

## Meet Assistant Librarian David Cherry

I was born in Ohio in April of 1954, preceded and followed by sisters. My father was newspaperman and my mother was an English and Music teacher. My dad regularly brought home unedited UPI, AP and Reuters news wire clippings and our dinners were filled with spelling and grammar bees courtesy of my mother and current events/political history discussions courtesy of both parents. It was also at this time that my love and respect of public libraries was instilled in me.

When I was four my family moved to Louisville, KY. We lived on a dead end street backing up onto some woods and a golf course. Some of my fondest childhood memories are from this time. It was also a time of educational events. In addition to JFK's assassination, two in particular have stayed with me through the years. The first was having our family threatened with violence after my father wrote an expose on corruption and graft in a local school district and the second was when we were selling our home and a family of color considered purchasing it, again we were subjected to threats of violence. It would be generous to say that the South at that time was still struggling with desegregation and I can clearly recall seeing "Colored" and "White" drinking fountains and restrooms.

We moved to Pittsburgh, PA, in 1964 and lived there for a year during which time I discovered that "bad" kids often had more fun than "good" kids. A rebel was born. We then moved to Los Angeles in 1965 just a week before the Watts riots. For me, another educational opportunity. It was during this time that I started participating in civil rights protests and marches. A couple of years later I was protesting the Viet Nam war and then marching for the women's movement. In high school I found myself helping to organize a student strike in support of a teacher's strike for better classroom conditions/teaching supplies. School authorities did not look kindly on my activities and I was subsequently expelled for the term. I was also removed from my AP classes.

After spending a term in sheer academic boredom I turned sixteen and dropped out of school with the understanding that when I reached college age I would return. I took my G.E.D., joined the typographers union and worked for about a year until I was laid off. Turning eighteen and finding fulltime employment, I attended college at LACC and Santa Monica College at night ultimately transferring to UCLA where I took a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology. After moving to Berkeley for a year I went to Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and took my Master's in Socio-economic and Political Affairs. Moving back to Berkeley and finding no work in my field, I worked as a consultant and started a national monthly newsletter on nonprofit management, Board responsibilities and ethics, and fundraising.

After about ten years I gave up the newsletter and took a job at Kaiser Permanente's Division of Research (DOR) editing and writing medical research for publication for a few years before taking a year off to travel around the country by car. Returning to Berkeley and DOR, I met my partner and another few years later we went on another cross-country road trip looking for a place east of the Mississippi to live. That (1998) is when I discovered Wiscasset. I fell in love at first sight. In addition to the beauty of the town, the main selling point was the friendly people who said "Hi" as we passed on the street. It took a while to move here but we finally did in 2002. After three years as the Director of Quality assurance and Licensing at a nonprofit in Portland I left and started Miss Kittie's Cakes in 2006, which did very well until the recession finally hit Maine about 2009/2010. Fortunately, I was able to find a position at the Wiscasset Public Library in 2012. As I suspected it might, given my love of libraries, between the patrons, staff, books and other materials, it quickly became my all-time favorite job.