

## **Mattapoisett Free Public Library**

### **Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015**

**July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015**

#### **Library Services and Staff**

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library continues to provide a full range of services and programs to area residents and visitors of all ages. The staff consists of three full-time librarians, including the children's librarian, adult services/reference librarian and the library director. The library also employs 8 part-time library technicians, one page who works ten hours a week, and a part-time custodian. Mary Ann Amoruso, formerly a part-time staff member, now serves as a substitute. The position of part-time General Services librarian was approved at the May 2015 town meeting, with the position to be posted the following summer.

An elected Board of Trustees, currently chaired by Mary Magee, oversees the management of the library. The Mattapoisett Library Trust, Inc. and the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library, Inc. are two charitable organizations that support and sustain the library by way of fundraising and program support. This assistance makes possible a range of programming as well as the necessary funds to purchase materials that make the town eligible for library certification and the accompanying state aid, which was \$7,537 for Fiscal year 2015.

As part of a Strategic Plan filed with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), a yearly Action Plan helps to direct library activities and resources. This dynamic plan responds to the information, reading and technology needs of the community. The Strategic Plan is now being updated with the assistance of patrons, volunteers, and library staff. This new plan will direct the activities of the library and will respond to the priorities and twenty-first century information and technology needs of residents. Reading and free access to information and technology in a safe and comfortable setting will, most likely, continue to be the overarching mission of the library. Complying by submitting the strategic plan enables the town to apply for federal funding that is administered by the MBLC. This LSTA funding has been the source of multiple grants for the Mattapoisett Library, including funds for construction and renovation of the facility as well as several LSTA project grants. In FY 2015, the Library participated in a collaborative grant project with the other tri-town libraries titled My Own BackYard (MOBY) to promote the natural sciences in our local areas for students in grades three through eight. That project will officially wrap up in October of 2015, but the activities will be ongoing for children and their families.

Staff hours have been relatively stable, while at the same time patron activity at the library has increased in a number of ways. Circulation (76,600 transactions) and library visits (79,000) have increased from the previous year. The number of library card holders in Mattapoisett has grown from 4,759 in 2011 to 5,232 in this fiscal year. The Library continued to offer Sunday hours, from 1 to 4 pm between Labor Day and Memorial Day. The library is regularly open Tuesday through Saturday, including two evenings. Twice

each month the staff makes Thursday evenings available to community organizations needing meeting space, even though that is not a time that the library is open to the public for library services. This has been helpful to a number of local groups who need space to meet.

The adult circulation staff consisted of librarian Elizabeth Sherry, and library technicians Katherine Daener, Anne Bernard and Patricia Cole. Nancy Lopes, as library page, ensured that all library materials were returned to the shelves in good order, with the help of a crew of able volunteers. Rebecca Duncan, with the assistance of Christine Hoffman, processed all items added to the collection, whether purchases or donations. The library facility continued to be maintained by our very capable part-time custodian Raymond Rose.

Continuing again this year, most patrons remain committed to print rather than ebooks, but use of downloaded materials continued to increase. Workshops continued on an ongoing basis to facilitate learning new technologies for patrons with new ereaders and tablets. The library owns several devices, which enabled patrons to try them out before deciding whether or not to purchase one. The SAILS Library Network continued to build the Overdrive collection of ebooks and downloadable audiobooks in an attempt to meet the demand of all network users. The library also participated in the Statewide Ebook Project that made an additional 212,000 downloadable books available to patrons.

The busy children's department was staffed by Children's Librarian Linda Burke, and library technicians Lynn Haugen, Miyuki Dawson, and Jeanne McCullough, serves as part-time Children's Librarian. Dozens of talented and dedicated volunteers provide assistance in a variety of ways during the year and for the summer reading program. Eight-week story time sessions were held throughout the year for toddlers and preschoolers, and special events and programs (158) add to the fun for children of all ages and their families. The summer reading program "Every Hero Has a Story" offered many and varied events for children and youth from toddlers to high school students. The support of the Friends, volunteers, and gifts from local businesses enhanced all our programs. Approximately 265 children participated in the summer reading program, from toddlers to junior high schoolers.

Adult and young adult programs (126) were held in response to the interests of the community. Authors, artists, scientists and educators all provided their expertise to varied audiences. The community enjoys the many opportunities for culture, education and recreation offered at the library. The Purrington Series, sponsored by the Mattapoisett Library Trust, complemented the library's programming, offering lectures and concerts.

## **Community Center**

Many local and regional organizations and town boards used the library's meeting room and other gathering spaces. The facility is comfortable and convenient for meetings, and features an easy-to-use audiovisual set-up. Most library programs take place in the downstairs meeting room, but other groups have gathered in the Reading Room as space permitted. The meeting room is in great demand, especially during the two evenings the

library is open after 5 pm. Civic discussions held at the library bring in citizens from town and the region to engage in conversation ranging from foreign affairs to environmental preservation. The library is pleased to provide meeting space to the Mattapoissett Land Trust and its Board meetings, the Mattapoissett Women's Club and its Great Decisions Discussion Group, both the Democratic and Republic Town Committees, the Mattapoissett Yacht Club, and The Nasketucket Bird Club, among many others. State and regional governmental agencies also make use of the space for trainings and meetings. As mentioned above, Thursday evenings are made available to community organizations twice a month for meetings, when the library is otherwise not open to the public.

As a community center, the library also makes local information is available year round to Mattapoissett residents. Town postings, town meeting warrants, voter registration forms, notices from the Board of Health and many other departments are available at the library. Public health notices are prominently displayed, and support information is gathered for the benefit of the public. Social media is used to promote town events as well as library events.

The increased collaboration between the schools and the library included the sharing of reading lists and assignments, as well as consultations on programs. The library staff does it best to make the summer reading list books of area school available in a variety of formats. As part of the MOBY STEM grant, staff visited the Old Hammondtown School and ORR Junior High School to promote the project to grades 3 through 8. Staff members hosted kindergarten classes as well as several child care groups to introduce them to the library and promote the importance (and fun!) of having a library card.

The library offers Internet access on six workstations and also wireless access throughout the building. Printing, photocopying and fax service is available for a nominal charge. The library's website allows remote access twenty-four hours a day to newspapers, databases, and the online SAILS catalog. A valid library card and PIN are needed to log on. Patrons are able to check their accounts, renew materials, and update their contact information remotely. They can reserve materials and be called or contacted by email when the titles arrive for pick up. A wide variety of downloadable ebooks, audiobooks and streaming video is also available via the library's website. Tumblebooks are free picture books online for children.

Additional support was received from The Phyllis McGillicuddy Charitable Trust to create two Science Education Centers for young children and teens. Much needed new library materials, equipment, furnishings, and programs were offered, thanks to this support. This STEM initiative will continue into future years to stimulate interest among local students, particularly girls, in science, technology, engineering and math.

Grant support from the Marianne H. Witherby Charitable Trust enabled the library to begin an adult literacy program called A.L.L. Adults Learn at the Library. Tutor volunteers are training to provide educational support to adults and out of school youth age 16 and older who are working toward learning goals. Components of the program include HiSet

(high school equivalency test) preparation, support for reading and writing English for speakers of other languages, Adult Basic Education, computer skills and financial literacy.

### **Friends of the Mattapoisett Library, Mattapoisett Library Trust, Library Board of Trustees and Volunteers**

Again this year the library has benefitted greatly from the effort of the Friends and volunteers. Generous funding and hundreds of hours contribute to busy level of programming and materials maintenance provided by the staff. The Friends provide for the many museum passes enjoyed by the public, and this generous group supports both children's and adult programs and events. The Board of the Friends meets monthly at the library with the director to plan and prioritize their activities for the year, including the monthly and annual book sales. An Annual Meeting each year features a speaker and a summary of the year's efforts by the Friends.

The support of the Library Trust also supplements the town appropriation in significant ways, making possible additional materials purchases and also repairs and improvements to the facility. The community's generous response to the Annual Appeal funds these important needs. The Purrington Series offers lectures and concerts, with special invitations to donors.

Volunteers are the mainstay of keeping up with the flow of library work. Regular trainings are held for adults and students who wish to assist the library staff in any of a number of ways. Once a year, volunteers are recognized at a reception hosted by the staff and trustees. The enthusiasm and talent of library volunteers enhances the collection, the facility and library programs. In FY 2015, there were 95 volunteers serving the library for a total of 1,486 hours. Additionally, 21 persons participating in the Senior Tax Abatement program gave 1,441 hours of their time to library tasks.

The six-member library Board of Trustees devotes many hours to working with the library director to make best use of the town's resources. The trustees set policy and ensure that the library maintains state standards for excellence so that all Mattapoisett citizens, residents of the Commonwealth, and town visitors have the best possible library experience. Board members are Mary Magee, Ruth Jolliffe, James Dildine, William Asci, Virginia Beams and Amy Lignitz-Harken.

Once again, the entire library staff has enjoyed providing services to all the citizens and guests of the Mattapoisett community, in cooperation with town staff and the Board of Selectmen. Any and all suggestions for additional programs and services are welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pizzolato  
Library Director