

Check It Out:

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- Universal Class
- Board Bytes
- VLA Calendar
- Free E-books for Kindle Owners
- Vermont READS *To Kill a Mockingbird* Activities

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Volume 1, Issue 8

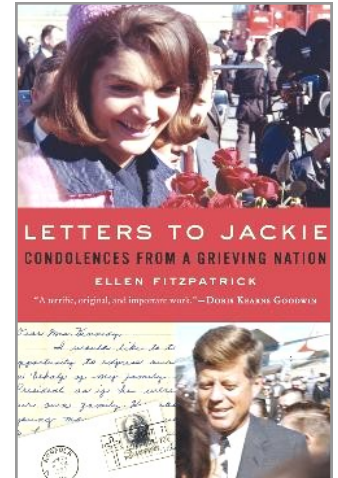
October, 2011

Letters to Jackie

“President Kennedy has been shot.” Many people can vividly recall where they were and what they were doing when they first heard that announcement. For many of us, that tragic incident was our first historical memory. That shocking and heartrending event deeply stirred our nation.

Within seven weeks of the president’s assassination, Mrs. Kennedy

received over 800,000 condolence letters from a cross-section of the nation, including Appalachian coal miners, prison inmates, fraternity brothers, school children, suburban homemakers, Army privates, and Holocaust survivors. Within two years, the volume of correspondence would exceed 1.5 million letters.



Jackie continued on 2

**First Wednesdays: A Vermont Humanities Council program
 hosted by Mark Skinner Library
 @ the First Congregational Church**

Book Sale 2011 – The Back Story

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary to raise money to support the library . . . have a book sale! It sounds so easy, but producing the MSL book sale takes months of work. The 2011 sale efforts began in late spring when request for donations notices were distributed by sale chair, Michele Post. Donations dribbled in at first; once a week Michele, and a small band of volunteers,

culled through the offerings and boxed them according to categories. Right from the beginning, fiction and mysteries dominated, but the books that caught everyone’s eyes were the amazing gardening, art and cook books.

Boxed books went to the Northstar storage facility and the MSL sends grateful thanks to them. As spring turned to summer, donation numbers rose

exponentially. Sometimes it was necessary to sort books two or three times in one week. Often, at the end of a sorting session, there would be 30-50 boxes of books ready for storage. And the

Book Sale continued on 2



Jackie from 1

Ellen Fitzpatrick, noted historian and *News Hour with Jim Lehrer* commentator, will share some of those letters during the *First Wednesdays* presentation "Letters to Jackie: Condolences from a

Grieving Nation" on November 2 at 7pm. Fitzpatrick will discuss the public's response to President Kennedy's death and what can be gleaned about the state of the nation from those letters.

Fitzpatrick's talk will be

based on her recently published book of the same name. Doris Kearns Goodwin calls it "A terrific, original and important work....Fitzpatrick provides a stunningly fresh look at the impact of JFK's assassination on the American people."

The Perfect Wife Restaurant and Tavern, The Spiral Press Café, and Vermont Renewable Fuels are underwriting the Manchester series. This program is sponsored by Northshire Bookstore.

Book Sale Recap

Continued from 1

volunteers found that as they were leaving a sorting session, new boxes of donated books and media would arrive at the library's door.

Work ramped up in early September when the boxes were moved from the library and the storage facility to the 2011 sale site. Located right next door to last year's site, Perfect-piece, this year's sale site was loaned to the MSL by the Bank of Bennington. Classes from Burr and Burton, as well as a small army of volunteers, moved all the boxes into the empty bank building. A plan had been drawn to show where each cate-

gory of book belonged; volunteers served as traffic directors to ensure books were placed into appropriate areas.

From September 12th until the sale opened at 5:00PM on September 16th, more volunteers sorted books and stocked the shelves. The MSL book sale is known for the good condition of its offerings and the careful sorting of its merchandise. From 9AM to 3PM, and often much later, books were sorted and arranged to make the buying experience as easy as possible for MSL customers.

Additional community members joined the core group of volunteers to run the three-

day sale. The Friday evening preview sale proved once again to be a popular addition to the schedule. Attendees scooped up most of the art books and made a real dent in the cooking and gardening books. The two-hour bag sale on Sunday was a major success; readers left the building with multiple shopping bags filled with books for winter reading.

The 2011 sale raised over \$3300 dollars and the money raised will be used to purchase new materials for the library. Sale Chair Michele Post, the library staff and board send thanks to all who donated, volunteered and/or supported the book sale.

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enroll in up to five courses at a time and have six months to finish each course. Subjects range from Computer Training to Personal Finance to New Age to Professional Development. Continuing Education Units are available with select courses.

Board Bytes

The best way to keep up with news from the Mark Skinner Library Board of Trustees is to attend their monthly meetings. The meetings are held at the library and begin at 5:30PM on the first Tuesday of each month. The public is invited to observe the meetings, but will be asked to leave when the Board goes into executive session to discuss confidential issues like compensation and personnel.

Each month the Board Bytes column of the MSL Newsletter will offer a short overview of that month's meeting. We hope it will keep you up to date and, perhaps, will entice you to attend the next monthly meeting.

In October, the Board had two major issues on its agenda. The first speaker was Christine Graham from CPG Enterprises. Ms. Graham gave a clear

and concise report on the mini-feasibility study that she recently conducted for the library. Two points made by the study were:

1. The need for education sessions to allow the public to learn more about the need for a new library and to provide opportunities for them to get answers to questions they may have. Board and staff members will be trained to provide these sessions at both public and private venues.

2. Another issue, identified by the feasibility study was the community's need and desire for community gathering places. Interviewees used the words "inviting, comfortable, welcoming and warm" to describe these spaces and saw them as different from meeting rooms.

Chris Cole, from Cole Company Inc., who is acting as the library's construction consultant, previewed the most

recent iterations of the plans for the new library building and its landscaping. The planning is still in the schematic stage, when the approved conceptual designs are turned into architecture. It is during this process that the scale is established as well as the building's relationships to the site.

The next stage is design development, when the drawings become much more detailed and decisions are made about materials, heating and cooling, etc.

The board also discussed the need to begin strategic planning, as the current plan lapses in 2012. In addition, the chair announced that annual fund mailings will begin in late October.

The meeting was well attended by board members, visitors and staff.

Great News for Kindle Owners!

You can now check out a Kindle book from Mark Skinner Library and read it on any generation Kindle device or free Kindle reading app, or in your browser with Kindle Cloud Reader.

Visit marks SkinnerLibrary.org and click on the "Download an e-book" Quick Link. This will take you to the ListenUp!Vermont website. You will need a valid library card and an amazon.com account to have the book delivered to your Kindle device or reading app. Public library books can be sent wirelessly to Kindle devices via an active WiFi connection or transferred via USB.

**Spend a Beautiful Year
with Vermont's Public Libraries!**

**Calendars on Sale in November.
Proceeds Benefit MSL.**



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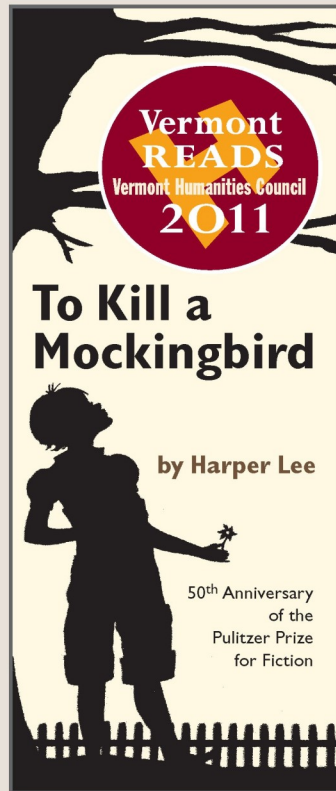


LIBRARY
Mark Skinner
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The Mark Skinner Library: Manchester's Public Library is committed to serving the life-long journey of learning by providing information and opportunities for personal enrichment and enjoyment to people of all ages in our community.



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**READ IT.
PASS IT ON.
LIVE IT.**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Exploring *To Kill a Mockingbird*

A book discussion with librarian Janet Kleinberg
Thursday 11/10 ~ 7 pm ~ Equinox Village

Seeing *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Film and discussion led by
Prof. Emeritus Harvey Flaxman
Tuesday, 11/12 ~ 6:30 pm

Mark Skinner Library

To Kill a Mockingbird and the Myth of Southern White Chivalry

Led by Manchester trial lawyer Stephen Saltonstall
Thursday, 11/17 ~ 7 pm

Mark Skinner Library

Hey Boo: Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird

Filmmaker/author Mary Murphy
presents her documentary
Wednesday, 12/7 ~ 7 pm
BBA Riley Center

Library Underwriters

The Perfect Wife Restaurant & Tavern
The Spiral Press Café, Vermont Renewable Fuels

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