



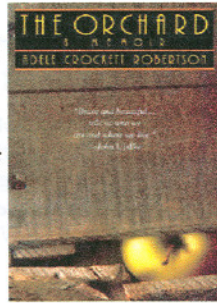
# Ipswich Public Library

25 North Main Street, Ipswich, Massachusetts 01938

## the Newsletter

### ***The Orchard* by “Kitty” Robertson Selected for Ipswich Reads...One Book!**

Ipswich Public Library will host Ipswich’s first One Book initiative in April. Ipswich Reads...One Book! is a town-wide reading and discussion program that encourages all residents to read the same book at the same time to create a town-wide book club. This project is funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with funds from LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act), a Federal source of funding provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Residents of Ipswich selected the first book for this program from a ballot of twelve titles available at the library and also distributed with utilities bills in early December. The winning title is Kitty Robertson’s *The Orchard: A Memoir*. This book was originally published in 1995. The author, Kitty Robertson, was born in Ipswich in 1901. She attended Radcliffe College in Cambridge. When her father died she left her comfortable life in Boston during the



Depression to grow apples in the family orchard on Argilla Road in Ipswich from 1932 to 1934.

Library Director Victor Dyer noted “Many people have fond memories of reading *The Orchard*, which is a beautifully written and engaging memoir of life in Ipswich in the 1930’s. We know that residents who have not read *The Orchard* will enjoy the experience of reading this book and discussing it with others. We also hope that those who have read the book will re-read it and join the discussion.” The Ipswich Public Library will distribute copies of *The Orchard* to anyone who wants to participate. Book discussions will be scheduled throughout the community. The library staff is planning other events relating to life in Ipswich in the 1930’s, as well. All community members are invited to join their neighbors and friends for book discussion and special events in April.

### WI-FI COMPUTING AT THE IPSWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY

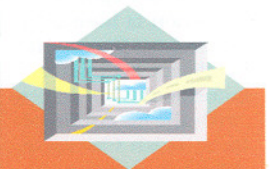
The Ipswich Public Library is pleased to announce that patrons with mobile devices such as laptop computers, personal notebooks, and PDAs equipped for wireless computing can now access the Internet at the library. The three major wireless “hotspots” are the main floor, the Collins Meeting Room, and the front of the library building where the reading benches are located. Wireless users should read and be familiar with the IPL Internet Acceptable Use policy. A copy of this document is available at the Main Desk and in the Reference Room.

Wireless Internet access in the Collins Room is limited for those groups who signed up to use the space for meetings and/or conferences. Wireless Internet connection in the Collins Meeting Room was made possible through the generosity of EBSCO Publishing. Steve Sirois of Balsam Technologies, Inc. made a major donation in designing and installing the wireless network at the Ipswich Public Library. Wireless computing at the Library would not have been possible without these donations.

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*Wireless Access  
Now Available!*

**New Subscriptions in 2005**



**Magazines**

- Accent on Home and Garden
- American Art Review
- American Girl
- Asimov's Science Fiction
- Boating
- Cargo
- Consumer Electronics & Computers
- Family Tree
- House & Garden
- Inspired House
- Old House Interiors
- O: the Oprah Magazine
- Robb Report
- Spin
- Technology Review
- Teen Vogue

Other than the newest issues, magazines may be checked out for one week.

**Newspapers**

- Gloucester Daily Times
- Daily News [ Newburyport ]

Our newspaper collection is housed in the Rogers Room. The Library keeps two months of back issues with the exception of the Ipswich Chronicle, which is kept for the whole year until we receive the microfilmed version.

**CHILDREN'S ROOM NEWS**

The Children's Room at the library was brightened for the holiday season because of the efforts of five local pre-schools. The students at Ascension, Cuvilly, Run-A-Muck, Small Wonders and Small World schools chose and used a book-related theme to decorate Christmas trees. The trees looked beautiful in the windows of the Children's Room and the young artists enjoyed showing them off to family and friends.

The library was a recipient of generous gifts from the Collins family and from the Rose family. These donations continue to enhance our collection and bring added enjoyment to our young patrons. In recognition of this kindness, bookplates are attached in each of the books we are able to purchase.

The Friends of the Ipswich Public Library donated money to purchase

the "Hooked on Phonics" reading program. This program is composed of five kits. Each of these kits includes a manual, cassettes and flash cards designed to enhance the skills of beginning readers.

The very popular "Storytime Reading Program" will again be underway early in January 2005. We in the Children's Room look forward to another happy, busy and enjoyable year.



**Radical Readers Book Club**

This year the Radical Readers Book Club is a very enthusiastic group of 15 fourth and fifth grade boys and girls from both elementary schools. For our last meeting in 2004 we played the library's original *Harry Potter Game*. The kids played in 5 teams and although one team won by a slight margin, all who play feel like winners. In 2005 some of the books that we will be reading and discussing are *Danny the Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl, *Abel's Island* by William Steig, *The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Wintrop, *The Wanderer* by Sharon Creech and *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell.

The Radical Readers Book Club meets every other Monday at 3:15 to 4:15 PM in the Collins Meeting Room. Maureen Fay, the Assistant Children's Librarian, facilitates the book discussion.



**2005 Speaker Series for Friends of the Ipswich Public Library**

**Wednesday, January 12**

*Mountain Climber in Bolivia*: Rick LeBouff, David Checknik and Tim Creamer

**Wednesday, February 9**

*Applied Meditation*: Puran Bair, author and co-founder of the Institute for Applied Meditation

**Wednesday, March 9**

*Birds in Your Backyard*: Jim Berry, local field ornithologist

**Wednesday, April 13**

*Big Dig*: Michael Hintlian, local author of the photographic book *Big Dig*

**Wednesday, May 11**

*Feng Shui*: Susan Durrell, subject expert

**Wednesday, June 8**

*Harvard Yard and Back Bay*: William Martin, author of these two books

**Please note:** All Friends Programs are held in the Collins Meeting Room at the Ipswich Public Library. No reservation needed but seats are available on a "first come, first serve" basis. Everyone is welcome!

**Take Advantage of Museum Passes**

Brrrr!!! Need something to do in the cold weather? Why not take advantage of the museum passes we have available. How about a trip to the Aquarium, the Children's Museum, or the Museum of Science? Or take a cultural trip to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. If you like history and politics, try the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. Want to stay closer to home? Try the Peabody Essex Museum or the Cape Ann Historical Museum. Do you like trains or dolls? If so, try the Wenham Museum. Or how about a trip to Portsmouth for the excellent Children's Museum there. Reservations may be made by calling 978.356.6648, or in person at the Main Desk. Enjoy!

## YOUNG ADULT AREA IMPROVEMENTS

There have been several additions to the Young Adult area during the fall of 2004. A large wooden book rack was acquired, which has room for all Young Adult paperback fiction plus a display area. We have purchased many new Young Adult paperbacks, which are arranged in alphabetical order by the author's last name. A comfortable new chair with an attached table and multi-colored reading lamp are now available, as well as tables and chairs for more serious studying. A second bulletin board has been added for posters which will be displayed on a rotating basis. So come to the new, brighter Young Adult area at the left-rear corner of the main floor, either to study or to browse through the books and magazines. Please see Ms. Paula Grillo, the Young Adult Librarian, if you have any other ideas for more improvements in this area!

## Introducing Students to the Library

This year we began a cooperative effort with the middle school. Our YA librarian, Paula Grillo, gave a presentation to all 170 6th grade students describing what the library has to offer, explaining our automated catalog and providing them with a virtual tour of the library through pictures on our website. One child asked, "Where is

the library?" which demonstrates how important it is to reach out in this way. We want to encourage students to use the library for both schoolwork and reading for pleasure. To sweeten the experience for the students, and to encourage them to actually visit the library, we gave out questions that require a little library research

to answer. Sheets with correct answers were entered into a contest. The prizes for the winners were gift certificates at 'Fun Among Us' and Zumis.



## Staff Parking Project

Parking around the library has been a problem for some time. To address this problem the Board of Trustees negotiated a license agreement with the Ascension Church on County Road, which would allow the library staff to cross the church property to park their cars in new parking lot to be built behind the library. This project will begin construction in the spring. When completed we will free up eight parking places for public use in front of the library on the North Green. At the same time we will create an outdoor plaza area near the side door to the Children's Room. This plaza will be used for outside children's activities and, we hope, for other functions, such as the Trustees annual cookout in July and possibly a yearly judged art show.

## DIGITIZATION AND ARCHIVES

The Rotary Club of Ipswich assisted us several years ago in creating a perfect environment for our Archives—cool and humidity-controlled. Staff has worked with dedicated volunteers to make more accessible the resources in the Archives. For example, we have arranged and cataloged the papers of the Ipswich League of Women Voters, the Cable Auxiliary and the Ipswich Garden Club. Just the League papers cover over 5 linear feet of manuscripts. We have inventoried six file drawers of manuscripts collected by the Archives Committee in the 1970's and 1980's under Anne Drury and Mary Conley. We have also begun a digitization project. Our first digitized product is the complete run of the

*Antiquarian Papers*, a 19<sup>th</sup> century serial on Ipswich history edited by Arthur Wesley Dow, the well-known Ipswich artist. Our Assistant Library Director, Genevieve Picard, scanned, digitized, and posted the *Antiquarian Papers* on our website at [www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library](http://www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library). Researchers anywhere now have access to this resource, while we are able to preserve the original, which will not need to be handled as often. We are considering as our second project a publication with the title *The Ancient Records of the Town of Ipswich from 1634-1650*. In the near future our digital efforts will become part of the online Northeast Massachusetts Digital Library.

## Internet Training

During 2005 we hope to add specialized Internet training classes on subjects such as business, health, law and job searching, in addition to the basic Internet class we have offered for the past few years. Any requests? If so, please talk with Reference Librarian Paula Grillo.

## Ipswich Library Book Club Selections:

**Jan:** *The Pilot's Wife* by Anita Shreve

**Feb:** *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie

**March:** *Evening* by Susan Minot

**April:** *The Orchard* by Kitty Robertson

**May:** *Sunday Philosophy Club* by Alexander McCall-Smith

If you'd like information about joining the Library Book Club, please call Sue Liacos-Dix at 978-356-9817

### English as Second Language Program

In 2002 reference librarian Paula Grillo suggested that we sponsor a program where new immigrants would be paired with Ipswich residents as tutors to help them improve their English language skills. This program has flourished. In the past two years 92 people from foreign countries have applied to receive help with English, while 36 tutors have been trained. At this time we have 29 tutors working with 26 students. So far ten countries have been represented, including 10 students from Brazil and 8 from Poland. It is a rewarding experience for all involved. If you are interested in this program as either a tutor or a student please give Paula a call at 978-356-6648.



## Plan of Service Update

Like most businesses the library operates with a plan. We have completed two planning cycles in the past five years. Each plan began with a committee of citizens who helped the library administration understand what the community expects of the library in terms of services. Some of the accomplishments of our first plan include: the design and construction of our library website; the production and distribution of professionally-designed brochures describing library services; the opening up of lines of communication with the Ipswich Public Schools system; regularly scheduled Internet training classes for the public; the creation of an index to all obituaries in the *Ipswich Chronicle*. Unfortunately we were not successful in achieving one of our goals: the expansion of library hours to include Sunday afternoons. Libraries open to the public on Sundays report that these hours quickly become the busiest hours of the week. This fact should not surprise anyone considering that for most families, where both parents work outside the home, Saturdays are taken up with errands and soccer games. Sundays have become the preferred day when families can visit the library together.

The Library Board of Trustees approved the most recent *Plan of Service* in January 2005. Some of our goals in this latest plan include: the construction of an outdoor children's story time area; the creation of a database of up-to-date information on local organizations and agencies; the expansion of our selection of local newspapers; the introduction of lectures and workshops to promote continuing education opportunities in the community.

## Automation at the Library

Every month over 1000 users sign up to use our 6 public access Internet PCs. This equipment is used for research, email, web surfing, instant messaging, etc. We also have two PCs set up for word processing. One of these is connected to the Internet so that job seekers can send their resumes and cover letters directly to prospective employers. We also have an Internet-connected PC for the children and two other PCs with educational games in the Children's Room.

One of the most successful services we offer through our auto-

mated catalog is the ability of our patrons to request books online either from home or at the library. All of the resources of the 35 libraries in our North Shore consortium, which is called the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium, are available to our residents. If requested to do so, we can notify patrons via e-mail that the materials they requested are being held for them. Usually we phone people about the books they request. In a typical month we borrow from other libraries for our patrons about 800 books and other materials. Another important new area of library service is our website. A few years ago we

received a grant which allowed us to hire a designer to work on our website. Extra Mile Design of Pepperell did a splendid job. We believe that our website is one of the most attractive in the state. Genevieve Picard, the Assistant Library Director, maintains the website, adding fresh information continuously. In November 2004 we had over 1500 hits on our site. In fact, we are one of the most-visited sites on the Town of Ipswich website. The most recent addition to the site is a section on genealogy, which points to useful websites for genealogists, as well as particular resources available in our Archives.

## Online Newspaper Resources

Patrons of the Ipswich Public Library now have online access to three regional newspapers through a database called NewsBank. The newspapers are *The Boston Globe* (1980 - current), *The Boston Herald* (1991 - current), and *The Worcester Telegram & Gazette* (1989 - current). Each paper provides coverage of local and regional news, including politics, sports, business, cultural activities, and people in the community. Paid ads are excluded. The papers can be searched separately or in combination. Patrons can use the Internet terminals at the Ipswich Public Library to access this database, or they can go to the library's Web site at [www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library](http://www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library), click on "Reference", then "Online Databases", then "NewsBank" to access this information at home. When asked for your patron number, just type in the numbers on the back of your library card. NewsBank is brought to you through the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System, with funds administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.