

Exhibits

New Exhibit Celebrates Service

How will you make a difference? The Library's new exhibit, "Mary Baker Eddy: A Life of Service," asks this question as it tells the story of the myriad ways Eddy contributed to her community and the world, while highlighting companies and individuals who are demonstrating the same spirit of giving today.

Eddy wrote, "The good you do and embody gives you the only power obtainable." She believed that life is about service, and she led by example. The main exhibit in the Library's lobby features a series of illuminated, colorful glass panels highlighting three main themes of Eddy's life of service. The first section, "Giving in Unexpected Ways," focuses on her philanthropy, detailing her pioneering efforts to pave the streets of her home city, Concord, N.H., as well as her donations of shoes to children in need through the auspices of a local shoe merchant and the New Hampshire State Fair. In addition to the graphic display of historical photographs and documents, each section features a video illustrating a main theme. Connecting Eddy's giving with present-day examples of service, visitors watch a video from TOMS

Shoes, a company started by a young entrepreneur that distributes shoes on a one for one model: For every pair of shoes purchased, they donate a pair to a child in need. The TOMS "shoe drop" video transitions to a short piece that further tells the story of Eddy's shoe donations. Recordings of letters from the Library's collection from individuals either requesting shoes for worthy children or expressing their gratitude for Eddy's generous donation play over images of the correspondence.

"Sharing a Discovery," the next thread of the exhibit, highlights Eddy's radical decision to write a textbook, making her system of healing available to everyone. She devoted nearly forty years to writing and revising *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, working tirelessly to refine its healing message. Countless lives have been transformed by her efforts. One such example is presented in a video that tells the story of Marietta T. Webb, an African-American woman whose testimony of healing can be read on pages 612-614 of *Science and Health*. Her reading of the textbook gave her and her family much more than physical healing; it gave her a career as a Christian Science practitioner. She then blessed countless more people through her four decades of healing work. She also served her community by helping start a branch church for black Christian

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The Library's new exhibit, "Mary Baker Eddy: A Life of Service," is on display through March 2011.

Mission Statement

“The Mary Baker Eddy Library provides public access and context to original materials and educational experiences about Mary Baker Eddy’s life, ideas, and achievements, including her Church. The Library promotes exploration and scholarship through its collections, exhibits, and programs.”



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News

Be in touch!

Did you know the Library has a mailing list? Are you on it?

List members receive the Upcoming Programs & Events bulletins, e-mailed roughly every month, to learn about what’s happening at the Library in the coming weeks.

Those on the list also receive the Library’s quarterly newsletter electronically at the same time the printed version is delivered. The complete newsletter is available as a PDF on our Web site, but the e-mail also offers links to other areas of the site from streaming video of highlighted programs to the full-length articles on the objects of the month. Everything that is in the printed version is in the e-mail version. Help the Library reduce printing costs for the newsletter by signing up to receive it online.

To sign up for the list, visit the Web site home page (www.mbelibrary.org). At the top right, there is a box where you can enter your e-mail address. It is labeled “Join Our Mailing List.”

Our Web site is updated regularly, so check back often!

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Scientists in Los Angeles at a time of widespread segregation.

Eddy’s life of service is most publicly recognized through her founding of *The Christian Science Monitor* with the mission “to injure no man, but to bless all mankind.” This section of the exhibit, “Making a Difference,” explains that instead of emphasizing sensation and conflict, *Monitor* staffers carried out Eddy’s directive by publishing important, substantive news stories. Today the *Monitor* continues to deliver thoughtful, balanced, in-depth news coverage via a weekly magazine and 24/7 at csmonitor.com. Its journalism includes an emphasis on solutions as it reports on the challenges facing the world today. Its “People Making a Difference” series highlights individuals working to create positive change. Visitors to the exhibit watch three such “PMADs” describe not only

their individual projects, but also how one person can make a difference.

“Mary Baker Eddy: A Life of Service” also invites visitors to interact in several ways. On one computer kiosk guests navigate through the world of microlending and learn about the efforts of Kiva, an organization that facilitates small loans from average people to entrepreneurs in impoverished areas around the world. A second kiosk shares individual stories of service posted by visitors to our “My Life of Service” gallery on the Library’s Web site at www.mbelibrary.org/life-of-service. Personal stories can also be shared right at the exhibit as visitors can jot their contributions on a Post-it note and stick it to a wall. Since the exhibit opened April 6, this wall has been covered several times over by shared stories.

So, how will you make a difference? Go to our Web site to share your story.

Programs

Strength of Spirit

The first three major programs from our 2010 series “Strength of Spirit: Engaging with Mary Baker Eddy 100 Years Later,” created buzz and helped spike visitor attendance to the Library and its Web site. Presentations by playwright Christine Buxton, writer/performer/producer Val Kilmer, and biographer Gillian Gill drew large audiences, and each event presented different dimensions of the drama and profundity of Mary Baker Eddy’s life experience and the influence of her ideas.

January 21, 2010—Christine Buxton, Playwright



Christine Buxton has been at work on a play about Mary Baker Eddy since 2006. Originally, she developed the idea as a screenplay in conjunction with Chet Manchester, who was creative director at the Library from 2000 through 2003. She then re-envisioned the work as a

stage play. After bringing it to a successful production in England in 2008, Buxton decided to revise her work further and spent considerable time researching in the Library’s collections. On a Thursday evening at the Library, she captivated an audience of nearly one hundred with descriptions, excerpts, and discussion of her play, which is titled simply *Mrs Eddy*.

Mrs Eddy focuses on an intense and suspenseful event in Eddy’s life, known as the Next Friends Suit, which concluded in 1907. This legal action was purportedly brought on her behalf to defend her against alleged exploitation by her staff. In her presentation, Buxton brought elements of the trial to life, portraying scenes from her play.

In addition to Eddy, Sybil Wilbur is the play’s other major character. As a respected journalist, she undertakes her own investigation to uncover the truth behind this case, probing its machinations and complexities. Buxton unveils an Eddy who displays, at times, a poignant vulnerability, yet rises to the occasion of meeting her



inquisitors and detractors with clarity and strength of purpose.

Along with partner Tim Heymans, Buxton has formed a production company, Seven Zeen Ltd., for *Mrs Eddy*. She is grateful for any help in bringing this work to increased fruition, and the Library was very pleased to serve as a venue and conduit to promote her project. For more information about the play and future productions, contact info@sevenzeen.com.

February 21, 2010—Val Kilmer, Writer/Performer/Producer



Film star Val Kilmer performed a one-man show at the Library in connection with his film-in-progress on Eddy and Mark Twain. In character as Twain, Kilmer evoked the many sides of this celebrated American wit and writer: his humor, charm, passion, and rambunctious nature.

Throughout the performance, Twain referred to Eddy and to Christian Science. Much of the monologue was taken directly from Twain’s writings on these subjects. Twain was fascinated by Eddy and published numerous articles and eventually a book on Christian Science. In keeping with his profession and inclination as a satirist, much of Twain’s commentary is mocking. Still, he can never dismiss Eddy and her ideas, and continually returns to them as a man who, despite his savage skepticism, remains riveted to his own spiritual search.

Following Kilmer’s performance, the evening was dedicated to a discussion on Twain and Eddy, and the development of Kilmer’s film production on the subject. As Kilmer changed out of his Twain costume, Chet Manchester and Mike Davis joined Library Programs Manager Jonathon Eder, on stage. The three discussed the Library’s holdings on Twain and Eddy and why their lives and beliefs intersected so prominently in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century America. Manchester has collaborated with Kilmer on this project, and Davis,

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a researcher at the Library, has provided his skills and expertise on Eddy's history to support Kilmer's effort. Davis and Manchester explained the driving factors behind Twain's interest in and attacks on Eddy, and Eddy's response to them.

Kilmer returned to the stage, having discarded Twain's signature white suit, white hair, and mustache, and a lively discussion ensued on his vision for the film. About 250 people attended the event, necessitating use of an overflow room, where video of the event was simulcast on screen. The question-and-answer period included a range of questions for Kilmer about what would be in his film and about his approach to acting. The first question out of the box was who would play Eddy. Kilmer was circumspect in his response, indicating that there were many actresses that he had in mind, and that it would be the role of a lifetime.

Kilmer was buoyant during this discussion, mixing insight with jokes and teasing. When a questioner, in asking him about his approach to playing Twain, complimented him on masterful artistry in all his movie roles, Kilmer pointed at the young man and playfully responded, "I've always liked you," and then, turning to Manchester, added, "There's something about him. ... a sense of style." Kilmer's sincerity and seriousness of purpose also very much came through in revealing his goals for this project. He made it clear that he wants the film to be entertaining, and noted, "It's not a movie about Christian Science ... It is a story about her [Mary Baker Eddy]. ... I like to think of it as a love story, because it's what her story is; she's always trying to deepen her sense or response to what she sees in life and how she perceives of God. I did write that line that I had Mark Twain say tonight, where she has expanded the definition of God, I think that she did that." And later, he commented about her dedication, "It's life or death for Mrs. Eddy; it's a kind of commitment that I don't see a lot of today, the kind that I certainly want to aspire to as a storyteller: to let things be that important."



March 11, 2010
—Gillian Gill,
Biographer

For our next thought-provoking program in the series, writer Gillian Gill spoke on her full body



of biographical work, including her book *Mary Baker Eddy*. Gill has also written extensive and penetrating investigations into the lives of the bestselling mystery writer, Agatha Christie; the pioneer and heroine of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale; and Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert. Jonathon

Eder moderated the event, and kicked off the discussion by asking Gill to imagine that these four iconic women—Christie, Eddy, Nightingale, and Queen Victoria—were in the same room, and what would draw them together in conversation about their respective lives and interests. In response, Gill launched into a discourse about their respective concerns around celebrity and the price they had to pay to be women of achievement and influence in the world.

Gill described her subjects as "inveterate writers, whose pens are like extensions of their hands." Eddy and Christie published much more than Nightingale, but Nightingale committed her thoughts to paper on a daily basis. Queen Victoria's "Scottish Diaries" became a bestseller, and she was the principal author of the first volume of the biography of her husband, Prince Albert. Gill emphasized the importance of basic education and literacy for these women. "All of these women were taught to read and write. ... They didn't have advanced degrees, but they had the basics: they read, they wrote. And, I think, very importantly for both Florence Nightingale and for Mary Baker Eddy, they were able to get to the foundational texts of their culture and their religion through literacy."

For Gill, these women provide inspiration, not only for women of their own cultures, but particularly for women from other parts of the world where education for girls is often neglected. She noted, "Given their God-given talents, their energies, their dreams, that very small amount of education and literacy enabled them to achieve. ... These nineteenth-century women show what you can do if you're given just a little bit [of education]: You can change the world."

Please visit our Web site www.mbelibrary.org under "Events & Programs" to view or learn more about these past programs. "Strength of Spirit: Engaging with Mary Baker Eddy 100 Years Later" continues throughout the year with more programs that explore the many dimensions of Eddy's life and contributions and how they relate to our world today. Watch for live Web forums, where you can e-mail in questions about this series to Library staff and presenters.

Programs

February Vacation Week—The Art of Reading



Our February school vacation week program, entitled “The Art of Reading,” emphasized the importance of developing the skill of literacy. We invited children and their families to come to the

Library and learn about Mary Baker Eddy’s childhood and lifelong love of reading, as well as her identity as an accomplished author and founder of a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper. More than 200 children were provided with drawing materials and given the opportunity to illustrate a story they had read themselves or one which had been read to them. Activities also included storytime every hour with children’s books based on the theme of giving, as well as tours of Library exhibits. Five winners were announced and prizes were awarded at a reception at the Library on March 4. Best in show was awarded to the poster pictured above. Go to our Web site to see images of other winning posters.

April Vacation Week—Make a Difference

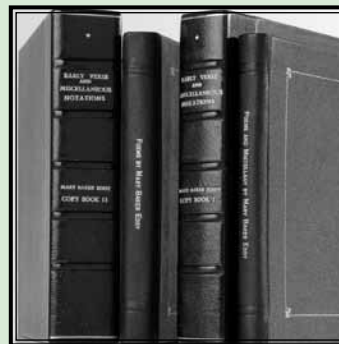
During April school vacation week, children and their families were invited to learn about some of the many ways to make a difference in their world. Three activity stations provided learning activities about creating positive change for the environment, the community, and on an individual, person-to-person level. The final, fourth station gave participants an opportunity to share how they are already making a difference, or a way they would like to contribute to bettering their community. Representatives from Boston Cares were present for part of the program, and encouraged and informed visitors about ways to get involved in volunteering. Participants were also invited to tour Library exhibits, including our newest exhibit, about Mary Baker Eddy’s involvement in philanthropy and efforts to make the world a better place for all. In all, more than 400 children came to the Library during school vacation week.

Exhibits

Object of the Month

Take a look at “Object of the Month” on the Library’s Web site. Each month we showcase an object, letter, document, photograph, or textile from the Library’s collections.

In addition to the objects listed below, learn about gold coins buried in a bar of Pears soap, the Baker family Bible, and many other interesting items.



March 2010:

Mary Baker Eddy's Copybooks

Copybooks were used by Mary Baker Eddy to record her poetry.



April 2010:

Nineteenth Century Shell Cameos

Three cameos from the jewelry collection linked to Mary Baker Eddy. One was worn by Eddy in an early 1860s tintype photograph.



May 2010:

Spring Tide at Pleasant View

Springtime and the gardens at Mary Baker Eddy’s Concord, N.H. home.

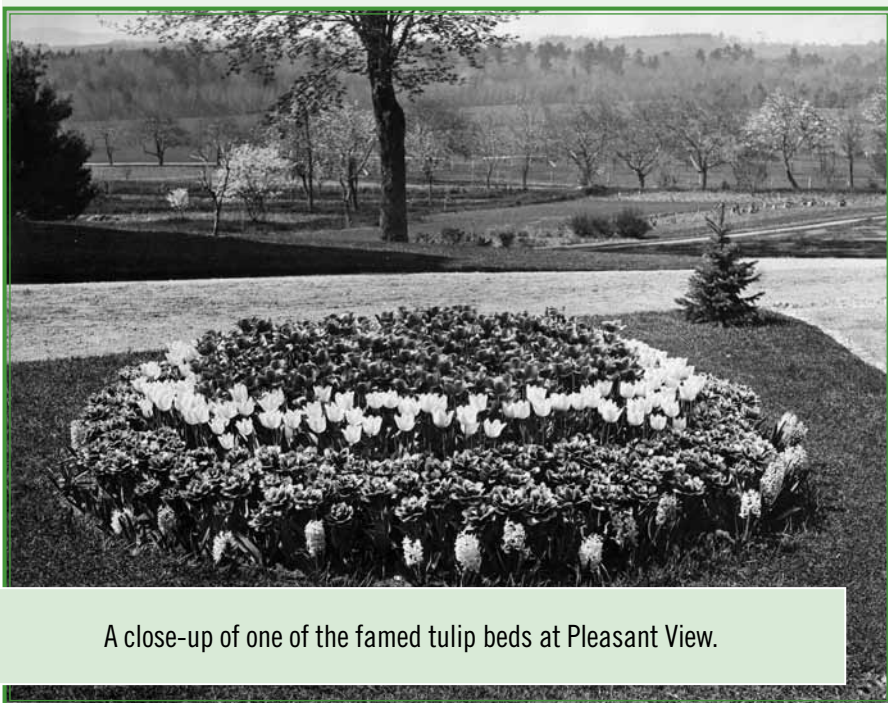
Go to <http://www.mbelibrary.org/collections/research/objects/> to see the latest item and to view past selections.

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

Did Mary Baker Eddy care about the environment?

Environmental issues have been very much on the world's mind in recent years. Not surprisingly, many of our patrons want to know if Mary Baker Eddy herself felt strongly about nature. We're always happy to share some of the rich material in our collections that speaks to her love of the natural world.



A close-up of one of the famed tulip beds at Pleasant View.

During Eddy's lifetime, "environmentalist" exclusively meant a person who believed in the influence of the environment over heredity—nurture over nature, in other words. The first use of the word "environmentalist" to mean one who cares for nature did not appear until 1916. In the nineteenth century, the word "naturalist" would have been closer to our understanding of today's environmentalist, though it often had a secular implication—naturalists were often understood to look for explanations in the natural world instead of the spiritual one.

Even though Eddy doesn't fit her era's image of an environmentalist, she still cared deeply for the environment. She loved animals and nature, and

believed that the beauty of the natural world was a reflection of the beauty and majesty of God.

Eddy spent the first fifteen years of her life on a farm in Bow, N.H.; her father, Mark Baker, cultivated almost five hundred acres of family land. Later in life, she would describe the spot nostalgically as "broad fields of bending grain waving gracefully, in the sunlight, and orchards of apples, peaches, pears, and cherries ... green pastures bright with berries, singing brooklets, beautiful wild flowers, and ... large flocks and herds" (*Retrospection and Introspection*, p. 4).

She was especially fond of the animals on the farm. Eddy once told a member of her household, Irving Tomlinson, that as a girl she nursed baby lambs and chicks, and sang hymns to them at night. Her father, upon finding a weak farm animal, would say, "Here is another invalid for Mary" (A11809). Eddy herself said, "I would take the little chicks that seemed sickly or perhaps dying into the bosom of my dress and hold them until I heard a fluttering sound and found the chicken active and strong and eager to run away, when I would put it down and away it would run" ("Mary Baker Eddy" by Irving Tomlinson, p. 605).

She was also very affectionate toward her horses and was often able to calm them when they were frightened. There were always horses at Eddy's homes in Concord, N.H., and at Chestnut Hill, Mass. The horses pulled the carriages in which she regularly took rides, or the sleighs that she occasionally enjoyed in the wintertime. She selected these horses carefully and was very fond of them.

Eddy's Pleasant View home was also a working farm. In addition to pigs and cows, there was a large vegetable garden and an apple orchard. Workers, both from the household and local day laborers, picked and stored all the vegetables that were eaten in the kitchen. Neighbors were invited to glean more apples when the staff had picked enough for their needs. We know that peas, beets, potatoes, onions, asparagus, strawberries, apples,

peaches, oats, rye, and hay were raised at various times thanks to Calvin Frye's meticulous records. One field, called the "Jones field," was planted with rye in 1901 and then harvested with the help of draft horses Nelly and Jerry. The field was plowed under the following year for pasture, but the rye from that one crop lasted until Eddy and her household left Pleasant View. Such subsistence activities were typical of households at the time; Eddy did not necessarily consider her home a farm, but a place of privacy and refuge, surrounded and supported by its land.

In addition to being well known for food crops, Pleasant View was also known for its flowers. There was a greenhouse on the property maintained by a florist in Concord, and each spring John Salchow and August Mann would plant vast beds of different flowers around the property, especially between the house and the barn. Salchow mentioned that Eddy especially loved roses, and that he took great pains to plant a "wonderful rose garden." He was also proud of the tulip beds, and said that "half of Concord would come out to Pleasant View to see them—sometimes there were as many as three or four hundred people there during the day admiring the tulips" ("Reminiscences of Mr. John G. Salchow," p. 18). There were also ornamental trees on the grounds; Eddy particularly admired a weeping willow by the fountain "which spread its branches like a green fan" (Salchow, p. 19).

Eddy's love of nature is also evident in her writings. She often used natural metaphors to explain her ideas. In *Science and Health*, she wrote:

Instinct is better than misguided reason, as even nature declares. The violet lifts her blue eye to greet the early spring. The leaves clap their hands as nature's untired worshippers. The snowbird sings and soars amid the blasts; he has no catarrh from wet feet, and procures a summer residence with more ease than a nabob. The atmosphere of the earth, kinder than the atmosphere of mortal mind, leaves catarrh to the latter. Colds, coughs, and

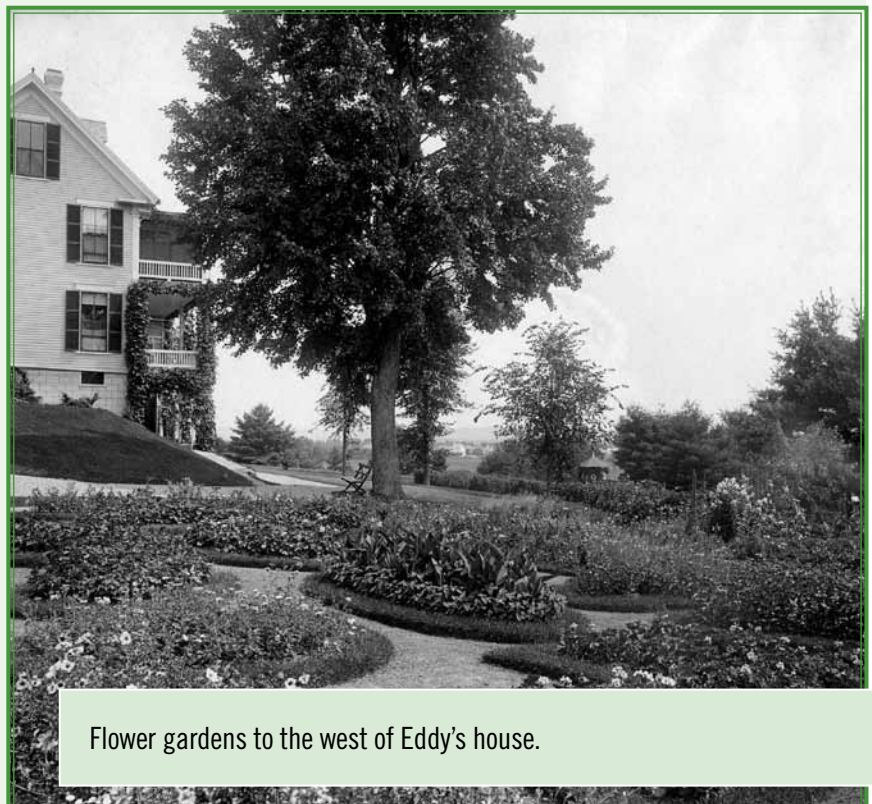
contagion are engendered solely by human theories. (p. 220)

Later in *Science and Health* she expanded on the same metaphor:

Nature voices natural, spiritual law and divine Love, but human belief misinterprets nature. Arctic regions, sunny tropics, giant hills, winged winds, mighty billows, verdant vales, festive flowers, and glorious heavens,—all point to Mind, the spiritual intelligence they reflect. The floral apostles are hieroglyphs of Deity. Suns and planets teach grand lessons. The stars make night beautiful, and the leaflet turns naturally towards the light. (p. 240)

Today, many in the world feel the love of the environment that Mary Baker Eddy showed so strongly throughout her life. In her cultivation of the fields at Pleasant View, you could even say she "ate local." She wasn't interested in buzzwords and trends, though—she was simply showing the same practical Yankee love of the world around her that characterized her entire life.

If you have a question about Mary Baker Eddy or the history of Christian Science, please contact the Research Room at 617-450-7218 or research@mbelibrary.org.



Flower gardens to the west of Eddy's house.



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See page 1 to learn about our new exhibit.

<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EXHIBIT “Mary Baker Eddy: A Life of Service,” a lively new exhibit, featured on page 1.</p>
<p>June 5-8</p>	<p>ANNUAL MEETING During Annual Meeting, the Library, including Lending and Reference Services and the Research Room, will be open for extended hours. Videos of recent programs will be screened in the Atrium, and staff will be on hand to discuss our exhibit, “Mary Baker Eddy: A Life of Service.”</p> <p>Kim Schuette will discuss his book <i>Christian Science Military Ministry 1917-2004</i> on Saturday, June 5, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the Library’s third-floor conference room. He will repeat his discussion on Tuesday, June 8, noon to 1 p.m. in the Monitor conference room.</p> <p>Robert Warneck, co-author, will discuss the recently issued amplified edition of <i>Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer</i> on Sunday, June 6, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Library’s third-floor conference room.</p>
<p>July and August</p>	<p>CHILDREN’S PROGRAM “One World” returns to the Library this summer. Join us for a series of free children’s events including dance, storytelling, arts, and more. Visit mbelibrary.org for information as the dates near.</p>