

## **Holmes Public Library**

### **Director's Report**

**February 12, 2013**

Library staff, trustees, and patrons have been very welcoming and friendly since I came on board as director on January 2, 2013. I was interviewed on January 7 for a profile that was printed in the January 11<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Halifax-Plympton Reporter*. On January 10<sup>th</sup>, WATD-FM Radio came to the library to tape a brief interview. The WATD "Love Your Library" segment about the Holmes Public Library will be aired on WATD (95.9) April 12–16, at 5:26 a.m., during the 9:00 news segment, during the Midday Report, and at 2:40 pm each day. WATD's "Love Your Library" features highlight the history and current relevancy of many of the public libraries in the Marshfield radio station's broadcast area.

The Halifax Assistive Technology (HAT) project timeline is being followed as much as possible, with a few minor changes. The Advisory Board has been meeting regularly, once a month, and members have been assisting with the planning and implementation of the grant project. The Sensitivity Panel is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 3-4 p.m. to raise awareness of town departments, local organizations, and the public of the need for improved services to residents with disabilities such as low-vision and low-hearing and to spread the word about the HAT project at the library. Although the program is being held during the workday to encourage participation from other town departments, trustees are invited to attend, if they can. This year-long Serving People with Disabilities project is federally funded with LSTA funds administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and runs October 2012–September 2013, with increased services continuing to be offered beyond the end date of the project.

Big Ryan's Building Stories workshop for grades 2–5 was held on Wednesday afternoons, January 6–27. On the last day, families attended and heard the stories written by the 9 participants. Both the writing workshops and a performance of Big Ryan's Tall Tales on Saturday, January 19 were sponsored by the South Shore Community Action Council, which gave a free book to each child who attended the programs.

Take Your Child to the Library Day on February 2 was a big success, with Miss Marie noticing many new families attending her Elephant & Piggie Party, an extravaganza which included life-size book characters and a larger-than-life book cover for children to pose for pictures with. Photos from the event were posted on the Holmes Facebook page and may also be viewed from the library's Web site by clicking on *Our Kids Photos*.

Family story times and drop-in crafts continue to be offered every Saturday by Miss Marie, as well weekly infant lapsits and story times for different age groups during the week. A teen book group will have their first monthly meeting in February, with pizza provided by the Friends of the Holmes Public Library, and the children's book club met with Miss Marie on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jean and Susan hosted the semi-annual Combined Book Club Potluck on January 29<sup>th</sup>, which was well attended and fun. Book club members enjoyed discussing *Agnes and the Hit Man* by Jennifer Crusie and Bob Mayer and having dinner, with an assortment of desserts that included a pink flamingo wedding cake. For February, book club meetings revert to the regular afternoon and evening schedule and will meet on February 19th and February 26th. The Halifax Writes writers' group continues to meet monthly, moderated by Susan, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 21, at 3 p.m.

February programs include *The Art of Georgia O'Keeffe* on Wednesday, February 13, at 6 p.m. (supported by a grant obtained by the artist/instructor Gregory Maichack from the Halifax Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency) and Borrowing Library E-Books on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

The library was closed on Friday, Feb. 8, and Saturday, Feb. 9, due to the Blizzard of 2013 (aka "Nemo"), so the family Valentine's Day celebration on Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. The library was open regular hours on Monday, Feb. 11, although Halifax public schools remained closed. Many residents still without power after the storm came in on Monday to get warm, use library computers, and charge their phones.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners reminds Massachusetts residents to use Tumblr to share stories of how the library helped them get through the blizzard at <http://masslibraries.tumblr.com> (*Why I Need My Library* advocacy page).

Other upcoming events include:

- Library Legislative Day at the State House on March 26
- Friends of the Library Open House, Thursday, March 28, 5–7 p.m.
- Trustee Focus Workshop, Leominster Public Library, Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.