

**2000 MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
ANNUAL REPORT**

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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2000 was a year of excitement, frustration, planning and coping as the Morrill Memorial Library building underwent renovation while library services continued at the "Peabody. The focus of both Staff and Trustees was on trying to offer good library service under difficult conditions while anxiously awaiting the completion of work on the building.

LIBRARY RENOVATION, now approaching completion, 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 35 to 100 years old. CBT/ Childs, Bertman, Tseckares was selected as project architect. Paul Rogan Company was selected as contractor and work got underway on January 3, 2000. To those viewing the building from the outside, the most obvious work was the replacement of the building's red tile roof. Inside the building other extensive changes are occurring to give the library a new look, a new meeting room, a new elevator, more comfortable and efficient use of space, and updated mechanical and wiring systems. A truly new library facility will open to the public in 2001.

Funding for the 4.1 million-dollar project is from a combination of public and private sources. Town appropriation accounts for only 55% of the cost of the project. The rest of the funds come from a State Grant administered by the Board of Library Commissioners, Library Trust funds administered by the Board of Library Trustees, a grant from the Simoni Foundation and State Aid to public libraries. We extend particular thanks to Representative John Rogers and Senator Marian Walsh who were instrumental in securing funding for the library grant and to the Simoni Foundation for its generosity.

Donations are being sought from individuals, businesses and civic organizations to help complete the library renovation. Additional funding from the donations will be used for furniture, computer equipment, building signs and landscaping. Private funding was used for restoration of the stained glass windows. These windows were meticulously restored. Some new central medallions depicting Norwood buildings were created. By year's end most of the windows were reinstalled at the library. Martino Stained Glass Studio of Framingham did the work on these unique and fragile pieces of art.

Private fund raising has been pursued by members of the Library Board of Trustees and by a committee of volunteers. Serving on the fund raising committee were Charles and Roz Atlas, Ann and Henry Foley, Arthur and Marcia Gearty, Beth Goldman, Mary Jackson, Susan McFarland, Roger MacLeod, Caroline Pannes, Susannah Petro and Margot Sullivan. Through the efforts of this committee and the Trustees over \$75,000 has been raised from over 300 individuals, corporations and organizations. Donations range from five to five thousand dollars and illustrate the good will of the community toward the public library. The Library Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the support they have received during renovation. All donors will be recognized at the time of the library reopening celebration.

One fund raising event does stand out for special mention. "A Toast to the Library" an auction to raise funds for renovation was held on December 7 at the Apollo. Members of the fund raising committee worked hours organizing the event, selling tickets and collecting donations. Merchants and individuals in town were generous in their support and the auction was a great success. Norwood's own Tom Doyle was auctioneer. This wonderful evening will be remembered for many years by the more than 250 people who attended.

Approximately 100 red clay tiles were salvaged from the old library roof. Caroline Pannes is decorating the tiles with a picture of the library doorway and calligraphy by Cynthia Rudolph. They are being sold to benefit the renovation and are a great limited edition souvenir.

A special project done by Norwood students will be on permanent display in the new library. Decorative tiles created by Junior High students working with Marianne Trede are on the walls of a new bathroom on the second floor of the

library. Tiles done by third grade students in all of the elementary schools working with Doris Howard, Maryann Berger, Amy Madden and Dawn PISO are in the new children's bathroom. Special thanks to Ann Malachowski who coordinated the project and to Doris Howard who used her own kiln to fire the tiles done by the third grade students.

Once again we thank the members of the Permanent Building Construction Committee for their work overseeing library renovation along with the many other ongoing town construction projects. Few other town boards spend so many hours serving the town with so little recognition. We are grateful for their efforts.

LIBRARY SERVICES, since November 8, 1999, have been available in a basement area of Norwood High School, formerly the kitchen and dining area of the Peabody School. The temporary library is functional and has been termed "cozy." In spite of space restrictions a comprehensive collection of new and older material is available at "the Peabody." Story time sessions have continued for preschool children. The Adult book group flourishes and the Literacy and Outreach departments continue their programs.

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 offered space for Literacy tutoring, several public programs 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.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 2000

- ◆ Literary Lunch, a reading and discussion program for 6th graders and Senior Citizens, was sponsored by a grant from the Boch Betterment Fund and run by Outreach Librarian Beth Goldman, Junior High Librarians Carol Wlodkoski and Pat Pardi and classroom teacher, Margaret Ransom. All participants, young and old enjoyed the conversation and a delicious lunch provided by the Junior High cafeteria staff.
 - ◆ Open Books, Open Frontiers, the statewide summer reading program, enrolled 657 participants with 419 completing the 12-week program.
 - ◆ Literacy Volunteers completed their seventeenth year of providing free tutoring for individuals in Basic English or English as a Second Language.
 - ◆ "Vincent - A Portrait of the Postman Roulin," telling the story of Vincent Van Gogh presented by Ted Zalewski.
 - ◆ "Voices of Protest, Voices of Peace," presented by Beth Goldman and Edith Honeth. It highlighted some of the authors whose names are on the library building façade. It was sponsored by the Friends of the Library
 - ◆ "The Irish Experience in America," a history in song describing the emigration and assimilation of the Irish in America presented by Robbie O'Connell.
 - ◆ "Poetry in Motion," a program for children, was presented by David Zucker.
- These four programs partially were sponsored by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council**

Thanks to the organizations that supported library services and collections:

- ◆ Friends of the Library provided funds for programs and for books used by the monthly adult book group.
- ◆ The Women's Community Committee is the primary sponsor of the library museum pass program. They provided memberships for the Roger Williams Zoo, JFK Library, and Museum of Fine Arts.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Boch Betterment Grant provided funds for assistive technology equipment to help people with impaired vision use library computers. With the library purchased "LP DOS," a software program and a 19" computer monitor.

Most of all we thank the School Department, School Committee, Superintendent and High School principal, faculty and staff for their hospitality toward the library during renovation.

We note with sadness the passing of Esther C. "Pete" Pearson, a former library employee and Trustee. Pete worked at the library for many years and was serving as Chief of Circulation at the time of her retirement. In 1968 she was elected to the Library Board of Trustees and served on that Board until 1982. Her husband Carl B. "Ben" Pearson was library custodian for many years.

Staff, Trustees and Director are thankful that our building renovation is nearing completion. We share with all library patrons both the frustration and inconvenience of the temporary library period and also the sense of anticipation as we prepare to move back to the refurbished Morrill Memorial Library. 2001 will be an exciting year!