

Abington Public Library Annual Report - 2018

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

2018 began with the celebration of the Abington Public Library's 20th year in the current building. An Anniversary Concert recognized the many people who contributed to the building of the new Library, which was dedicated in January 1998. Library services have changed over the last twenty years and the building is used more than ever. The twenty-first century library is a destination for residents, providing technology, study space and creative outlets for children, teens and adults. The small study rooms were used 1,047 times in 2018, with in-house computer and iPad usage totaling 6,400 sessions. In accordance with its mission, the Abington Public Library provided information services for the residents of Abington: 102,639 items – books, eBooks, audiobooks, DVDs, videos, music CDs, magazines and museum passes were borrowed and 75,385 user visits to the library were recorded.

Downloadable materials, electronic books, audiobooks and magazines, continue to be popular with borrowers as digital materials accounted for 13.5% of total library circulation in 2018, up from 11.2% in 2017. 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 K, 1, 3, and 5 again visited the Abington Public Library. Children's Librarian Amy Hindle visited the Kindergarten and Pre-K classes monthly during the school year. 2,075 middle, elementary and preschool students in 85 classes participated in these school class visits. The Library again hosted the Youth Art Month display in March and the Portfolio Art Show in May, highlighting student art work.

Abington Reads 2018 continued the "one book, one town" programming begun with a federal grant in 2013. The 2018 program encouraged members of the community to read *Murder on the Orient Express* by Agatha Christie and to meet for book discussions and other related activities, including a forensics program, historical lecture, game night and movies for adults and teens. More than 225 people participated in Abington Reads 2018 by reading *Murder on the Orient Express* and/or attending a related event.

In addition to Abington Reads programming, a number of other events were offered for adults. Author Stephen Puleo returned to speak about his book, *American Treasures*. Authors Barbara Ross, Ted Reinstein and Bob Halloran also discussed their new books with large audiences. Abington resident Richard Fitts Jr. and producer Rudy Childs screened their documentary film, *21 Years: A Folded Flag* about the Vietnam War service of Abington Green Beret Richard Fitts Sr. Historian Dr. Gary Hylander entertained history buffs with lectures about the Tet Offensive, the Lindbergh Kidnapping, and the Korean War. The Non-Fiction and Popular Fiction discussion groups continued their monthly meetings. A very popular bi-monthly Cookbook Club was a new addition in 2018; this group prepares, tastes and discusses recipes from selected cookbooks. Monthly craft evenings for adults again attracted capacity crowds.

Friends of the Library and the greater library community sadly marked the passing of long-time Friends' president Rosie Walls in April. Rosie's contributions to the Friends and to library services for all Abington residents were many and she will be greatly missed. The Friends 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 group provided museum passes and funding for children’s, teen and adult programs. The Friends continued their very successful daytime literary fiction book group, and also fund the popular evening mystery book discussion group.

The community was again generous to the Library in 2018. Gifts were received for children’s programming in memory of Joyce Lee Bumpus, in memory of long-time library trustee Melba Smith, and from the Anderson Foundation. 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. The Abington Rotary Club, resident Ken Laidlaw, The Thimbles and Friends Quilt Guild and the South Shore Writers all donated funds for new wheeled tables for the Copeland Room. Timber Lanes Bowling Center again donated a family pass for Zoo New England. Gifts were received in memory of long-time library borrower Grace Avery. 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. Barn Babies made their annual visit to the library and the teens spent an afternoon playing with baby farm animals. Several after-hours programs were offered this year. In March 25 teens attended an overnight at the library. In June the Phantom Sheep improv troupe returned to the library for a workshop in comedy improvisation. The popular Chopped programs were held in July and November. Heather Beck came to the library in July for a successful metalsmithing workshop. 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, and 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 2018 the Library, once again, hosted several children’s cultural programs generously funded by the Anderson Foundation. Large audiences enjoyed interactive programs by Pumpernickel Puppets and Circus Minimus, as well as musicians Hugh Hanley and Mama Steph. Pop-Up Art returned to the library for another art workshop which was also made possible by the Anderson Foundation. The Hampstead Stage Company returned to the library to perform the very popular Treasure Island, which was funded by donations made in the memory of Melba Smith. The Friends of the Library funded performances by Mike the Bubbleman, Mad Science, and the Whalemobile. With the help from the Police, Fire and Highway Departments, the library also hosted another touch-a-truck. The Friends of the Library and the Joyce Lee Bumpus Fund continued to provide for the library’s preschool and toddler story times, Lego Club, afterschool story craft and science activities, the popular book discussion clubs for children and teens, additional performers and the summer reading program. 270 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, reading for a total of 1,044 hours.

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.

Trustees Gail Bergin, Henry DiCarlo, and Mary Gillis were re-elected in April. Part-time Reference Librarian Marcie Walsh-O’Connor resigned in August; Sarah Roberts joined the staff as Reference Librarian in December. Two on-call substitutes, Kerri Lohnes and Susan Donovan completed training and joined the substitute list during the summer.

The Trustees and Director wish former Reference Librarian Marcie Walsh-O'Connor success in her new position as the Director of the Whitman Public Library, and also recognize the dedication and professionalism of the Library Staff: Sandy Bumpus, Ann Bunszell, Susan Donovan, Susan Durand, Heidi Hernandez, Amy Hindle, Barbara Libby, Kerri Lohnes, Lynne Nickley, Joanne Plunkett, Sarah Roberts, Linda Sampson, Elizabeth Shea, and Terry Taylor.

Selected 2018 Library Statistics

Circulation: 102,639

Registered Borrowers: 6,297

Hits on the Library website: 2,384,492. www.abingtonpl.org

Abington Public School Class Visits: 85

Total programs offered: 364

Total program attendance: 7,711

Library Budget for 2018: \$495,528 (½ of the FY18 budget + ½ of the FY19 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