

## 2009 Annual Report – Town Libraries - Ilsley and Sarah Partridge

Just about every newspaper and magazine columnist this past year wrote about how the internet is changing the way we interact as a community and the way we do business. Columnists who still have columns this year are the survivors. They know that what counts in the end is how well they meet the needs of their readers. Are the topics right? Are they delivered in the best format? Is it there when the reader wants it?

This library intends to be a survivor too. We believe that local government, through it's library, should insure that all residents have equal access to information. As the cliché goes, the library must change to meet the changing needs of its residents. Ilsley is not the library our grandparents used.

Libraries have never been more exciting.

I hope that you will find something fresh and useful in our services – whether you come into the building or access services and collections online.

In 2009.....

...we added a second source for audio books to be downloaded. We now offer over 3,400 titles online for iPods, iPhones, MP3 players, BlackBerrys and more. We loan iPod nanos and MP3 players so everyone can try this new delivery system. Ilsley staff has taken a leadership role in getting this to Vermont libraries through the Green Mountain Library Consortium. Judah Hamer is treasurer of the consortium and Chris Kirby is the technical co-ordinator.

...we continued to be a place where you could meet authors, learn something new, and discuss community events with neighbors. We invited authors to speak about their works (Jay Parini, Ann-Marie Slaughter, Archer Mayor, Bill Schubart, Marta Finch, Jim Merkel, Amy Seidl, Marion Nestle, Bob Buckeye, Nick Muller, Kenneth C. Davis, Ron Krupp, Nicholas Schmidle, Amy Trubek).

...we hosted a monthly series of lectures with the Vermont Humanities Council called First Wednesdays. Two years ago Peter Galbraith spoke in the MUHS auditorium under this series and this past year we read about his work with the United Nations in Afghanistan.

...we provided computers to access our growing collections of online and electronic resources and important online content, including job search information, e-government resources, e-commerce sites, and distance learning opportunities.

...we organized summer reading activities, held our first annual Game Day, co-sponsored the Vermont Story Festival with the Henry Sheldon Museum and the Vermont Folklife Center and the Dorothy Canfield Fisher book award with the Addison Central Supervisory Union; the IPL Precision Book Cart Drill Team marched in the Memorial Day parade; kids told about their favorite books by making video promotions, called book trailers, that were posted on YouTube; Patty Penuel led her 12<sup>th</sup> annual Spanish conversational sessions over the summer to an enthusiastic group of learners; kids spent all night once again playing Dungeons and Dragons.

Books continue to be our most used service. Last spring kids voted on the most popular books they were reading. The IPL Kids Choice Award winners were *Book of the Year: Younger Readers* *Fancy Nancy: Bonjour Butterfly* by Jane O'Connor; *Book of the*

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Year: Older Readers The Penderwicks on Gardam Street by Jeanne Birdsall; Series of the Year Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne; Author of the Year Erin Hunter, The Warriors series, and The Seekers series; and Illustrator of the Year: Mo Willems, The Pigeons Wants a Puppy.

For adults the most popular books were Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese, World Made by Hand by James Howard Kunstler, The Help by Kathryn Stockett, The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown, The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson, The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer, and the Twilight Series books by Stephanie Meyer.

In 2009 we welcomed three new staff: Judah Hamer took over co-ordinating our services to youth (during the year he completed a term as president of the Vermont Library Association), Chris English now handles administrative duties, and Russ Eastwood takes care of the building. Chris Kirby earned his Master of Science in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University. We extended services through the help of over 40 volunteers.

At the East Middlebury library, known as Sarah Partridge Library, visitor and circulation totals continued to rise in 2009 thanks to the weekly story times with the East Middlebury Cooperative Preschool and to the weekly craft circles, monthly book club meetings and summer reading program.

The library's board of trustees were led in 2009 by Doug James. Other members of the board were Sandra Carletti, Peg Martin, Bob Champlin, and David Andrews.

The Friends of the Library, led in 2009 by Ann Hennessey, continued our participation in the Dolly Parton Foundation Imagination Library which expanded to include preschool children throughout Addison County. The Friends also underwrote the First Wednesdays series and contributed additionally over \$8,000 toward programming and building needs. The Friends board included Cynthia Waters, Lorrie Muller, Louise Mosher, David Flight, Ray Hudson, and Nancy Morgan.

Friends of Sarah Partridge library included Margot and Jack Brown; Lois and George Lackey; Lorrie Muller; Ingrid and Mike Pixley; Mary Jo Richards; Al Richards, Nancy Roddy, Dr. Frederick Roddy, Martha Molpus, Renita Welch, and Toby Welch.

### Statistics for 2009

Attendance	181,910	Internet sessions	25,929
Adult loans	96,660	# of library programs	436
Teen loans	1,878	# of attendees	8,747
Youth loan	7,087	# of public programs	301
Juvenile loans	64,195	# of attendees	4,970
Sarah Partridge	2,778		
To other libraries	981		
Total loans	172,498		

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Leave you with a word of advice from the cable show, All That:

*When you're reading a book, don't skip the even number of pages and say "Man, this book is really odd!"*

David Clark  
Library Director