



BELFAST FREE LIBRARY www.belfastlibrary.org

106 HIGH STREET • BELFAST, MAINE 04915 • 207-338-3884 • FAX: 207-338-3895

October 15, 2011

Dear Friends,

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This coming year will be one of special significance for the Belfast Free Library. On February 7, 1887, the library was founded, and so we will begin an observance of our 125th Anniversary! We are in the midst of making plans for the activities and events that will appropriately mark this notable milestone.

As forward thinking as those who founded the library were, it is doubtful that they could possibly envision the kind of changes that have occurred in the past 125 years. Even in the lifetime of many of us, the differences in mode of operation have been stunning. The library has evolved from a *very quiet* place to study or borrow books to a community center for meetings and concerts, a place for using the latest forms of digital technology, a location for interactive computers and programs in an area totally devoted to children, a site for displays of art work, a spot for serious archival research ...just some examples of the quiet revolution that has taken place.

Where it stops, no one knows! The librarian of today has challenges that greatly exceed those of the librarian from yesteryear. Making sure that a child only whispers in the library strikes me as far less difficult than keeping up with the minute-by-minute leaps in technology of our current culture. It is a challenge that we take very seriously. It is a demanding task to keep pace, but we press on.

One aspect of the library's life that has not changed is the need for monetary gifts to sustain our mission. We can proudly point to so many who have in the past 125 years given so consistently and so generously. Quite frankly, the services that we offer would suffer noticeably were it not for the yearly gifts that we receive from a host of people who believe, as we do, that the Belfast Free Library is a cornerstone of learning and opportunity in our area.

Please join me in lending your support by way of a generous gift this year. We will be very grateful, and that support will give us all an even greater reason to celebrate our 125th Anniversary. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Yours truly,

Alden Johnson, 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.