

ANNUAL REPORT 1999  
MOSES GREELEY PARKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Looking back on the final year of the century we see the Library taking its rightful place at the center of beginning and continuing education for the community.

The inclusion of new technology, the addition of requested specialty collections and a consistently growing number of visitors finds us rapidly outgrowing the 7,000 square feet that make up a very successful Library. New faces are appearing at the circulation desk as people discover the wealth of materials housed in this small building. One gentleman remarked that "had he known how much money he could save, he would have been here years ago." He is not alone. During Fiscal Year 1999 we managed to supply over 156,000 items for people to enjoy. At the same time we hosted 117,200 visits to the library. A new item of interest is the number of people who spend hours on the three Internet terminals doing their own research. Well over 3,000 people "surfing", researched and just enjoyed our Internet stations as they became more and more proficient under the tutelage of our reference librarians. . Also of prime interest is the access to the many different databases provided by the Consortium. Two periodical date bases received much use as people realized how many full text magazines are available. Every day it is more evident that, far from becoming extinct, the Library is no longer just for books, it is for just about everything a person can imagine. Our only limits are electrical power and space.

Personnel changes occurred with the resignation of Mickie Riendeau our Children's Librarian for over six years. Mickie received a great send off from all her story hour friends and is having a wonderful time pursuing a new career in Maine. Mickie's replacement is a very familiar face to many of the children. Penny Berube joined the staff of the Library during the summer and stepped right in to carry on when Mickie left. During the year the Children's room of the Library provided 4,057 children with a variety of programs all designed to increase their awareness of the world around them. We applied for and received grants from Community Teamwork and the Dracut Arts Council to fund many of the 180 programs. The attendance at these programs and the story hours just continue to prove how great a part the Library plays in community life. As we prepare for the biggest step of the future the Library Community was very fortunate to have our Trustee John C Katin reelected to another three-year term. John has been a mainstay of the Library for many years and we look forward to many more. Under the expert guidance of John, Mary Lee Matthews and James Ace, the Library is taking the first steps toward the realization of a new building. With the surrounding communities already expanding and, with each expansion, increasing their attendance and interest, we are looking forward to our change.

For the board of Library Trustees

James Ace 2001

John Katin 2002

Mary Lee Matthews 2000

Respectfully Submitted

Susan A. Schwarz, Director.