



BELFAST FREE LIBRARY www.belfastlibrary.org

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October 5, 2012

Dear Friends,

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The past several months have been very busy at the Belfast Free Library!

We recently celebrated our library's 125th Anniversary with lots of activity—there were concerts, lectures, panel discussions, recitals, historical presentations, and displays.

While some events were purely artistic and others celebrated the history of our fine institution, some looked forward to what our library, and libraries in general, will be like in the future. One thing is certain: the libraries of the future will be different in some major ways from those of the past.

Our library's terrific staff is committed to keeping the Belfast Free Library the useful and pleasant place it is today. They are also concerned with keeping current with the changes that libraries everywhere are facing.

E-books, social media, and connecting the public to online and virtual services are relatively new issues with which libraries are expected to provide assistance. While one might think that digital forms of literary material would be easier to manage and would cost less than actual books, that's not the case (at least, not at the present time). Big changes in how books are marketed are headed our way, and publishers do not make it easy for libraries to circulate the increasingly popular e-books.

Staying current with trends is costly—increasingly so. Combine that with the expenses of maintaining an elegant yet aging historic building, and you can see how budgets get strained. The number of visits to the library continues to increase year after year, also stretching our resources to the limit. If the library is to continue its popularity as well as to grow and change with the times, it needs an expanded resource base.

Lucky for us, we have a supportive community of donors who give to our annual campaign year after year. Won't you please join us by lending your support to the library in 2012?

Let's maintain our standing as one of the busiest and most vibrant libraries in Maine!

Yours truly,

Jane Cady, President
The Board of Trustees

The Belfast Free Library is a not for profit organization recognized as tax exempt under Internal Revenue code section 501(c)(3). Contributions to the Belfast Free Library are tax-deductible to the fullest extent established by law.