other organizations.

June 21, 1871, marked the formal opening of the Nesmith Library in the upper Town Hall. In the 28 years that followed, the library loaned over 75,000 books. (All of a serious nature—non-fiction and classical literature—as no fiction was allowed.)

In 1897 Leonard A. Morrison (Windham's historian and an author of several books) urged George W. Armstrong of Brookline, MA, to build a library building in Windham in memory of his Windham ancestors. Mr. Armstrong generously did just that, and the Nesmith Library resided in the Armstrong Memorial Building for the 98 years following 1899. Of note, the fieldstone construction of the Armstrong Memorial Building was overseen by Boston Architect William Weare Dinsmoor, another individual whose family had deep roots within the Windham community. The handsome stone library building was one of which the community was very proud.

From the beginning, the Nesmith will left governance of the Library to the town Selectmen, the minister of the Presbyterian Church and one member of the public appointed by this "board of trustees."

This state of affairs continued into the 1960s when the little town began to grow, and interest in the library grew as well. In 1966, the Friends of the Library of Windham formed. The Friends of the Library have been a key component of the library's success for each of the succeeding 49 years. Today,

the annual FLOW Strawberry Festival is the largest community event in Windham and in the past few years has attracted more than 3000 attendees!

In 1981 library advocates were successful in changing the Nesmith will, and the Nesmith Library Board became elected trustees in accordance with State law!

Windham continued to embrace the library. Circulation and services outgrew the 1898 Armstrong Building. In August of 1997 a new library building was dedicated and houses the library to this day.

In 1998 Nesmith Library circulated more than 100,000 items for the first time and more than 200,000 items were being loaned by 2008.

In 2011 Nesmith joined the GMILCS consortium, a nonprofit consortium of public and academic libraries that share an integrated library system, resources and expertise. Joining the GMILCS consortium is one of the most important events that have defined Nesmith Library history.

These events have pushed Nesmith Library to new successes and enabled the Library to be of great service to Windham residents: Colonel Thomas Nesmith's gift of a library in 1871; the Armstrong Memorial Building in 1898; the founding of a strong Friends of the Library program in 1966; changing to an elected Board of Trustees in 1981; a new Library Building in 1997; and joining GMILCS in 2011.

Harking back to Richard Rubin's thoughts on the library movement of the 1880s it is clear that philanthropy made the Nesmith Library possible. State library law permitted and encouraged the development and progression of Nesmith and all NH libraries.

And the journey continues ... 

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Non-Profit Report Due in 2015

By Mark Branoff, NHLTA Treasurer

By December 31, 2015, all legally-organized New Hampshire nonprofits must file the “2015 NON-PROFIT Report” with the NH Department of State, Corporate Division. Friends of the Library organizations are usually organized as nonprofits, and therefore they are also required to file. NH nonprofits must make this filing every 5 years, in those years divisible by 5. The last required nonprofit filing was in 2010, and after the 2015 filing, the next one will be in 2020.

The only information required on a nonprofit report is the names and addresses of the officers and directors of the nonprofit organization. Any change to a nonprofit’s address should also be recorded in the report. A \$25 fee must accompany the report filing.

Many nonprofits, including library Friends’ organizations, do not realize that nonprofits must file a report with the NH Secretary of State’s office every 5 years. If a report is not filed, then the nonprofit’s state charter is repealed. For reinstatement, a revival application is required, costing \$50 plus the required \$25 filing fee, for a total of \$75.

The “2015 NON-PROFIT Report” can be filed online at the website, www.sos.nh.gov/corporate/annualreport. For an online filing, the \$25 fee can only be paid with Visa or MasterCard. There is an additional \$2 charge for credit card transactions. To file the report in paper form with a check payment, a blank annual report form must first be obtained from the Secretary of State’s Corporate Division by telephoning 603-271-3246.

A nonprofit’s status with the Secretary of State can be looked up, using the “Business Name Lookup” feature at the website www.sos.nh.gov/corporate/soskb/csearch.asp. A nonprofit’s Business ID# is also looked up here; it is required for an online filing.

Trustees and library personnel should remind their Friends’ organization, as well as other nonprofits, about this report requirement for completion in 2015. 

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/or 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 or Feature Editor, Karen Sheehan Lord at ks.lord@nhlta.org.

VIDEO CORNER

Have you enjoyed the Oscars but are looking for something different in movies? How about checking out a NHLTA video? In cooperation with the Manchester City Library, we are releasing four conference workshop videos for circulation by the end of March. Titles listed below are from the 2014 Conference. (Review comments are from attendee evaluations.)

“Planning a Warrant Article: Advance Planning for Effective Advocacy” with John Chrastka

“Outstanding! John was one of the best presenters I have listened to in the past few years. Loved his emphasis on going door-to door.”

“Firm Foundation: When A Library Needs One” with Terry Knowles

“As always, Terry has the answers to our concerns and issues. I wish I had her next to me all the time! A wonderful resource.”

“Making Friends with Friends” with Tom Ladd

“Tom Ladd was a very good presenter. Learned a lot about the roles of Trustees and Friends.”

“How to Fight for the Library (and Not with the Town): Collaborating with Town Officials” with Melissa Prefontaine

“Melissa was an animated, entertaining presenter. Loved her enthusiasm.”

There are several ways to check out one of the videos:

1. Make your request to the Manchester City Library using InterLibraryLoan; reference **NHLTA Videos** plus the **Video Title** using this email address: mclill@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.

In the spirit of Ron Popeil’s, “But wait, there’s more!” Not only are we making available these videos but also the corresponding PowerPoint slides, which are located on the NHLTA website at <http://www.nhlta.org/nhlta/resources.asp>.

Contact David Hallenbeck at d.hallenbeck@nhlta.org if you have any questions or comments about the videos. 

WHAT IS A “Little Free Library”?

<http://littlefreelibrary.org>

It’s a “take a book, return a book” gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature. A Little Free Library can be a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. Do you have a Little Free Library? Send your photo to c.kirwin@nhlta.org. 

OLIVE G. PETTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY, GOSHEN

By Cynthia Reardon Phillips, Library Director

The Olive G. Pettis Memorial Library was established in March 1889, the result of a donation of books from Sarah Halladay Deming. This “extensive and cosmopolitan” private collection of 450 books came from the estate of her mother Olive G. Pettis. The lending library, officially opened in January 1890, was housed through the years in various buildings in town until 1901 when a fire destroyed all but 30 volumes. The building was rebuilt and, with donations from locals and summer residents, the lending collection was re-established; the catalog of 1905 reports holdings of over 500 titles.

In 1906, Deming’s son, Henry Halladay, offered 800 new books and financial assistance for the construction of a “permanent” library. Property on Mill Village Road was donated. A building on that same site had been the original “library” in 1890. With the dedication of the new building in November 1908 the Olive G. Pettis Memorial Library “came home.”

The main structure retains much of the original; kerosene lanterns and fireplace gave way to modern utilities, an addition was made in 1995 to accommodate indoor plumbing and create a handicap entrance, and in 2009 a cramped damp storage room was successfully renovated and converted into a computer resource center. In 2013, when the library won grants from the Children’s Literacy Foundation and the Libris Foundation, \$3,000 worth of new childrens books prompted construction of cases modeled on the 1908 originals, creating a much needed Kids Corner.

The Pettis Library began life as a source of enrichment for the community, and several generations of Trustees and Librarians nurtured that legacy into the present. Some things remain the same. Neighbors still borrow “traditional” books and participate in seasonal events—Spring-Chicken Egg Hunt, Summer Reading Camp Week, Storybook Scarecrow Build and Santa’s Pet & People Food Drive. And some things change. Patrons check out digital and audio editions and have access to “visual stories” on DVD/BluRay. Computer comfort sessions for seniors, job/college search assistance for young adults, and online education classes for everyone are new staples. Preschool children participate in story and craft circles, adult book groups meet monthly, and students spend time in homework-help or Lego-League “maker-play” sessions grounded in STEM principles.

In the past, we focused heavily on Pre-K to high-school outreach, believing that a strong connection to children and young families ensures continued library support as that population matures. This year we added a direct focus on

lifelong learning for the adult, retired and aging populations, strengthening our connection to the demographic encompassing approximately 66% of our community of less than 900.

Adult workshops are offered twice a month: in February we focused on clay creations; March will be devoted to



hand-quilting; April, poetry; October, genealogy. Offerings will cover watercolor painting, journal creation and even outdoor grilling. Three NH Humanities Council presentations are booked: NH Poet Laureate Alice Fogel in April; writers Martha Donovan and Maura MacNeil in September; anthropology professor Robert Goodby in November. The Library will also host Chris Schadler, from Project Coyote, in May; and Ben Kilham, black bear expert, in August.

We continue to provide enrichment opportunities for all ages—Pre-K literacy, LibraryTeen volunteers, home-bound delivery service and varied events aimed at expanding horizons and bringing the greater world to Goshen. To that end, our most recent effort was a ten-day exhibit of student art, on loan from Fermata Arts Foundation in Connecticut. Whimsical and thought-provoking pieces, by children, ages 3 to 19 from the Republic of Georgia, brightened our space and even brought neighbors in from surrounding towns. Work by local students, displayed concurrently, illustrated the universality of imagination and the desire to find sense and beauty in our environment. The Library is scheduled to host the Fermata exhibit of work by students from Kyrgyzstan in January 2016.

Big happenings, small library, all possible with a great team of Trustees, dedicated volunteers and Friends, and the continued support of active patrons. This one-librarian-library is open Tuesday–Thursday from 12:30–6:00, Friday 10:30–5:00, and with book groups and special events on evenings and Saturdays. Please visit us at goshenlibrary.org or on FaceBook: *Olive G Pettis Memorial Library*. 📖

REGIONAL TRUSTEE NETWORKING

NHLTA encourages regional 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, Souhegan Valley Area Trustees, Rockingham–Strafford Counties Trustees, and the Seacoast Region. Check with your neighboring library trustees and enjoy the benefits of meeting your peers and learning from each other.

MONADNOCK AREA TRUSTEES

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

On Friday, March 6, thirteen attendees representing nine libraries gathered at the Peterborough Town Library. There were actually five additional trustees who had expressed regrets that they could not attend due to other commitments.

Corinne Chronopoulos, Director of the Peterborough library, joined the meeting to tell us about some of the new programs that are being offered to patrons. For example, the MakerSpaces movement is sweeping the country and libraries are adapting it in various ways. In Peterborough, Mini MakerSpace projects have attracted many children and are relatively inexpensive. Corinne also expressed how important it is for a library to have an efficient infrastructure and good accessibility. They have been working on this in Peterborough. (Corinne has written an interesting article about library software which you can find on this page.)

Another attendee from Peterborough, alternate trustee Deb Caplan, gave a preview of the session she will be presenting at the upcoming NHLTA Annual Conference in May. Her workshop topic will be *“Finding Your Fearless Leader: Conducting the Search for a New Library Director.”* Deb is a human resources professional and was a member of the search committee that hired Director Chronopoulos.

Both Deb and Corinne answered many questions asked by the enthusiastic group. There were also general questions about library statistics.

The area trustees will meet again in the James A. Tuttle Library in Antrim on Friday, April 10th, at noon.

NORTH COUNTRY CO-OP ROUND TABLE

By Claire Martineau, NHLTA Director

The second North Country Co-Op Round Table will take place at the Bethlehem Public Library in mid-April. Be on the lookout for your email invitation with final details regarding date and time. If you have any questions, please email Claire Martineau at c.martineau@nhlta.org.



KOHA IN PETERBOROUGH

By Corinne Chronopoulos, Library Director
Peterborough Town Library

The Peterborough Town Library has partnered with the NH State Library to join the nhaisLOCAL library automation project. This project will enable library patrons to have an improved online experience as they browse the catalog for materials. Major improvements include the ability for patrons to log-in to their account, renew items, create reading lists, and place items on hold for pick-up. The system also features a pleasing interface with book covers, star ratings by patrons, and improved searching capability.

“We are very pleased to welcome the Peterborough Town Library as the newest member of the nhaisLOCAL library automation consortium,” said State Librarian Michael York. “Peterborough joins eight other New Hampshire libraries that are working to create a strong community of libraries who are using KOHA as their integrated library system.”

Koha is a fully-featured open-source software that is used worldwide. Open-source development promotes universal access to the software design, including subsequent improvements to it by anyone. “The major benefit of going with an open-source product for our library system is that it is an evolving and improving system. We are not stuck with a product we cannot change, and the product itself is free! We are really excited to bring a big improvement to our patrons, and glad the State Library is working on this initiative,” said Library Director Corinne Chronopoulos.

The public is invited to view the new online catalog by visiting the library website at PeterboroughTownLibrary.org and clicking on the Library Catalog link. 

MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

By Mark Branoff, NHLTA Treasurer

Scholarships are available from the NHLTA Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are awarded for graduate courses (e.g., MLS and MLIS courses), certificate courses, conferences (including NHLTA’s Annual Conference) and workshops.

Criteria for scholarship eligibility and an application form can be found on NHLTA’s website, www.nhlta.org. Past McKay Scholarship recipients may also apply for another scholarship for that next course, conference or workshop.

A brief historical perspective on the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund was printed on page 11 of the Spring 2014 NHLTA Newsletter. Mildred P. McKay was New Hampshire State Librarian, 1942–1964. In 1965, NHLTA established the Mildred P. McKay Scholarship Fund. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the scholarship fund. 

The New Hampshire Curmudgeon

Guardians of Democracy

Have you ever wondered what is so special about our nation's libraries? Well, let's go back in recent history to pre-WWII. When the Nazi party came to power in Germany in the 1930s, one of their first acts was to attack libraries and burn books of classical liberal, anarchist, socialist, pacifist, Communist, Jewish, and other authors whose writings were viewed as subversive or whose ideologies undermined the National Socialist administration. Perhaps the most chilling words ever written about book burning were penned in 1821 by the great German poet, Heinrich Heine: "Where they burn books they will in the end burn people." Now fast forward to Syria and Iraq today. ISIS is destroying libraries and burning books not supportive of their interpretation of Islamic teachings, and just one day after news of the book burning the jihadists murdered a Jordanian pilot by burning him alive in a metal cage. And why is all this so important? Because an uneducated, "reeducated" or uninformed populace is easier to influence and control. Limit the population's access to knowledge and you are one step closer to control.

So what is so special about New Hampshire libraries, you might ask? They are **free** to use and open to **everyone!** Libraries are the true guardians of democracy and critical to the American way of life. So when your library is under attack to save money and reduce taxes, remember why libraries are so important: not because they are a book emporium but because they are part of the foundation of our democratic way of life.

Speak up; speak out for your library!

2015 NHLTA ANNUAL AWARDS

Who will be the special contributors who connect the library with the community? Who are those individuals or groups that have given exemplary library service to their communities? It's not too soon to begin thinking of your nominees for the NHLTA Annual Awards. As a matter of fact, there have already been inquiries. A full description of the NHLTA Award criteria will be mailed to every NHLTA member in April, but this is a heads-up on the awards to be presented in 2015. Information about the awards can also be found on the on the Library News/What's Happening page of the NHLTA website, www.nhlta.org, 

Trustee of the Year continued from page 1

that had prompted the other Durham trustees to nominate Doug for this award.

For the first time in the history of the town, the community library is housed in a permanent building. This major accomplishment was achieved under the leadership and motivation of Doug Bencks, who has been Chair for seven of the eight years that he has served as a library trustee. He helped find the perfect location, fostered community support by building partnerships with community groups, and lead the Board of Trustees through an extensive project management process.

Doug artfully balanced the demands of residents who were intent on an environmentally-friendly building design while meeting the programming needs of the community—all at an affordable cost. He recognized that it was important to ensure that the community felt that they were part of the process, always engaged and involved.

With the help of fellow trustees, he negotiated for the location, led community forums and public hearings, spoke with the press, and met with leaders of community groups. Doug also put together a fundraising team to develop a strategy to raise \$900,000 in 6 months. They ultimately raised more than expected. His detailed understanding, diligence and willingness to answer any and all questions was at the core of the successful fundraising.

In addition to the exhaustive work on the new library project, Doug maintained all his duties as library chair, which included holding a trustee retreat to develop a strategic plan for the library, presenting a workshop at an annual NHLTA conference, and making himself available to discuss the project with local community groups. Doug Bencks is truly deserving of the Lillian Edelmann Trustee of the Year Award. 

CHAIR YOGA CLASSES AT BOSCAWEN LIBRARY

By Tina Larochele
Boscawen Library Trustee and NHLTA Director

Balance, flexibility, and strength contribute to our health and contentment. Low impact chair yoga—with the emphasis on *gentle*—contributes to the well-being of the people of Boscawen. The program needs to be self-sustaining, and this winter's weather makes it half-pay for itself. "Take your stretch, hold it, take three breaths," Nancy encourages our efforts.

Library trustee, Elaine Clow, is enjoying yoga and finds it useful "for bodies that have been in use for a while." 

EVENTS AT THE WILMOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Jackie Thompson, Chair
Wilmot Public Library Trustees

Second Annual Days of the Blackbird Festival

The second annual Wilmot Public Library's *Days of the Blackbird* festival featured an interactive acting-out of Tomie dePaola's beloved story of the same name, complete with costumes, props, a narrator, and theatrical coach.

The idea for the festival was conceived by Library Director Rosanna Eubank Dude in 2014, upon learning the local story behind the book. DePaola based his book on an Italian folk tale told to him one bitterly cold night in a late January by Piero Canuto, owner of Wilmot's La Meridiana restaurant. According to the tale, white doves hide in chimneys during the last three days of January—the coldest of the year—and emerge black from the soot. Hence “the days of the blackbird.”

Nearly a dozen children gathered at the library on the cold and snowy afternoon of Friday, January 30, 2015. Wilmot resident and retired teacher Mary Jane Ogmundson began by introducing the children to the story, and eliciting ideas from them as to ways they might act out different scenes. Local theater enthusiast Judy Lowe helped the children develop their various roles. Dude and library volunteer Margaret Doody assisted with costumes, props, and sound effects. Piero's daughter, Daniela Mellen, provided bird masks she designed and made especially for the event.

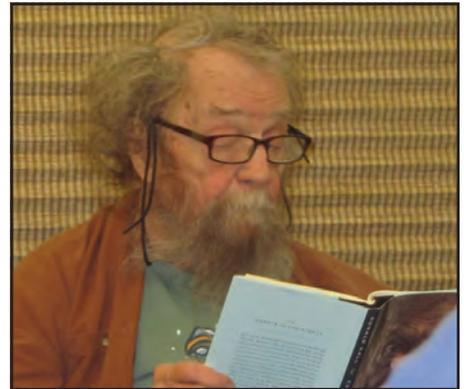
After a little preparation, Ogmundson narrated the in-house performance, reading the book while the children acted out the various scenes. In addition to the children enjoying themselves and interacting with the book in a novel way, audience members were enthusiastic in their response to the program.

“Now that the Blackbird festival has become an annual library tradition,” enthuses Dude, “we're looking forward to new and interesting ways to continue celebrating in the years ahead.” 📖



Donald Hall Visit

The Wilmot Public Library was honored to host Wilmot resident, author, poet, and former Poet Laureate of the United States Donald Hall before a packed audience at the library on February 5, 2015. He read



excerpts from his latest book, *Essays After Eighty*, which was on the *New York Times* non-fiction Best Seller List that week. This is Donald's first book to appear on the Best Seller List, although many of his books of poetry and prose have been well received and well read.

Donald moved to Wilmot in 1975, into the house where his great-grandparents settled in 1865, and where as a boy he summered with his grandparents. He still lives in this family homestead and continues to write at the ripe young age of 86. Besides writing, he loves watching baseball, most especially the Boston Red Sox. He watches every game during their season and is also an ardent New England Patriots fan.

Essays After Eighty chronicles his remarkable life of writing, including being awarded a 2010 National Medal of Arts by President Obama. He is candid and honest in describing his many adventures over years of travel around the world, many years of teaching at the University of Michigan, years of writing in several genres, and other activities so aptly described in this book of essays.

The Town of Wilmot is proud of its famous and loveable author Donald Hall. 📖

ONCE UPON A TIME (CHAPTER 2)

By Adele Knight, NHLTA Director

You may recall from Chapter 1 (Autumn 2014 issue of the NHLTA newsletter) that library trustees Franklin, Benjamin and Melinda were facing a serious dilemma. Their beloved Library For Us was in danger of losing adequate funding and was possibly even being considering for closing. There had even been talk that libraries were not really needed in this computer age. After considerable contemplation, the trustees realized that they had to appeal for funding in the short term but had to also think to the long term. They had to begin advocating on behalf of Library For Us on a continual basis. They had to let everyone know just how important the library was to the community.

Melinda is happy to report that their budget met the approval of both the Budget Committee and the Selectmen this year so it is most likely that voters will accept the budget as well. “Yes,” said Franklin, “it is now up to us to keep the momentum going. As a first step, I suggest that we write a letter of thanks to the community for its support.” Benjamin agreed but added, “We should also tell folks more about the library. The Town Report lists our statistical and financial information and outlines generally what the library has to offer but we could elaborate and tell just why the library is so special to all of us.” Franklin commented, “Of course, I patronize Library For Us because I love to read and we have such a great and diverse collection of books and periodicals, and I like to check out DVDs too—sure helps my personal budget.” “I believe in all that too. I save a lot of money by checking materials out of the library. However, other things that draw me into Library For Us are its welcoming ambience and the excellent customer service offered by the staff,” replied Melinda. “I agree with that,” exclaimed Benjamin. “We could mention those important features and provide more detail about the collection, services and programs that are offered.”

Here is an example of an article that could be tailored to fit Library For Us or any library and then distributed to the community.

Welcome To Your Library

Financial reporting, statistical data, and reports from the Trustees and the director have all been included in the Town’s Annual Report. In addition, Library Trustees mail out their own annual report, to all households in Dublin to give residents even more information and to recognize the library’s many individual supporters. These are some of the aspects that make the Dublin Public Library such a warm, inviting and rewarding place to visit.

For example, one Saturday morning when the temperatures were frigid and the snow banks were nearly four feet high, I made a visit to the library. As I entered the central room, I thought—wow, this is a beautiful building inside as well as outside.

One of the first things to attract your attention is the revolving book rack that displays the newest additions to the collection. There are many more reading treasures in the adjoining rooms as the library possesses a large and diverse collection. And, if you can’t find specifically what you

are looking for, there is InterLibraryLoan. Just ask and the staff can order the book for you from another library. It may take a week or so to get it or you may have it within a day. There is also a “wish list” at the circulation desk where patrons may write down their request for books or other items.

There are many DVDs to choose from. When the latest Academy Award-winning movies are released, you can be assured that the DPL will have them. The large collection of magazines reflects many interests, and the local newspapers are on hand. As you know, these items can be expensive if purchased by the individual but checking them out at the library is easy and costs nothing.

Each Saturday morning, brightly burning fireplaces in each of two rooms adjoining the main portion of the original library add to the welcoming ambience (the old stone fireplaces have been converted to propane.) A semicircle of chairs beckons patrons to sit and converse with other patrons or to read their newspapers or books. To add to the experience, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee wafts through the area, and a plate of “goodies” is an invitation to sample.

Walk past the beautifully crafted circulation desk that bridges the original section of the library to the recent (15-years-ago) addition, and note that there is a continuity of design and function between the two. The Children’s and Young Adult’s reading areas and stacks, biographies, and a vast collection of mysteries share this space. The high ceilings enhance the spaciousness of the room and light floods in through the many windows. Paintings by Dublin artists adorn the walls throughout the building. Reminders of the past have been included—both functional as well as decorative. A large old oak library table, complete with the original chairs, is constantly in use for many group meetings. A long bench that was in the original portion of the library now serves as a window seat in a sunny alcove that is used as a gathering space for the many children who come for story hour. Reading groups and knitting enthusiasts are attracted to this area too.

All this, in addition to the huge downstairs meeting room and many interesting programs organized by both the staff and the ever helpful Friends of the Dublin Public Library, are offered for you to enjoy. If you are new to town or have not visited the library in a while, please do. You are always welcome and you will not be disappointed. See for yourself what a gem graces and serves our community. 



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CALENDAR 2015

April 1	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • NHMA 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
April 18	10:00–1:00 p.m.	Orientation Workshop • Hooksett Public Library 31 Mount Saint Marys Way, Hooksett
April 22	10:00–1:00 p.m.	Orientation Workshop • NHMA 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
May 6	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • NHMA 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
May 18	8:00 a.m.–3:45 p.m.	NHLTA Spring Conference/Annual Meeting Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Ave, Concord
June 3	10:00 a.m.	NHLTA Board of Directors meeting • NHMA 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord
June 11	10:00–1:00 p.m.	Orientation Workshop • NHMA 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

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