



The West Tisbury Library Foundation, Inc.

UPDATE

Fall 2015

Build it and they will come

Since our new Library has re-opened, they have been coming in droves!

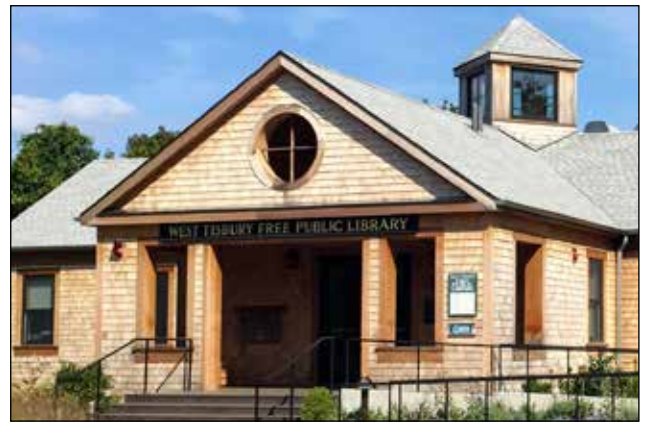
The attendance at the new West Tisbury Library is up 35% from last year. The circulation has also increased by nearly a third. Today, the Library has the highest circulation of any library of its size in the entire country!

But that doesn't even begin to measure the success of our new Library. As Library Director Beth Kramer explains, "Libraries used to be repositories for books. But today, in addition to that, it's a community gathering place and a place where you can obtain information in any format that's available."

Today, the West Tisbury Library offers not only books, but eBooks and eBook readers, DVDs and audiobooks. You can check out a mandolin, ukelele or a puppet—you can even get seeds for your garden. And thanks to CLAMS and other regional and national lending networks, you have access to millions of books throughout the entire country.

In addition, the Library is a place where people can hold meetings, watch movies, discuss books, build a rocketship—or just come in from the cold. "In the winter," Beth explains, "there are people who come because it's a warm place where they can interact with other people. They feel safe, and they know it's their space."

In fact, the Library is everyone's space. It's become the focal point of our community and it continues to grow along with us.



Lifelong learning programs for all ages

One of the goals of the Library is to create learning programs for the entire community. Since the re-opening over 12,000 people have attended more than 900 different programs at the Library. “The biggest shift we’ve seen has been in programming,” explains Beth Kramer. “The public has really grabbed onto it and used it.”

Family programs—including children’s piano recitals, family movie nights, family crafts programs, stargazing, the Halloween Party, building Fairy Houses, and the spring egg hunt

Children’s Programs—including crafts, yoga, summer reading, reading/writing workshops, rocket workshop, Lego club, and story times including a monthly collaborative program with Island Grown Initiative

Teen Programs—including yoga, bookmaking, teen crafts, teen movies, writing, nutrition, and health programs

Adult Programs—including concerts, book talks and book groups, poetry readings, movies, “Writers Reads,” community poetry, cooking demos, artists’ receptions, plays, drop-in computer help, guitar lessons, yoga, and free ESL classes

“If someone comes in with an idea for a program—so long as it doesn’t cost too much money—we’ll make it work.”

--Amy Hoff, Programs Director



Landscaping talk by Tim Boland



Bi-monthly Lego Club meeting for all ages



Poetry reading by Island-wide Poet Laureate Arnie Reisman



Thai Cooking with Mai



Yoga classes for tweens and teens taught by Laura Edelman



Making fairy and troll houses in the back garden of the Library

Fairy and Troll House Building Day

Each October for the past four years, the Library has hosted the annual Lynne Whiting and Carol Brush Fairy and Troll House Building Day. Lynne and Carol were both members of the Library Foundation when they conceived of this wonderful event. The Library offers its back garden as a haven for fairies and trolls and their homes. Kids bring their own natural building materials — bark, shells, seed pods, sticks, carved out pumpkins, feathers, fur — you name it. And as if by magic, the backyard of the Library is transformed into Middle-earth.



Pete the Cat visiting kid's storytime



Healthy snacks and treats for teens and tweens taught by Jenn Chang and Rachael Fox.



Julie Prazich and Sara Rosenthal's wooden fish painting workshop



Daniel Cooney teaches a free "Making Your Comic Book!"



Beading workshop



Lucy Mitchell's exhibit, "Books, Albums and Papers"

There's music in the air!

Not to mention art exhibits, author talks, and even a little belly dancing.

The David and Rosalee McCullough Community Program Room has proven to be one of the most valuable additions to our new Library. Throughout the year it has hosted a wide variety of musical events including piano concerts, jazz performances, children's violin and piano recitals, folk concerts, a spellbinding evening of Brazilian inspired music by Choro Des Tres—and yes, the Vineyard Belly Dance and Revue.

In addition, the Community Room hosts rotating exhibits and artist receptions for local artists and a variety of events such as Storytime for Preschoolers, "Writers Read"—a monthly meeting of prose writers, and "Tweed's Reads"—a discussion group lead by Tweed Roosevelt that focuses on overlooked books.

"Having our new performance room has really expanded the range of programs we can bring to people. We're a very musical community, and now we have a place where people can hear all kinds of music for free—you just can't get that anywhere else."

-Beth Kramer, Library Director



Artistic Director and pianist Delores Stevens, violinist/composer Maria Newman, and percussionist Isabella Thatcher played a free Dedication Concert.



Brazilian instrumental group Choro Des Tres performed in the community room in August.



"The World of Troubadours and Trobairitz VI", featuring poems, songs and music from the 13th century.



"Remembering the Rosenthals" featuring violinist Daniel Koo, pianist Diane Katzenberg Braun, clarinetist Amy Advocate, and cellist Rainer Crosett.



"The Drama of Live Opera"; soprano Bethany Worrell, baritone Vincent Turregano, pianist and Music Street Musicians' founder, Diane Katzenberg Braun



Vineyard Belly Dance and Revue

The Library Foundation presents...

Since the re-opening, the Library Foundation has put together a full schedule of Tuesdays@Twilight and Speakeasy events to raise money for the Library. Our Speakeasy series has featured Geraldine Brooks talking about her latest book, *The Secret Chord*; John Hough, Jr. talking about his latest novel, *Little Big Horn*; and a delightful evening with Ward Just and Paul Schneider discussing the writer's craft. We'd like to give special thanks to State Road Restaurant for hosting these events.

Our Tuesdays@Twilight concerts at the Grange Hall have included the Berlin-Johnson Duo and Friends, Good Night Louise and Friends, Willy Mason, Dana Edelman and his Slammin' Band, and two memorable youth concerts featuring budding local musicians.

The highlight of this past summer was undoubtedly an evening with David McCullough at the Grange Hall. Mr. McCullough treated a packed house to the dramatic story behind the story of his New York Times #1 Best Seller: *The Wright Brothers*.

We'd like to thank all of the authors and musicians who have generously given their time and support to the Library. We'd also like to thank State Road Restaurant for hosting the Speakeasy Series and the Art Cliff Diner and Tisberry Fro Yo for feeding hungry concert-goers at Tuesdays@Twilight events.



David McCullough's presentation at the Grange Hall on his newly published and well-reviewed biography, *The Wright Brothers*.



Geraldine Brooks's first public reading of *The Secret Chord* held at the Foundation's April Speakeasy at State Road Restaurant.



Tuesdays @ Twilight presented the Berlin-Johnson Jazz Duo and Friends.



Good Night Louise and Friends performing at Tuesdays @ Twilight.



The Art Cliff Food Truck serves food before the performance.



An evening with authors Ward Just and Paul Schneider

Landscape update: A quick plant tour

The landscape scheme for the West Tisbury Library, reflecting innovative plant technology to protect the wetlands nearby, is nearing completion. The Young Adult Terrace was recently installed thanks to a generous donor. Plans are in the works for a fieldstone wall to provide support and contour to the proposed Adult Reading Terrace and for a butterfly garden bordering the Children's Porch. These additions will mark the last major installations in a design blending sustainable, native plantings with environmentally sound hardscape to enhance the building surrounds and protect the Mill Brook watershed from harmful pollutants. Sound like a daunting task? It was.

True to the Library's "green" commitment, the landscape committee worked with landscape architects from the start of construction to devise a plan both beautiful and environmentally sound. Helped by several expert volunteer consultants, the committee selected primarily native plants that require limited maintenance, watering, and fertilization, leech out pollutants, cool run-off water, and foster lively native fauna and insect populations.

Plantings along the front brick walk create a handsome approach to the Library, hide equipment from the underground water tank, and create shade to diminish the "heat island" effect of the nearby pavement. Along the lot's perimeter, trenching and vegetation called bio-swales or "rain gardens" absorb run-off and cool and filter water draining into the watershed. The parking lot itself acts as an extensive filtration system. Its combination of standard impervious asphalt and precast concrete pavers atop 12 inches of stone underlayment combines with the "rain gardens" to complete the run-off filtration.

The principles of sound environmental design that have guided the Library's landscaping also apply to planting across the Vineyard. Native habitat planting and low maintenance-low fertilizer practices can greatly reduce the impact of the built environment on the Island's fragile ecosystem. Soon, with signage funded by the Edey Foundation, the Library's landscaping will begin to serve as a living classroom demonstrating the principles and benefits of sound environmental planting.

The Foundation is proud of the Library's beautiful and functional landscaping and grateful to the many donors who have made it a reality. A good library is not just a collection of materials; it is the heart of a town. The building and surrounding landscape tell the story of what is important to the community. Every step on the brick path leading to the front door reminds us of the shared experience of creating a vibrant center for learning while thoughtfully linking it to the surrounding environment. Take it from Kermit the Frog, "It ain't easy being green!"



The Community Seed Library

The Martha's Vineyard Community Seed Library, a collaborative project of the West Tisbury Library, Island Grown Schools, and the FARM Institute, brings the knowledge of how to save seeds back to our Island community while creating a central space where seeds can be freely shared. Over time we aim to create a locally adapted collection of seeds and a community of growers engaged in the ancient practice of seed saving. By saving and sharing seeds, we can increase local food security, strengthen our sense of self reliance, and safeguard genetic diversity while honoring the age old tradition of passing down seeds from generation to generation.

A message from the Foundation Chair

Our work continues!

We are all thrilled with our new library building. However, the work of the West Tisbury Library Foundation is not done. The landscaping has been substantially completed but funding is needed to maintain our handsome gardens and terraces and to keep them beautiful. Funding is also needed to continually update digital equipment, renew the Children's Room, and train the library staff in state-of-the-art information science. Over time, the Library will also need your support in order to keep pace with the growth of the town and other future demands. As hard as it is to believe now, age will take its toll on the new facility and the Library will need even more of our support. This is why we are working on the creation of an endowment for the Library as one of our top priorities. If you are interested in finding out more about the endowment project, or getting involved with the Foundation in other ways, please do not hesitate to contact me at max.skjoldebrand@btinternet.com.

In the meantime, we hope that you will continue your generous habits of giving to the Foundation. This will support and enhance our ability to present high-quality guest speakers, performances, and exhibitions in the wonderful David and Rosalee McCullough Community Room. Thanks to your generosity, the Foundation was able to sponsor an exciting high-quality music program in October: The Drama of Live Opera with stars from the Boston opera world accompanied by collaborative pianist Diane Katzenberg Braun.

There are several different and convenient ways for you to donate to the Foundation. You can make a donation by check and mail it or donate via our website, buy a brick, become a sustaining member, name a room or garden, or include us in your estate planning. Information on each of these options is available in this newsletter.

Please take a moment and consider how the Foundation might be a part of your end-of-year giving.

All of us on the Foundation thank you very much and offer our best wishes for the Holidays.



Max Skjöldebrand

How you can help?

To achieve our goals and continue to operate on such a high level, the Foundation relies on the support of our friends and patrons.

Here's how you can help:

Donate to the Annual Fund. Make your donation to the Foundation's annual fund.

Buy a Brick. For \$150, your personalized, engraved brick will be placed in the walkway to the Library entrance as a permanent and visible personal statement in support of the Library.

Become a Sustaining Donor. Your donation of \$500, \$1000, or \$1500 a year, for a three-year period, will provide the Foundation with a stable stream of income the Foundation can plan on to meet current needs and to build the endowment.

Make a Major Gift and Secure a Naming Opportunity. Create an enduring legacy by making a major gift in your name and in honor or memory of some loved one. Naming opportunities are still available.

Estate and Gift Planning. Estate and gift planning can offer donors financial benefits and provide important support to the Library Foundation. If you're interested in learning more about how you can include the West Tisbury Library Foundation in your estate and gift planning, please contact Susan Graham at 203-241-2392 or go to www.wtlibraryfoundation.org for more information.



The West Tisbury Library Foundation, Inc.
Post Office Box 1238 • West Tisbury, MA 02575

www.wtisburyfoundation.org
<https://www.facebook.com/wtlibraryfoundation>

A Unique and Personal Gift



An inscribed brick in the West Tisbury Library Walkway

A lasting way to honor parents, children, grandchildren—any special person in your life—while helping one of the Island's great institutions. Each brick is \$150, it's tax deductible, and we'll send a gift card notifying the recipient. Order now:

Contact Wendy Nierenberg, 508-693-0800.