

TRUSTEES MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2008

REPORT PRESENTED BY MARGARET MORRISSEY, INTERIM DIRECTOR

James Patterson's Farewell

After a successful tenure of three years, James Patterson has left the library for a position as Director of the Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Staff, Trustees and Patrons will miss James and wish him well. As the Southbridge Evening News editorial stated "His departure is truly the town's loss, but the library is better for Patterson having been here."

Site Visit: Equal Access

Hagar Shirman the Program Manager, Massachusetts EqualAccess - Libraries for the Future, at Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners visited the library to conduct an assessment of the LSTA grant that the library has been administering since October 2007. Hagar's comment "Aside from the great work you have done with the EqualAccess grant, I was very impressed to learn about your other projects, particularly your work with diverse populations (age, ethnicity, languages) and health."

As the grant round is soon to close, I am finalizing the financial piece of the report and preparing a narrative.

Technology

Necessary upgrades and some repairs were conducted by Baystate Technology Solutions, making the library fully functioning in all areas of technology. A Wii console has been purchased (through the LSTA Equal Access grant) and will be available for patron usage shortly. The ailing laptop computer has been replaced. Thanks to Dick Whitney for filling the breach at a program earlier this month.

Staff Changes:

Megan Couture has joined the staff at the library in a 10 hour per week position in the Technical Services Department, as a Library Aide. Welcome Megan! It is with regret that we bid farewell to Paige Mongeau (Page Staff – Adult Dept.) and Sara Chouinard (Technical Services). Michelle Garcia has moved from Children's Room to the Circulation Assistant position in the Adult Department (30 hours per week). The posting for the Children's Room Library Aide (10 hour position) and the posting for the page position at the Adult Department, has closed. The interviewing for this position will begin this week.

Annual *Report* Information Survey (**ARIS Report**) has been filed prior to the deadline. This report is required of each Massachusetts public library as part of the annual application for State Aid to Public Libraries. The statistics from this survey are compiled and reported back to the library community.

Children's Services:

The Children's department completed a busy summer reading programs season thematically linked to "Wild Reads". The staff is transitioning to fall programming schedule. An exciting array of programs is planned, including a book club.

Story Hours begin the week of September 15th.

Monday's 10:30-11:00 is Bouncing Babies Story/Play Group for ages birth to 18 months.

Tuesday's 10:30-11:15 is Koala Kubs Story/Craft Time for ages 19 months to 3 years old.

Wednesday's 10:30-11:30 is Krocodile Kids Story/Craft Time for ages 3-6 year olds.

Adult Services:

The "**Money on Main**" program series finished September 15th, 2008. various aspects of financial planning, money management, planning for future downsizing in the golden years and so forth. In light of the popularity of this series, we are pleased to announce the formation of an Investment Club moderated by Jeff Burdick of Edward Jones. The club will meet on a monthly basis on the second Wednesday of each month until the end of the year, at 10 a.m. for one hour. Topics that will be covered will be determined by the group but may include: Building a Strong Financial Foundation, Understanding Market Volatility, Making smart choices in retirement, Understanding the importance of dividends, Tax free investing among other topics.

Continuing to partner with organizations in the community, the success and strength of these programs has been due to the cooperation and availability of local expert speakers.

Bequests:

Throughout the history of the library, there has been a tradition of small bequests being made to honor a special friend or relative, and memorial donations in memory of a patron who has passed. In the past few months, there have been a few long-time library users who have died and in some instances, a memorial fund was established. In this way, the library has been able to expand its large print collection for the western genre, for example, additionally; a memorial donation has allowed us to purchase a loveseat for the Reading Room. The plan has been to create a relaxed atmosphere there and little by little we are achieving this effect.

Saturday Service returned on Saturday, September 6th, 2008. Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The annual **Library Card Sign-Up and Banned Books exhibits** have been put on display to raise awareness of the various services that are available to the community, free of charge. More than ever, we need to celebrate the Freedom to Read - to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them.

Picturing America consisting of 40 beautiful images has been installed around the stairwell. This was a grant that I had written earlier in the year. The laminated images become the property of the library and our only requirement is to write a report in 2009

Voter Registration – A request was made to the Town Clerk's office to have Voter Registration application forms available for our patrons. A small display has been set up at the Information Desk.

Hispanic Heritage Month kicked off on September 15th. *Viva Cuba* was screened as part of the FOJEL Box Office series to introduce the celebration. *Sabor Picante* will provide an evening of Salsa on Thursday, October 2nd which coincides with *The Stones of Ireland* photographic exhibit, presented by Lora Brueck of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Lora is a librarian at WPI and has had many successful shows in the Worcester area.