

M.G. Parker Library
Annual Town Report
2007

The calendar year 2007 witnessed several major and noteworthy changes at the M.G. Parker Library. Most conspicuously, a change in command was met with both smiles and tears as Susan Schwarz, the library's director for nearly 17 years, retired in September of 2007. Her tenure is best remembered by her sweeping knowledge of the collection, affinity for mysteries, unmitigated energy level, and affable demeanor with the patrons. Of course the highly celebrated 29,000 square foot library, which opened in May of 2006, is largely due to her perseverance, tenacity, and mastery of multitasking and balancing acts with disparate groups of workmen. Embraced by the community of Dracut and flanked by her loving family, adoring patrons, enduring town officials, and her steadfast library staff, Susan said good-bye to Dracut as the library director for the last time in late September, in her typical quick and candid approach, leaving only herself as the sole set of dry eyes in the Library that evening. On behalf of the town of Dracut and the Trustees, we thank-you for your years of hard work and dedication to the Library, which has enriched the community immensely during your years of service.

In October of 2007, Susan's successor, Dana Mastroianni began her first of year as the "new Susan" for the Dracut community. She is the first library director of Dracut whose stewardship is overseen by a five member Board of Trustees, which was previously a three person administration. Reasons for the increase in the number of Trustees include but are not limited to a better division of labor and a richer pool of ideas for exchange and consideration.

Other on goings and points of interest include:

- Patron attendance for calendar year 2007 was 141,928; Circulations totaled 205,765 items.
- The young adult area, which originally lured in teens and their peers, mainly for the internet and computer access, has witnessed significant growth in occupancy as well as increased collection circulation.
- A revitalization of the Friends Group whose membership and management has been buttressed by an influx of new members who eagerly nourish the library's mission.
- The Foundation has continued in their philanthropic endeavors which included a highly successful silent Christmas wreath auction, which may become an annual event.

- The submission of a five year, long range plan for the management of the library and the acceptance by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
- After nearly 18 months of occupancy, many of the buildings idiosyncrasies, finishing details, and major operating systems are closer to reaching a sense of simpatico and are continuously honed and monitored for maximum efficiency. This will be a work-in-progress for the immediate future, especially in those areas of technology which are always forging ahead at lightning speed.
- Transitioning from management styles from one director to the successor has been relatively seamless for the progressive and adept staff who works tirelessly to deliver the services and cultivate the collection of a large library with a small town feeling.
- Collection development continues to prosper and included a new technology and format known as a *play-away* which is a self-contained prerecorded book and playing device, all housed in a relatively small individual battery operated unit.
- From a technological perspective, the children's room was afforded a helping hand with the purchase of a self-checkout book station whereby children, with the aid of an adult can quickly check out books on their own library card, saving precious time for the patrons and the staff.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Dana Mastroianni, Director

Clee A Ace-2010

John Dyer-2009

Nancy Katin-2008

Mary Lee Matthews-Chairperson 2009

Linda M Trouville-2008