

Friends of the Bixby Library

Newsletter

Spring 2009

Thoughts from the Trustees.....

The Trustees are responsible for the overall functioning of the Bixby Library. That includes everything from maintaining/preserving our magnificent building, hiring our dedicated staff, while continuing to manage and procure funds to make it all possible. It's an enormous task!

This past fall significant repairs were made to the chimney, in an attempt to alleviate various "leaks". Funding for this project was made possible from the generous support of BF Goodrich, and we are still waiting to hear from a grant request made to the Merchants Bank.

Our Annual Appeal letter went out this past November. If you are waiting to reply; please do so, we need your support. If you didn't receive an annual appeal letter, please give your name/address to the Library Staff, and we'd be more than happy to add you to our growing list of active supporters of the Bixby. Our Annual Appeal, combined with the Five town support, is our biggest source of revenue for our operating budget. We continue to rely on the generous support from various service clubs to address our budget needs.

The Trustees are very grateful to the Friends Group for their continued support. They continue to provide exciting programs, and creative fundraising opportunities for the Bixby. This coming Spring's *Bixby in Bloom* event will be a joint fundraiser between the Friends and Trustees. We are in the process of expanding this event to include a live "service auction" should be lots of fun, sooooooo mark your calendars for May 30th. Be thinking how you might get involved, what service could you offer? a ride in an antique/sports car, how about a cooking lesson, or maybe a boat ride to Button Island for a picnic. The possibilities are endless.

A myriad of things are happening at the Bixby! Get involved! Become a volunteer, join the Friends, or just come, and enjoy! If you have any thoughts, or suggestions, we'd love to hear from YOU.

Cherie Vachon

Greetings from the Friends of the Bixby

In January of 2008, I assumed the position of president of the Friends. Suzy Barbor with the help of Judith Versweyvel had admirably led the Friends in previous years of supporting, organizing and fund raising for various projects. In recognition of their endless, tireless commitment to the Bixby, the Friends have planted rose bushes and crabapple trees near the steps from the street curb going up to the library.

The Friends have two major fundraisers a year. *Bixby in Bloom*, the expanded biennial Plant Sale will take place May 30. We rely on the generous donations of outdoor plants, plant-related items and volunteer time to make it a success. The 2008 Plant Sale raised \$1801.00.

The Silent Auction of gift baskets at the Vergennes Holiday Stroll is our second major fundraiser. The generosity of local businesses and individuals provided a bounty of items for the gift baskets put together by the Friends. The 2008 Holiday Stroll brought us over \$1800.00 in revenue.

Money raised is invested in the Bixby by supporting the Bixby Buddies (children's) program-\$1500, the 2008 Librarian's Lake Champlain History Series speakers-\$700.00, membership in Friends of Library-\$40.00, the Bixby operating budget-\$2500.00, Baby diaper changing stations-\$358.13, Insulating cellular shades-\$986.04, and two new staff computers-\$1310.00.

Projects in the works: replacing hot water heaters in the library bathrooms, updating the Bixby website and getting a new sign for the library lawn.

See the Third Thursday schedule elsewhere in this newsletter. There is so much exciting talent and expertise in Vermont that it is difficult to choose speakers, topics and presentations. We have an exceptional year of programming planned.

continued



Book Reviews from Gail Martin, Children's Librarian

A Trio of Mysteries for all ages!

The Thief Lord

By Cornelia Funke

How can children living on their own make it in Venice, Italy? By stealing, of course! (or are they stealing? Hmmm..) This fast-paced adventure takes the reader past winged lions in San Marco Square, to a bedeviled island and down the cobbled streets and gondolier-filled canals of Venice. The children, who are strong and clever in many ways, foil devious villains and win the approval of wise and helpful adults. This reads as a great mix of humor and adventure. I highly recommend this book to any young adult who wants to escape to a fantasy world for a few hours!

The Westing Game

By Ellen Raskin

This is one of my very favorite books, and after a chapter or two, I had to get out a pencil and paper and decipher the clues as I read them! The people living in Sunset Towers on Lake Michigan all had a stake in a grand inheritance, and they were given clues in various forms, to decipher the very satisfactory conclusion, amidst bombs, chess games, aliases, and a variety of other diversions in this lively and fast-paced mystery! Put on your detective hat and solve the mystery with your favorite character!

Opportunities for your interest:

- Experience the exhilaration at the Bixby by joining the Friends and attending Friends meetings. Call me at 877-6392 for a schedule of meeting dates.
- Volunteer to help with a project—Plant Sale, Holiday Stroll basket making, membership program, gardening around the Bixby, program planning for 2010 Third Thursday
- Seeking donations of plants and garden-related items for the May 30 Bixby in Bloom event.

Karlene DeVine

President, Friends of the Bixby

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

by E.L. Konigsburg

This was a real fantasy of mine when I grew up, and when I read it I remember thinking, "Why didn't I write this?" E. L. Konigsburg won the 1967 Newbery Medal for this tale of how Claudia and her brother run away in order to teach their parents a lesson. In this mystery, the brother and sister run away to a place that's beautiful and elegant, and live in New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Just how they avoid detection by the guards at the museum, and how they conduct their everyday life is fascinating and funny. The two children are able to live, solve an art mystery and make a new and valuable friend.

About Gail Martin

Gail Martin has worked as children's librarian at the Bixby since January 2008. She comes to us from Bristol Elementary School, where she taught a Gifted/Enrichment program for twenty years. Gail continues to teach origami, making books, and other papercrafts to a variety of groups and organizations in the area.

Gail loves working with children and she loves children's books. Her story times on Thursday mornings are filled with theme-based stories, songs, fun energy, and great craft projects. Each week, children learn the American Sign Language word for the theme. Upcoming themes include Elephants, Chinese New Year, Snow, Trucks, Rainbows and Teddy Bears.

Story Hour Schedule

February 12- My Favorite Things. What do we love?

February 19- Trucks. Here's one for the budding drivers and mechanics, with a fun craft that goes Vroom!

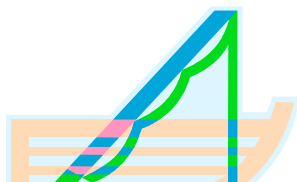
February 26- Dr. Seuss Extravaganza. We'll celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and do a fun Seusscraft!

March 5- Let's Get Dressed! Who wears clothes? How do we dress? Let's try lacing things.

March 12- Green Things. We'll talk about Saint Patrick's Day Traditions and make something green to take home.

March 19- The Jungle. We'll read about jungle animals and make some jungle noises.

March 26- How I Feel. It's OK to feel a whole lot of different ways. We can sing songs and make faces to express how we feel.



Global Warming Café

In January the Bixby hosted the initial meeting of a group formed to follow "The Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds" based on the book by David Gershon of the Empowerment Institute. This is a four week program in which a group of households gets together each week to discuss steps they can take to save energy, money and the planet. The book goes through a variety of actions we can take in our homes and lifestyles to reduce our carbon footprints by at least 5000 pounds per year; many of these are simple and cost-free. Seven households participated in the program this January and decided to continue with community wide actions by organizing a series of presentations under the title of "A Global Warming Café". These meetings will be held at the Bixby and will kickoff with a discussion by Representative Diane Lanpher of her energy and transportation related experiences in the legislature; of special interest will be her impressions from a legislative tour of Vermont Yankee. The time and date will be announced later.

Another Low Carbon Diet series is planned to begin in mid-March. Anyone interested in participating in this program should email Stephen Lowe, Vergennes Energy Committee member (stllowe@gmail.com), or call 877-3783. Participants will be expected to purchase a copy of the Low Carbon Diet book (price approximately \$14).

BOAT RAFFLE to benefit the Bixby Library Children's Summer Programs.

Sponsored by Sons of the American Legion. The prize is a 14 Ft Mirrocraft Deep Fisherman boat, 9.9 HP 4 cycle Mercury Motor and a Galvanized Trailer. The boat is supplied by Marine Plus, RTE 7, Ferrisburgh, VT Tickets are \$20.00 each & available at the Bixby, Marine Plus and Vergennes American Legion Post #14.

Only 300 tickets will be sold!

Raffle date: April 15th



Friends of the Bixby Third Thursday Presentations

Feb. 19 7 PM

The Salamanders of Vermont, their Identification, Natural History, Conservation, and Distribution within the state.

Jim Andrews, herpetologist and coordinator of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, will give a PowerPoint presentation, show a clip from his new highly-acclaimed DVD with Vince Franke, and answer questions on Vermont's salamanders. He will also teach us the subtle differences between Gartersnakes and the rare Eastern Ribbonsnake. The Ribbonsnake is one of three target species of his current survey work. Come enjoy the beautiful close-up photography and learn how your observations and efforts can help conserve these fascinating creatures.

Mar. 19 7 PM

Eating Healthy/Eating Locally

Panel discussion with David Booth, Arcadia Brook Community Supported Agriculture(CSA) owner (organic produce), Erik Andrus, Good Companion Bakery CSA owner, (organic grains & breads), and Susan Smiley, one of the founders of Addison County's online farmers' market with distribution of products at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. The panel represents a wealth of knowledge about economic, health and ethical reasons to eat fresh, locally produced food. Bay Hammond will moderate the panel. She runs Doolittle Farm in Shoreham and produces organic eggs, poultry, lamb and wool. Local products will be available for sale.

www.arcadiabrookfarmvt.com
www.addisoncounty.locallygrown.net

www.goodcompanionbakery.com

Apr. 16 7 PM

1820 – 1860 African Americans of Addison County

Jane Williamson, Director, Rokeby Homestead & Museum

The Rowland T. Robinsons were well-known Quakers and abolitionists. They harbored and provided work for many fugitive slaves at their Ferrisburgh family home and farm in during the decades of the 1830s and 1840s. There is evidence that black families interacted with the Robinsons. But, where did they come from and what of other African Americans in Vermont's early years? After searching federal census records for *independent African American households* and researching information about African American men, women and families noted in town, church and probate records, Jane Williamson has identified several Vergennes-area black households and interracial families at all times from 1820 to 1860. The evening's presentation will focus on these families and the research that supports their existence. Jane received her Masters in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont and has been director at Rokeby since 1995.

May 21 7 PM

Bixby Antiques Roadshow

Greg Hamilton and Laurie Scotnicki

The Bixby will offer an opportunity for an appraisal on your family heirlooms and antiques. The evening will open with a brief description of the features an appraiser looks for in an item and what affects the value of an item. Greg Hamilton of Stone Block Antiques and Lori Scotnicki will look over your jewelry, coins, furniture or photos of large items, ephemera and other collectibles of old. There will be a \$5.00 charge per item and each individual is limited to 3 items. Participants must be able to provide their own assistance to carry larger items.

June 18 7 PM

Natural History of Lake Champlain

Mike Winslow

Author and staff scientist with the Lake Champlain Committee, Mike has compiled his monthly natural history columns (written for the LCC) into a book entitled *Lake Champlain: A Natural History*. A December 2008 Free Press article stated "Winslow has a gift for explanation, perhaps developed teaching biology to high school students. He communicates complex scientific matters through vivid imagery drawn from everyday life." If you have wondered about the changing nature of the lake, the disappearance of juvenile lake trout, or the St. Albans Bay algae blooms, you don't want to miss this talk. Or, if you have appreciated the splendid sunsets on the lake, boated, floated or fished Lake Champlain and wonder about the future of recreation on the lake, this is a must see presentation.

July 16 7 PM

Bird Banding

Rodney Olsen

Bird banding began in 1902 when Dr. Paul Bartsch of the Smithsonian Institute raised many unresolved questions about bird life and banded 23 Black-crowned night herons in Washington, DC. He wondered about migration patterns, attainment of adult plumage, and the final disposition of the thousands of birds produced yearly. Since then, bird banding goes where ever North American birds go—Canadian Arctic to the tropics of Latin America, from Newfoundland to the far Pacific Islands, including places like Siberia, Greenland and Antarctica. Rodney Olsen leads the bird banding of raptors and songbirds, working closely with students from the Diversified Occupations and Hannaford Career Center. Much of this work is done in and around the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area. Rodney will bring to the Bixby, a slideshow, bird bands and traps and a wealth of knowledge to share about the value of bird banding to the health of our planet.

Sept. 17 7 PM

Mongolian Shamans and Reindeer Herders Sas Carey

A presentation based on Sas Carey's 10 trips to Mongolia where she has studied the work of Shamans. This will be a multimedia presentation with commentary from Sas. Based in Middlebury, Sas has lived in Vermont for 41 years. As a registered nurse with a Masters in Education, she has worked as a Health Education consultant for the United Nations Development Programme. In 1995, she began her research in Traditional Mongolian Medicine with a three-month intensive course. Since then, Sas has frequently traveled to Mongolia, set up laboratories in rural Gobi Desert hospitals, and directed and produced the feature documentary Gobi Women's Song. Sas runs Life Energy Healing School that is dedicated to teaching how to balance life energy in mind, body, spirit and emotions. The school uses Mongolian Medicine as a model of holistic health.