

# **Brownell Library Report**

**By Penelope D. Pillsbury, Library Director**

**The Public Shows Up in Large Numbers and Borrows Lots!** - 2,459 patrons per average week in FY2009 or 127,868 annually, a .5% increase over last year. We had 8732 registered borrowers at the end of FY09 number, a 3% increase. Our patrons come and stay longer, we notice. They ask us about 161 reference questions a week or 8,372 in a year's time. They took home 5499 more in FY09 than FY08 or 187,414 items. We work hard to keep our collection fresh and useful to our community.

**Computers Crucial** - During FY09 383 patrons per week access our Internet computers for a whopping 19,916 uses annually which is a 10% increase over last year. Patrons can be seen all over the library using our wireless internet access. More and more job applications can only be done online. The staff trained 2305 patrons in use of different computer features; furthermore, basic computer training happened regularly on Thursday mornings with the help of an Americorp volunteer.

**Adult Programming-Chainsaw Carving plus viewing the Heavens,etc** - 1,538 people attended adult programming this year, a 9% increase over FY08. For our summer reading program "**Master the Art of Reading @Your Library**", we had drummer Jim Fitzgerald, the Commedia del'Arte of Vt. (slapstick for all ages!), Ballroom and Country Dancing (at the Rec. Dept), Marvin Chamberlin and his chainsaw, and our Fine Artist/Shelver Carol Boucher with her oil pastels. In September we pulled together a Dine and Discuss for all ages on the Vermont Reads 2009 title *When the Emperor Was Divine*. The Vermont Astronomical Society and Brownell jointly sponsor monthly programming. A special stargazing evening at the tree farm attracted over 70 participants.

**Friends of Brownell** - Under the continued leadership of Cindy Chadurjian, the Friends continued their successful week-long book sales, turning generous donations and discards into funding for Matthew Witten's music for children, best sellers faster, membership in the American Library Association and extras beyond the budget. The FOBL sponsored an *Opera for Everyone Program* by defraying the cost of a school bus to take patrons to the Metropolitan Opera's HD encore performances. Toni Hill, our local opera expert, helped us opera "newbies" to grasp the history and music of this major art form.

**If We Don't Have it, We Can Get It - by borrowing it from other libraries.** We borrowed 409 items from other libraries in Vermont and around the nation and lent 1,138.

**Youth Programming** - In FY09, the library held **248 Programs for Children and 76 Programs for Teens**, drawing **4507 children and 1116 teens** to the library, an increase of 12% among children and 128% among teens. We continued our Story Times for Toddlers and Preschoolers, Red Clover and DCF for Home Schoolers, Family and Teen Movies (hosted by our Teen Advisory Board), Read to Sara (Therapy Dog), and Songs and Stories with

Matthew. With money raised by our Teens and Trustees in a Spelling Bee, we purchased a **Wii Game System** and started monthly Wii-tastic sessions for kids. Intergenerational Wii programs will start soon. Young Adult Librarian Kat Redniss started a monthly Middle School Planners and Helpers Group to plan events for younger teens.

Our **Summer 2009 Reading Programs** were a big success. **“Be Creative at Your Library”** registered **309 Children**, who read 4007 books. 54 Children’s Programs brought in 2212 kids and parents, to such varied events as World Drumming, Mask Making, the Teddy Bear Picnic, a Harry Plantagenet Play, Reading Buddies, Moo Gong Do, Chess, Mystery Word Week, and “The Hobbit” Marionette Show.

**92 Young Adults** registered for **“Express Yourself!”** and read 963 books, our greatest participation ever among teens! 433 Teens attended 25 Teen Programs, Crafty Cards and Jewelry, Jaguar Stones: Mysteries of the Maya, Poetry Slam, Improv, Writing Workshops, Live Action Role-Play, Picturing America Art Reinterpreted, and Book Character Tea Party for Kids.

**Library Trustees** - Christine Packard, Chairperson and Angie Chapple-Sokol Vice Chair, Sheila Porter Secretary and Treasurer Dorothy Bergendahl lead the Board. New Teen Trustees are Ariel (Lemon) Engel and Christina Yu. The Policy committee created a protocol for assuring that the Library is in compliance with the new Vermont State statutes regarding privacy of Patron's library records. They continued their sponsorship and operation of the Memorial Day Book Sale, which has become an annual tradition for the Trustees, and as always were actively involved in the ongoing programs and activities of the library including the very well attended First Annual Train Hop in December.

**Brownell Library Foundation** -The Brownell Library Foundation has begun meeting more frequently and implementing their new development plan. In 2009 the Foundation donated \$1000 to the Brownell Library for the purpose of multicultural programming events for adults and children throughout the year. The first event in this series was in September, when professional storyteller and actress Li Min Mo shared Japanese folktales for all ages in honor of the Vermont Reads 2009 book, *When the Emperor Was Divine*. In the fall the Foundation kicked off active fundraising with a letter campaign, and in December hosted a **Gift Basket Silent Auction**—all to ensure that the Foundation can continue to support the Library’s future. Foundation members and patrons created literary-themed gift baskets for a successful fundraiser culminating on the Train Hop evening of December 3rd. Upcoming fundraising plans include a book sale during National Library Week and the start of an annual fund drive in the fall. Two new members of the Foundation Board are being sought.