

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE, MA

JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY

FISCAL YEAR 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Staff Directory

Margaret Morrissey
Currently Recruiting
Corinna Tiberii
Elizabeth Gendreau
Michelle Garcia
Katherine Mrazik
Ashleigh Alers
Lynn Wolstencroft
Megan Couture
Karla Gartsu
Karola Daigle
Currently Recruiting
Katherine Lapriore

Library Director
Adult Services Librarian
Circulation Supervisor, Adult
Circulation Assistant, Adult
Circulation Assistant, Adult
Page, Adult Dept.
Page, Adult Dept.
Technical Services Librarian
Library Aide Technical Serv.
Children's Librarian
Circulation Assistant
Library Aide Children's
Library Aide Children's.

Staffing: In August 2008, James D. Patterson resigned and Margaret Morrissey was appointed Interim Director and subsequently, Library Director while continuing in Adult Services position. Teen/Outreach position was vacant. New staff was hired to fill Library Aide positions in Technical Services and Children's Room. The library continues to benefit from the volunteer services of Herb Grignon and four participants from the Tax Abatement Program. Part time temporary help was received from Upward Bound program and Operation Able.

Technology: A new Storage System was installed. A grant application was submitted to have the bandwidth expanded through an MPLS service. A new Packetshaper device was installed by the network provider, allowing the JEL system to compress traffic and optimize bandwidth. An OptoClear Buffer was purchased so media can be maintained and refurbished on site. Staff is now recording income on the KVS accounting system. Increasingly, patrons are availing of the WiFi service both inside and outside the building.

Building Issues: Many projects were completed by the Department of Public Works including repair of leaks, upgrades to infrastructure and most importantly snow removal and lawn care. Assistance was also provided by the Lieutenant Fire Inspector and the Director of Inspections to update and post a plan for the emergency building evacuation. The building has been well cared for by Vincent Chenevert.

Donations: The community continues to be most generous, including the library in their charitable giving and when memorializing their loved ones. A leather couch was added to the Reading Room décor and a photographic reproduction project in this room, is underway.

Funding: State Aid was received, as the library continues to maintain its entitlement. Once again Southbridge was a Net Lender and was reimbursed for this service. Money was turned over to General Fund.

Grants: Closed out the Equal Access LSTA grant and the Green Grants from Southbridge Credit Union and Claire J. Birtz Foundation.

Continuing Education: Throughout the year, staff took advantage of the low-cost or free educational opportunities offered by the regional library and the network, to hone their library skills and better serve our patrons. Some of the workshops included genealogy, reference databases, public access computing, summer reading, and technology learning opportunities.

Conference Attendance: Karla Gartsu, Corinna Tiberii and Margaret Morrissey attended the annual Massachusetts Library Association Conference in Springfield.

Advocacy: The Library Director attended the annual Legislative Day at the State House and attended a ‘meet and greet’ the legislators in Bellingham.

Community Outreach: An active outreach program is in place, including participating in activities at the schools, such as Reach Out And Read day and working with leaders in the community on various initiatives such as Kite Day and the Community Shower. This year the Southbridge FEST was held on the common. The library staff took advantage of this high profile opportunity and donned their best space costumes to promote the theme of this year’s summer reading program. The library continues to forge new partnerships and maintain existing ones in order to present programs – the Health Education Staff of Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge Community Connections, CHNA5 the community health network in South County. An area library initiative was the year-long joint program called *Moveable Feasts* which promoted locally grown produce and sustainability; furthering interlibrary cooperation. Working with UMass/LARP and WPI undergraduate Students in their Interactive Qualifying Project, a graduation requirement, where they studied “sustainable Southbridge”. The Director participated in the Listening Tour conducted by UMass Boston’s Gaston Institute for Policy Creation.

Programs: The library offers an active program selection to the community. It is our hope to present as wide a variety of diverse topics as possible, in an attempt to reach the un-served and underserved in the Southbridge area. Each month there is an art exhibit and reception, a screening of a foreign or independent movie in the surround sound Pioppi Room, and the recent addition of a monthly Mystery Book Club, which has a wide audience appeal and lively discussions. The weekly knitting program is in its second year and flourishing.

Children’s Services offers various age groups an opportunity to participate in an hour-long story program each week interspersed with thematic offerings, such as artwork, *Weird Wednesday Science*, *Koala Klub*, and *Krocodile Kids*. Summer Reading for Adults and Teens and Kids has kicked off to a great start. Readers are registered in each category. The 2009 theme is *Starship Adventure*, accordingly the children’s room has offered several themed programs, including *MOONday* night movies and *LAUNCH-time* story hours.

During National Library Week there was lots of media coverage and staff, trustees and friends were interviewed. The American Experience is a regular schedule of revolving programs on various types of heritage and history in Southbridge, for example Haiti was the focus of the May program with a display from members of St. Mary’s parish and the screening of a movie *Price of Sugar*. The annual Pride in Southbridge event premiered *Razing Faith* and filmmakers Brian Bolster and Mark Jahns presented a behind the scenes glimpse of moviemaking.

Through a partnership with Overlook, the program schedule has been enhanced by providing a series on *Transitions and Losses* and another on *Aromatherapy*. To address a current social issue the library has partnered with Healthy Families, Community Connections and New-Hope to present a program on domestic violence.

There is an ongoing effort to offer more teen programs and to offset the digital divide; we have incorporated the Wii gaming system into the schedule. AARP Tax assistance was provided during the tax season to many area residents and augmented those offered at the Casaubon Center.

Friends of the Library: There are 155 registered members of the Friends organization. The monthly screening of the independent or foreign movie in the surround-sound equipped facility has become a popular choice for patrons. The book and art sales including the annual Artful Friends show provide the income that the Friends use to provide refreshments and support programs. The early summer was heralded by beautiful plantings in the front of the building. The Friends also donated a basket for *Community Baby Shower*.

Board of Trustees John V. Lachapelle resigned as Chairman of the Board and Joan Menard was elected as Interim Chairwoman. Mr. Lachapelle's term expired at the end of June and he is not seeking re-appointment and his position is currently vacant. Joan Menard participated in a state-wide trustees meeting. The materials acquisitions were enhanced by the contribution of \$40,000 by the Board of Trustees.

The library's success is based in part on the assistance and advice from our municipal colleagues and the support of the Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Jacob Edwards Library. Sincere thanks to all.

Hours of Operation	
Monday and Thursday	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturdays (September to May)	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Library Statistics	
Total hours Library open	2,425
Total number Saturdays open	38
Total number Sundays open	0
Total hours open after 5pm	285
Total computer use	17,280
Attendance in Library	101,143
Number of reference transactions	12,820
Number of children's programs offered	180
Total attendance of all children's programs	2,654
Number of YA programs offered	11
Total attendance of all YA programs	68
Number of adult programs offered	119
Total attendance of all adult programs	1,502
Total number of persons volunteering	240
Estimated number of hours volunteered	633
Public room Uses	795
Number of registered borrowers	11,158
Total Wireless Visits	3,922
Total copies made	17,754

Total prints made	9,433
Interlibrary loans Received From other libraries	7,912
Interlibrary loans Provided To other libraries	14,313

Board of Trustees	
Trustee Name	TITLE
Gary Bridgman	Trust
Paulina Dacoles	<i>Treasurer</i> Trust
Rev. Peter Joyce	Town (term expires 6/30/2010)
John V. Lachapelle	Town (term expires 6/30/2009)
Joan Menard	<i>Interim Chairwoman</i> Trust
James Puracchio	Trust
Richard B. Whitney	Town (term expires 6/30/2011)
Tammie Darling	<i>Minutes Secretary</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Morrissey
Library Director