



Volume 6
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THE BOOKMARK

Oradell Public Library

Summer, 2013 Newsletter



A few weeks ago, the Oradell Public Library celebrated its 100th anniversary. We had a marvelous party, made possible by the efforts of a whole host of volunteers, and by the financial support of several local banks and businesses.

In charge of it all, and carrying on in spite of a shattered right wrist, was Mary Margaret Carter, who, according to Library Director Trause, proved "what a one-armed woman could do." Perhaps most notable was getting the 20-page 100th Anniversary Brochure ready for printing, doing much of the typing with one left finger while her right arm was in a cast.

She can be seen in the picture below chatting with surprise guest, Ellsworth Kelly, a world renowned artist who grew up in Oradell.



Mr. Kelly had been invited to the party because a signed print of his, which he had donated to the library, was going to be unveiled. However, because of health issues, it wasn't known if he would actually make it until 3:00 the day before the party.

Fortunately, he made it, and added greatly to the excitement and ambience of the party. It should be pointed out that in addition to the framed print, he also donated eight show posters, all of which had been framed by the Oradell Public Library Foundation.



Mr. Frank Vierling, our Historian Emeritus, was a childhood friend of Mr. Kelly's, and when he heard Ellsworth was coming to the party, he arranged for his daughter to drive him down from Amherst, Mass. to meet his old friend. It was a grand reunion for two old friends, both of whom turn 90 this year.

There was food and punch all afternoon, much of it supplied by our library staff, and some local shops. Some of our library patrons came forth with donations that helped make the festive spread possible. After a few speeches at 3:00, the three birthday cakes were cut and served for all to enjoy. They were very colorful cakes with edible pictures of the library right on the icing.

And there was entertainment. Up in the Youth Department, Graham Clarke, the son of one of the staff members, performed for the children. He is extremely popular, and visits the library frequently. In fact, Graham will be returning to the library on July 29 at 7 pm to put on a performance for adults.



Down in the adult department, a very talented harpist, Enki Bello, played lovely background music all afternoon. This young lady is originally from Columbia, and will be graduating from Bergen Community College this month.

A number of local dignitaries came to the celebration, many bringing resolutions or letters of congratulation. The New Jersey State Library, and the NJ Library Assoc. were represented. The head of BCCLS came and offered his congratulations also.

All in all, it was a supreme success, with between 900 and 1,000 people coming to join in on the fun. Many people took home a copy of the Commemorative Brochure, and many more have picked up copies at the circulation desk. [They are nearly gone, so if you don't have one, be sure to come by the library and get one.](#)

And to all the people who pitched in to help make the entire afternoon such a success, our heartfelt thanks. ■

Local History Room

Janet Ordway Atwater has been an important part of Oradell for most of her life, and her roots are deep here.

Her grandparents came from Brooklyn soon after the start of the 20th century to visit Janet's grandmother's sister, Barbara Wanamaker. They felt they were in farm country, which it was at that time. They bought the lot next door, stayed with the Wanamaker's for a while, and then in the hotel that was at the lower end of Schirra Park while their home was being built.

Janet grew up in the house at 433 Seminole Street, went to Oradell Public School from kindergarten through ninth grade, and then went to Dwight Morrow High School in Englewood. She was an early member of the Girl Scouts, and is still one after 61 years. She loved ice skating on the ponds along Oradell Avenue, was active in the Episcopal Church youth group, and always had a camera in her hand. And it's that camera that makes her so important to Oradell History.

Janet went on to Endicott College, was later chosen as Alumna of the year, and is listed in the Who's Who in American College Women.

She married James R. Atwater, Jr. more than 60 years ago, and they later moved into 411 Prospect Avenue. It was

here in 1913 that the first meeting of the future Oradell Library Trustees took place, and the library was founded. Part of the 90th birthday celebration of the library was held there as an open house with the Friends of the Library serving tea and sweet cakes and giving house tours.

She established "Photos by Jan", a business she had for 41 years, and much of her constant recording of Oradell history is now located in the Local History Room. Jan has donated 12 volumes of photographs, and other important memorabilia, which provides a marvelous record of many of the things that happened in this town during the second half of the Twentieth Century. I urge you to come and see the collection.

[Which leads me to remind you that you can come and look at, not only the Ordway/Atwater Collection, but all the rest of the archives on the first Friday of each month from 1-5 pm. ■](#)



George Carter, Borough Archivist/Historian

Director's Corner

As the Director of the Oradell Public Library during its centennial year (1913 – 2013), I continue to be proud of the work that the 100th Anniversary Committee, especially its Chair, Mary Margaret Carter, and other Library staff, Friends, and citizens have been doing to bring to the Library a year's worth of outstanding programs and events, not to mention books and other materials, all related to Oradell.

As you have been reading and hearing, the 100th Anniversary Party on Sunday, April 28, 2013 was a grand success. Ellsworth Kelly's appearance with his assistant Jack Shear was appreciated by the crowd amounting to at least 900 people. The unveiling of the original print *Color Squares 2* (2011), donated by Mr. Kelly, and Mr. Kelly's address to the audience were one of the highlights of the celebration.



On display from April through May in both the large and the small display cases is the exhibit "Who's Afraid of Ellsworth Kelly?" It features a small selection of the books, catalogs, and Oradell house photographs drawn from the Local History Archives. Mr. Kelly grew up in Oradell and is celebrating his 90th birthday on May 31st. We thank the Oradell Public Library Foundation for the funds to build up this collection.

When you visit the Library, please note the exhibition posters throughout the Library featuring the work of Ellsworth Kelly and donated by the artist.

The book display from the middle of May through early June is "BCCLS BooksNJ 2013," which features books by the authors, including me, John J. Trause, participating in this year's biennial book fair held at Paramus Public Library on Sunday, June 9, 2013.

The Oradell Library will be the Grand Marshall at the Fourth of July parade. Come march with us! We also look forward to seeing you at other programs and events scheduled this spring and summer:

Rick Feingold (*Escape from Enemy Lines – Operation Bonaparte*). Monday, June 10, 2013 at 7 p. m.

Kevin Woyce (*The Great Falls at Paterson*). Monday, June 17, 2013 –or- Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 7 p. m.

Charles Buckley and Richard Muti with *The Charmer*, a book about Bergen County serial killer Richard Reldan. Lecture and book-signing. Monday, June 24, 2013 at 7 p. m.

Chito Dakay – Oradell resident with musical James Taylor program with sing along. Monday, July 15, 2013 at 7 p. m.

James Lessersohn (Baseball in NYC in 1913 - Yankees 100th anniversary and opening of Ebbets Field). Monday, July 8, 2013 at 7 p. m.
John J. Trause, Library Director

Youth Department Librarian

Dig Into...Summer Reading

It lasts for only 2 short months, yet we spend all year planning, preparing and strategizing. Why is this a big deal for us? In short, because despite the fun themes and events, the purpose of the library-sponsored Summer Reading Program is actually a well-calculated program to improve literacy skills. Studies have shown that children who continue reading over the summer are more prepared for the next school year.

In accordance with our themes of Dig Into Reading for children and Beneath the Surface for teens, we will present programs and books that touch on dirt, dinosaurs, trucks, gardening, secret tunnels, buried treasures, vampires, and much, much more. What we will be highlighting are books that we think are enjoyable and fun to read.

More than anything, however, we will be encouraging children to select their own materials, developing a sense of reading for their own pleasure. Studies overwhelmingly show that students who read recreationally out-perform those who don't. Choosing their reading materials based on their own interests is an important factor in motivating children to become recreational readers.

The details of this year's program will be announced in June and registration will start the week of June 24th. We will have



a kick-off party the evening of Wednesday, June 26th, so please save the date!

Speaking of recreational reading, one of my favorite aspects of being a librarian is what's called Reader's Advisory. Reader's Advisory is pretty much as it sounds: making personalized recommendations on reading materials. This doesn't always have to be done by physically visiting us in the library. Please don't hesitate to send me an email if you are looking for new books to read to your child or new books for their own independent reading. My email is Robin.Rockman@bccls.org. ■

Robin Rockman, Youth Department Librarian

New and very Special

The Friends of the Library are always looking for new things to offer our patrons, partly to raise the funds we need to support our various activities, and partly to provide you with beautiful, interesting or just plain fun items for your home or office.

We became acquainted with the artist, Nancie Johnson, after she contacted our Library Director with an idea concerning her love of painting pictures of houses. She showed us her portfolio, an example of which is seen below.



She had found some examples of Oradell homes on line, and had painted pictures of them. She contacted the library, and ultimately the Friends, to see if there was a way to work together to each other's mutual benefit.

The Friends decided that they liked the paintings, and so are going to help Nancie with her work. This is a joint effort and both parties will benefit.

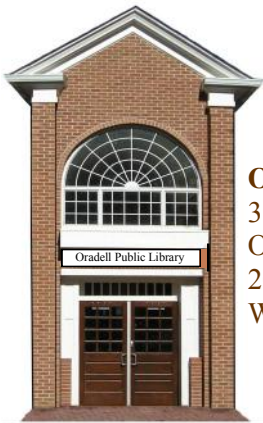
The paintings measure 9 inches by 12 inches, and are on rigid board. They are painted in acrylic, and are not framed. Each painting may take up to two weeks to produce, and will cost \$65, which must be paid in advance.

You may obtain a painting of your home in one of three ways.

1. If you live in one of the pre 1933 homes in Oradell, Nancie can make a painting from the digital image the Friends have stored in the Archives computer.
2. If you live in a newer home, you can supply Nancie with up to three pictures of the home, and she will paint it. The photos will be returned.
3. If you have taken pictures recently, and have digital images available, those can be sent to the artist. The images will be destroyed when the painting is finished.

If you are interested, visit the front desk at the library to see several examples of Nancie's work. You can pick up an order form and place your order right there. ■

Friends of the Library



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 John J. Trause

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Friends Officers:
 Elaine Franek-Materon, President
 Tony Aurigemma, Vice President
 George Carter, Secretary/Treasurer

Library Hours:	
Monday – Wednesday	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Thursday – Saturday	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed
Closed Saturdays	July-Labor Day

The Friends of the Library

The year is nearly half over, and the current terms of office for the officers of the Friends is coming to a close. For nearly twelve years, I have acted as the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, and the Corresponding Secretary, and it is time to retire. We urgently need some people to step forward to begin to look over my shoulder so they can run for office and eventually pick up the reins I have been handling.

The jobs of Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary go hand in hand because as the donations come in, it is easy to have the computer generate the appropriate “thank you” letters. Being the Recording Secretary is a job unto itself.

So, in essence, two people are needed, and I hope some of you will consider becoming involved in this fine organization, thus providing me the opportunity to lighten the load. I will always want to be a part of the Friends, just not so active as I have been in the past. ■

* * * * *

Two very active members of the Friends, and a very important asset to the Oradell Library are Dianne Daniele and Stella Lewis. Dianne and Stella have been active program co-chairs for many

years. It is this team that continually finds us the best in Library entertainment. I should also add that the other important member of their team is our Director, John J. Trause.

The two ladies visit and view many programs in and around Bergen County, always with the purpose of locating performers who would add something special to the offerings at the library. This keeps them busy many nights and even on the weekends. And I think you will agree that what they bring to the Oradell library is exemplary. ■



George Carter
 Secretary/
 Treasurer

Library Meetings are held in the Lower Level Meeting Room:
Board of Trustee Meetings, Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Friends of the Library Meetings, First Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.