

The Wellfleet Public Library has had yet another strong year. A 5-Star rating from the *Library Journal* once again confirms our library's extraordinary per capita service in four categories: circulation of materials, library visits, program attendance, and public internet computer use. In a very competitive rating system based on an objective analysis of data, over 7,573 public libraries were rated. Only 3.5% of that number received a star. Lest we become complacent, the *Library Journal* states "that a library that earns a star one year is no guarantee that it will earn any stars in the following year." Thus, 5 Stars for six years is impressive.

The library's strength derives from the Library Director, Elaine McIlroy, and her superb staff, who work very hard during the busy summer season as well as year round to serve the varied needs of library patrons. Library volunteers also contribute many hours to the benefit of the library, mending books, shelving books, serving on the art exhibition committee, working on the summer book sales,. The Friends of the Wellfleet Library are a crucial element of the library's strength. The Friends are dedicated to the mission of the library and their financial generosity enhances every aspect of the library's service. Finally, support from Wellfleet Town departments, town officials, and the community is vital to the strong foundation of the library. It is important to note that the Town's funding for circulating materials was increased in 2013.

In August, the Shirley Stone Garrett and James Garrett Library Fund was created with a \$30,000 gift. The letter announcing the gift stated that the Garretts' intention was to lay "a dollar on the table to provide free reading materials to the Town of Wellfleet like the [library's] founders did in 1873." It is their wish that their donation be "a rallying cry to the community, such that further donations of money, materials, and volunteers may be forthcoming." Dr. Garrett was a library volunteer for a number of years and she added this note: "My gratitude for fifty summers in the library." The trustees thank Dr. Garrett for this generous gift that represents an enduring commitment to the future of the library and the Wellfleet community.

As part of the library's long-range plan, the trustees and the library director are currently working on plans for a small addition to the library that will serve as a quiet reading room. The reading room would also hold the library's collection of Cape Cod books. Funding for the Nerber Room will come from the \$200,000 bequest from Martin Nerber.

Patrons and library staff are enjoying the new heating and air-conditioning system that was installed in the Spring. The next focus on maintenance and repair is on the exterior of the building: painting and trim work.

Wellfleet was 250 years old this year and the town celebrated. The Wellfleet Public Library with all its permutations is 140 years old. That's worth celebrating.

Respectfully submitted,
Reatha Ciotti, Chair
Wellfleet Library Board of Trustees