

## **Holmes Public Library**

### **Director's Report**

**March 12, 2013**

The Halifax Assistive Technology (HAT) LSTA grant-funded project timeline is still on track. The Advisory Board met on March 4 to finalize plans for the Sensitivity Panel which was held today, Tuesday, March 12, 3-4:30 p.m., and was attended by 30 people, including library trustee and Advisory Board member Priscilla Murphy, town administrator Charlie Seelig, police chief Mike Manoogian, Selectman Kim Roy, and Health Agent Cathy Drinan, among others.

Panelists were Barbara Brenton from the Council on Aging; Elaine Dolan from the Halifax Housing Authority and Americans with Disabilities Commission; Heidi McGuire, Worcester Deaf Club; Jonathan O'Dell from Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH); and Andrea Schein from Massachusetts Commission for the Blind's Bridge Elder Blind Program. The panel discussion was taped by Halifax-Plympton Community Access and the library will receive a DVD of the program. It will also be aired on Channel 15. People in attendance commented on how much they learned in such a short time. In addition to a sign language interpreter for panelist Heidi McGuire to participate in the discussion, the audience was able to see CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) in action as everything that was said was typed into a computer and projected onto a screen by a registered CART interpreter. Information was provided on CART service and the need for it, with Jonathan O'Dell saying that an estimated 622,000 people in Massachusetts have some form of hearing loss.

The library has purchased a Merlin Elite video magnifier through the HAT project grant and the whole staff received training on how to use it so that everyone will be able to help patrons who want to try it out. We are in the process of deciding where to place it in the library to be accessible but also afford library patrons some privacy, since what they are reading will be easily visible from a distance to other patrons. The HAT project is federally funded with LSTA funds administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and runs October 2012–September 2013.

The library celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America on Saturday, Mar. 2, with a special Dr. Seuss family storytime, Dr. Seuss games and crafts. Children's librarian Marie Coady and Director Assistant Jean Gallant put a lot of work into the event, and had help from two teen volunteers on Saturday. *The Halifax-Plympton Reporter* printed photos from the event in their March 8<sup>th</sup> issue.

Family story times and drop-in crafts continue to be offered every Saturday by Miss Marie, as well as weekly infant lapsits and story times for different age groups during the week. The teen book group had their first monthly meeting in February, with pizza provided by the Friends of the Holmes Public Library. The children's book club meeting for March 21 has had to be postponed to April.

The two adult book clubs, morning and afternoon, met on February 19th and February 26th. The Halifax Writes writers' group met on Feb. 21.

The library offered The Art of Georgia O'Keeffe on Wednesday, February 13, which was very successful and attended by 18 people. This program was 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. The Getting Comfortable with Library E-Books on Wednesday, Feb. 20, was attended by 9 people, who all learned how to download library e-books. By request, the library will offer this same program again on the afternoon of March 13.

The library was closed on Friday, Mar. 8, due to heavy snow that lasted all day. The library was open for regular hours the following day, Mar. 9.

Upcoming events of possible interest to the Board of Trustees 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.
- HAT Open House, Wednesday, May 1, 4-7 p.m.