



Ipswich Public Library

25 North Main Street, Ipswich, Massachusetts 01938

the Newsletter

STAFF PARKING

In early October work began on a staff parking lot behind the library. The idea for this project came out of the planning process for the library's *Plan of Service 2004-2008*. The project began in earnest in January 2004 with a Letter of Understanding between the Ipswich Public Library and Ascension Memorial Church. Over many months an agreement was reached which allows the library staff to use the church's driveway as a means of access to the rear of the library building. The license agreement was signed by the Board of Selectmen and the representative of Ascension Church in August 2004.

The design phase of the project began in the fall of 2004. S.E.A. Consultants, Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts worked with the library staff and the Board of Trustees, in consultation with representatives of Ascension

Church, to produce a set of plans and bid documents. By the summer of 2005 the town was ready to put out the project for bid. However, we received only one bid for the project. This bid was rejected by the Board of Trustees.



Throughout the planning and design phase of the project we consulted with Bob Gravino, Head of the Dept. of Public Works. We hoped that the DPW might be able to do some of the grading and paving work. After the bid was rejected we looked for help from Bob to get the

project going before winter. In early October Bob's crew came in and removed the old chain link fence, graded the area and put down a gravel base. The staff plans to try out the new area over the next few weeks and to evaluate its use before proceeding with more work on the site.

The next phase of the project will be lighting. We hope in the spring to continue the project with paving and landscaping, as well as the construction of a path from the lot to the rear door of the library. The Trustees are funding the staff parking lot with state aid to public libraries monies. A second phase of the project will be the construction of a children's plaza.

The construction of a staff parking area will free up parking spaces for patron use in front of the library.

LIBRARY PATRON PARKING

Posted inside the main door of the library is a large chart showing the parking available to patrons in the vicinity of the library. The chart shows two large circles. The smaller circle indicates that within a 1-minute walk of the library there are 36 parking places, including 2 handicapped spaces. The larger circle shows 69 parking places within a 2-minute walk of the library. Many patrons feel that if they do not find a spot immediately in front of the library building there is 'no parking at the library'. We are grateful to Assistant Town Planner Kate Day for her help in producing this chart using the town's GIS database. Smaller copies of this chart are available at the library.

ONE BOOK ONCE AGAIN

With the tremendous success of our first One Book program last spring, we will offer a second Ipswich Reads...One Book in April 2006. Watch for the announcement of the chosen book in the local papers in December. People responded with great enthusiasm to

the first One Book choice, *The Orchard: A Memoir* by Kitty Robertson. Over 160 people participated in the twelve book discussions led by Carla Panciera. Participation in all the programs we sponsored, including the Kick Off Event with Kitty's daughter, Betsy

Cramer, Bill Varrell's slide lecture, the tour of Russell's Orchard, and the Family Day reached nearly 400 people! Feedback was overwhelmingly positive (see side-bar). We are all looking forward to the next One Book program in the spring.

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Comments on One Book Program

- "It was amazing to have the whole community reading together."
- "It united the town and gave us a common topic to talk about."
- "Great variety of events."
- "Loved the camaraderie."
- "Great idea for the town."
- "Made me want to read and discuss other books."



The Pleasure of Reading

It took some time and imagination but now our library patrons will find more shelves in the New Materials section of the main room abounding with books, audio-books, CDs, DVDs and videos that suit almost every taste. To make browsing easier, a selection of new books are displayed on shelves arranged by subject categories.

Another new feature in this area is the “Staff Picks”. These are books readily identifiable by bright green book marks. The aim is to share with our patrons the myriad subjects and choices of books in our collection that the staff have read. Hopefully you’ll enjoy these books as much as we have.

Library patrons are encouraged to recommend books they’ve read, as well. A binder across the main desk allows you to write the author and title of the book you want to suggest to others. While on display a “Patron Pick” book mark is inserted between the pages of the book.



This Display Table was purchased from Pierce Furniture of Ipswich with funds from the Friends of the Ipswich Public Library.



New Magazine Subscriptions

Several new magazine titles will appear on our shelves in January 2006. Most magazines are displayed opposite the Main Desk. The current issue (marked with a red circle on the back cover) are for library use only. Back issues may be borrowed. We keep back issues for two years. New magazine subscriptions include the following:

Art & Antiques
Chess Life
Glimpse
Macworld
Men’s Journal
North Shore Living
News from the Republic of Letters
Travel Savvy
Yes! A Journal of Positive Futures

In the Young Adult area we will add *Boy’s Life* and *Girl’s Life*.

Investor’s Business Daily (Monday edition) will be found with the newspapers in the Rogers Room.

Something New...

As you walk into the main room of the Ipswich Public Library, you’ll quickly discover a stunning round table holding thematic displays. “Autumn Splendor” is the October theme. Assistant Library Director Genevieve Picard enjoyed creating the display which provides an intimate look at a season in which beauty and bountiful harvests are captured in books—colorful foliage, gourds, pumpkins, apples and cider, etc.

Each library staff member will get a chance to hone their creative skills by offering exhibit on a rotating basis. Children’s Room staff Maureen Fay is gearing up for our November display. Watch for Thanksgiving holiday tips next month on the round table!

Wikipedia?

“What is Wikipedia?” Wikipedia is a free encyclopedia on the Internet which is located at www.wikipedia.org. The unusual twist is that the articles are written and edited by ordinary Internet users like you and me. There is a huge selection of articles to choose from, everything from Aa (a town in Estonia) to Zzyzx (a town in California), listed in alphabetical order as in a print encyclopedia. You can also browse through categories of information such as Culture, Geography, History, Mathematics, People, Science and Nature, Society, and Technology.

Reference Librarian Paula Grillo points out that the article on Ipswich, Massachusetts is very short at this time. If anyone would like to add information, here are some categories that do not yet exist or need to be expanded: History, Points of Interest, Clam Industry, Further Reading, Famous People, and Photos.

Although this format has generated some controversy, such as the level of quality and accuracy and the fact that once content has been deleted it is gone forever, there are many benefits also. In addition to free access, it also enables people to work on a document together. So check it out – it might be a resource you can use!



Comcast Connection

Public access to the Internet including Wi-fi is now with Comcast. The switch-over was completed on October 14th; thanks to the expertise and help from Greg Parachojuk, MIS Director for the Town of Ipswich. While Comcast provides the public connection to the Internet for free, the staff access re-

mains with Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLCC) wide area network. Separating the public from our business pipeline ensures speedy computing for both parties.

Boston Globe & Friends of the Ipswich Public Library Sponsor 'Authors in Their Hometown' Discussion With Tom Haines

"Living locally/working globally: adventures from Ipswich to the world beyond"



The Boston Globe, in conjunction with the Friends of the Ipswich Public Library, will sponsor the latest in its 'Authors in their Hometown' series, "Living Locally/Working Globally," with Tom Haines and editors of the Globe North section.

The event, which will be held on Wednesday, November 9 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Collins Meeting Room, will feature a presentation from Haines, an author and award-winning Boston Globe travel writer and a question-and-answer session with Globe editors and reporters.

Haines, an Ipswich native, will discuss highlights from his more than three years of traveling the globe for the newspaper, as well as previous work for other publications from Europe and the Pacific Northwest. Earlier this month, he was chosen Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism of the Year -- for the second time in three years -- by the Society of American Travel Writers.

Also attending -- and available for questions on local issues -- will be Globe regional editor David Beard and Globe North editors Kerry Drohan and Jennifer Peter.

UNDERSTANDING THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

On four consecutive Thursday evenings in September and October the Collins Meeting Room was the setting for lectures and discussions of modern Middle East issues. The Ipswich Public Library was among 12 libraries in Massachusetts selected by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities to host the reading and discussion program called **Understanding the Modern Middle East**. Each two-hour session began with a presentation by a trained scholar. Participants who signed up for the program read a background text, *Between Memory and Desire: The Middle east in a Troubled Age*, by R. Stephen Humphries. We were fortunate to have as our speakers Vickie Langhor from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Keith Lewinstein, Visiting Scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, and Michael Tolar, Editor of the Online Resource on Arab Culture and Civilization. Topics discussed included Islamic political ideas, democracies in the Arab world, and the ethnic realities of the various Islamic countries. Evaluations indicated that the series was well-received and much appreciated. We hope to offer more programs of this type in the future.



VHS vs. DVD



A few years ago we began building a collection of adult DVDs at the Ipswich Public Library. Today we have a collection of over 500 adult DVDs. This collection is very popular. In fact, for the period of July 2004 through June 2005 our circulation was over 6800. At the same time we have tried to continue adding new titles to our VHS collection. At this point the interest in and use of VHS tapes is falling. The trend towards DVDs was inevitable. Remember the early BETA tapes? We understand that from now on only the biggest children's and theatrical titles will be available in the VHS format. As the back stock of VHS tapes are depleted manufacturers will not reprint them. Given these trends the Ipswich Public Library will no longer purchase films in the VHS format. We will accept gift copies of VHS films, however, if they meet our criteria for selection. We will continue to expand the DVD collection. The latest DVDs are shelved with other new materials in the NEW MATERIALS section opposite the Main Desk where they remain for 6 months.

The Children's Room has recently added about 50 new titles to its DVD collection. There are selections for the very young such as *Franklin in the Dark* and *James Learns a Lesson and other Thomas Adventures* and the Rainbow Fish series. We have two copies of the newly released *Walt Disney's Cinderella*. Older children will enjoy *Lemony Snicket's A series of Unfortunate Events* and *My Dog Skip*. Of course there are also many educational titles such as biographies in the animated Hero Classics series produced by Schlessinger media and new DVDs to please our little truck enthusiasts.

New Books by Ipswich Authors

- *The House on Ipswich Marsh: Exploring the Natural History of New England* by William Sargent
- *Spring Forward: The Annual Madness of Daylight Saving Time* by Michael Downing



Newest DVDs at the Library

Ben Hur
Born Into Brothels
Bride & Prejudice
Brothers McMullen
Chartres Cathedral
Downfall
Elegant Universe
Empire Falls
Gathering Storm
Il Postino
I Vitelloni
Leonardo da Vinci
Riverdance
Shane
Spanglish
Spellbound
Spitfire Grill
Sunday in the Country

Hurricane Katrina Aid

Many libraries in the Gulf Coast area were damaged or destroyed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The Trustees discussed ways we could help these libraries at their September meeting. We discovered that the Texas Library Association had partnered with the Texas Association of Mini Storage to accept books for shipment to affected states. The Ipswich Public Library decided to collect recent and new children's books and ship them off to Texas. A collection box is located inside the door of the Children's Room. Everyone is welcome to drop recent issue books that are new or in good condition. Children's Librarian Marilyn Pauley suggests that books with multi-cultural themes might be especially desirable.



"Susanne Simmons keeps life interesting!"

— Nat Berry

Radical Readers



The Radical Readers summer session was enjoyed by about 24 enthusiastic readers. Twelve of the members from the school year slept over one night just after the release of the latest Harry Potter book. They stayed up until the wee hours of the morning reading Harry's latest adventures. For the rest of the summer the group met on Monday evenings for an hour and discussed their reading selections while enjoying a pizza supper. One of the sessions was spent coming up with 60 new questions from *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to update the library's original Harry Potter Game. The revised game was played in teams during the last session of the summer.

The 2005-2006 session of Radical Readers is underway. This year there are two groups of radicals. One group is a mix of 12 returning and new members. The other group consists of 11 new members. Each group meets every other week after school on Mondays with Library Associate Maureen Fay. The fall reading selections include works by Lloyd Alexander, Gary Paulsen, Laurence Yep, Avi and Roald Dahl.

Budding Readers Take to "Book Buddies"

The Children's Room inaugurated a new book group this fall for third-graders, which filled up within just two days of opening registration. Book Buddies, as the new book group is called, was initiated as a result of strong parent interest in more formal book-related activities for middle elementary students. It currently has ten members and a waiting list.

Children in the group all read the same age-appropriate novel and come to the monthly meetings prepared to talk about the book. The leader,

Library Aide Betsy Johnson, facilitates the discussions with questions and activities geared to third-graders, such as a crossword puzzle created from words that describe the book's characters and main ideas, word games, and simple crafts related to a book's themes. Betsy ends each session by reading a story to the group and passing out the next month's book.



Introducing the Staff

One of the things both Library staff and regular Library patrons wonder when they come to the Library is, "What will Susanne be wearing today?" That's because Susanne Simmons, Head of Circulation, manages to come up with wonderfully colorful and interesting outfits most days. (If she's dressed conservatively, it probably means she's in a bad mood!) Cheerful and vibrant colors, glittery jewelry, and sometimes even feathers and beads in her hair are the norm for her...and she makes it all look good (see side-bar). We at the Library can honestly say that we can't wait to see what she'll be wearing each day, and her great outfits give all of us a real lift.

Susanne is a person of many talents. Aside from her nearly full-time job at the Library and taking care of her family, she somehow finds time for painting, crocheting, knitting, decorating, and belly dancing. She also makes lovely jewelry, so when you admire a necklace she's wearing, chances are she's made it.

Change is Susanne's creed—when most of us stay stuck with the same hair-do, predictable clothes, and boring schedules from year to year, she is never one to let routine run her life. That's probably the essence of why she makes those of us who work with her feel so good when we're around her. She keeps life interesting!

A favorite "Susanne story" is what she wore for Halloween a few years ago. Her reputation for exotic dressing being what it is, she made the perfect choice of Halloween costume for herself: a black skirt, white sweater, and pearls. No one at the Library had *ever* seen her in anything like that!