



*A Cherished Neighborhood Institution Since 1871*

15 Knight Street, P.O. Box 70, Ashaway, RI 02804

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, WINTER 2018

401 377 2770  
director@ashawaylibrary.org  
www.ashawaylibrary.org

Library Hours: Mondays and Fridays 10-5  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-8  
Wednesdays 10-8, Saturday 9-1

### **A Founding Father Helps Explain our New Look**

A grant from the Rhode Island Foundation has allowed us to work with Trish LaPointe, a graphic designer, to create a new logo for the AFL for routine communication and for the upcoming Capital Campaign. This will give the Library a visual identity that will be instantly recognizable. The process itself was interesting and we are very happy with the results. Trish visited the Library to learn more about it and the Board of Trustees completed a questionnaire to help her know what we want our image to convey.

Several possible designs were produced and narrowed down to a few. A favored design was based on the quill pen that shapes the weathervane that sits atop the building. But we didn't know how many of our visitors have noticed the weathervane or would identify it with the AFL. Then we discovered that the shield of the Town of Hopkinton also has a quill pen, representing Stephen Hopkins, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Hopkins was Governor of RI in 1757 and was a Renaissance man for his time. He owned an iron foundry, was a successful merchant, a surveyor and an astronomer. And, he was an avid reader. What better association for a library!



So the quill is not only our weathervane, it is also a symbol of our town that pays tribute to a reader and an accomplished champion of independence. The new logo has a clean, modern look that also honors our history and heritage. We hope it conveys what the AFL means to its community: a traditional and established service with a modern outlook and approach. The logo will be gradually introduced to our stationery, website, and social media communications.

### **Speaking of RI Governors.....**

You may have seen a recent report in the Westerly Sun that describes why Governor

Gina Raimondo got involved in politics. "...I came across



*an article about libraries and other important services being curtailed due to state budget cuts. My grandfather taught himself English at the Providence Public Library--I know how libraries become important community centers for people across our state. I felt I needed to take action."* She ran for treasurer and 4 years later for governor in 2014. Makes you wonder what other potential Governors or Presidents, astronauts or scientists, doctors or lawyers are visiting RI libraries today.

## The New AFL Community Room Will Be a Reality!



We are very excited to tell you that a very generous \$200,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation has provided more than a jump start for our Capital Campaign to raise \$250,000 to add a 30' X 40' Community Room and an accessible entrance to the Library. This room will be used for individual and group work and for programming and meetings. Drawings of the addition by architects Azzinaro and Larson are

posted in the Library. Please use the suggestion box at the circulation desk to tell us what programs and activities you would like to see in the new space.

We continue to seek funding support from organizations and foundations but your support is also needed to raise enough for a spring ground-breaking. Donation materials for this building fund will be mailed to your homes before the end of January and donation envelopes are also available at the Circulation Desk. When the ground thaws and spring approaches we will keep you updated on groundbreaking and construction plans.

## Attention Magazine Lovers!

In this digital age, magazines aren't what they used to be. Many of these periodicals have failed and faded away and those that remain can cost \$5-\$10 each or more. Due to space constraints, the Library can only keep periodicals for a full year. Every January, a year's worth of issues must be discarded. This may be a golden opportunity for some of us who love to browse magazines and clip pages for ideas, recipes, or collage. Some examples of what's available: *MaryJane's Farm, Victoria, Martha Stewart Living, Country Living.*

The old issues will be on a Library table in the back for your browsing during the month of January. Take home the whole year's issues or pick out the ones that interest you most. First come, first serve! Yes, they are free but should you be in a position to do so, a small donation to the Library would not be turned down!



## Star Reading Challenge for Kids

The Hopkinton Libraries Star Reading Challenge is for children ages 0-7 to complete with their parent or guardian. Read 50 books--40 picked by the libraries + 10 of your choice--and stop by to show us your progress as you go. You can pick up a reading pamphlet with all the books at either the Ashaway Free Library or the Langworthy Public Library. Turn in the completed pamphlets by Friday, February 2, 2018 to win a prize! All participants in the reading challenge are welcome to join us for a pizza party on Saturday February 3, 2018 at 11am.

## You Can Step Back In Time on May 5!



Stay tuned for more information about a unique AFL fundraising event.

## Memories of a Great Mom, Teacher, and AFL Librarian

"My mother, Eleanor Perrin was a lively, knowing women who raised 5 children in the late 1930's -50's. She, along with our dad, Grant Perrin, somehow managed to make ends meet, put food on the table, and provide a loving home. She graduated from RI College of Education in the mid-thirty's and taught for a year before I was born. As with many women in those days, she was encouraged or expected to leave her career and become a housewife and full time mother.

She had a passion for the education of children that led her to apply as a librarian in the Ashaway Library two nights a week. The library was situated diagonally across the street from our home located on what was then Main Street. Although Dad was present most nights, one Thursday night a month he was called to a meeting of the Ashaway Fire Department, that meant that I, as the oldest child was put in charge of my 4 siblings. I remember that there were times when I called her at the library for help on that one Thursday evening. I think Mom worked at the library until the mid-50's. I particularly remember she was instrumental in purchasing the World Book encyclopedia for the library.



She went back to teaching full time in the early 60's and was a fourth grade teacher in Ashaway elementary school for many years. She knew she was often given the

"problem" children rather than the more agreeable ones. Mom made it clear that she saw these children as children with problems, not the other way around. There were likely 2, perhaps 3 generations of children who all knew and loved Mrs. Perrin as their teacher. They understood she cared about each one of them. Folks will always remember her smile.

Mom loved children. She shared her vivid imagination, often wearing to school a bright red dress with wild African animals all over it. Another memory is a question she asked of her 4th grade children - how do you help your mother at home to prepare dinner? One young child responded that she sat on the sofa while her mother prepared the meal. Not leaving it at that, Mom asked how that was helping? The child's response was that the kitchen was very small and she needed to get out of the way and give her mother space to prepare the meal.

I write this story because my Mother and the Ashaway Library influenced my life. My favorite books as a child included stories of the Amish community and their traditions (simple living) and stories of the two British Princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret. The simple living notion has followed me all through my nearly 80 years of life. Thank you for listening."

Thank you, Nancy Perrin Lanphear, for sharing your memories with us all the way from the state of Washington.

### **Happy Retirement, Brenda Laing!**

For years before Brenda Laing was a staff librarian, she was a faithful AFL volunteer. We wish her a healthy and rewarding retirement. We'll miss all Brenda's good work and her British accent but hope to see her around the AFL for years to come.

### **Have You Read A Great Book Lately?**

Won't you share your good read with others? You are invited to submit a review of a favorite read with readers of this newsletter. Just send your book review or recommendation to [franc@uri.edu](mailto:franc@uri.edu) and, space permitting we will include it in our next newsletter. Your review can be any length about any book, fiction or non-fiction. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **A Special Stroll Thank You**

Thanks to all who stopped by the AFL to enjoy activities and refreshments during the Ashaway Holiday Stroll. Many of you enjoyed browsing our holiday book sale made possible by the expert book sorting team of Betsy Mercer, Bill and Barbara Capalbo and Janet Johnson. Thank you to all!

**Reminder:** It is not too late to respond to the Fall/Winter Appeal. Your generosity helps to keep the heat on!

### **Library Team**

Director: Heather Field. Staff: Josh Fowler, Cheryl Baker, Amy Forbes  
Substitutes: Emily LeMay, Tyler Vaughan

Board of Trustees: Elizabeth Algieri, Lorna Caulfield, Fran Cohen, Dezmarie Doyle, Judie Freeman, Krislyn Launer, Tara Roesberg, David Smith, Bob Ward

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See what's  
happening:



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