

LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

Ann E. McLaughlin, DIRECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2006



Staff members Jane Miller & Gail Columbare as Mother Goose & Humpty Dumpty

Quincy's libraries are busier than ever. Thanks to the additional funding approved by Mayor Phelan and the City Council the library was able to expand hours during FY 2006. Branches opened an additional 8 hours each week, adding morning and evening hours. The Main Library opened weekends during July and August for the first time since the 1930s. Public response to these increased hours was very enthusiastic.

- Borrowing of library materials increased 11% system-wide with a 26% increase in borrowing of DVDs and videos. 602,076 items were loaned.
- 624,650 people visited the library during the year; 54,000 came to the Main Library during the July and August 2005 weekends.
- 720 programs were attended by 17,483 people – a 22% increase from FY05.
- The public computers at the Main Library were used an amazing 430,144 times!

- Wireless internet became available in the Main Library atrium.
- The reference department answered 56,567 questions.
- Over 8,800 people subscribe to the library's e-newsletter.

Monthly art exhibits featured works of local artists. Frank Madden's photography exhibit, including pictures from his work with the top secret Corona Project, was a favorite.



Frank Madden

The library café opened under new management. Billy and Joumana Beydoun's *Billy's Café* provided a welcoming place for library visitors.



Chinese Lunar New Year was celebrated with a record-breaking Crowd at the library on February 4, 2006

The library completed a new five-year Long-Range Plan. Working with community focus groups to identify community needs, the new plan focuses on several areas:

- encouraging children to be lifelong readers
- keeping adults intellectually engaged into retirement
- welcoming people with limited English skills
- sustaining strong neighborhoods and strengthening branch libraries
- helping people attain basic literacy.

We are most grateful to the hardworking Community Planning Committee chaired by Harold Crowley.



Students from Ron Adams' classes at Broad Meadows Middle School plant flowers at the library annually in memory of Iqbal Masih.

The second annual *Quincy Reads Together* attracted over 200 people of all ages who participated in one of the many programs offered in “Mystery by the Book”. Funded by the Bill Flynn Foundation in his memory, *Quincy Reads Together* is based on the Library of Congress “One Book” program designed to bring community people together to talk about books. “Mystery by the Book” included a reading and discussion series on classical mysteries, author visits from New England mystery writers Katherine Hall Page, William Tapply and Jane Langton, mystery writing workshops for adults and children, a series of mystery movies for

children, and a very popular CSI Exposed program featuring Quincy Police Detective Nancy Coletta. Thanks to the Flynn Family for supporting this wonderful project.



STAFF

The library staff welcomed several new employees: Leah Phelan in July 2005 and Jeanne MacLellan-Cook in August 2005 to the adult services department, Kevin Mele in October 2005 to the custodial department and Linda Carroll in May 2006 to the reference department.

Two staff members were promoted to new positions: Brian DeFelice to the Interlibrary Loan Department and Will Adamczyk to the Head of Circulation/Reader's Advisor position.

Linda Cohen retired in April 2006 after 18 years of service in the Quincy libraries. Linda's cheerful assistance will be missed by her colleagues and her many library friends made during her years in Quincy.

We were saddened to learn of the deaths of three people retired from the library: Virginia Kelly, Robert Sillen and Mrs. Elizabeth Watson, widow of former Director Warren Watson.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The hard-working Friends continued to raise money for programs and museum passes for the library community. The Friends sponsored 73 programs and 15 museum passes, expending \$23,515. Live animal programs were among the favorites with the Owls of the World and a live petting zoo drawing standing room

only crowds. Winter Sunday afternoon concerts were added to the popular summer concert series offering a variety of musical styles including jazz, chamber music, swing, Celtic, Caribbean and blues.

Library Friend Joseph Walsh died unexpectedly in May. Joe volunteered at the Quincy Animal Shelter as well as serving on many Friends' committees and on the Executive Board. He will be missed.



Friends' programs for children were very popular

GRANTS

The library received a number of grants to fund special projects and services:

- \$13,896 from the Mass. Dept. of Education for the Literacy Project
- \$5,000 EqualAccess Libraries Grant for teens and older adults
- \$2,500 from the Quincy Arts Lottery for the Summer Storytellers Series
- \$5,000 from the Bill Flynn Foundation for Quincy Reads Together
- \$500 from the South Coastal Bank C.A.R.E.S. program for a summer enrichment program
- \$1,000 from Hannaford Market for children's books for the North Quincy Branch Library.

TRUSTEES

Mayor Phelan appoints Library Trustees each year to oversee the library operations. Trustees appointed for 2006 were: Alicia Coletti, Harold DiMattio, Secretary, Lawrence J. Falvey, Jr., Chair, Dr. Carol Lee Griffin, Vice-Chair, and Sandra McCauley, Treasurer. We appreciate the support and hard work of this dedicated board.

FRIENDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Friends elected officers Harold S. Crowley, Jr., President, Jennifer Smith, Vice-President, Nancy Santry, Treasurer, Libbie Payne, Secretary, and at-large members Eunice Charles and Peggy Doyle.

LIBRARY LOCATIONS AND HOURS

Thomas Crane Library, 40 Washington Street, 617-376-1301
Open: Monday – Thursday 9:00 – 9:00, Friday – Saturday 9:00 – 5:00
Sunday 1:00 – 5:00

Adams Shore Branch, 519 Sea Street, 617-376-1325
Open: Monday 1:00 – 9:00, Tuesday 9:00 – 5:00, Wednesday – Friday 1:00 – 5:00

North Quincy Branch, 384 Hancock Street, 617-376-1320
Open: Monday 9:00 – 5:00, Tuesday 1:00 – 9:00, Wednesday – Friday 1:00 – 5:00

Wollaston Branch, 41 Beale Street, 617-376-1330
Open ; Monday – Tuesday 1:00 – 5:00, Wednesday 1:00 – 9:00
Thursday 1:00 – 5:00, Friday 9:00 – 5:00

Library website: thomascranelibrary.org

“Outside of a dog, man’s best friend is a book.”-- Groucho Marx