Dear Friends:

As we celebrate the end of our first full year in the new Sherman Library, we find ourselves filled with awe and gratitude.

We are fortunate that our patrons and our town have been so supportive of the Sherman Library. Not only through memberships, gifts and grants, but by volunteering their time and their expertise. These expressions of civic offerings have been both humbling and heartfelt.

Every day, people tell us how impressed they are with Sherman’s new library. They mention the relaxed ambiance created by open spaces and special touches, and the comfortable chairs and furniture that provide more work and reading areas. The historic barn magnificently restored as our program room and the original, elegant and graceful 1926 library never fail to impress. Visitors marvel at the circulation desk, specially designed of oak and antique chestnut, and people of all ages love the children’s area, adorned by a beautiful hand-painted mural. Pieces of art and other wonderful contributions, all created by the people of Sherman, make our new library unique.

As the saying goes, build it and they will come. And they have! The Sherman Library experienced a year of increased visits, successful programming and growing circulation. People visited to use computers, meet with colleagues, work on projects and attend a growing list of activities.

In addition, I am happy to say the building held up especially well during the long, cold winter. And so now, after years of planning and construction, we can acknowledge that the physical expansion of our library is complete, and we can begin to focus on revising policies, preparing a long-range plan, and innovating technology to keep the Sherman Library relevant and current.

On behalf of the library’s Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers I thank the people of Sherman for their support in making this project a success. Our town now has a library that engenders a feeling of satisfaction, accomplishment and pride for all to enjoy.

For well over a century the Sherman Library has been a beacon for all those who seek knowledge and community. Thanks to you, our library will remain a cornerstone of Sherman for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Millie Loeb

Executive Director of the Sherman Library

Highlights of 2014–15

- The Sherman Library celebrated 113 years of service to the community
- Celebrated one year anniversary of the Grand Opening of our newly restored, renovated and expanded Sherman Library
- Over 200 people attended the anniversary festivities
- Throughout the year the library continued to provide services to the public
- 31,221 items were loaned
- 1,171 books and audio books were added to the library collection
- 548 downloadable eBooks & audio books were added to Overdrive at www.shermanlibrary.org
- 241 classic, popular, foreign and documentary films substantially augmented the DVD collection
- The Sherman Library’s catalog and circulation system, accessed through our Bibliomation membership, were upgraded, updated and improved.
- Patrons used www.shermanlibrary.org to access library catalog, databases, manage their account, download eBooks and audio books and learn of library events anywhere anytime.
- 3,511 children and adults attended 252 library programs in the new library program room.
Highlights of 2014–15 (continued)

- Generous grants from individuals, foundations and local organizations supported programs and special book purchases
- Our popular programs included collaboration with local organizations, including Naromi Land Trust, Sherman Conservation Commission, SVFD and the Sherman School
- The Sherman Library was one of 75 locations nationwide and the only place in Connecticut chosen to host the free PBS Community Cinema monthly documentary film series
- Wireless Internet access remained free for all library users
- Members, patrons and the town were informed of library news through our enewsletter and website, social media and local publications.
- The Sherman Library reached the final goal of the Capital Campaign

- Membership donations, fundraising events, in-kind donations and a grant from the Town of Sherman supported the library operating budget
- The Sherman Library Women’s Soiree fundraiser was back by popular demand and we organized the second Celebrate Sherman Town Softball Tournament and along with the SVFD, the first NFL Championship Play-Off Party
- The Book Sale, the Family BBQ and the festive Fourteenth Annual Holiday Party provided important support for the library materials budget
- 120 indispensable adults and students volunteered hundreds of hours in support of the library
- A talented, long serving, and friendly staff provided outstanding service and were essential to reaching our goals
- A dedicated Library Board of Trustees remained committed to excellence and advocating for the Sherman Library

Programs at a Glance

Adult
- Annual Meeting
- Art Show Opening Receptions
- Artist Live Demonstration – Gay L. Morris SilkWorks
- Author presentations
- Book Discussions- Friday Evenings
- Book Launch Party - The Lake Season by Hannah McKinnon
- CPR Staff Training by SVFDEMS Chief Kathy Grant and EMT Ellen Healey-Heinz
- Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail – Charlotte McConaghy
- Ongoing Free Books Cart
- Silence of the Bees –Sherman Library with Town of Sherman, Sherman Conservation Commission & Naromi Land Trust
- Sherman Library One Year Anniversary New Building
- Voices of Poetry – Ira Joe Fisher, Don Lowe, Jack Powers, James Scrimgeour

Art Shows and Exhibits
- Art Works – Zeb Mayer
- Barn Transformed - Mason Lord & Kate Ritter
- Canvassing the Neighborhood - Don Amorosa
- Ceramics – Helen Garrison
- Lithographs – Cynthia Osborne
- Photographs and Mixed Media – Katherine Manning
- Photography - Tony Gomez
- Portraits in Oil – Carol Tambor
- Pottery – William Talbot
- SilkWorks – Gay Lynette Morris
- Fused Glass - Maryann Meken-Silvestri
**Book Discussions**
- *The Attack* by Yasmina Khadra led by Marge Josephson
- *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller led by Joseph Keneally
- *The Big Rock Candy Mountain* by Wallace Stegner led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *Caleb’s Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks led by Mary Rindfleisch
- *Greater Journey* by David McCullough led by Lorna Barrett
- *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift led by Joe Keneally
- *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi led by Stephanie Spinner
- *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce led by Pat Corrigan
- *White Tiger* by Avarind Adiga led by Cindy Whitman

**Community Cinema**
- A Path Appears
- American Denial
- Evolution of a Criminal
- The Homestretch
- Limited Partnership

**Children and Families**
- Book Discussions
- Brick Clique
- Eco Farm on Wheels
- Half Moon Music-Al deCant
- Friday Afternoon Movies
- Friday Quick Flicks
- Make a Scarecrow
- Make a Spring Time Medallion
- Movie Night “Elf”
- Quick Flicks – preschool books on screen
- Science Tellers Where Science and Storytelling Mix
- Shadow Puppet Show
- Sherman Community Halloween Event
- Sherman Chamber Ensemble “Beethoven: Questions and Answers”
- Spring Bird Feeders
- Take Your Child to the Library Day – special guest Don Lowe
- Valentine Afternoon
- Kindergarten library introduction Field Trip
- Library Cards and Tour for 1st Grades
- Nutmeg Award Reading Program
- Nutmegs @ Night Sleepover in the Barn
- Read Across America-Dr. Seuss’ 111th Birthday Celebration
- Trick or Treat at the Library
- Volunteer Helpers

**School Year Story Time and Craft Programs 2’s, 3’s, 4’s, 5’s and K – 5th Grades**
- Toddle Times for 18 months – three years
- Preschooler Thursdays
- Fantastic Fridays for K – 2nd Grades
- Teens on Thursdays
- Wicked Wednesdays for 3rd – 5th Grades

**Summer Weekly Programs-Pre-School to Middle School:**
- *Fizz Boom Read* - Summer Reading
- Toddlers Summer
- Preschool Programs
- School Age Summer for K to 3rd Grades
- Junior Library Assistants 4th- 6th Grades
- Story Time Assistants 7th Grade
- Summer Book Discussion Series in July–August
- Summer Reading Program
- Summer End Ice Cream Making Party for Junior Friends

**Fundraising Events**
- Book Sales- October, March, May
- Family BBQ
- Fourteenth Annual Holiday Party
- Membership Appeals
- NFL Championship
- Women’s Soiree
**Statistical Review 2014–15**

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*U.S. Census Bureau 2010

Clockwise from top: Nutmegs® Night 2015; Library Staff CPR Training: Karen Borneman, Florrie French, Millie Loeb, Christine Ranno; Eden creating at the library.
The Sherman Library Association thanks all its volunteers for their outstanding support of the library. Over 120 adult and student volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of their time and energy this past year. Whether participating as a member of our Board of Trustees, manning the circulation desk or helping with fundraising events, volunteers are an integral part of our library each and every day. These dedicated volunteers also work behind the scenes on a myriad of tasks. They maintain our building, organize the book sales, design print material, lead book discussions and present adult and children’s programs. They vacuum, weed gardens, clean gutters and move heavy boxes. Sherman Library volunteers are committed and enthusiastic. They give our library its character and personality. This devoted group, ranging from age nine to ninety, helps to keep our library operating smoothly year after year. Our appreciation for all they do runs deep!

Landscape volunteers spearheaded by Catharine Cooke and Ian Gribble of Spring Lake Garden Design

**Many volunteers participate in more than one library activity.**