

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2014

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

2014 was a busy year for the Abington Public Library. In accordance with its mission, the Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington: 112,002 items – books, eBooks, audiobooks, dvds, videos, music cds, magazines and museum passes were borrowed and 79,925 visits to the library were recorded. The library budget voted in June for Fiscal 2015 failed to meet the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Municipal Appropriation Requirement by \$5,212.00. This deficit, while not large, means that the Town was categorized as unable to provide the appropriate financial resources to support library services for the period from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

The Abington Lions Club conducted a Million Penny Project to raise funds for upgrading the technology in the Copeland Room, as well as adding iPads for adult and teen library users, and books to the large print collection. The project kicked off in March during the annual St. Patrick's Day parade; representatives of the library staff, Board of Library Trustees and family members marched with the Lions Club in the parade to raise awareness of the project. Pennies were collected at many sites around town, including the Library throughout the spring, summer and early fall. The million penny goal was reached in October and the Lions Club and Library community recognized this achievement with a Million Penny Ceremony on Sunday November 16. The Board of Library Trustees formally thanked the Abington Lions Club with a proclamation mentioning among other topics that "the Million Penny Project served to unite the community in 2014 with the common goal of contributing to the Million Penny campaign." The Trustees thank Million Penny Project Chairman Phil Hamric, Lions Club President Ted Cummins, Immediate Past President Ken Coyle, and all of the members of the Abington Lions Club for their hard work on behalf of library services.

Downloadable materials, eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines continue to be popular with borrowers; use of these items increased by 33% over 2013. 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. A grant from Target funded the purchase of 4 iPads for children, which were mounted on a table in the Children's Room in June. The iPads have a variety of educational apps and were used 1,829 times by preschoolers and elementary school-aged children.

The Library again welcomed the 9th grade English classes from Abington High School. The Public Library worked cooperatively with the 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. Kindergarten and Pre-K classes were visited by the Children's Librarian. 1,653 secondary, elementary and preschool students in 76 classes participated in these 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.

Abington Reads 2014 continued the "one book, one town" programming begun with a federal grant in 2013. The 2014 program encouraged members of the community to read *Defending Jacob* by William Landay and to meet for book discussions and other related activities, including: movies, lectures by historians Dr. Gary Hylander and Christopher Daley, a mystery cooking program, and a forensic science program for teens. Author William Landay visited both the public Library and Abington High School to

discuss his novel. More than 300 people participated in Abington Reads 2014 by reading *Defending Jacob* 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 presentation about Highclere Castle, the real *Downton Abbey* (*Downton Abbey* and *Downton* are registered trademarks of Carnival Film & Television Ltd), presented by historical architect Curt DiCamillo. The lecture was followed by a tea and the event was enjoyed by approximately 100 people. Seasonal craft programs, a lecture about the history of firefighting, movie nights and a November visit from author and *Chronicle* reporter Ted Reinstein were also offered. The Non-Fiction discussion group continued its monthly meetings, and a new evening book club, featuring popular fiction and non-fiction titles began in the fall. An on-line Summer Reading Program for adults was offered for the first time and was very popular; adult readers recorded 1,069 hours of reading time during the eight weeks of the program.

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 the *Downton Abbey* themed tea. The Friends 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 2014. 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. 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.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) continued to meet and to guide program offerings for teens. 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 2014 the Library hosted several children’s cultural programs funded by the Anderson Foundation. The Hampstead Stage Theater interactive performance of “Alice in Wonderland” was enjoyed by a large audience, as were musicians Little Groove, Mama Steph, Scott Kepnes. The Vermont PuppeTree’s presentation of “Swimmy” was funded by donations in memory of Melba Smith. 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. 327 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, reading for a total of 1,335 hours.

Long time Trustee Christina McMahon chose not to seek re-election; the Board welcomed new Trustee Barbara McLaughlin. Trustees Betty Henderson and John O’Neill were re-elected in April. Children’s Librarian Lauren Budd accepted a new position in March. A reception thanking Lauren for her service was well attended by children, teens and parents. Amy Hindle, a May 2014 graduate of the Simmons

College Graduate School of Library and Information Science joined the staff as Children's Librarian in May.

The Library Trustees thank the many generous donors who supported not only the Abington Lions Club Million Penny Project, but also 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: Lauren Budd, 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 2014 Library Statistics

Circulation: 112,002

Registered Borrowers: 66,943

Hits on the Library website: 1,943,977. www.abingtonpl.org

Abington Public School Class Visits: 76

Total programs offered: 259

Total program attendance: 5,118

2014 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:	\$1,189,014.00
Audio borrowed/downloaded:	67,978.40
Movies borrowed:	52,144.00
eBooks downloaded	72,600.00
Magazines borrowed/downloaded:	16,505.00
Interlibrary Loan Requests:	334,625.00
Adult Programs attended:	21,000.00
Teen Programs attended	5,724.00
Children's Program attended:	22,687.00
Museum Passes borrowed:	8,680.00
Computer Use per hour:	63,216.00
Total:	\$1,854,173.40

Library Budget for 2014: \$451,859.50 (½ of the FY14 budget + ½ of the FY15 budget)

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 Grimmitt, Library Director