
RICHMOND READINGS

The Newsletter of The Richmond Memorial Library • Marlborough, Connecticut 06447
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Winter 2006

Richmond Library Named to HAPLR List

Just in case you haven't heard, we have to take one more opportunity to toot our horn. Marlborough's very own Richmond Memorial Library was selected this fall as one of the top 100 libraries in the United States according to Thomas Hennen's HAPLR (Hennen American Public Library Rankings) index. To mark this milestone, the Connecticut General Assembly issued a citation honoring the library. State Representative Pamela Sawyer recently visited Richmond and presented the citation to Library Director Nancy Wood. On November 14, the library held an "open house" with refreshments to mark the event.

For more information about the 2005 HAPLR Rankings, please visit the Richmond Memorial Library website at www.richmondmemoriallib.org.



State Representative Paula Sawyer presented a General Assembly Citation honoring Richmond Memorial Library to Nancy Wood.

Richmond Memorial Library was selected this fall as one of the top 100 public libraries in the United States

Richmond Memorial Library is the first library in the State to be named to the list in the 5,000 to 9,999 population group where they were ranked seventh among the 1,460 libraries in this category. "We are very happy and proud to be named to this list," said Wood. "It is a real honor and a tribute to our staff, board and customers who work

every day to make Richmond the kind of success it is."

Consultant and librarian Hennen has been compiling his list since 1999. Although he says his list is not "perfect" as there is no way to calculate building size nor does he include media use, just print materials at this time, he still stands by his formula for ranking America's libraries. Each year Hennen takes federal data submitted by libraries and ranks all reporting libraries, this year more than 9,000 across the U.S. He evaluates them using fifteen factors, six input factors including expenditures per capita, percentage of budget spent on materials and volumes per capita and nine output factors such as circulation per visit, library visits per hour, per capita circulation and reference per capita.

In Connecticut, just two other libraries made the 100 this year, both from the 10,000-24,999 population category – Darien Public and Henry Carter Hull Library of Clinton.

Library Receives Grant for Marlborough History Webpage

The Richmond Memorial Library has been awarded a Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. The \$3500 award will be used to help digitize and electronically document the historic structures of Marlborough and display them through our website. "This grant will really help us develop the Marlborough history section of our website", said Library Director Nancy Wood. "We think it is really important to have images of Marlborough's past accessible to all and we feel the way to reach the widest audience is to disseminate the images through the internet." Included will be both structures no longer standing and those historic buildings that still exist.

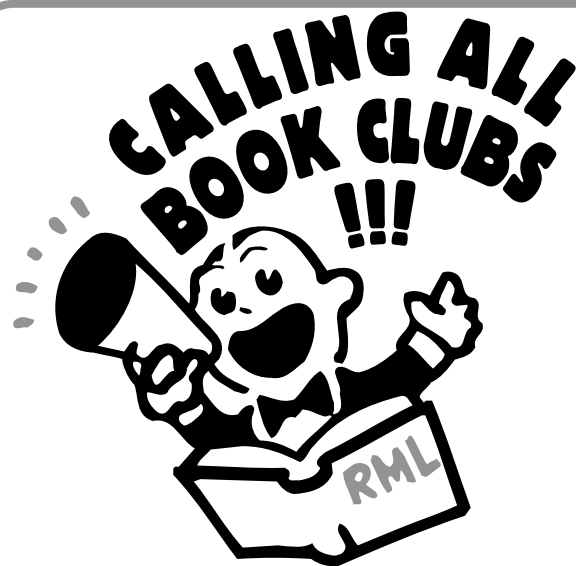
In the summer of 2005, the library began a project with funds given in memory of former Marlborough resident Jim Considine to create a Marlborough history page. They hired an archivist to help them cull through the historic materials that the library owns. The beginnings of this work can be viewed at the Marlborough History section of the Library's website. Included are brief articles, cemetery information and biographies of local interest. To view this material, go to the library's website www.richmondmemoriallib.org and click on Marlborough history.



Collection Development and Materials Selection

People often ask just how do materials get selected and put in the library's collection? Professional librarians, those on the staff who hold a Master's degree in library science or information technology, determine what materials will be added to the library collection, following the criteria established by the library's collection development policy. They do this by reading professional review journals that are appropriate for our size library. They also follow the media and what is reviewed there, read local and national publications and always are searching for materials that would be of interest to our community. We've found items to add everywhere, from museum gift shops to airport stores to the Today Show to *Business Week* to *People Magazine* to the *London Times*. The library is divided into three sections and each librarian is responsible for collection development in that section: children's and young adult; adult print and recorded books; media including film and music. The library's materials collection policy provides the guidelines for selection of library materials in accordance with our mission. The library uses the following standards for selection:

- * Materials are selected to create a well-balanced collection. The Richmond Memorial Library does not advocate any particular beliefs or views.
- * Selections are made with the goal of choosing the best and most useful materials in their fields as needed by the community.
- * Criteria for selection include literary or artistic merit, authenticity, enjoyment and current or historical interest.
- * The limits of funds and space considerations to house the item are valid criteria for selection.
- * Selection are made based on standard review sources and selection guides such as, but not limited to: *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, *New York Times Book Review*, *School Library Journal* and *Video Librarian*.
- * Customer requests and recommendations for materials are considered but not an absolute criterion. When Richmond Memorial Library cannot fill a customer's request through permanent acquisition, resource sharing with other libraries will be used.



On February 2 at 7 PM the Richmond Memorial Library invites all area book clubs and their members to our library for an informal evening of sharing books and ideas. We know there are many area book clubs and this is your chance to share what kind of books you like to read, where you meet, tell how you would "define" your group and if you are seeking new readers. Please bring booklists of books you have read in the past. We will copy them that night and distribute them to those attending. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call Nancy Wood at the library, 295-6210.

Vietnam Series with Cragin Library This Spring

Due to the success of our recent World War I programs co-sponsored with Cragin Memorial Library, we are planning a series for April. This time the topic is Vietnam and William Frasure, Professor of Government at Connecticut College will be our discussion facilitator. This book and film discussion series will begin on Tuesday, April 4. The first session will be Vietnam, 1945-1959 and the book will be *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene, or if you prefer, the film starring Michael Caine. Subsequent session topics will include: The American War, 1962-1975, and Postwar Vietnam, 1976- present. All programs will take place at 7 PM in the downstairs meeting room at Cragin Memorial Library.



Calendar 2006

- January 11 – Friends Meeting, 7 PM
January 16 – *Library Closed, Martin Luther King Day*
January 17 – Story Time, Session I begins
January 21 – Free Practice SAT test for area high school juniors, registration required, 9 AM in the Community Room at the Marlborough Elementary School
January 23 – Library Expansion Meeting, 6:45 PM
January 23 – Library Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
January 31 – RML Book Club, 7 pm
February 2 – Open House for Area Book Clubs, 7 PM
February 8 – **SAT Workshop**, 7 to 8:30 PM, for those who took the practice test on January 21, at the Marlborough Senior Center, with parent or guardian please, sponsored by the Princeton Review
February 17 – Registration begins for remaining spaces in Story Time Session II, Marlborough residents only
February 20 – *Library closed, Presidents' Day*
February 22 – Registration begins for remaining spaces in Story Time Session II, nonresidents
February 22 – **Get Dressed with Froggy**, special story time for ages 3 – 6, 10:30 AM
February 27 – Story Time Session II begins
February 28 – RML Book Club, 7 PM
March 20 – Expansion Committee Meeting, 6:45 PM
March 20 – Library Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
March 29 – RML Book Club, 7 PM
April 4 – **Vietnam**, a book & film scholar-led discussion series at Cragin Library, Colchester, 7 PM
April 11 – **Vietnam**, a book & film scholar-led discussion series at Cragin Library, Colchester, 7 PM
April 14 – Library closed, Good Friday
April 18 – **Vietnam**, a book & film scholar-led discussion series at Cragin Library, Colchester, 7 PM
April 25 – RML Book Club, 7 PM
April 25 – **Vietnam**, a book & film scholar-led discussion series at Cragin Library, Colchester, 7 PM
May 6 – RML Friends Annual Mother's Day Used Book Sale
May 15 – RML Annual Meeting, 7 PM, Library Board Meeting, 7:30 PM
May 29 – *Library Closed, Memorial Day*
May 30 – RML Book Club, 7 PM



Expansion Update

At the December meeting of the Richmond Memorial Library Expansion Committee, the Committee voted to endorse the Best/Joslin study for the library and the recommendation that the library expand on its present site rather than starting from scratch at a new site. This endorsement will go the Library Board for their approval at their January meeting.

Library Director Nancy Wood presented the expansion program to a community forum in November. Wood's Powerpoint presentation can be viewed at the library's website. It shows how the library could be tripled in size on the current site and accommodate the program elements necessary to carry the library for at least twenty years. Included would be a multi-function library with dividable meeting room, multiple spaces for quiet study, comfortable seating areas and shelving for an ever-growing collection.



Remember that we are a wireless hotspot! Just bring your laptop or other wireless device to the library and hop on the network. It's free!



Credit Where Credit is Due

25 Days of Holiday Cheer Silent Auction Donors:

Aquatic Wildlife Co. – Manchester
Baribault Jewelers – Glastonbury
Build-a-Bear Workshop – Manchester
Carsan Realty – Marlborough
Chuck's Steak House – Rocky Hill
Pat Cosgrove
Country Roads Package Store – Marlborough
Custom Creations, Sandy Lord – Marlborough
Kim Danek
Elegant Body Spa – Marlborough
Everything for the Kitchen – East Hartford
Foxwoods Resort & Casino – Ledyard
J. Gilbert's – Glastonbury
The Gilded Edge – Salem
Greg & Dawn Gosselin
Nancy Grant
Hebron Quick-Lube – Hebron
Highland Park Market – Glastonbury
Irene Klein
LahDeDAH – Marlborough
Marlborough Country Bakery & Deli – Marlborough
Mohegan Sun – Uncasville
The Oasis for Massage Therapy, LLC
– Marlborough
Salon & Spa Dell'Aera – Glastonbury
Saybrook Fish House – Rocky Hill
Super Stop & Shop – Glastonbury
Tae San Taekwondo & Yoga – Hebron
Two Brothers Wine & Spirit Shop
– Colchester
James Montstream – Shelving given in
memory of Edwin and Betty Montstream
Brian and Angela Gaidry – Donation for
children's book given in honor of their
daughter, Olivia
The Danek Family – Donation for
children's books given in honor of their
daughter, Natalie
The Hartley Family – Donation of Bob
Newhart Show DVD set given in memory
of Emily and Robert Harley
Nancy Landerman – Donation for adult
fiction
The Friends Committee of the Richmond Memorial
Library – Fund raising efforts throughout the year
Many customers and friends who brought us holiday treats

Thanks to a generous donation from resident James Montstream, the Richmond Memorial Library has ordered more shelving for the adult side of the library. This new 15' range with about 70 shelves will house more than 1800 books and will provide some much needed space for our collections. The range will run parallel to the back wall of the library on the adult side. This will give the young adult collection, large print, mystery and science fiction collections more space. It will also have an impact on the children's area as one of the old young adult low ranges will be moved to that side of the library.

"We are trying to fit in this shelving without removing any more seating, but we are not sure we will be able to do this. As much as we hate to see seats taken from the library, our first priority is the housing of the collection and its proper organization", said Assistant Director Ann Grybko. "We are so pleased to have the funding to purchase this shelving. We had planned on putting it in a Capital Improvement request and now that won't be necessary." This gift was given in memory of Mr. Montstream's parents, avid library users Edwin and Betty Montstream.



This shelving is similar to the fifteen-foot range that has been ordered to help relieve the space crunch at the library.

