

Library News

The Friends of the Town of
Chester Public Library

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www.chesterlibrary.org

Spring 2010

The Beautiful Book

Despite Kindles, iPods, and other electronic reading devices, most readers still relish the look and feel of a good book. Books can also be art.

The Friends of the Library have begun a special collection now numbering over 30 unique books. Designed, printed, and bound by skilled hands the books are representative of a genre that has its roots in the late 19th century with the British Arts and Crafts movement.

Some of the books in the Book Arts Collection are rare and unusual because they are made entirely by hand in very small editions of less than 100 copies. Others are one of a kind, almost sculptural objects that push the boundaries of what we usually think a book should look like.

Several of the books in the collection can also be found in other private and public collections such as

the Library of Congress, The Smithsonian Institution Libraries, and the Yale University Library. Ours is the only such collection in the Adirondacks.

When asked why the library should collect this type of book, Bob Walp, himself a book maker and the curator of the collection, says that, "In addition to their value as important examples of the book makers art, the work of small private presses has often influenced the design and typography of commercially published books. Some of these books may be important in the future history of books in general".

Don't miss an opportunity to look at, feel, and read the books in this extraordinary collection. Bob will be happy to meet with anyone interested at the library for a tour.

A list of the books with descriptions and photographs can be seen by clicking on the "Book Arts Collection" link on the library website at www.chesterlibrary.org.



A spread from "The Tempest". Printed, bound and illustrated by Mark McMurray of Caliban Press in Canton, New York.

2010 Wine Tasting and Silent Auction of Local Art

Once again, John Phillips, Innkeeper of the Friends Lake Inn, will host our annual wine tasting event on Sunday, May 2, 2010 from 1 to 4 pm. Come and taste great wines from around the world, and make your bids in the show and silent auction of local art.

Donation is \$25.00 per person. Please join us for what is sure to be an enjoyable afternoon. Wines in the tasting will be available for purchase at discounted prices. Tickets go fast so please reserve as soon as possible. Return the form on page two of the newsletter to the library by April 23.

Mary Murphy Service Award

During the wine tasting held in May at the Friends Lake Inn, Barbara Wilson was honored as the recipient of the 2009 Mary Murphy Service Award for her many years of service to the organization. Barbara has been an active member of the Friends since 2002 and most recently served several terms as chair. In 2005 Barbara organized the very successful "History Alive" program commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Friends of the Library thank Barbara for her tireless efforts on behalf of the library and congratulate her on this well deserved honor.

Join the Friends for 2010

Your membership dues and contributions make possible the purchase of needed library materials and furniture. They also allow us to sponsor programs and special activities for adults and children. To be placed on the library's e-mail list for updates on programs and special events, send your address to library@chesterlibrary.org. Please return this form with your check made payable to:

Friends of the Town of Chester Library
PO Box 451
Chestertown, NY 12817

Membership Dues:

Individual \$10 _____ Family \$15 _____ Donation \$ _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Friends Update

The Friends of the Library had a very productive 2009. Due to the success of the popular biennial book sale, along with other fund raising activities, we were able to continue to support the library with funding for materials, equipment, programs, speakers and to host the winter film festival.

This year two new computers with software were purchased, and a new state of the art copier. The Friends also purchased a folding machine for mailings, which is available for use by local non-profit groups for a small fee.

The current slate of officers continues, with Betty McCartney being re-elected to another term as a director. Nancy Blasdell submitted her resignation as treasurer, which was accepted with thanks for her many hours of

service. Nancy continues as a board member and Penni Cargioli agreed to take over as treasurer.

The Friends obtained a pass to the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake which allows our members a museum discount.

The Friends also recently purchased a supply of very attractive canvas book bags with our Town of Chester Library logo printed on them. The bags are available in royal blue or red and can be purchased at the library for \$5.00.

Please remember to send in your annual membership using the form provided on the front of the newsletter. Your support allows us to continue to make the Town of Chester Library a vibrant part of our community.

Authors Series

The popular authors' series was continued in the first half of 2009. The Friends were pleased to present local authors Michael Virtanen (*Within a Forest Dark*) and Glenn Pearsall (*Echoes in These Mountains*) who spoke about their work, as well as Jan Palmer, illustrator of the "Raggedy Ann" books who spoke about the role of the illustrator and her interactions with the writer and publisher. To start off the new year, a new speaker's program debuted in January with a presentation on coyotes by Gordon Batcheller, from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

New Readers Review Program

This spring the library will provide forms for readers to recommend and review current books. The forms will be made available to patrons who are looking for suggestions for new books.

Book Club

The Friends have successfully begun the "Page Turners Book Club". The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the library for an informal discussion of a book chosen by the group. More information can be obtained from the library website events page or from Carole Hart at 494-7429. All are welcome.

Summer Programs

THURSDAY, July 8 at 3:00 pm: "Dazzle Dogs Entertainment" (in the auditorium)"

THURSDAY, July 15 at 3 pm: River Jack Zucchini Song Writing Workshop. Sign-up Required. Limit 40 participants. During a 60-75 minute session, participants will explore the craft of song writing, working cooperatively to form a song that is uniquely their own. The song is then rehearsed, recorded and the participants will receive a CD/MP3 containing their song!

THURSDAY, July 22, at 3 pm: "The Magic Trunk Ventriloquist" (in the auditorium).

THURSDAY, July 29 at 3 pm: TBA

THURSDAY, August 5 at 3 pm: TBA

THURSDAY, August 12 at 3 pm: "Animals from Around the World" with Joe Biss III (in the auditorium).

WEDNESDAY August 11 at 8 pm: Louise Wieck, "Photo Journey of Africa"

MONTHLY through the year: Art & Other exhibits in the Library. Current list on the website.

*All programs are free and open to the public.
Up to date program list on our website at
www.chesterlibrary.org*

Statistics From 2009

In 2009 the Town of Chester Library:

Circulated 37,161 items
Loaned 5,259 items to other libraries
Borrowed 3,715 items from other libraries
Had: 1,989 cardholders
61 internet users per week
22,000 library visits
Presented 110 adult programs
Presented 56 children's programs

Wine Tasting Reservation Form

I/we wish to make reservations for _____ individual(s) at \$25 per person.

I/we cannot attend, but wish to contribute \$ _____ to support the Friends' Wine Tasting Fund Raiser.

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ payable to the Friends of the Town of Chester Library.

Town of Chester Public Library
PO Box 451
Chestertown, NY 12817

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Library Newsletter!