

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

February 11, 2014

February is Love Your Library Month. We're promoting Friends of the Library memberships and offering Blind Date with a Book. Miss Marie presented a Lego Party for Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, Feb. 1, that was very successful, as well as a fun Valentine Storytime on Saturday, Feb. 8, that was attended by 30 adults and children. The ever-popular Combined Book Club Potluck, hosted by Jean Gallant with help from Susan Scott, was attended by 21 people on Feb. 5, after having to be rescheduled due to snow. The Friends are sponsoring an evening program for adults on Wednesday, Feb. 12, Heart-Healthy Foods for Your Valentine (& You), which will be presented by Kristin Hatch.

The Best Free Apps for Readers Workshop, on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m. was attended by four people. (Info has been posted on the library's Web site for anyone who was interested in the topic but couldn't attend.) Saturday Drop-in Technology Help and one-on-one sessions have been more successful, with a total of 27 people taking advantage of help from Amy between Jan. 1 and Feb. 10.

Finance Committee liaison Nikki Newton met with me and Jean yesterday to review the library's FY15 budget submission. She phoned today to say the budget was approved at their meeting last night.

The library has gratefully received \$775 in memory of Judith Leff, a Halifax resident, who passed away on January 13. Individual donors have been thanked and acknowledgments also sent to the family.

The annual report for 2013 has been submitted. The following statistics on e-books were included:

Through the library's Overdrive service, patrons with Halifax library cards borrowed/downloaded **1,102 e-books** (up from 693 in 2012) and **278 e-audiobooks** (up from 208 in 2012). In 2013, 77 Halifax patrons registered with Overdrive as new users.

Due to snow, the library had a delayed (3:00) opening on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and was closed on Wednesday, Feb. 5, when the forecast called for roads to ice up in the evening. This week snow is forecast for Thursday; the library may open even if schools are closed, depending on when walks are shoveled and the lot is plowed. The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 17, for Presidents' Day. The fax line has been repaired, but we may continue to experience static and other problems with the phone lines until an old cable that runs along Plymouth Street is replaced.

I attended the Southeastern Mass. Libraries Legislative Breakfast on Friday, Feb. 7, and met Rep. Tom Calter and other legislators. The library is planning a joint program with the Council on Aging to have Rep. Calter come to Halifax on June 2 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss current issues.

Upcoming dates to remember include:

- Heart-Healthy Foods for Your Valentine (& You), Wed., Feb. 12, 7:00 p.m.
- Friends of the Holmes Public Library meeting, Wed., Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m.
- Coffee Hour Talk: The Forts of Castle Island, Sat., Mar. 15, 11:00 a.m.
- **Deadline for nomination papers with 32 signatures to Town Clerk's office, Mar. 25, 4 p.m.**
- Library Legislative Day, State House, March 31