

LANE LIBRARY LINES

Volume 8

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April 2006

Special points of interest:

- Happy Birthday, Lane Library!
- Welcome, Marybeth!
- LearningExpress Library
- A Day in the Life
- Early Release Day Movies

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Catherine Redden

Please help us welcome Marybeth Varney, our new Head of Children's Services! We convinced Marybeth that crossing the border (Maine/NH) was encouraged, that we are really friendly here, and that we needed her special brand of librarianship. Most recently she was the school librarian for the Opal Myrick Elementary School in East Millinocket, Maine. Her colleagues praised her emphasis on literacy and her huge knowledge base, as well as her outgoing personality. Come in and meet her!

along the way for prizes for both adults and children, and those tickets will again be entered for the grand prizes to be drawn on August 5th. The grand prize for the adults is a \$125 gift certificate to the Library Restaurant in Portsmouth. The grand prize for the children is 125 quarters, one for every year the library has been in existence. The more times you visit between April 3rd and August 5th and enter, the better the chances that you will win something!

In celebration of National Library Week, the library will have free coffee and munchies for patrons who come in from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, April 3–7.

Come join us the first week of April and help us celebrate both the 125th birthday of the library and National Library Week.

Monday, April 3rd: The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a performance by Wayne from Maine at 3:30 in the afternoon in the Lane Room. The event is fully booked at this printing, so it should be quite a full house! Later Monday evening, at 6:30, in the Lane Room, the Library

Starting Monday April 3rd, and for the next 125 days, to August 5th, the library will have a free raffle—anyone coming into the library may fill out a ticket to be entered into the drawing. There will be monthly drawings

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Look for us online at
<http://www.hampton.lib.nh.us/>

REFERENCE DESK UPDATE

By Marija Sanderling

Coming in April 2006...

Good news for Hampton test takers! You will soon be able to overcome test-taking anxiety, raise test scores, and improve your skills with just the click of a mouse at your local library!

Starting in April, Lane Memorial Library will offer access to LearningExpress Library, an innovative instructional and test preparation Web site that offers comprehensive courses in math, reading, and writing; essay writing practice with instant scoring; résumé writing and workplace skills enrichment; plus more than 300 online practice tests for students and adults of all ages. Whether you are gearing up to take the SAT for the first time, preparing for official postal, firefighter or EMT exams, working

toward U.S. Citizenship, or numerous others of the tests that life throws at us, you will be able to access online practice tests and skills training 24/7 from any Internet-enabled computer—in the library and even from home.

All of the practice tests at LearningExpress Library include instant score reports to help you target your skill areas that need the most attention. Each test question also includes complete answer explanations, so that you understand why a particular answer is right or wrong. In short, it's like taking a test preparation course for free!

Stay tuned for more information about how to log in and make use of this new library service.

A DAY IN THE LIFE: Technical Services

By Bill Teschek

First of all, what does "Technical Services" mean? In libraries, this has traditionally meant the cataloging and processing of new books, videos, audios, etc., but in our library we have expanded that definition to include taking care of all of the library's technology. So our job responsibilities include cataloging and processing the nearly 10,000 new items that are added to our collections every year, as well as taking care of our 39 computers (5 servers), 28 printers, and other electronic equipment around the building. Add to that the responsibility for maintaining the library's 5000+ page Web site, and the two of us are kept quite busy. Jean Keefe does the lion's share of the cataloging, while I handle the technology and Web site. I'm also the go-to person for questions on local history and genealogy, which dovetails nicely with our goals to put most of Hampton's local history onto our Web site. Volunteer extraordinaire John Holman helps considerably with the latter effort.

My typical day may start with having to fix something that has broken since I was last here. Depending on how critical that particular computer is I may have to jump right into that as soon as I get my coat off. If nothing is broken, I generally log in to my desktop computer and go through my e-mail, dealing immediately with crucial items while deferring less critical things for another time. Throughout the day I also read e-mails from a half dozen or so library-related listservs. These help me keep up with the rapidly changing world of technology in libraries and give me lots of ideas about how to improve our own services. And speaking of e-mail, one of my least pleasant duties is going through the library's spam filter looking for valid e-mails that shouldn't be there. This requires a rapid scan of the titles of the nearly 300 spams that flow into the library's mail server each day to find the occasional good one that shouldn't be there. I wish that job were unnecessary!

The remainder of an average day can go in any one of a number of directions. Usually I have some long term project that I'm working on, such as acquiring and configuring some

new computers or other equipment, working on revisions to the library's Web site, learning a new piece of software (or an upgrade to an old one), figuring out new and improved ways to do some of our existing tasks, or cataloging the never-ending piles of obscure items to be added to the collection. But before I can do any of those things I need to deal with the everyday types of more pressing tasks, such as helping library users in need, assisting other staff members with technology-related projects, keeping up with the flow of newly cataloged materials coming from Jean Keefe, and dealing with computer or printer breakdowns. With the large number of computers and printers the library owns, it's a rare day when something doesn't go wrong with at least one of them!

Less urgent are the multitude of little things that need attention from time to time—things like checking the links on the library's Web site. If this isn't done periodically, the Web site begins to accumulate a number of "broken" links, which can be very aggravating to users of the site. Printer toner and cartridges need to be kept in stock, computer software installations need to be upgraded to newer versions, and new additions to the library blog need to be written. The library's automated circulation and cataloging system almost always gives me a long list of bug fixes or enhancement requests that I need to stay on top of. There are Department Head meetings to go to, as well as the occasional library conference somewhere in New England. I also order new books for the library's genealogy and local history collection.

Although these are some of the "typical" tasks done in Technical Services, in late December and early January my typical day went out the window as we rearranged some of the furniture and shelving in the library. As a result, the Technical Services work area was turned upside down and inside out. It was a long and difficult job, but the end result is a much more pleasant and efficient work area.



More from the Director's Desk

By Catherine Redden

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is presenting a free classical guitar performance by accomplished guitarist, Peter Fletcher.

Tuesday, April 4th: National Library Workers Day. In addition to the free coffee, hosted by the Trustees of the Library, the librarians will give short tours of the backroom spaces at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. This is your chance to see the behind-the-scenes workings of the library and discover who and what is behind those closed doors! Let the library staff know how much you appreciate them on National Library Workers Day. Spend a minute to talk with them and/or write a comment on the flip chart. Remember to fill out your ticket and enter the free raffle!

Wednesday, April 5th: After the free coffee, the Library is hosting an all-day birthday party for the public with free cake! Come celebrate 125 years (no candles, though!). Wander through the original library building and admire the architect-

tural details. Sit in the newly refurbished Dearborn Room and peruse a large print book. Check out your ancestors in the New Hampshire Room.

Thursday, April 6th: Don't forget the free coffee and raffle! The Friends of the Library will be in all day, behind the scenes, setting up for the Friday Children's Book Sale.

Friday, April 7th: The last day of free coffee. The Friends of the Library will have a book sale of gently read children's books. The local first graders will make a school field trip to the library where each student will have a chance to buy their own special book for a quarter. At 2:00 p.m. the book sale will open to the public and continue on Saturday, April 8th, from 9:00-2:00.



*Middle School Students,
Celebrate your early release days
with lunch and a movie at Lane
Library. You bring your lunch; we'll
provide the popcorn and the movie!*

Early Release Day Movies at Lane Library

Since you need to eat lunch anyway, why not eat it in the library?

For the next two Hampton schools early release days, we will open the Lane Room for students in grades 6-8 to bring their lunches and watch a movie. Screenings will be at 12:30 p.m. on the early release days in April and May.

Wednesday, April 19: Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride* (PG)

After butchering his lines at the wedding rehearsal, a man is sent out to the woods to practice. This time, he performs his vows perfectly, places the ring on a twig. The twig, however, turns out to be a finger, and the young woman to whom it belongs rises from the dead and claims she is now his legal wife.

Wednesday, May 17: *Dreamer* (Gatins) (PG)

A heartwarming story about a girl and a horse. Cale's father is a Kentucky horse trainer who witnesses his champion filly fall and break a leg during a practice run. Normally, that would be the end for the horse, but Cale is at the track that day, so her father makes the impulsive decision to buy the horse and bring it home.

Because both films are rated PG, we ask that everyone viewing the films have either a release with him or her at the screening or one on file at the library. Please see Cheryl at the children's desk to pick up a permission slip, or to learn more about the early release day movies.



Celebrating 125 Years! Lane Memorial Library, 1881-2006

By Catherine Redden

Although Hampton had a library before 1881, it was a private subscription library. The Hampton Library Association agreed to donate its collection and the town agreed to establish and maintain the public library of about 900 volumes. Simeon Albert Shaw, the Association's librarian, became the town's first librarian, and remained such for the next 50 years! The library was first housed in a room of the town hall and the town appropriation was \$100 per year. The library was open Wednesday evenings. In 1908 the town had a chance to have a Carnegie library, but refused to support it at \$500 a year, Andrew Carnegie's condition for giving a free library. Howard Lane stepped forward and offered to build a library as a memorial to his father, Joshua A. Lane. That building opened in 1910. In 1911 the Town voted to increase the library budget to \$500, which had been considered too high just three years previously. The library was now open every Wednesday and Saturday, afternoon and evening. One of Shaw's grandchildren remembered seeing Great Grammie Shaw fixing S. Albert's collar and cuffs and sending him off in the buggy to the

library. She also remembered that every book that went into the library first came home with him for his approval. It was the "earnest endeavor" of the librarian and trustees "to exclude every book not of a strictly moral tone, or that would be apt to leave a harmful impression on the mind of a youthful reader." In today's world, we leave those judgment calls to the individual patron. By 1929 Mr. Shaw remarked that "[i]t is very evident that in the near future the citizens of Hampton will have to consider seriously the problem of providing more room if the library is to continue to grow and meet the needs of the community." A one-story addition was added in 1957, only 28 years later. By 1975 it was evident that, even with the addition, the library was again overcrowded. In 1983 the town voted to remove the 1957 addition and add a two story addition. This new building was completed in 1985. Twenty years later, Simeon Albert Shaw's great granddaughter, Catherine Redden, the current librarian, sees the same need for increased space. The library comes full circle!

Lane Library Lines

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Visit the Lane Library Online at <http://www.hampton.lib.nh.us>