

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2015

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

2015 was a year of science and technology exploration at the Abington Public Library, as the Library administered a Library Services and Technology Act STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) grant for children in grades 3 - 5. Also, in accordance with its mission, the Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington: 105,893 items – books, eBooks, audiobooks, dvds, videos, music cds, magazines and museum passes were borrowed and 76,055 visits to the library were recorded.

Technology in the Copeland Meeting Room was upgraded providing a better sound system and a ceiling mounted projector. Funds for this upgrade were provided by the Abington Lions Club's 2014 Million Penny Campaign. Details about the Million Penny Campaign may be found in the 2014 Annual Report.

Downloadable materials, eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines continue to be popular with borrowers; use of these items increased by more than 50% over 2014: digital materials accounted for almost 7% of total library circulation. Library staff conducted workshops and worked individually with many patrons to teach them how to borrow downloadable materials. Demand for library computers remained high as adults, children and teens used the computers for work, schoolwork, research, job seeking, filing federal and state taxes, email, social media, word processing and countless other applications. iPads in the Children's Room have a variety of educational apps and were used 2,702 times by preschoolers and elementary school-aged children.

Abington Public School classes in grades 1, 3, and 5 again visited the Abington Public Library. Frolio students in grade 7 visited the Library in June to encourage reading during the summer months. Kindergarten and Pre-K classes were visited by the Children's Librarian. 1,138 middle, elementary and preschool students in 56 classes participated in these school class visits.

Abington Reads 2015 continued the "one book, one town" programming begun with a federal grant in 2013. The 2015 program encouraged members of the community to read *The Finest Hours* by Mike Tougias and Casey Sherman and to meet for book discussions and other related activities, including: movies, a lecture by Coast Guard historian John Galluzzo, a performance of 1950's period music by the Swing Fever Trio, and *Petticoats at Sea*, tales of seafaring women presented by Joan Gattorna. Author Michael Tougias visited both the public Library and Abington High School to discuss his novel. More than 300 people participated in Abington Reads 2015 by reading *The Finest Hours* and/or attending a related event.

In addition to Abington Reads programming, a number of other events were offered for adults. The year began with a visit from author Michael Blanding, who discussed his book *The Map Thief*. Lectures were offered about schooling in Tanzania with Christine Lott, and growing holly with former Abington resident Bill Cannon. Author events in the fall included a return visit from Mike Tougias, and a panel conversation with best-selling mystery authors Hank Phillippi Ryan and Hallie Ephron. The Non-Fiction discussion group continued its monthly meetings and the number of regular participants increased. The adult online summer reading program continued to be popular. Craft evenings for adults grew in popularity, were offered more frequently than in 2014, and incorporated the latest trend in relaxation for adults, coloring.

The Friends of the Library conducted fund raising activities including their annual membership drive and the spring book sale, as well as maintaining their very popular “Everyday Sale Shelf” in the Library. The Friends provided Museum passes and funding for children’s programs and teen programs. The Friends also provided support and funding for adult programming, including a visit from local authors David and Julianne Mehegan. The group continued their very successful daytime literary fiction book group, and continued to fund the popular evening mystery book discussion group. The Friends year concluded with a December trip to the Boston Pops.

The community was again generous to the Library in 2015. Gifts were received from the Copeland Family Foundation and the Anderson Foundation, as well as continued donations in memory of long-time library trustee Melba Smith. Timber Lanes Bowling Center donated a family pass for Zoo New England, and gifts were also received from the Thimbles and Friends Quilt Guild and the South Shore Writers. A donation from the proceeds of Jack and Kathy Bailey’s daylily sale again supported Sheila’s Garden. The Abington Bank continued to fund bookmarks. Many individual residents made donations for library materials, including the many members of the community who contributed to the Donation Jar, which provides additional funding for children’s materials.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) continued to meet and to guide program offerings for teens. A large group of TAB members enjoyed a Library overnight in March, and a *Hunger Games* themed after-hours program in early December. Mentalist Rory Raven mystified teens and adults in March and July. Popular teen author Steve Kluger visited the Library in October, and teen artists enjoyed a painting workshop with Debra Banna in July. The Joyce Lee Bumpus Fund provided an improvisational theatre workshop presented by Jape Payette in June. TAB members also worked on programs for younger children, running family movies and assisting with craft workshops. A large group of TAB volunteers supervised activities including a temporary tattoo station, crafts and games during the Summer Reading Program Kickoff event; TAB members also volunteered to maintain the records for the Summer Reading Program.

In summer 2015 the Library hosted several children’s cultural programs funded by the Anderson Foundation. Two interactive theatrical programs from the Act!vated Story Theatre and the Hampstead Stage Theater were enjoyed by large audiences, as were musicians Hugh Hanley, Mama Steph and Karen K. and the Jitterbugs. A musical storytelling program by Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell was funded by donations in memory of Melba Smith. The Friends of the Library funded performances by Ed the Wizard, Ed Popielarczyk, and several science programs in conjunction with the *Science is Everywhere* grant. The Friends of the Library and the Joyce Lee Bumpus Fund continued to provide for the library’s preschool and toddler storytimes, afterschool story craft and science activities, the popular book discussion clubs for children and teens, additional performers and the summer reading program. 311 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, reading for a total of 1,816 hours.

Fourteen programs for students in grades 3 through 5 were offered as part of the *Science is Everywhere* LSTA grant. Many of these programs were offered through a partnership with the South Shore Natural Science Center including a maple sugaring field trip, container and hydroponic gardening workshops, and a very popular summer program about dinosaurs. Library Trustee Jake O’Neill was the science educator for summer programs about crystals and catapults. In addition to programs, science and technology materials were added to the children’s collection, including three science databases.

Trustee Kathleen Jones chose not to seek re-election; the Board welcomed new Trustee Mary Gillis. Trustees Henry DiCarlo and Gail Bergin were re-elected in April. Library Assistant Michelle Cooke accepted a new position in December; the Trustees and Library Director thank Michelle for her service.

The Library Trustees thank the many generous residents who donated to the Friends of the Library and provided direct financial support for Library services. The Library Trustees also wish to thank the many volunteers who donated their time to provide better library service for the community. The Trustees and Library Director recognize the dedication and professionalism of the Library Staff: Sandy Bumpus, Judith Condon, Michelle Cooke, Susan Durand, Heidi Hernandez, Amy Hindle, Christopher Jones, Barbara Libby, Isa Murray, Linda Sampson, Elizabeth Shea and Terry Taylor.

Selected 2015 Library Statistics

Circulation: 105,893

Registered Borrowers: 6,831

Hits on the Library website: 1,674,859. www.abingtonpl.org

Abington Public School Class Visits: 56

Total programs offered: 296

Total program attendance: 5,459

2015 Value of Selected Library Services to the Residents of Abington

Source: American Library Association Value of Library Services Calculator/Chelmsford Library Value Calculator

Books borrowed:	\$1,157,309.00
Audio borrowed/downloaded:	63,331.75
Movies borrowed:	42,840.00
eBooks downloaded	77,505.00
Magazines borrowed/downloaded:	12,065.00
Interlibrary Loan Requests:	319,500.00
Adult Programs attended:	12,270.00
Teen Programs attended	5,316.00
Children's Program attended:	37,352.00
Museum Passes borrowed:	9,380.00
Computer Use per hour:	64,080.00
Total:	\$1,800,948.75

Library Budget for 2015: **\$458,645.00** (½ of the FY15 budget + ½ of the FY16 budget)

For a slide show of library activities during 2015, please visit:

<https://animoto.com/play/UBTwm5EFHbeuAWPCmaKiQA>

Respectfully submitted,
Henry DiCarlo, Chairman
Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman
Laura Nuttall, Secretary
William Adamczyk
Gail Bergin

Gerry Haas
Kathleen Jones
Barbara McLaughlin
John O'Neill
Deborah Grimmer, Library Director