

# TRACINGS

The Newsletter of  
The Friends of Tracy Memorial Library

Winter Issue

2017

## History of the Friends

The Friends of Tracy Memorial Library was established in 1982 by a small group of dedicated library patrons. While the taxpayers of New London have the responsibility and desire to provide the necessary funds to ensure that the town has an excellent library, the goal of the Friends is to provide additional financial and volunteer support so that our community enjoys an outstanding library above and beyond what our tax dollars allow. The Friends of TML is a 501(c)3 nonprofit supporting organization to Tracy Memorial Library, which allows any donations received to be tax deductible.

Tracy Memorial Library is a jewel of our community. Located in an historic building, the Library is a hub of activity and resources for community members of all ages. This is certainly evident in the statistics of over 65,000 patron visits and nearly 90,000 items loaned last year. The Friends are pleased to help the library create an outstanding environment for patrons through our support of diverse programs and special projects. From funding the children's summer reading program to hosting author events and special speakers to funding new resources such as Mango Languages, Freegal Music, and Instaflx to purchasing costly on-line reference materials such as Encyclopedia Britannica and HeritageQuest to providing museum passes to many local museums and attractions for use by our library patrons. The Friends do all of this and much more! We couldn't do what we do without amazing community support. We sincerely thank all of you who are members of the Friends, and we invite those who aren't yet members to join us in our mission of helping Tracy Memorial Library continue to be an outstanding library for our community!

### ***VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:***

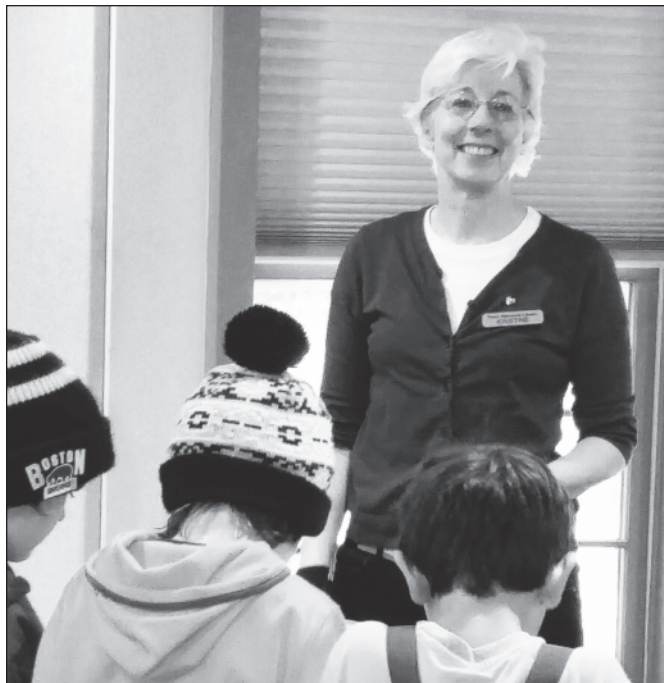
Sally Bergquist has been a dedicated volunteer at Tracy Memorial Library since 1999. She began volunteering soon after moving to New London. Sally has worked weekly at the library helping wherever she is needed...assisting at the circulation desk, helping library patrons locate materials, making sure books are shelved properly and in order, and hunting down missing or misplaced library materials. Sally has also served on the Board of the Friends of Tracy Memorial Library as board secretary since 2008. Sally's attention to detail, positive attitude and dedicated work ethic have been a great benefit to the library and to the Friends. Sally and her husband, Bob, will be moving to Colorado this summer to be closer to their family. We want to thank you, Sally, for all your volunteer efforts on behalf of Tracy Memorial Library. You will be missed!



*Lisa, President, Friends of TML, Sally, Sandra, Library Director*

# NEW STAFF

The Youth Department has welcomed a new Youth Services Assistant, **Kristine Hussey**. Kristine and her husband have lived in Elkins for 20 years with their daughter, Meggie. They have two cats, Daisy and Mango, and a fish, Hemingway. Kristine is an expert on caring for betta fish, so be sure to bring her your fishy questions!



*Kristine with the after school kids at Lego Club*

In addition to her love of family and animals, Kristine has a passion for early childhood education. A life-long learner at heart, she has a bachelor's degree in education and continues to further her education with courses in early childhood development. She has many years of experience with young children at both the Nursery of the Mountainside Racquet and Fitness Center and, more recently, ABCs Child Care Center at the New London Hospital. You will find Kristine working at the Youth circulation desk, leading story time throughout the week, and in the community representing the library as a part of the outreach program for local preschools.



Tracy Memorial Library is thrilled to welcome **Catherine O'Brian** to the circulation desk! In June Catherine retired from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts where she coordinated education

grants for 23 years. During the last ten years, she helped to bring different arts programs to health care sites, such as New London's Woodcrest Community. Catherine raised her family in the Upper Valley then Sutton area and is a grandmother to six grandchildren. While raising her family, she was employed as a children's librarian for ten years, and helped underprivileged youth through the Nashua and Manchester Girl's Club. She also worked part-time at Colby-Sawyer's Library, for she has always loved books, especially children's literature.

Catherine is a poet and author herself, and her published poem *History* can be found on page 38 of the book *Poet Showcase: An Anthology of New Hampshire Poets*, located in our library. Her poem gives insight into her exciting imagination and the interesting childhood she led growing up in the Philippines. This spring Catherine will be teaching a Poetry and Creative Writing class to seniors in the Upper Valley.

When asked what she enjoys most about working at Tracy Memorial Library, Catherine recalls a quote about working at our library shared with her, "I learned something every day here!" Our newest member to our library staff finds this very true and is so happy to learn from our community as we learn from her as well. Welcome Catherine!



*Catherine with her husband in Mexico City*

## *New Friends of Tracy Library Board Members*

The Friends of Tracy Memorial Library would like to welcome Erin Garzia and Jen Schad to The Board of Directors.

Erin, her husband Justin (a member of the New London Recreation Commission and the Historical Society Board), and kids Gavin, Owen, Kristen, and Allison moved to New London from Larchmont, NY in 2014. The family was looking for a place in New Hampshire that would provide them with the opportunity to raise their kids closer to nature and the ability to homestead – a total lifestyle change. They heard about New London through an online forum and thought it sounded perfect! Erin brings years of teaching experience and a life-long love of libraries to the Friends. Erin has fond memories of growing up spending hours at the library after school and on the weekends. She is thrilled to have found that Tracy Library offers the same opportunities for kids to fall in love with the library and to fall in love with books.

Jen Schad, her husband Don (you might know him as the Blacksmith at the New London Historical Society), and their girls Grace and Molly have called New London, and now Elkins home since 2006, and have long-standing family ties to the area. Jen has spent years teaching French and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. She describes Tracy Library as the Center of our Town — a place where everybody knows your name. Our Library is the kind of place that makes you never want to leave New London. In her free time, Jen likes to ski, landscape, and is an active member of the Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church.



*Erin Garzia and Jen Schad*

## *FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK*

In 2016, the Library received generous donations in memory of the following people: Patricia Brewster, Marty Denz, Robert J. DePorter, Georgianna Edwards, Constance Jones, Phyllis Sladen, Carolyn Sweetland, James J. Tracy and Johannah York. One gift will be used for furnishings in the Children's Department. The remaining donations were used to purchase books and audios.

Our circulation in 2016 was up 2.7% over the previous year. Gains were seen in adult fiction, adult nonfiction, children's books, and downloadables.

At the end of December, we unfortunately experienced a flood in the ground-floor Children's Department. Thank you to the members of the fire department for pumping out the water. We reopened the youth fiction, nonfiction and computer areas relatively quickly, but the Tomie dePaola Room sustained water damage to the flooring and radiant heat system. Trustees and staff are investigating further options to safeguard this area that is so important to our youngest customers and their families.

Thank you to all the Library patrons who visited and supported us in 2016. Hope your 2017 is off to a great start!

*~ Sandra Licks, Director*

## **YOUTH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Story times have changed from the traditional preschool age of 3-6 and now include babies and toddlers. Now, we offer family story times for preschool children of all ages. Join Ms. Kristine for fun and energetic story times on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00. We also offer family story time on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00.

After-school programs are booming too with Lego® Club and crafts (and more!) on Wednesdays. The popular student café on Thursdays offers after-school snacks and a place to meet friends and enjoy movies from the Library's collection.

Please join us for musical fun with "Toe Jam Puppet Band" on Friday, February 17 at 4:00 at Whipple Memorial Town Hall. This program is co-sponsored by the Friends of TML and New London Police Association as part of Winter Carnival 2017. Free tickets are available online at [www.nlrec.com](http://www.nlrec.com) and at the Library.



## **SPECIAL PROJECT:**

The Friends are pleased to announce the completion of their 2016 special project purchase of a new conference table and six chairs for the library's Stack Room. The new cherry table and chairs were purchased to provide more space for our patrons to work, use laptops and read. The color and style of the furniture were chosen to coordinate with the other furnishings in the library. We invite you stop by, take a seat and enjoy the new work space with a view of the beautiful library garden!



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Tracy Memorial Library  
as an outstanding library  
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Please make checks payable to "Friends of Tracy Memorial Library"  
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The Friends of Tracy Memorial Library is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization.

Your donation is tax deductible!

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