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**Syracuse Man Returns Library Book After 60 Years, Pays Overdue Fee**

Portland, Maine: In the summer of 1946, William Vassily (age 9) checked out The Baby Whale, Sharp Ears by John Y. Beaty from The Portland Public Library (Maine). On September 8, 2006, at 11:00 a.m., he will return it to the Children's Department and present Library Director Steve Podgajny with a check for \$440.16. The check represents his overdue charges at two cents per day.

Vassily lived on Parris Street in Portland from 1940 - 1946, where his father was part owner of Tom's Lunch on Preble Street. When his family moved to New York, The Baby Whale, Sharp Ears was packed and moved with them. He soon forgot about the library book. He went to college, married Helen in 1961, became an insurance executive in New York, had two sons and retired in 1990. In 1994, Vassily's parents passed away, and he inherited several boxes of possessions, and one contained The Baby Whale, Sharp Ears. "I knew right away I wanted to return it to the Library, and I wanted to pay my overdue fee," said Vassily. "The book is 60 years past due. I would like to make a contribution to the Children's Section of the Library in the amount that would coincide with the overdue charges from June 7, 1946 to September 8," he said.

Vassily will be in Portland in early September to attend the Northeast York Rite Masons Conference. He has been a Grand Lodge officer in New York for many years.

For more information about the Portland Public Library, visit [www.portlandlibrary.com](http://www.portlandlibrary.com) or call 207-871-1700.

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