

## **Mattapoisett Free Public Library**

### **Annual Report Fiscal Year 2010**

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

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library continued to offer an array of services for citizens of all ages from its village location at 7 Barstow Street. The staff consists of a library director, 2 full-time librarians, 6 part-time library technicians, and one page. An elected board of Library Trustees helps to manage the library, and the Mattapoisett Library Trust, a private non-profit charitable organization, raises funds to supplement the town's appropriation to enhance what the library can offer.

The library staff has experienced several years of transition including the retirement this year of dedicated librarian Jan Bolton in June of 2010. A reception was held in the Reading Room to honor her and thank her for 18 years of service to both children and adults. Members of the Board of Selectmen presented her with a citation, and the Junior Friends also offered Mrs. Bolton a print to celebrate her years as the children's librarian. Her shoes will be hard to fill, but as the new fiscal year begins, the town will add a new adult services librarian. Staff and patrons also said farewell in July 2009 to Cathleen Furtado, a part-time library technician, who is also a teacher. Her years of service were appreciated particularly in the children's department.

During the year a Strategic Plan was completed with the input of over 40 residents of the community. Goals and objectives were developed and activities planned that: 1)emphasize the library as a comfortable facility that serves as a community center; 2) encourage citizenship at all levels; 3)make available and support the use of developing technologies; and, 4)inspire a love of reading and interest in the arts, local history and the environment. The plan may be viewed on the library's website at [www.mattapoisettlibrary.org](http://www.mattapoisettlibrary.org). It is a dynamic document that will guide the staff and trustees over the next five years as library service emerges in new ways and resources are reallocated to meet new and growing demands. Reading and free access to information in all formats for all ages remains a constant, reflecting the library's mission.

For fiscal year 2010, there were 4,457 library card holders of which 3,741 were residents of Mattapoisett. The 230 new card holders include 170 new patrons from Mattapoisett. The able staff answered 1,692 reference questions this year, an increase of 474 from the previous year. The attendance in the library for the year was 52,220 visits, also a dramatic increase over last year. Many new programs account for increased visits by children, young adults and adults. The facility was open 40 hours per week, including two evenings and Saturdays.

168 programs were offered for children during the year, up from 93 the previous year. 77 programs were offered for adults and young adults. The bustling Summer Reading Program “Starship Adventure” was very popular, featuring story times, musical performances, and even an opportunity to examine actual moon rocks through a microscope. Several hundred elementary school age children with their families participated. The program culminated with an ice cream sundae party on the adjacent lawn. With the support of the Friends of the Library and many dedicated volunteers, the summer reading program was, once again, educational, enjoyable, and very well attended by year-round and summer residents.

Story times for toddlers and preschoolers are offered throughout the year under the capable leadership of children’s librarian Linda Burke. She and her staff prepare stimulating and fun sessions to foster an early love of reading. Family story times are held on the first Saturday of each month so that entire families can enjoy reading sessions together.

A particular focus on young adults this year enabled the staff to renew acquaintances with students who provided input for new programs and age-appropriate collection development. A Council of Teen Advisors was formed to involve students in library planning and programming.

The library circulated 62,232 items in all formats during the year. Of this number, 38,464 were cataloged as adults and young adult items, and 23,768 items were children’s materials. The library lent 9,607 items to other libraries, and in turn borrowed 7,485 items. The library system is based on the sharing of resources among libraries of all types in the region, the commonwealth and beyond. Mattapoissett patrons may request materials from the SAILS Library Network , via Virtual Catalog (state-wide) and through the Interlibrary Loan services to areas beyond. Delivery of materials was received every day the library was open, Tuesday through Saturday. This service allowed Mattapoissett residents to receive fiction and non-fiction materials in all formats from virtually anywhere. In addition, the ability to download books and music through Overdrive via the SAILS Library network meant our membership and tax dollars were maximized. Increasingly, patrons are downloading adult and children’s audio books, music and ebooks. Local residents continue to donate DVDs and other books and materials that greatly enhance the collection.

The library features six Internet stations for adults and children, and wifi can be accessed anywhere in the building or on the grounds. The library’s website allowed remote access to the SAILS catalog 24 hours a day, including access to databases, newspapers, and other online resources. A valid library card with PIN is needed to log in. Patrons can also check availability of and reserve museum passes from the website. Using the online catalog makes it easy to renew materials and make requests.

The library’s meeting room was used for meetings open to the public by both library-related groups and others from the community. Cultural, educational and information programs, organization meetings, library meetings, and many more uses for all ages meant the room was

heavily used. Ongoing groups included a foreign film series, writers' group, book discussion, and other series including author visits.

### **Friends of the Mattapoisett Library and Volunteers**

Volunteers continued to be a very important part of the organization at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. Over 70 volunteers assisted the staff in a myriad of ways, including helping with the Friends' Annual Book Sale. Over 1,117 hours were contributed by student and adult volunteers, almost doubling the number of volunteer hours offered last year. A new volunteer training procedure was developed, and anyone interested in assisting was encouraged to pick up an application at the circulation desk. We were very grateful for their eager and able assistance, and volunteers of all ages were honored at a spring recognition reception in the upstairs reading room.

The Friends of Mattapoisett Library once again supported the library in many ways, including books and materials, furnishings and equipment, and interesting programs for children and adults. The Annual Book Sale was held in July, again much to the delight of local and visiting bibliophiles. Thousands of books for children and adults were donated to help make the book sale another huge success. The labor and enthusiasm of the Friends and the Junior Friends continue to support the library in many important ways.

Also, thanks to the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library, as well as other funding sources, the library is able to provide the public with museum passes, which are frequently used. Passes include discounted admission to The Museum of Science, the Aquarium, and the Museum of Fine Arts, all in Boston, the Roger Williams Zoo, The New Bedford Whaling Museum, the art museum and the zoo in New Bedford, The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Heritage Plantation and the Cape Cod Museum of Fine Arts, and Plimoth Plantation. The ability to check out a museum pass with one's library card affords many individuals, families and other groups the opportunity to visit many of the exciting cultural destinations in our geographic area and beyond. A new pass added this year was The Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. The total number of institutions represented by this program was 19.

The Friends also offered a well-attended poetry program with the help of Margot Wisansky in April, which is celebrated as poetry month. Published poets read to a packed house, and local poets were also invited to share an original or favorite poem.

### **Funding**

In addition to the town appropriation, state aid received for the library was \$5,609. The town continued to be eligible for this by maintaining its library state certification. Requirements were met with the help of the Friends and the Library Trust, organizations that also purchased books and materials for the library. Another source of funds included gifts received throughout the year in memory of individuals. The staff was pleased to purchase materials and insert a

bookplate that will be a lasting tribute. Gifts were also made by the Eastman Charitable Foundation and other organizations. Donations to honor children on their birthdays have been especially welcome, and each birthday child is the first to check out the book, which includes a book plate announcing their special gift. Many book donations for children and adults were added to the collection by cataloguer Rebecca Duncan. The number of book and audiovisual donations processed during the year was 1,116 items, and these greatly enhanced the library's holdings.

The library's Strategic Plan will continue to guide the staff as we strive to use resources efficiently to meet the informational, cultural and reading needs of Mattapoisett's citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Pizzolato  
Library Director