



# FRIENDS FEATURES

Issue Sixty-Two

Lititz Public Library

Summer/Fall 2014



## Rethinking Quiet in the Library

*Sallie Rihn, Community Relations Coordinator and Editor*

I recently came across a PEW Research Center survey published in December 2013 that looked at how Americans value public libraries in their communities. Not surprisingly, the survey showed that Americans strongly value the role of public libraries in their communities, both for providing access to materials and resources and for promoting literacy and improving the overall quality of life. Ninety-one percent of Americans indicated that libraries are important to the well-being of their community.

When asked to rate what library services were most important to them, Americans rated access to books and media; having a quiet, safe place and help with finding information as the top most important services. Books and media came as no surprise again

as the top-rated service. The second-rated service, however, made me stop and think: quietness as a public service?



Quietness and libraries go hand-in-hand certainly. But we've spent many years trying to brand libraries as active, community hubs: a place to go not only for books and materials, but also for educational, cultural and recreational programs to enrich all ages in our community. A tacit goal of turning libraries into vibrant hubs included shedding the stereotype of librarians sporting spectacles and buns "shushing" everyone who entered through the front door.

**According to a PEW Research Center Survey published December 2013, among Americans ages 16+ who have ever used a public library, 75% say that having a quiet, safe place is important.**

The importance of quiet space ranked higher, though only slightly, than computer access and programs for both youth and adults. So should libraries be quiet or bustling—or both? The PEW Research Center asked this very question on its Facebook page. One respondent noted that libraries should not only be reasonably quiet places to read or study, but also be places to gather for group learning, leisure experiences and library-sponsored cultural events.

In observing the goings-on at the Lititz Public Library over the summer, I found folks sitting at tables studying or in cushioned chairs reading, as well as families with children coming in for summer reading programs. Indeed the community room can be full of joyful excitement during one of the many summer reading programs. Though when coming to or walking through the library, I frequently observed parents gently reminding their children to remain quiet.



As coordinator for adult programs, I also know that active programs occur beyond the community room doors. Music from our concerts often spills into the main area. Book, film and current affairs discussion groups generate lively but respectful discussions. I frequently see patrons in search of a book stopping to listen to a Civil War history lecture as they pass by the community room door. Conversely, plenty of people may be found sitting and reading in and about the library. I've even noticed that the library's front courtyard serves as a quiet haven for reflection or a picnic on occasion.

Though I must admit that I had not given much thought previously to quietness as a service, I'd like to conclude that our library is both quiet and bustling, and in fitting with the Facebook description above. Now in addition to saying the library is a hub in the community; I will also add that it serves as a den for the community. Take your pick!



**Makers Faire: Where Art meets Science**

**Clockwise from top left:** Makers at the Lititz Public Library demonstrated a wide variety of things including duct tape accessories, handmade musical instruments, model engines, yarn spinning, robotically controlled model airplanes and Raspberry Pi (a credit-card-sized single board computer) plus a whole lot more during the Makers Faire last spring. Over twenty makers ranging in age from 12 to 70 participated in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)-powered event and more than 200 people came to see what they make!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**Fall Tech Makers Faire: Saturday, November 1 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Lititz Public Library**



**A Good-Bye...and a Welcome!**

The Literary Travelers book discussion group bade a bittersweet farewell to Deborah Linder, the group's able discussion leader since January 2006 when the group began as a series of book discussions on Pennsylvania writers sponsored by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Since then, the group has traveled the world around reading contemporary fiction written by international writers or set in international or culturally different locations. An adjunct professor of Literature at Franklin and Marshall College, Deborah will be embarking on a new adventure of her own when she moves to Michigan with her family this fall.

Deborah had this to say about her fellow Literary Travelers, "The involvement with this group has been the best teaching experience of my career...and the best learning experience. The respect afforded me and one another, the life-experience wisdom shared, and the literary insights offered will contribute to treasured memories of Friday mornings together."

This October, the Literary Travelers will begin another series and welcome Scott Vine as their new leader. Scott also comes to us from F&M, where he is a research librarian and writing instructor. Willkommen Scott!



**Scott Vine**



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**"My encouragement  
 to you is to  
 go tomorrow  
 to the library."**

Poet Maya Angelou during a speech to a college audience that encouraged students to read voraciously and never stop learning.



Maya Angelou 1928-2014

**The Lititz Public Library  
 2014 Board of Trustees**

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**Friends of the Lititz Public Library Fundraisers to Benefit the Library**

**Book Sale**

**Thursday, September 11**  
**Friday, September 12**  
 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, September 13**  
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**(Buck-A-Bag starts at 1 p.m.)**

**Vintage and Costume Jewelry Sale**

**Friday, October 3, 4-6 p.m.**  
**Saturday, October 4, 8 a.m.—2 p.m.**

Vintage/costume jewelry, scarves & handbags

**Saturday 12-2 p.m.—Buy one piece, get another of equal or lesser value for free**

Donations are still being accepted for the sale



**From the Desk of the Director, Susan Tennant**

Recently, when asked to share my vision for library services in Lititz, I was able to say that we're very lucky. Our donors and municipal officials understand that our library enhances our community's ability to succeed. The library is one component that helps attract talented workers. Our library fills an essential niche that ensures our children enter school ready to learn, increasing the odds of a successful educational career. Our library provides programs and resources to help children bridge summer learning loss. We offer people of all ages opportunities to enhance their lives and become involved in the community.

I think our library's future lies in providing experiences and services that are viewed as essential to everyday life, provided in a way people can't find anywhere else. Our public library is a lifestyle choice that community members sustain through their annual donations. We are very grateful for your support.