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From the Director

It's that time again, time to make resolutions. Some resolution lists are carefully and thoughtfully crafted but many more are hastily scrawled on a napkin at 11:59 PM on December 31st. Either way, resolutions are helpful in providing some semblance of structure to this brand new year. Realistically, most resolutions are promptly forgotten by January 4th and that's fine. This year, however, the Library has a resolution list that *won't* be forgotten; our new 2011-2014 Strategic Plan.

In January 2010, a committee began work on a new plan as our last one had expired in 2008. This group chaired by Mary Otto, included myself, board members Lisa Christie and Ann Waterfall, and community members Jeff Doyle, Ken Cadow and Uwe Bagnato. Nine months in the making, the plan was developed using feedback from a town-wide survey, Norwich demographic information and with an eye to the future.

The Library will be focusing on four areas of strategic opportunity; updating technology, building the library's collections in response to community needs, raising the visibility of the library within the community, and addressing the issues of space within the building. The Strategic Plan will be available on our website and in the library. We are very excited about this new document and the goals outlined in it. To ensure that this is a living document and not relegated to a filing cabinet each goal will be an agenda item at the monthly Library Board meetings.

It was a real treat to work with the Strategic Planning committee and we were fortunate to have had Uwe Bagnato in the group. Uwe was elected to the Selectboard just after our first planning meeting and I told him it would be okay if he wanted to forego the planning work to focus on his new position in town government. He laughed and assured me that he was committed to the planning process and that I couldn't "get rid of him that easily." I was glad that he got to see the final plan in all its professionally printed glory. We are grateful that he shared his perspectives with us. Uwe will be deeply missed.

Happy, healthy New Year!

Lucinda

LIBRARY NEWS

Wednesday, January 5th @ 7:00 PM 1st Wednesdays

"Einstein's Century: 1905–2005" ~ In 1905, at the age of twenty-six, Einstein published five papers that laid the foundation of modern physics. Middlebury professor Susan Watson explores the nearly mythical influence of one of the century's greatest thinkers. A program of the Vermont Humanities Council co-hosted by Norwich Historical Society and Norwich Public Library.

Held at Norwich Congregational Church. Free & open to the public

Thursday, January 13th @ 6:00 PM Book Chat with Lisa and Lucinda

Come prepared to see a preview of new late winter books, discuss what you are reading and enjoy light refreshments. Whenever you visit, we are always happy to "talk books" and make recommendations or listen to your suggestions.

Monday, January 24th at 7:00 PM Day of the Pelican Book Discussion

Stephanie Smith will hold a community discussion of Katherine Paterson's *Day of the Pelican*. Paterson wrote *The Day of the Pelican* after her church sponsored refugees from war-torn Kosovo and she came to know their story. The novel was the 2010 Vermont Reads selection.

Thursday, January 27th at 7:00 PM Poetry Reading

Post Mills poet April Ossmann (*Anxious Music*) and Brattleboro poet Tim Mayo (*The Kingdom of Possibilities*) will read from new and published book.



The Friends are always looking for new members and for volunteers for our book sales. If you'd like to learn more, come to one of our meetings. They're held on the first Saturday of each month from 10-11 AM in the Community Room. Next meeting, Saturday, February 5th.

NPL staff favorites for 2010

Lucinda

Freedom by Jonathan Franzen
My Life in France by Julia Child
A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan
The Imperfectionists by Tom Rachman
Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

Lisa

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson
The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender
The Passage by Justin Cronin
The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest by Stieg Larsson
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

Beth

The Lonely Polygamist by Brady Udall
Room by Emma Donoghue
A Visit from the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan

Beth continue

The Copper Beech by Maeve Binchey CD
Hachi: a Dog's Tale DVD

Stephanie

Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name by Vendela Vida
St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves by Karen Russell
Freedom by Jonathan Franzen
Smilla's Sense of Snow by Peter Hoeg
Room by Emma Donoghue

Tina

Promised Land: Thirteen Books that Changed America by Jay Parini
Broken Vessels by Andre Dubus
The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery
Slings and Arrows (LUV DVD)
Jeeves and Wooster (DVD)

The top dozen circulating BOOKS of 2010

- 1—*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson
- 2—*The Girl who Played with Fire* by Stieg Larsson
- 3—*The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*—by Stieg Larsson
- 4—*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
- 5—*The Three Weismann's of Westport* by Cathleen Schine
- 6—*The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver
- 7—*The Lost Art of Gratitude* by Alexander McCall Smith
- 8—*Stones into Schools* by Greg Mortenson
- 9—*Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls
- 10—*Still Alice* by Lisa Genova
- 11—*The Farmer's Daughter* by Jim Harrison
- 12—*Shadow Tag* by Louise Erdrich

The top dozen circulating DVDs of 2010

- 1—*The Hurt Locker*
- 2—*Burn after Reading*
- 3—*The Holiday*
- 4—*Frost/Nixon*
- 5—*Atonement*
- 6—*Rendition*
- 7—*Little Miss Sunshine*
- 8—*Slumdog Millionaire*
- 9—*Billy Elliot*
- 10—*Milk*
- 11—*Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*
- 12—*Closer*

CHILDREN'S NEWS

2010 Favorites

What a year for children's books! Downstairs we have displays from Kirkus Reviews Top 100 and the Best Titles of the Year chosen by the New York Public Library. This compilation was created with input from their team of amazing book-loving librarians like the indomitable Betsy Bird. (Check out her blog for the latest happenings in children's lit. blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/afuse8production) Looking at these lists as well as at the recent titles on our shelves, I came up with the following favorites. Each book is amazing and worthy of checking out so that you can experience it for yourself.

My Very Favorite Picturebook: *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Philip Stead, illustrated by Erin Stead. I can't say enough about the subtle palette, the charming illustrations and the love these animals have for their favorite zookeeper. A quietly sweet and wonderful read-aloud. My fingers are crossed that this wins the Caldecott Medal. **My Other Favorites:** *Imogene's Last Stand* by Candace Fleming, *Ivy Loves to Give* by Freya Blackwood and *The Lonely Phonebooth* by Peter Ackerman.

My Very Favorite Chapterbook: *The Danger Box* by Blue Balliett. Though I have always been a fan of Balliett's mysteries, her latest is far and away her best work. Zoomy is just the sweetest, most sincere child to ever grace the pages of a chapterbook. His relationship with his grandparents, with his friend Lorrol and the mystery of the box are what keep him moving forward—it's what keeps the reader so involved. Finishing this book will make you wish you could do it all over again. **My Other Favorites:** *Smells Like Dog* by Suzanne Selfors, *Crunch* by Leslie Connor and *Daisy Dawson and the Big Freeze* by Steve Voake.

My Very Favorite Book of Poetry: *The Tree Time Built*, an anthology. Many of the novels that I read have some element of science woven into the story. This is the first poetry book I've ever stumbled across that focuses on this seemingly unlyrical subject. The pen and ink sketches, the accompanying CD-- this is the absolute best way for verse to be. Try it for yourself and see if you don't get hooked. One poem is never enough... **My Other Favorites:** *The Wonder Book* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, *Steady Hands* by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer and *Ubiquitous* by Joyce Sidman.

My Very Favorite Non Fiction Book: *Spilling Ink* by Anne Mazer and Ellen Potter, illustrated by Matt Phelan. This was one of the titles that Matt talked about when he visited us almost 2 years ago. I was pleased to see how his sketches enhance the Mazer and Potter's work. In every chapter each author contributes to this how-to book with their own style and voice. I must confess, even though it's geared towards kids, I've used many of the writing exercises myself. Very inspirational. **My Other Favorites:** *Biblioburro* by Jeanette Winter, *Built to Last* by David Macaulay and *Nic Bishop's Lizards* by Nic Bishop.

Have You Read It, Yet?

On **Wednesday, January 19th at 2:30 PM** we'll be hosting a book discussion around the **Vermont Reads** title, *Day of the Pelican* by Katherine Paterson. (Geared towards kids in 6th grade and up.) For those of you who prefer an evening, we'll meet at **6:00 PM on Monday, January 24th at 7:00 PM** to discuss your reactions and questions. Over the past few months we've distributed 75 copies of this book into the community, so ask a friend or neighbor to read their copy when they've finished. And then once you've finished, write your name on the inside cover, pass it on and reserve a spot at one of our events.

Calling All Knitters

We're knitting again and we'd love to have kids in 3rd grade and up join us on **Friday afternoons**. We're starting to make handwarmers for patients at the Dartmouth hospital. There are several patterns to choose from, ranging from Easy to Moderate to Takes Concentration. But all knitters, beginners and experienced alike, are welcome to come from **3:30 to 5:00 PM**. If you'd still like to contribute, but can't make it on Friday afternoons, just let us know. See you then!

Art Exhibit

ODANAKSIS PAINTERS: Recent Works
Artist's Reception Friday, January 7th
@ 5-7 PM

Sally Bellew, Susan Bridge, Liliou Browne, Kate Cone, Alison Fava, Marie Greene, Anne Hartmann, Paul Rump, Susan Rump, and Ann Semperebon. The exhibit features watercolor, pastel, pen & ink, charcoal & mixed-media. On display January 4th – February 26th



Echinacea by Sue Bridge

Display Cases

"Poetography" features images by photographer Elizabeth Reynolds, all captured with her camera within the last year. The photos are put together to create unique pairings, then united by a word that expresses some shared commonality. Whether you're a fan of poetry or photography, you'll find something here to appeal to your lyrical and visual sensibilities.



Children's Programs



Word Play

Stories, songs, rhymes and fingerplays for kids 0-3 and their caregivers.

Wednesdays at 10:30-11:00 AM

January 5 Through the New Year
 January 12 What's for Breakfast?
 January 19 Happy Birthday to Me
 January 26 It's for the Birds



Lunch at the Library

Stories and songs for kids 3-8 and their caregivers.

Fridays at 11:30 AM-12:15 PM

Bring a lunch & make a craft!

January 7 Hop Into the New Year
 January 14 Spoons and Forks
 January 21 B is for Birthday
 January 28 Who Gives a Hoot?

Bedtime Storytime to be held in March

We had such a great time at our Storytime under the stars this summer. We'll have a special bedtime storytime again in March—complete with hot cocoa and marshmallows. Kids are welcome to come and listen to stories in their jammies. Mark the calendar for the **first Thursday in March at 7:00 PM**. Hope to see you then!

Due Dates

~ 4 weeks for many items
 ~ 2 weeks for new items with red dot,
 CDs, Interlibrary Loans, and magazines
 ~ 1 week for videos and DVDs & Discovery
 Packs; 3 days for Museum Passes

Fines

~ 5¢ per day for most items
 ~ 50¢ per day for videos, DVDs, Discovery
 Packs, Interlibrary Loans, and Museums Passes

Bookmark

Visit our website at www.norwichlibrary.org to read the current issue of *Bookmark*. If you would like to receive email updates on Library events and programs, sign up electronically on the homepage of our website, or send an email request to: circulation.desk@norwichlibrary.org.

Norwich Public Library

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Hours

Monday	1:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Thursday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday	10:00 AM – 5:30 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staff

Lucinda Walker
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 Lisa Milchman
Assistant Librarian
 Beth Reynolds
Children's Librarian
 Tina Avery
Cataloger
 Wendy Forrester
Program/Publicity Coordinator
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Library Assistant