

# GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

## 2006 Annual Report

The Gleason Public Library respectfully submits the 2006 Annual Report to the people of Carlisle. The Library strives to provide the highest quality of services and collections. This year the annual report outlines the range of programs sponsored and held by the Library. First and foremost, the Library develops and houses a collection rich in scope and media. This collection is well used and appreciated, with library visitors circulating over 130,000 items in 2006. The fundamental goal to make accessible quality collections was clearly achieved.

The mission of the Gleason Public Library is to enrich lives through excellent services, programs, and collections that promote lifelong learning. As a valued cultural center of the community, the Library offers access to a variety of materials and creative services to satisfy the diverse recreational, educational, and cultural interests of the people of Carlisle.

As a venue for community gathering and thought, the Library collaborated with other local organizations to host speakers. Working with the Carlisle Historical Society, the Library welcomed rare books specialist Kenneth Gloss, of the Brattle Book Shop. With the Council on Aging, the Friends of the Council on Aging, and the Friends of the Gleason Public Library, two lecture series were held in 2006. In the spring, Virginnio Chioddini shared images and insight about Italian Master Painters from the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the fall, John Tischio showed film clips and commentary about Opera over five lectures to a standing-room-only audience.

In the winter of 2006, the Library offered a classic film series including *Casablanca* and *Summertime* in the Hollis Room to beat the winter chills and highlight the great film collection owned by the Library.

Always popular, the Library hosted several local writers. Authors sharing their publications included Mia De Laire, The Truth Shall be Told, Sarah Rolph, A1 Diner, and Terry Golson, The Farmstead Egg. To encourage further writing projects, the Cultural Council sponsored a two-part series on creative writing led by instructor Pamela Wight.

In partnership with the Acton Memorial Library and the Boxborough Library, the Gleason Public Library received a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities to offer a six-part lecture series titled Understanding the Modern Middle East. Each library hosted two evening programs through March and April. The Gleason's meeting room facility was at capacity for both programs hosted here.

A large number of middle school children frequent the Library after school. Early release days have seen a particularly large crowd both inside and outside the library building. To

help address these crowds, the Library began offering Early Release day films in winter 2006 and continued to offer them through the fall of 2006. This series, coordinated by Shelagh Tomaino and Sharon Colvin, invites fifth through eighth-graders to enjoy an early afternoon popular film.

In 2006, the Library continued to offer basic computer instruction for the public, including group trainings in Internet e-mail, basic computer use, and database instruction. Trainings were led by Shelagh Tomaino and Scott McLachlan. The library reference staff provided regular one-on-one training in the use of the library online catalog, the Internet, and the many databases available to library visitors.

This was the final year of the two-year 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. In this second year, the Library continued to provide library-led programming for the youngest of library users (under two years), more special children's programs, and guest speaker programs for parents/caregivers of young children. With much support from local day-care organizations and parents, the Library successfully completed the program and was able to secure permanent funding to offer Story Times for 0-to-three year-olds.

Of special note, the Children's Advisory Committee, formed as part of the grant, has become a permanent part of the library's long-range plan. The Library would like to thank the following committee members for their help on the grant and for their ongoing commitment to children's services at the Library: Lisa Chaffin, Lauree Cameron, Julia Krapf, Mary Grant, Jennifer Albanese, Susan Bacher, Jane Mosier, and Nancy West.

Programs held as part of this grant included a panel of local childcare organizations facilitated by Sally Quinn Reed from the Center for Parents and Teachers (one in January and one in November), Tim Seston "From Page to Play", Sparky's Puppets "How Does your Garden Grow," and singalongs by Liz Buchanan. Grant funds afforded the Library the opportunity to run a series of ads promoting the children's department and highlighting special collections in the Mosquito.

Children's Librarians Marty Seneta, Kay Edelberg, and Shirley Pearlman welcomed over 80 children to regular weekly Story Times at the Library, including visits from Noah's Ark. Visits were made to the Carlisle Extended Day, the preschool in the Carlisle public school and the Children's Place for stories, old and new. Children aged three through kindergarten enjoyed language and literacy-based stories and craft projects.

Other programs and special children's events included the monthly drop-in Story Time for 0-three year olds, a February school vacation movie, a visit by local cub scouts, the Spanish dance troupe Dance Caliente, funded by the Cultural Council, during the April vacation, and the ever-popular Pumpkin Spectacle. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Spectacle in 2006 included

Tony Toledo and his spooky stories. Pumpkin judges and the crowd of costumed spectators enjoyed the carved and decorated pumpkins.

“Reading is Natural” was the theme for the 2006 Summer Reading program, which lasted from June 26 through August 3. Orchestrated by librarians Kay Edelberg and Marty Seneta, over 170 children grades one through six participated in the summer reading activities, including paper-making, mosaic boxes, and sand art. Children going into Grades 1 and 2 finished “reading bingos” to introduce them to different types of stories. Children entering Grade 3-6 kept reading logs to record their summer reading. In addition, drop-in Story Times for under three and ages three+ were scheduled weekly, and a special kindergarten Story Time and craft was offered. The special events for this summer included a movie afternoon, Wingmasters, Jay Mankita, and Rainforest Reptiles.

A first for the entire family: on August 23, with the help of Lisa Lofdahl and the local group Dot-n-Doc, the Library hosted its first summer concert on the lawn to much fanfare from local families and not too much interruption from mosquitoes.

Art in Carlisle has a home at the Gleason Public Library. Six different art exhibits with accompanying receptions were held in 2006. The Art at the Gleason exhibits were coordinated by Brooke Cragan and Andrea Urban. Two local art shows, D’Ann Brownrigg and Studio 66 (a collaborative exhibit of work by Swan Anderson, Sandy Roberts, Miles Goff, Mimi Flanary, Cynthia Durost, Nancy Statlander, and Barbara D’Addario) offered additional workshops to library visitors. The art shows are a cultural component of the Library that continuously stimulates the eye of visitors.

In addition to rotating art exhibits, the staff of the Gleason Public Library showcase library collections throughout the building and the Carlisle Historical Society prepares and mounts regular exhibits in the glass cases highlighting society collections on subjects of local historical interest.

The Library welcomed new staff members Sharon Colvin, Young Adult and Reference Librarian, Martha Patten, Reference and Technology Staff Librarian, and Seana Rabbito, Story Time provider, to the permanent staff. The Library was sad to say goodbye to longtime staff member Scott McLachlan. This is a good opportunity to note the excellent customer service provided by library staff, including Linda Dodge, Jean Forman, Joan Hoffman, Lynn Oleksiak, Conni Manoli-Skocay, Shoba Ramapriya, Sukie Reed, Deena Scaperotta, and those mentioned throughout this report. The library Custodians Dan Brainard and Fred Jones, deserve recognition for their fine work keeping the library building well maintained.

Library volunteers are essential members of the library team. Volunteers help the Library keep up with circulation and ensure community involvement in the day-to-day functions of the Library. Well over 1,500 hours of volunteer time was tracked in 2006. Volunteers provide shelving, gardening, work with historical records, and help with programs and

exhibits.

The Friends of the Library held several large community events to benefit the Library, including the Potluck Supper, and Book Sale held on Old Home Day, and sponsored all Summer Reading events in 2006. The Friends provide necessary volunteer and financial support for most of the programs offered by the Library, from refreshments to speaker honoraria. The Library is grateful to have the Friends' encouragement and support.

Over 95% of the Library's budget is from public dollars. 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, collaborations, time and expertise provided by many organizations and individuals. Your support is genuinely appreciated, adding to the vitality and relevance of this special community place. This report was prepared by Angela Mollet, Library Director.

#### GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICS

Number of items	57,685
Number of Holds picked up	14,204
Number of patrons	6,514
Circulation	130,776

FY2006/Fine money of \$12,530 was paid to the Town Treasurer.

Priscilla Stevens, Chair	Term Expires 2007
Felix Conti, Treasurer	Term Expires 2008
Dale Ryder, Secretary	Term Expires 2009