

## GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

### 2004 Annual Report

The Gleason Public Library respectfully submits its annual report to the residents of Carlisle. The Library strives to enrich and reflect the broad interests of the community through a balanced collection and the provision of excellent services and programs. In 2004 the Library continued to develop and offer collections, services, and programs to support lifelong learning across diverse subjects.

The use of the Library continues to grow. Stroll through the Library on any given day and witness the hustle and bustle of this public facility. From cd-roms to magazines, from children's programming to partnerships with the Council on Aging, with community involvement and attention to quality, the Library offered a full menu in 2004.

The Children's librarians offered three sessions of language and literacy-based story times for 2 year olds to kindergarten during the winter, spring, and fall. Marty Seneta, Kay Edelberg, and Shirley Pearlman welcomed over 85 children to these regular weekly events and to drop-in pajama story times and visits from local day-care organizations, including the Carlisle Children's Center. Each month the pajama drop-in included children 3 and up. In addition, with the support of the Friends of the Library, four sing-alongs, led by Liz Buchanan, were offered to the Library's youngest patrons.

Explore Other Worlds, the 2004 Summer Reading program, included reading activities for students entering grades 1-6, a book discussion group for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, drop-in story time for ages 3 and up, and a kindergarten story time and craft. Special events for the entire family included Wingmasters, Bob Thomas "Generations", Henry the Juggler, and a Star Party. Special thanks goes to the Council on Aging for cosponsoring Bob Thomas and to the Carlisle Cultural Council for sponsoring Wingmasters and Henry the Juggler.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Pumpkin Spectacle was a wickedly good time as kindergarteners through third grade entered carved and decorated pumpkins garbed as everything from Red Sox players to presidential candidates to ghosts and witches. The Happy Toe Jam Puppet Band entertained the large family crowd.

Adult programming grew to include more variety of times and offerings. Starting the year off with color, the Friends of the Gleason Public Library, hosted Bonnie Krims, a Carlisle author and paint consultant. In February, sheltered from the bitter cold, the Gleason welcomed the Cultural Council's well-known guest author, Gregory Maguire, to a full audience. The Friends' Author series included Lisa Borders (April), and two Carlisle authors, Linda Kistler (March), and Terry Golson (June) who gave tips for building a good recipe. In December the Friends featured local filmmaker Gabrielle Dockterman and writer Nancy Babine in the Hollis Room at the Library. Many other events, such as these,

were held by local organizations in the Library for the Carlisle community.

Collaborations were a keyword for the Library in 2004. Joining with the Council on Aging, Friends of the Council on Aging, and Friends of the Gleason Public Library, the Library hosted a five-week program on Italian art from the fifth to the sixteenth Century. This popular afternoon workshop series was led by Virginio Chiodinni and included musical and architectural references.

The Gleason Public Library, collaborating with the Carlisle Conservation Commission and Sylvia Willard, Conservation Administrator, was awarded a grant from the USDA Forest Service and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to provide a series of programs about forests and forestry and to develop small collections for the Gleason Library, Carlisle Public Schools, and Concord Carlisle High School libraries. Speakers at the Library's Hollis Room from September to December included: Si Balch, Guy LaChance, Michael Dixon, and Brian Donahue. Other events included a Council on Aging luncheon with guest speaker Ray Faucher, a Forest Walk planned by the Carlisle Trails Committee, and a Conservation Coffee hosted by the Carlisle Conservation Commission. A special thank you to Linda Dodge, Head of Circulation at the Library, who worked on this grant and created all publicity. The Library appreciates the support and involvement of the many local organizations that made this grant possible.

A long time goal of the Library has been to provide library-led programming for the youngest of library users (under 2 years), more special children's programs, and guest speakers programs for parents/caregivers of young children. The Library, with much support from local day-care organizations and parents, was awarded an Early Childhood grant, Babies and Books, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Implemented late in 2004, the Library grant project included the convening of an Early Childhood Advisory Committee and initial planning for a more comprehensive program for all aged children in 2005.

Known as the "branch" library, [www.gleasonLibrary.org](http://www.gleasonLibrary.org), the Gleason Public Library website was created through seed funds provided by the Friends of the Gleason Public Library. Designed by Accent Designs and developed by Hedden Information Management, this site provides tips, policies, and quick links to the library catalog, many research databases, and general information about the Library. Launched in the fall, the website is already an integral part of the services the Library provides – a virtual library for the community.

The Art at the Gleason program, led by Andrea Urban and Brooke Cragan and supported by the Friends of the Gleason Public Library, hosted a series of excellent exhibitions in 2004 including Melody Winnig, Sing Hanson, Edward Arees, Gail Fitzpatrick, Nina Nickles, Deborah Loverd, Deborah Santoro, Judy Richardson, Annie Downes Catterson,

and Carlisle Students grades K-8.

Other special projects that have gone on in the Library in 2004 include regular historical exhibits created and installed by Conni Manoli-Skocay, reference librarian and archivist at the Gleason Public Library, often collaborating with the Carlisle Historical Society. These exhibits have included “Images of Carlisle,” “Old Home Day,” “Schooldays in Carlisle,” and “Wiring Carlisle.” Scott McLachlan, Reference Librarian, worked tirelessly to replace staff computers and started planning for future technology enhancements at the Library.

In 2004 the Library welcomed a new part-time Library Assistant II, Joanne Hoffman. The staff strives to provide excellent services, programs, and collections. The Library staff remains committed to providing the best for the people of Carlisle.

Volunteers are essential to the smooth and efficient functioning of the Gleason Public Library. In 2004 the shelving, shifting of materials, special projects, recycling, and many other tasks carried out by volunteers allowed the Library to continue to meet the demands of high circulation. The Library would like to thank the volunteers that not only do so much good work, but also are a pleasant addition to the Library team.

In 2004 the Friends of the Gleason Public Library, under the presidency of Anjli Trehan, continued to provide the Library with funds, volunteers, ideas, and encouragement. This non-profit volunteer organization enhanced the Library’s resources through its monthly book group, media and museum pass purchases, the support of many programs, and the annual Used Book Sale in May. Everyone needs a friend and the Gleason Public Library benefits from having many.

The Library benefits from and greatly appreciates the public 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. In 2004 a granite pillar in memory of Farnham Smith was installed in the Garden Entrance at the Library. Donors to the Next Century Fund were displayed on a scripted wall in the Library foyer. An antique wall clock, in memory of Rosalie Johnson, graced the Hollis Room wall. Your support is genuinely appreciated and essential to the breadth and value of the Library experience.

Submitted by Angela Reddin, Library Director

#### **GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS**

Number of titles	53,349
Number of items,	58,776
Number of Holds picked up	10,402

Number of patrons 6,020  
Circulation 113,689  
2004/Fine money of \$11,318.15 was paid to the Town Treasurer.

<b>Felix Conti, Chair</b>	<b>Term Expires 2005</b>
<b>Brooke Farrell Cragan, Treasurer</b>	<b>Term Expires 2006</b>
<b>Priscilla Stevens, Secretary</b>	<b>Term Expires 2007</b>