

Check It Out:

- Vote Yes!
- A Woman with Many Skills
- Board Bytes
- Whoooo's Coming to MSL?
- Whist Party
- Word Scramble
- Civil War Illustrated
- Friendly's FUNraiser!

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Volume 2, Issue 2

February, 2012

VOTE "YES"!

In these rapidly changing times, coupled with economic uncertainty, libraries are needed now more than ever before. These also happen to be exciting and energizing times for the Mark Skinner Library. Membership, the services we provide, and our attendance numbers continue to develop and grow. People of all ages and walks of life are increasingly turning to the Library as their personal gateway, where they can access what is relevant to them--the information they need to lead better, more productive lives.

At the Library, and with help from trusted library staff, community members can find a broad spectrum of information and resources to be: a life-long learner, connected, inspired, well-read, better skilled, entertained, informed and at their own personal best...all for free

to Manchester residents. And, we are glad that we are able to provide needed services, programs, and materials that help folks achieve their objectives.

As we head into Town Meeting, it is important to note, however, that our successes, as a not-for-profit public entity, do not translate to added financial gains as they might for a regular business. In fact, the more we are needed and the more we are used.... the more services, materials, repairs, and tutorials are required and the costs associated with them rise. Increased computer use alone means more wear and tear, more updates and replacements, and more staff time for tutorials and fixing glitches. Along with others no doubt, we are feeling the pinch, and we have made adjustments to our budget, looking carefully at both expense and revenue lines in an effort to be responsive

to these challenging times.

Even with added pressure to our budget, we are asking the taxpayers of Manchester to level fund the Mark Skinner Library this year, and we are very grateful for this continued support. Please attend **Town Meeting on March 3, 2012 for the floor vote**, and add your voice in support of your public library by voting **YES** to our appropriation. Vote **YES** to supporting a vital resource that offers opportunities for continual learning, enjoyment and enrichment. Vote **YES** to supporting our day-to-day (*and rising*) expenses so we can continue to fulfill our unique and vital role in our community. On behalf of the staff and board of trustees, thank you for your support.

Betsy Bleakie
 Executive Director



**February is
 Library Lover's
 Month!**

A Woman with Many Skills

Gone are the days when a librarian's job description was limited to checking books in and out, shelving books and collecting fines for overdue materials. The MSL librarians each cover a laundry list of responsibilities including several hours a week of front desk duty.

Cindy Waters' list of responsibilities is long and varied. It includes: adult programming, public relations, volunteer coordination, and DVD and magazine collection development. She is also part of the team that chooses books for the adult collection.

Cindy notes that the MSL benefits greatly from its relationship with the Vermont Humanities Council. Manchester has access to wonderful programs offered through the VHC's *First Wednesdays* humanities lecture series and Speakers Bureau.

Locally, the library tries to plan a variety of programs and events with something for everyone. During the past few years, they have hosted programs with topics ranging from gardening and cooking to investment fraud and nature photography. Instructive programs, such as computer tutorials and e-book procedures have been offered along with musical performances and panel discussions on career transitions.

Programs are evaluated by looking at attendance and comments from the public, according to Cindy. Sometimes programs are dropped or put into storage for a while. Other times, the program is tweaked. An example of the latter is the former "books to film" series which has morphed into film screenings with scholar-led discussions.

Cindy and the staff are always open to suggestions for programs from library customers. One recent suggestion has led to a Whist Party planned for February 29th.

The staff also considers programs that have succeeded at other libraries. The foreign language conversation group idea came from the Fletcher Free Library's website. Their staff provided helpful advice about how to start and maintain the groups.

Cindy told us about how a trip to the Dollar Store inspired a library program. She noticed boxes of red bush tea for sale and remembered that Alexander McCall Smith's beloved series, *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*, which takes place in Botswana, frequently mentions that specialty tea. She bought some and organized a

tea in honor of the series. The tea expanded into an event that included an African dance performance, traditional African foods and artifacts. This program was followed by screenings of movies based on the book series.

We wanted to know what Cindy would bring to the MSL if she had unlimited resources and we were surprised by her response. "I wish we had a portable dance floor," she began. "People love to dance and there are few inexpensive opportunities to do so in Manchester. I'd love to offer a monthly community dance." Another wish was for an online resource called NoveList Plus, a wonderful reader's advisory tool that covers both fiction and non-fiction.

Cindy wanted us to know that she doesn't do it alone. She has help, not only from her fellow staff members, but from the wonderful volunteers that offer their time and talent to the MSL. "Volunteers help the MSL be the best we can be!"



Cindy Waters



"We must not think of learning as only what happens in schools. It is an extended part of life. The most readily available resource for all of life is our public library system."

**David McCullough,
Author**



Board Bytes: Charting Our Course

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Director met on Saturday, February 11, 2012 to update the Strategic Plan that was originally adopted in 2006. The original plan was instrumental in determining what our community wanted in a future library, and in determining that in order to provide what the public desired, we needed to build a new facility.

In updating our Plan, we need to look ahead, in this fast-paced, ever-changing world of new media, information and technologies, and anticipate how patrons will use a 21st century library, and what role we will play in our community. An overarching theme of the board retreat was relevance and asking "What is our core business?" The first activity was that

each of the 10 participants was asked to complete this sentence, "In 2015, the Library will be known for the following three things...." The common themes that emerged were discussed and honed into the most important three or four. These guided the discussion through the afternoon, and will form the core

of the Plan.

Granquist Associates of Weston, who worked with us on the current Plan, facilitated the board retreat, and they will help with the process, timeline, and the next steps in producing an updated Strategic Plan of action that can be tracked and monitored--not a plan that sits on the shelf.

Whoooo's Coming to the Mark Skinner Library?



The Mark Skinner Library presents a fascinating family program, "All About Owls," on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 10:30AM.

Explore the world of

these silent flyers of the night with members of the Grafton Nature Museum staff. Learn about the ways owls adapt through pictures, calls, feathers, mounts, and

more. Learn to hoot like an owl!

Free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied and supervised by adult caregivers.

Whist Party!

***Wednesday February 29 @ 7PM
@ MSL***

Try your hand at this four player card game often referred to as "Bridge Light".

The most important difference between Bridge and Whist is that in Whist there is no "bidding".

The game of Whist, while deceptively simple, is actually a very strategic game of winning "tricks" (individual rounds of Whist) and can lead to some friendly competition back and forth. Whist is after all what is called a "trick game", and the winning of various tricks becomes quite cut throat!

**Free Event. Pre-register: (802)362-2607
Rules at www.playcardgames.org/whist**

Word Scramble

Test your skill at unscrambling and rearranging letters to form a word.

Hint: February is for Lovers...
Library Lovers!

Answers are on page 4.

oifartev

oilfelng

lvedoeb

ciopsrve

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.



markskinnerlibrary.org

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Civil War Illustrated

Manchester
1st Wednesdays

Host:
Mark Skinner
Library
802.362.2607

Location:
First
Congregational
Church

7:00 PM

WVC Sponsors
Sponsor:
Vermont Department
of Libraries

Program:
Keaton Family
Foundation
"The Longest Day:
Cross and The Bridge
at Shiloh's Bay"
"Harpers Battlefield"

Library Sponsors:
"The Public's
Business and Fun"
"The Spirit of
the Vermont State
Historical Society"

A program of
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VERMONT
Humanities
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**Winslow
Homer and
the Civil War**

MARCH 7
7:00 PM
First Congregational
Church, Manchester

From "Life in Camp, Part 2," c. 1864

Join Marc Simpson, American art history scholar at Williams College and the Clark Art Institute, explores Winslow Homer's early career, whose first paintings illustrated Civil War battlefields, camps, and the home front.

Sponsored by Keaton Family Foundation

A Vermont Reads
2012 event

Supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Vermont Department of Libraries

Join Marc Simpson, American art history scholar at Williams College and the Clark Art Institute as he explores Winslow Homer's early career. Homer's first paintings illustrated Civil War battlefields, camps, and the home front.

Venue:
**First Congregational
Church
3624 Main St.
(Rt. 7A)**

*A Vermont Humanities
Council Program Hosted by
Mark Skinner Library*

*Library Sponsors:
Perfect Wife Restaurant,
Spiral Press Café, Vermont
Renewable Fuels*

*Statewide Sponsor:
VT Department of Libraries*

**Wednesday, March 7
@ 7:00 pm**

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Friendly's FUNraising

Bring in this certificate and 20% of your check will be donated to
Mark Skinner Library
Month of February, 2012

Please present certificate to server prior to ordering. Not valid when used with any other discount or promotional offer. Limit one certificate per party, per visit. Resale of this coupon is prohibited, including internet auction sites, except where expressly permitted by law. Applicable sales tax applies.

Valid only at location below

Valid at Friendly's: 351 Depot Street, Manchester, VT 802-362-3056

HAPPINESS
Friendly's
EST. 1935
ONE SCOOP AT A TIME

Word Scramble Answers: favorite, lifelong, cherish, precious