

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2008

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

Libraries are a crucial thread in the fabric of a community. In 2008, The Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington. 110,818 items – books, audiobooks, dvds, videos, music cds, magazines and museum passes were borrowed by 71,593 library users. The monetary value of these items, if purchased by the individual residents who borrowed them equals \$1,242,524.45 (source: Massachusetts Library Association Value of Library Service Calculator at www.masslib.org).

As the year progressed, the nation's economic downturn deepened and library usage increased. From July – December, circulation was up 7% over the same period in 2007. During this time, there was also a dramatic increase in demand for the Library's Internet computers and in wireless Internet use. Job seekers flocked to the Library in the fall, seeking Internet access, resume and career information. The Library's Internet computers logged 4,648 user sessions during the year. Residents' demand for access to technology and assistance in locating materials in print and on-line was at an all-time high.

Library service began at the new Abington Senior Center in October. A rotating deposit collection of more than three hundred fifty items was moved to the Senior Center and library staff began staffing this outreach program during Tuesday and Thursday Senior lunches. Several new users were registered for Library cards, and many began requesting books and other materials through inter-library loan.

The Friends of the Library conducted fund raising activities including the annual magazine subscription drive and the spring book sale. The Friends provided Museum passes, funding for children's programs, a cabinet to shelve dvds, new holiday wreaths and a new winter tree for the Children's Room, and many other items. The Friends also provided support and assistance for adult programming, and continue to conduct a very successful book discussion group.

Despite the poor economy, the community was generous to the Library. In January the Library celebrated with a 10th Anniversary Concert, funded by Rockland Trust Company. Gifts were received from the Abington Lions Club, which again provided the Boston Children's Museum Pass and purchased large print books, The Anderson Foundation, as well as a bequest from the estate of long-time resident Colin Campbell, and donations in memory of Francis Mackiewicz. The Abington Bank continued to fund bookmarks.

In 2008 the Library hosted a series of children's cultural programs funded by the Anderson Foundation. Featured performers included Motoko, a Japanese storyteller, and the renowned Gerwick Puppets among others. The Friends of the Library generously funded preschool and toddler story times, afterschool story-craft programs, the popular book discussion clubs for children and teens, and the summer reading program. "Wild Reads" the 2008 summer reading program, was enjoyed by 203 children and teens who

read a total of 1,789 hours. In the fall, the Kathy Greenwood Fund sponsored a Spanish Story Hour series for preschoolers. Total attendance at children's and teen programs for 2008 was 2,948.

Finally, 2008 was a year of transition for both Trustees and staff. Trustee Lorraine O'Neill retired from her seat. James Doucette was elected in April as the newest member of the Board. In early March veteran Assistant Librarian Nancy Reid retired after thirty-three years of service to the Town. Later the same month, Linda Sampson joined the staff as an Assistant Librarian. In early July, Director Janet Meagher retired closing a thirty-three year career in public libraries; she was appointed Director of the Abington Public Library in January 2003.

In August, long-time Children's Librarian Deborah Grimmett was appointed Acting Director. Mrs. Grimmett is pursuing a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science at Simmons College with a planned completion date of December 2010. In November, the Trustees and Staff were pleased to welcome Emily Miranda, a recent graduate of Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science as Abington's Children's Librarian.

The Library Trustees wish to thank the many volunteers, both young people and adults who donated their time to provide better library service for the community. The Trustees and Acting Director also recognize the dedication and professionalism of the Library Staff, those who retired in 2008, and the current staff: Sandy Bumpus, Judith Condon, Michelle Cooke, Susan Durand, Jodie Hurst, Barbara Libby, Emily Miranda, Isa Murray and Linda Sampson.

Selected 2008 Library Statistics

Circulation: 110,818

Total Collection: 68,579

Registered Borrowers: 7,084

Hits on the Library website: 1,033,998

Reference questions: 6,500 (average of 125 per week)

Abington Public School Class Visits: 19

Respectfully submitted,
Henry DiCarlo, Chairman
Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman
John O'Neill, Secretary
William Adamczyk
James Doucette
Jonathan Harris
Christina McMahan
Janet O'Connor
Cynthia Whiting
Deborah Grimmett, Acting Library Director