

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

October 15, 2013

The Afternoon Readers Book Club, led by Susan, met on Sept. 17, and the Evening Readers Book Club, led by Jean, met on Sept. 24. The writers' group, Halifax Writes; held its monthly meeting on Sept. 19; some of the group are collaborating on a paranormal novel with the working title *It Happened in Halifax*. New members are always welcome in all groups. Bookmobile deliveries were made by Paula on Sept. 11 and 25.

The Halifax Assistive Technology (HAT) project funded with federal LSTA Serving People with Disabilities funds administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) officially ended on Sept. 30, with HAT Sandbox Day (for people to "play with" and try out the new assistive technology) on Saturday, Sept. 28, which was only sparsely attended. The library will host a presentation on age-related hearing loss by Jonathan O'Dell of the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m. The Hearing Loss 101 presentation is free, but the library is going to use CART (Computer Assisted Real-Time Translation) service, which will cost \$225-\$300, of which the Friends are contributing half, up to \$150. The HAT Advisory Committee is on the agenda for the selectmen's meeting of Jan. 28 to discuss potential use of assistive technology such as CART at town meetings. The final narrative and financial reporting to the state on the \$7500 grant project was emailed and postmarked by the deadline of October 15.

The library did not apply for an LSTA grant during the last round. It was a very competitive grant round, and the Holmes had received grants three years in a row. We will have the opportunity to consider applying again in the spring for projects to start in the fall of 2014.

In recognition of the community service project done by Andrew (AJ) LaGambina this past spring, the Ruth V. Perkins Reading Garden Rededication was held on Saturday, Sept. 28, before the HAT Sandbox Day and was attended by approximately thirty people. Speakers were Richard Conley, Chair of the Library Trustees; Troy Garron, Chair of the Board of Selectmen; William Perkins, former Library Trustee; and Andrew LaGambina. Ruth Mewis, who was instrumental in the original construction of the Reading Garden, read the poem she read at the original dedication ceremony in 2002. Photos from both Sandbox Day and the rededication were sent to the *Halifax-Plympton Reporter* and they appeared in the issue of October 5.

The final ARIS report, and application for state aid and compliance form were submitted to the MBLC by the deadline of Oct. 10. The library will be eligible to receive FY14 library incentive grant funds.

Two trustees, Jean Gallant, and I were able to attend the

Introduction to Town Government at Town Hall on Oct. 10. The Open Meeting Law other topics related to boards and committees were discussed.

Upcoming dates to remember include:

- Hearing Loss 101, Tues., Oct. 22, 11 a.m.

- Friends of the Holmes Public Library meeting, Wed., Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.
- Library Trustees Orientation, Abington Public Library, Thurs., Oct. 24, 6-8 p.m.