

Volume 15, Issue 1

Wells Memorial Library
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Karen Rappaport, Director
Serving the Jay and Upper Jay Communities



Your Board of Directors

After five years of exemplary service, Bethany Krawiec and Joe Kahn have stepped off the board. Each brought their talents and zeal for volunteering to our fortunate little library. Bethany, along with her husband, Wes, tackled countless boxes of books for our annual sale and also organized our archives. Joe lent his muscle to many projects including heading up painting and always being on hand to assist Don Morrison our maintenance czar. Both injected good sense and great humor into our monthly meetings and will be missed. Happily neither will be far away when opportunities to jump in present themselves! Alison Haas of Jay and Ben Vincent of Upper Jay have joined the board and we welcome their energy and fresh perspectives. Our current list of officers are: Marie-Anne Azar Ward, President, Martha Spear, Secretary and Phyllis Honigmann, Treasurer.

Holiday Sale

We received bountiful donations of holiday decorations and gift items this year. As we began our post-Thanksgiving sale, the tables were overflowing, a gift table was needed in the meeting room, and bookcases were commandeered for displays as well. During the course of the sale additional items were donated and used to fill in empty spaces as browsers turned into buyers.. Thanks to the Friday Group for setting up the colorful displays and packing up sale remainders. We easily exceeded last year's sale totals.

2010 Annual Fund Drive

Thanks to an impressive response to our 2010 Annual Fund appeal, we are well on our way to making up the revenue shortfall resulting from a decrease in our summer sales total. The list of donors is on the last page of this newsletter. If you haven't already contributed, there is still time. Every gift helps the library in our goal to provide services and programs to the community. Wells Memorial Library is a 501 c. 3 organization so donations are tax deductible.

Featured Volunteer

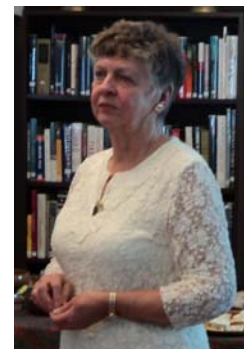
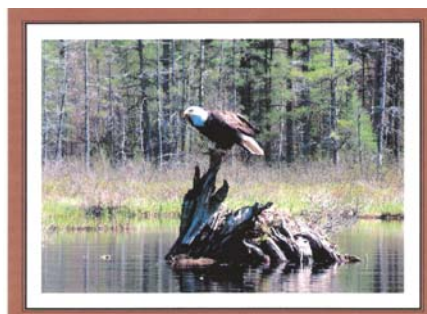
Daii Woodin expressed an interest in volunteering at the library in our earlier survey. Since then she has delighted children with last spring's weekly story hour readings, and, more recently she has been cataloging books in the children's picture-book section. Thanks, Daii, for enriching children's experiences here.



Program News



Bill Evans exhibited his landscapes, in November & December, with a well-attended artist reception November 14. Bill generously donated one of his prints for a silent auction to help raise funds for the library. Seth and Trudy Rosenblum of Jay were the highest bidders.



Our January-February guest exhibitor is poet, publisher, photographer, and illustrator, Nadine McLaughlin. We held an artist's reception Sunday, January 9, where Nadine graciously offered to donate 10% of the proceeds from the sale of the prints, journals and books of poems on the center table.

The March-April exhibitor will be Peter DeFina of Adirondack Photo and Frames.

Writers' Collective, under the leadership of Bob Segall, meets at 7:00 pm the third Tuesday of each month. Writers in any genre are welcome to come and share their work.

Quilters Gathering continues to meet monthly at the library. Check with Bethany Krawiec (946-1295) for dates and times.

Library News

Ken Lushia, a collector we contacted through CEF, pulled up one day and hauled away all our post-sale books from the basement making room for new donations. Thanks to Wes & Bethany for their assistance in this endeavor.

We recently received complimentary copies of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Program, Climate Change in the Adirondacks: The Path to Sustainability and Make Room for Wildlife: A Resource for Local Planners and Communities in the Adirondacks..

Friday Group continues to sort, price and pack for the summer sale as items come in. We welcome early donations. The sale will be July 15-17 this year.

Memorial Donations

Recent memorial donations have honored:

- Bob McDowell-husband of former librarian Carole
- Jean Garrecht-mother of former Treasurer Jan Ward. Donations will go toward large print books.
- Susanna Grimm-mother of MaryAnn Hegedus

Thank You's

- Donations of books, magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs: Donations: Esther Wylen, Marie-Anne Azar Ward, Cora and Bill Meyer, Wes Krawiec, Bill LaBounty, Sid and Janet Ward, Alison Haas, Sue Gehris, Christian Brammer, Nadine McLaughlin, Nick and Daui Woodin, Bob Segall, Mary Lou Katz, Carole McDowell
- Plants & Pots: Billie Loughran, Kay LeClair, Jean Snow, Cora Meyer, Joan Devitt, Marlene Prescott, Clare Orsi, Nadine McLaughlin, Fran Driscoll, Vicki Moore, Sue Will-nus
- Beautification: Don Morrison, Sylvia Norton, Ellen Metcalf for winter window boxes and light pole
- Snow Shoveling: Joe Kahn, Wes Krawiec, Ellen Metcalf, Marie-Anne Azar Ward, Joe Honigmann
- Maintenance: Joe Kahn, bulkhead and address sign painting; Don Morrison, storm door insert, reinstalling stair treads, fire extinguisher installation
- Jan Ward for the purchase of a number of books for the library; Joe Kahn for purchasing Spark for the library (see review below)

Correspondence

"I love the Wells Library and you [Karen] are always a welcoming helpful soul. Thank you for all the help and your kindness to me, Frank and our kids. ..." Sue Pagano

My husband and I had the opportunity to enjoy a lecture... [and] portraits of Lincoln during a visit some time ago. Your library reminded me of the library of my youth. Be well and continue your good works. Joan & Mike Engel

Book Review: Spark, The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain, John J. Ratey, MD

"We are lucky to live in a part of the world where physical activity is the norm. Even excluding the triathletes that ride by our library daily from late April until mid October, there are many local, regular folks that ride, walk, hike, paddle, swim, ski, and skate on a regular basis as the seasons permit.

Many of those people, including me, believe that exercise provides numerous benefits to the body, mind and spirit and have made regular, voluntary, rigorous exercise a major part of their lives.

Dr. Ratey has compiled scientific evidence that supports these beliefs. He is not writing about the endorphin rush or runner's high that was identified in the 70's as a positive result of the jog/run craze. This is a much broader world of benefits that he investigates.

"Spark" identifies a large number of neurotransmitters, enzymes and other proteins that positively effect the brain, enabling it to grow and rebalance itself as a result of exercise.

Ratey is able to draw direct, documented relationships between exercise and learning, anxiety, depression, addiction, aging and other brain related phenomena. Just think if we knew that a jog before finals would have boosted our grades a level.

For most of us, it is important not to get caught up in the jargon, symbols and initials of this plethora of chemicals. Just read about them, understand that they exist, have specific functions and move on.

I love this book because it give us all the power of choice to improve our lives. One of my favorite quotes is from Henry David Thoreau:

*TO AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE DAY,
THAT IS THE HIGHEST OF ART*

"Spark" gives us the roadmap to do just that." Joe Kahn

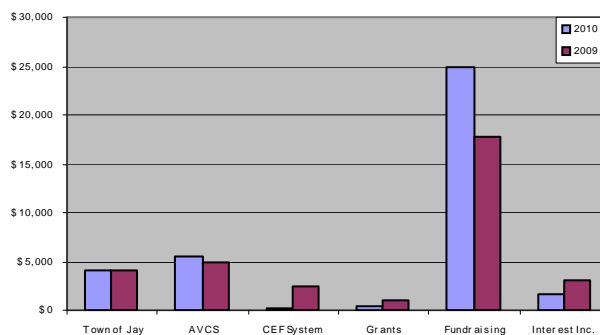
Thanks to Joe for this entertaining review! If YOU have enjoyed a great read and would like to encourage others to pick it up, consider donating a book and writing an article for our newsletter.

State of the Library

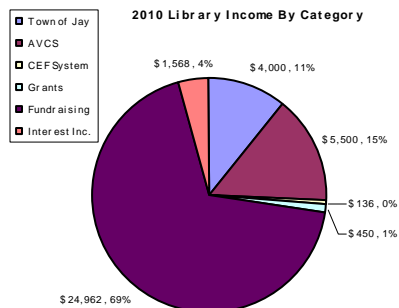
We weathered the economic storm in 2010 thanks to a conservative expense budget, dedicated volunteers, and supportive patrons. In keeping with a national trend, during financial downturns, of people seeking out inexpensive and free services, we saw an increase in library usage (go libraries!).

Operating Income

Library Operating Income 2010 & 2009

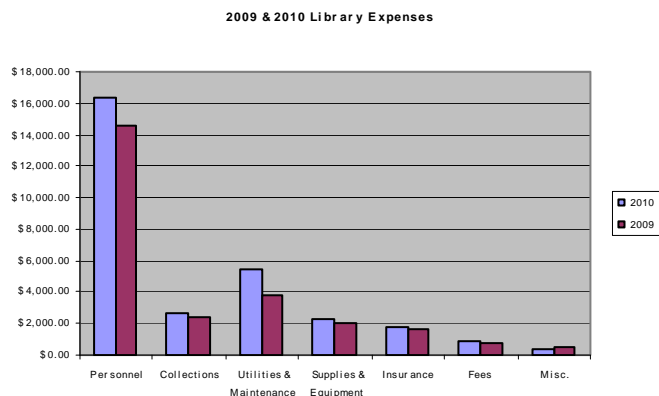


Operating income rose close to 10% in 2010, but is still down from 2008. We had significant declines in library system support, interest income, and grant funding. We balanced these with our volunteer-intensive summer sale, our Annual Fund Appeal, and memorial donations and bequests. We are responsible for over 70% of our funding. Only 26% of our operating income came from other sources.

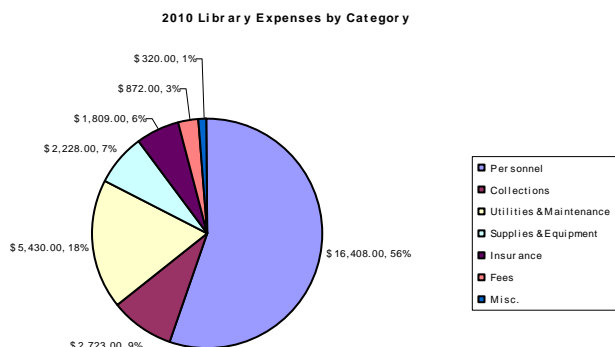


Operating Expenses

Expenses increased by about 16% in 2010, generally across the board, but most notably in our two largest expenses categories: personnel, and utilities and maintenance.



We have very little latitude in our expenses: 55% of our outlays are for personnel; close to 25% is allocated for the building (utilities, maintenance, insurance). And fees are about 3%.



Outlook

Our goal is to practice fiscal restraint while maintaining the services and welcoming atmosphere patrons have come to expect. We have developed a tight budget for this year, anticipating continuing straightened fiscal conditions and reduced State aid. Equipment purchases and non-routine maintenance will be delayed. Our collections budget, however, will not be cut as readers appreciate new additions that keep them coming back for more! Artists' exhibits will continue to draw viewers. Strategic planning is on the horizon as the Board looks to our role in the future.

Selected Recent Additions

Juvenile Fiction & Non-Fiction

Forge, Laurie Halse Anderson (donated by Sid and Jan Ward)
 Seekers: The Last Wilderness, Erin Hunter
 This World We Live In, Susan Beth Pfeffer
 The 39 Clues: The Maze of Bones, Rick Riordan
 Knuffle Bunny Free, Mo Willems (donated by Hilari Connington and Peter Landau in honor of Yosef Spear)

Fiction

The Postmistress, Sarah Blake
 Friday Mornings at Nine, Marilyn Brant
 The Aloha Quilt, Jennifer Chiaverini
 The Reversal, Michael Connelly
 The Last Kingdom, Bernard Cornwell
 One Amazing Thing, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
 The Walk, Richard Evans
 Fall of Giants, Ken Follett
 Freedom, Jonathan Franzen
 Spies of the Balkans, Alan Furst
 Ape House, Sara Gruen
 The Blessings of the Animals, Katrina Kittle
 An Object of Beauty, Steve Martin
 Private, James Patterson
 Portobello, Ruth Rendell
 Luka and the Fire of Life, Salman Rushdie
 Three Stations, Martin Cruz Smith
 Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese
 The Personal History of Rachel DuPree, Ann Weisgarber

Non-Fiction

The Lake Champlain Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Guide
 Have a Little Faith, Mitch Albom
 Walking Papers, Francesco Clark
 The Dirty Life, Kristin Kimball
 George Clinton: Master Builder of the Empire State, John Lee
 Adirondack Ice, Caperton Tissot
 Autobiography of Mark Twain, Volume 1
 Footprints & Sunset on Adirondack Trails, James Manchester
 Wardner

Books on CD

Deal Breaker, Harlan Coben
 Our Kind of Traitor, John le Carre
 The Piano Teacher, Janice Y.K. Lee
 Roses, Leila Meacham
 An Irish Country Girl, Patrick Taylor
 A Desirable Residence, Madeleine Wickham

2010 Annual Fund Donors

Our Annual Fund is one of two major fund raisers that contribute over 70% of our operating funds. We are indebted to our loyal patrons and friends who support us year after year. If you have not yet sent in your check, please consider doing it. Thanks to the following contributors:

Steve & Nan Amstutz
Bob & Holly Andrew
Anonymous
Dick & Donna Reed Austin
Fred Balzac & Kathy Recchia
Ronald & Kathy Bedard
George Blanch
Bruce & Jan Bosland
David Bowman
Glenn & Rose Boynton
Christian Brammer & Jane Hough
David & Mary Brandt
Doris Brann
Marjorie Burns
Janet Coolidge
Philippe Crine & Annie Mear
Andre & Linda D'Avignon
Mitch Dickerson & Kay Mackinnon
Bill & Patrice Dilworth
Albert & Sheila Dingly
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Bill Evans
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Wayne & Donna Ignatuk
Sarah Irving
Bill & Lynne Johnson
Joe & Linda Kahn
Robert Gajarski & Barbara Oettgen
Wes & Bethany Krawiec
Andrew & Jodelle LaCombe
Bert & Phyllis LaGoy
Peter Landau & Hilari Connington
Kay LeClair
Blanche MacKenzie
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Greg Pedrick & Wendy Block
Dick Porter & Ellen Metcalf
Marge Prentiss
Marlene Prescott

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Mike & Marj Romanowski
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Doug & Alicia Marquis Serson
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