

**Annual Report from the Director of The Buckland Public Library  
For Fiscal Year 2010: July 1 2009 – June 30 2010**

Library hours: Tuesdays 2 - 8pm, Fridays 1 - 6pm, and Saturdays 9am - 1pm.  
Call 413-625-9412 for more information

Circulation continued to grow in during the 2010 fiscal year, as the Buckland Public Library served new and returning patrons, and collaborated with other cultural, civic and educational organizations in the area. With the Buckland Historical Society, we were awarded a grant to participate in Digital Treasures, a central and western Massachusetts digital library project. Historical Society members took the lead on the project, selecting and researching dozens of images relating to Buckland's past. (These are now available for viewing at <http://dlib.cwmars.org/index.php>.) With financial assistance from the Shelburne Falls Eagles Auxilliary, we strengthened our collections of books in large print and on compact disk, children's books, and books by local authors. With funding from the Buckland Cultural Council, we launched a Museum & Park Pass Program. This enabled patrons to gain free admission to The Berkshire Museum, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Historic Deerfield, the many parks of the MA Department of Recreation and Conservation, and Mass MOCA.

Library staff and volunteers were involved in other local programs throughout the year. Trustees organized another successful Maple Breakfast in the spring. The director participated in Mohawk Trail Regional High School's annual celebration of books. She continued to read to children at the Buckland Recreation Department summer day camp. During the 2009 Summer Reading Program, an amateur astronomer from the Springfield Stars Club gave two wonderful presentations for children and adults in lovely Buckland Public Hall. A "Book-land Builders" team (sponsored by Nina and Ron Coler of Ashfield) made a strong showing at the Mary Lyon Foundation's annual fall Spelling Bee.

Also in the fall, in collaboration with the Town of Buckland, trustees held a groundbreaking ceremony for the long-planned renovation and expansion project. Eighty friends and neighbors attended, including Representative Dennis Guyer and officials from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC.) Children with faux hardhats and small shovels prompted cheers from the crowd. By fiscal year-end, we witnessed the digging of a new well and preparation of the site.

The Buckland Public Library renovation and expansion project is funded by the generosity of the Town of Buckland, patrons, friends, and local businesses, and partially funded through the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program administered by the MBLC. The board of trustees continued to research potential sources of funding throughout the year, including the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development/Communities and Facilities Grant Program (which awarded funds to the project after the close of the fiscal year.)

At various points during the fiscal year -- when not immersed in building-related work or the ongoing operation of the library -- trustees and staff turned their attention to administrative matters. We updated our long-range plan, purchased a new computer for public use (with partial funding from Gates Foundation), began considering ways to strengthen the board (with help of consultant Amy Shapiro of Ashfield), and launched a Facebook page. We remain grateful to the Town of Buckland for its support of our operating budget, and to the MBLC for funding the State Aid to Public Libraries program.

Patrons, friends and neighbors are the lifeblood of the library! The following people, among others, have contributed in all manner of ways to our many activities this year: Polly Anderson, Ann Bodke, Jody Cothey, Mary Dearborn, Cheryl Dukes, Marcus Fisher, Emma Jepsen, Rebecca Boyd-Owens, Pam & Emma Guyette, Annmarie Gardner, Michael Garfield-Wright, Tom Harmon, Tara Herzig, Steve Howland, Judah Hughes, Matt Jacobson-Carroll, Caroline Johnson, Eric Laursen, Christopher Lenaerts, Jorie McLeod, Amy Murray, Michael Naldrett, Jan & Carl Nelke, Betsy Powell, Arnold Purington, Sam & Janice Purington, Colleen Rauch, Kevin Richardson, Susan Shauger, Judy Sweet, Kim Tawney, Dianna Young, Andrea Donlon, Dennis Patterson, Kevin Richardson, Sue Samoriski, and Shirley Ward,

The Board of Trustees of the Buckland Public Library mourned the loss of the trustee John Powell, whose steadfast support was instrumental in the launching of the building and renovation project this year. We bid farewell to another trustee, Stacie Baumann, who moved out of town after many years of hard work on behalf of the people of Buckland. The board welcomed two new

members: George Dole (3 year term), and Will Kiendzior (1 year term.) Other board members include Karen Harmon, Lois Holm (secretary), Susan Garfield-Wright (treasurer), Edie Gerry, MaryEllen Jepsen (chair of board), and Mark Pichette. Building Committee members Dole, Harmon (chair of committee), library director Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Jepsen, Amy Love and Mike McCusker worked closely with representatives from Greenberg Associates Architects, New England Management, and Wesfield Construction.

As the year ended, the much-appreciated Western Massachusetts Regional Library System – one of six regional organizations in the state -- closed its doors to be replaced by a newly formed Massachusetts Library System. Thanks to all those who advocated for our small library, and others like it, as the consolidation took place.