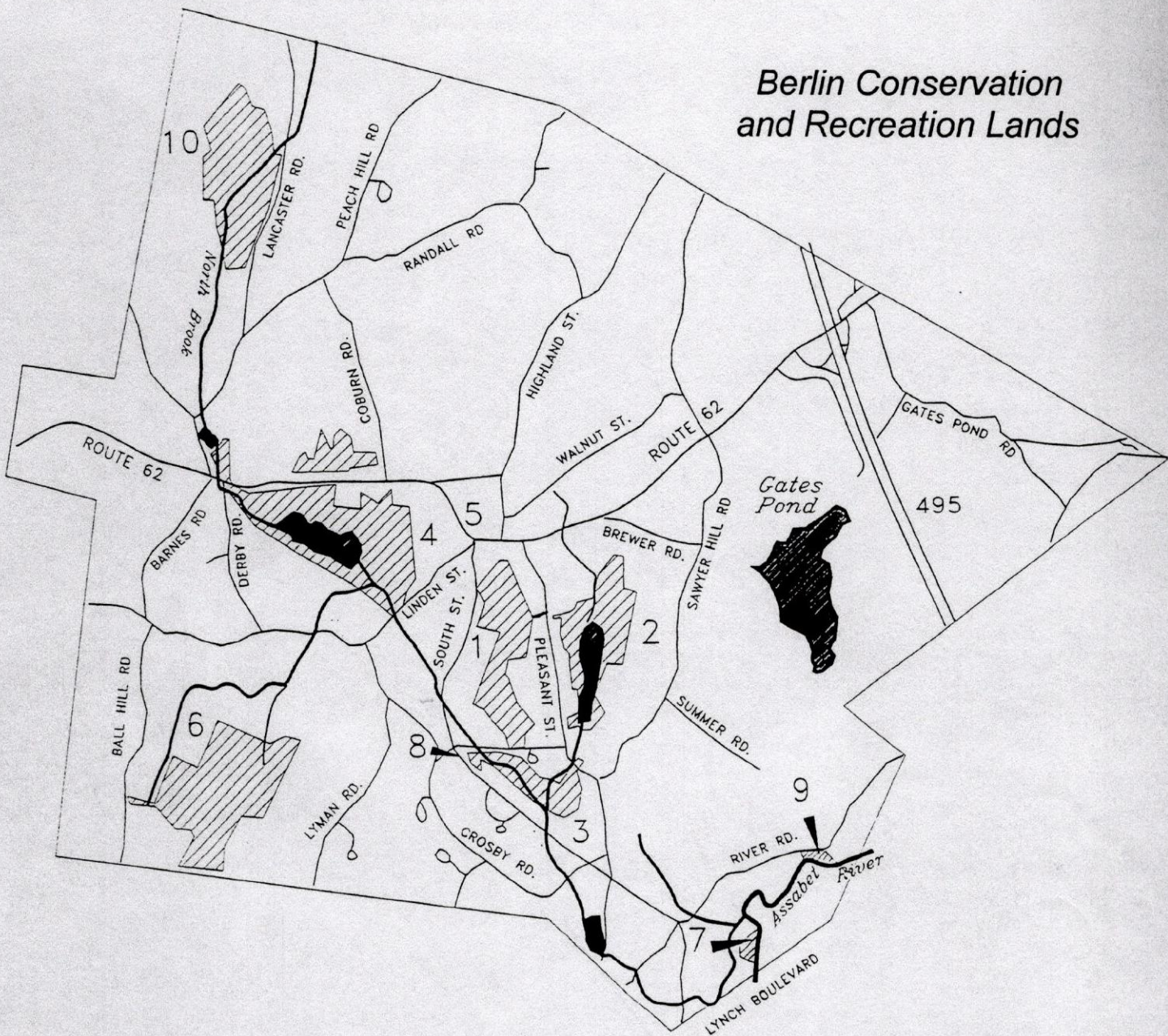


1995 Annual Reports

*Berlin Conservation
and Recreation Lands*



BERLIN

MASSACHUSETTS

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

In 1995, automation was the catchword at the Berlin Public Library. Our collection is listed on our own automated circulation database. As an on-line affiliate member of the Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing network (C/W MARS), we can tap into catalog holdings of other libraries, and also connect to the Internet. We can extend far beyond our borders to web sites across the nation and in fact throughout the world. Our CD-ROM station in the library's Homework Center continues to be busy as students cull information from a variety of multimedia encyclopedias and other reference sources.

Library personnel continue to maintain the print collection, with a monthly influx of new fiction and non-fiction books. And for those who prefer to get their information the old-fashioned way, we subscribe to daily newspapers, news weeklies and weekly and monthly magazines.

Story hours and holiday programs remain popular with the younger set; for the older generation, we have arranged a monthly exchange at Northbrook Village to allow residents to "check out" books from the comfort of the community center. The Friends of the Library rallied this year and staged a successful book sale in conjunction with the traditional pumpkin-decorating contest. The Friends also ran a crafts program for adults in December. More members are always welcome to ensure that activities will continue throughout the year.

The library again sent out its biannual newsletter to every household, heralding out latest acquisitions, drumming up support for the Friends, and seeking input from residents.

There have been a number of changes this past year. First, we added three hours to the library's schedule, and changed the weekly hours to (hopefully) accommodate more residents. We're now open until 6 p.m. three days a week, and until 7 p.m. every Wednesday. The building also went through physical changes, as a new roof was added during the summer. And finally, we had an internal change, as longtime library director Jill Ellowitz resigned. Marsha Johnston took the helm as acting director until the fall, when Marcia Boundy joined the staff as the new director.

In the coming year, library trustees and staff are hopeful they can regain use of the downstairs room once the Historical Commission moves town artifacts to its own quarters. The room, which will require some renovations, such as painting and carpeting, will enable the library to consolidate the children's collection on one floor. The lower-level entry may also allow the library to provide handicapped access in the future. The space gained on the upper level would relieve excessively crowded conditions, and the Homework Center could be relocated to its own niche, away from the building's restroom (Now, a person using the Homework Center must step aside to let someone use the restroom).

We're looking forward to the challenges and triumphs awaiting us in 1996, knowing full well that nothing would be possible without the support of the townspeople and hard work of many dedicated volunteers. In particular, staff and trustees extend personal gratitude to Bill Anderson, Pat Anderson, Jill Ellowitz, Marsha Johnston, Rick Kennell, Jason Sardell, and the Berlin Memorial first graders who tended our garden.

CIRCULATION: 18,021

ROGER STANLEY
JENNIFER BOYLE
DOUGLAS HEIFNER

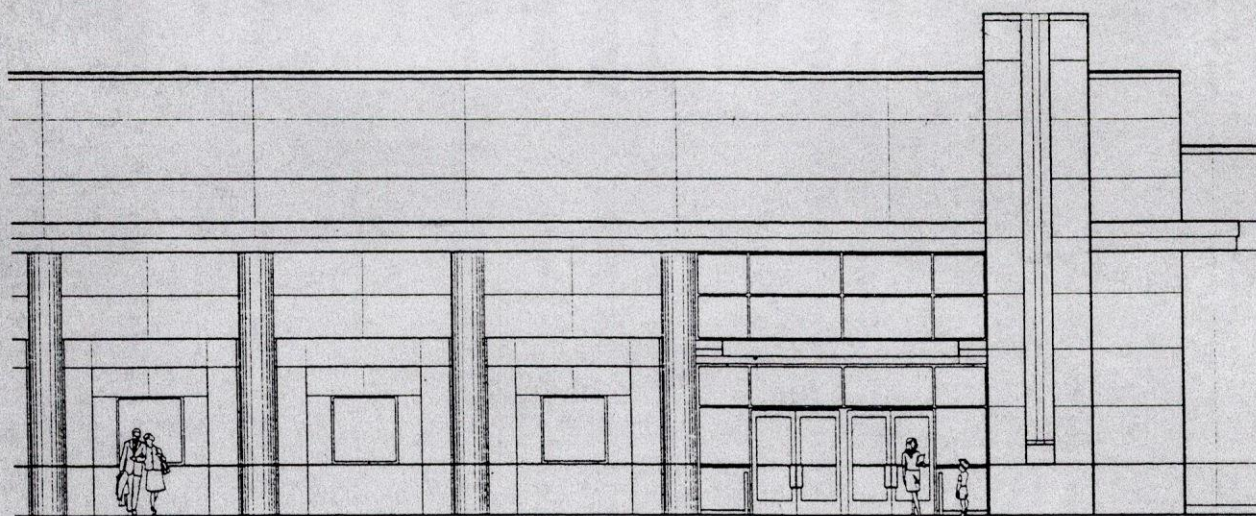
Respectfully submitted,
LUCY AYERS, Chairman
SALLY MITCHELL
DONNI RODMAN, Clerk

MARCIA BOUNDY,
Director

Annual Reports

BERLIN

MASSACHUSETTS



Sears entrance at Solomon Pond Mall in Berlin

- 1996 -

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The spirit of innovation and cooperation accented activities at the Berlin Public Library throughout the 1996 calendar year. Staff made technological advances by hooking up to the Internet while developing creative ways to meet the space and accessibility needs of our patrons.

We heralded the year with the hiring of a new children's librarian, Cathy Livingstone, who sparked a renewed interest in children's events. She revitalized the story hour program and spearheaded the summer reading program. In addition, she worked with various town groups to find alternative meeting rooms for special library programs. For example, more than sixty residents gathered at the First Parish Church to enjoy a performance by Japanese American story teller Motoko, funded in part through the Berlin Arts Lottery and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Nearly one hundred youngsters welcomed the holiday season with a library-sponsored film, *Toy Story*, held in the cafeteria at the Berlin Memorial School. We are grateful to these organizations.

Building concerns continue to dominate the trustees' agenda as we endeavor to create more space for books, videos and computers, and wrestle with accessibility issues. We now hold our regular monthly meetings, which are open to the public, at Northbrook Village to ensure accessibility to all interested residents. We abide by an equal access policy and pledge to provide services to all patrons, including those who are unable to climb the library steps. We have been grappling with other site issues, such as the high sodium content of the library's water, deemed undrinkable by state health officials. Thus we are pleased that the Planning Board included a proposal for a new library in its master plan for the town.

We acquired two computers through state grants this year, and, thanks to the assistance of volunteer Bill Anderson, we are connected to the Internet, an increasingly valuable research tool. Our regional library network provider, C/W MARS, updated our connections to improve and enhance online activities. We upgraded our Homework Center with a new color printer, which receives rave reviews from students. We sponsored computer training sessions for youths and adults last spring, and hope to offer a similar program in 1997. Other community programs held at the library included Diane Peterson's baby-sitting certificate program for sixth and seventh graders.

The library increased its summer hours by opening Mondays from 9 am to 1 pm in July and August. During the school year, we're still open twenty-seven hours a week; we made a slight modification by changing Saturday's hours to 9 am to 12 noon.

In the spring and fall, every household in town received the library's semiannual newsletter, announcing upcoming events and recent acquisitions, including passes to the Boston Museum of Science (obtained through a state grant) and the New England Science Center in Worcester (provided by the Friends of the Berlin Public Library).

The Friends group, which last year sponsored a Pampered Chef fundraiser and the annual spring booksale, hopes to garner more support throughout the community in 1997.

In addition to Bill Anderson, who has donated countless hours to the library, the trustees would like to thank several individuals for their service in 1996: Marcia Boundy, Marsha Johnston, Lynda Nelson, Cathy Livingstone, Trish Maimone, Jason Sardell, Jonathan Sardell, Patricia Anderson, Linda Batstone, Denise Holyoak, Gavin Livingstone and Diane Peterson.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Ayers, chair

Donni Rodman, recording secretary

Jennifer Boyle, financial clerk

Marcia Boundy, Director

Douglas Heifner

Sally Mitchell

Roger Stanley

CABLE ACCESS COMMITTEE

The Channel 16 Bulletin Board continued to be a topical information source due to the efforts of Marsha Johnston. Any items dealing with community events or public services can be put on the Bulletin Board by writing to Cluster Box 6, Berlin, MA 01503.

We are looking into upgrading the Bulletin Board Character Generator in the next year. A new character generator will provide features such as user-friendly data entry, remote programming and graphical displays as seen on Groton's Channels 17 and 18.

We have purchased two new VCR decks and a programmable switcher and are currently in the process of installing them. The programmable switcher will allow the scheduling, unattended play and broadcast of up to three program tapes. Look for an increase in the number and regularity of program broadcasts in the next year.

The Town Hall cable studio now has a phone line and an answering machine; the phone number is 838-0015. We are always looking for new people to become involved in all aspects of video production. Please call the studio and leave a message.

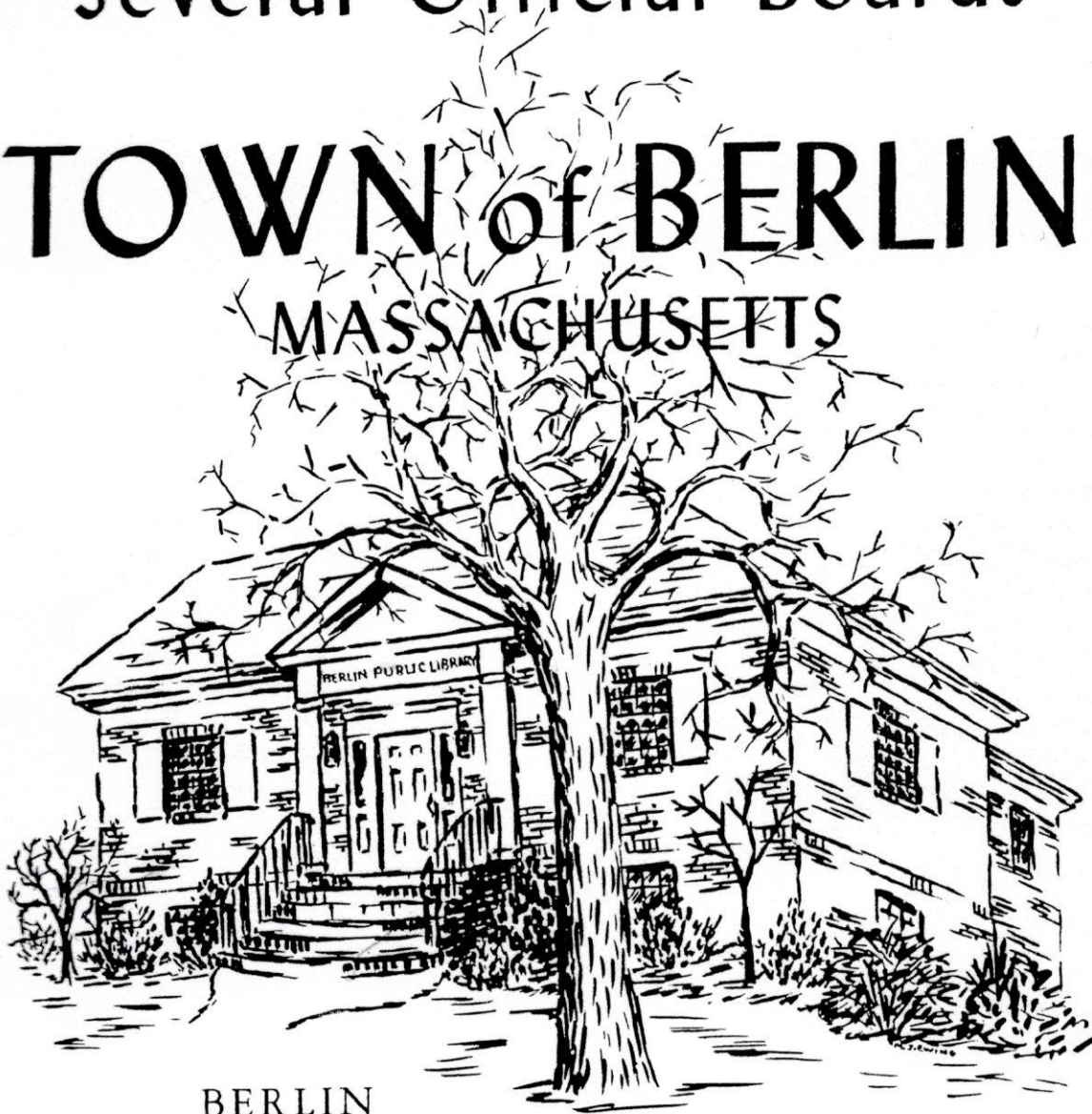
Respectfully submitted,

Charles Peterson, Coordinator

Jerry Cashin

Don Wight

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Several Official Boards
TOWN of BERLIN
MASSACHUSETTS



BERLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY

for the Year Ending
December 31, 1997

The Berlin Public Library continues to serve the people of Berlin by providing popular books, videos, and audiotapes for borrowing, as well as internet access and a host of other research tools for explorers of all ages.

The Building A beautiful new circulation desk, built and donated by Tom Greene, changed the look of the library this year. Another generous donation, from Jane Sawyer, enabled us to purchase child-size tables and chairs for both reading and craft projects. In yet another beautification project, the library's grounds were cleaned up by the Webelos Scouts, and the back yard was thoroughly cleared by Eagle Scout Pat Quinn. The trustees and staff look forward to regaining use of the downstairs meeting room, currently used for storage of the Town Historical Collection.

Programs An art exhibit and gala reception at the Bullard House was sponsored by the library in conjunction with the Historical Society. Trustee Jennifer Boyle's mother Jacqueline Sibley was the featured artist. Vera Mungeam and Joanne Wheeler donated flowers for the show.

A popular "birds of prey" program was co-hosted in June by the library and the Friends of the Library. In the spring, the library sponsored a well-attended after-school showing of the feature film "Babe." Davis Bates, singer/story-teller, entertained local families in a summer presentation funded by a grant from the Berlin Cultural Council. In the fall, approximately 101 children enjoyed the film "101 Dalmatians" starring Glen Close. Soda for the event was donated by the Friends of the Library, and popcorn was donated by Hoyts Cinema and the Solomon Pond Mall. A Pumpkin-decorating and Scarecrow-making party in the fall resulted in a front lawn filled with sprawling bodies and 35 happy children.

Story hours for pre-schoolers as well as kindergartners were a big hit in 1997. The children and their parents enjoyed Cathy Livingstone's lively reading of picture books, as well as the hands-on crafts projects that followed. Cathy reports that attendance at children's programs in the fall was up by 73 children compared to 1996. In all, there were over 1,000 participants in children's library programs in 1997. As a result of this increased use of the library, we are looking forward to expanding our hours to be open earlier in the day.

Pat Wiedeman taught an enthusiastic group of adults how to make a quilted wall-hanging in an evening craft event, and then graciously donated her sample for the library's winter raffle. Janet Lowe and Joyce

Wheeler led another craft group, this time making beaded earrings.

Mrs. Duggan's exuberant fourth grade class visited the library, and cards were issued for every student.

The Library director continued bringing a variety of books to the community room of Northbrook Village once a month, to serve those patrons who were not able to get to the library.

Personnel changes Roger Stanley and Doug Heifner stepped down as trustees. New trustees are: Susan Garrity and William Hart. Marcia Boundy left her position as director mid-year, and Randy Kafka was hired as director. She lives in Hudson, and has been a trustee of the Hudson Public Library for the past five years.

Summer Reading The 1997 summer reading program "Celebrate!" was a huge success with over 100 participants in the reading program and a total of 278 children participating in the weekly library events (a significant increase from last year). Cathy Livingstone, our amazing Children's Librarian, made it happen with spirit and flair. The weekly raffle for Hoyt's Cinema tickets was a reading incentive for both children and adults. Thanks again to Hoyt's Cinema for graciously donating the tickets. Joey Rondeau, who has volunteered the past two summers, was once again very helpful, extremely creative and a most dependable volunteer. Thanks also to our other thoughtful summer reading volunteers: Tiffany Marcheterre, Geoffrey Batstone, Mark Batstone, Bonnie Anderson, Julia Hill, and Laura Wheeler.

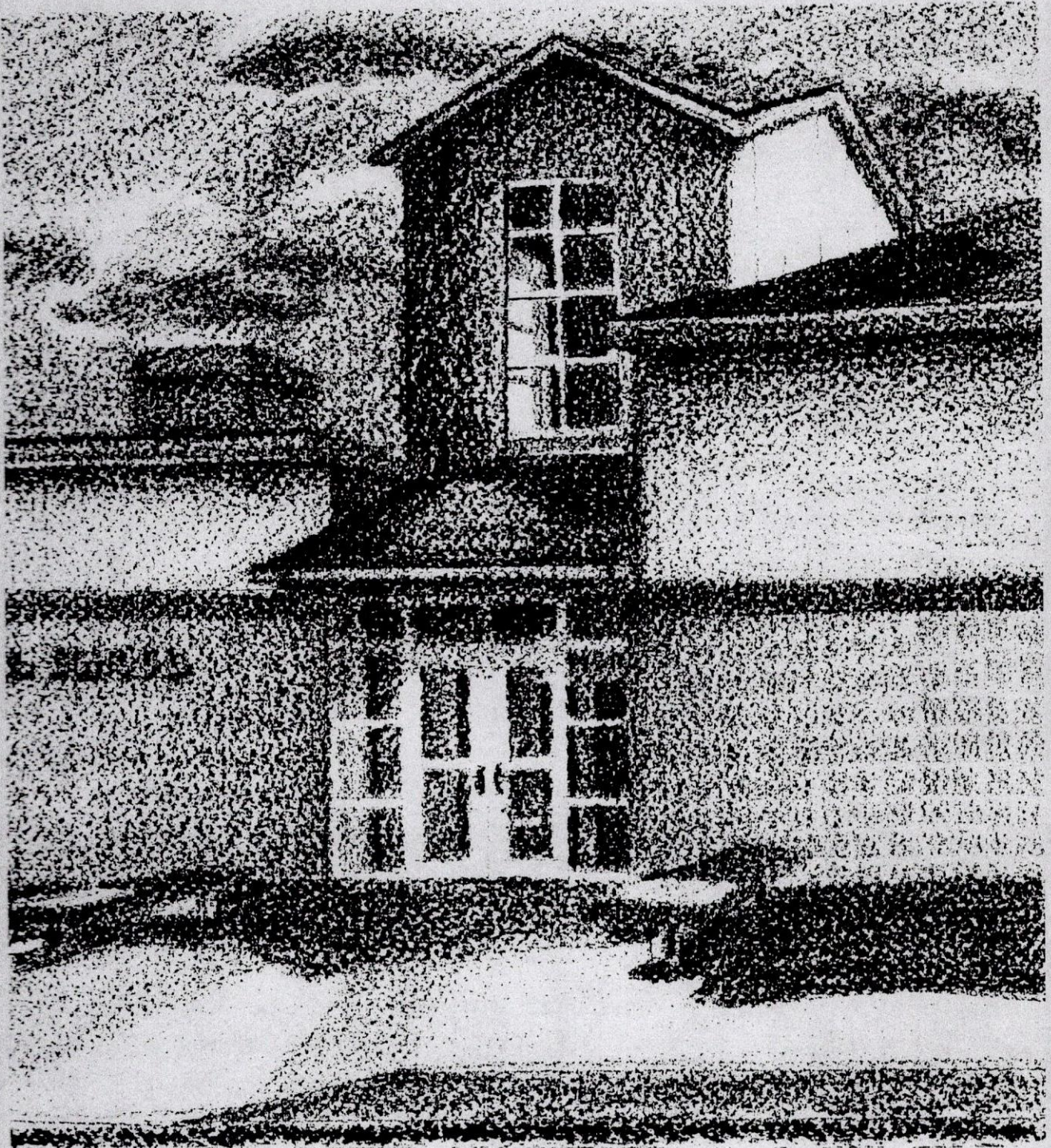
Friends' activities In 1997 the Friends of the Library held a book sale and a Chinaberry book catalog fund-raiser. They also donated money towards our Discovery Museum pass, staffed the after-school film programs, and co-sponsored the Scarecrow Making event.

Special thanks to Bill Anderson for his continuing help in maintaining our computer systems. Also, thanks to the Berlin Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council for their support.

The trustees would like to thank all of our patrons, particularly those who have been generous in their donations of time, energy, and money. This is truly your library.

Respectfully submitted,
*Lucy Ayers, Chair Donni Rodman, Clerk William Hart
 Jennifer Boyle, Treasurer Susan Garrity Sally Mitchell*

LIBRARY COPY



Entrance of the new Berlin Memorial School

1998 Annual Reports
Berlin, Massachusetts

In addition to responding on a daily basis to the information needs of Berlin residents, the library also serves as an informal community center for the town. Recreational and educational activities, internet access, popular books, videos and audios, a friendly, knowledgeable staff... all are part of what makes the Berlin Public Library the place to be for residents of all ages. 1998 was a delightful year for the library, with many exciting events and changes.

Use of the library is on the increase. Total circulation for Fiscal Year 1998 was 18,324 – up 1,940 from the previous fiscal year!

The Building

Heartfelt thanks to the Historical Commission for removing their collection from our downstairs room. (Thanks to the volunteers who pitched in to move the heavy pieces!) The room has been renovated and carpeted, and is now being used for children's programs. Thanks also to Al Roseberry for donating his plumbing services. Meanwhile, the Trustees have begun the multi-year process of considering the construction of a new library building. Community input will be sought in the upcoming year.

Programs

A. Beanie Baby Extravaganza was a big hit, with a story-teller and craft program entertaining 100 people. The library also hosted a mother/daughter reading group for the first time. Scarecrow making was popular again in the fall, as was Pat Wiedeman's adult craft program. The trustees celebrated the 70th birthday of the library building with a festive open house in December, coinciding with Christmas in Berlin Day. Thanks also to the Solomon Pond Mall for hosting a few preschool story hours in the fall while we renovated our downstairs space.

The library received two important grants this year, thanks to the hard work of Cathy Livingstone, our children's librarian. The first grant, from Community Partnership for Children, purchased a major collection of preschool materials including picture books, parenting books, puzzles and puppets and CD-ROMs. The second grant, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Library Commissioners' office, was for an "Information Literacy" program for the entire 5th grade class. The children's librarian, working with the school librarian and 5th grade teachers, designed a series of workshops to train the children in a variety of research skills. The grant included the purchase of a new computer with educational

software, a new encyclopedia, and many new research books for our collection.

The Trustees initiated a Scholarship Fund this year, to offer an annual scholarship to a graduating high school student. This year's Chinaberry book sale started off the fund-raising drive.

Personnel changes

Early in 1998, the library bade farewell to long-time employee Marsha Johnston. Christopher Boivin of Clinton served as her replacement for a short time, and has since been replaced by Berlin resident Judy Bridge.

The library initiated a teen volunteer program this fall, with teens working after school and on Saturday mornings. We are delighted to welcome these exuberant assistants: Bonny Anderson, Colleen Boyle, Joe Rondeau, Julia Tataronis, Molly Wheeler, and Julia Wilkinson.

Summer Reading

Ninety-seven children kept log books to read "Unlock the Mystery: Read" in addition, a total of 574 people attended summer events which include a pottery demonstration, a family an extremely popular "murder r children. Special thanks to Office participation!

Thanks to the Berlin Recreation Committee, the Women's Evening Guild of First Parish Church, Lowe's Variety, the Big E and the Berlin Library Trustees for their generous donations to the summer reading program. Thanks also to the young volunteers who worked hard, yet had fun helping with the summer reading program: Kaitlin Leahy, Ryan Patti, Amanda Lauzé, and Jennifer Johnston. A special thanks to Bonny Anderson and Joe Rondeau who have been volunteering summer after summer.

Other thank yous

The Trustees would especially like to thank the many, many generous residents of Berlin who donated towards our downstairs renovation project. All are invited to take a look at the new room, which will be furnished gradually with the funds raised.

Respectfully submitted,
 Randy Kafka, Director
 Lucy Ayers, Chair Sally Mitchell, Clerk
 William Hart, Treasurer Susan Garrity
 Jennifer Boyle Donni Rodman, Trustees

1ST SCHOLARSHIP
 H.S. AWARD

Library copy
Annual Reports



1999

34 **BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Your library is poised to make some major changes to serve your needs in the coming years. The highest priority is to create adequate space for the collection in a setting that is accessible to all.

Towards this goal, the Library received a \$20,000 grant through the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners for the planning and design of a public library construction project. (See Library Building Planning Committee annual report.)

Once home to the Historical Commission's collection, the downstairs room is now a cheery, carpeted program room. There are a puppet theatre, puzzles and games, a sampling of pre-school books, a small stage for presentations, a computer with educational CD-ROMs, puppets for daycare or nursery school providers to borrow, and kid-size tables and chairs. Adults are welcome to use the room for meetings, in consultation with the library director.

Despite the temporary reduction in the number of children's programs in 1999 (due to downstairs renovations), participation per program continues to rise dramatically. In other words, children's programs are becoming more and more popular! This year's programs included: two Safety Parties, Reading Railroad, Mother Goose, Scarecrow making, and Happy Dan the Music Man (and of course Cathy Livingstone's extremely popular story-times). Parenting programs sponsored by Community Partnership for Children included workshops on Bullying, and "Wild to Mild" behaviors. The Summer Reading program brought a big turn-out once again, thanks to Cathy Livingstone, our Children's Librarian, and her spirited volunteers. And thanks to all who donated terrific prizes for the summer raffle.

Thanks to the Tahanto Regional High School library staff, we were able to offer multiple copies of the full selection of summer reading list books – a great boost for the library, and a great help for students.

Theater trips were a big hit this year, with the Library and Recreation Committee co-hosting trips to Ragtime, City Stage, SitCom, and Stomp.

A YMCA-sponsored baby-sitting course for pre-teens was popular.

Loren Keefe and Megan Quinn were the recipients of the Library's first annual scholarships to graduating seniors.

Community Partnership for Children made several generous donations to the library in 1999: for eleven literacy workshops/programs, two parenting workshops, the Sock Hop, and for

children's shelving and display racks. We are grateful for their continuing support.

Thanks also to the following groups for their generous donations: the Berlin Recreation Committee for the Community Sock Hop; L.I.N.K. for the Sock Hop; Friends of the Library and the Berlin Recreation Committee for the bus for theater trips; Friends of the Library for on-going support of the library, particularly for children's programs. And thanks to the Lions Club, for painting the exterior trim of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Ayers, Chair

Susan Cooper Garrity, Clerk

Stephen Huntley, Treasurer

Jennifer Boyle, William Hart, Marsha Johnston

Randy Kafka, Director

LIBRARY BUILDING PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Berlin Public Library received a \$20,000 grant through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) for the Planning and Design of a public library construction project. The Town matched this amount (required by the state) with the Town approving and appropriating \$7,000 and the Library Board of Trustees expending \$12,000 from library trust funds and fundraising the additional \$1,000. This grant will be used to hire an architect to do a Feasibility Study in 2000. This study will analyze whether it is possible or desirable to renovate and expand at the current site or construct a new library at a new site.

The Library Building Planning Committee (appointed by the Board of Selectmen) has visited many libraries, both renovated and new construction, to gather ideas and draft a "Library Building Program." This extensive document contains both a description of the unique characteristics of Berlin and a detailed, area-by-area list of needs for the library building. The Library Building Program will be the primary source of information for the architect chosen to do the feasibility study. We thank all of the residents who returned their community survey last summer. The information provided has been an important part of the building program and your input will continue to be very much appreciated. The Library Building Planning Committee meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Please call the Library (838-2812) for times and locations.

The Committee thanks Heidi Peterson and Elizabeth Temple for their volunteer work.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Ayers, Chair *Marsha Johnston, Secretary*

Patricia Tymon Anderson

Steven Garrity

Randy Kafka, Library Director

LIBRARY COPY



Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street
Berlin, MA 01503
838-2812

Entrance to new Town Offices and
Public Safety Building

2000 Annual Reports Berlin, Massachusetts

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

While the Library Trustees and the Library Building Planning Committee focused on the architectural Feasibility Study and the question of expansion versus new construction, patron use of the library remained strong (over 17,000 items checked out).

In addition to the many wonderful children's and family programs offered throughout the year, the library also hosted adult craft workshops, a newcomers' coffee, and a presentation on the history of libraries in Berlin. As in the past, we continued our outreach to seniors with a monthly deposit of books to Northbrook Village. The ever-popular baby-sitter training course for teens was offered twice this year. During the hugely successful summer reading program, 1127 participants enjoyed 18 programs, and 67 children read for a total of 742 hours! The popular downstairs room was also used by various civic groups for meetings.

Heartfelt thanks to all our patrons for their devotion, enthusiasm, and support. Special thanks to the Community Partnership for Children, the Berlin Recreation Committee, LINK, the Arts Council, and the Friends of the Berlin Public Library for their continued generous support of our programs. Thanks to Dan DePlanche of the Computer Barn for keeping all our systems up and running. Also thanks to Al MacQuarrie for his carpentry work.

Lucy Ayers stepped down from her position as Trustee Chair this year. She has worked for many years as an enthusiastic trustee, and her energy and dedication to the improvement of the library will be sorely missed. Lynda Nelson retired from the library's staff after 30+ years of service. Always a warm and welcoming presence in the library, she will be missed by staff, trustees, and most of all, patrons.

The Director and Trustees would like to thank the entire staff of the library for a productive and enjoyable year: to Bonny Anderson and Joe Rondeau, for their service as Pages after years of volunteering; to Judy Bridge, for her "above and beyond" personal attention to patron needs; to Donna Dubnow, for her dependable support of the daily operations of the library; and to Cathy Livingstone, for her tireless efforts to develop more and better children's programs and bring in the grant money to make them happen. It has truly been a delightful year.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cooper Garrity, Trustee Chair
Jennifer Boyle, Trustee *Stephen Garrity*, Trustee
Stephen Huntley, Trustee *Marsha Johnston*, Trustee
Randy Kafka, Director

LIBRARY BUILDING PLANNING COMMITTEE

This year the Library Building Planning Committee began the year by finishing our work on the library building program. We reviewed each section of the library and recorded in the library building program what we thought the library would need to fully serve the town. We began with the front hall and ended with the mechanical room. The committee then sent out a "Request for Proposals" from architects to do a Feasibility Study relative to expanding/renovating the present library or constructing a new library. We thoroughly reviewed many proposals and we interviewed with four architectural firms. After careful consideration and closely following the Designer Selection laws the committee chose the firm of J. Stewart Roberts Associates.

We then began the process of reviewing plans for renovation/expansion and new construction. This took quite some time because we wanted to make sure all the information was available relevant to both sites and that we addressed any concerns expressed by library staff, trustees, and townspeople. The committee carefully considered all the options and keeping in mind the costs and the architectural integrity of the present library building, we decided it would be more feasible to construct a new library. On December 14 the committee voted to recommend to the Trustees of the Library that they pursue and finalize the schematic design of a new library on the south common site.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped this Committee. Please attend any of our meetings. Your input is greatly appreciated. We want to design a library that will meet the needs of everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Tymon Anderson, *Marsha Johnston*, Co-chairs
Stephen Garrity, *Heidi Schwehre*, *Dana Schwehre*,
Elizabeth Temple, *Robin Renzoni Sweetapple*,
Randy Kafka, Director

Americans with Disabilities Act Town of Berlin

The Town of Berlin does not discriminate on the basis of disability in access to or operation of its programs, services and activities. The Town of Berlin does not discriminate on the basis of disability in application, hiring and employment practices.

The Town of Berlin has designated the following person to coordinate efforts to comply with these requirements. Questions, requests for auxiliary aids and services or modifications of policies and practices, and complaints should be directed to:

Phillip W. Bartlett, ADA Coordinator

Annual Reports Berlin Massachusetts

Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street
Berlin, MA 01503
838-2812



2001

Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street
Berlin, MA 01503
838-2812

In June 2001, the group officially began its fundraising efforts with a brick campaign. People making donations toward the picnic area and playground can buy a personalized brick. The purchased bricks will be displayed along the picnic and playground area.

Also in June 2001, Nature's Best Farm Stand graciously donated all the proceeds from their "Cow Plop" Contest held during the Olde Home Day festivities. Many thanks to those who worked so hard selling tickets to the contest – Julie Wiedemeier, Sharon Grimm, Denise Flemming and Scott and Kerry Carlucci. And a special thank you to Moe and Mary at Nature's Best for their generosity!

In August 2001 the committee sponsored another exciting event, a community wide Pampered Chef Party, held at First Parish Hall. Thank you to Sondra Pendergast for organizing and running the party.

Between our fundraising events and other private donations we have raised over \$6,000 and have received pledges for over \$20,000. We are hoping to raise the remainder of the funds necessary for building a picnic area and playground at South Commons during 2002.

In the fall of 2001, we met with the Baseball Association of Berlin and several landscape contractors to begin the planning for moving the current T-ball field. The field will be moved from its current location to the location proposed in the approved conceptual design for South Commons.

The membership of the South Commons Park Committee changed in 2001. Our group now consists of Ornella Quinn (chairperson), Rona Gugliemino, Sondra Pendergast, Robin Perras, and Darlene Walsh. We gratefully acknowledge the help and support from others who are not officially on the committee, including Lisa Mair.

The South Commons Park Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Town Offices. We welcome those interested in becoming more involved in this project.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ornella Quinn, Chair Rona Gugliemino
Robin Perras Sondra Pendergast Darlene Walsh

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

It has been a very active year for the Berlin Public Library, with a full schedule of programs for patrons of all ages and strong circulation (almost 18,000 items checked out). As the Library Building Committee's annual report will cover in more detail, the preliminary design for the new library on South Commons has been approved by Town Meeting, and we are high on the state's wait-list for a construction grant, which will cover approximately half the cost of the project. Our public hearing prior to Town Meeting was well-attended, and gave residents the opportunity to discuss the project with members of the Building Committee, as well as the architects who collaborated with us on the Feasibility Study. The success and popularity of our programs this past year has made it even more obvious that our present building is inadequate in terms of basic space requirements and accessibility.

For adults, we hosted a variety of craft- and home-related workshops: doll-making and doll pin-making, quilting, relish making, jewelry making, and knitting. Special thanks go to Berlin's own Marlene Williams, Pat Wiedeman, Chris Turner, and Ruea Baum for sharing their expertise. Preston Turner also led a very popular tour of the 40 Caves area, enjoyed by both adults and children.

Our children's programs continue to be extremely popular. In addition to the full complement of storytimes for various ages, we also presented the following programs: Comic Art workshops with Andy Fish (also included adult participants), Scarecrow-making party in the back yard, "Fun With Lori" storytimes for toddlers hosted by volunteer Lori Burton, a visit from Bugman, various storytellers, Music with Mr. Vic, a visit from the Museum of Science, Gerwick puppets, Cheryl Melody, and the Babysitters' training program and job fair. In the fall, the library co-hosted the Shades of Autumn weekend at Tower Hill. Also, Children's Librarian Cathy Livingstone was chosen by the region to pilot the "Mother Goose Asks Why" science and literacy program for young children and their parents. The "Raise a Reader" program, funded by a federal grant through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, provided the library with wonderful parenting programs such as sign language for infants, and baby massage (in addition to parenting materials and children's books). For the older kids, the new monthly teen pizza nights are going strong. Also, the Tahanto Regional High School's child development class visited, to learn about reading books to children.

Other activities during the year: the Sock Hop (co-hosted with LINK); the Friends' Book & Bake Sale; and of course the ever-popular Summer Reading program! Thank you to all who donated raffle Berlin

Public Library

prizes for our readers. The library continues to offer a twice-yearly newsletter, mailed to all residents. The Trustees awarded their annual scholarship to a graduating high school senior, and continue to raise funds to support that scholarship fund.

People news: Patricia Tymon Anderson was hired as Assistant to the Children's Librarian, responsible primarily for story-times and other programs. Jennifer Boyle retired from the Board of Trustees after many years of service.

Thanks to the Community Partnership for Children, the Berlin Recreation Committee, LINK, the Berlin Cultural Council, and the Friends of the Berlin Public Library for their continued generous support of our programs. And, of course, thanks to the entire staff for their service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cooper Garrity, Trustee Chair
Evelyn Dueck *Marsha Johnston* *Stephen Garrity*
Stephen Huntley *Maureen Spaulding*, Trustees
Randy Kafka, Director

LIBRARY PLANNING/BUILDING COMMITTEE

At the start of 2001, the Library Building Planning Committee had a schematic plan for a new library building to be located on the South Commons site ready for town approval. We met with the Selectmen, Planning Board, Board of Health and Finance Committee to present the project and gather specific information relative to each board's expertise. We would like to thank them for their time and cooperation.

A public hearing was held on April 10, 2001 to present the proposed library project to the town. The hearing was very well attended and many questions were raised and answered. Thank you to all who attended. It is your input that will make this project your library.

At the annual town meeting in May 2001, the schematic design of the new public library on the South Commons site and the change from a planning committee to a building committee were approved by the voters. This approval enabled us to be eligible for a state library construction grant. The total project cost to be funded 40% by the state and 60% by the town. The grant awards were announced in early June and the Berlin Public Library project was placed seventh on the waiting list. Being on the waiting list guarantees receipt of funding as soon as the state approves additional money for library construction. We will need approval of the town's share of the funding within six months of state notification of available funds.

At this time, there are two bond bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, relative to library construction. We are waiting, along with many others, to see how the state resolves its fiscal budget.

In the meantime, we have met with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Consultant to determine what steps we can take at this time to expedite the project. The article we have submitted for the 2002 warrant would allow the committee to move forward with design development, which integrates all the building systems, allows for site investigation and plan, and makes sure the building is compliant with all relevant State and local codes. At the conclusion of this phase, we will know what the building and site will look like, inside and out.

We have a fund-raising subcommittee, chaired by Heidi Schwehr, who will work in the coming months to raise support for the ineligible expenses of the grant, i.e. paving, landscaping and interior furnishings other than metal shelving. Involved in the capital fund raising plan is newly appointed library trustee, Evelyn Dueck. Fund raising will reduce the Town's cost for the project. If anyone is interested in helping these committees, please contact the Library Director.

The Library Building Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Municipal Office building at 7:30 p.m. We would like to thank Elizabeth Temple, Robin Sweetapple and Dana Schwehr for their service on the Library Building Planning Committee. We welcome any community input and invite you to attend our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Anderson, Co-Chair; *Marsha Johnston*, Co-Chair/Clerk; *Stephen Garrity*; *Heidi Schwehr*; *Roger Stanley*; *Randy Kafka*, Library Director (ex officio)

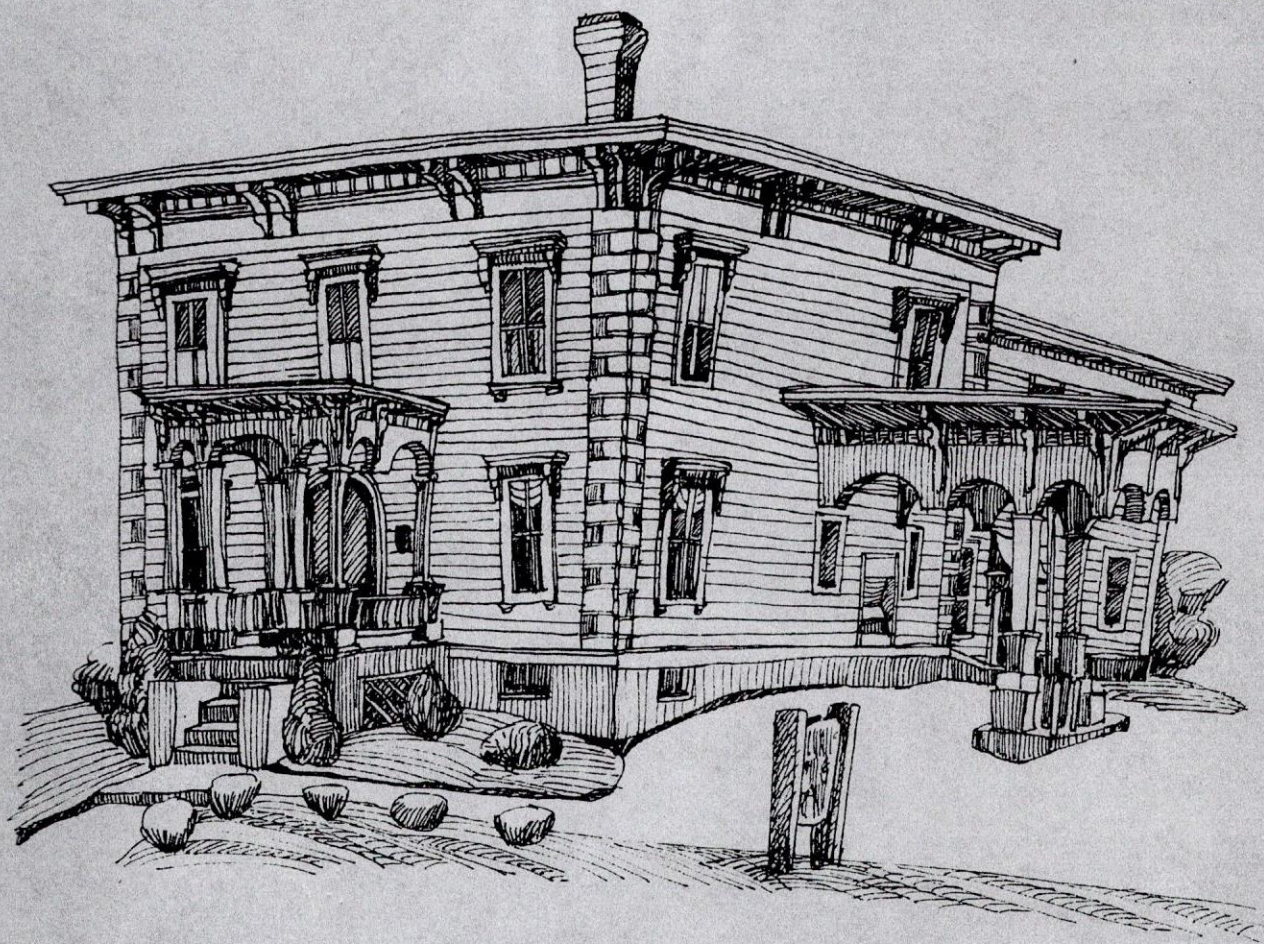
CABLE ACCESS COMMITTEE

The Channel 16 Bulletin Board continues to be a topical local information source due to the efforts of Donna Ganczarski. Any items dealing with community events or public services can be put on the Bulletin Board by writing to: Bulletin Board, 23 Linden Street, Box 5, Berlin MA 01503.

We will organize new camera and editing certification classes in the coming year if we get interested residents. People are needed who would like to become involved in videoing town and school events, producing and editing programs. Call 838-0015 and leave a message or write to: Cable Class, 23 Linden Street, Box 5, Berlin MA 01503. We are always looking for new people to become involved in all aspects of local video production.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Peterson, Chairman *Don Wight*, Member

2002



BERLIN
Annual Reports

The Library is one of Berlin's greatest assets, consistently offering high quality materials, programs and services to the town on a very tight budget. The Library's Mission Statement: "The Berlin Public Library is a small public library providing materials and services to support community residents in their pursuit of personal, recreational, educational and occupational interests. Special emphasis is placed on current popular materials in a variety of formats. The Library serves residents of all ages, recognizing that each group has its own distinct needs and interests: pre-schoolers, school-age children, teenagers, adults, and seniors."

It has been another great year at the Berlin Public Library, with a full schedule of programs for patrons of all ages and ever-increasing circulation (over 19,500 items checked out, up over 1,500 from last year!). Here is a summary of items checked out:

<u>Item Type</u>	<u>% of Total checkouts</u>
Children's books	37%
Adult and Teen books	26%
Adult and Teen videos	12%
Children's videos	12%
Magazines	6%
Audios	4%
CD-ROMs and misc.	3%

In addition to books and materials for circulation, the Library provides internet access to patrons for career- and school-related research. In financially difficult times, this service is invaluable.

As the Library Building Committee's annual report covers in more detail, our biggest news in 2002 was the awarding of a state construction grant to the library in the amount of \$964,291. This grant is contingent on receipt of town funds for approximately \$1 million, which will be sought in 2003. The Trustees, staff, Building Committee, and Friends believe strongly that the proposed new library on South Commons will provide all town residents with excellent library services for many decades to come.

This year the library made the big move to becoming a circulating member of the Central & Western Mass. Regional System (C/WMARS). Phil Whalen, serving the library on a grant from the region, has been hard at work on our barcode conversion project all year to make that transition a reality. Inter-library loan has become easier and faster, and residents are urged to make full use of this system.

We hosted a variety of workshops and gatherings for adults in 2002: knitting (thank you Ruea Baum!), cooking, breast cancer awareness, Newcomers' coffee, Mad Hatter tea party, and the Ends of Civilization book discussion group funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the

Humanities. Thanks also to Walter Bickford for leading a family nature walk. The library also hosted a meeting of the Extension Homemakers group. [Interest in use of the library for community meetings is high, but we are extremely limited due to serious space constraints and the fact that the building is not accessible to all.]

Our children's programs for newborns through pre-teens continue to be extremely popular. In addition to the full complement of story-times, we also presented a variety of special activities, including: baby signing, Mother Goose Asks Why science program, Nose to Toes, Yogacize, Magic of Motion, Tots and Tunes, Go for the Stars, Science Magic, Drumming, Owls, Alex the Jester, YMCA babysitter training, and a viewing of the Harry Potter film. A new mother/daughter reading group was formed in November. Also, the Tahanto Regional High School's child development class visited, to learn about reading books to children.

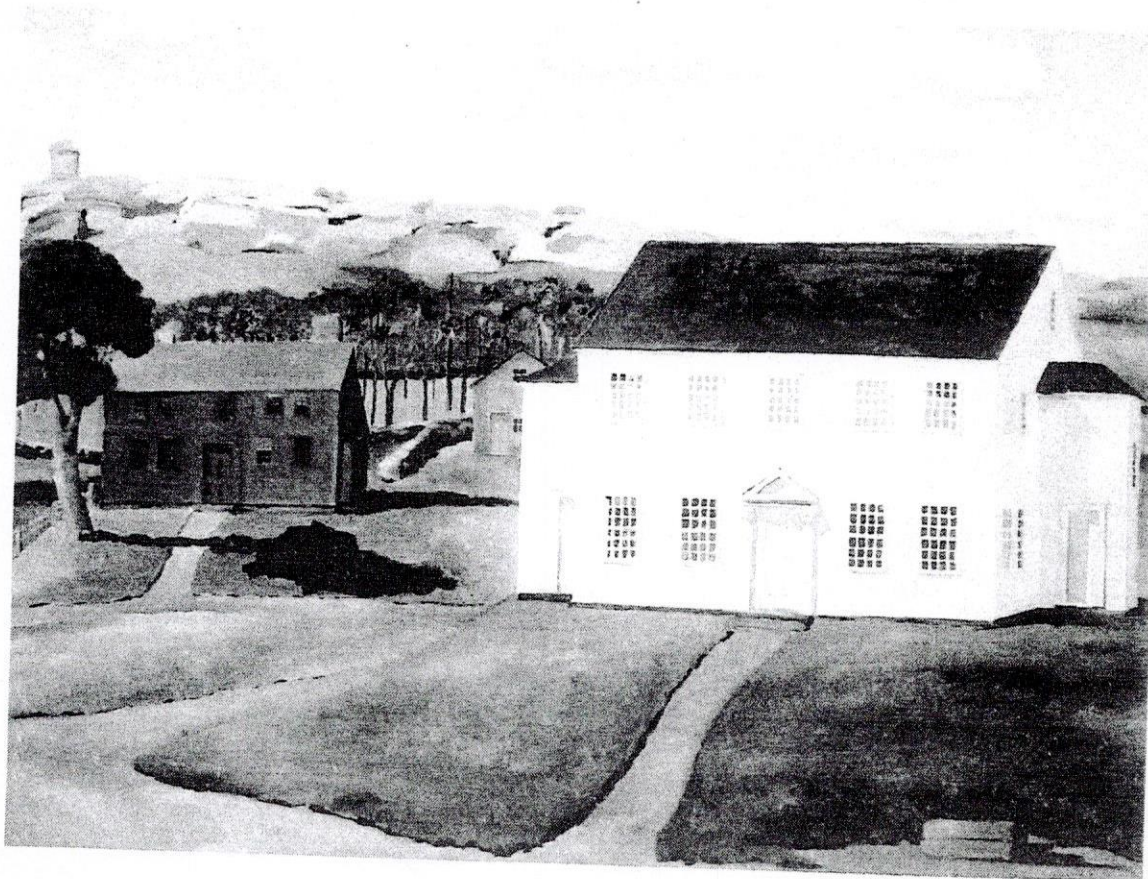
For Berlin teens, the monthly teen pizza nights are very popular. This fall the library was awarded a two-year federal LSTA mini-grant through the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners for the innovative "Tuning Into Teens" program developed by Cathy Livingstone, Head of Youth Services.

Other activities during the year: the Shades of Autumn weekend at Tower Hill; the Friends' Book & Bake Sale; and of course the ever-popular Summer Reading program! (Thank you to all who donated raffle prizes for our readers.) The library continues to offer a twice-yearly newsletter, mailed to all residents. The Trustees awarded their annual scholarship to a graduating high school senior, and continue to raise funds to support that scholarship fund.

People news: The library bade farewell to Assistant Director Judy Bridge in December, and also to staff member Donna Dubnow in the fall. Many thanks to both of them for their caring attention to patrons.

Thanks to the Community Partnership for Children, the Berlin Recreation Committee, LINK, the Berlin Cultural Council, and the Friends of the Berlin Public Library for their continued support of our programs. Thanks also to all our generous patrons, and to our wonderful staff.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cooper Garrity, Trustee Chair
Evelyn Dueck, Trustee
Stephen Garrity, Trustee
Stephen Huntley, Trustee
Marsha Johnston, Trustee
Maureen Spaulding, Trustee
Randy Kafka, Director



The First Meeting House

BERLIN
Annual Reports
2003

Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street
Berlin, CT 06033

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Berlin Public Library has had a year of frustration and change. After five years of effort by the Library Building Committee and the Trustees, the hopes of the Trustees for a new library, sized and designed to meet the current and future needs of Berlin, were dashed when the Town failed to approve the funds required to supplement a state grant for a new building on the South Common. (See the report by the Library Building Committee for additional details.) Subsequently, we formed a sub-committee to develop a plan addressing the accessibility and space issues that limit the use of the current building, as well as the future role of the Library in the community. Questions concerning what library services should be provided, what the hours of operation should be, and how to make library services available to those unable to enter the current Library were identified for resolution.

We suffered three important personnel changes that disrupted the administrative continuity of the library and taught us to appreciate the contributions made by our staff. Cathy Livingstone, who was with us for nine years as Head of Youth Services, resigned in December to take a full time position at another library. She developed our stellar children's program. Randy Kafka, our gentle and articulate Director for five years, left in August to pursue rabbinical studies. After an exhaustive search, we found Sharon Bernard, who stayed with us for five months before she was lured away with the offer of a full time job at Fitchburg. We were without a director for nearly a month after Sharon left. During this period, staff members Karen Kowal, Pat Anderson, and Tracy Landry assumed additional responsibility and worked extra hours to run the library without a hitch. We are grateful to them for their service, dedication, and professionalism. (We are delighted to report that as of February 2, 2004 Suzanne McGuire, a Berlin resident, became our new Library Director. Please come by and greet her.)

Our library continued to act like an ancient institution. In the past we repaired the roof, the gutters, and the electrical system. This year the furnace crashed, and a new one was purchased and installed by the Town. It is difficult to anticipate what will go next. However, time was turned back a degree when the aged interior was brightened when Bill Lowe and Preston Turner painted the upstairs, and by Joanne Bergen's delightful paintings. Bill, Preston, and Joanne; thank you for your contributions.

Throughout it all, the library provided uninterrupted service, except for the week that the furnace expired, to the town of Berlin. Believing that early reading experiences and the association of books with fun and fellowship produce students and adults

with the skills required for studying and good citizenship, we have continued to emphasize our youth service programs. At the same time, we provided materials and services to support adult community residents according to their personal, recreational, educational and occupational interests. We added primarily popular new books and magazines to our collection, as well as reference publications that give information required for making informed life decisions. Most patrons selected books from our stacks. Approximately ten percent of patron requests were satisfied through interlibrary loan. Circulation of books, magazines, and videos was strong for a town of our size and hovered around 15,000 items this year.

Many patrons visited the Library to conduct school, business, and personal research through the Internet. Considering the importance of this service and the interest in the town, our computer resources should be expanded and training programs provided in their use.

We offered a rich and varied children's program that deserves special mention as it is an important part of the Library's offerings and continues to increase in popularity. In addition to our once again highly successful summer reading program, the following activities stood out: a magic show and workshop, art of graffiti and string art classes, the annual scarecrow stuffing party, a hayride at Indian Head Farm, Spanish classes, and, of course, story times. A book club for third and fourth grade students was established with the assistance of Joanne Stocklin, third grade teacher at Berlin Memorial School. Twenty-two students registered.

Teenagers enthusiastically participated in many book-related programs including a presentation on reptiles from the Museum of Science, a Chinese food cooking demonstration, and the monthly Book & Pizza night. We are in the second year of our two-year federal LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) mini-grant awarded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and anticipate many more events for teens.

Other activities for young people included: a very popular summer nature program co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission, a Teen Drama series, the Shades of Autumn weekend at Tower Hill, a college financial planning seminar, and visits from all the classes at Berlin Memorial School. These visits are conducted to help the students learn more about our library and its usefulness to their scholastic activities.

Town funding for library operations was marginal. Despite annual increases in operating costs, our operating budget has been flat.

20% percent of the operating budget was paid from trust funds. This is the second year that we have used trust funds for this purpose. Using library trust funds to pay for recurring expenses is an untenable situation and may mean fewer library programs next year.

The Library mailed a newsletter twice this year to all residents informing them of significant Library events. The Trustees awarded their annual scholarship to two graduating high school seniors.

The Trustees owe a debt of gratitude to Doug and Patricia Coldwell for their generous donations to the Library. Thanks go to the pages and volunteers for their selfless service. Thanks also go to the Community Partnership for Children, the Berlin Recreation Committee, LINK, the Berlin Cultural Council, and Friends of the Berlin Public Library for their continued support of our programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cooper-Garrity, Trustee Co-chair
Stephen Huntley, Trustee Co-chair
Evelyn Dueck, Trustee
Stephen Garrity, Trustee
Marsha Johnston, Trustee
Maureen Spaulding, Trustee

LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported the library project over the past five years. The year started off with great hopes of obtaining the voters' funding support at May Town Meeting for half the cost of a new library on South Commons. The State had awarded the Town of Berlin a guaranteed construction grant in the amount of \$964,291 contingent upon local funding support. The Selectmen and Finance Committee supported this project due to the grant payment schedule and the planning work done by all involved, past and present. Professional studies and research done by the Planning Board and Town Building Needs Study Committee produced a Town Master Plan in 1997 that recommended the proposed site on South Commons. The site on South Commons would not have interfered with recreational use or any planned school expansion and would have allowed for additional parking as well as maintain current open space. The new library was designed for a 20 year projected population of 3,000 and to meet all current Town building codes and regulations as well as State and Federal accessibility guidelines. The one-level, open space design facilitated minimal staffing and eliminated expensive elevator inspections and maintenance fees as well as extra design and construction costs for unusable library space such as stairwells, elevator mechanical rooms, etc.

to approve \$1,085,709, approximately half the cost of the new library. The Finance Committee did not recommend at this time due to their continued concern over the State's financial status and whether the State grant award money would be forthcoming. A 2/3 vote was required and we failed by only 34 votes.

Over the summer we worked with the Finance Committee and Town Treasurer to come up with a financial package, which would work for the Town and the taxpayers. The Finance Committee received assurance from the Governor's office that the grant money was indeed available in a capital bond account separate from the regular State budget. A Special Town Meeting was requested by the Library Trustees and scheduled for October 20, 2003. The library article was #1 and the Finance Committee recommended. Unfortunately, due to taxpayer's concern over new real estate assessments, possible Tahanto renovations, and site concerns, we were defeated by only 11 votes. Due to that very close vote, an enthusiastic taxpayer, Jim Sandini, headed up a Citizens Petition drive to get another town meeting vote before the November 7th grant award deadline. Approximately 250 signatures were obtained in less than five hours and submitted to the Selectmen before the close of the October 20th town meeting. The warrant was posted and a Special Town meeting was scheduled for November 7, 2003. In the meantime, we had spoken to the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners about the deadline date and were assured that they would accept a vote on November 7th and that the grant award money was still available.

We are proud of the fact that over half the Town's registered voters came out to vote and that there was record-breaking attendance. Unfortunately, we were defeated by a much stronger negative vote of 312 for 350 against. We hope that every town meeting is as well attended and that questions are asked and answered about every capital project. Of course, we are very disappointed that the voters could not see the long term gain of a new library building that would have seen this town through the next 75 years (and beyond) at a very small cost. The library budget is less than 1% of the total town budget. The Library Trustees will now focus on addressing the accessibility and space needs at the current library, which might not be eligible for any State grant awards.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Johnston, Co-Chair/Clerk
Pat Anderson, Co-Chair
Roger Stanley
Stephen Garrity

COUNCIL ON AGING

Members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, represent a cross-section of the community both in age and interests.

The Council on Aging (COA) meets at 9 A.M. on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September through June (with the exception of December) at the Town Offices, Room 118. The meetings are open and anyone interested is invited to attend.

The purpose of the Council is to identify the total needs of the community's elderly population; to educate the community and enlist the support and participation of all citizens about the needs; and to design, promote, or implement services to fill these needs; or to coordinate existing services.

A bimonthly newsletter, Powderhouse Senior News, is prepared and emailed to the printer with the proof being emailed back within a day or two. Any corrections are made via telephone and the 415 copies are delivered to us ready to fold, seal, label and mail within a much shorter time than when everything was processed through the mail. Volunteers help with the processing, but advertising is welcome to help defray the expenses.

SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) calls are being directed to Vincent Gavin via the Clinton Senior Center at 978-365-9416. Some questions can be taken care of with a telephone call instead of an appointment in person.

In the fall Linda Plummer kindly entered the COA information on the Town of Berlin website.

Meals on Wheels continues to be one of the Council's most successful programs. Preparing and delivering the meals on each Tuesday and Friday is accomplished through the work of volunteers. Special thanks go to Mary Petkauskas, Director, Louise Champagne, Pat Simpson, Lorraine Cedar, Flora Leveille, Doris Bombard, Carol Clark and Mary Ellen Matthew. Appreciation is also extended to the drivers who deliver the meals: George Cedar, Margaret Bergen, Carolyn Cashin and Dora Cummings. If you are in need of this service, contact one of the Council members.

From October through May fourteen (14) senior volunteers take part in the SOAR (Seniors Outreach Assisting Reading) Program. Each volunteer spends approximately one half hour a week with a first or second grade student, listening to him/her read and helping when necessary. This program is an ongoing success and has proven to be beneficial to both age groups.

The usual Summer Party on July 23rd and the Winter Party on December 11th were both well attended and, once again, Lowe's Variety provided the food and beverages at a reasonable rate. Our special thanks to them for that service. The winter party was held at lunch time to make it more

convenient for those attending.

At the Summer Party the 2003 Legacy Award honored Pat Simpson. Pat spent seven years as a member of the COA and five of those years as its treasurer. Pat has been a volunteer cook in the Meals on Wheels program since its inception and continues to serve in that capacity. Her loyalty for all of these years is greatly appreciated. Her name was added to the Legacy plaque which hangs in the Community Building at Northbrook Village.

Twenty-one people accepted the invitation to attend the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Wayside Inn. Following the delicious lunch, an interesting talk by Darrold Endres, Executive Director, and Ann Daigneault from Beaumont at Northborough, the new assisted living facility being constructed, was most informative. This facility includes the former Thornton Nursing Home as an option when assisted living no longer meets clients' needs. Each volunteer attended was presented a begonia plant as a small token of our appreciation.

The WHEAT van is available Tuesday and Thursday. Medical appointments are given priority, with 24 hours notice required.

Two council members attended the MOCA membership meeting in Milford on June 20th and two members attended the CEMACA Spring Conference at Calvary Retreat Center in Shrewsbury on May 22nd. One member attended a seminar on Alzheimer's Disease.

Alice Kidder compiled a questionnaire that was included in the newsletter mailing for September/October. It was hoped to gain some insight into the needs of Berlin senior citizens. Thirty-seven responses were received. The majority of those responding were in the "quite active" or "very active" groups. Some of the suggestions to "improve your quality of life" were as follows: more social things, more community involvement, less taxes, more activity programs, and availability of housekeeping help (for pay). Three people have volunteered to help and will be put to work in the near future.

Chief of Police Otto Rhode approached the COA in December and offered to try to find funding to install the "Are You O.K.?" program in Berlin, provided there is sufficient interest. An article will be printed in the Jan/Feb newsletter explaining the program.

Volunteers are always needed, regardless of age. For further information, see any Council member.

Respectfully submitted,
Dora M. Cummings, Ch. (978-838-2500)
Margaret Bergen, Sec/Treas (978-838-2517)
Kenneth Harrold (978-838-9826)
David Holder (978-838-2480)
Alice Kidder (617-924-7236)
William F. Lowe, Jr. (978-838-2073)
Mary Petkauskas (978-838-7380)

RECREATION COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ❖ Operated Snack Shack (*All Volunteer Staff*) to provide service to Berlin Little League, Berlin Youth Soccer, and their fans; to provide safety and health considerations of phone, medical kits, and water; and to produce revenues for Recreation.
- ❖ Communication, coordination, and control with town baseball and soccer to make South Commons a better place for all.
- ❖ Oversaw the building of the new playground.
- ❖ Earned revenue by renting out soccer fields to outside organizations.
- ❖ Sponsored Teen night at the Berlin Public Library.
- ❖ Co-sponsored Annual Halloween party.
- ❖ Commenced construction of new T-ball field and worked with volunteers of construction of the new T-Ball field.
- ❖ Provided assistance and planning support for new Eagle Scout project to be undertaken by Mark Batstone.
- ❖ Donated raffle gifts to The Lion's Club "Christmas in Berlin", and to the Town's Annual "Christmas in Berlin".
- ❖ Welcomed Carolyn F. Landry as a new member of the Committee. She brings with her years of experience as a former Recreation Commission member in Athol and Marlboro.

BUSINESS

- ❖ Addressed repeated concerns about public parking, traffic and safety issues at South Commons, especially in relation to young children. Submitted a proposal for a parking plan to the Capital Planning Committee.
- ❖ Preparing a plan to better utilize the space available at South Commons and to earn revenue by renting out Soccer and Baseball fields to outside organizations.
- ❖ See where the department can combine talents, finance and programs with other organizations and departments in town to get the most out of a buck for the community (ex. Co-sponsoring with Library and the Lions Club) to enhance existing programs.
- ❖ Planning further projects with the Boy Scouts to foster the experience and the traditions of volunteering and community service.
- ❖ Snack Shack Kids: encourages town youth to get involved with community service. There was a wonderful response to our program and we awarded the participants letters of commendation. Their efforts earned over \$600.00 for Recreation.
- ❖ Girl Scouts also added to community service by providing funds, planting, weeding, and care of the flower garden around the Gazebo.
- ❖ As usual, the Highway Department cheerfully gave Recreation all the help and support required and then some.

GOALS FOR 2004

- ❖ A new T-Ball field will be built by the Recreation Committee and volunteers, such as Peter Larsson, who gave his time and efforts to build a new outfield. Thanks to the Forrests for the donation of the stone dust for the baseball field. Additional thanks go to Bob Roche, Bill Dubois, Tom Doerr for the construction of the new back stop. The project will be completed by spring of 2004.
- ❖ Maintain and expand existing programs with Library and Lions Club.
- ❖ Initial planning to replace the Gazebo has been started. The existing structure is built with pressurized wood. The pressurized wood does not meet current health standards, and it is not handicap accessible.
- ❖ A new pavilion is also being reviewed. That would provide a covered, sheltered picnic area.
- ❖ Parking and traffic management at South Commons is an ongoing concern. The Recreation Committee is presenting a proposal to develop parallel parking at South Common (wherever possible) on the right side of the driveway. This would establish definitive parking areas to control random parking during sports events and playground activities.
- ❖ Protective guards will be built around the Porta-Pots for Safety and Privacy.
- ❖ The Snack Shack is getting a vent system due to overheating in the summer months.
- ❖ Expand interactions and programs with the Scouts and other Town youth groups.

Respectfully submitted,

Richarda (Sue) Roche, Chairwoman

Joyce Teixeira Carolyn F. Landry

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

LIBRARY FUNDS

Julia B. Carter	\$ 500.00
Ruthven Hastings	1,000.00
Lona May Johnson	1,000.00
Joseph Priest	520.00
George & Edith Sawyer	2,000.00
Florence E. Wheeler	500.00
Mary L. Hastings	100.00
Elwyn W. Howard	100.00
M. Annetta Larned	4,000.00
George & Martha Sanderson	500.00
Sarah A. Sawyer	9,025.67
Ceridwen & Leslie Frye	8,725.19

GENERAL FUNDS

Mary J. Keyes Highway Fund	\$ 2449.03
Caty Bride Charity Fund	2,000.00
Caroline Morse Deserving Women	1,461.00
Nancy Young School Fund	1,500.00
Ella W. Fosgate Memorial Day	200.00
Anna H. Hunt Cemetery & General Fund	1,000.00

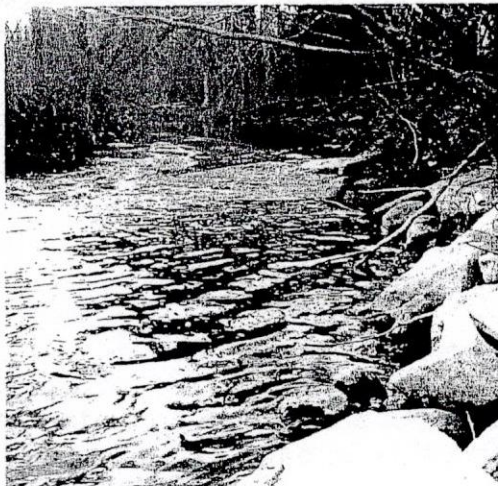
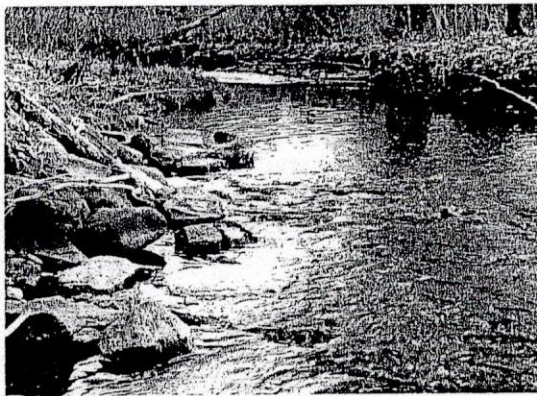
2003 Balances are given in the Accountant's Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Bergen Barry W. Eager Rose M. Sawyer

Berlin 2004

ANNUAL REPORTS



Clockwise from bottom right: MacAlister canoe access on Assabet River (downstream view); View upstream; Brewer Brook Conservation Area; Felton-Devine Farm; Ball Hill Conservation Area

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

We are pleased to have hired our new director, Suzanne McGuire, in February. Under her guidance, library services have been improved, new programs have been initiated and the library materials have been weeded and updated. Suzanne has also been very active in the community by speaking to many organizations in town.

Circulation made a big jump during calendar year 2004. The Library circulated 17,193 items, an increase of 12% over the previous year. Of those items, 93% came from our own collection with an additional 1,200 items procured through the inter-library loan system. The growth of this program, which has benefited Berlin residents immensely, has come about through the excellent work of the Central Massachusetts Library Regional System (CMRLS) staff with strong support from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. If there is a book or video not held by the Berlin Library, anyone can now easily request that item through the CMRLS web site (www.cmrls.org) on any computer with Internet access, including the ones at the Berlin library. If the item is on the shelves of any CMRLS library, it will be delivered to the Berlin library within a matter of days.

For FY 04 the Town provided \$73,727 for Library operations and wages plus \$1,704 from dog taxes and \$50 from the Anna Hunt Fund. Grant income of just under \$8,000, donations of \$2,300, and \$5,800 from trust funds supplemented the activities of the library this year. The Friends of the Library also provided \$2,386 toward library programs. Video fines are deposited into a revolving account that is used for purchasing new videos (\$375 in FY04).

Accessibility While pursuing options for making our Library accessible to all (see below for building update), Suzanne and Marguerite Vierkant, a Library volunteer, created a program to reach out to the residents of Northbrook Village. They have set up a small collection of books in the community room at Northbrook Village and deliver requested books twice each month. Suzanne also has created a list of volunteers who are available to deliver books to the home of any person unable to maneuver the Library steps or who cannot get to the Library because of health reasons.

Programs and Services Walter Dubnow started a **Chess Club** at the Library for teens and adults that meets twice a month. In the fall, the Library began offering **Hatha Yoga** twice a week taught by Berlin resident Sharon Santello. In October the Library participated in the annual **Shades of Autumn** event held at Tower Hill Botanical Gardens that allowed free admission to Berlin residents.

Throughout the year, the Library offered a wide assortment of **programs for children**, everything from Story Hours to Pagemasters, a book club for third and fourth grade students. The Library also sponsored special one-time events for families such as singer and songwriter David Polansky, Scott Jameson the Magician, storytellers Davis Bates and Roger Tinknell, the Bohemian Latin Stand, and the Museum of Science Star Lab.

A successful **Summer Reading Program** ran from June 23 to August 25 with more than 80 students participating. Local merchants as well as Borders Book Store and the Solomon Pond Mall donated prizes. A two-week summer **Drama Workshop** was held for grades 3-6. Now for the second year, the Berlin Conservation Commission sponsored a very successful one-week summer **Nature Program**. During the week, 35 children learned about the environment and visited such local sites as Indian Head Farm, the vernal pools, Mount Pisgah and Forty Caves.

Since the library provides the only **public photocopier** in town, we hastened to purchase a new desktop photocopier as soon as we could after the demise of the old one.

The **large-print books** saw more usage after they were moved to the area immediately inside the front doors. A generous \$300 gift from the Berlin Lions Club allowed us to build our large-print collection.

The Library continued to offer **museum passes** to the residents of Berlin. In 2004 we had passes to the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens, the Wheelock Family Theatre, and the Roger Williams Park Zoo. Once again, Tracy and Matt Landry picked up the cost of the passes to the Davis Farmland and Petting Zoo. Thank you Tracy and Matt.

Teen Grant A two-year LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) Grant provided us with \$15,000 that was used for building up a top notch Young Adult book collection, for purchasing teen periodical subscriptions, purchasing camera equipment, and computer software. In addition, the grant was used for providing programs for the teens of Berlin such as Red Cross Babysitting classes, hair and makeup demonstrations, a visit from the Massachusetts Wildlife Association, Chinese cooking, and an animation workshop. The [rp]ects frp, the animation workshop were later shown on local cable TV. Even though the grant period ended in September, the Library continues holding Teen Night once each month where teens get together for book talk, pizza and special programs.

Computers Thanks to the generous gifts of time and money from Eve Seltzner and Mark Burton, the six computers at the Library have been upgraded. With the fast changing computer technology...

important services are now offered to patrons through computers:

- Inter-library loan requests
- Newspapers and magazines
- Access to the Internet
- Reference materials (encyclopedias, maps, etc.)
- Medical and health research
- Business and company databases

Friends of the Library revitalized

The Friends of the Berlin Public Library were revitalized this year with the energy of many new members. A Friends Book Sale in October raised a record of \$1,300 for the Library. Thanks especially to Mary and Ron Plutnicki, Bobbi Feinblatt and Marguerite Vierkant for their hard work on that event!

Scholarship Fund The 2004 scholarship recipients were high school seniors Kimberly Waller, Amanda Lauze and Ryan Guilfoyle. The Trustee Scholarship Fund provided them with a total of \$750 in scholarships.

Building Update The Trustees are dedicated to making a public library that is safe and accessible for all, and that meets the needs of our growing population. The town's population has more than doubled since the library was built nearly eighty years ago. After the loss of a state grant in 2003 that would have supported a new library on South

concerns mentioned by those opposed to that plan.

We hired David E. Ross Associates, Civil Engineers, to do an in-depth analysis of the current library site on Carter Street to determine unequivocally whether the site would support even a limited expansion of the old library.

We appreciated the support of the many library patrons in Berlin who anxiously await improvements to the library. We are committed to finding a new solution that will make this important public resource available to everyone.

Thanks to all The Trustees want to thank the Library staff, Karen Kowal, Pat Anderson, Tracy Landry and Jane Cain, and pages Matt Cain and Katie Angevine, in addition to our Director Suzanne McGuire for their devoted attention to making library services run smoothly. We are grateful to Maureen Spaulding and Stephen Garrity for their years of steady and thoughtful service as Trustees.

We appreciate the many people who donated money, equipment and time to the Berlin Public Library. Special thanks to Doug and Patricia Coldwell, the Berlin Lions Club, the Community Partnership for Children, the Berlin Recreation Committee, LINK, Inc., the Berlin Cultural Council, Indian Head Farm, and the Friends of the Berlin Public Library for their generous support.

Respectfully submitted,
*Evelyn Dueck, Ch. Stephen Huntley Beth Owen
Marsha Johnston Susan Garrity Mary Dimouro*

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Berlin Cultural Council (BCC) is part of the Massachusetts Cultural Council network of groups serving every city and town in Massachusetts. The mission of the MCC and its local council partners is "To promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities."

The state appropriates funds to each town based on population. Organizations or artists then apply to each local council by October 15 using forms available in multiple town locations or on line at massculturalcouncil.org. The BCC is comprised of six (6) municipally appointed community volunteers that select programs and organizations serving: a variety of age groups, diverse cultural formats and regional programs attended by Berlin residents. In FY2004 the BCC received 24 applications requesting over \$10,000 in funding. With only \$2,000 allocated from the state we managed to fund (in part or whole) six projects for a variety of ages and interests. They were:

- 1) Magic by Scott Jameson
- 2) Family Contra Dances with the Berlin Country Orchestra
- 3) A History of American Music vaudeville style for Seniors
- 4) Berlin Olde Home Day 2004
- 5) Boston Symphony Orchestra youth concert series for Tahanto music students
- 6) Laughter in the Library with David Polansky

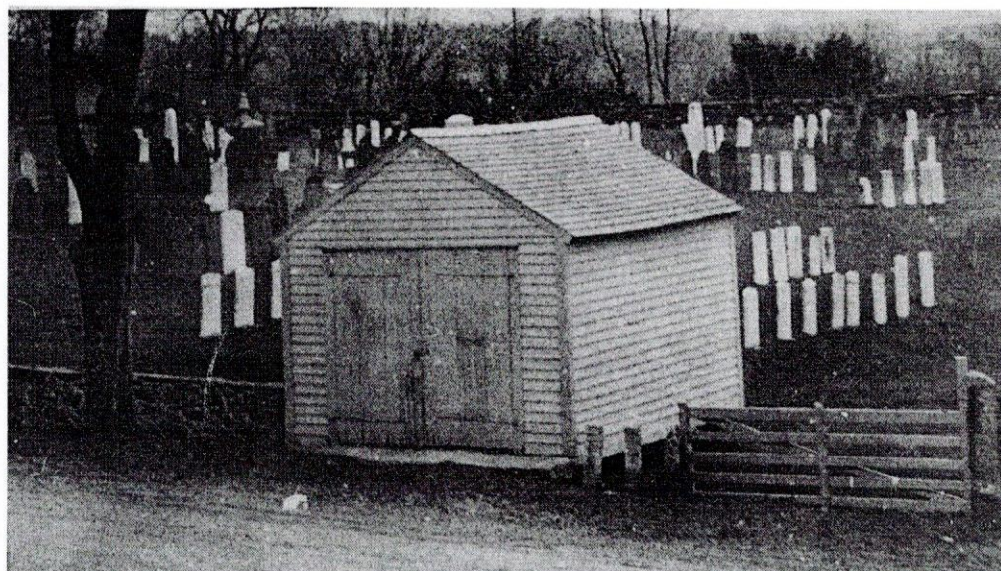
In addition the BCC would like to welcome Tracy Landry and Jane Cain and thank them for their time and interest.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Redington, Ch. Cheryl Duggan, Treas. Barbara Krackhardt Peter Wheeler Tracy Landry Jane Cain

Annual Reports

Berlin

Massachusetts



Hearse House

Built in 1805

*Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street
Berlin, MA 01503
978-838-2812*

2005

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

More and more Berlin residents are using the Library. Eighty people requested new Library cards this past year, bringing the number of Library patrons to 1,265. Circulation continues to grow, with a 15% increase over last year. Of the 18,846 items circulated, 1,720 came through the Inter-Library Loan system. As required by the state, 19% of expenses or just over \$16,000 was spent on acquiring new materials for the Library.

Programs

Now in its second year, the Chess Club with Harold Dubnow draws 10-19 children and adults twice a month. Hatha Yoga with Sharon Santello has outgrown the space in the library and now meets twice weekly at the Town Offices. In October, the Library participated in the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens Shades of Autumn event which allowed Berlin residents free admission for the weekend.

Due to its immense popularity, the Summer Nature Program (provided in collaboration with the Berlin Conservation Commission) was expanded to two one-week programs. The Summer Reading Program had about 80 participants.

Throughout the year, the Library sponsored the following special events for families: author and illustrator Laura Rankin, storyteller Katie Green, storyteller Granny Gigs, Children of the Eastern Door (Native American stories and crafts), Michele's Menagerie, storyteller Big Joe, stories by Debbie O'Connell, and a production by the Gerwick Puppeteers.

Ongoing series for children were also held during the year such as Music 'n More, Children's Yoga, Pagemasters for third and fourth graders, weekly Story Times for ages 3-8, monthly library visits from the First Parish Nursery School children, and the Red Cross Safety Program "Home Alone" for grades 4-6.

Programs held especially for Teens were Bohemian Latin Stand (music, stories and poetry), an Animation Workshop, Chinese Cooking with Norma Chang, and a series of Teen Nights.

Programs held for Adults included Chinese Cooking, Hand Quilting, Fresh Flower Arranging, a Digital Photography Workshop, and a Mt. Pisgah Walk.

Museum passes to the following were available for check out: Tower Hill Botanical Gardens, Worcester Art Museum, Roger Williams Park Zoo, the Ecotarium, Wheelock Family Theatre, Davis' Farmland, Sturbridge Village, and the Children's Discovery Museum.

Computers

Computer use at the Library continues to grow. Patrons use them for accessing reference information, looking up and requesting books, retrieving and sending e-mail, accessing the Internet, and creating and printing documents. Our staff handles many Inter-Library loan requests and manages all the circulation of materials through computers as well.

Thanks to the efforts of Rick Plummer, we have upgraded our computer systems and now have three computers available for public use and two specifically for staff use.

Financial Report for FY05

\$75,950	Town appropriation for operations and wages
1,977	Dog tax money
2,966	State Aid
1,650	Mass. LSTA grant for teen programs
5,263	Donations (including Cultural Council - \$525, Community Partnership for Children - \$1,250, Recreation Dept. - \$100 for Summer Reading Program)
1,375	Trust Fund interest
536	Video revolving fund
50	Anna Hunt Fund
\$89,767	Total spent on Library services and wages in FY05

Donations to the Library of \$245 in memory of Hazel Sawyer were used to replace our classics with hard cover editions. Congratulations to High School Seniors Tegan Guilfoyle and Ryan Patti, who were awarded 2005 college scholarships from the Library of \$150 each.

Friends

Moving forward into their second year of new leadership, the *Friends of the Library* now boast 57 members. Their Fall book sale netted over \$1,300. Co-presidents are Bobbi Feinblatt and Pat Smith; the Treasurer is Ron Plutnicki.

Their devotion to the Library has been evidenced in their support of many programs such as Richard Clark's portrayal of Mark Twain and various children's programs as well as the purchase of museum passes for the Library. They have donated time and money for many tasks throughout the year. Thank you Friends!

Special thanks to Marguerite Vierkant for her work twice each month in bringing books to Northbrook Village for those unable to make it to the Library.

Building Update

Using data from an in-depth analysis of the current Library site by David E. Ross Associates, we requested a determination from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the possibility of expanding the Library. We are grateful to Henry Pacific who donated the use of a meter and its installation for gathering water usage data. During the months of January and February an average of 40 people came into the Library each day it was open and water usage averaged 36 gallons daily. The DEP responded that they would grandfather the current use but no expansion would be permitted without meeting public water supply regulations.

The Town appropriated \$20,000 at the May 2005 Town Meeting for design and engineering studies related to the construction of a new Library or renovation/expansion of the current Library. We proceeded to do preliminary septic/well feasibility studies on two sites recommended by the Planning Board – the Municipal Building and South Commons. Both sites appear to have fewer constraints than the current Library site. Thanks to the generosity of David Ross, these town funds remain available to us.

Meanwhile, we addressed various maintenance issues with the plumbing, electrical and septic systems at the current building during this past year.

Long Range Planning

We began a six-month effort to develop a plan for a practical approach to increase the usefulness and attractiveness of the Library. Objectives include: increased interior space available for reading, expansion and increased use of Internet facilities, increased accessibility to the premises, and a redesigned book collection. Focus groups and a survey of townspeople's opinions are being used as essential information for this purpose. The strategic plan is due to be completed the summer of 2006. Steve Huntley is coordinating this effort.

Thanks to All

The Trustees are grateful to our Library Director, Suzanne McGuire; Circulation Assistants, Karen Kowal and Marilyn MacQuarrie as well as our Library page, Katie Angevine for their energetic and friendly efforts in running the Library. We respectfully accepted the resignation of Children's Assistant Pat Anderson after four years at the Library. Pat's good will and devotion to the Children's program was much appreciated. After a year working on special projects at the Library, Jane Cain has moved to a full-time position with the Shrewsbury Public Library. Thank you Jane for your time with us.

Special thanks to David Ross, Doug and Patricia Coldwell, Henry Pacific, Rick Plummer, Sharon Santello, the Berlin Lions Club, the Community Partnership for Children, the Berlin Recreation Committee, LINK, Inc., the Berlin Cultural Council, Indian Head Farm, and the Friends of the Library for their generosity.

The Trustees welcome new members Heather Simpson and Stephen Russell. We also warmly thank Susan Garity, Stephen Huntley, and Mary Dimouro for their service to the town as Library Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Dueck, Chair Stephen Russell, Treasurer Marsha Johnston, Secretary Beth Owen Heather Simpson

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging (COA) meets at 9:00 A.M. on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September through June, with the exception of December, at the Town Office Building. Meetings are open and anyone interested is invited to attend.

The purpose of the Council is to identify the total needs of the community's elderly population, to educate the community and enlist the support and

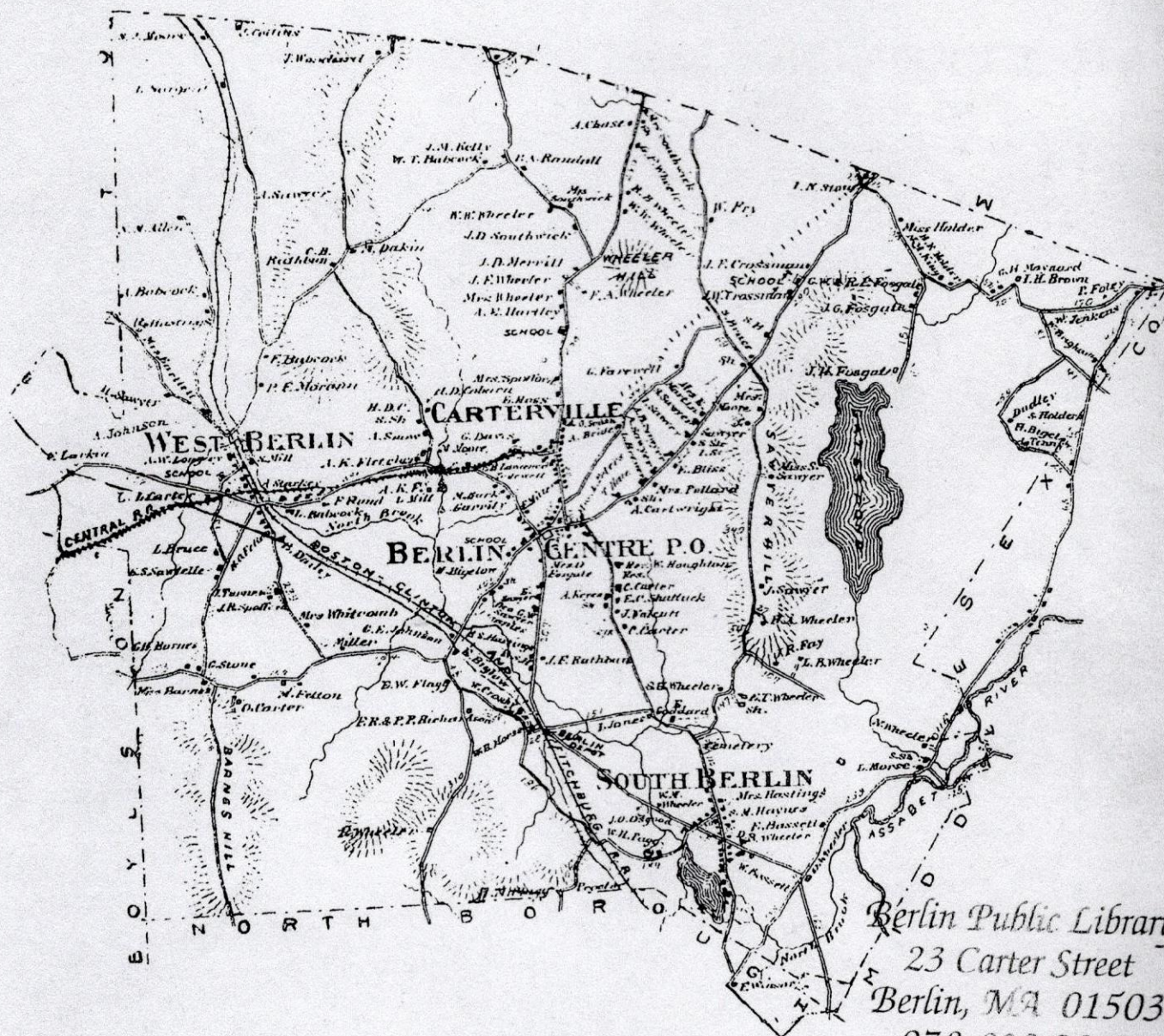
participation of all citizens in striving to implement services to fill these needs.

A bimonthly newsletter, Powderhouse Senior News, is written and edited by the Council. Copies are mailed to 419 senior households in Berlin.

Volunteers help with the processing of the newsletters, and others are invited to help. Advertising is welcome to help defray expenses.

Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street
Berlin, MA 01503
978-838-2812

Annual Report



Berlin in 1870
from the Atlas of Worcester County

Berlin, Mass.

Ninety-one people requested new library cards this past year, bringing the number of library patrons to 1,334. Circulation continues to grow – of the 19,214 items circulated, 2,181 came through the Inter-Library Loan system. We also provided 1,356 loans to other libraries. As required by the state to maintain library certification and therefore state grant money, 19% of expenses or just over \$17,000 was spent on acquiring new materials including books, databases for the computer, audio-books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs and cd-roms.

Long Range Planning

The Trustees, with the help of Steve Huntley and a professional library consultant, completed a Long Range Plan for the Library. The written plan will be submitted to the state this coming year in order for us to be eligible for future state grants.

Our goal was to make a 3-5 year plan which addressed how we would improve our library services. We looked at what other small town libraries do, talked to library patrons, and held four focus groups for Berlin residents.

We determined that the Library serves the town well with the resources that it has available. However, several areas were noted that need attention. We all recognize that our Library is small and therefore cannot provide all of the services that we would like. Although a new or expanded Library may be in our future, our immediate goal is to make the best use of the facilities we now have.

The Long Range Plan outlines how we will address the issues gathered in our planning process and there are several steps we have already taken:

1) Building issues

The front stairs of the Library are difficult or impossible for some residents to use. We met with the town ADA (American Disabilities Act) Committee and they concur that we should build a ramp to the front door. We looked at designs and costs for this work and will present plans at the upcoming May Town Meeting.

Steve Lundberg installed two new handrails on the *interior stairs* to the lower level. Tom Doerr installed an overhang and buzzer at the side door to make the lower level more accessible to those who wish to avoid the long steep stairs.

Much of the *poor air quality* downstairs had to do with the lack of a dehumidifier, damp carpeting and an accumulation of old materials in the storage room. Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of the Library, the old carpet was removed and the

storage room was cleaned from top to bottom, repainted and has a new dehumidifier.

New lighting was installed throughout the Library through an energy-saving program sponsored by National Grid. Thanks to Ron Plutnicki for his help in making this happen.

2) Computer services

The Library *web site* is now up and running and available at www.TownofBerlin.com/Library. We also expanded our computer capabilities with updated computers and wireless access.

3) Hours

To address the needs of those who work during the weekdays we extended the closing time to 6:30 pm and made the hours consistent on Monday – Thursday from 11:00 am – 6:30 pm. Saturday is still the same (10:00 am – 1:00 pm). The change does not increase the overall hours per week the Library is open (33 hours) as we reduced the time the Library is open on Wednesdays.

Financial Report for FY06

Town allocation for operations and wages	\$80,204
Dog tax money	1,866
State Aid	2,980
Grants (Community Partnership for Children, Berlin Cultural Council)	1,161
Recreation Dept.	200
Individual donations	3,389
Trust Fund interest	1,062
Revolving video fund	196
Anna Hunt Fund	50
TOTAL	\$91,108

Congratulations to High School Seniors Nicholas Boudreau and Emily Donoghue who were awarded 2006 college scholarships from the Library of \$300 each.

Programs

During the summer a **Nature in Berlin Program** (provided in collaboration with the Berlin Conservation Group).

Ongoing series for children were also held during the year such as weekly Story Times for ages 3-8 and monthly library visits from the First Parish Nursery School children.

Programs held especially for Teens were a Poetry Drawing Contest, Red Cross Babysitters Training, a Talent Show and a Home Movie Show.

Programs held for Adults included HathaYoga with Sharon Santello and a Preserves Making Class. The popular Wildflower Walks with Faith Linzee were also held both in the fall and spring.

Museum Passes were available to Tower Hill, Children's Discovery Museums, the Ecotarium, Davis' Farmland and Petting Zoo, Worcester Art Museum, Old Sturbridge Village, and the Roger Williams Park Zoo, thanks to the Friends of the Library.

Computers

Patrons use computers at the Library for accessing reference information, looking up and requesting books, retrieving and sending e-mail, accessing the Internet, and creating and printing documents. Our staff handles many Inter-Library loan requests and manages all the circulation of materials through computers as well.

To maximize their usability, the computers are continually upgraded. We have also added a wireless network to serve patrons who wish to use their own laptops at the Library. Mark Burton generously donated his time to help us achieve our computer goals for the year.

Friends of the Library

The *Friends of the Library* are led by co-chairs Bobbi Feinblatt and Pat Smith. They currently have 59 members. The main fundraiser was a Fall Book and Bake Sale, which brought in \$1,642. The Friends also raised funds through the Borders Benefit Program and the Welcome to Macy's Benefit. They are also selling donated non-fiction books on the Internet through Empire Books.

During 2006 they generously contributed time and money to many projects at the Library. They cleaned out and painted the storage room downstairs in effect reclaiming that space for Library use. The new seating and bookshelf unit in

the Children's Room was purchased in memory of Casey Guilfoyle with contributions from her family and the Friends of the Library.

The Friends also sponsored the Wildflower Walks with Faith Linzee in the spring and fall and a Wildflower Slide Show by Faith Linzee and Joanne Wheeler. We are grateful to the many other ways the Friends have added so much to the Library and its programs – such as planting flowers, making new curtains, and helping with the newsletter.

Our ongoing gratitude goes as well to Marguerite Vierkant for her work in bringing books to Northbrook Village for those unable to make it to the Library. Thank you Friends!

Thanks to All

This year we welcomed new hire Tina Craig as, Children's Services assistant and newly elected Trustee Linda Plummer. The Trustees are grateful to our Library Director, Suzanne McGuire; Circulation Assistants, Karen Kowal and Marilyn MacQuarrie; Library page, Katie Angevine and Custodian Mike Culton for their friendly and efficient work at the Library.

We are deeply appreciative of the many, many people who have contributed to the Library this past year. People gave of their expertise in presenting programs, donating computer equipment, making curtains, volunteering their time, contributing services, flowers, baking cookies, ... all have made the Library a better place. Thank you for making the Library an active part of our community!

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Dueck, Ch. Stephen Russell, Treas.

Marsha Johnston, Sec. Linda Plummer Heather Simpson

TOWN HALL RESTORATION 2004 - 2007

An occupancy permit has been issued for the Town Hall, thanks to three years of hard work and generous contributions of many Berlin citizens. Events such as contra dances, private parties and meetings have taken place and more are scheduled. We hope that the Board of Trade and other Berlin organizations will, once again, want to use the Hall.

Virtually all of the structural problems have been resolved. The cellar and crawl spaces have been excavated and cleaned; the foundation leaks sealed; and hundreds of feet of the uninsulated, leaky steam pipes have been replaced and insulated, thereby solving serious mold, mildew and decay, and energy waste problems. Roughly twenty percent of the sills, floor joists, floors and

some wall studs were decayed and infested with termites. All have been replaced with lumber donated by Berlin's own Coldwell's lumber company. Hudson Pest Control was contracted to eliminate the termite infestation.

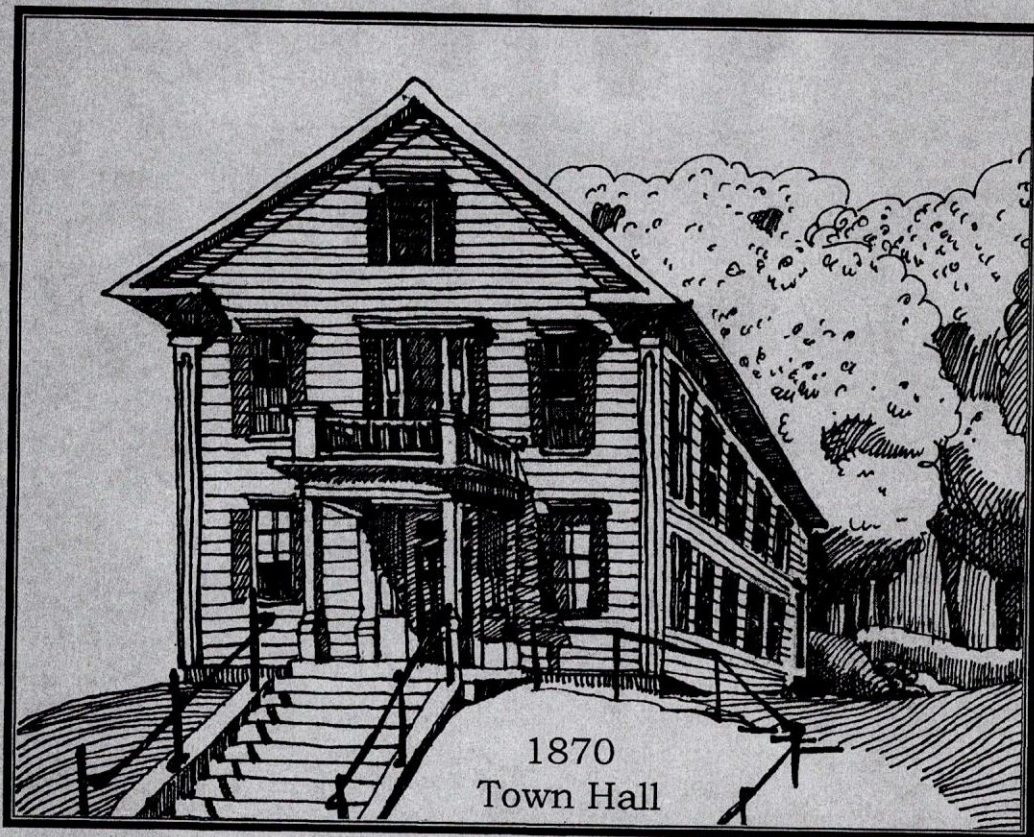
Roof leaks have been repaired. The attic which had virtually no insulation and was a pigeon roost for decades has been cleaned and insulated to an 'R' value of 30+. A 16'x20' floor has been constructed for storage.

Barnes Hall has been completely restored and painted. The new floor of heart pine, donated by Carlisle Restoration Lumber of Stoddard, N.H., closely matches the original floor of 1870. A new handicap restroom has been installed and the

LIBRARY Display

*Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street
Berlin, MA 01501
978-838-2812*

2007



Berlin

Annual Reports

*Berlin Public Library
23 Carter Street*

BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Year of the Ramp The highlight of our year has been the completion of a ramp to the main entrance of the library, making the main floor accessible to those unable to climb the seven front stairs. We are grateful to Tom Doerr of Doerr Construction for building the beautiful ramp with the help of Baum and Sons Welding, Monteiro Electric and Roberts Dinion Architects. The cost of the ramp and expenses for altering the main vestibule came in just under the projected budget of \$30,000.

Our next step in making the library accessible to all is to reorganize the space in the main part of the library and install new commercial grade carpet. We hope to open up some space for comfortable seating and provide easier access to the computers.

In the meantime, Tom Andrew has been working on our behalf to determine whether or not we can renovate and expand the library. We are seeking special consideration from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the requirements for a public water supply. If successful, we can make plans for an expansion that will allow us to create handicapped accessible restrooms and make the lower level accessible as well.

Library patrons increase The number of registered library patrons that are Berlin residents continues to grow and is now at 1,402. We have holdings of 19,683. Last year, we circulated 18,068 items - 2,231 came through the Inter-Library Loan system. We also provided 1,767 loans to other libraries.

As required by the state to maintain library certification and therefore state grant money, 19% of expenses or just under \$18,000 was spent on acquiring new materials including books, databases for the computer, audio-books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs and cd-roms.

Financial Report for FY07

Town appropriation

for operations and wages	\$86,145	
Subtotal from Town		86,145

Other income expended

State Aid	\$3,000	
Grants (Community Partnership for Children, Berlin Cultural Council) 1,324		
Individual donations	4,053	
Trust Fund interest	850	
Revolving video fund	115	
Subtotal other income expended	9,342	

TOTAL Budget for FY07		\$95,487
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Programs During the summer a Nature in Berlin Program (provided in collaboration with the Berlin Conservation Commission) provided day trips to two working farms in Berlin. The Summer Reading Program drew 75 participants followed by an Ice Cream Social sponsored by Lowe's General Store.

Throughout the year, the Library sponsored the following special events for families: Chess Club with Harold Dubnow, a Parent/Child Book Club, a Native American Program at the Berlin Memorial School, Build a Bluebird House sponsored by the Recreation Committee, Down with Ducks with Karen Scheffer and Science Quest with Nicole Wagner. A production of Peter Pan by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Group was held at Parish Hall. A Holiday Cookie Swap was held at the 1870 Town Hall as well as Mr. DJ's Dance Party.

Ongoing series for children were also held during the year such as Story Times for ages 3-8 and monthly library visits from the First Parish Nursery School children. A program held especially for teens was a Crime Scene Mysteries series.

Programs held for Adults included HathaYoga with Sharon Santello weekly at the Town Offices, weekly Knitting Classes at the 1870 Town Hall with Ruea Baum, Chinese Cooking with Norma Chang, a monthly book club and A Smart Way to Invest for College sponsored by the Clinton Savings Bank. The popular Wildflower Walks with Faith Linzee sponsored by the Friends of the Library were also held both during the fall and spring.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, museum passes were available to Tower Hill, Children's Discovery Museums, Ecotarium, Davis' Farmland and the Worcester Art Museum.

Art Exhibit This year we actively solicited local artists to display their work at the library. We thoroughly enjoyed viewing selections of local photographer Martin Miller's Berlin collection, as well as paintings of local artist Judy Duff.

Computers Computers have become an integral part of the library. This year, thank to our inclusion in the Town's overall computer plan, and the work of Richard Sardell and Dan DePlanche, we have updated and well-maintained computer systems - hardware and software - for both patron and staff use.

Friends of the Library Co-chairs Bobbi Feinblatt and Pat Smith head the Friends of the Library. They currently have 60 members. The main fundraiser was a Fall Book and Bake Sale, which brought in \$1,291. The Friends also raised funds through on-going book sales at the library and

book sales through Empire Books, an internet sales agent.

During 2007, they generously contributed time and money to many projects at the library such as the popular Museum Pass Program. They contributed to summer reading programs, craft programs, and materials for other activities at the library. The Friends donated the new library "open" flag as well as the publicity signs for both the library and the 1870 Town Hall.

The Friends also sponsored Wildflower Walks with Faith Linzee in spring and fall, planted flowers and helped with the library newsletter. The first annual meeting of the Friends was held in December 2007.

Our ongoing gratitude goes as well to Marguerite Vierkant for her work in bringing books to Northbrook Village for those unable to make it to the library. Thank you Friends!

Thanks to All This year we welcomed newly-elected Trustee Robert McTague and two new pages, Amelia Angevine and Mary Diggins. The Trustees are grateful to our Library Director, Suzanne McGuire; Circulation Assistants, Karen Kowal and Marilyn MacQuarrie, Children's Services Assistant Tina Craig, and Custodian Mike Culton for their cheerful work at the Library. Our thanks to Katie Angevine who worked as a page for 4 years and wish her well as she begins her college career.

We are extremely grateful for the many, many people who have contributed to the Library this past year. People gave of their expertise in presenting programs, donating books for the book sale, volunteering their time, contributing services, flowers, baking cookies, ... all have made the Library a better place. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Dueck, Chair Stephen Russell, Treasurer
Marsha Johnston, Secretary Robert McTague
Linda Plummer Heather Simpson

CABLE ACCESS COMMITTEE

This past year has been a busy year of continuing changes:

We would like to thank our producers for a year of quality productions. Our producers are: Pat Anderson, Susan Dinion, Joe Gugliemino, Stephen Russell, and Mark Sweeney. Thank you.

We completed the upgrades to the new Cable Access studio automation system that replaces a 15-year-old system. The new system offers us greater control over the bulletin board and scheduling. We are just beginning to utilize the power of the new system and expect it to enable us to increase the quality of our broadcasts.

Our two channels serve the community, with the Bulletin Board on Channel 15 and all other live and taped programming broadcast on Channel 12. Channel 13 originates from Tahanto with the school's news and events. We are working with Charter Communications on an on-going basis to improve the signal quality of the Access Channels.

The Committee thanks Susan Dinion for her creative slide designs and helping to maintain the Channel 15 Bulletin Board. The Bulletin board requests continue to grow. Any items dealing with community events or public services can be put on the Bulletin Board by emailing to: CableBulletin@TownofBerlin.com.

The live broadcasting and recording of Town Committee meetings and other events has continued over this last year. Our list of broadcasts includes the annual Town Meeting, meetings of the BMS School Committee, Planning Board hearings and forums, Recreation Committee meetings, Historical Society presentations, and other Town events.

Any people who are interested in videoing Town and school events, producing and editing programs write to: Cable Class, Box 5, 23 Linden St, Berlin, MA 01503 or email to: CableAccess@TownofBerlin.com. We want to remind all Berlin residents that our cable channels are a great way to strengthen a sense of community and that everyone should feel free to contribute ideas, or video footage for broadcast.

The Cable Access Committee reports receipts for FY07 were \$631.23 and expenditures were \$1,451.04.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Peterson, Chairman Bill Anderson
Jonathan Sardell