

*“It is, after all,
not the few great libraries,
but the thousand small ones,
that may do most
for the people.”*

— Lutie Stearns, *Library Journal*, 1899

John Trigg Ester Library

annual membership meeting
JTEL 2011 Annual Report

Sunday, 4 PM
October 23, 2011
Hartung Hall, Ester, Alaska

The John Trigg Ester Library, Inc. is a nonprofit organization recognized by the State of Alaska as Alaska Entity # 126504, on November 19, 2009 and the United States Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) on July 16, 2011.

Board members are:

- + Deirdre Helfferich, president, term ends 2011
- + Eric Glos, vice-president, 2011
- + Nancy Burnham, treasurer, 2011
- + Monique Musick, secretary, 2011
- + Greta Burkart, Board and Membership Development, 2012
- + Roy Earnest, Fundraising, 2012
- + Melinda Harris, 2012
- + Ken Bluhm (alternate), 2012
- + Amy Cameron (alternate), 2012

To reach the full board, e-mail: board@esterlibrary.org

John Trigg Ester Library

PO Box 468 + Ester, AK 99725

info@esterlibrary.org + geb@esterlibrary.org

www.esterlibrary.org

<http://esterlibrary.blogspot.com>

www.librarything.com/catalog/esterlibrarian

Friends of the Ester Library (library fundraising)

www.esterlibrary.com

The Friends of the Ester Library is an informal group of JTEL library members—board members and other volunteers—who organize and assist at the JTEL's three major fundraisers, serve on the Grants & Fundraising Committee, and help with the capital campaign.

Contents:

2011 meeting packet

- + Meeting agenda
- + Draft minutes, annual meeting 2010
- + Board candidate biographies
- + *JTEL 2011 Annual Report*

Agenda

3 pm: Potluck & Announcements

Roll Call/Sign In

Call to Order at 4 pm

Amend/Approve Agenda

Minutes

- + Annual meeting 2010

Officers' Reports

Committee Reports

- + Capital Campaign Report
 - » Community Survey results
- + Construction Report
 - » Building design presentation

Old Business

- + Incorporation status
- + Business Plan update
- + Policies update
 - » Changes to Membership Policy
- + Endowment update

New Business

Membership Drive

Program Development

- + Library Lectures
- + Program development
 - » Growing Ester's Biodiversity
 - » Ideas for construction-related programs

Elections

- + Description of board positions and duties
- + Nominations
- + Silent ballot

JTEL 2011 Annual Report

- + Preface
- + Officers' Reports
- + Committee Reports
 - » Grants & Fundraising Committee
 - ◇ Capital Campaign Overview & History
 - ◇ Bookshelf Dedications
 - ◇ Fundraisers Report 2011
 - ◇ Grants & Appropriations
 - » Construction Committee
 - ◇ Design & Construction timeline
- + Library Overview & History, Updated for 2011
 - » 2010-2011 timeline
- + Marketing & Publicity Report 2011
 - » Community Survey
 - » Publicity Listing
- + Membership Report
- + JTEL Goals & Objectives
- + Policies Overview
- + Board Member Biographies
- + Volunteering Report
- + Acknowledgements

Reference Materials

Business Records Binders

- ✦ Board Meetings
- ✦ Member Meetings
- ✦ Business & Policies
- ✦ Business Plan & Operations
- ✦ Committee binders
- ✦ Design and Building Plans History
- ✦ Endowment
- ✦ Fundraisers (Lallapalooza, LiBerry, RotR)
- ✦ Grants (FNSB, State, Various)
- ✦ Membership & Volunteering
- ✦ Programs & Services

Final Building Design & Construction Documents

Preface

This is the library's third annual report. Other documents in the Annual Meeting Packet are on line at www.esterlibrary.org/meetings/membership/2011/2011annualmtginfo.html, or may be viewed in person at the annual meeting or for later reference at the JTEL office. Previous meetings' records and annual reports are also at the office or on line at the meeting records page, www.esterlibrary.org/meetings/meetings.html.

Officers' Reports

President's Report

Deirdre Helfferich,
board president 2009–2011

The past two years have been extremely challenging ones for the JTEL Board of Directors, and the next two look to be equally demanding—and, I suspect, even more rewarding. The founding board's tasks have focused on the JTEL organization. In the last year, your directors have further developed the organizational structure of the library, laying important groundwork for the normal operation of the library as a nonprofit charitable institution. Perhaps the most significant part of this was obtaining our federal tax-exempt status, achieved officially on July 16, 2011. This status is retroactive to our date of incorporation, meaning that donations made to the JTEL since November 19, 2009 are tax-deductible under IRS Code 170. We have put several new policies in place, including board roles and duties, procurement, program development, and collections development. We have been working on our long-term financial stability, preparing a solid business and operations plan, launching a membership drive, and creating an endowment.

We have also been working hard on refining the design details of our future library building, and I am pleased to announce that the final design is at long

last complete. In fact, while it sometimes seems like it's taken a very long time indeed to get to this point, it has only been about seven years from beginning to end—I am told that on projects of this nature it ordinarily it takes a full decade to go from idea to final construction documents, so we are actually ahead of the game! USKH and REINA designers have prepared a presentation for you on the plans for the building, which will be a model of cutting-edge sustainable design not only for Alaska, but for the entire United States. The design process for the John Trigg Ester Library has had a ripple effect throughout Alaska's building community, influencing the thinking of architects and researchers, and instigating important collaborations that will likely change how Alaska's public buildings are conceived, designed, constructed, and operated. The board is grateful for the patience, insight, creativity, and enthusiasm that Matthew Prouty, Gary Pohl, Thorsten Chlupp, and the many others involved have brought to the project, and we thank them.

Now is the time to look ahead: For the next two years the board will be concentrating on building construction and—necessarily—fundraising. The library will have great need of volunteers who have strengths in event planning, fundraising, grantwriting, project and financial management, and soon, actual

library operations. An active and engaged membership will be vital to the success of the library and its ability to serve the residents of the Greater Ester Area. We could have a actual building as soon as 2013—and when we do, we'll throw one heck of a party!

The board has established several means whereby the membership may take an active part in the library's development: members may propose programs, activities, or events to the board, and if accepted, implement and guide their growth. The first such program developed this way is the new seed library program, Growing Ester's Biodiversity. We encourage members to get involved in the library's events and to come to our board and committee meetings.

I will be stepping down from the JTEL board as of this meeting, but will continue on as coordinator of the GEB program. One of the best things about volunteering for the library is how much I have learned and grown. I've developed skills I never knew I had any aptitude for—for example, I would have been the last person to think of myself as organized! But in the course of my work on this board, I've learned about grantwriting and fundraising, office organization and recordkeeping, how to form a charitable organization, grant management, and why all those boring-sounding policies and procedures needed to run a library are actually needed and, amazingly, even interesting! As my fellow board members can testify, service on a founding board is hard but immensely satisfying work. I have learned a tremendous amount from these talented people, and have developed a deep appreciation for them and for the other volunteers in the numerous community organizations that support us all here in Ester. We are very lucky to have them.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy Burnham, treasurer 2009–2011

(See Financial Report, right)

Secretary's Report

Monique Musick, secretary 2009–2011

By far the biggest achievement of the year was the successful completion of the federal nonprofit application. Now that we are officially a 501(c)(3)

Financial Report

10/1/2010 through 9/30/2011

INCOME

fundraisers:

Lallapalooza \$ 6,414.00

LiBerry Music Fest \$ 4,181.46

Readers on the Run \$ 1,730.00

fundraiser subtotal: \$12,325.46

donations: \$ 3,468.73

memberships: \$ 534.00

dividends: \$ 23.29

bookshelves: \$ 550.00

sales: \$ 322.50

office sponsorships: \$ 1,300.00

grants: \$13,071.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$31,644.98

EXPENDITURES

rent: \$ 3,559.72

fuel: \$ 1,002.00

advertising: \$ 357.47

supplies: \$ 2,316.22

entertainment: \$ 58.25

t-shirts: \$ 438.20

taxes: \$ 336.77

fees: \$18,913.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$26,543.43

NET BALANCE \$ 5,101.55

ASSETS

Denali Alaskan FCU Accounts (as of Oct. 16, 2011):

checking: \$ 7,913.03

savings: \$14,532.26

Gulliver's book credit (as of Oct. 18, 2011): \$ 940.70

TOTAL CASH ASSETS: \$23,385.99

nonprofit, donations to the library are tax deductible and we are eligible for many programs and grants that we could not apply to otherwise. Writing the application was a very educational experience for myself and led to positive improvements in our business practices in general.

Creating a truly viable business plan is my top priority. Our years of planning and fundraising will mean nothing if we cannot keep the doors open. A library is not in its nature a for-profit venture, and identifying reliable revenue sources is an exciting challenge, but one we are well prepared to meet.

Grant writing is a skill I am learning on the job and in school. I have returned to the university for an Associate in Business degree and am finding what I am learning in accounting and grant writing to be very valuable as I work on important projects for the library. The instructor's feedback in my grant writing class is of particular benefit to the library, as I am using the class

to create a generic grant proposal that we will adapt for specific funders.

I am also researching my proposal for a log cabin building workshop. The goal is to build a caretaker/rental cabin on the library grounds. Having a person on site to take care of the masonry stove, clear sidewalks and other odd jobs is important in itself, but the income from the rental cabin will be a vital revenue source as well. If you have any questions or interest in the log cabin workshop please contact me. If it all comes together well, I plan to have the full proposal, including budget and partnerships, complete by December, and the workshop ready late next summer. With the board's approval, and commitment from the community, we could be generating rental income as early as next fall.

It has truly been my pleasure working towards an improved Ester library and a better community for all. I look forward to serving in some capacity in the future.

Committee Reports

Grants & Fundraising Committee Monique Musick, chair

The Grants & Fundraising Committee (formerly the Capital Campaign Committee) is formed of a group of people with fundraising and grantwriting experience, who are focused on securing income for the library through fundraising, grantwriting, memberships, sales, and other sources.

In addition to supporting the annual fundraisers, members have identified suitable grants for the library and are working on generic proposal documents such as the case for support, objectives, project description, and budgets.

The group proposed coffee sales at the library as both a draw for users and an additional revenue source. We made inputs on the design to make the kitchen food service ready by including three sinks, a utility sink, and approved counter top.

For long-term funding support we researched endowment options. A partnership with the Alaska Community Foundation was proposed and accepted by the board.

We wrote a community survey that was available on line on SurveyMonkey and in hard copy. Volunteers manned a table at the post office on Saturdays and some weekdays and at the Ester Community Market to gather community input on the project. About 159 people responded to the survey (see below, Marketing & Publicity Report, Community Survey).

The committee is working on branding for the library. We want to distinguish ourselves from *The Ester Republic* and create our own logo and "look." We chose "Beyond Books" as a slogan to reinforce the notion that a library is a community space and resource and offers far more services than just books.

This spring we held a grantwriting workshop. Deirdre Helfferich and Susan Willsrud ran the two-day

workshop and community members gathered to research the steps of the grantwriting process including locating suitable grants and preparing the proposal.

We partnered with Calypso Farm to test out Grant Station to research grants. We were able to identify several agencies for capital projects, program support, and general funding.

Roy Earnest worked on identifying office sponsors. Pledges from sponsors offset the expense of renting an office at the Annex.

We proposed the purchase of GiftWorks software for donor management. The program is designed for grassroots organizations with lots of volunteers. It tracks giving history, fundraising activities, campaigns and more, and is able to generate charts and Return on Investment figures from activities. It also offers add-on modules for volunteer tracking and event management.

We successfully applied for a state appropriation resulting in an \$80,000 reimbursement grant this year.

Roy's contact at the Homer library shared information from their capital campaign. They had great community support and provide a good example for both fundraising and budgeting for a library. We were also able to review a copy of their successful Rasmuson Foundation application and are using these documents to guide our own budgets and funding proposals.

We worked on two proposed operating budgets, the shoe string and the fantasy versions. One is just a bare-bones operating expense estimate with limited services. The other includes full-time staffing, more rigorous collections development, and expanded program funding.

A membership drive has been enacted featuring a "pay what you will" approach to annual membership fees. We did not increase the minimum membership above \$5, but encourage greater amounts if possible. We designed a remittance envelope for memberships and did a door-to-door campaign featuring an invitation to the annual meeting.

Bookshelf Dedications

The JTEL owns 768 shelves' worth of low stacks. Each shelf is about three feet long, and each one can be dedicated to an individual and in a particular section for the low price of \$50 each. So far, a total of only 35 shelves have been dedicated, leaving 733 available. The initial shelves have been memorialized to:

Chris Barefoot (Alaska geography or river travel)
April Evalyn Crosby (philosophy)
Louis Thomas Day (woodworking)
Fá Ir (Islamic studies)
Rebecca Finner (science fiction)
Ofi & Lili Guttenberg (children's)
Merritt Helfferich & April Crosby (any section)
Merritt Randolph Helfferich (Alaska nonfiction)
Caghin Micah McCoy (any section)
in memory of Alice Virginia Merritt (literature)
in memory of Steven Sean Miller (poetry)
Hans Mölders (German language or history)
Roger Moore (TBA)
Musical Rumors (TBA)
the Musick family (Alaska)
Music Mart & Studios (music)
Amber Musselman (biology or wildlife biology)
Barack Obama (any section)
Carly Rose Patton (any section)
Megan Phillips (children's)
John David "JD" Ragan (history)
Mike & Margaret Simmons (the smart one)
Nancy Smoyer (history or nonfiction)
Alpha O. Trigg (gardening)
Richard & Carol Wells
Ansgar & Ida Lane Clausen (mining, local history, art, or Damn Nice People section) (two shelves)
Kimberly Cornwall (poetry) (two shelves)
Diane R. Smith (literature) (two shelves)
Kim Cornwall (poetry) (four shelves)

Donation Drives

We are participating in the United Way of Tanana Valley's 2011 fund drive as a donor option organization.

We had hoped also to be a Fairbanks Rollergirls Bout Benefit Recipient (application deadline July 31, 2011),

but were rejected from the pool of qualified applicants because we had not registered with the State of Alaska as a charitable organization (which we didn't realize we had to do); we have been invited to apply again next year. Note that now that we understand our legal obligation to do so, we have registered with the state!

We do not yet qualify for the PickClickGive program, but should qualify in time for the application deadline (March 31, 2012) for the 2013 Permanent Fund Dividend. The program requires that we:

- + qualified for tax exempt status as an educational or a charitable organization during the two calendar years that immediately precede the year the application is filed;*
- + are directed by a voluntary board of directors or local advisory board whose majority of members are residents of the state;
- + provided in the state aid or services during the two calendar years that immediately precede the year the application is filed;
- + receive at least \$100,000 or five percent of our total annual receipts, whichever is less, from contributions;
- + completed and provided to the department a financial audit with an unqualified opinion conducted by an independent certified public accountant for the fiscal year to which the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 required under (4) of this subsection applies; this paragraph applies only to an organization with a total annual budget that exceeds \$250,000 during the fiscal year to which the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 required under (4) of this subsection applies;**
- + do not make grants or contributions to an organization that is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4) or (6).

*Our tax-exempt status is retroactive to our date of incorporation, so as of November 19, 2011, we will fulfill this requirement.

**We have not conducted a financial audit, but our budget does not exceed a quarter of a million dollars.

Endowment

We have been working steadily with the Alaska Community Foundation all year to establish an endowment for the JTEL. We recently signed a contract with the ACF establishing the fund at \$2,000, with an ultimate goal of \$1 million. The endowment is intended to support the library's operation, and can grow through bequests and donations. This will eventually generate enough interest each year, \$40,000, to provide a base salary for one part-time staff person and to cover other operating expenses. Individuals who wish to contribute to the long-term viability of the library and the community of Ester may donate to this fund by contacting the ACF at www.alaskacf.org.

Fundraisers Report 2011

Fiscal Year 2011 Fundraisers

Readers on the Run vol. III*

October 9, 2010

42 entrants, 19 sponsors (including in-kind)

Income:	\$1,730.00
Expenses:	\$ 568.58
Net Income:	\$ 1,161.42

*Note: The October 2011 race showed a marked jump in monies earned from this fundraiser, with expected income at approximately \$4,200, 27 sponsors, and entrants numbering 57. Full details will be in next year's annual report.

Lallapalooza & Book Bash

68 item donors

Income:	\$6,414.00
Expenses:	\$ 730.78
Net Income:	\$5,683.22

LiBerry Music Festival

41 pies, top bid: \$225

12 musical acts

Income	\$4,181.46
Expenses	\$ 211.40
Net Income	\$3,970.06

Fundraiser Histories

Readers on the Run, 2008–2011

October

2011: ~\$4,100

2010: ~\$1,730

2009: ~\$1,075

2008: ~\$1,470

Lallapalooza & Book Bash, 2005–2011

March or April (includes Leftovers Sale, instituted 2010)

2011: ~\$6,400

2010: ~\$6,400

2009: ~\$6,000

2008: ~\$6,000

2007: ~\$5,800

2006: ~\$5,500

2005: ~\$4,900

LiBerry Music Festival & Pie Throwdown, 2006–2011

August or September

2011: ~\$4,200

2010: ~\$3,200

2009: ~\$2,600

2008: ~\$1,700

2007: ~\$1,700

2006: ~\$2,400 (includes donation from house concert)

Grants & Appropriations

Current Grants

The JTEL will shortly be managing four grants, including two legislative appropriations, a borough matching grant, and the FY 2012's Community Revenue Sharing Program disbursement.

Total Grants Secured: \$183,766

Grant descriptions:

Alaska Designated Legislative Appropriations

DLA 11-DC-533

Total of Appropriation: \$50,000 (reimbursement account)

Grant Expenditures to Date: \$18,208

Grant Funds Remaining: \$31,792

Reports Filed to Date: 11

Reporting Period: July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011

Required Completion Date: June 2015

JTEL Grant Administrator: Deirdre Helfferich

Other Authorized Signers: Nancy Burnham, Monique Musick

DLA 12-DC-596

Total of Appropriation: \$80,000 (reimbursement account)

Grant Expenditures to Date: \$0

Grant Funds Remaining: \$80,000

Reports Filed to Date: 2

Reporting Period: July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011

Required Completion Date: June 2016

JTEL Grant Administrator: Deirdre Helfferich

Other Authorized Signer: Nancy Burnham

Fairbanks North Star Borough Matching Grant

(contract picked up as this report went to press)

Total of Matching Grant: \$35,000

Grant Expenditures to Date: \$0

Grant Funds Remaining: \$35,000

Required Completion Date: assumed June 2016

JTEL Grant Administrator (tentative): Deirdre Helfferich

Other Authorized Signers: not yet assigned

Community Revenue Sharing Program

Total of FY2012 Grant: \$8,966

Grant Funds Received: \$6,733

Grant Funds Pending: \$2,233

(new Project Budget & Scope of Work needs to be completed and submitted to the FNSB to reflect the additional funds)

Construction Committee

Hans Mölders, chair

At the last membership meeting we decided to form a construction committee. Mike Musick, Todd Hoener, Eric Glos, and myself volunteered, and Nancy Burnham agreed to take notes. We started out addressing concerns of the membership and board members about the high cost of our initial two-

storey design. It would have cost around \$1.5 million. It was very clear to all of us that we wanted a very energy efficient building to keep the upkeep cost to a minimum. We eliminated the second storey and added first a half-basement for the utilities. Later we thought that a full basement wouldn't be much more expensive to build and it would add storage space. At that point we contacted Thorsten Chlupp of REINA LLC to secure his services as a Passiv Haus designer. It turned out to be a most valuable move. The Passiv Haus design will get our energy consumption to an absolute

minimum, but in the bargain we lost the basement. With several meetings between the Construction Committee, board members, Thorsten Chlupp, and the USKH design and engineering team, we ended up with a design that is not only paving the way for the future of building in the North, Chlupp and USKH were also able to bring the cost down considerably. We can be very proud of the vision that the board has brought to this project and all of the hard work that all involved have put forward, sleepless nights included! The results can be seen at the USKH presentation.

Library Overview & History, Updated for 2011

Mission Statement:

The John Trigg Ester Library is a home-grown community library that provides a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment where local residents can meet and share ideas and information. The library strives to instill a love of reading and learning, to showcase Ester-area history and culture, and to provide resources that enrich the whole community.

The John Trigg Ester Library (JTEL) is a membership-based community library located in Ester, Alaska. It is a member of the Alaska Library Association, which is affiliated with the American Library Association.

Operations and Maintenance

The library is located at 3618 Main Street on the Ester Village Square, in the lower level of Frank Therrell and Amy Williamson's two-storey red and white rental cabin, and is open every day of the week, from 9 am to 9 pm. The library has an office at 2922 Parks Highway in Studio #2 at the Annex, and owns a gazebo on Village Road across from the Ester Post Office. The property on which the future library building will stand is at 474 Village Road, up the street, across from the Malemute Saloon.

The JTEL functions on an honor system. Members check items in and out of the library by themselves.

Volunteers maintain the library and office, catalog books, serve on the board of directors, and help with fundraisers. The library has no staff.

Facilities report

Ida Lane Clausen Gazebo

Ida's son Galen Garwood is working on a short movie about her, and photos and other information from him were used to create a page in her honor at the library website, www.esterlibrary.org/aboutidalane.html. We held a work party on July 31, 2011 to complete minor details on the gazebo named in her honor: installing and staining ceiling trim; attaching, sanding, and varnishing interior shiplap trim around the windows; building a small bookshelf; and weeding the roadside. The only remaining items needed to complete the gazebo are two more stained glass windows and the dedication plaque for Ida (which has been designed but not yet sent to the engraver). A garden of rhubarb and other perennials is planned for summer 2012.

Office

The JTEL business office is located in studio #2 at the Annex, 2922 Parks Highway. Its rent, \$300 per month, is offset through sponsorships solicited at the annual meeting. Sponsors from the 2010 meeting included: Carey Brink, Nancy Burnham, Andrea & Roy Earnest, Carla Helfferich, Deirdre Helfferich, Phil Rulon, Monique Musick, Tripp & Judie Triplehorn, and Susan Willsrud & Tom Zimmer. The office hosts board and

committee meetings, is used to store library business records and sales items, and acts as a library annex, with books and movies available for checkout. Some library equipment and furniture is also stored at the office.

Library

The main library is housed at 3618 Main Street and is maintained by volunteers: Carey Brink, Roy Earnest, Deirdre Helfferich, and Jan Ohmstede kept the library clean this year, taking extra boxes of books away, shelving returns, sweeping, and generally straightening and tidying. Movies, which have in the past had a separate card catalog, are slowly being put on the same system as the books, that is, with a card pocket attached to the cover of the DVD or video itself (sometimes on the exterior and sometimes on the inside front cover).

Property report

The ECA transferred title to the JTEL for the two parcels (originally purchased from Malemute Inc. through the ECA) on February 16, 2011. The JTEL now owns this land and leases a third parcel from Gail & Larry Flodin. The terms of the lease contract were fulfilled on July 18, 2011 when we achieved charitable nonprofit status, proof of which was delivered to the Flodin's lawyer, Eugene Belland. The JTEL is now awaiting title transfer for this last piece of property. Together, these three parcels encompass the entire east side of Village Road, from the Old Nenana Highway to Main Street. Until the library is built, we are required to pay property taxes on these parcels, which came to \$336.77 this fiscal year (not including the Flodin property, on which the gazebo stands).

The library's collection

The JTEL collection includes books, audiobooks, movies, jigsaw puzzles, and a few board games. Approximately 5,000 items are on the JTEL's shelves, with approximately 7,000 more in storage or being held for donation by community members until the new building is constructed. The library has a cooperative arrangement with Calypso Farm & Ecology Center's Resource Library. Cataloging for Calypso's library is complete; cataloging for the JTEL is incomplete and ongoing; as of this report, 1,900 items have been

entered (1,475 in the JTEL, 425 in Calypso's library), up from 1,453 in 2010. Holdings and entry statistics may be viewed on line at www.librarything.com/catalog/esterlibrarian. Volunteers are needed to assist with cataloging.

Programs report

This year the Board created a Program & Activities Development Policy & Plan to guide planning, creating, and operating programs. The first program proposal submitted under this policy was for the Growing Ester's Biodiversity seed library program, which is an ambitious and multifaceted program that will be launched in early 2012 and will feature subprograms, activities, and events specific to the overall program. Programs need not be this complex, however, and could be as straightforward as a book group or a single workshop. The policy purview includes fundraising events as well as educational activities. Library members are encouraged to take an active part in library services and events, and to develop and submit proposals for programs, activities, and events at the JTEL.

The library had two programs and one proposal during FY 2011:

Library Lecture Series

The lecture series continued for its second year, kicking off in March 2011 with a lecture by philosopher Walter Benesch on the Panchatantra, a collection of Eastern fables and morality tales; and following with Thorsten Chlupp on Passiv Haus design (and the mode in which the new Ester library will be designed and constructed); Jennifer Jolis on the fate of the people of Attu Island during and after World War II; Matt Reckard on an updated and expanded history of Ester; and concluding the season with a presentation by Neil Davis on Alaska's oil royalty/taxation structure. Some portions of these and previous lectures may be found through links on the program webpage, www.esterlibrary.org/lectures/librarylectures.html.

Grantwriting Workshop

Deirdre Helfferich and Susan Willsrud conducted a two-part workshop on applying for grants, held April 2 and 9, 2011. The library's capital project was used

as an example with which attendees could practice grant finding and application skills. The workshop was offered for free and represented a ~\$200 value per person. Fourteen people participated, and eight attended one or both of the two in-person sessions (although not all were able to make it to each session). The presenters plan to conduct another such workshop in spring 2012.

Growing Ester's Biodiversity: a seed library program

This proposal served as a model of how a fully fledged program proposal might appear under the new Program & Activities Development Plan & Policy. This major program, which was accepted by the JTEL board at its August meeting, will include subprograms, events, and activities under its umbrella. (The first such will be an information table at Food Day on October 24 at the UAF Wood Center.) Deirdre Helfferich is the program coordinator. Briefly, the program's purpose is to: 1) create an accessible and affordable source of regionally-adapted seeds; 2) educate library members and the public about biodiversity, cultural traditions concerning food and agriculture, Ester and Alaska's agricultural history, and related topics; 3) build community awareness and connections through partnerships between the library and local nonprofits, food and horticulture businesses, gardeners, educational institutions, and others; and 4) strengthen the JTEL's connections to its community, membership, and volunteers; broaden the relevance of the library to area residents; set an example for other libraries and organizations; and support and supplement the other educational programs of the JTEL. More on this program is available online at www.esterlibrary.org/programs/geb.html.

History

The JTEL was founded in 1999 as a reading room and changed its name to honor local storyteller and model boat builder John Trigg in 2000. Four years later, the library joined the Ester Community Association, a nonprofit founded in 1941 and dedicated to enhancing the life of the community. The decision was made to purchase land for a library building, and fundraising began in 2005. The library's three annual fundraisers have grown to become community events: The

GEB



Growing Ester's Biodiversity program logo, designed by Putt Clark.

Lallapalooza & Book Bash (an auction and lasagne feed in spring), the LiBerry Music Festival (a music festival and pie contest in late summer), and Readers on the Run (a fun run with magnetic poetry and costume contests incorporated, in late fall/early winter). The latter two fundraisers increased their revenue earnings significantly over those of calendar year 2010. (See the FY 2011 Fundraiser Report.) Area business owners and individuals have given generously over the years. Land on Village Road was purchased in spring 2006 from Rick Winther (Malemute, Inc.), and a few months later another parcel on Village Road was leased from Larry Flodin, on which the Ida Lane Clausen Gazebo was completed in 2010. In fall 2008 the JTEL and the ECA decided to separate so that the library could focus on its mission and obtain federal nonprofit charitable organization 501(c)(3) status.

Since the 2010 annual meeting, the board has concentrated on fundraising, the building design, and fleshing out organizational procedures and policies. The library has secured two grants (an \$80,000 Designated Legislative Appropriation for library construction and a \$35,000 borough matching grant) and qualified for the Community Revenue Sharing Program, which will provide ongoing funds (variable from year to year but in the realm of \$6,000-\$9,000, depending on legislative appropriations to the fund, number of applicants, and interest earned on the principal). (See more on these grants under Capital Campaign, Grants & Appropriations.)

We recently completed a community survey (see Marketing & Publicity Report) both for purposes of alerting the local population to the library's existence and to gain feedback and ideas on fundraising, programs, equipment, operations, the building design, and the site. The results were very helpful, and we thank everyone who took the time to fill out our survey. The aggregated results of the anonymous survey were shared with the Ester Community Association.

The Present and Future

The board is refining its long-term business and operations plans and gearing up to obtain the remaining funding needed for its capital campaign. Organizational work is mostly completed. The library is also working on a cooperative arrangement with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Interior-Aleutians campus Construction Trades & Technology Program to provide the opportunity for CTT students to fulfill their practicum requirement with the JTEL's building project.

For the next two years, depending on funding, the library will be under construction. The board will be refining the structure of the organization and its day-to-day operations and policies, seeking capital funding and refining its long-term support plan, overseeing the construction of the building and the transfer of the collections once the building is complete, staffing the library, and developing new programs. The five-year period from 2009 to 2014 will likely be the most intensely active in the library's history. Community feedback and participation will be essential. (See JTEL Goals & Tasks.)

Committees and Working Groups

The Friends of the Ester Library is a loose-knit group of active volunteers (primarily present and past board members) who participate heavily in fundraisers and other library-related events. Fundraisers and the capital campaign are publicized on the FEL website, www.esterlibrary.com. It is not a separate organization, but may form the basis for one in the somewhat distant future.

An inter-organization group, the Ester Nonprofit Group, has been formed but not yet met. It will

consist of two representatives from each of Ester's four major local nonprofits: Calypso Farm & Ecology Center, the Ester Community Association, the Ester Volunteer Fire Department, and the John Trigg Ester Library. The purpose is to coordinate fundraising and other work that affects the community so that each organization can support each other and thereby benefit the whole of Ester. The proposal was brought to the Calypso, the ECA, and the EVFD by the JTEL in the hopes of avoiding competition and having better communication between the four organizations. The JTEL has continued its practice of providing short informational activity reports to the ECA during the spring and fall general meetings, begun when the JTEL was a committee of the ECA between 2004–2008 and continued as a courtesy after the two groups separated.

The board still has only two committees (see reports above). At its September meeting, to reflect the broader and long-term fundraising needs of the library, the Capital Campaign Committee's name was changed to the Grants & Fundraising Committee. The board anticipates that eventually a third committee focusing on programs may need to be formed, but at present the two are sufficient. Draft organization and policy charts are available for comment on line at www.esterlibrary.org/orgchart.html.

Construction Committee: Eric Glos, Deirdre Helfferich (notetaker), Todd Hoener, Hans Mölders (chair), and Mike Musick.

Grants & Fundraising Committee: Carey Brink, Greta Burkart, Roy Earnest (board Fundraising contact), Deirdre Helfferich (grants manager), and Monique Musick (chair). Note that a planning group for each fundraiser is formed separately (see Capital Campaign, Fundraisers Report for more information on individual fundraisers).

Growing Ester's Biodiversity Program: Putt Clark, David Fazzino, Deirdre Helfferich (program coordinator), Phil Loring, Bob Mikol, Debbie Rimer, Matt Springer, Susan Willsrud, Kurt Wold, and Tom Zimmer.

Marketing & Publicity Report

This year (in addition to our usual fundraisers) we did considerable marketing and publicity work on the library, primarily associated with the Community Survey. We received several letters of support throughout the year, from: Calypso Farm & Ecology Center, Ester Community Association, Fairbanks Open Radio, Gulliver's Books, Forget-Me-Not Books of the Literacy Council of Alaska, and Richard Seifert (Cooperative Extension Service Community Housing Specialist). We also received a draft letter of support from architectural designer Matt Prouty, who illuminated how working on our library's design has revolutionized his thinking about energy-efficient building design in the far north. We prepared a Frequently Asked Questions page to make it easier to find information on our website, and an essay drawing on the results of the survey and titled, "Why We Need A Library In Ester," in response to queries on this topic over the years. Facebook was a well-used tool for getting the word out about events, and we now have 301 fans on our page.

We also provided letters of support to other organizations, including Fairbanks Open Radio for their application to the FCC and the Noel Wien Library and its North Pole Branch for their attempt to gain a legislative appropriation. We followed up on this latter support when the borough libraries sought funding from the borough through assembly ordinance 2011-20-1K by providing testimony both in writing and verbally.

Community Survey

The John Trigg Ester Library has ended its community survey! The survey was conducted by the JTEL to determine the community's expectations of and desires for the library and how the library might best serve its community. Through online SurveyMonkey and the dedicated work of board and volunteer members giving out hard copies of the survey, we have received very positive feedback from the community.

We began to get responses at the end of February and the survey saw a steady stream of entries through the

summer and into the fall. The 2010 census numbers show Ester with more than 2,400 residents, and the Ester Volunteer Fire Department services over a thousand more, totaling more than 3,400 residents just in the Ester area. We had 159 total responses, or 6.6% of the population of the Ester Census Designated Place. Survey responses ranged from "Do it" in an August 2011 response to "Don't know" from a March 2011 response. The survey was left open for good reason; it was an excellent gauge of the public's lack of and ever-increasing knowledge about the library and its progression toward a complete design.

The survey questions were created by Deirdre Helfferich and Monique Musick with input from the rest of the board and Carey Brink, who has professional experience in opinion surveys. The survey was linked to our websites and Facebook page, handed out at our fundraisers, the Ester Community Market, and Angry Young & Poor. Volunteers manned a table at the Ester Post Office from March through May, and had many good discussions with the public about the building plans, funding, services, and operations.

In the JTEL's community survey, 81.1% of respondents said they would use a library more frequently if there was one closer to their home. While other libraries in the borough aren't far for drivers (Noel Wien is about ten miles from Ester), there is no public transportation between Ester and Fairbanks, and children cannot drive. There are approximately 450 people under the age of 18 living in the Ester area. A 20- to 40-mile round trip (depending on where one lives) by bicycle or foot is too far for most people, adult or youth. Having a library in Ester reduces travel time (and also gasoline use) for Ester-area residents. Having a library closer to home, especially in the winter, is also safer: driving in downtown in the winter means traveling through more intersections, ice fog, and darkness. Traffic is also higher in the city.

In the survey, 87.2% of those polled feel that Ester needs a community gathering place. Community libraries help serve this function, creating a space that serves everyone in the area regardless of age or economic status. Right now, Ester has only one public

space that functions this way: the Ester Community Park. The park is, naturally, limited to outdoor functions. The new library building will have a reading porch, a conference room, a lounge area, and a foyer, as well as a children's area, the circulation desk, and the regular stacks and study areas. The library will also have outdoor gathering and reading spaces on its grounds, the first of these being the Ida Lane Clausen Gazebo, which was completed in summer 2010. While Ester does have other gathering places, these are more limited in their scope. Hartung Community Hall is a rental space available to Ester Community Association members; the Ester Post Office is a business where people meet but cannot sit or study; and the local saloons are limited to those 21 or older or accompanied by a guardian.

The survey gives the Ester community a clear understanding of the needs that the JTEL will charge itself to undertake. Continued support and input is always appreciated and encouraged. And of course, we will do everything in our power not to allow what one respondent feared: "the place is going to become a flop house and a money drain."

Publicity Listing

"Poetry Race! A Snowflake, A Zombie, and Two Pink Fairies," by D. Helfferich, cover photo & story p. 3, v. 12 n. 9, October 2010, *The Ester Republic*.

"Meetings Four. ECA, EVFD, JTEL, & the Ester Lump Road Service Commission," by D. Helfferich, p. 17, v. 12 n. 9, October 2010, *The Ester Republic*.

"Top Three Poems from Readers on the Run," judged by Craig N. Buchanan, written by Mary Via, Shiway Wang, and Christine Woll; p. 21, v. 12 n. 9, October 2010, *The Ester Republic*.

"2011 Library Lallapalooza," public announcement, p. 19, v. 12 n. 11, December 2010, *The Ester Republic*.

"Heating Bills? What Heating Bills?" by Hans Mölders, p. 8, v. 13 n. 1, January 2011, *The Ester Republic*

"Fashion Fun," "Library Lallapalooza!" and "Librarypalooza Leftovers Sale," public announcements,

pp. 16-17, v. 13 n. 1, January 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

"What's in a Passive House?" by Hans Mölders, p. 3, v. 13 n. 2, February/March 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

"Closing Comments," hosted by Julie Beaver. Live broadcast interview with Melinda Harris, February 24, 2011, KJNP.

"Ester Library Lallapalooza and Book Bash," p. 2, Latitude 65, February 25, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*. Cover page mention, advertisement, and calendar listing also.

"The Home-Grown Library," by Molly Rettig, p. C-1, Our Town, February 26, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

"Ester Library Announcements: The Library Thanks You!; The Latest Library Plans; JTEL Community Survey; Ester Library Lecture: Thorsten Chlupp and his Passive Houses," public announcements, p. 9, v. 13 n. 3, March/April 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

"Ester Library Lecture," photos by Monique Musick, p. 10, v. 13 n. 4, April/May 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

"JTEL Community Survey" and "Ester Library Lecture: Jennifer Jolis," public announcements, p. 23, v. 13 n. 4, April/May 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

"Wasted money," letter to the editor by Scot Geiger, p. A-4, May 31, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

Mention in obituary for Philip John "Phil" Carboy, (p. ?) June 12, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

"Misplaced vetoes," letter to the editor by Marcella Hill, June 29, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

"Interior mostly survives budget vetoes: Governor whacks \$400 million from spending," by Christopher Eshelman, p. 1, June 30, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

"Music and Social Consciousness: Rock Over Fairbanks!" by Hannah Hill, p. 19, v. 13 n. 5, May/June/July 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“New Cash in Community Coasters,” by Deirdre Helfferich, p. 24, v. 13 n. 5, May/June/July 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“Nonprofit Cooperation,” by Deirdre Helfferich, p. 25, v. 13 n. 5, May/June/July 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“Community Survey,” “Lost Dog Unleashed: Upcoming Events for the Old-Time String Band,” and “LiBerry Music Festival!” public announcements, p. 33, v. 13 n. 5, May/June/July 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“Redistrict Ester? No Way!” letter by Kate Billington and Nancy Therrell, p. 34, v. 13 n. 5, May/June/July 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“Obituaries: Four Fine Men. Well Done: Phil Carboy, June 27, 1927–June 5, 2011,” mention, p. 35, v. 13 n. 5, May/June/July 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“LiBerrying About Town,” by D. Helfferich, cover photo and p. 3, v. 13 n. 6, August 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“Library Lectures,” public announcement, p. 16, v. 13 n. 6, August 2011, *The Ester Republic*.

“Cover our libraries’ needs: Bentley Trust money is the right source,” Community Perspective by Luke Hopkins, p. A-4, September 22, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

“New roof approved for Noel Wien Library,” by Matt Buxton, p. 2, September 23, 2011, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

Membership Report

Thirty-nine members signed up or renewed in fiscal year 2011. We have begun a membership drive as mentioned above, so we expect this number to increase significantly in FY 2012.

Goals & Objectives

revised per 6/12/2011 JTEL board meeting, approved 7/13/2011

broad goal: to enrich and strengthen the social, cultural, and economic life of the people of Ester

specific goal: to construct a library building that will provide a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment where community members can meet, learn, and share ideas; and that will showcase Ester-area history and culture and provide resources that will encourage literacy and promote lifelong learning, thereby enriching the whole community.

objectives:

1. to structure the JTEL organization to enable JTEL to achieve the library’s mission most effectively.
2. to construct a modern, environmentally sustainable and site-sensitive library building on the library’s land in Ester that will house the JTEL’s collections and provide a community learning and gathering space.
3. to celebrate and showcase Ester’s artistic diversity and innovation by incorporating local artwork on an ongoing basis into the building and on the library grounds beginning with finish work during building construction.
4. to celebrate and showcase Ester’s unique character and history through pertinent library materials and programs, lectures, in displays, and by incorporating historically important items into the building and on the library grounds.
5. to celebrate and showcase Ester’s musical, literary, and theatrical talent by maintaining a local music collection and a local authors section, by including music and performance in library fundraisers and other community events, and by featuring local performers in library programs, including poets, musicians, thespians, storytellers, and others.

6. to provide broadband internet access and state-of-the-art computing facilities for public use.

7. to transfer the library's full collection to the new building, catalog the collections such that they are compatible with state and borough library systems, and enable the library to offer its collection to use by the public.

8. to expand or begin establishing educational, cultural, and community-building library programs and archives.

9. to encourage healthy lifestyles and an understanding of the natural world by using the grounds as a component of the educational purpose of the library.

Policies & Planning Documents

The Board of Directors has been developing several policies and plans to guide the management of the library. In the process, board members are consulting professional librarians, businesspeople, the Alaska Library Association, and the American Library Association. Library members are encouraged to review and comment on each policy. The following are under development or have been adopted:

Annual Plan

(revised annually)

The Annual Plan is a brief outline of goals for the year, developed before and after the Annual Membership Meeting, and arises from discussions before and at the meeting and any motions carried, the events schedule as determined by the board during their annual meeting, the Business Plan, and the Marketing Plan. Input from the Construction Committee and the Grants & Fundraising Committee is also necessary.

Board Conduct, Roles, & Responsibilities

(approved 8/9/2011)

The JTEL Board Roles & Responsibilities Policy establishes a standard of care and conduct for service on the JTEL Board of Directors and provides an outline of the expectations for board members that expands beyond that provided under the bylaws. It acts as an aid to the board in planning, assessing, and assigning member duties and responsibilities that cover all facets of activities of the JTEL corporation. It can be used as an annually updated planning and organizational tool for the board. It also functions as a description of board duties and responsibilities that may be given to prospective board members.

Business Plan

(under development)

The JTEL Business Plan provides an overview of the library, a justification for its existence, a competitive analysis, a guide for its management and operations, goals for its future, and a financial plan for its solvency. The Business Plan is updated yearly and includes the annual budget.

Capital Campaign Timeline & Plan

(under development)

The JTEL Capital Campaign is designed to provide funding for the library's New Building Project; it is overseen by the Grants & Fundraising Committee (formerly the Capital Campaign Committee).

Collections Development

(adopted 3/13/2011)

The Collections Development Policy is meant to guide decisions in selection, weeding, and access to library materials. It includes a description of the collection, criteria for adding items to or removing them from the collection, provides a process for handling challenges or requests for reconsideration of materials, and asserts strong support for intellectual freedom. It includes attached statements on the Freedom to Read, Freedom to View, and Free Access to Libraries for Minors.

Goals & Objectives

(adopted 4/17/2011, revised 7/13/2011)

The JTEL board has created a succinct list of goals and specific objectives to further the mission of the Ester library. The broad goal is to enrich and strengthen the social, cultural, and economic life of the people of Ester,

specifically by constructing a library building. (See p. 13 for the complete Goals.)

IT Plan & Security Policy

(under development)

The Internet Technology Plan & Security Policy is being developed by Ulises Gonzalez of Interior Technologies, Inc. Gonzalez is working on the design of a state-of-the-art computing system for the JTEL in honor of Patricia Davis, former Ester resident and artist, and has donated a new Toshiba laptop computer to the library for our financial records.

Marketing Plan

(under development)

The library's marketing plan is meant to increase awareness of the library, expand and inform the library membership, and help the board to raise funds. The marketing plan includes: branding and general publicity; redesign of the website(s); public communications on the websites, the blog, and Facebook page; events publicity; and surveys of the membership and community. The 2011 Community Survey was the first major step in this marketing plan.

Membership Policy

(adopted 3/13/2011, to be revised October 23, 2011)

The JTEL Membership Policy describes member rights and responsibilities; membership benefits, types, and requirements; and library use guidelines.

Operations Plan

(under development)

The Operations Plan incorporates the Annual Plan, Business Plan, budget, and other aspects of facilities and program maintenance and administration.

Privacy Policy

(under development)

Library patron privacy and intellectual freedom are inextricably entwined. A section of the Membership Policy addresses privacy; however, a full privacy policy is under development. The JTEL's Privacy Policy is being developed with reference to the ALA Guidelines for Developing a Library Privacy Policy.



Pat Davis, former Ester resident and library volunteer. Photo by Joe Grill.

Procurement

(adopted 1/13/11)

The Procurement Policy guides board decisions on purchasing and contracting. It establishes a local-, minority-, and women-owned preference, and requires that the board create a list of providers of goods and services that the library is likely to buy, organizing it according to locality (Ester area, borough, Interior). This list is still in process, and will be revised on an ongoing basis. The Procurement Policy will be reviewed and revised if necessary every three years.

Program & Activities Development

(adopted 8/9/2011)

The Program & Activities Development Plan & Policy outlines library programs that the community and the board aim to introduce at the library, and provides program goals and a guide for establishing, administering, funding, and maintaining programs and activities that the library develops, such as the Library Lecture Series. The policy outlines a program proposal submission process.

Board Member Biographies

Ken Bluhm (2010–2012, alternate)

Greta Burkart is a member of the founding JTEL board elected in 2009. In addition to a PhD in aquatic ecology and a few other degrees she also has a Bachelor's of Fine Arts. She is currently an aquatic ecologist for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She has over 25 years of experience volunteering for a number of nonprofit organizations in the communities she has lived in. Her love of and fascination with books, libraries, and the community of Ester are the reasons she enjoys serving on the JTEL Board. As a board member, she has been intimately involved in the early planning stages of the library, obtaining nonprofit status, and fundraising activities. She is a member of the Grants & Fundraising Committee and serves as the Board & Membership Development seat of the JTEL Board.

Nancy Burnham: Thirty years ago Burnham left bustling Massachusetts and moved to the less populated Fairbanks, Alaska to work as a registered nurse. She found her way to Ester shortly after and married Don Cameron. They had two boys, now grown. Returning to school to follow a lifelong dream of being an artist, she graduated with an MFA and is now a working artist and gallery owner. Her volunteer work includes serving several years on the Visual Arts Committee of the Fairbanks Arts Association. She has been an active member of the Ester Community Association and a past board member. She is a past board member of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department. Her hobbies include walking to work, playing guitar and driving four hours to stay at her cabin at Tangle Lakes to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including hours spent staring at the incredible scenery.

Amy Cameron (2010–2012, alternate)

Roy Earnest was born here in Alaska in 1966. His father was a miner and his mother was a writer. His formative years were divided between his father's mining operation in Wiseman and living in Maine. After prep school in New Hampshire he finished his last two years of high school at West Valley High

School. He has a degree in Physiology and Sociology with a minor in Philosophy, and an MS in Business. He worked seven years for Delta Air Lines as a Supervisor, and became a father in 2001. His two sons, Aidan and Nolan, attend University Park Elementary. His wife, Dr. Andrea Earnest, is an associate with Dr. Eric Buetow in North Pole.

He loves collecting books and has an extensive and eclectic collection of Alaskan books. He has fundraised for the Nordic Ski Club, was a Planning Commissioner for the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and is the Director of all things Land Issues for the Ester Community Association. He is a member of the JTEL Grants & Fundraising Committee and serves as the Fundraising seat of the JTEL Board.

Eric Glos has loved books since before he could color in the lines. He brings over 20 years of residential and commercial construction experience (not including tree forts) to the table. In the mid 1980s, he was on the board of directors of the Matanuska Valley Summer Music Festival. He also helped re-invent KSUA as a student noncommercial radio station. His other contributions to the board are to be a cheerleader, pusher, and to (try to) keep meetings moving ahead. He is a member of the Construction Committee.

Melinda Louise Harris was born Feb 11, 1961 in Inglewood, CA (L.A. County) and raised in Huntington Beach, CA. She obtained a BFA in Studio Art from University of New Mexico (1992). She has been an Alaskan resident since she moved to Juneau in 1994. In 1998 she moved to Fairbanks where she became Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic. She added Inspection Authorization to her Mechanic's Certificate in 2003. Her interests include flying, road trips, sculpture, life drawing, sport fishing, shooting, singing and playing ukulele. Her favorite winter activity is riding her Ski-Doo from Nugget Loop to pick up her mail in Ester. Over the past 16 years she has been employed in a variety of fields, including hospitality, retail sales, architecture, mechanical engineering, air transportation, and aircraft maintenance. She is a member of the founding JTEL board elected in 2009

and has been involved in all aspects of board duties. She recently became a board member and trails liaison for Running Club North.

Deirdre Helfferich is the outgoing JTEL board president. She has found the last two years of board service immensely rewarding, but is stepping down to take a breather and to concentrate on other aspects of the library for a while: grant solicitation and management and Growing Ester's Biodiversity, the nascent seed library program that will launch spring 2012. She likes cats and playing the ukulele.

Monique Musick was born and raised in Ester. She has been involved in community service since she was a girl scout with which she was involved all the way through high school. She earned the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting, a task that required considerable amount of time, planning, and civil service. She founded a nonprofit organization at the age of 17 in order to bring other teens interested in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge up to Alaska to study the issue first hand. Musick remained active in environmental and social organizations throughout college at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. After receiving a degree in photojournalism, Musick worked part-time for Mushing Magazine and tended bar at the Golden Eagle Saloon. When the magazine was sold to a new publisher she took the opportunity to lease the Main Street office for a photo studio and gallery. She operated PhotoSynthesis, created the Women of Ester calendars, and hosted regular First Friday events for three years. In 2008 she started a new job as publication specialist for the statewide office of public affairs at the University of Alaska; a job she still loves today. She is active with governance at the university and is secretary for the Statewide Administrative Assembly.

Musick has been heavily involved with the John Trigg Ester Library since its incorporation as a separate entity from the Ester Community Association; acting as secretary, creating the bylaws, articles of incorporation, and overseeing the application for federal nonprofit status. A lover of books, music, and coffee, she is eager to help build, not just a library, but a new center for the Ester community. She is a member of the Grants & Fundraising Committee.

Volunteering Report

Thank you!

Back in 2004, Deirdre Helfferich wrote a little announcement for *The Ester Republic* with the extremely optimistic-sounding title "Library Construction Has Begun." It was about building new shelves to hold all the books we'd been getting. Thanks to a tip from George Riley to Catholic Schools of Fairbanks, we were able to purchase our first shelves for the new library this year from CSF, at a substantial savings: 16 units with a collective 768 feet of shelf space cost us only \$800. That's enough shelf space to hold between 9,000 and 11,500 books, twice what is in our current space! USKH estimated that the cost of new shelving (and never mind shipping from anywhere) would have been in the realm of \$12,000. A big thank you to Catholic Schools of Fairbanks for their generous discount, and to George for thinking of us at the opportune moment!

Many thanks to the myriad fans who got out there and worked up a sweat this year for the library. In particular, we'd like to recognize Ivon Varonin and Denzel Wood, two boy scouts from Troop 92 who were a great help in getting our new bookshelves loaded, transported, and unloaded again from downtown to a safe storage spot near Ester. Don Cameron has been kind enough to let us use his space to store the shelves temporarily while we look for a 40-foot Conex container to keep them in until the library is built; he's also offered to let us store the shelving-filled Conex on his property, behind the Annex, until we can move them into the new building. A big thank you to Varonin, Denzel, and Don!

Thanks once again to Maggie Billington, whose efforts have kept the northern kudzu equivalent at bay in the village and around the Ida Lane Clausen Gazebo.

Thanks to Ulises Gonzalez of Interior Technologies, we have a spiffy computer and software for our finances. Peter Prokein has continued to host our websites, free of charge. We are very grateful that these

skilled IT guys are providing their valuable time and experience to the library. Thank you!

Another special thanks is owed to Carey Brink and Jan Ohmstede, who showed up to many a dull meeting despite not being on the board, talked with lots of people they didn't know to help conduct the survey, and provided the board with much-needed support, enthusiasm, and good ideas.

And finally, the board would like to acknowledge the passing of Lois Sala, who for many years has been a supporter of the library and offered to design the new building's plumbing system. Alas, she died before the plans were ready for her. Lois was a wonderful artist and neighbor, and a kind woman. We will miss her.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours are extremely valuable to the library: not only do they represent the hard work of many people demonstrating through their sweat how much they value the library, those hours can count toward a community match for certain types of grants. The many hours the people of the Greater Ester Area have devoted to helping us raise funds, maintain our facilities, and produce our programs all have a tangible effect, and the board is extremely grateful for each and every person and each and every hour. That time makes a huge difference in the success of the library and its events and programs. This year we've seen a big jump in the number of hours invested and recorded. Thank you all.

Volunteer hours for FY 2011: 2,052

Acknowledgements

The following individuals, businesses, bands, cooks, and groups provided donations, assistance, and their valuable time to the library's fundraisers, design and construction, marketing, or organizational planning. We are very grateful to each and every one of them for their support. Any omissions from the list are a reflection only of our editing, and not of our appreciation: the work of so many people to strengthen the library is vital, and we thank you all.

T SHIRTS
• recycled •
• reworked •
ON THE 2011
CAT WALK
AT THE
JOHN TRIGG ESTER LIBRARY
LALLAPALOOZA
@ 3PM
DURING THE LASAGNE FEED
TO FABRICATE OR MODEL
FOR THE JTEL SEWING CONSORTIUM
CONTACT AMY : BadWhiteDog@gmail.com
SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY AT THE ANNEX
doors open at 2:00, hors d'oeuvres and wine served
-- browsing and bidding on silent auctions encouraged --
(tables close at 3:30 • 4:00 • 4:30 as marked)
lasagne + fashion: 3:00 • dessert auction: 3:45
fine item/basket auction: 4:00 • door prize: 5:00
www.Esterlibrary.com

49Writers
Postmaster Bill Ackiss
Adamas Jewelry
Elzbeth Adams
Denise Akert-Mohr
Alaska Rubber & Rigging
Alaska Sisters in Crime
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska Transfer & Design
Almost A Minyan
Sine Anahita
Summer Anderson
the Annex gallery
Apocalypse Design
Aurora Animal Hospital
Skyler B.
Bad White Dog
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Barnes & Noble
 BB Tax Services
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 CB Bettisworth
 Kate & Maggie Billington
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 the Blue Loon
 Ken Bluhm
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 The Cackling Rads
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 Don Cameron & Cameron Equipment
 Jill Cameron
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 Caroline Carter
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 Chena Hot Springs Resort
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 College Coffeehouse
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 Danny Consenstein
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 Rachelle Dowdy
 Aidan, Nolan, Dr. Andrea, & Roy Earnest
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 Epicenter Press
 Ester Community Association
 Ester Designworks
 Ester Hatworks

Ester Jelly Jam
 Ester Republic Press
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 Rachel Evans
 Everything Auto & Detail
 Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
 David Fazzino
 Larry & Gail Flodin
 Forget-Me-Not Books
 Forget-Me-Not Café
 Becca Frenzy
 Sarah Furman
 Joe Geiss
 George & Soula Gianakopoulos
 Dan Gibson
 Caitlin Glasgow
 Eric Glos
 Gold Hill Liquor & Gas
 Ulises Gonzalez of Interior Technologies, Inc.

READERS ON THE RUN 

v. IV
2011

a fundraiser for the

JOHN TRIGG ESTER LIBRARY

5-k fun run & magnetic poetry contest

Sunday October 9, 2011 • Ester, Alaska

Registration and pledge forms are on line or at: Beaver Sports, Ester Post Office, Gold Hill Liquor & Gas, Golden Eagle Saloon, Goldstream Sports, Gulliver's Books, or Toy Quest.

Everything Auto & Detail

Taylored Restoration Services Gold Hill Liquor & Gas

Ester Designworks Nomadic Stars WV Builders Interior Graphics & Printing

McRoy & Blackburn, Publishers Winterhouse, Inc. Water Wagon

Innovation Consulting  Tandem Enterprises Gulliver's Books

Drs. Eric Buetow & Andrea Earnest, DDS Taylor's Gold-N-Seones

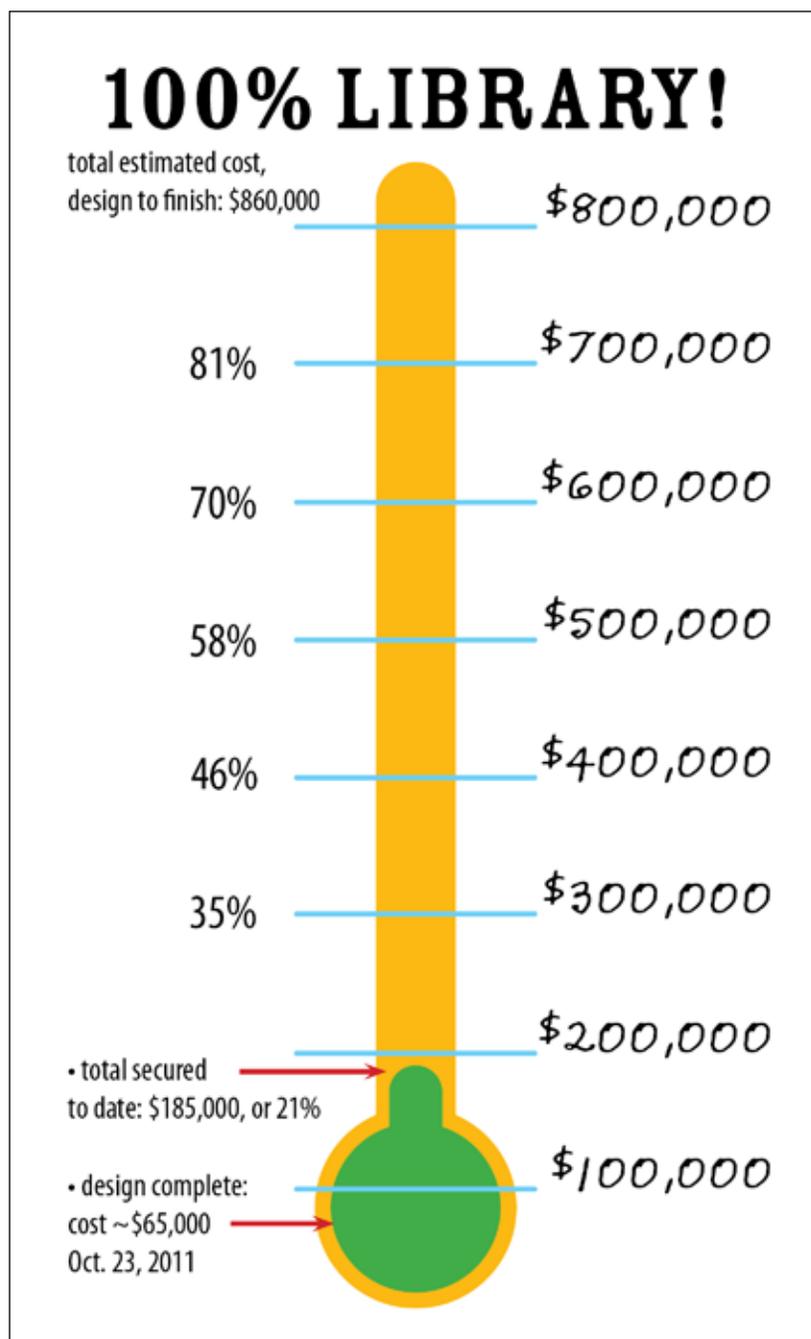
Graphic North Printing Come run for reading! Hans Mölders, carpenter

Ronn Murray Photography **www.esterlibrary.com** Stellar Communications

451-0636 • library@esterrepublic.com

Rebekah Gormish
 Judie Gumm
 Graphic North
 Grassroots Guitar
 David & Elyse Guttenberg
 Great Alaskan Bowl Company
 Matt Springer of Grey Owl Garden
 Art Greenwalt
 Gulliver's Books
 Harmony Log Works
 Melinda Harris
 Carla Helfferich
 Deirdre Helfferich
 Hannah Hill
 Mimi Hill
 Sue Hills
 Jesse Hobbs
 Todd Hoener
 Luke Hopkins
 Hot Licks Homemade Ice Cream
 Bob Huebert
 Abby Huggins
 Diane Hutchison
 Tara Hutchison
 Hyperborea Finds
 Merritt Helfferich & Innovation Consulting
 Interior Graphics & Printing
 Ruth Jasper
 Jass Pharm
 Gary Jenkins
 Jennifer Jolis
 Matt Johnson
 Judie Gumm Designs
 Debbie Keir
 Terry Koltak
 Brendan Krueger
 Nick Larsen
 Jann & Eileen Laiti
 LemonGrass Thai Cuisine
 Phil Loring
 Maia & Roger Luick
 Jean McDermott
 McRoy & Blackburn, Publishers
 Bob Mikol
 Jimmy Miller
 Lili Misel
 Nate Montgomery
 Mountain Heather Creations
 Hans Mölders
 Mike & Ritchie Musick
 Monique Musick
 Chena K. Newman
 Nomadic Stars
 Malika Noreen
 April & Laura Norsby
 Northern Therapies
 North Pole Coffee
 Jan Ohmstede
 Laura Oxtoby
 Parks Highway Truck Stop
 Governor Sean Parnell
 Johnny Payne
 Mia Peterburs
 PhotoSynthesis Alaska
 Kurt Wold of Pingo Farms
 Gary Pohl
 Marina Pollard
 Peter Prokein
 Pro Music
 Matt Prouty
 Layne Quick
 John David Ragan
 Matt Reckard
 Red Fox Bar & Grill
 Thorsten Chlupp & REINA LLC
 Ridgeview Chiropractic
 George Riley
 Bill Rimer
 Debbie Rimer
 Riverboat Discovery
 River City Café & Espresso
 Tim Robb
 Jeff, Margaret, Oliver, & Stanley Rogers
 Ronn Murray Photography
 Ed Rouleau
 Ruby Snacks
 Phil Rulon
 Lois Sala
 Sandy Jamieson Bushcraft
 Gerry & Peggy Schwartz
 Jill Semar
 Christie Shell
 Silver Gulch Brewing & Bottling Company
 Trey Simmons
 Faye Smith
 Jamie Smith
 Emily Sousa
 Lisa Sporleder

Sportsman's Warehouse
 Matt Springer
 Stellar Communications
 Janice & Layne St. John
 Sarah Stern
 Alice Stickney
 Stones by Ed
 Kayt Sunwood
 Tanana Truck & Tractor
 Chris Akert of Tandem Enterprises
 Taylored Restoration Services
 Taylor's Gold-N-Stones
 Nancy Therrell
 Joe Thomas
 Alice B. Toklas
 Tolovana Hot Springs
 Tripp & Judie Triplehorn
 Kallista & Shannan Turner
 The Turtle Club
 Mario Gho & the UAF Interior-Aleutians
 Construction Trades & Technology
 Program
 University of Alaska Press
 USKH, Inc.
 Blyss Vere
 Teri Viereck
 Ivon Voronin
 Warbelow's Air Ventures
 Erin & Matia Wartes
 Water Wagon
 Frank Therrell & Amy Williamson
 Addie, Elsa, and Susan Willsrud
 Pauline Wilson
 Winterhouse, Inc.
 Nadine Winters
 Denzel Wood
 WV Builders, Inc.
 Tom Zimmer
 Zingaro Roots



The John Trigg Ester Library
is a home-grown community library that provides a welcoming
and intellectually stimulating environment where community
members can meet and share ideas and information. The library
strives to instill a love of reading and learning,
to showcase Ester-area history and culture, and to provide
resources that will enrich the whole community.

