

Libraries

by Joe Gombarcik

**Great stories can be culled
From the flotsam of life.
Documents that bear signs
Of the remarkable, of the brave,
May be honored from new perspective.**

**A community gifts its people
With the tools for discovery.
Now ages of curiosity can link
With eras of lifelong learning
By a million extended families.**

**Enabling throughput of commerce,
New worlds can be more efficiently built.
Lives are enhanced with a paragraph.
Arteries of thought increase
Blood flow to an endless mind.**

**With language, new generations
Are saved from drowning;
Pulled from turbulent rivers
Of a million pasts lost in confusion,
Brought to the safety of revealed shores.**

**Cherished tales are told and retold.
They may warn or inspire.
They can transform into action
Or become sources of relaxation.
They adopt us as unconditional friends.**

**We desire to seek others who fly,
Ready to reveal discoveries of the new.
Their shared ideas enrich stale minds.
This part of the social world is made for us.
Comfort lies in communion.**

**We build on the thoughts of others,
Where every era can exist simultaneously
For insightful perusal and review.
We can keep dreams alive**

With the turn of every page.

And this city, ingrained in our souls,

Guides us back to these lighthouses:

Candles placed upon a window sill.

We return to a place of past and future.

Where words can expand minds and lives.

We share as alumni, fond legacies --

Reminding us that there is always hope.

We have many waystations yet to explore.

What we learned and felt, we learned

And felt here. Here in our town.