

Newsletter

2010 Vol. 4, No. 3

Programs

Enriching children's lives with "One World"

This summer, The Mary Baker Eddy Library was proud to once again host "One World," the free enrichment program for children ages 4–10. The program ran for six consecutive Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon, beginning on July 6, and ending August 10. In attendance were local families and nonprofit organizations such as Boston's Salvation Army, the YMCA of Roxbury, the Boys and Girls Club of Charlestown, and Jamaica Plain's Kids Arts. Our 2010 attendance target for "One World" was to provide summer cultural enrichment for 1,100 children. We are pleased to report that we welcomed over 1,200 attendees.

The purpose of this program is to introduce arts and culture to Boston area youths, as well as emphasize the importance of literacy. Our participants enjoyed assorted craft projects ranging from creating a "stainedglass" globe to decorating their own bookmark; both connect to Mary Baker Eddy and the Library's historic



A family enjoys the new exhibit "Life of Service."

collections. Additional activities took place throughout the Library, including a scavenger hunt, a geographybased quiz activity, free admission to the world-famous Mapparium[®], and a sing-a-long station.

The Mary Baker Eddy Library strives to provide performances that are both interactive and educational.

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Boston Red Sox mascot, Wally the Green Monster, helped out at reception. Amal Shumar (right) taught kids how to hip-hop dance.

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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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"One World" 2010 also included live multicultural performances, such as hip-hop dance lessons with Amal Shumar, Haitian-inspired percussion rhythms with Zili Misik, energetic theatrical storytelling from Behind the Mask Theatre, and the traditional South American folk music of Inca Son.

Each session of our program ended with every child receiving a free age-appropriate book donated by the Library's generous sponsors: Candlewick Press, Charlesbridge Publishing, Cradles to Crayons, Hachette Book Group USA, Houghton Mifflin, Penguin Group USA, Simon and Schuster, and Storey Publishing. We look forward to continuing our "One World" program, and to providing meaningful programming to the children of Boston.

Programs

Annual Meeting Author Talks

The Library hosted three author talks in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. The meeting is a yearly event established by Mary Baker Eddy for officers of her Church, but which draws members from all over the world to hear reports and for spiritual inspiration.



On Saturday, June 5, and again on Tuesday, June 8, Kim Schuette spoke on his book *Christian Science Military Ministry* 1917-2004, which was published in 2008. This book chronicles the rich

history of Christian Science ministry and care for United States servicemen and women.

On Sunday, June 6, Rob Warneck talked about the amplified edition of *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer*, published in 2009. This is an updated version of the 1998 edition, which he coauthored. The amplified edition offers significantly more content on Mary Baker Eddy's healing work and ideas as well as background on her life and formation as a Christian thinker and healer.

Both talks were very well attended and allowed time for questions and answers, which, in turn, spurred further reference queries to the Library.

Audio recordings of both talks are available at: mbelibrary.org/events/programs/annual-meeting-2010.

Both Kim Schuette's *Christian Science Military Ministry 1917-2004* and Rob Warneck's *Mary Baker Eddy: Christian Healer* can be ordered and shipped from our Library Shop! Please call 617-450-7222 anytime during Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. to place your order.

Programs

Centenary Series Programs Continue

In April and May the Library produced two more programs in its Centenary Series, "Strength of Spirit: Engaging with Mary Baker Eddy 100 Years Later." On Thursday evening, April 29, journalism met social entrepreneurship in a presentation entitled "In Word and Deed: Public Service and the Press." One week later, on May 6, the topic was "Nursing the Modern World: Florence Nightingale and Mary Baker Eddy's Legacies." At this event, panelists reviewed the careers of these women, who were almost exact contemporaries (Eddy, 1821-1910, and Nightingale, 1820-1910), investigating and commenting upon the importance of their ideas in present-day approaches to caring and healing.

"In Word and Deed: Public Service and the Press"

When Mary Baker Eddy founded *The Christian Science Monitor* in 1908, she gave it the mission "to injure no man, but to bless all mankind." This vision continues to guide this news source, and it is the foundation of an ongoing series that the *Monitor* features every week on "People Making a Difference." The intent is to report on ordinary people who are doing the extraordinary in bringing enlightenment and comfort to our world, or as former Monitor editor, Richard Bergenheim, put it, "to honor the decency and courage and selflessness that surround us." The Library's focus this year on "life of service" led naturally to inviting a representative from the *Monitor* to speak on journalism as a public service, and how this is manifested in its public Making a Difference" series and in the other

"People Making a Difference" series and in the other humanitarian reporting it offers. Joining David Scott, international editor of the *Monitor*, and Jonathon Eder, Library programs producer, who moderated the discussion, were two women whose lives and work have intersected not only with the *Monitor* but with *Monitor* readers to bring about intriguing and surprising benefits in our world.

Corinne Almquist, a recent graduate of Middlebury College (Middlebury, VT), spoke about her public service project in gleaning. Resurrecting the ancient practice of collecting leftover produce after harvesting, she has been very active in bringing fruit and vegetables to food banks and other venues for those in need. Through coverage in the *Monitor* and other news sources, word has spread about her initiative, and it is being imitated in other parts of the country. Corinne spoke passionately about what she has learned from this experience and how moved she has been by work that takes place literally in the field. She commented upon on a recent interaction with gleaning efforts in Oregon, where those in need have assumed management of gleaning operations and feel empowered by an activity that is a "hand up and not a hand out."

Just as Corinne's undertaking was directed at ensuring a better distribution of the abundance of food that exists in our country, Xanthe Ackerman, the other panelist, provided an inspiring story of how the world's educational



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Corinne Almquist, far left, joined Jonathon Eder, David Scott, and Xanthe Ackerman for a panel discussion on April 29.

resources can reach hungry minds in need of greater fulfillment and opportunity. In this account, it was Monitor readers who took a deciding role in directing support towards educationally underserved populations in the African country of Malawi. Xanthe explained that, while on an internship in Malawi as part of her graduate school education at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, she was asked by the Monitor to write a story on what it is like to live on \$1 or less a day. This is standard for over one billion persons in our world (including over half of the population in Malawi). As Xanthe pursued this assignment, she profiled a particular family, and brought to light how the daughter's educational journey could go no further than primary school. This inspired a variety of Monitor readers to write in. Independently motivated but united in a zeal to help, the action of these readers, through their interest, money, and care, spurred Ackerman and others to create the nonprofit venture Advancing Girls' Education in Africa. Today, it supports 20 female scholars in Malawi who are receiving education at the secondary school and university level, offering the girls the realization that they "can conquer what's happening there ... to become an agent of change."

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 souvenir spoons, a turkey feather fan, and many other interesting items.



June 2010: Daniel's Answer to the King One of Mary Baker Eddy's students sent her an engraving by Joseph Bishop Pratt of Briton Riviere's famed painting "Daniel's Answer to the King."



July 2010: A Birthday Gift and a Special Visit Two of Mary Baker Eddy's grandsons visited and presented her with a gift of a gold bar pin in the form of a miner's pick, shovel, and pan.

August 2010:

Mary Baker Eddy's Horses Mary Baker Eddy kept as many as five horses at a time to pull her carriage and work on the farm at Pleasant View. In August, learn more about the many different horses she owned.

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

THE NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN!

After this issue, there will be only one more print edition of the newsletter. In an effort to lessen the Library's carbon footprint, as of January 2011 the newsletter will only be available in electronic form. Don't miss out! If you have not joined our e-mail list, please do so at **www.mbelibrary.org**.

Click on the "Join Our Mailing List" box in the upper right-hand corner and add your e-mail address. Thanks for supporting our green efforts.

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

What are some ways that Mary Baker Eddy gave to her community?

In researching Eddy's service to her community, several clear threads emerge—many of which we discuss in the Library's new exhibit, "Mary Baker Eddy: A Life of Service." One interesting theme that we researched, but did not have space to include in the exhibit, is Eddy's lifelong interest in libraries. The Incoming Correspondence file contains many appeals from librarians who found their patrons asking about Eddy's writings.

In 1885, for example, V.M. Goss, the librarian of the North Bennet Street Industrial School, a craft and trade school in Boston's North End, wrote with this appeal: "There is a Library of (1,200) twelve hundred volumes connected with this institution.... We greatly desire to have your book 'Science and Health' added to the Library." Eddy sent a copy of the 12th edition immediately. [IC672(b)]

With some libraries, Eddy had an ongoing relationship. She and Grace Blanchard, librarian of the Concord Public Library in New Hampshire. corresponded for several years. In 1896, Blanchard wrote that the library found itself in need of the most recent edition of *Science and Health*; within three weeks, they had received two new copies of the book.

One year later, Eddy wrote suggesting that the Concord Public Library take early editions of *Science and Health* out of its collections, in favor of the newer editions she was sending to them. Blanchard wrote back a heartfelt testimony to how popular Eddy's writings were among the library's patrons:

In reply to your communication of Feb. 8th, I shall have to say that the Book Committee do not feel like parting with the early edition of your work, as the Library would be poorer if it gave up even the 2nd vol. which alone is left of the 3rd ed. The copies which circulate, will, however, be the later ones with which you have favored us. [IC659(a)] Eddy wrote back a few days later:

Your letter of the 7th inst. is received. Accept my thanks for kindly complimenting the 2 vol. of the 3d edition of "Science And Health with Key to the Scriptures." You shall retain it, and I will send you presently the latest edition of Science And Health with Key to the Scriptures and two copies of my new book Miscellaneous Writings for your library. [L03972]



In 1899, Eddy and an unknown writer (most likely one of her secretaries) penned a long list of libraries and other institutions that had accepted copies of *Science and Health, Miscellaneous Writings 1883-1896*, and subscriptions to *The Christian Science Journal* and *Christian Science Sentinel* for six- or twelve-month periods. Among the several dozen names listed are the libraries of the Supreme Court; the White House; the Departments of State, Agriculture, and War; the Jail of the District of Columbia; the Trenton, New Jersey, Penitentiary; the Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C.; the Ladies' Waiting Room at a Baltimore & Ohio train station (location unknown), and several police and fire stations. [L09700]

Based on the requests and thanks from librarians, there was a clear desire for Mary Baker Eddy's writings and other Christian Science materials to be publicly available in libraries. Knowing that acquisition budgets—then as now—were often limited, Eddy stepped in to help by giving something that exemplified her life of service: her own writings about Christian Science.



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Wally the Green Monster stopped by "One World."

September 23 7 p.m.	CENTENARY WEBCAST EVENT The staff and trustees of the Library, and actor Val Kilmer, present a special centenary event that highlights the impact of Mary Baker Eddy in her time and ours. Join us by viewing the live video stream at www.mbelibrary.org.	
October 11 Columbus Day 10 a.m.	OPENING OUR DOORS DAY Boston's largest single day of free arts and cultural events. Enjoy The Mary Baker Eddy Library exhibits and special performances with free admission. Kickoff is 10 a.m. at the Christian Science Plaza on Mass. Ave.	
October 19 7 p.m.	PANEL TALK — "Radical Minds, Radical Times: Eddy and the Alcotts" Authors and scholars John Matteson and Lisa Stepanski. Reenactment by Jan Turnquist as Louisa May Alcott.	
November 4 7 p.m.	DISCUSSION — "New Visions in Social Change" David Bornstein, author and journalist, joins others in discussing the forces driving today's social change.	
December (date TBD)	HOLIDAY REVUE — "Caring for Christmas: a 19th- Century American Story" This afternoon program will feature an original script reprising and expanding upon last year's event, together with a local children's choir.	1006-089

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