

# The Lenox Library READER

LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

SPRING 2011

## What Drives Lenox Library's Budget?

*By Library Director Sharon Hawkes*

I am often asked what can be done to lower our library's budget expenses. Or sometimes the question is put differently: "Why does our library cost so much?" After a year of looking at the numbers, I am confident that I understand the answer: circulation, programs, and utilities. I would like to take a moment to discuss the first two.

We are circulating more titles than ever, which is no surprise. When the economy takes a downturn, the public turns to libraries to meet its reading needs. This past year, we circulated 77,758 items to our patrons, a 5% increase over fiscal year 2009, which was in turn a 5% increase over 2008. In the Berkshires, The Lenox Library is the fifth-highest in circulation, more than the Lee and Stockbridge libraries combined.

Books on a shelf cost very little, but books that are circulating cost more in personnel hours — it takes people to put them on a reserve shelf, check them out and in, track down overdues, collect fees, process for shipping to and from other libraries. It takes a level of training to be able to account for all these items on the

move, and to help advise patrons about what books they might like to read next.

The Lenox Library has also long been known as a place for quality programs, and it takes staff to coordinate over 650 programs per year. Over 15,000 people attended our story times, summer events, lectures, and special events throughout fiscal 2010, a 7% jump over the year before. Attendance at children's summer events alone was at over 4,000, a 32% jump. Among public libraries in the Berkshires, no other library comes close to the numbers of programs and the attendance that we produce.

Why should we care about programs? In this community, programs mean education, and they mean dollars. Our educational programs for children prepare them for a lifetime of success through reading. They keep our adults informed of important issues. They attract visitors to the downtown, who go on to shop here. And they add to the quality of life that makes people want to live here.

As you can see, it takes people with a wide range of talents to work in a library. It also takes dedication. All of our staff have educations beyond

high school, and several have had post-secondary training in education or information services. Three have graduate degrees. All earn less than the average salary for their level of education.

Behind the scenes, our staff is required to do tasks as varied as collecting and interpreting usage statistics, maintaining budget lines, selecting materials, troubleshooting machinery, and writing grants. They also participate in staff and industry discussions on how to improve services. They have to have people skills, math skills, and writing skills. They have to be creative, thrifty, and well-read.

Sure, our utilities are a bit high, as we are heating and lighting a large building; and our books, CDs, DVDs, and databases cost a lot. But it takes exceptional people to make The Lenox Library stand out among libraries in the Berkshires. And we have exceptional people. I hope you will enjoy this issue of the newsletter, dedicated to our staff.

## LOCATING ANSWERS:

Amy Lafave has become a "Jill of all trades" in her 16 years among the

stacks at The Lenox Library. Since starting part-time work as an assistant in the music department, she has honed her skills as a researcher to become the director of all nonfiction services. Amy is mainly responsible for the reference



## AMY LAFAVE

*By Claire Cox*

department, with its lore of historical documents, music and special collections.

Born and raised in Lenox as one of seven

children, Amy graduated from Lenox High School and earned a degree in English and Music from Connecticut College. After seven years with what is now Legacy Banks, she went back to school

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## AMY LAFAVE (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

for a master's degree in library science at the State University in Albany, and joined The Lenox Library staff.

Along with her devotion to the library, Amy is director of the St. Ann's Catholic Church choir and sings with the Berkshire Lyric and Berkshire Concert Choir. She has become a deft fixer-upper now that she has bought a "handyman's special," an old millhouse in Lenoxdale.

At the library, she deals with a wide range of research subjects, depending in part on the time of year requests come in for information. "Calls to the reference department come in spurts," Amy said

in an interview. "We can't plan ahead. One recent caller in Texas wanted to know about a great granddaddy who lived here 40 years ago."

In the summer, Tanglewood students look up music tapes, recordings and concerts. People come from out of town wanting the history of Lenox or information about their families. Many tourists seek information in person, while a number pose their questions via e-mail. However, it's mainly the local residents who come in for assistance, whether it is for school assignments, historical knowledge, or learning how to use the internet.

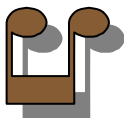
Whether using books, pamphlets,

photographs, news articles, or the internet, Amy evaluates the material to get to the most accurate answer. She takes telephone calls in her third floor office, adjacent to a bank of computers used by library patrons and stacks of reference books.

There is no question that Amy is enthusiastic about her job. "The thing I enjoy most," she said, "is that there is always something to be learned, something new."

## JEREMY YUDKIN'S TANGLEWOOD PRE-CONCERT LECTURE SERIES

*If you would like to get the most out of your Tanglewood experience, consider joining Boston University Professor Jeremy Yudkin for the Pre-Concert Lectures at The Lenox Library. Jeremy has taught as visiting professor at Harvard and Oxford Universities, and his music expertise ranges from Bach to the Beatles. He is the author of the best-selling Understanding Music, and has been teaching the Pre-Concert Lectures since 1983. Everyone is welcome Fridays and Saturdays, 2:00-4:30 — **No musical expertise required!***



**\$25 PER DAY, \$45 FOR THE WEEKEND**  
**\$295 (before June 1; then \$350) FOR THE ENTIRE 8-WEEK SEASON**

**TO SIGN UP, E-MAIL: [yudkinjaf@gmail.com](mailto:yudkinjaf@gmail.com)**  
**Or send a check to: Pre-Concert Lectures, PO BOX 2007, Lenox MA, 01240**



### Friday, July 8

The Berlioz Requiem. 400 people! 4 offstage brass ensembles! Magnifique!

### Saturday, July 9

Joshua Bell sings a violin fantasy; Tchaikovsky weeps (the 6th Symphony)

### Friday, July 15

Dvorak's greatest work (the Cello Concerto) and Schumann's Spring Symphony

### Saturday, July 16

Completely original: Sibelius, the "Granite Man" of Finland, with a tender soul

### Friday, July 22

The two great masterpieces of Beethoven and Brahms on the same program

### Saturday, July 23

Who *was* Ravel? The composer of "Bolero," or a jazz pianist?

### Friday, July 29

"A Transforming Experience:" Mahler's Fifth Symphony is HUGE!

### Saturday, July 30

A case of daylight robbery: Brahms' Fourth Symphony

### Friday, August 5

Classic restraint, romantic angst: Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, and Strauss

### Saturday, August 6

Mendelssohn's exquisite Violin Concerto and Rachmaninoff's mysterious Second Symphony ("Never Gonna Fall in Love Again")

### Friday, August 12

"The Spanish Flair" - *Carmen*, Rodrigo (both classical and jazz) and Granados

*(continued on page 6)*

## *BOOK SALE, COMING TO A LIBRARY NEAR YOU*

It was a long, snowy winter, but the Book Sale Committee was faithfully at work sorting thousands of books, and all will be ready in time for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Lenox Library Book Sale this summer. Novels to nonfiction, music CDs to movie DVDs, titles for kids to adults — all will be offered at bargain-basement prices starting Friday, August 26 (11:00-6) and running through Sunday, August 28 (10:00-5).

With the wonderful gift of school-year space from the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and a steady stream of book donations, the army of volunteers that sorts and prices every item worked throughout the winter. With additional summer space graciously donated by the Lenox Commons, work will continue right up until mid-August.

At last year's sale, bibliophiles bought some 20,000 titles, the library's biggest sale to date. With most hardbacks priced at only \$3, and paperbacks at \$1.50 or less, there are many bargains available. "We provide many books to people who may want to own them rather than borrow them from the library," said library Director Sharon Hawkes. "I consider the sale an extension of our library services. Many patrons have told me that they buy a few

books, read them gently, then return them for next year's sale."

The grand opening of the sale will be at the Library on Friday, August 26, from 11am to 6pm. There is a \$5 donation on Friday until 2:00, and after that admission is free. The sale will continue on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm, with free admission all day. Anyone spending \$15 or more on Saturday or Sunday can choose from a large collection of free bonus gifts.



Proceeds from the annual book sale go to support the Library's many educational services and programs offered to the public year-round free of charge. For further information about this event, please call Ilse and Irwin at (413) 445-5679 or email [ibrowner@roadrunner.com](mailto:ibrowner@roadrunner.com)

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## *SEEKING PRE-OWNED TITLES — WILL FIND THEM GOOD HOMES*

### **Book Sale donations are now being accepted!**

We welcome your gently-used books, CDs, DVDs and college textbooks. Your donations help make the book sale the library's most successful fundraising event of the year.

Paperbacks and hardbacks for all ages gratefully received.



We are always looking for those special, collectible books as well. Surprise us with your gift of a finely-bound or autographed edition.

**Please call 637-3987 to find out where to drop off your books. If you cannot transport them, pickups can be arranged.**

## *SUMMER READING PROGRAM, 2011 EVENTS*

### One World, Many Stories



**THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 11:00 AM: SUMMER READING PROGRAM KICK-OFF WITH  
MAGICIAN FOR NON-BELIEVERS, PETER BOIE**

Peter started learning magic at age 11 from a magic book he checked out at his local library. Now he is Massachusetts libraries' #1 favorite entertainer! He is at home with audiences ranging from age 4 to 104.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Lenox Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 11:00 AM: JUNGLE ENCOUNTERS TRAVELING ZOO**

An up-close visit with six exotic animals from around the world. Learn where they live & how they survive.

**THURSDAY, JULY 7, 11:00 AM: AUTHOR VISIT (TO BE ANNOUNCED)**

**THURSDAY, JULY 14, 6:30PM to 9:30PM: HOGWARTS AT THE LENOX LIBRARY**

Quidditch Demonstration, Tour of Hogwarts, Honeydukes Candy Sale, Original Shadow Puppet Play Produced by Hogwarts Students, Owl Drawing Demonstration and More! Admission will be charged. Proceeds will help sponsor future library youth programs.

**THURSDAY, JULY 21, 11:00 AM: MUSICAL CRAFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

**THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2:00 PM: BUTI ON PARADE FAMILY CONCERT—Sponsored by BUTI**

Always a favorite! Wonderful music and rapport between the BUTI students and children.

**THURSDAY, JULY 28, 11:00 AM: CAPS FOR SALE PUPPETREE SHOW**

A globetrotting presentation of the classic folktale by Esphyr Slobodkina set in seven diverse cultures.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 11:00 AM: AUSTRALIAN CRAFTS**

**6:30 PM: DIDGERIDOO DOWN UNDER – NOT TO BE MISSED!**

**7:45 PM TEEN AUSSIE FUNK JAM WORKSHOP**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 11: TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2:00 PM: ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND SUMMER READING PROGRAM RAFFLE  
CO-SPONSORED BY THE SCOOP**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 11:00 AM, 11:30 AM, 12:00: A WORLD OF BRIDGES**

TRAVEL ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH THIS INTERACTIVE ENGINEERING ADVENTURE. CONSTRUCT AND WALK A ROMAN BRIDGE!

\*Registration is required. Sponsored by Lowell Institute, Bank of America & Boston Museum of Science

**EVERY TUESDAY AT 1:00 PM: TERRY A LA BERRY FAMILY CONCERTS**

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM SPECIAL EVENTS ARE SUPPORTED IN PART BY BERKSHIRE BANK**

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## EDUCATING OUR YOUTH: DEBBY

By Claire Cox

Debbly Cuthbert's career as a librarian has been dedicated to bringing children and books together to begin a lifetime of reading and learning. As The Lenox Library's Director of Youth Services, Debby chooses the books and leads creative programs that bring children, from toddlers to high school seniors, to the library. She also reaches out to schools in the community to read stories to the youngest and lead workshops with the oldest, some of whom volunteer to help her with programs in the library.

Debbly graduated from Lewis & Clark University in Portland, OR, where she assisted in the college library. She organized library outreach programs in Oregon during a year as a Vista volunteer. From there she began working with children in libraries in several California towns. She has been a professional storyteller for over 20 years at more than 200 locations in libraries, schools, churches and festivals, and worked in various public libraries for 17 years. She joined the staff here seven years ago. Debby lives in Pittsfield with her husband Paul, a financial consultant. They have two children; Jennifer, an NYU honors graduate working in New York, and Robby, a senior at Williams College (and soon-to-be Phi Beta Kappa) who helped her coordinate a Lego build-a-thon at the Library.

"We are very busy here," Debby said as she offered a summary of the schedule in the youth department. "I focus on creative ways to bring books and children together through reader's advisory, book lists, storytelling, book discussion groups, weekly story times and classroom visits. I also coordinate special family events that encourage children to think creatively, problem solve and use the library. These programs open children's eyes to life's possibilities."

There is outreach to schools and pre-schools in the area, with programs geared to each curriculum. For preschoolers there are puppetry and poetry. Debby then reads to elementary school pupils, and for older children she offers coming-of-age stories and survival fiction.

The youth department on the library's main floor attracts families who come for story times: Tuesdays for toddlers and Thursdays for preschoolers. Debby is often assisted by volunteers from Lenox High School and Miss Hall's School.

Three age groups of girls gather to discuss books they are reading. Younger girls meet at the library, while those in high school gather in private homes.

And, of course, Debby added, the front desk is often busy checking out books for children to take home. "When they grow up they bring their own children in," Debby said.

### **An Evening at Hogwarts - Seeking "Sixth and Seventh Years" to help with this event!**

The Lenox Library will magically transform itself into Hogwarts on the evening of Thursday, July 14th, just prior to the release of part two of the final Harry Potter film. Our local Quidditch team will give a brief demonstration of the sport, snowy owls will be presented to greet visitors, an original shadow puppet play will be presented and a tour of Hogwarts will be offered. Admission will be charged and Honeydukes candy will be available for purchase. All proceeds will help sponsor future library youth programs. We are seeking sixth and seventh year students to act as tour guides and residents of our school. If interested, please send your owl post to [dcuthbert@lenoxlib.org](mailto:dcuthbert@lenoxlib.org)

## WE DIG OUR LIBRARY

We recently asked visitors to the library to write a letter to the staff and the Board of Selectmen about what the library means to them. Here are some quotes from a few of the letters.

I dig the Lenox Library because it creates memories, and memories stay with you forever!

I don't think I could survive without the Lenox Library. I can get books, DVDs, music and the things that make life in Lenox happier.

The Lenox Library is a key part of my life in Lenox... It is a sanctuary for reading and writing.

We are grateful to the library for all the experiences we have shared together - and the library, the ultimate in recycling - has passed on to others.

I am limited in my ability to get to the library as often as I wish. My wife checks out 2-3 books every week, including fiction and nonfiction, for me.

As the Director of the Creative Arts in Learning Division at Lesley University, I love seeing programs that foster creativity and active learning. Thank you for going above and beyond!

I have been bringing my son to the library at least once a week since he was born. He is 8 now, and he looks forward to it every week. He knows he is allowed to check out anything that interests him - and often we walk out with a huge stack...The library is a local treasure.

The library is a key player in maintaining the educational services of our community.

Many of my positive impressions of my new home were formed here... this library remains a place in which people can take refuge from the stress and storms of a too-busy world, a place that celebrates the human mind and spirit.

## JEREMY YUDKIN'S TANGLEWOOD LECTURES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)



**Saturday, August 13**  
Yo Yo Ma channels Schumann, and Brahms escapes from Beethoven (finally)

**Friday, August 19**  
The real story behind Beethoven's Eroica Symphony

**Saturday, August 20**  
Why is Mozart different from all other composers?

**Friday, August 26**  
"The Great American Opera," Gershwin's Porgy and Bess

**Saturday, August 27**  
All Beethoven, all the time: Symphonies 1, 5, & 9

## GOLF IS BACK!



### STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY - LENOX LIBRARY

## GOLF CHALLENGE

June 28, 2011

Tee time: 12:30 pm

Stockbridge Golf Club

**SAVE THE DATE!**

For more info, please call 637-2630, x121

## OUR BEST TO SHERRY

Sherry Gaherty retired from The Lenox Library at the end of March, after nearly 34 years of service. Beginning in 1977, Sherry has helped navigate the library through tremendous changes, including the advent of the Internet, the online catalog, and the van interlibrary delivery service. She helped steer the staff through the building renovation, and worked with the patron-led Book Committee and Great Books discussion group. Through it all, she demonstrated great dedication to finding notable books and getting them to patrons as quickly as possible. She will be missed, but has accepted a position on the Book Committee, and will be helping to choose our next great read!

## STILL SERVING YOUR NEEDS

What is the value of The Lenox Library's services? If people had had to buy the same services last year, they would have cost:

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Books borrowed                    | \$ 877,260         |
| Newspapers and magazines borrowed | \$ 11,055          |
| CDs and audiocassettes borrowed   | \$ 162,623         |
| Movies borrowed                   | \$ 60,564          |
| Adult & youth programming         | \$ 114,462         |
| Computer used and Internet access | \$ 94,224          |
| ebooks downloaded                 | \$ 2,259           |
| Research questions answered       | \$ 47,565          |
| Museum passes                     | \$ 14,130          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>\$1,384,142</b> |

Your donation helps provide equal access to information and ideas to all patrons of the library, regardless of means. When you give to the library, you are making a smart investment in the community. Please make a good investment decision, and give to the library today.

"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest."

— Lady Bird Johnson

*I am pleased to enclose my contribution to The Lenox Library Annual Fund in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.*

Please list my name as follows:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of payment:**

Check (payable to the Lenox Library Association)

Credit Card (Visa/MC only please)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to:**

The Lenox Library, 18 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240

\_\_\_\_\_ I don't need an acknowledgement of this gift, thanks

\_\_\_\_\_ Save the postage, please email my acknowledgement

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\*denotes our dedicated, part-time staff

**The Lenox Library**  
**READER**  
**Eighteen Main Street**  
**Lenox, MA 01240**

<http://lenoxlib.org>



**O**ur mission: The Lenox Library provides equal access to information and ideas through a wide variety of materials and programs for community members of all ages.

Thank you for your donations, which enable us to provide \$6 in services for every tax dollar we receive.