



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT by Ann Arcari

**M**y message in this newsletter is an invitation to you, our members, to join us at the annual meeting, which is to be held Sunday, June 8, at the Barney Library, 71 Main Street. I know that you have heard or read about the Barney family and the library, which serves as the village branch of the Farmington Library. Probably some of you have been there, but if you are new in town or live some distance from the center, perhaps you have not been inside. Now is your chance, so come along and join us for an evening of sociability and enlightenment.

We will have wine and hors d'oeuvres from 5:30 to 6 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting, and then supper prepared by the Historical Society directors. Jay Johnston, executive director of the Farmington Libraries, will discuss the Barney Library renovation project, and Andy Baron, a member of the Library Committee, will talk about the



*Reading Room at the Barney Library.*

library's wonderful collection of paintings. (Some of the paintings can be viewed at our Web site in an article titled "Farmington Artists and Their Times," by Charles Leach, at [www.farmington.historical-society-ct.org](http://www.farmington.historical-society-ct.org).) Branch Librarian Kathy Lescoe will give a tour of the building as well.

We look forward to seeing you there, but (because we ran out of wine last year) we do need to know how many of you are coming. Please reply to me at [aacari@farmington](mailto:aacari@farmington)

[libct.org](http://libct.org) by Wednesday, June 4, and let me know the number of persons attending. We hope to see you then!

The Barney Library, a neoclassical building with four columns supporting a grand pediment, cornice and frieze, was built in 1918. The planned renovations include adding an elevator and new interior stairway and removing the antiquated exterior fire escape. The project is designed to improve access for wheelchair users, elderly people, mothers with strollers, and those who are physically challenged.



*The Barney Library*

Many thanks to Scoutmaster Frederic de Baeck for finding us help to move the newly arrived Bickford books at the Barney Library. Scouts Ben Haugh and Bud Anthony with Leaders Mark Whitney and Bert Geuser did the moving for us. We really appreciate their help and community spirit.

On a financial note, the Historical Society has incurred a number of expenses this year that you will hear about during the annual meeting, so we need to think about replenishing our resources. If you have experience in grant-writing, fund-raising, marketing or endowment planning, and can volunteer some time, please get in touch with me. We really need to plan for the future, and we could use the help of our members.

