

Brownell Library Annual Report 2011

By Penelope D. Pillsbury, Library Director

Our Mission Statement/Basic Function

“The Brownell Library is a municipal library that provides a current and diverse collection for all ages in a **welcoming and comfortable environment where people come first**. The staff’s mission is to help patrons utilize the library’s resources and to provide opportunities for community enrichment and cultural awareness. “ Library Policy p.1

Some of the Accomplishments in 2011

- Under the leadership of Asst. Director Wendy Hysko, we were the **first library to migrate to VOKAL in the Green Mountain Consortium** and have enjoyed encouraging libraries around the state to join. Thirty libraries have over 500,000 items now visible in the VOKAL catalog.
- **Young Adult Librarian became a Full time employee** in FY 12; Kat Redniss now visits the Middle School every month, promoting Middle School-specific programming. **Kat and ADL librarian Melanie Cote do both Book Discussions & Book Talking** at the school. **Great fact, last year Middle School Planners & Helpers Group At Brownell was 100% girls. This year, it’s over 50% boys!**
- **Kat** chairs the **CHIPS Board**, the **Green Mountain Book Award Committee** and also chairs the **Youth Librarians Section** of the Vermont Library Association
- **Youth Librarians** Mary Graf and Erna Deutsch **successfully completed** DOL's **Early Literacy Initiative Grant**, working with parents, children, and childcare providers.
- **We were awarded a \$2500 Winnie Belle Learned Grant to focus on "Bringing Boys Back to Brownell,"** featuring Young Adult Librarian Kat Redniss' innovative programming using **Star Wars, Wii Games, and LEGOs**.
- We **revitalized the Young Adult Room** with new furniture, using funds from an **Essex Rotary Grant** and money raised by a Spelling Bee.
- **Train Hop III on Dec7, 2012 fabulous- over 2665 visitors that one day** and the library served as an active hub for the evening. An Awesome evening:
<http://youtube/yU0o9BYj9Mw>
- **Brownell Staffers Susan Pierce and Alison Pierce taught basic Koha training** centered around Circulation, Patrons and Reserves. **Wendy Hysko** serves on the **Vokal Implementation Team** and **Alison** leads the **Circulation Librarians Committee**.
- We were chosen in Chittenden County to host **the First Wednesday series by the Vt. Humanities Council** – large crowds for Reeve Lindbergh, David Sanger, Paul Bierman and Phil Ambrose.
- We were chosen by **Vt.Library Association to be the Chittenden County library in the 2012 VLA Public Libraries Calendar**.
- We had **two energetic library school student interns** in Circulation and Tech Services. The latter was a major help with data massaging and our migration, she also assisted with a VOKAL searching training in June 2011.
- Essex Jct patrons can now **download e-books on their Nooks and Kindles** from **ListenUpVermont**, just need their Brownell Library card to do so.

- We purchased a new large paperback rack for Youth Books and reupholstered worn loveseats with funds from the **Friends of Brownell Library**.
- We helped sponsor winning **Orton Family Foundation Heart & Soul** grant.
- **Martha Penzer** and the staff **completed programming on Louisa May Alcott grant** sponsored by the American Library Association, National Endowment for the Humanities, Vt. Public Television, Vt. Humanities Council. Community partners supported our promotional efforts: Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Brownell Library Foundation and Friends of Brownell Library. We were one of fifty libraries in the country to receive this grant. **13 programs held at Brownell, 15 held at the NW Correctional Center.**
- **93 volunteers donated 3328 hours** at the Brownell Library in 2011.
- **Penny Pillsbury celebrated 25 years service to the community at Brownell.** Highlights include increased weekly hours (39 to 60), moved from the card catalog to automation in 1998, then open-source catalog in 2010, and expansion of facility in 2001 with a boost from the Vt. Public Library Foundation and fund raising effort from the Brownell Library Foundation and entire community.

Goals and major FY13 Budget purchases & service changes.

- Elimination of many print reference tools due to online access and smaller materials budget
 - Library Trustees starting long range planning in 2012
 - Replacing six older computers
 - Better support for Friends of Brownell Library
 - Outreach through Little Free Libraries in concert with Friends.
 - Continue collaboration with CHIPS, Heart & Soul grant and Railroad Ave Recess
 - Continue First Wednesday programming
 - Support for Essex Shelter meetings
 - Consider landscape improvements and better drainage on north side of building
- [Want to add photo of teens, Kat and the Dragon] Photo forthcoming!**