



Volume 5
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THE BOOKMARK

Oradell Public Library

Fall 2012 Newsletter



Local History Room

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The work of transcribing the historic Chapin Letter Collection is finished and printed. It has been an interesting experience, both for myself and for the many volunteers who worked on the project. However, it has proved to be more than just interesting for one young lady. I think it is fair to say that she was inspired by it.

She had applied to a group of leading colleges, and realized that she needed a college application essay that immediately caught the attention of the college application reviewer. These people have thousands of applications to review, and you need to get their attention in a hurry.

Bridget Irvine did just that, and I have her permission to include some parts of her college application essay, because I want you to have a chance to enjoy her choice of words, her turns of phrases, her wonderful use of the English language.

“The inkwell nearly topples in my haste. The coarse quill chafes my hand. I hardly notice as I speedily convey my urgent news.”



Later Bridget wrote: “At least, that’s what I imagine 19th century communications was like—primal and of pressing matters. Perhaps composing a letter wasn’t as riveting as I envision it. Nevertheless, I’m a keen admirer of dated text. It therefore made perfect sense to volunteer for my library’s new project.”

She ended with: “I have never considered myself a history major. I volunteered, however, because I feel an intense giddiness when connecting with an object from the past. It’s the closest I’ve come to time travel! Even my title—”transcriber” - thrilled me. I saw myself, atop a mountain of forgotten correspondence, an extremely minor sidekick in the League of Defenders of the Past, armed with my knowledge of archaic words and strange outdated ampersand symbols.”

I hope you have enjoyed reading some of Bridget’s essay. She is starting her freshman year at Harvard University, and writes that she is having a great time adjusting to college life.

Other volunteers have also been busy, and we have finally finished cataloging twelve volumes of photographs, all donated by Janet Atwater of Oradell. Janet grew up in Oradell, and spent her entire

adult life as a professional photographer who captured a tremendous wealth of Oradell history in her cameras. The scope of her interest was immense, covering parades, events, and a variety of gatherings. Thanks to her generous donation of over a thousand photographs, the Local History Room



Astronaut, Wally Schirra with former Director, George Cooke



Sky-divers performing as part of Oradell’s 75th birthday

has been enhanced with a rich and varied history of Oradell from the 1950s through the 1990s.

The work of cataloging and digitally scanning these

pictures, and ultimately linking them to the database, has been a collaborative effort of three people. Stephanie Diorio of Ridgewood, a graduate of Gettysburg College with a major in history, has been working as a volunteer for over a year, and she took on the task of assigning catalog numbers to each photo, and then scanning them.

It was my job to catalog each photo. Being from Oradell, I could generally recognize the locations of the different events.

Acting as “Clean-up” person, was Mary Khan of Cresskill, who took on the responsibility of linking each photo to the proper descriptive line in the database.

Remember, your Local History Room is open to you the first Friday of each month from 1-5. ■

George Carter, Borough Archivist/Historian

Adult Programs

Just a reminder that all adult programs are FREE, and are sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Monday, Sept. 24th - Architect Andrew Fethes will help us renovate and update our houses to keep us with all the latest technology, and help us become more "green". Join us at 7:00 pm.

Saturday, Sept 29th - we will join with the Environmental Committee to conduct our first town-wide Shredding Day. This important new service will take place at the Senior/Veteran's building from 11 am to 2 pm. A truck will be on hand to take your shredding material out of your car to the shredding machine. You may then watch and make sure your material is being shredded, right before your eyes. A donation is requested.

This valuable service will be offered to Oradell homeowners only, and no commercial paper will be accepted.

We have no specific programs planned for October, at this time, but stayed tuned, and look for emails from the Library and the Friends of the Library.

Tuesday, Nov. 27th - we will join with the Sierra Club and the Environmental Committee to produce an interesting and informative program on Light Pollution. The film "The City Dark" will be shown. Is darkness becoming extinct? When filmmaker Ian Cheney moved from rural Maine to New York City, and discovered streets awash in light and the skies devoid of stars, he embarked on a journey to America's brightest and darkest corners, asking astronomers, cancer researchers and ecologists what is lost in the glare of city lights. How does this effect us?

Dec. ?? - This year marks the 100th birthday of folk singer, Woody Guthrie and our library will mark this important event with a fun-filled evening that we are sure Woody would really enjoy. Steve Bell, musical director of practically everything, will supply the words and music, and lead us in song. Come prepared to sing and enjoy yourself, and help us celebrate Woody's life in words and music. December, dates to be announced.

You may recall that the Friends of the Library had planned a cruise of the Meadowlands with the Hackensack Riverkeeper in July, which had to be canceled because of weather.

On Friday, September 14, a boat-load of Friends went on the delayed cruise of the Hackensack River and the Meadowlands. Our Captain, Hugh Carola, provided the group with a wealth of ecological, historical, and ornithological information. The history of the river was fascinating, and everyone admired the goals the Riverkeeper has set for the future.

The Riverkeeper also offers cruises down river to Newark Bay, as well as up river to Hackensack. It is entirely possible that the Friends will sponsor another cruise in the future, so be sure to keep posted, and plan to come along.

Youth Department Programs

The Library just hired Robin Rockman of West Orange, NJ as our new Youth Services Librarian. We welcome Robin as she makes quick work of learning more about the people of Oradell, and how best to serve our younger patrons. Every effort will be made to develop or locate programs that will appeal to children of all ages, as well as their parents, grandparents, or guardians. Robin will become a contributing editor by the Spring Edition of the Bookmark.

Who Are The TAB?

TAB stands for *Teen Advisory Board*. The TAB is comprised of middle school and high school students from our community who volunteer their free time to put on programs for the younger children in town. They meet once a month to plan programs at the library which are not only fun but educational for all. These programs are created and executed entirely by the students in the TAB. To see the finished programs they have

come up with themselves is a proud moment for them.

The TAB truly has some of the up and coming future leaders in our community. We should all be very proud of them, though not to forget the parents, who spend much of their time either keeping the student's schedules, baking, and driving them to and from these programs.

For almost a year now, I have been with the TAB who graciously allowed me to take over after a very kind and wonderful woman had to leave the position behind. Those were big shoes to fill, so a big "thank you" to JoAnn Healey for allowing me to work with these wonderful children in the TAB. I feel very honored, so I would like

to say another big "thank you" to the children and the parents of the TAB group for making this such a wonderful experience for me. In closing, we are always looking for new volunteers, we meet the 1st Tuesday of every month.



On September 14, a group of Friends went on a river cruise with Captain Hugh, one of the leaders of the Hackensack Riverkeeper squad.

Suzanne Vierling

Director's Corner

We have some interesting news to report this autumn:

* We are so pleased to welcome to the Oradell Public Library Linda Pabian as our new Information Services Librarian. We know you all have been eager this past summer to have your reference needs filled, and now Linda P., as we call her, is providing the service you all need, whether it is in the area of research, answering quick questions, or in the way of computer help. We look forward to working with Linda P. on some of the exciting projects we have planned, including the continued coordination of our English as a Second Language (ESL) program, the Writers Group, upcoming displays, computer training, resume-writing assistance, and more

* We bid farewell after four years to our Youth Services Librarian, Susan Pelavin, who retired at the end of August. (We are welcoming a new Youth Services Librarian as we go to press). If you are parents, grandparents, or guardians, we know that you are eager to have someone in place to start up all the programs and events in the Junior Room that we normally provide at the beginning of the school year. With some patience, diligence, and a bit of luck we now have a new Youth Services Librarian soon to serve our young patrons and provide even more programs and events that are so popular with them and their families. In the area of the Young Adult patrons we are grateful to Suzanne Vierling for working with our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) this past year and at present.

* September is a month full of adult programs sponsored by the Friends of the Library or other groups. ■



A group of library staff gathered in the Youth Dept to say "Farewell", and wish Susan enjoyment in her retirement.

John J. Trause, Library Director

Information Services

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Linda Pabian, and I am very excited to be Oradell Public Library's new Information Services Librarian. Previously, I served as the Librarian for the Passaic County Historical Society at Lambert Castle, Paterson, NJ. I also served two other BCCLS libraries, Wyckoff and Palisades Park.

As the Information Services Librarian, I am available to assist you in finding and using library resources. I can help you to locate books or DVDs, use the online catalog, find and navigate websites, use email or search numerous databases or esources such as Job & Career Accelerator or Ancestry.com.

What is a library database or esource? It is an online resource that the library subscribes to that contains searchable articles and information from credible and reliable sources such as magazines, journals, newspapers, reference works and children resources. Databases are excellent resources for students (from pre-school to college) as well as for nonstudents who seek accurate information. Full text articles are often written by experts or journalists. Google is great but sometimes don't you feel overwhelmed or frustrated by page after page of inaccurate, inappropriate or misleading websites with annoying pop-up ads, flashing banners and advertisements?

From the comfort of your home or at the library, your library card gives you free access to many subscribed online resources that are typically not available without charge. For example, you have free access online to:

- ◆ Consumer Reports magazines and Consumer Reports Buying Guides;
- ◆ Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia;
- ◆ Newspaper articles from the New York Times and the Bergen Record
- ◆ Thousands of full-text articles and images for both children and adults covering biographies and topics such as science, business
- ◆ And much, much more.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or requests either by phone (ext. 110); email (linda.pabian@bccls.org) or just stop by the Reference desk located on the main floor next to the computer/magazine area. I am here to help and I look forward to assisting you.

Linda Pabian, Information Services Librarian

Items for Sale



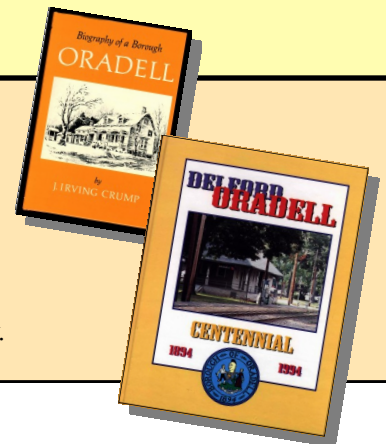
Oradell History Books:

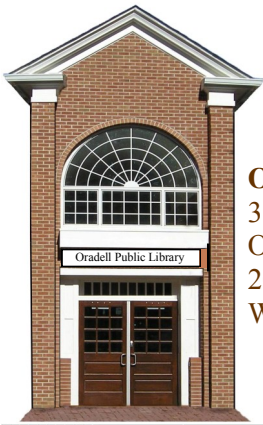
- 75th Anniversary \$5.00
- 100th Anniversary \$15.00

Cinnamon Scented Owls \$3.00

Our Library Book Bag \$10.00

Sale items are available at the front desk.





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 John J. Trause

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

Fall/Winter 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

It has been suggested that the Friends use this portion of the Book Mark to introduce you to some of the “Active” members. At the insistence of the President, Elaine Franek-Materon, I am to introduce myself this time.

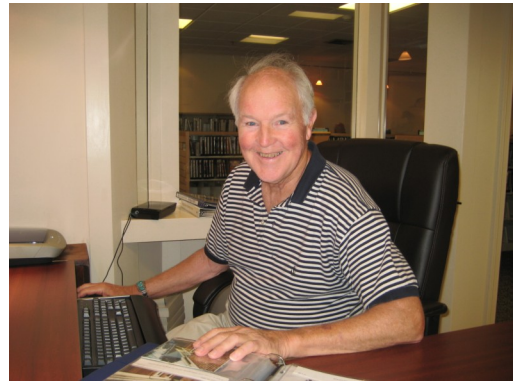
I have been active in the Friends since its inception, serving as Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary from the beginning, and later as the Recording Secretary. I have enjoyed all my work for the Friends, especially when I have been able to come up with a little money-making scheme, such as the scented owls or the framed house pictures with histories.

Further, I have been the Borough Archivist since 2000, but had worked as the Library Archivist for six years prior to that. So, as you can see, I am in the library much of the time. Truly, it’s a second home for me. I love working in the Archives, and writing about the many interesting aspects of the Local History Collection gives me great pleasure. To date, I have cataloged over 10,700 photographs, 15,600 people in photographs, hundreds of books, endless papers, and so on. It’s a work in progress that I hope never ends.

In addition to my job of cataloging the extensive collection of

photographs and papers, I spent several years researching the lives of the 18 service people who lost their lives in service. In addition, I lead the effort to document, in picture, our town at the turn of the century, which resulted in 12 volumes of history.

I have lived in Oradell for over 50 years, and in our home on Park Avenue for 46 years. Oradell has been a great town to raise a family, and it is especially delightful now that one of our children has moved back with two grandchildren for us to enjoy.



I’m in the Local History Room a lot. I’d love to have some of you come by and say hello

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.