

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2013

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

2013 was a milestone year for the Abington Public Library. The year began with the 15th anniversary of the new library building; an anniversary concert featuring the South Shore Men of Harmony and the Island Grove Chapter of the Sweet Adelines was held in late January and enjoyed by 247 people. In accordance with its mission, the Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington: 123,613 items – books, eBooks, audiobooks, dvds, videos, music cds, magazines and museum passes were borrowed and 76,212 visits to the library were recorded. The library budget for Fiscal 2013 met the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Municipal Appropriation Requirement, and the budget for Fiscal 2014 met the same requirement after the addition of funds at the November Special Town Meeting. By meeting the Commonwealth's minimum budget requirements, the Town provided financial resources for programs and services to meet resident needs; children's program attendance increased to 4,853 from 4,046 in 2012, while the number of school students served during class visits increased from 1,041 to 1,688.

In 2013 the Library's website, which was originally created in 2003-2004, received a complete makeover, including the addition of 21st century tools such as drop-down menus, and a catalog search link on every page. Web designer Thomas Rose worked closely with the Library staff to incorporate user-friendly changes. The Library's calendar of events is now created on Eventkeeper, a library calendar program hosted by the software company Plymouth Rocket. The change to the Eventkeeper calendar allows users to create email reminders for programs and events.

Downloadable materials, eBooks and eAudio, continue to be popular with borrowers; use of these items increased by almost 80% over 2012. The Old Colony Library Network also added digital magazines in January 2013. Library staff conducted workshops to teach residents how to borrow downloadable materials; these workshops were well attended. Demand for the Library's Internet computers and wireless Internet remained high; job seekers continued to use the Library seeking Internet access, as well as resume and career information.

For the first time in many years, the Library was able to offer class visits to Abington Public School students in grades 7, 8, and 9. The Public Library worked cooperatively with Abington High School to ensure that all high school freshmen had valid library cards, for borrowing books and other materials, and for accessing the Library's rich digital offerings, including subscription research databases. Abington Public School classes in grades 1, 3, and 5 again visited the Abington Public Library. Children's Librarian Lauren Budd visited Kindergarten and Pre-K classes. 1,688 secondary, elementary and preschool students in 78 classes participated in school class visits. In January the Children's Librarian also conducted a successful library card sign-up campaign, designed to bring Kindergarten students and their parents to the Library.

The library was the beneficiary of a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This grant, "On the Same Page" funded Abington's first "one book, one town" event in February and March. This program involves encouraging members of the community to read the same book and to connect with each other by discussing the book, and attending events related to the book's theme. The title considered was *Dark Tide* by Stephen Puleo, a non-fiction historical work about the Boston molasses flood in 1919. Related programs included historical lectures, including a presentation by Dr. Gary Hylander about Boston in 1919, as well as a concert of 1920's music by Jim and Maggi Dalton. Author Stephen Puleo visited the Public Library, and Abington High School, to discuss his

work; both events played to capacity crowds. Approximately 484 people participated in this program by reading *Dark Tide* and/or attending a related event. Due to the success of this grant funded event, in July the Library Trustees committed State Aid to Public Libraries funds for *Abington Reads 2014*.

In addition to Abington Reads programming, a fall yoga workshop series, a Thanksgiving cooking program presented by chef Ellie Deaner, and an evening with Christopher Klein, author of *Strong Boy*, a biography of Abington celebrity fighter John L. Sullivan were offered. Other popular programs for adults included Christopher Daley's October presentation on the Lizzie Borden case and how-to workshops teaching residents to access the library's eBooks. Author Hallie Ephron and author and investigative reporter Hank Phillippi Ryan appeared jointly in December, sharing a conversation about books and writing with a large audience.

The Friends of the Library conducted fund raising activities including the annual magazine subscription 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 assistance for adult programming, continued their very successful book discussion group, and continued to fund the 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 2013. Gifts were received from the Abington Lions Club and the Anderson Foundation, as well as continued donations in memory of long-time library trustee Melba Smith. The Friends received donations in memory of former Library Assistant and Friends member Mary Donlan, and in memory of Friends member Anne McCarthy. A donation from the proceeds of Jack 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.

Members of the Library's Teen Advisory Board were invited to speak about TAB and teen programming at the Old Colony Library Network's Legislative Breakfast in early February. The teens shared their story with state legislators, library trustees, staff, Friends and supporters from twenty-six communities across the South Shore. The young people spoke about the formation of the Teen Advisory Board, their library volunteer work with younger children and in the greater community, activities and events planned by and offered to teens, and about how participating in TAB empowers teens and allows them to have a real voice in library services. The teens did an outstanding job and were great ambassadors for the Abington Public Library.

In 2013, the Library hosted five children's cultural programs funded by the Anderson Foundation. The Hampstead Stage Theater interactive performance of "The Secret Garden" was enjoyed by a large audience, as were musicians Karen K and the Jitterbugs, the Stacey Peasely Band and Steve Blunt. The Anderson Foundation also sponsored a day with local children's book author and cartoonist, Jef Czekaj. An afternoon of folk tales and songs with Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell packed the library and was funded by donations in memory of Melba Smith. Visits from magician, Scott Jameson, and science educator, Paulette Morin, were funded by the Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Library and the Joyce Lee Bumpus Fund continued to provide for the library's preschool and toddler story times, after school story craft and science activities, the popular book discussion clubs for children and teens, food for the Teen Advisory Board meetings and the summer reading program. 384 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, reading for a total of 1,669 hours; both participation and the number of hours read increased substantially during 2013, resulting in part from a commitment from the

Abington Public Schools to support and encourage summer reading program for all ages. Total attendance at children's and teen programs for 2013 was 5,417; this is an increase of just over 900 participants from 2012.

The Board of Library Trustees saw no changes in 2013 as Trustees William Adamczyk, Gerry Haas and Laura Nuttall were re-elected in April. The Library staff also remained the same.

The Library Trustees thank the many residents and town officials, elected and appointed, who recognized the need to provide funding for library services and who supported the addition of to the library budget at the Fall Special Town meeting in order to meet the state required minimum for Fiscal 2014. 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: Lauren Budd, Sandy Bumpus, Judith Condon, Michelle Cooke, Susan Durand, Heidi Hernandez, Christopher Jones, Barbara Libby, Isa Murray Linda Sampson, Elizabeth Shea and Terry Taylor.

Selected 2013 Library Statistics

Circulation: 123,613

Registered Borrowers: 6,694

Hits on the Library website: 1,184,919. www.abingtonpl.org

Abington Public School Class Visits: 78

Total programs offered: 338

Total program attendance: 6,676

2013 Value of Selected Library Services to the Residents of Abington

Source: American Library Association Value of Library Services Calculator

Books borrowed:	\$1,306,365.00
Videos borrowed:	\$62,552.00
Audios borrowed:	\$70,943.50
Print & eMagazines borrowed:	\$19,335.00
eBooks borrowed:	\$50,265.00
Museum passes loaned:	\$8,460.00
Interlibrary loans:	\$402,300.00
Hours of computer use:	\$37,956.00
Programs attended:	\$59,624.00
Total	\$2,017,800.50

Library Budget for 2013: **\$448,582.50** (½ of the FY13 budget + ½ of the FY14 budget)

Respectfully submitted,
Henry DiCarlo, Chairman
Betty Henderson, Vice Chairman
John O'Neill, Secretary
William Adamczyk
Gail Bergin

Gerry Haas
Kathleen Jones
Christina McMahan
Laura Nuttall
Deborah Grimmer, Library Director