



Volume 6  
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# THE BOOKMARK

*Oradell Public Library*

*Winter, 2013 Newsletter*



As you can see from the banner at the bottom of the page, this is a banner year for the Oradell Free Public Library!

In 2012, a 100th Anniversary Committee was formed, made up of interested and dedicated patrons of the library, to work out plans for having a truly celebratory year. But, before getting into the nuts and bolts of what has been planned, it might be instructive to go back 100 years and just briefly look at how our library, the Heart of Our Community, was formed.

It all began on February 7, 1913, when eight concerned Delford citizens met in the house of Miss Sarah Tyndall, then principal of the Fairmount School in Hackensack. The famous wild life illustrator, Charles Livingston Bull, was there along with six others. They formed the Delford Public Library Association, which has grown into our library of today.

The first budget was a whopping \$98.00, and with that money they rented a room at the back of the early Post Office. The room was unfurnished, so everyone began donating furniture, and raised an additional \$100.00 for the purchase of books.

The library officially opened on April 19, 1913 with 124 Charter Members. By May of 1913, there were 214 card holders.

You can learn more about our library in the Local History Room, or by reading the new Commemorative Booklet that will be published later this spring. But now, let's look at some of the events that have been planned for your enjoyment.

This Newsletter could not be printed in time to announce the "Kick-Off" presentation that was made by Pat Schuber. Pat's talk focused on events taking place in 1913 around the world in the areas of politics, art, sports, international affairs, technology and more. It was an outstanding presentation given to a record number of library patrons, and really set the stage for the celebratory year that lies ahead.

Saturday, January 19, the Karen Atkinson Jazz Trio returned to the Oradell Public Library to present a collection of music in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

On Monday, February 11, at 7 pm, Frank Vierling, Oradell Historian for several decades, will present a PowerPoint show on the history of Oradell as seen through his collection of Oradell postcards. The title of the show is: "Oradell Post Cards, a Borough's History".

In March, Susanna Rich, a frequent speaker at the Oradell Library will provide an evening's entertainment discussing Virginia Woolf.

The Fort Lee Historical Society has a collection of films that were made in or around 1913, and these will be the center of a discussion about the state of the movie industry in 1913.

The Newark Museum has an outstanding program about the importance of the 1913 art show at the New York Armory, and the effect it had on art in America. It drew a lot of interest and controversy, but it changed art appreciation forever.

In addition to these outstanding presentations, you can read interesting facts about Oradell and the World in 1913 through a series of fliers that are on the main circulation desk of the library. Two of our committee's volunteers are putting these together, and you'll find them interesting.

On Sunday, April 28, we will have the big commemorative Gala Celebration at the library. There will be music for both adults and children, activities, some speeches, and birthday cake and refreshments for all. This event will run from 1:30 until 4:30, and the entire town is invited.

Finally, the Oradell Library will be the theme of the Fourth of July parade, with members of the library staff and trustees acting as grand marshals. The 100th Anniversary Committee is working with students and teachers of the Riverdell Middle School to put together a float for the parade, and anyone associated with the library in any way is invited to join the marchers in the parade.

And thus will draw to a close a very exciting chapter in our library's history. If you are not already part of this effort, and would like to be included, please join the committee at its regular meeting on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. ■

Mary Margaret Carter  
100th Anniversary Committee Chairperson



## Local History Room

One of the outstanding achievements of the Local History Room in 2012 was the addition of a large amount of historical artifacts, books, and other materials all relating to our hometown astronaut, Commander Walter "Wally" M. Schirra. The inspiration for this effort was the 50th anniversary of Commander Schirra's Mercury space flight on October 3, 1962.

Some people might not be aware that Wally Schirra was unique among astronauts. He was the only man to fly in all three original NASA programs; Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. He was one of the original seven astronauts celebrated in the Tom Wolfe book and movie, *The Right Stuff*.

In 2012, the Oradell Library Foundation used part of a very generous grant from the Kenneth and Hazel Roe Foundation to fund these purchases.

The Roe grant was given to the library specifically for the acquisition of historic Oradell material. James Lessersohn, the library foundation's Treasurer led the search effort. Jim focused on items being offered on Ebay, as well as several rare book websites. Over the course of the year, he was able to bring home a large amount of material, making sure that each space mission undertaken by Commander Schirra was represented. It was such an impressive collection that during November of last year, both display cases featured the new acquisitions as well as material already in the library's local history collection.

Before this effort was undertaken, the History Room had a wealth of photos covering all of Wally's visits, especially his triumphant Welcome Home parade in 1962, and his 1993 visit to dedicate the Wendel Gazebo in Schirra Park. However, there was not a lot of other material in the collection except for one or two books, so the new material was a major addition..

All the material collected by Jim now resides in your Local History Room, where it will be properly cataloged and preserved for future generations.

And speaking of cataloging, did you know that late last year we cataloged and scanned our 11,000th photo? That's right. 11,000 photographs right here in Oradell.

[Which leads me to remind you that you can come and look at them on the first Friday of each month from 1-5 pm. ■](#)

George Carter, Borough Archivist/Historian

## Director's Corner

As the Director of the Oradell Public Library during its centennial year (1913 – 2013) I am most proud of the work that the 100th Anniversary Committee, especially its Chair Mary Margaret Carter, and other citizens are doing to bring to the Library a year's worth of outstanding programs and events, not to mention books and other materials, all related to Oradell, public libraries, and the year 1913, for the benefit of the community.

Just as last year the Library spearheaded for the Borough the celebration and commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Oradell's native son Walter Schirra's space orbit on October 3, 1963 with collections, displays, a lecture, and a film, so too this year the Library is taking a lead in celebrating the 90th anniversary of another native treasure, the artist Ellsworth Kelly, in conjunction with the Library's own 100th anniversary. We hope that Mr. Kelly will be joining us too for the 100th anniversary party to be held at the Library on Sunday, April 28, 2013 at 1:30 p. m. You are also all invited, so mark your calendars now, and join us for this grand event.

Our kickoff for our 100th Anniversary took place Monday evening, January 14, 2013, when a record crowd of 90 plus people came out to hear the lecture and slideshow presentation by renowned professor, historian, and statesman William "Pat" Schuber on the theme of "Life and Events in 1913." Sponsored by the Friends of the Library this return to the Library by Professor Schuber was a grand success in bringing together all the complicated and intriguing strands of history and culture in the United States with world events, during which watershed period the Oradell Public Library was founded. Professor Schuber is always an engaging lecturer and public figure, but this appearance was spectacular, most fitting for our celebration. Aside from the party in April 2013 we also look forward to seeing you for the other programs scheduled this winter and spring:

Karen Atkinson and Rev. Archie Palmer (Martin Luther King Jr. program). Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 3 p. m. South Reading Room.

Former Borough Historian Frank Vierling (History of Oradell in Post Cards). Monday, February 11, 2013 at 7 p. m. South Reading Room.

The Elizabethans from Williams College (A cappella musical program – a return command performance). March 2013. 2 p. m. North Reading Room.

Library Director John J. Trause ("William Carlos Williams and Baroness" lecture with ties to 1913 for National Poetry Month and poetry reading from my new book). Monday, April 8, 2013 at 7 p. m. South Reading Room.

A program on gardening and a garden tour, a program on generators, a playwright's workshop, and much more!

We hope to see you at the Library for all the other materials, programs, displays, and services we offer you for FREE!

And remember: the Library and the Friends are very grateful for your financial support, especially in times when library funding is uncertain. ■

John J. Trause, Library Director

## Youth Department Librarian

Why visit the Junior Room here at the Oradell Public Library? I could go on and on, but then I would exceed my word limit! Here are a few:

**Books.** We are constantly buying new books all the time.

Picture books, easy readers, books especially for reluctant readers, books for boys, books for girls, books for teens, magazines, comic books, graphic novels, books to help with school projects. We listen to requests and do our best to order books that YOU want! And if we don't have it, we can easily order it from another library.

**Movies and Games.** Like our reading materials, we are constantly adding popular titles. We recently removed the \$1 fee on new movies and we extended the rental period on video games from 3 days to 7 days. Our new add: 3DS games.

**Our computers.** We have 6 computers with internet and Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint. Perfect for doing work, research, or just surfing the web. We also have two computers in the children's room which are equipped with developmental games for toddlers through early elementary school.

**Story time and events.** We have 4 story times a week.

Please check the schedule for the one that is appropriate for your child. We have at least two big events a

month so come up to check our list of events. We are constantly adding more programs and looking to do programs for all ages and interests.

**Our space.** We have a beautiful floor that is separate from the rest of the library. It is OK to be a little louder upstairs.

We have a Teen Room for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and up to have their own space. We often have coloring sheets, crayons, and board games on the tables (don't see anything? Just ask!). Come hang out!

**Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB).** TAB is made up of kids in 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade that volunteer time to plan programs, usually for the younger children, sometimes for themselves and other teens, as well as contribute ideas to the betterment of our library. Their programs are so much fun!

**Our staff.** Looking for a book or resources for a school project? Our staff can help. Don't be afraid to approach us with questions. That is what we are here for and we LOVE it!

**YOU!** Patron suggestions, donations, and involvement are always appreciated. Thank you for welcoming me into the community. I am thrilled to be here. ■

Robin Rockman, Youth Department Librarian



## Information Services Librarian

As you know, Oradell Public Library is celebrating its 100th Anniversary (1913-2013) this year.

In observance of this event, the Oradell Public Library's Evening Book Club chose to read and discuss a book that was published in the year of 1913 for its January 2013 meeting. The members selected Edith Wharton's *The Custom of the Country*, which tells the story of Undine Spragg, a ruthless and beautiful Midwestern woman who attempts an ascent into New York Society. This richly detailed novel examines such subjects as marriage, divorce and a woman's role in society.

Other books that were published and popular that year were Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!*, Eleanor H. Porter's *Pollyanna*, D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* and Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Poison Belt*. You can find a number of copies of these books stacked within the shelves of the BCCLS libraries. It is pretty amazing what you can find when you search the stacks or the BCCLS online catalog - <http://www.bccls.org>.

In addition, you can read and or download for free many of the books published in 1913 at such websites as the Internet Archive - <http://archive.org> or Project Gutenberg - <http://www.gutenberg.org>. Currently, all works published in the United States before 1923 are in the public domain. See <http://www.teachingcopyright.org/handout/public-domain-faq> for more information.

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As always, if you have a reference question or need additional assistance in finding or using library resources, please feel free to call (ext. 110), email, ([linda.pabian@bccls.org](mailto:linda.pabian@bccls.org)) or just drop by the Information Services Desk located on the main floor next to the computer/magazine area. ■

Linda Pabian, Information Services Librarian

## Support Your Library

Oradell History Books:

- 75th Anniversary ..... \$5.00
- 100th Anniversary ..... \$15.00

Our Library Book Bag ..... \$10.00

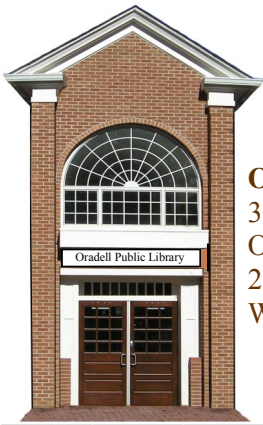
Cinnamon Scented Owls..... \$3.00

100th Anniversary Items

- Aprons ..... \$15.00
- Youth T-Shirts ..... \$10.00
- Adult T-Shirts ..... \$15.00

*Sale items are available at the front desk.*





**Oradell Public Library**  
 375 Kinderkamack Road  
 Oradell, NJ 07649  
 201-262-2613  
 Website: oradell.bccls.org

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 Carol Blakeslee, School Liaison

**Friends Officers:**  
 Elaine Franek-Materon, President  
 Tony Aurigemma, Vice President  
 George Carter, Secretary/Treasurer

**Library Hours:**

Monday – Wednesday	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday – Saturday	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

## The Friends of the Library

As you read on the first page, this is a very important year in the life of the Oradell Free Public Library. And we, the Friends of the Library, have pledged to do our part in making it a very special celebration.

Of course, anything we do can only be done with your support! Our spring pledge drive will be starting in just a few weeks, and we sincerely hope you will find it possible to help us help the library celebrate this special year.

I should point out that in addition to being a “Program Sponsor”, which many of you were last year, we are looking for individuals or families who will become “Museum Sponsors”.

You may recall that the pass for the Museum of Natural History became prohibitively expensive, but a special committee of volunteers has identified a group of museums that not only should be of interest, but for which the passes are reasonable. Perhaps you would find it possible to become a Museum Sponsor. ■

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Keeping with our aim of introducing you to the most active

members of the Friends of the Library, I would like you to meet George Materon. You rarely see George, because he spends most of his time on the lower level, the basement, sorting the huge number of books our patrons donate to the Friends.

George not only keeps the shelves of our Book Sale area stocked with new and interesting volumes, he also boxes up all the left-overs for sale to a bulk book buyer. Through your donations and George’s constant efforts, the Book Sale has become an important fund raiser for the Friends of the Oradell Library.

When you see George, give him a friendly “Hello”, and he’ll probably give you an old Spanish saying in return. ■

George Carter  
 Secretary/Treasurer



**Library Meetings are held in the Lower Level Meeting Room:**  
**Board of Trustee Meetings, Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Friends of the Library Meetings, First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.**