

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

Ann E. McLaughlin, DIRECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2005



Quincy's public libraries play an important role in the life of the city. In FY 2005 over 600,000 people came to the library to check out books, to research information, to search the Internet, and to participate in the hundreds of programs offered for people of all ages. With the generous support of the Friends of the Library, over 600 programs were offered including musical performances, storytellers, author readings, kids' science programs, cooking demonstrations, computer classes, art exhibits, live animal shows, poetry readings, book discussions and puppet shows.

Use of library materials increased, program attendance increased, and use of library databases and online resources increased dramatically. Highlights of

the year included a visit from Prince Cedza Dlamini of Swaziland who came to meet with students from Ron Adams' classes at Broad Meadows Middle School, and the dedication of the Sheets wing of the Thomas Crane Public Library.



Prince Cedza Dlamini of Swaziland



Mayor James and Mrs. Joann Sheets at the dedication of the Mayor James A. Sheets wing on May 29, 2005

“You have bestowed a great honor on me and my family. But in a very real sense, the honor belongs to a generation of people in Quincy whose vision was clear, whose will was strong, and who understood that it is through learning and knowledge that we dispel darkness, and it is learning and knowledge that ultimately set men free.”--James Sheets

Thanks to Mayor Phelan and the City Council for their ongoing support for Quincy's libraries.

LIBRARY USAGE IN FY'2005

Materials borrowed: 547,178 items

55% to adults

45% to children

75% print (books and magazines)

25% non-print (CDs, DVDs, videos and audiocassettes)

Library visits: 610,392 people

6.9 visits per year per capita (national average is 4.9)

Programs: 607 programs

460 children's programs attended by 11,786 kids

147 adult programs attended by 2,525 adults

Library cards: 44,300 city residents had library cards, about half of them children

Reference questions: staff answered 59,431 questions

Computer use: 84 main library computers were used 245,284 times

(about 4,700 times per week); the library website had 6,770,708 hits

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Thomas Crane Library work year round to raise money for library programs. The Friends run book sales and special events to fund hundreds of programs for children and adults each year. They purchase discount museum passes which allow Quincy residents to visit area museums at a reduced rate. Passes include: Boston by Foot, Children's Museum, DeCordova Museum, Franklin Park and Stoneham Zoos, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, New England Aquarium and Plimoth Plantation.

Funding from this dedicated group of Friends enables the library to reach thousands of people each year who come to enjoy these wonderful activities.

FRIENDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Alicia Coletti, Chair, Harold Crowley, Secretary, Nancy Santry, Treasurer, Committee Members: Peggy Doyle, Jennifer Smith, Libbie Payne, Nadine Steffan, Mary Weafer, Gloria Noble, Bob Noble, John Noonan, Janet DiPaolo and Linda Monaco.

QUINCY READS TOGETHER



In September 2004 the library kicked off its first *Quincy Reads Together* program. The project was dedicated to Patriot Ledger editor Bill Flynn who died unexpectedly on January 10, 2004.

Bill was a great lover of books and libraries and had written a piece in his “City Scene” column endorsing the *Quincy Reads Together* project. His family wished to continue supporting the things he loved and committed to funding this project.

Quincy Reads Together was based on the One Book, One Community Program established by the Library of Congress to bring people together in communities to talk about books. To date, over 90,000 people have participated in community reading projects nationally.

Over 500 people participated in one of the events held in the four-month project focusing on the book Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom. Highlights included readings by Bill Flynn’s family and friends to kick off the event, readings by Quincy Fire Chief Paul O’Connell from his “Letters from Vietnam”, and a lively discussion and musical performance by Susan Gedutis on her book See You at the Hall: Boston’s Golden Era of Irish Music and Dance.

Funding came from the Patriot Ledger, Sovereign Bank, Quincy Arts Council, Friends of the Library, The Quincy Sun, Libraries for the Future and the Flynn Family Foundation.

NEW STAFF

Margaret Watson joined the public service staff in February 2005. A Quincy native, she brought excellent customer service skills and library experience to Quincy.

GRANTS

The library received a number of grants to support special projects and services.

- \$10,000 from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners for Customer Service Training
- \$12,881 from the Mass. Dept. of Education for the Adult Literacy Tutoring Program
- \$2,500 from the Arts Lottery for Children's Storytellers
- \$5,900 from the U.S. E-rate program for public Internet access
- \$1,000 from Libraries for the Future Reading America Program for *Quincy Reads Together*

TRUSTEES

Mayor Phelan appointed five Board members to the Library Trustees: Alicia Coletti, Harold DiMattio, Lawrence J. Falvey, Jr., Treasurer, Dr. Carol Lee Griffin, Vice-Chair, and Sandra McCauley, Chair. The Board works tirelessly on behalf of the library.

*“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”
--Benjamin Franklin*