

Volume 14, Issue 1

Wells Memorial Library
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Karen Rappaport, Director
Serving the Jay and Upper Jay Communities

Your Board of Trustees

Board elections were held in December, 2009. Officers are: Marie-Anne Azar Ward, President; Martha Spear, Vice President; Bethany Krawiec, Secretary; Phyllis Honigmann, Treasurer. Phyllis Honigmann and Fran Driscoll were elected to the Board. Our board of trustees is a volunteer entity responsible for fundraising and setting policy.

Wells Memorial said adieu to two board members at the end of 2009. Sylvia Norton stepped down after serving on the Board for 20 years and holding every office and nearly every function of the library. Her many hours of dedication can be appreciated in the library addition, the annual sale (which was her brainchild) and the recruiting of other volunteers, not to mention all her cooking for events! Also leaving was Janet Ward, who came on board to replace dearly departed, Vern McDonald, and did so with professionalism, attention to detail, and aplomb.

Featured Volunteer

Over the years this column has thanked the scores of community members who have committed themselves to helping out in countless ways. In this issue, rather than highlighting one particular volunteer, we thought we would focus on the importance of volunteerism at Wells Memorial Library, an organization with only one employee, our invaluable Librarian, Karen. Nearly every week, The Friday Group descends on the library to price items donated for the Books, Antiques, Food and Things Sale. Occasionally they are asked to do other tasks; in October they were charged with the arduous task of dusting all surfaces of the library covered in a fine sawdust raised by the floor sander. A big thank you to those dedicated ladies!

Recently, we lost a dedicated individual, Meda Romanowski. Meda was a regular fixture at the library: she aided in the annual summer sale, in-put data for the card catalogue and helped with the CEF rotations. Her up-beat, can-do attitude was infectious and she is sorely missed. Not only was Meda a constant presence, she also made generous financial contributions to her "home away from home." In keeping with that generosity, Meda left a bequest to the library, a lasting reminder of her thoughtfulness.

Program News

Jeri Wright's photographic exhibit was in November and December, during which time she sold a couple of pieces. She generously donated a photograph of clowns, which she had hung in the children's corner. Thanks, Jeri, for gracing our



walls and for the beloved clown picture. Jeri also took a wonderful photo of the library, which she had made into postcards.



The postcards are for sale 75 cents apiece; all proceeds benefit the library.

Stephen Longmire, author and photographer, will be exhibiting works from his book, "Keeping Time in Sag Harbor," from January through March. His Artist Reception is scheduled for Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14, at 2:00; it will include a brief discussion of his current project, "Life and Death on the Prairie."

We are once again offering a story hour for children, on Tuesdays at 3:30. Daui Woodin kicked off Story Time January 5, reading "Snowflake Bentley" and "The Cat That Walked Across France." Excited children stayed after the program to take out books. Karen is looking for other volunteers to read to



children on Tuesdays when Daui is not available.

Writer's Collective, under the leadership of Bob Segall, meets at 7:00 pm the third Tuesday of each month. Writers in any genre are welcome to come and share their work. Quilters Gathering continues to meet monthly at the library. Check with Bethany Krawiec (946-1295) for dates and times.

Library News

The library was a bustling place during our Christmas Sale, as people browsed our many holiday and gift items (so numerous we had to set up an additional table out back). Donations flowed in as well. This was our most successful sale yet. Thanks to Yvonne Farmer, Kay Kowanko, Fran Driscoll, Hope Stone, Marie-Anne Azar Ward, Sylvia Norton, and Ellen Metcalf for setting up, taking down, and straightening displays.

Nick Woodin donated 4 copies of his highly accessible and beautifully illustrated "The Exuberant Gardener" to sell at a discount here at the library.

Thanks to all who responded to our survey. We have a very appreciative group of library patrons, both full time and part time residents "Wells Memorial Library is the best!" With one exception no one had any suggestions for making the library more useful. A number of people were interested in volunteering, Daui Woodin among them. She is undertaking a catalog project with the children's books.

We applied for and received a \$500 grant from the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Foundation to purchase large print books. You can see the recently added titles in [New Additions](#).

We have a new system for hanging our exhibits, thanks to Stephen Longmire, who suggested a more uniform approach to our exhibits. Stephen is mounting his exhibit using the system. Thanks to Don Morrison, Joe Kahn, Sylvia Norton, Ellen Metcalf, Jan Bosland, and Stephen for the many steps it took to get the system selected and put up.

In appreciation for the opportunity to exhibit at the library, Photographer Caroline Fine donated a colorful depiction of river rocks from her Fall show. "You were very generous to display my work. I was honored to have a reception and grateful you all worked so hard to bring it to fruition."

Memorial Donations



Memorial Donations are made by people wishing to honor the memory of friends and relatives who had some association with the library. The following have been so honored:

Sherri Norton
John Nye
Meda Romanowski

Thank You

- Donations of books, magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs: Vicki Moore, Marie-Anne Azar Ward, Carole McDowell, Doris Brann, Dick Porter, Esther Wylen, Christian Brammer, Rita Kurth, and Jane Colquhoun
- Plants & Pots: Yvonne Farmer, Marlene Prescott, Billie Loughran, Jan Ward, Meda Romanowski
- Maintenance: Sandy Dupree and Don Morrison for shoveling; Stephen Longmire for removing picture hooks, spackling and painting the holes; Don Morrison and Joe Kahn for cleaning and opening the heat vents
- Stephen Longmire for donating his book, "Keeping Time in Sag Harbor," for our collection.

Archives

Alison Haas, who is the archivist at the Olympic Museum in Lake Placid, has volunteered to help us in the archives. She has already begun to scan our slides onto a disc and has a number of suggestions for improving the ability to access our holdings.

Correspondence

"Thanks again for all you did to make my exhibit a special exhibit a special event-the food at the reception was truly wonderful. You have and keep a cultural treasure in the Adirondacks." -Dan Christoffel
"Please accept this small gift [actually a lovely and not so small food basket!]...for all you do to promote reading and information for people in the area." -Goulet family

"Thank you for all you do to make our dear library work..."
-the Dilworths

"We all know how vital the library is to our small community."
-the Gehris's

State of the Library, 2009

Summary

Just as there are indications that the national financial crisis is showing signs of improvement, Wells Memorial Library came

through the last year with more ups than downs. Our attendance has been steady, programs well-received and we were fortunate to have a successful summer sale, annual appeal and a few grants and endowments. So, all in all, our State of the Library is positive and we continue to seek revenue streams to make up for possible funding losses and low return on investments.

Operating Income

Although our fundraising revenue increased this year, total income dropped 17%, mainly due to last year's large one-time grant. Fundraising remains our largest source of income; along with interest income and grant-writing, we raise about 70% of our operating income.

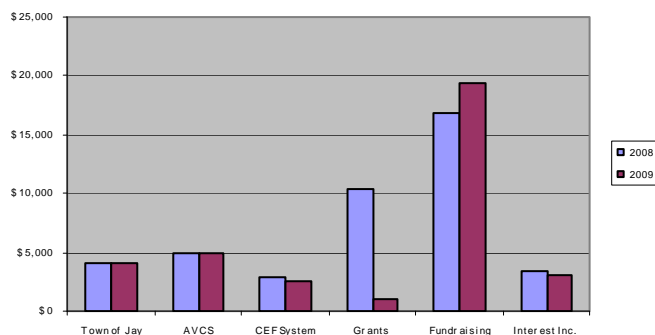
Operating Expenses

Our operating expenses decreased marginally—2%, despite an increase in personnel costs (which are about 60% of our operating expense) Mainly we were able to reduce our utility and maintenance expenses. Close to 80% of our operating expenses were for staffing and the library building itself.

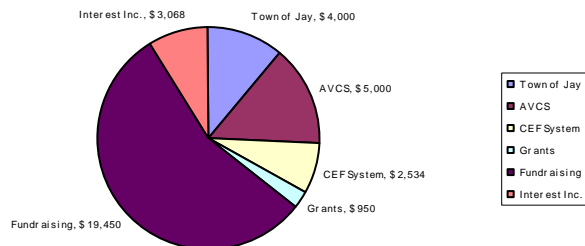
Outlook

In 2010 we plan to assess and implement improvements based on the patron survey, continue work in our archives and address issues involving the physical condition of the building and grounds. Our recently refinished floors will have new runners to protect them and enhance the library's charm, exhibits will be better enjoyed because of an art installation system. We plan to produce a bookmark with library information for visitors.

Library Operating Income 2008 & 2009



Library Operating Income 2009



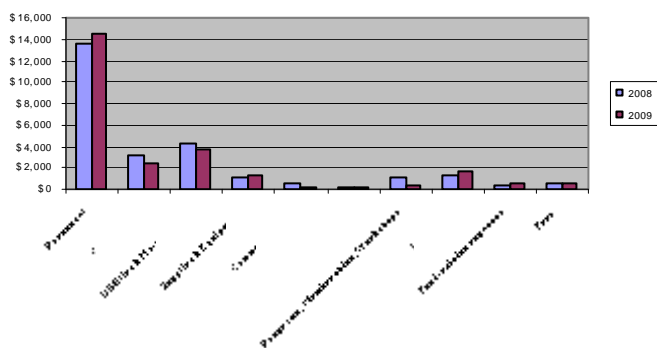
Did you Know?

The library has gorgeous canvas tote bags (\$6) and plants (individually priced) for sale?

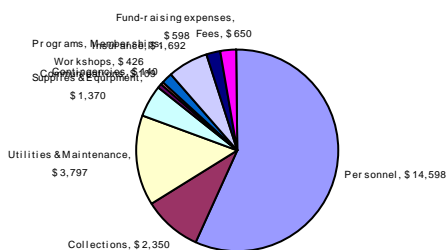
We also provide a bin for used printer cartridges and cell

phones, the recycling of which contribute to our operating income.

Library Operating Expenses 2008 & 2009



Library Operating Expenses 2009



Selected Recent Additions

Juvenile Fiction & Non-Fiction

The Magician's Elephant, Kate DiCamillo; Last Shot, John Feinstein; Katya's Busy Morning, Thea Feldman; The Silver Donkey, Sonya Hartnett; Strawberry Hill, Mary Ann Hoberman; Princess Buttercup, Wendy Lewison; Froggy Goes to the Doctor, Jonathan London; The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z, Kate Messner; A Classic Treasury of Nursery Songs & Rhymes; Folktales, Tana Reiff

Juvenile Books on CD

Extra Credit, Andrew Clements; Piper Reed Gets a Job, Kimberly Willis Holt; The Adventures of Odysseus, Hugh Lupton; The Lightning Thief, Rick Riordan

Juvenile DVDs

City of Ember; Dora's First Trip; Eloise at the Plaza; Enchanted; Faerie Tale Theatre; Madeline's Adventures; The Spiderwick Chronicles; Spring for Strawberry Shortcake; Up

Fiction

The Clothes They Stood Up In, Alan Bennett; Flashpoint, Suzanne Brockmann; The Lost Symbol, Dan Brown; The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho; Nine Dragons, Michael Connolly; Intervention, Robin Cook; Sweet Revenge, Diane Mott Davidson; Homer & Langley, E.L. Doctorow; In the Company of the Courtesan, Sarah Dunant; The Black Violin, Maxence Fermine; The Middle Ages, Jennie Fields; The Best Awful, Carrie Fisher; A Redbird Christmas, Fannie Flagg; Plum Pudding Murder, Joanne Fluke; The Accidental Pope, Raymond Flynn; Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer; Fish, Blood and Bone, Leslie Forbes; The Student Conductor, Robert Ford; Hancock Park, Katherine V. Forrest; Avenger, Frederick For-

syth; The Jane Austen Book Club, Karen Joy Fowler; Silks, Dick Francis; Dark Voyage, Alan Furst; An Echo in the Bone, Diana Gabaldon; Tempting Faith DiNapoli, Lisa Gabriele; Metropolis, Elizabeth Gaffney; Flight Lessons, Patricia Gaffney; The Goodbye Summer, Patricia Gaffney; Veronica, Mary Gaitskill; Death by Cashmere, Sally Goldenbaum; Dark Justice, Jack Higgins; Blood Memory, Greg Iles; Lost Souls, Lisa Jackson; Blood Game, Iris Johansen; Under the Dome, Stephen King; The Preservationist, David Maine; A Gate At The Stairs, Lorrie Moore; Hardball, Sara Paretsky; Devil Bones, Kathy Reichs; A Christmas Passage, David Saperstein; The Thirteenth Tale, Diane Setterfield; Olive Kitteridge, Elizabeth Strout; Big Fish, Daniel Wallace; Maisie Dobbs, Jacqueline Winspear; Capital Crimes, Stuart Woods;

Large Print Fiction

The Tale of Briar Bank, Susan Albert; Last Man Standing, David Baldacci; The Vineyard, Barbara Delinsky; Lunch at the Piccadilly, Clyde Edgerton; The Ministry of Special Cases, Nathan Englander; A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini; The Book Of Unholy Mischiefs, Ellie Newmark; Back Roads, Tawni O'Dell; Double Play, Robert B Parker; The Last Dickens, Matthew Pearl; The Master, Colm Toibin; Half-Broke Horses, Jeannette Walls; Messenger of Truth, Jacqueline Winspear

Non-Fiction

Vegetarian Times Complete Cookbook; Wild Times: Your Personal Guide to 120 Hiking and Paddling Adventures in the Adirondacks; Pamela Asquith's Ultimate Chocolate Cake Book; Dave Barry's History of the Millenium (So Far!); A Wolf at the Table, Augusten Burroughs; Every Man a Tiger, Tom Clancy; Four Wings and a Prayer, Sue Halpern; The Singing Life of Birds, Donald Kroodsmas; The Creative Artist, Nita Leland; Buffett, Roger Lowenstein; Cake Making & Decorating, Barbara Maher; The Facts on File Dictionary of Foreign Words and Phrases, Martin Manser; Orchids, David Menzies; The 7 Stages of Motherhood, Ann Pleshette Murphy; Newcomb's Wildflower Guide, Lawrence Newcomb; Survival of Families in Beekmantown, NY in the First Half of the 20th Century, Addie Shields; Dog Hikes in the Adirondacks, Annie Stoltie ed.