

# The Four Seasons Windows Of Nevins Memorial Library

305 Broadway Methuen, MA

## HISTORY:

These windows began as a concept in the mind of R. Drayton Fair, AIA, at the time of Tappe Associates, Boston, MA, and currently a partner at Lerner & Ladd, Providence RI. In July of 2001, after seeing a recent article about Trinity Stained Glass & Windmill Studio in the



Providence Journal, Drayton visited Amy G. Custis, owner, at Trinity, to discuss his ideas for this project. He brought with him his own computer-generated designs of four windows he wanted built for the Nevins Library. Drayton's concept included the multi-colored pastel borders, the faceted jewels, and the chevrons that you see in the windows. These components were to serve as a tie-in to the original antique leaded windows that are installed in the original part of the building. In addition to these design requirements, each window was to depict the "Tree of Knowledge", and a character that would represent each of the four seasons. The original designs depicted a snowman for the winter window, but in the first phases of conferences over these windows, this was changed to a Snowy Owl.

Amy and Drayton discussed the logistics of building his designs, and concluded that the glass would either have to be fused or painted to eliminate the multiple lead line look which would detract from the center panels of the designs. Trinity Stained Glass & Windmill Studio hosts "Glass Camp" with Peter McGrain each year, and the timing was perfect to have Peter review the designs, and offer input on the project. This was the beginning of the collaboration of Trinity/McGrain for this commission.



Amy will always consider it one of her greatest honors to have her name alongside that of such a talented artist as Peter. His imagination and ability in both design and execution of the painting turned out to be the best possible outcome for this lovely project.

## THE ARTISTS:

Peter McGrain, of McGrain Designs, Bingen, Washington, is an internationally known glass painter and instructor. His award-winning designs are well known in the world of art glass.



Amy G. Custis, owner of Trinity Stained Glass & Windmill Studio in Warwick, Rhode Island has been working with glass since 1989, and has owned and operated Trinity since 1997. Trinity served as the General Contractor on this job.

Roberta Lamothe, of Bert's Glass Dreams in Cranston, Rhode Island has been working in glass for over 20 years, and helped greatly with the fabrication of these windows.

David Zaltzberg, grew up in the glazing business, and owns MW Stained Glass in Framingham, Massachusetts. David installed the windows.

### **THE WINDOWS:**

The windows were built using the traditional lead came method of construction. The glass was cut and fitted at Trinity, then carefully packaged and mailed to McGrain in Washington state. Peter then used his vivid imagination and immense talent to paint the images so that the characters came to life. Peter then mailed the pieces, over 90 in each window, back to Trinity, where the leading and compounding processes were completed.

On April 8, 2002, the windows were installed in their permanent home in the Childrens' Reading Room at the Nevins Memorial Library.



### **THE JOURNEY**

*A personal insight*

By

Amy G. Custis

Many people hold true to the belief that life is about the journey that you take along your way.

The journey that these windows have taken through the imaginations of the people involved in their creation is only the beginning. For me, these windows have taken on a life of their own, and it is my hope that they will continue to journey through the imaginations of the many children who will spend time in their presence.

Many Stained Glass Artists have childhood memories of a window that they spent much time pondering, and later in their life that imagery inspired them to their art. It would be a wonderful reward if some child is thusly inspired by their memory of these windows one day, and goes on to create art which will then inspire others. This is the continual circle of Art, and just part of the special journey of these windows, and it has been an honor to have been along for a part of this trip.