

1999 MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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1999 was a year of planning and preparation for library renovation. On October 21, 1998 Special Town Meeting authorized the Library Trustees and the Permanent Building Construction Committee to proceed with renovation of the Morrill Memorial Library. While library services and other activities continued, during 1999 the focus of both Staff and Trustees was on finalizing design plans and on making preparation for a move to temporary quarters.

The renovation will 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. CBT/ Childs, Bertman, Tseckares was selected as project architect. Working closely with the Permanent Building Construction Committee and in consultation with library Staff and Trustees, CBT spent several months completing plans and construction documents for the library project. Two important changes were made. First, at the request of the Fire Department, a sprinkler system was added. Second, the architect and the Building Committee determined that the tile roof needed to be completely replaced since significant deterioration had occurred since the initial inspection of the roof in 1996. These changes coupled with rising construction costs did increase the total cost of the project, but every effort was made to minimize these increases and to find other sources of funding.

SIMONI FOUNDATION GRANT

In May a pledge of \$200,000 was received from the Frank R. and Elizabeth Simoni Charitable Foundation. The meeting room in the renovated library will be named the Frank R. Simoni Meeting Room. It will accommodate approximately 75 people and be a vital addition to the library facility.

MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT

After waiting almost three years for funding the library was awarded \$1,088,696 in grant money for the library project. Representative John Rogers and Senator Marian Walsh were instrumental in securing funding for the library grant which will be administered by the Board of Library Commissioners.

MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING FUND

Donations are being sought from individuals, businesses and civic organizations to help complete the library renovation. Private funding is particularly needed for restoration of the stained glass windows. These windows have been removed for safe keeping during the construction period. Martino Stained Glass Studio of Framingham is restoring these unique and fragile pieces of art. Donations will also be used for new furniture and for landscaping. The Friends of the Library, the Women's Community Committee and the Norwood Art Association have all made substantial contributions, as have many library users. At the end of 1999 over \$11,000 had been contributed.

TEMPORARY LIBRARY

Because of the scope of the project, a temporary location was needed for library services. Commercial locations were considered but either the cost or the alterations required, made them unpractical. Fortunately the Norwood School Department offered use of the basement level of the north wing of the high school, an area familiarly known as the Peabody School. The basement had been a cooking school and still was used to prepare lunches for Senior Citizens. Once that program was relocated, kitchen equipment went out, walls were painted, wiring was installed, lighting improved and a small parking area added under the supervision of the Permanent Building Construction Committee.

From January through September the library staff inventoried the library collection, equipment and furnishings to determine what items would fit into the space at the school, which items could be used in the renovated library and which had to be discarded. A marathon book sale to benefit the Friends was held throughout the year. Items were sorted and labeled. Finally October 18th was selected as the date to begin the move.

A busy three weeks later shelves, books, and furniture were in place and the library opened for service to the public. The temporary library is functional and has been termed "cozy." The Trustees are grateful to the School Department for allowing the library use of the space.

The Civic Center is providing a meeting room for the Library's Literacy Training and evening meetings of the Adult Book Club. **The First Congregational Church** has generously offered space for Literacy tutoring, Story Times and morning meetings of the Adult Book Club. **The Norwood Historical Society** has provided storage space for the library's grandfather clock, some large paintings and the Toby jug collection. We thank them for their help.

PAUL J. ROGAN CONSTRUCTION company was named general contractor for the renovation and will begin work early in January 2000. Construction is estimated to take 10-12 months. We look forward to returning to a wonderfully restored "new" library by the end of the year.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 1999

- ◆ Literary Lunch, a reading and discussion program for 6th graders and members of the Norwood Council on Aging was sponsored by Cadillac of Norwood and run by Outreach Librarian Beth Goldman and Junior High Librarian Carol Wlodkoski.
- ◆ Thru the Years! A Library Farewell Concert featured Shay and Steve Rudolph performing a medley of music popular throughout the library's 100 years.
- ◆ Funny Things Happen When You Read!, the statewide summer reading program enrolled 700 participants with 462 completing the 12 week program.
- ◆ Literacy Volunteers completed their sixteenth year of providing free tutoring for individuals in Basic English or English as a Second Language.

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 Williams Zoo, JFK Library, Museum of Fine Arts, the Needham Children's Musuem and New England Aquarium.
- ◆ 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.

Many thanks to the members of the Permanent Building Construction Committee for their work. Few other volunteers spend so many hours serving the town with so little recognition. They are true unsung heroes.

FY99 Statistical Report

Circulation

Adult Print -----	119,912
Adult Non-Print -----	38,048
Children's Print -----	71,296
Children's Non-Print -----	17,526
Total -----	246,782
Per Capita -----	8.6

Collection

Adult Print -----	56,234
Adult Non-Print -----	5,454
Children's Print -----	18,610
Children's Non-Print -----	1,125
Total -----	81,423
Per Capita -----	2.84

Number of registered borrowers -----	15,969
Reference Questions Answered -----	17,518
Programs -----	97
Program Attendance -----	4,180
Museum Passes borrowed -----	1,112
Books Delivered to homebound and housing areas for elderly -----	6,767
Volunteer hours -----	650

Literacy Volunteers

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

FY 1999 Financial Report

Expenditures

Town Appropriation - \$888,086
State Aid \$10,706
Monahan Fund for Literacy \$18,696
Monetary Gifts \$3,883
Gift books and other donated material added to collection \$17,415