

## **1998 MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT**

### **LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**Roger C. MacLeod, Chair**  
**Stuart R. Plumer, Vice Chair**  
**Thomas J. Cummings**  
**Patricia J. Fanning**  
**George M. Ruboy**  
**Eileen B. Sullivan**  
**Mary R. Phinney, Director**

**1998** was a year of excitement and contrasts at the Morrill Memorial Library. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the library was celebrated with events for adults and children. Planning for the long postponed renovation of the building was frustrated by the August veto of funding for the library's state grant. Things turned around in October when the town agreed to fund the entire project. We expect that the town's faith soon will be rewarded by restoration of the library's share of renovation money.

### **CENTENNIAL**

A committee of volunteers, trustees and library staff staged a variety of events, beginning with an open house on Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> 1998, the anniversary of the building's dedication. It was a wonderful night including a performance of period music by "The Proper Ladies" and a reprise of Francis Winslow's dedicatory speech by Norwood High School student Dael Norwood. The library was arrayed for the occasion with beautiful displays of flowers created by Irene Gotovich, a library staff member. The contributions of many other library employees made the evening a success.

Cynthia Rudolph has literally put her stamp on the centennial. She designed the logo, a sketch of the library's front door. She also produced the invitations, posters, flyers, bookmarks and other items associated with the centennial celebration.

The Friends of the Library **cookbook** went on sale in March. Featuring favorite recipes from library staff, trustees and Friends, it is a great addition to any cook's library.

### **One Hundred Names For One Hundred Years**

In honor of one hundred years in the Morrill Memorial Library a decision was made to add 11 names to the 89 authors engraved on the building walls. From February to May nominations were taken from the public. In May and June a committee consisting of Paula Clifford (school librarian), Patricia Fanning (Library Trustee), David Horn, Barbara Morrison, Walter Peterson (high school English teacher), Mary Phinney (Library Director) and Eileen Sullivan (Library Trustee) made the final selection. The primary selection criteria were quality and influence of the author's work, longevity of appeal and diversity.

After considerable debate and compromise the names chosen were Isaac Asimov, Jane Austen, Rachel Carson, Agatha Christie, Nadine Gordimer, David McCord, Toni Morrison, Beatrix Potter, Dr. Seuss, Leo Tolstoy and Oscar Wilde. There were so many worthy authors that additional names may be added before another 100 years pass! Edith Honeth and Beth Goldman presented a series of dramatic readings from works of the honored authors.

### **PICTURE THIS! A TIME TO REMEMBER NORWOOD IN 1898**

This original dramatic presentation, written by librarian Margot Sullivan and acted by librarian Beth Goldman, was so popular it was presented three times live and shown many times on local access television. The sketches were derived from actual accounts of events in 1898. They gave a glimpse of three characteristic Norwood residents of the time: a temperance worker, a young society girl and an Irish tannery employee. We look forward to future productions from this dynamic and talented duo!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY!**

During the summer a birthday party for the library sponsored by the Women's Community Committee was a success even though a sudden storm forced the event indoors. Steven Rudolph entertained with magic and the audience enjoyed cakes decorated like popular children's books.

The Norwood Historical Society celebrated the birthday with a display of library memorabilia including the blue bookcase which held the first library collection belonging to 18<sup>th</sup> century pastor, Jabez Chickering, old photographs, and the Doll Collection that used to be in the Children's Library.

#### **HONORING NORWOOD'S ETHNIC HERITAGE**

The final event of the year was Heritage Day. Held on November 22, representatives of many Norwood ethnic groups and churches proudly filled tables with photographs, clothing, crafts, food and artwork characteristic of their culture. People who trace their heritage from Poland, Italy, Britain, Lithuania, the Middle East, Japan, India and Ireland as well as representatives of the Congregational Church, Temple Shaare Tefilah, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mi'kmaq tribe, and the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, all hosted tables. John Eagan played the bagpipe and a group of Indian children performed traditional dances.

A special attraction was a display of locations and nicknames of many of Norwood's neighborhoods. It was a great day for Norwood and the library and a fitting end to the centennial year.

A video, which will feature Norwood residents sharing their memories of the library, is still in the works as is a commemorative brochure that will allow the reader to glimpse the library of the past, present and future.

#### **RENOVATION**

At the October 21, 1998 Special Town Meeting the Library Trustees and the Permanent Building Construction Committee were authorized to proceed with renovation of the Morrill Memorial Library.

As the year ended, negotiations were being finalized to hire CBT/ Childs, Bertman, Tseckares as project architects. Because of the scope of the project, the library operation will be relocated to temporary quarters for over 12 months. The location of the temporary library has not been determined.

The goal of the renovation is to restore and reorganize the Morrill Memorial Library while upgrading its mechanical and electrical systems. Complicating the job is the complexity of the building with multiple floors and areas ranging in age from 100 to 35 years old.

One unexpected result of renovation will be the development of new areas of cooperation between town departments. Already plans are being made to store some books at public schools and at the senior housing areas. Discussions are underway with the Recreation Department and the School Department to accommodate parts of the library programs. Discovering new ways to work together will bring long-term benefit to all town residents. The project will be complete and the town will have a rebuilt and modern library facility before the end of 2000.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF 1998**

**Dennis Lehane**, a local crime novelist spoke at the annual author night sponsored the Friends of the Library.

**An Optelec Reader** was donated by the Boch Betterment Fund.

**Unlock the Mystery - Read**, a summer program for children, attracted 590 enrollees, 444 of whom completed the program. The children read an average of 22 books each!

**Six Internet access computers** were installed for public use. Four are connected through the Minuteman Library Network and two through the town computer network.

**Harriet Beecher Stowe** depicted by actress Jan Turnquist. The Massachusetts and Norwood Cultural Councils sponsored the event.

#### **Thanks to the organizations that supported library services and collections:**

- ◆ Friends of the Library provided funds spoken word cassettes, and programs for adults and children.
- ◆ The Women's Community Committee is the primary sponsor of the library museum pass program. They provide the Roger William Zoo, JFK Library, Museum of Fine Arts, the Needham Children's Museum and New England Aquarium. They also sponsored several centennial events.
- ◆ Norwood Community Television Corporation contributed funds to purchase video and spoken word cassettes.
- ◆ The Guild of St. Timothy provided an additional Museum of Fine Arts membership.

**Morrill Memorial Library**

**Statistical Report**

**Circulation**

Adult Print -----133,950  
Adult Non-Print ----- 36,239  
Children's Print ----- 78,595  
Children's Non-Print -----17,605  
**Total ----- 266,389**  
**Per Capita ----- 9.22**

**Collection**

Adult Print ----- 84,050  
Adult Non-Print -----4,533  
Children's Print ----- 22,675  
Children's Non-Print -----1,053  
**Total ----- 112,311**  
**Per Capita ----- 3.88**

**Number of registered borrowers -----18,971**  
**Reference Questions Answered -----17,860**  
**Programs ----- 207**  
**Program Attendance ----- 4,916**  
**Museum Passes borrowed -----1,271**  
**Books Delivered to homebound and housing  
areas for elderly ----- 9,037**  
**Volunteer hours ----- 650**

**Literacy Volunteers**

Tutors ----- 124  
Students ----- 172  
Hours tutored ----- 9461

**FY1998 Financial Report**

**Income**

Town Appropriation - \$856,680  
State Aid \$29,286  
Monahan Fund for Literacy \$14,053  
Monetary Gifts \$5,807  
Gift books and other donated material added to collection \$25,747