

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

November 18, 2014

It's almost time to submit the library's year in review for the annual Town Report. The library staff has received a lot of praise this year and kudos will be given to staff members in the annual report also. Jean Gallant and Susan Scott both earned special thanks from Trustee Chair Priscilla Murphy.

Jean received an exciting phone call from author Chris Bohjalian after her Evening Readers book club discussed his book, *Skeletons at the Feast*. Jean is very successful at selecting books that generate excellent discussions; her evening book club continues to grow in size and popularity. Jean always has the weekly bills scheduled for payment in timely fashion, manages the staff schedule, and prepares payroll on a bi-weekly basis, as well as managing the volunteers, and many other daily responsibilities.

Marie Coady presented a Halloween-themed storytime on Saturday, October 25. Her creative ideas for activities made a great impression on everyone who attended, many of whom were new to the library. As well as in the special events offered for children and families, Marie's talents are always visible in her regular children's programs each week. As just one example, she held her regular Friday storytimes on Halloween dressed as the Book Fairy, with an elaborate handmade costume.

Rose Ruel processes and catalogs all library materials quickly and efficiently, with great attention to detail; she has a thorough knowledge of the whole library collection. Susan Scott, the reference librarian, will track down any book, movie, or answer to any question with skill and speed. She also facilitates two monthly book clubs and a writers' group, as well as writing for the book club blogs. Amy Tull creates the library's promotional flyers, bookmarks, and other materials, which always receive compliments on their design. Amy volunteered to form and facilitate a monthly genealogy club, which has been very successful and brought in many area residents. Paula Walker is very popular with the homebound patrons who receive her bookmobile deliveries and will always take time to give personal attention to each person, whether on the phone or at their homes.

Building Stories with Big Ryan is a four-week program for preschool-age children and their caregivers sponsored by the South Shore Community Action Council offered on Fridays in November during the 11:30 storytime slot. Big Ryan uses hand puppets, humor, and storytelling to foster early literacy skills.

Meet Your Elected Officials Night was held on Monday, November 17, and several people commented that they were glad to have attended. The stormy weather may have kept some from coming out.

We hosted the first Southeastern Mass. Reader's Advisory Roundtable here on October 22nd, with staff attending from other libraries. SAILS plans to hold a network-wide Tumblebooks training here on Tuesday morning, and I am serving again this year on the Library Legislative Breakfast Committee, so the Holmes has been an active member of the inter-library community lately in a variety of ways.

Upcoming dates to remember include:

- Friends of the Library Meeting, Wednesday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Wednesday, December 3, 1:00 p.m.
- Adult Craft Night, Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.
- Evening Readers Book Club & Candy Swap, Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.