



2004 MORRILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Arthur W. Gearty, Chair
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Services	FY03	FY04	Change
Card holders	15404	16978	10%
Reference Questions	22036	22126	0%
Public Internet Computers	14	14	0%
Wireless access	no	yes	
Programs	236	249	6%
Hours Open	3167	3143	-1%
Staff in FTEs	23.3	23	-1%
Volunteers	9	23	156%

Circulation

Total Circulation	259550	272239	5%
Adult Print	111147	107888	-3%
Children's Print	66616	67095	1%
Adult Audio	14631	16412	12%
Children Audio	3285	3509	7%
Adult Video	29310	30835	5%
Children Video	21618	21807	1%
Borrowed from Network	3569	20314	469%
Loaned to Network	4780	20583	331%

Collection

Total Collection	94030	98600	5%
Print	84592	88932	5%
Audio	2998	3316	11%
Video	3051	3141	3%

The most startling statistic is the increase in borrowing within the Minuteman Network. The change is the result of software which Minuteman Libraries began using in July 2003. It allows a request by a cardholder to be filled by an available item in any Minuteman Library. A Norwood resident with a Minuteman card has access to **the 6.1 million** items owned by the **41 Minuteman** Libraries. During FY04 Minuteman libraries exchanged **1,037,000** items. Daily delivery to all public libraries in Minuteman is provided by the state of Massachusetts through the Metrowest Regional Library System.

To make the most of this resource become familiar with the request system. The library webpage is accessible from Norwood's homepage: <http://www.ci.norwood.ma.us/library/>. Minuteman's homepage is www.mln.lib.ma.us. If you need help come to the library, email us (Norwood@minlib.net) or call 781-769-0200.

Library Plan, 2004 to 2008 - In November of 2002 a committee of residents and representatives of general government and the public schools, met to share their vision for Norwood and make suggestions for library services to help the town meet that vision. The library staff and trustees adopted five primary service goals as a result of the committee's work. Each of the service goals will be carried out as the staff meets concrete objectives through specific activities. Each year the activities will be updated reflecting new technology and community requirements.

1. **General Information** - Library users will have access to the information they need for lifelong education, to fulfill career goals and to make informed decisions in all aspects of life.
2. **Information Literacy** - In a world where opinions and data are plentiful, library users will find information, evaluate its accuracy and relevance and apply it to their needs.
3. **Cultural Awareness** - Residents of Norwood will have resources to understand and explore their personal cultural heritage and the diverse traditions and history of the surrounding community.

4. **Current Topics and Titles** - Lives of library users will be enriched and lifelong-learning encouraged through access to current popular materials and programs.
5. **Public Awareness** - People in the Norwood area will be aware of the resources available at the library.

This plan was formally accepted by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners this fall.

In support of the Cultural Awareness Goal the library sponsored **Norwood Heritage Day** in cooperation with the Friends of the Library, the Literacy Volunteers and the Norwood Historical Society. Held in the afternoon on Sunday, May 2nd, 20 churches, organizations and cultural groups decorated tables, served food, displayed clothing and crafts, played music and danced. Special thanks go to **Martha Colamaria** who chaired the event and worked tirelessly for many months in preparation. It was a wonderful celebration of Norwood's diverse community.

A Documentary Heritage Grant from the Massachusetts Records Advisory Board and the Secretary of the Commonwealth, awarded in 2003 was completed this fall. The "Norwood Heritage Collaborative," consists of town departments, the Norwood Historical Society, Caritas Norwood Hospital, Norwood Public Schools, and many Norwood churches. An archivist surveyed historical records held by collaborative participants. A booklet summarizes the archivist's findings and a database of items surveyed will appear on the library's webpage.

An LSTA grant for Customer Service administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners enabled the library to update various aspects of customer service including brochures, interior library signs and the library's webpage.

A long planned landscape project was completed this fall. Funds for landscaping the library were omitted from the building renovation project to reduce expenses for the town. No public money was used for this project. Private funds were raised by the library Staff, Trustees and Friends to provide the front of the library building with a sign, new lighting, a seating area, and new plantings.

The Literacy Volunteers of America at Morrill Memorial Library provides free, confidential tutoring in Basic Literacy and English as a Second Language. This program continues to grow both in number of volunteer tutors and in people seeking tutoring services. Several groups of new tutors were trained during the year and are now working with students. Conversation groups for ESOL students meet several times a week throughout the year. The Literacy program receives additional funding from the Department of Education. This year a generous donation was received from the **Simoni Foundation**. Special thanks go to the **Outback Steakhouse and Manager Dave Cobb** for providing a wonderful lunch to tutors and students in early September.

Literacy Volunteers are always looking for new tutors and students. To join them call Literacy Volunteers at the library 781-769-4599

The Children's Department offered programs to meet the growing demands of young people. Story times are available year around for preschool children. During the summer weekly story times were offered at the Bond Street tot lot. A lapsit program for toddlers with a parent was very popular, as were sessions for preschoolers and evening pajama story times. Fifth grade classes from the Balch, Callahan and Prescott Schools visited the library for computer training. The summer reading program, sponsored by Comcast, followed the theme *Explore Other Worlds @ Your Library*. Programs encouraged children to explore new interests through a variety of programs. 617 children participated in the program reading an average of 22 books each.

Children's Librarian Hope Anderson and Reference Librarian Marie Lydon meet regularly with librarians from the schools to coordinate services and programs. One such program is the Norwood Young Reader's Award program, a book discussion for 4th and 5th graders that began meeting in the library in December.

Literary Lunch, the sixth annual reading and discussion program for 6th graders and Senior Citizens was successful again. Participants read Notes from a Liar and Her Dog by Gennifer Choldenko, a book selected by sixth grade teacher Rebecca Ladow. Opinions on the book varied, but the conversation between the older and younger generation was lively. Librarian Beth Goldman, whose enthusiasm helped create this annual event in 1999, commented that all participants, young and old, know their views will be respected.

Highlights of programs for adults:

- Beach and Fireside favorites (seasonal book suggestions) were presented by Margot Sullivan and Beth Goldman
- Monthly book discussion groups continued to be popular
- The Life and Artistry of Winslow Homer came alive through a slide presentation by Gershon Weisenberg
- A workshop on journal and memoir writing was presented by Susan Clare from Puddingstone Books and Prints

- The “Wonderful Wednesdays” summer series was sparked by programs on Calligraphy, Celtic culture and handicraft and finally by a demonstration of Portuguese cooking. Programs were presented by talented library staff members, Cynthia Rudolph, Marge Hickey and Terry Cordeiro respectively.
- **Boston Globe film critics, Ty Burr and Wesley Morris** talked about the year’s movie highlights

The Outreach Department provides services to people unable to visit the library or unable to use its resources without assistance. In 2004, more than 6000 items were delivered by the Outreach department staff or by a small but dedicated group of volunteers, to people in their homes, in nursing homes, at the Senior Center and at Senior housing facilities. In addition programs were presented at several locations around town. A flourishing book group meets on the second Friday of the month at the Senior Center.

Assistive Technology equipment and software is available at the library for use by individuals with special needs. Please call the Outreach Department at 781-769-0200, x 228 if you need the services of the Outreach Department, assistive technology or if you would like to become a volunteer.

The Friends of the Library support the library and its services in countless important ways. They sponsor many library programs. On a cold snowy evening in January at a general meeting **author Michael Tougias** presented a program about the **Blizzard of 78**. At their annual author evening in April mystery novelists **G. H. Ephron and Roberta Isleib** spoke about their popular books. In the fall Irish author **Aine Greaney** talked about her novel **Big House**. The Friends held two successful book sales, hosted a table at Norwood Day, co-sponsored Heritage Day and provided financial support for library programs and additional money to purchase books, videos and audio books. In times of budget cuts the financial and moral support provided by the Friends is invaluable.

The Women’s Community Committee is the primary sponsor of the library museum pass program. They provided memberships for the Children’s Museum, Museum of Science, Roger Williams Zoo, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, JFK Library, Museum of Fine Arts and Easton Children’s Museum. These museum passes were used 700 times in 2004 providing a cultural resource worth thousands of dollars and benefiting thousands of people. We are thankful for the continuous generosity of the WCC.

The Morrill Memorial Library continues to be a destination point for Norwood residents. The library is a town department people visit because they want to, not because they have to. This continues to be true because of funding from the Town supplemented by the generosity of the Friends, the WCC, the Simoni Foundation and the Boch Betterment Fund. It is also true because of the dedication and enthusiasm of the Library Staff and the interest and commitment of the Board of Trustees. The town is fortunate to have such dedicated people working in our library. If you haven’t been to the library for a while we invite you to come in!



Morrill Memorial Library Board of Trustees, 2004
 Seated: Stuart R. Plumer, Arthur W. Gearty, Chair;
 Standing: Elizabeth Dickson, Secretary, Thomas J. Cummings, Patricia J. Fanning,
 Susannah J. P. Petro, Mary Phinney, Director, Roger C. MacLeod, Vice Chair