

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2016

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

2016 was a year of planning and community engagement for the Abington Public Library. The *Abington Public Library Strategic Plan, July 2017 – June 2022* was completed with input from a dynamic committee of Abington residents. The members of the committee are listed at the end of this report. The *Strategic Plan* provides a blueprint for services for the next several years. Programs which encourage community engagement, such as book discussion groups for adults, teens and children saw record attendance numbers. Also, in accordance with its mission, the Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington: 105,416 items – books, eBooks, audiobooks, dvds, videos, music cds, magazines and museum passes were borrowed and 77,290 user visits to the library were recorded.

The Abington Rotary Club donated funds for renovating the small study rooms, including paint and new furniture. The study rooms were used 991 times in 2016. The Copeland Room was refurbished with wall repairs and new paint, exit lighting at the back of the room and carpet cleaning. Funds for this upgrade were provided by the Copeland Family Foundation's 2015 donation.

Downloadable materials, electronic books, audiobooks and magazines, continue to be popular with borrowers; use of these items increased by more than 17% over 2015: digital materials accounted for 8.5% of total library circulation in 2016, up from 7% in 2015. 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.

Abington Public School classes in grades 1, 3, and 5 again visited the Abington Public Library. Children's Librarian Amy Hindle visited all grade 6 classes at Woodsdale and all grade 7 classes at the Frolio in June to encourage reading during the summer months. Kindergarten and Pre-K classes were also visited by the Children's Librarian. 1,570 middle, elementary and preschool students in 61 classes participated in these school class visits.

Abington Reads 2016 continued the "one book, one town" programming begun with a federal grant in 2013. The 2016 program encouraged members of the community to read *The Art Forger* by B.A. Shapiro and to meet for book discussions and other related activities, including a movie and painting programs for adults and teens. Author B.A. Shapiro visited both the public Library and Abington High School to discuss her novel. More than 300 people participated in Abington Reads 2016 by reading *The Art Forger* 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 an engaging performance by the Delvena Theatre Company entitled *Meet Julia Child*. Abington resident Michael Brophy spoke about researching Irish genealogy and Don Wilding lectured about Henry Beston and the origins of the Cape Cod National Seashore Park. In the fall, historian Dr. Gary Hylander entertained history buffs with a series of lively discussions about the history of presidential elections. Author and TV personality Ted Reinstein presented a fascinating program about his latest book, and chef Liz Barbour taught a class about Cooking with Chocolate to a capacity crowd. The Non-Fiction discussion group continued its monthly meetings and the number of regular

participants continued to increase. An evening Popular Fiction Book Discussion Group began in July. Monthly craft evenings for adults were extremely popular and attracted capacity crowds.

The Friends of the Library conducted fund raising activities including their annual membership drive and the spring book sale, as well as maintaining their popular “Everyday Sale Shelf” in the Library. The Friends provided Museum passes and funding for children’s programs and teen programs. In January, the Friends sponsored a Downton Abbey themed tea, which included a related lecture by historical architect Curt DiCamillo about the great country houses of Great Britain (*Downton Abbey* and *Downton* are registered trademarks of Carnival Film & Television Ltd); almost 100 people participated in this event. 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 2016. Gifts were received for children’s programming from the Anderson Foundation and in memory of long-time library trustee Melba Smith. The Abington Lions Club continued funding the family pass for the Boston Children’s Museum; this pass has been funded by the Lions for more than 30 years. Timber Lanes Bowling Center again 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. Per their request, Barn Babies returned to the library and the teens spent an afternoon playing with baby farm animals. We held several after-hours programs this year. In March the teens took part in a Minute-To-Win-It event, June saw the return of Animal World Experience for a Hunger Games II Survival Course, and in October a popular Chopped cooking program was offered. Magician Ed Popielarczyk ran a magic workshop one afternoon in June, and two-time world Frisbee freestyle champion Todd Brodeur returned to the library to teach the teens a few Frisbee tricks while educating them about leading a healthy lifestyle. 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 2016 the Library, once again, hosted several children’s cultural programs generously funded by the Anderson Foundation. Large audiences enjoyed interactive programs by Mystic Drumz, Hampstead Stage Company and Pumpnickel Puppets, as well as musicians Hugh Hanley and Mama Steph. Act!vated Story Theatre returned to the library to perform well-known fairy and folk tales, funded by donations made in the memory of Melba Smith. The Friends of the Library funded performances by Bryson Lang and Ed Popielarczyk. The popularity of science programs from the previous year was so great that the Friends funded several more science programs during the summer. The Friends of the Library and the Joyce Lee Bumpus Fund continued to provide for the library’s preschool and toddler storytimes, Lego Club, afterschool story craft and science activities, the popular book discussion clubs for children and teens, additional performers and the summer reading program. 284 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, reading for a total of 1,672 hours.

Long-time Trustee William Adamczyk chose not to seek re-election; the Board welcomed new Trustee Carrie Murray. Trustees Gerard Haas and Laura Nuttall were re-elected in April. Reference Librarian Judith Condon retired in May and new Reference Librarian Marcie Walsh-O'Connor joined the staff in November. Part-time Library Assistant Lynne Nickley joined the staff in late January following a staff departure in December 2015. Library Assistant Christopher Jones accepted a new position in the spring and Joanne Plunkett was appointed as a Part-time Library Assistant in July. Former staff member and long-time on-call substitute Isa Murray retired in May. Ann Bunszell joined the staff as an on-call substitute in the fall.

The Library Trustees and Library Director thank the many generous residents who donated to the Friends of the Library and provided direct financial support for Library services. The Trustees and Director also wish to thank the many volunteers who donated their time to provide better library service for the community, including the members of the Strategic Planning Community Committee: Will Adamczyk, Facilitator / Library Trustee / Director, Milton Public Library, Sandy Bumpus, Assistant Librarian for Children's Services, Abington Public Library, Madisen Caferro, Teen Advisory Board Member, Frances Cronin, Friends of the Library Member, Susan Crowley, Library Media Teacher, Abington High School, Cheryl D'Antonio, Abington Business Community and Friends of the Library Member, Amy Fedrick, Teacher, Center School, Kerry Franey, Parent Representative, Abigail Gendreau, Teen Advisory Board Member, Betty Henderson, Library Trustee, Amy Hindle, Children's Librarian, Abington Public Library, Rob MacLean, Community Representative / Director of Library Services, The Tufts Library, Weymouth, Carrie Murray, Parent Representative, Jake O'Neill, Library Trustee, Megan Reid, Teen Advisory Board Member, Chris Sexton, Abington Business Community, Phyllis Wheatley, Friends of the Library Member.

The Trustees and Library Director thank former Trustee William Adamczyk and former staff members Judith Condon, Christopher Jones and Isa Murray for their many years of service. The Trustees and Director also recognize the dedication and professionalism of the Library Staff: Sandy Bumpus, Ann Bunszell, Susan Durand, Heidi Hernandez, Amy Hindle, Barbara Libby, Lynne Nickley, Joanne Plunkett, Linda Sampson, Elizabeth Shea, Terry Taylor and Marcie Walsh-O'Connor.

Selected 2016 Library Statistics

Circulation: 105,416

Registered Borrowers: 6,844

Hits on the Library website: 1,533,274. www.abingtonpl.org

Abington Public School Class Visits: 61

Total programs offered: 344

Total program attendance: 6,808

Library Budget for 2016: \$473,411.50 (½ of the FY16 budget + ½ of the FY17 budget)

Respectfully submitted,
Henry DiCarlo, Chairman
Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman
Laura Nuttall, Secretary
Gail Bergin
Mary Gillis

Gerry Haas
Barbara McLaughlin
Carrie Murray
John O'Neill
Deborah Grimmett, Library Director