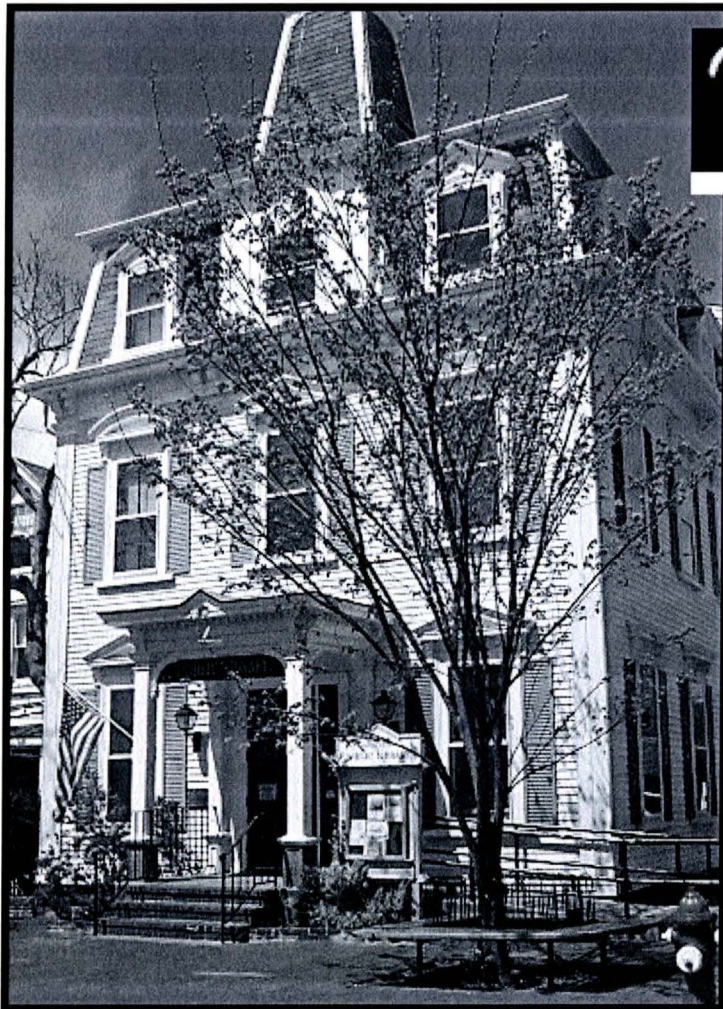
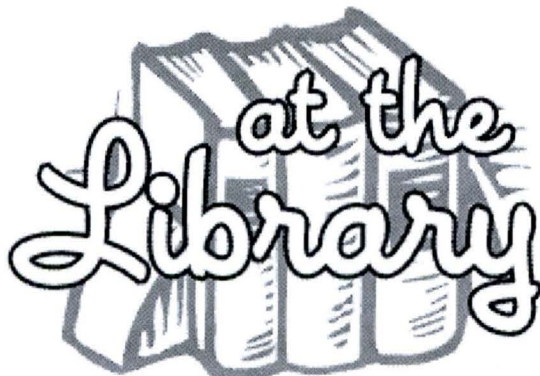


Kelly's Corner

BY JAN KELLY



A Star Spangled Summer



We have all adapted to lines at restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner, lines at shows, movies and the A&P. But at the library? Oh yes, I waited with 30 people for the doors to open. Top priority item? Three internet stations.

Our library has always been rated one of the most used in the state. Add computers, the internet—more specifically e-mail—to the circulation and we would probably come out first. Add summer, our international workers wanting to communicate with their families and we would most probably be first.

My visit marked the first day of summer and as president of the Friends of the Provincetown Library, I was checking in for the summer schedule and lists of programs and events. The first sign of summer finds Lee Ciliberto, our Provincetown High School math teacher, at the circulation desk. Lee volunteers her entire summer vacation from the day when school closes until the day it reopens. How can the town or the library place a value on that great work? We truly appreciate Lee Ciliberto.

Renee Gibbs-Brady, our children's librarian, was most happy to be freed up so she could spend time finalizing her children's programs. Renee moves more like a top than a human being. She has so many projects planned for our small citizens. First comes her "Born To Read" group from ages 0-5. The program was held at the Community Center through the winter and has now moved to St Mary of the Harbor on the beach.

The program takes place between 9-11 am on Tuesdays & Thursdays. "The children love it," says Renee, "and the parents adore it. They'll also experience a boat trip and a trolley ride this summer. Linda Schlecter leads this group which is funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Family Network at The Children's Place in Eastham.

"The summer reading program is more intense. Last year I had over 160 children in Pre-K through 6th grade. We met at 3:15, Tuesday and Thursday. That way, the children involved in recreation and the West End Racing Club can join in. Diana Morton and Alice Kelly are both teachers and form our summer staff. These programs are sponsored by Friends of the Library. This year, the theme is "A Star-Spangled Summer." We have tee shirts, water bottles, shoe lace guards with the American flag and bicycle license plates. The program runs from July 1st to August 8th. They have great activities. "Zoë Lewis comes twice. She brings recorders for the children and creates an orchestra every time. The theme is 'Americana' this year.

"The Audubon comes twice. One program will be on invertebrates that glow and the other on dissecting owl pellets. We have silly olympics on the beach behind Land's End. The kids love that. "We make puppets with found objects...very artistic." Whatever we do, we let them know it is to benefit others rather than just be somewhere for an hour and a half. Of course, Diana, our former high school English teacher now at Tech and Alice, the kindergarten teacher both have kids. They have good ideas. It's going to be terrific.



Rose Basile, "Book Sale at Provincetown Library"

"We also have a library story hour and crafts on Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30 am. Linda Schlechter leads that also...and we have bedtime stories Thursday nights at 7 pm. The Puppet Lady, Sheila Handler, will visit again this year too. She's also a poet. She has her own puppets. She's a retired Spanish teacher, so some of her puppets speak Spanish. The kids love it...all those voices."

From Renee I moved upstairs to check with Debbie DeJonker-Berry, our librarian. She had just finished a long morning meeting with the architect of the Heritage Museum building slated to become the new location of the library. "We are just sealing the

"The Library gets very crowded in summer, 20 people at the desk sometimes and we have to be nice to everybody...and to each other."

envelope—the exterior of the building—one more step completed." With the architect gone, Debbie became engrossed anew with Marcia Fair in plans for a summer of fund-raising events to raise monies for the New Library Building Project.

Next on to Karen MacDonald, the Library Operations Director. Karen processes new items into the Library's circulation. "Winter provides a different set of patrons. They have their schedules, same time, same papers. We give excellent service. Then summer brings tourists and visitors. The demands are high and the regulars fade away.

"I started here last June. I live in Orleans and I knew no one in town; but winter brought with it quality time and I got to know people. I felt I was a part of town, recognizing people on the streets. So friendly. We also held two computer classes and poetry classes. In the next year, I'll know what to expect.

"The Library gets very crowded in summer, 20 people at the desk sometimes and we have to be nice to everybody...and to each other. I've worked in Sandwich, in Falmouth, but there's nothing like P'town, especially P'town in the summer.

"We're learning a new computer [application] to ease things. Debbie refers to me as the hands-on librarian. I love the patrons' involvement. I help patrons alot in genealogy. I listen to their stories and guide them."

And who can use this library? Year round residents with identification and one can, for as brief a period as two weeks, also with identification. Without IDs anyone can enjoy the collection while in the building. The amount of items one can borrow is unlimited with a card.

Books can be borrowed for 2 weeks. Magazines, audio and

up to 4 videos can be borrowed for 3 days. Renewal can be done by phone or in person. There are late charges for overdue items. With a C.L.A.M.S. card one can borrow materials from other Cape libraries. To use the computers, one must sign up for 30 minute slots. Users can walk in or call for a reservation. A \$1.00 donation is requested for each computer use.

The Library also has its "Library Staircase Gallery"—a running exposition of local artists' work hung for a one-month duration. The exhibits are so popular that they are booked one year to 18 months in advance. New bookings are accepted January 1st and June 1st. The exhibit policy is available upon request.

Remember the Summer Book Sales, which the Friends of the Provincetown Library run on the last Wednesday through Saturday of each summer month. We have wonderful volunteers to work the desk and collect the bargain prices. The men of the D.P.W. are our ever-vigilant helpers, moving the uncontrollable boxes of books from storage to the Library grounds for the sale. The Library staff keeps a steady watch for us also. The proceeds are spent on the children's programs and any other item or program needed but not covered in the Town budget.

So come out and get your beach reading, your winter reading, your art books and videos, and enjoy the social aspect too. Prices are so affordable and the hours are 10 am to 4 pm on Wednesdays through Saturdays on the last week of the month, right in front of the Library.

And finally, what business I had at the Library this day...the busiest place in town and yet the staff exhibits a courtesy toward everyone and the feeling that yours is the only business at hand each time they deal with you. Debbie DeJonker-Berry has set this most courteous tone and humane attitude adapting her private skills to public policy.