

Brownell Library Report

By Penelope D. Pillsbury, Library Director

Many People Use the Library-At the end of FY2007, Brownell Library had 8,127 registered borrowers who come often, **very often**-approximately 2297 a week or 119,444 annually, 5,444 more than came in FY06.

Circulation Happens -173,488 books, DVDs, CDs, Videos, magazines, Cassettes in FY 2007, a 4% increase over FY06.

We Don't Have It All-so we borrow books from other libraries around Vermont and the rest of the world. In FY07 we borrowed 587, and lent 931 items to other libraries.

Computers Rarely Rest—Library computers for the internet, the catalog or word processing were used approximately 8,788 times in the course of FY07; library staff trained 2,444 patrons how to use the technology. It is a growing necessity of life; the library is the only place for some patrons to find adequate internet connections.

Questions Are Answered-We answer approximately 127 reference questions a week or 6604 during the course of a year.

Programming for Youth – Young people from babies to teens attended 259 programs for youth last year, including Preschool Story Times, NECI's Tasty Reads after school, Songs and Stories with Matthew, DCF & Red Clover Books for Homeschoolers, Movie Nights for Families and for Teens (hosted by our Teen Advisory Board), Book Lust Pizza Club for Teens, and Holiday Gift-Making for Kids. Total attendance for the year was 6154. On March 8 Young Adult Librarian Dan DeSanto brought six teens to compete in the Humanities Council Spelling Bee at St. Michael's College. Our "Get a Clue" Summer Reading Programs inspired 362 kids and 34 teens to read 4165 books from June to August. The "Where in the World Is Brownella?" Contest featured weekly photos of our gorilla mascot at locations around the world, prepared by TAB member Cullen Schill.

Programming for the Not-So-Young-We offered the adults of the community 57 programs, which were attended by 1,074. A 46% increase over last year, without more programming funding. A first in 110 years was Summer Sleuthing at Brownell with 140 adults reading mysteries- a high point was a spook-filled talk by Vt. ghost hunter Joe Citro. We co-sponsored monthly programs with the Vermont Astronomical Society, begged local experts to speak on everything from antique glass to computer forensics. We continued the Meeks lecture series with talks about Vermont caves and stone walls. Brownell's adult programs are shown on Tuesdays at 8pm on Channel 16 RETN.

Library Trustees-A seventeen year veteran of the Library Board Bill Adams retired and is being honored with monthly supply of cookies baked by the Trustees. His wisdom is missed, to say nothing of his help with painting what needs painting. Christine Packard chairs the board and also the Long Range Planning Committee for the Library's 2008-2013 Plan to be approved by the Library Trustees in February '08.

Friends of Brownell-Mary Jo Engel, chair of the Friends, led the group in bimonthly book sales which fund some of the extras, some examples: our institutional membership to the American Library Association, Matthew Witten's music for the children on Friday mornings twice a month and Faster Arrival of the hottest best sellers. Join the Friends with assistance or your checkbook.

Brownell Library Foundation-Angie Chapple-Sokol, chairperson and treasurer Joe Feltz worked to regularize the bookkeeping and expenditures from the Foundation this year. Essex Junction resident Malcolm LeVanway offered the Foundation a generous bequest. Mr and Mrs. Floyd Lapidow offered a large gift for more movie DVDs and sound equipment. All patrons are urged to remember Brownell in their estate planning or when they wish to support the library's programs.

Valuable Volunteers-do everything from book mending, desk minding and plant watering, to shelf reading, tech help and gift sorting. In FY07 they put in about 2028 hours! This year we added volunteer Ivan McMullen to do some of the filming of our adult programming.

Staff Transitions - Assistant Director Bernadette Howard retired on May 4 after sixteen and a half excellent years of service first as Youth Librarian and then as Assistant Director – a hard act to follow. Kent LaCombe, a Midwesterner with an MLS and nearly finished PHD in Environmental history, started work on 14 May as the new Assistant Director. Dan DeSanto left the Young Adult Librarian position for a full time position at UVM and to continue on for his MLS. Smith grad Kat Redniss joined us as the new Young Adult Librarian in the fall. Ariel Hamlin, our shelver, left so we hired Bethany Clark as her successor. Janny Gramatzki, a Library Assistant since 1987 retired in December 2007, her replacement is Lynn Bundy.