

GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

2003 Annual Report

The Gleason Public Library continues to be an integral part of the Carlisle community by offering a wide variety of popular and reference materials in various formats to meet the recreational, informational, educational, and cultural needs of Carlisle's citizens. In addition to encouraging life-long learning for members of the community, the Library serves as a supplemental resource for students of all ages and as a resource for community information.

The Gleason Public Library, the people's resource, is a reflection of Carlisle. The Library offers something for everyone, including children's programs, author's series, business information, travel literature, regional and local historical materials, basic internet instruction, and advanced database and print reference assistance.

In 2003 the Library continued to develop and offer collections, services, and programs for people of all ages. Throughout the year, language and literacy-based story hours led by children's librarians Marty Seneta, Kay Edelberg, and Shirley Pearlman were offered to over 80 children, 2 years old through Kindergarten. Regular story hours included those held with the Carlisle Children's Center and the Carlisle Extended Day Programs (kindergarteners). The Carlisle Cultural Council sponsored the Hampstead Players who delighted a large audience enacting scenes from *Alice in Wonderland*.

Craft projects and special visits from this summer's reading program *Read! Think! Create!* included a demonstration by Yo-Yo Champion, Larry Sayco. David Bates and Roger Tincknell shared "Imagine That" Stories and Songs for all audiences. Lonnie Harvey introduced mono-print to participants during her workshop in July, while illustrator of the *Sir Cumference* books, Wayne Geehan, told the audience about drawing life into characters. In all, 110 K-6th graders in Carlisle together devoured hundreds of books making everyone proud of their reading accomplishments.

On Friday, June 27th, the Friends of the Gleason Public Library hosted a special after-hours program celebrating the release of the newest Harry Potter book, *The Order of the Phoenix*. Fifty children participated in a local version of the Triwizard Tournament. Both participants and parents were enthralled as Todd Arnow, associate producer and unit production manager on the movie, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* talked about adapting a book into a movie. A comedic magic show by professional magician David Hublebank led up to the grand finale at midnight when the books were distributed. The success of this event is due to the work of Priscilla Stevens, Paula Trebino, Warren Spence, and assistance from Library friends and staff.

Local Feng Shui expert, Mary Roberts, encouraged two groups of college students to design their dormitory spaces around their goals at school. September 29-October 4, the Library hosted a week-long Open House. The events of this special week included:

- tours, book repair and mending demonstrations,
- local authors Holly Fordyce and Rachel Page Elliott,
- barbershop tunes of the Second Wind Quartet,
- an evening with the town's department heads,
- sounds of some of Carlisle Public School's musicians,
- and a student art show reception.

Creativity is alive and well in Carlisle. The ever-popular 20th annual Pumpkin Festival was a treat in 2003 with characters of all types enjoying the spooky stories of Tony Toledo. Over 100 kids and parents cheered on the entries of the Pumpkin carving and decoration contest. In November, Grace Lin, an illustrator and children's book author, showed a group of children how to make their own colorful kites.

Director, Ellen Rauch resigned in early 2003 and left the Library in excellent state with a strong collection and beautiful building. Also leaving this year was substitute Patricia Simon. Joining the staff in 2003 was Director, Angela Reddin, part-time librarian Deena Scaperotta, and part-time custodian Fred Jones. The Library looks forward to continuing excellent services, programs, and collection development with the staff committed to providing the best for the people of Carlisle.

In 2003 the Library could not have functioned without the help that the volunteers provided on a daily basis. Shelving, shifting of materials, special projects, recycling, and many other tasks were carried out by volunteers of all ages. Our team of volunteer shelvees managed to keep up with a high circulation pace. Student volunteers stepped forward for a variety of special projects, including spending a summer day cleaning up the Library's landscaping under the experienced eye of Eunice Knight. Thank you volunteers of the Library as these contributions are invaluable.

Through the "Art at the Gleason" the Library was host to a series of excellent exhibitions of area artists in 2003. The success of this program is due to the hard work and dedication of Andrea Urban and Brooke Farrell Cragan, in addition to the talented artists that have shared their works with the appreciative public. The schedule of shows for 2003 included: Peter Alpers Gallery, Jon Golden, Karen Szegvari Lemmerman and Bonnie Miskolczy, Joe Schatz, Tom Arnold, Student Art Show, and Carlisle's Highland Studio Artists. Events and exhibitions are scheduled well into 2005.

The Friends of the Gleason Public Library provide funding for many of the programs that were offered at the Library, such as the author's series, Open House Week, Harry Potter book party, and the Great Pumpkin Spectacle. Through fundraisers such as the annual appeal, the used book sale, and the sale of Gleason Library mementos, the Friends purchased Museum Passes, supplied refreshments at library events, enhanced Library

collections, and provided items for sale, such as book bags and stationary. The Friends encourage, inspire, and support the Library in all its efforts. Their work is much appreciated.

In memoriam, the Library recognizes the contributions and dedication of Rosalie Johnson, former trustee, building committee member, and long-time library advocate.

The Library benefits from and greatly appreciates the support given by the people of Carlisle. This public support is supplemented by monetary gifts given to the Endowment, through membership and donations to the Friends, and through the generous donations of materials, time and expertise provided by many organizations and individuals. There are several organizations to thank, also including the Carlisle Cultural Council, Garden Club, Household Recycling Committee, Council on Aging and their Friends, among others. Your support is genuinely appreciated.

GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS

Number of titles, December 2003	49,492
Number of items, December 2003	55,025
Number of Holds picked up, December 2003	8,086
Number of patrons, December 2003	6,356
Circulation, 2003	108,879

2003/Fine money of \$9642 was paid to the Town Treasurer.

Mary M. Cheever, Chair	Term Expires 2004
Felix Conti, Treasurer	Term Expires 2005
Brook Farrell Cragan, Secretary	Term Expires 2006