FROM THE DESK OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN...On June 5th I had the honor to attend a special event at the majestic Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The N.H. Talking Book Library (NHTB) was named the Network Library of the Year by the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of the Library of Congress. Marilyn Stevenson, Supervisor of the Talking Book Services joined the N.H. State Library in 2011 after many years of experience at the Pinellas County (FL) Talking Books Library. Marilyn's knowledge and experience have helped the NHTB staff raise the already outstanding level of service to our more than 2,800 clients.

It is always gratifying to be recognized by your peers as Marilyn was; they know how challenging the work is and how important what you do is for the clients. In addition to her superb managerial skills, Marilyn has increased outreach activities at talking books dramatically. All of us at the State Library are very proud of this honor and the outstanding work of the staff of NHTB and Marilyn's leadership.

-Michael York, State Librarian
The New Hampshire State Library's Talking Book Services division has been named the 2013 Network Library of the Year by the Library of Congress' National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped section.

In recognition of this achievement, Gov. Maggie Hassan proclaimed June 23-29, 2014 "New Hampshire Talking Books Week."

"Public libraries are truly one of the cornerstones of our communities and our democracy, offering a world of information to citizens and requiring only a thirst for knowledge to gain access," Gov. Maggie Hassan said.

"By expanding access to reading materials for New Hampshire residents who are physically unable to see, handle or process printed material comfortably, the New Hampshire State Library’s Talking Books Services helps build on that important mission. Being named 2013 Network Library of the Year is a well-deserved honor, and I thank New Hampshire Talking Books for its outstanding work to build on New Hampshire's longstanding tradition of inclusiveness and strengthen our communities and our state."

N.H. Talking Books Services provides recorded books and magazines as well as the special audio players needed to use them, at no charge, to residents with visual limitations or who are unable to handle printed reading materials.

In 2013, N.H. Talking Books Services became one of the first libraries in the country to circulate digital magazine cartridges. Later that year, it began offering its patrons service via the BARD app, which allows readers to download audio and braille books to their iPhone, iPad or iPod touch.

In addition to working with the N.H. Association for the Blind and the N.H. chapter of the Federation for the Blind, N.H. Talking Books has strengthened its presence in the state by developing partnerships with the N.H. Library Association, the N.H. Veterans Administration, Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Northern Carroll County, N.H. Dog Guide Users, the N.H. Department of Education's Accessible Instructional Materials Center, public schools, teachers of those with low vision, and public libraries in central and southern regions of the state.

Each year, the Network Library of the Year award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of a library in the United States and its territories that serves blind and disabled individuals. A committee of librarians and consumer-organization representatives chooses finalists from among the nominated libraries; National Library Services (NLS) network regional conference chairs recommend final selections to the NLS director.

To learn more about services provided by the New Hampshire Talking Book Services, please contact the State Library's Talking Book division at 271-3429 or toll-free at 800-491-4200 or visit www.nh.gov/nhsl/talking_books.
HUDSON CELEBRATES 5TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY
by Charlie Matthews, Director
Rodgers Memorial Library, Hudson
886-6030 · www.rogerslibrary.org

An estimated 500 cupcakes were donated to Hudson's George H. & Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library to help us celebrate our 5th anniversary on Saturday, June 7th, beginning with a ceremonial flag raising conducted by Alvirne High School's Junior ROTC cadets. Twenty-three authors, located both inside and in tents on library grounds, turned out with books for sale to participate in our event. The Friends of the Hudson Library issued "passports" to encourage visitors to meet authors, with visits to 10 or more authors earning a coupon for a free book and an entry into a grand prize raffle. Twenty-four of our cupcake bakers competed in our cupcake contest and we featured live music throughout the day. We also forgave fines, issued new and replacement library cards, and the Friends signed up new members. All in all it was a wonderful day for the Rodgers Memorial Library and the Hudson community.

HELP STIMULATE LOCAL ECONOMICS THROUGH THE ARTS
by Cassandra Mason
Chief Grant Officer
NH State Council on the Arts
271-7926 · www.nh.gov/nharts

New England Foundation for the Arts funds presentations of New England-based performing artists from outside of a presenter's state through the NEST (New England States Touring) grant. The next deadline is September 2, 2014. Libraries are eligible to apply. Visit their webiste at: www.nefa.org/grants_programs/grants/nest_new_england_states_touring_grant.

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts General Project grant for Community Engagement deadline is July 25, 2014. The grant program brings arts presentations and activities into communities to enhance the quality of life for citizens, attract visitors, and help stimulate local economies through the arts. This competitive and matching grant category supports a wide range of activities including performances, concerts, exhibits, workshops, local festivals, and collaborative public art projects that engage the arts and artists for the benefit of New Hampshire residents and communities. If you have questions, you may contact Cassandra Mason at cassandra.mason@dcr.nh.gov or find the guidelines at www.nh.gov/nharts/grants/projectgrantgen.htm.

NEW HAMPSHIRE RETIRING LIBRARIANS and NEW LIBRARY PERSONNEL

Amy Covill, Children's Librarian, Blaisdell Memorial Library. This is a new position for the library and already we are benefitting from her immediate transformation of the children's room and services.
NEW HAMPSHIRE BOOK COLUMN
by Linda Jayes, Supervisor
NH State Library
Technical Services Section
(603) 271-2429 • linda.jayes@dcr.nh.gov

Describes the history of the Challenger space shuttle, the events leading up to its explosion in January 1986, and the disaster's impact on space flight. For grades three through six.

Hazelton was born in Northfield, New Hampshire.

Poetry.

CONCORD MEMORIES, VOLUME 2: THE 1940S, '50S & '60S. Concord Monitor, 2013. $39.95
ISBN: 978-1-59725-423-6
Sequel to Concord Memorial, the Early Years, published in 2012


Duisberg, Kristin Watefield. AFTER: A NOVEL. Engine Books, 2014. $15.95
Novel about a cancer patient's struggles by New Hampshire author Duisberg.

Romance novel. Edwards is a New Hampshire author.

Gage, Mary E. and James E. Gage. MILESTONES & GUIDEPOSTS OF MASSACHUSETTS AND SOUTHEASTERN NEW HAMPSHIRE. Powwow River Books, 2014. $17.50
ISBN: 978-0-9846141-7-5

ISBN: 978-1-62619-422-9


Irons, Tony. DENGMAN GAP: A NOVEL. RiverRun Select, 2013. $15.99
ISBN: 978-1-939739-01-9
Mystery novel set in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Author lives in New Hampshire.

History of forest conservation in the eastern United States.


Poetry. Author lives in Webster, New Hampshire.


Snow, Leslie. **A VOYAGE REMEMBERED...with the Memories of Louis Féron.** Peter E. Randall, 2014. $34.95 ISBN: 978-1-931807-78-4
Author Snow lives in New Hampshire.

Chronicles the history and legacy of the Artists-in-Residence Program at Dartmouth College.


An account of the modern maple syrup industry. Whynott lives in New Hampshire.

On June 17th, the NHLA Executive Board provisionally approved the Paralibrarian section. This idea grew out of last fall’s READS discussion of the Massachusetts Library Association paralibrarian certification program. We are now looking for members and volunteers.

WHO? The Paralibrarian section is meant to serve library workers without their professional degrees. The section is also open to those who have their degrees and wish to support ongoing staff development.

HOW? The Paralibrarian section intends to offer a voluntary paralibrarian certification system. We will be working with the education committee to make class opportunities available, but certification will also depend on individual experience. We hope the certification system will provide New Hampshire libraries with tools for professional development and an objective measure which can be used at budget time.

SO WHAT? NHLA members, it costs nothing to support the paralibrarian section right now! Contact Eileen Gilbert at 753-8576 or at director@boscawenlibrary.org if you're interested in more information or if you'd like to volunteer.

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S TALKING BOOK SERVICES HONORS ITS TELECOM VOLUNTEERS
by Marilyn Stevenson, Director
NH Talking Books Services
NH State Library
271-1498 · www.nh.gov/nhsl/talking_books/index.html

Hats off to our Volunteers! In recognition of National Volunteer Week, Talking Book Services of the New Hampshire State Library honored our volunteers, the Pioneers, for their many hours of dedicated service.

Six skilled Pioneers come to Talking Books each week to repair and refurbish the cassette and digital playback equipment used by our patrons. During the past year, they have trained to repair the new digital players now used to listen to materials available from our library. Our Pioneers combine humor, energy and great diligence as they help us successfully move into the new digital era of Talking Books.

Talking Books salutes our volunteers for their many hours of dedicated service to our library and our patrons. We sincerely hope they continue as our partners for many more years.

The Talking Book Service Library is a part of the New Hampshire State Library, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/nhsl/talking_books/index.html or call 271-3429.

Founded in 1911 as the Telephone Pioneers of America, Pioneers has grown to be the largest industry-related volunteer organization in the world. For more information visit www.telecompioneers.org.
The Trustees of the Richards Free Library and the Judges of the Sarah Josepha Hale Award are pleased to announce that author and environmentalist Bill McKibben is the 2013 Hale Award Medalist. He will accept the award on October 4, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. at the Newport Opera House.

Bill McKibben is the founder of 350.org, the grassroots climate change movement. A Middlebury College professor, he is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar in Environmental Studies. In 2013 he won the Gandhi Prize and the Thomas Merton Award for his environmental activism.

In her nomination, Hale Award Judge Susan Kenney said: "Like Dr. Seuss’ Lorax who "speaks for the trees" Bill McKibben speaks for the earth. Bill has been a public activist and relentless advocate for the care and preservation of our planet ever since 1989, when he sounded the alarm about the effects of climate change in his first book *The End of Nature*. Subsequent books and articles, most recently his 2010 book *Eaarth*, have continued to bring to the forefront both the visible and yet-to-be-seen effects of global warming, mainly due to the human race's lack of awareness, even profligate disregard for the balance of nature. Unlike the Lorax, Bill has not yet resorted, in resignation or despair, to lifting himself up up and away by the seat of his pants, thus abandoning the rest of us to our scorched-earth fate. He's still here on earth, and his life's work continues to sound the same big clarion call: UNLESS."


For over fifty years, the Sarah Josepha Hale Award has been given by the Trustees of the Richards Free Library in recognition of a distinguished body of written work in the field of literature and letters. The award honors author, poet, and essayist, Sarah Josepha Hale, who as editor of *Godey's Lady Magazine* shaped the opinion of 19th century American women. The list of Hale Award winners includes the finest writers of our times from Robert Frost in 1956 to Richard Russo in 2013.

Bill lives in Vermont with his wife, the writer, Sue Hapern, and their daughter.

For more information about the Hale award please contact Andrea Thorpe, Director of the Richards Free Library at (603) 863-3430 or rfl@newport.lib.nh.us.
The Jackson Public Library is sad to report that the Library Director for over 18 years, Susan Dunker-Bendigo, left her position as Library Director on July 1st. She’s had some changes in her life and will be transitioning to the Dover Public Library as their new Adult Services Librarian.

When Susan started in 1996, the Jackson Public Library was a rather sleepy public library only open 2 days a week. The Library wasn't part of the Statewide Interlibrary Loan service in any active way, as they weren't participating in the State Library van delivery system, nor were they connected to the Internet. Susan quickly got a PC donated to the library and a modem for dial-up access to the ILL system. Over the years of Susan's tenure, the Jackson Public Library has grown its collection, automated using Athena in 2002, migrated to Koha in 2013, moved to a new building in 2010, which was built from a historic local barn, and most importantly, served many residents and visitors to Jackson. Her uncanny knowledge of patron's library card numbers, and quickness with names and faces, as well as her easy-going customer centered nature, means she will be missed.

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PEW INTERNET CENTER STUDY ON LIBRARY USE

The Pew Internet Center recently published findings from one of their many studies on library use. The study, *From Distant Admirers to Library Lovers - and beyond: A typology of public library engagement in America* provides insight into the profound challenges and opportunities to countless insitutions and industries, from universities to newspapers to the music industry, in ways both large and small that the digital era has brought about. Institutions that were previously identified with printed material - and its attendant properties of being expensive, scarce, and obscure - are now considering how to take on new roles as purveyors of information, connections, and entertainmenent, using the latest formats and technologies.

The impact of digital technologies on public libraries is particularly interesting because libraries serve so many people (about half of all Americans ages 16 and older used a public library in some form in the past year, as of September 2013) and correspondingly try to meet a wide variety of needs. This is also what makes the task of public libraries - as well as governments, news organizations, religious groups, schools, and any other institution that is trying to reach a wide swath of the American public - so challenging: They are trying to respond to new technologies while maintaining older strategies of knowledge dissemination.

Read more about the study in this article written by Pew Internet Center research staff Kathryn Zickuhr, Kristen Purcell and Lee Rainie, and view the quiz to determine how engaged you are as a library user: www.pewinternet.org/2014/03/library-engagement-typology/.
NEW COURTYARD AT THE KIMBALL LIBRARY
by Diane Heer, Director
Kimball Library, Atkinson
362-5234 · www.kimballlibrary.com

When the new Kimball Library in Atkinson, NH was designed in 2007, thoughts of including a courtyard and amphitheater were left out of the plans due to budget constraints. The land for its future development was left in, however, and a small patio and an emergency egress walkway from the library were built. The area was used for various outdoor programs and occasional summer concerts. One group, the Timberlane Community Band (TCB) was so impressed with the natural acoustics created by the sound bouncing off the building in the bowl-like setting that they spoke with the trustees chairman about how nice it would be if something permanent could be built. As talks continued last year, the TCB was presented with the trustees' thoughts and asked if they would be willing to help raise the money that would be needed for an amphitheater like venue.

On February 1, 2014 the trustees officially launched the fundraising campaign, through the Friends of the Library, for the courtyard project. A committee was formed, which included representatives from the trustees, Friends of the Library, town department heads, library personnel, and a TCB representative. Within four months the committee raised $54,000 in donations ranging from $25 to $10,000 from individuals, area organizations and businesses. While the fundraising was going on, the trustees & the committee led by trustee chairman, Alan Phair, made sure they continually met with the Board of Selectmen, planning board, building inspector & fire chief to insure they followed all code requirements.

The project included creating sitting areas and walls into the hillside, adding stairs and railings leading to the upper level, creating handicapped accessible walkways and wheelchair area, reclaiming an old well on the property for a sprinkler system, adding trees for shade, low voltage lighting and an awning over the enlarged performance area.

On June 19th, the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and official opening of the new Kimball Library Courtyard was held. Attended by hundreds of area residents, selectmen, N.H. Senate President, Chuck Morse, state representatives and other dignitaries, the evening concluded with a performance fittingly by the Timberlane Community Band.

We look forward to many years of musical enrichment, educational programs and other forms of entertainment in the Kimball Library Courtyard. If you are in the area, please stop by to take a look at this beautiful community project.
The Brookline Public Library, like many New Hampshire libraries this year, had to be creative with technology updates to deal with the loss of XP support, yet remain within budgetary limitations. Given a number of other large expenses, we really couldn’t expand the budget to include upgrading all of our older computers. But something had to be done, and quickly.

We began researching options, including machines, loading Windows 7 on older machines, reducing the number of computers with internet access, and so on. Crossing fingers and hoping for the best was tempting, but not a great choice.

Then the Hooksett Public Library announced a presentation on Google Chromebooks and Chrome boxes. These devices run the Chrome operating system, and because it runs applications rather than traditional software, and automatically updates on a regular basis, there is little else to ‘technically’ worry about - no anti-virus or hard-drive protection is needed. They are easy to use and inexpensive to maintain.

So we took the leap, and have just installed 4 new Chrome boxes as patron access computers and catalog search stations. The prep work involved - setting up the necessary accounts with Google, obtaining and confirming ownership of our domain, purchasing the equipment and admin console licenses - was a more demanding process than installation. We had no problems setting them up, and the actual installation was impressively smooth, taking only about 10 minutes for each box. The management console provides a lot of flexibility and central control of all our devices.

The affordable price, improved features and management option offer an attractive solution to the technology dilemma many libraries face. While they aren’t full’on computers and don’t work for all situations, Chrome boxes are inexpensive, serve capably for many patron needs, and offer a lot of band for the technology buck.