



Volume 4  
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# THE BOOKMARK

*Oradell Public Library*

*Spring 2011 Newsletter*



## Local History Room

A remarkable circumstance occurred in your Local History Room within the past 15 months that may be of interest to you. It proves the point that “no matter how old something is, someone may come along who knows something about it.”

A number of years ago the Blauvelt Art Museum was approached to purchase four old photo albums. Some of the pictures were easily identified as Oradell people or scenes. Since the museum was not interested, their Director, Mr. James Bellis, notified Borough Historian, Mr. Frank Vierling, who was interested. Mr. Bellis generously purchased the albums and donated them to Oradell’s historical collection.

The albums were falling apart, and many of the pictures were badly faded. However, as they represented the collection of an Oradell resident from around the turn of the 20th Century they were a welcome addition to our history collection.

And there they sat. No one was left alive in Oradell who could identify the majority of the unlabeled pictures.

The albums had been the property of the Bennett family who lived on Oradell Avenue. Miss Libbie Bennett, in her adult life, was a piano teacher.

Then, in November, 2009, Mr. Stuart Tears from Ft. Worth, Texas wrote to our Mayor and Council, introducing himself and offering some information about his family, a family that had also lived in Oradell around the turn of the 20th Century. His letter was turned over to the Borough Archivist, who began a correspondence with Mr. Tears.

Mr. Tears began to donate photographs of his family to our History Collection, along with a great deal of written history.

Stuart doesn’t write short letters. Fortunately he takes the occasion of letter writing to pass along a wealth of history about his family and their friends.

Ultimately we learned that the Tears family had lived at 670 Oradell Avenue, while the Bennett’s lived next door at 660. Lo

and behold, Stuart’s mother, Gwendolyn Jones, daughter of Dr. Jones, was Libbie’s best friend and next door neighbor.

When Stuart learned that we had four albums of photographs, many taken by Libbie’s father, he expressed an interest in seeing them, in the hopes of finding his mother in some of the pictures.

He also offered to identify as many of the people in them as possible. Fantastic! Hopes were raised that a collection, once appearing to have very little value, might in fact become very worthwhile.

Normally, the

originals of any collection would never leave the Local History Room. However, it proved nearly impossible to generate good quality reproductions, especially of the badly faded photographs. So, in this case, the only feasible thing to do was to send the originals and hope for the best.

Mr. Stuart called after about three months to say he was finished looking at the photographs. He would be returning them. He returned them along with forty pages of typewritten notes about the pictures. In addition, he had taken the albums to a laboratory to have some pictures copied, digitally enhanced and

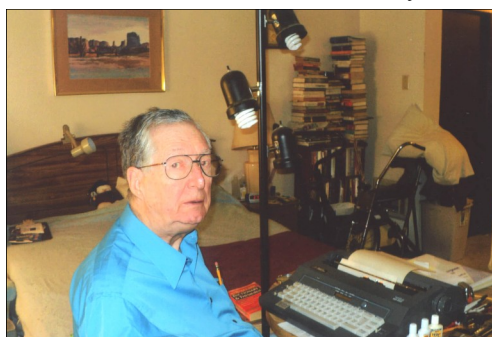
enlarged. He donated over 200 of these to the collection, so many that a fifth Libbie Bennett Album had to be created.

All the photographs in the Libbie Bennett Collection, Collection # 29, have been cataloged and scanned. In addition, all of Mr. Tears’ comments have also been scanned, and the pertinent comments linked to each photograph.

Because of the wealth of information provided by Mr. Tears, including pictures of his family, the Stuart Tears Collection, Number 32, has been established.

Both collections may be viewed by the public on the first Friday of each month between the hours of 1 pm and 5 pm, when the Local History Room is open to the public. It may be opened at other times by appointment. ■

*George M. Carter, Borough Archivist*



*Stuart Tears at his typewriter in Fort Worth.*



*Libbie’s 1897 Christmas*



*Wagon passing the Oradell Avenue Bennett home.*



*Happy 6th Birthday, Libbie, March 26, 1898.*

## Director's Corner

As I complete my first full year as Director of Oradell Public Library I am pleased to see how the books, DVDs, audiobooks, music CDs, and all the other materials we provide are being checked out by our patrons in greater numbers, how we are providing information of all sorts to those who visit or contact the Library, and how the services, programs, displays, and events are continuing to bring more people together.

It is no surprise that our first adult program in 2011 was a huge success. On Monday, January 10, 2011 the Oradell Lions Club and the Friends of the Library co-sponsored a delightful evening featuring sportswriter Bill Madden, former longtime Oradell resident. The program included a short lecture by Madden, a long question-and-answer period, a meet-and-greet, and a book-signing. Copies of his new book *Steinbrenner: The Last Lion of Baseball* (New York : Harper, 2010) were on sale by the Friends, and sixty-nine (69) people were in attendance!

We continue to be amazed at the riches that are made available to us and at the generous spirit of sharing of collections, art work, and other interesting materials for our exhibitions. On display in December 2010 in the small display case in the Reference Room was the exhibition "Holiday Postcards from the Collection of Mary Margaret Carter." This display was refreshed in January 2011 with new cards from the same source for an exhibition titled "New Year's Postcards."

On display from mid-January in both display cases in the Reference Room was the exhibition "Simple Life," featuring paintings by Emerson resident Kiki Sembos. Some of the images in the paintings were researched at Oradell Public Library, and the paintings have titles such as *Country Window*, *Swamp*, *Berry Picking with Grandpa*, *Wash in the Wind*, *At the Sea Side*, and *Wash Day*, all of which accurately describe the works themselves.

On the evening of Wednesday, February 9, 2011 in the

Reference Room we held an opening and artist's reception for Kiki Sembos, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Twenty people were in attendance. Ms. Sembos, appearing with her family and friends, engendered a very classy affair that included wine, cheese, and some homemade Greek delicacies. We thank the reporters from Town News and RiverDell Patch for reporting on this and all our recent programs last autumn to date.

Information Services Librarian Gabriella Radujko leads our two Book Clubs, and she has been introducing the participants to new online tools for learning about novels and other books. The books read and discussed in the Morning Book Club are: January - Nancy Horan's *Loving Frank* (2007) and February - Alexander McCall Smith's *The Charming Quirks of Others: An Isabel Dalhousie Novel* (2010). The books read and discussed in the Evening Book Club are: January - Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* (2009) and February - Thrity N. Umrigar's *The Space Between Us: A Novel*.

The Friends of the Library help the Library in so many ways, and once again we encourage all residents of Oradell to become members, so that we may continue to provide the stimulating and diverse programs and special collections that have become so popular.

Gentle Reminder: The due date for materials means that the materials must be returned inside the Library, or in the Book Drop, during the hours when the library is open. ■

John J. Trause, Director



John J. Trause,  
Director

## Friends of the Library

### WORDS OF SPECIAL THANKS

*For many years, brother and sister, Bill and Alice Berdan of Teaneck have been collecting postcards of Bergen County. A few years ago, they loaned their collection of Oradell postcards to our Historian who copied them. Then, last year the collection was loaned to the Borough Archivist who not only scanned them, but also printed full-size copies, creating two new albums of Oradell Postcards.*

*The Berdan's collection numbers in excess of 250. Copies of their postcards, plus others from other sources brings the collection of Oradell scenes to over 280. Oradell continues to benefit from the generosity of the Berdans, because every time they locate a new card, they come to visit on the First Friday of the month when the Local History Room is open to the public, and offer their new finds for scanning into the collection.*

*Oradellians owe the Berdans, Alice and Bill, a great vote of thanks for caring enough about our town to help enhance our collection. ■*



Alice and Bill Berdan visit the Oradell  
Library's local history room.

*Be a Friend of the Oradell Library, Participate, Join Your Neighbors.*

## Information Services Librarian

From my oversized L-shaped desk on the main floor, located between the north and south reading rooms, I watch the Oradell community interact with their revered town library. Seated here, I overhear their conversations and learn they are a gregarious group. They tell our staff how valued they are and how much the library means to them. Not only do they ask questions and ask for help, but also ask “how can I help?”

Great town, great library, but I’d like to see and meet more Oradellians! There is so much happening at the library that I find it confusing when a library visitor is surprised at their findings when they finally make their way into the library. And I do mean *into*, because, it’s very different from ordering books and media through the catalog and stopping by to pick them up or surfing our Website, maintained by a volunteer, it should be noted. Those are excellent amenities, for sure, but not compared to browsing our DVDs, receiving reader’s advisory or individualized computer instruction, looking at our gorgeous collection of original artwork from Charles Livingston Bull or being invited to be an audience member at one of our many free cultural or educational events. In addition, be sure to check out our new book selections, free WIFI or book discussion groups.

Nearly every week, public programming takes place on every floor, for every age group, and for just about every interest. It is impressive how much square footage of public space is in use, whether it’s performance and presentation

space, public access to computers, impromptu story-time, or a quiet reading place nestled in one of our winged-backed chairs next to one of our two fireplaces.

When nearly 70 Oradellians attended a book talk and signing about George Steinbrenner it clearly signaled that our library can and does get the attention of its citizens. When a recent art reception for artist took place, the attendance was considerably lower, but the outpouring of appreciation for the event and the refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library was evident as captured by photographers sent by local news organizations. The spring 2011 season will similarly feature exciting programming, including a poetry performance, slide show and talk about visual humor as well as one about a staff member’s trip to India. Be sure to be part of the audience!

Additionally, the Information Services Librarian, who once worked as an executive recruiter, has been helping library users with résumé consultations in between introducing some of the powerful databases available through the consortium like Novelist and Biography Resource Center, processing inter-library loans for hard to get books, and answering reference questions. And there is so much more the information services department can help you with. *Please ask us!* ■

*Gabriella Radujko, Information Services Librarian*

## Youth Department Spring Programs

All the snow didn’t stop our loyal patrons from coming to the library. We circulated many books, DVDs and video games during this dreary winter. Many children came to my story times for ages 2 – 5. Even the new baby group was well attended.

Our Spring Story time Session will run from March 28 to May 19.

Registration is required for all programs (in person or by phone)

Story times will feature stories, flannel board tales, crafts and songs. You may register your child for one of these sessions:

- Mondays 10:30 – 11 ages 2 – 3 ½
- Wednesdays 1:30 – 2 ages 4 – 5
- Thursdays 10:30 – 11 ages 2 – 3 ½

The “Baby and Me” group for newborns to 24 months meets Wednesdays from 10:15 – 11:00.

The children and caregivers enjoy songs, rhymes, stories and dancing. This program runs from March 30 – May 18.

We have two special programs scheduled for March and will offer more activities later in the spring.

On Monday, March 14, Joanne Z. from “Musical Munchkins” will lead children ages 2 – 5 in singing, dancing and playing instruments.

On Saturday, March 26, artist Ivy Omere will instruct children ages 8 – 12 in making African clay masks. They will also learn about African culture. ■

*Susan Pelavin, Youth Services Librarian*

## Book Sale

Do you know that there’s an ongoing Book Sale taking place, during library hours, on the lower level of the Oradell library? Sponsored by the Friends and prices rang from 50 cents to \$1.00. There are also CD’s and DVD’s. All proceeds go to financing our programs and library expenses not covered by the library’s operating budget. ■

*George Materon*

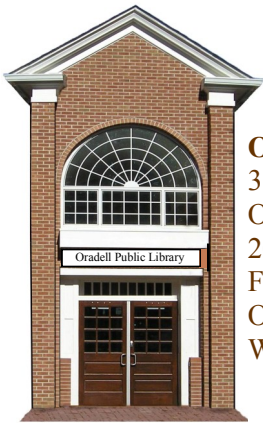
## Other Sale Items

### Oradell History Books:

- 75th Anniversary ..... \$5.00
- 100th Anniversary ..... \$15.00
- Illustrated Note Cards ..... \$10.00
- Our Owl Book Bag ..... \$10.00

*Sale items available at the front desk.*





**Oradell Public Library**  
375 Kinderkamack Road  
Oradell, NJ 07649  
201-262-2613  
Fax 201-262-9112  
Oradcirc@bccls.org  
Website: Oradell.bccls.org

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**Friends Officers:**

Joseph Colella, President  
Leah Carter, 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

### Spring Programs

Gabriella Radujko – lecture and slide-show on trip to India (April 2011 – National Library week) – Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7 p. m. South Reading Room.

Roy Schlemme cartoonist (Oradell resident) meet and greet, Powerpoint lecture, book-signing, etc. for YA and adults Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7 p. m. South Reading Room.

Teaneck New Theatre with *My Favorite Husband* radio program Monday, April 25, 2011 at 7 p. m. South Reading Room.

Joanne Chack with *Birds and Blossoms* — Saturday March 26, 2011 at 10:30 AM

George Wallace on Walt Whitman — lecture Monday, May 16, 2011 (Walt Whitman's 192nd birthday) 7 PM South Reading Room.

Artist Kiki Sembos (Emerson), whose daughter lives in Oradell, will have her work on display through most of March, 2011. ■

*Dianne Daniele, Program Chair*

### The Friends Corner

Very shortly we will be sending out our annual appeal for support. You will notice that after ten years of service, we still have not changed our levels of membership. However, perhaps it would be possible for you to change yours. If you could just change your level from a Family membership of \$15 to a

Crump membership of \$25, it would make a serious difference in what we can do on behalf of the library. But regardless, thank you for whatever support you can afford. ■

*Joseph Colella, President*

**Library Meetings are held in the Lower Level Meeting Room:**  
Library Board of Trustee Meetings, Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Friends of the Library Meetings, First Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m.