

Dunbar Free Library Trustees Report

The year 2008 saw new trustees elected at Town Meeting and some appointed during the year. Joy Lamont and Cindy Towle became the co-chairs and Susan Mellow became the recording secretary. Don Noordsy remained the treasurer and Ed Jenik was appointed as trustee and long-range planner.

The year was busy. We replaced twelve windows as recommended by our energy audit, the front steps were leveled and stabilized, and landscaper Barbara Burt overhauled landscaping to reflect a perennial garden. Painting was done to the outside to put the final touch on our library.

During the year, the board sponsored two adult book discussions through the New Hampshire Humanities Council. Lively and though provoking discussions led by Susan Brown and Patrick Anderson was enjoyed by all who attended. We hope to carry on these discussions next year and hope to see more patrons enjoy these events.

Halloween saw another tradition of our members and B. Joey Holmes in spectacular garb; opened the library doors for 70 or more trick or treaters who visited us on Halloween.

In December, Dawn Huston and three of the trustees attended the Neline Public Library Symposium 2008: A Look at the Future. This symposium discussed budgets and communities, essential services to our patrons, library technology and multi generational patrons and open sources for the library.

This year, a wonderful gift was bequeathed to the Trustees of the Dunbar Free Library from the estate of Jeremy Brown. Mr. Brown had lived in Grantham for a number of years and decided to leave part of his estate to the Trustees.

We want to thank the taxpayers of Grantham for your continuing support of the Dunbar Free Library. Together we create a community and we think it is evident every day in our library. Please use your library, join as a volunteer if you can, attend our summer and winter programs and be proud of the library that is a reflection of the good people in the Town of Grantham. We are proud of the dedication of our devoted staff and grateful for the generosity of our volunteers and Friends of the Library, and appreciative of the support of the Town Office and the Selectmen. Together we make the library the valuable asset that it is to the Town of Grantham.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Towle, Joy Lamont, Susan Mellow, Ed Jenik and Don Noordsy
Trustees of the Dunbar Free Library



Dunbar Free Library

This year in the Dunbar Free Library's annual report I want to pay tribute to the staff. Without Joey Holmes, Bobbi Travis, Sandy Noordsy, Katrina McCurley, and Terri Heepe this library couldn't possibly function. For instance:

- Joey completed close to 11/12 of 1863 inter-library loans herself, that's 1115 books, videos and other items that our patrons borrowed from other libraries in New Hampshire and even beyond, and 748 that other libraries borrowed from us! When Joey was out for a month, the rest of us managed to almost match the master.
- Terri, Bobbi, and Sandy cataloged 1427 books, 137 audios, and 186 videos, adding them to our system and the state's Union Catalog so other libraries can borrow them from us (see ILL!), as well as withdrawing 1267, 267, and 132 items from the same categories as we're *almost* bursting at the seams and need to remove things for the new stuff to keep coming in!
- Katrina planned 15 programs (more later) for children and adults, as well as 67 different Wednesday-Thursday morning story times for 2 different age groups. 1302 children and adults came to those story times, and 513 to the other programs.
- Bobbi input information and prepared the library cards for 197 new patrons.
- And all the staff backed up the volunteers as we circulated **52,140** items and accommodated **30,142** patron visits!

All together, the employees, including myself, have invested at least a total of 48 years in the Dunbar Free Library as staff, and in several instances additional time as volunteers. I think that's dedication! We the staff kept the library open 1,782 hours in 2007-2008, minus a few extra hours for snow days and conferences.

Now, we also couldn't do the job without the volunteers, who did even more work than last year, their 1881 aggregate hours is an 8% increase, and again doesn't include the hours that garden club members and others put into the flower barrels, the Shakespeare and herb gardens, or just watering – or the time and trouble the “Artists in the Barn” go to changing our artwork. It does include all our desk, processing, shelving, mending, and “other projects as assigned” volunteers—an average of 36 hours a week! Some have started since I did, 3 ½ years ago, and others have been here from years before that. Our “oldest” volunteer has been here more than 17 years! Some have “retired”, some moved to (usually southern) other locales, some have come knowing they're only going to be here a couple of months but want to help while they're here. There are on-going opportunities: come and ask us!

Now, back to the programs... In July author Nita Choukas came to talk about her book “Bayberry and Beau” inspired by a horse and cat on Dot Purdy's farm, and the summer reading club made blueberry pies. In August Barbara Miles presented herself as “Ruth Law” – an aviatrix before Amelia Earhart, and Barbara Rodgers shared her father's flight log from a flying date her parents went on during their courtship. We also had a visit from Fungo, the NH Fisher Cats mascot, who invited everyone to attend a game, and took a picture with Joey. There was also a trustee-sponsored hosted book discussion group, led by Suzanne Brown. October was very busy: a visiting author, Jodi Shapiro, from California read to both story time groups; we concluded our “BIG READ” of Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* with a pot-luck, discussion, and fire-spinners; and well over 100 trick-or-treaters came to the library on Hallowe'en. In November and December Kathy Lowe came from New London, there were Saturday craft activities, and story time after Breakfast with Santa. February held a Saturday Valentine craft and NHPTV came and shared water facts and science activities. We also participated in the town-wide birthday party for Dr. Seuss. March saw the 2nd annual sap season story time pancake breakfasts. April was another busy month with our first annual Poetry Coffeehouse, a celebration of Shakespeare's birthday, and a presentation on photography skills. In June, our year of programs concluded with 56 kids and adults at our welcome to summer Pajama time story time, and another trustee/NHHC

sponsored book discussion group, again led by Dartmouth scholar Suzanne Brown. DFL has programs of one sort or another almost weekly—come and join us.

As far as the building is concerned, the “new” end was finally old enough to need repainting, and we instituted a number of repairs and actions designed to improve our energy efficiency. Moms, Dads, and other caretakers of small fry may have noticed our new changing table. We have a new server, and new shelving for our ever-growing collections of DVDs and audiobooks on CD.

Speaking of those DVDs, and all the above mentioned programs – the **Friends of Dunbar Free Library** are an incredible asset to this library and this town. They funded more than \$1000 of the DVD collection over 2007-08, they buy a book for every baby born in Grantham and every new card holder under 14, they gave the staff a wonderful breakfast, and the patrons a great pre-holiday “Open House”, they help out and fund most of the programs sometimes in total, sometimes with the New Hampshire Humanities Council, as well as paying for much of the advertising. They’ve provided funding for cleaning our DVDs/CDs, taken over the planning and installation of the display case shows, they pay for several of the passes to local attractions such as the Christa McAuliff Planetarium, the Currier Museum of Art (9 bucks a pop—you might want to drop by and borrow our pass for two before your next trip to Manchester), the Fells, and the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum. So next time you receive that “Friends” letter in the mail, think about all they do! And if you don’t get the letter, stop by the library and ask for one of their envelopes, we’d love to give you one.

My thanks to the patrons, the community, the trustees, the friends, the staff—you all make this a great library and a great place to work.

Dawn E. S. Huston
Director/Librarian



K. McCurley; J. Holmes



Back Row: B. Travis, S. Noordsy, T. Heepe, J. Holmes
Front Row: K. McCurley, D. Huston