

**M.G. Parker Memorial Library**  
2015 Annual Town Report

**COLLECTION, CIRCULATION, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The Parker Memorial Library continued to be a busy place in 2015. We were open 3,000 hours, including 296 Saturday hours and 546 evening hours. 205,959 people visited the library last year. 18,858 Dracut residents borrowed 212,172 items during 2015, including books, newspapers, magazines, compact discs, DVDs, and downloadable music, streaming music, audio and eBooks. Dracut patrons borrowed 25,023 items from other libraries in our consortium, and lent out 29,048 items to patrons of other Massachusetts libraries. The Library currently has 106,092 items in its holdings.

Reference staff answered 20,228 reference questions for residents. The library offered 199 children's programs during 2015. 4,762 children took advantage of those offerings. We offered 57 young adult programs with a total attendance of 444, and 95 adult programs with an attendance of 1,094.

The Friends of the Library once again supported the Museum Pass program, offering free or discounted admission to ten area museums, including Boston Children's Museum, The Butterfly Place, Discovery Museums, Imagine That, Massachusetts State Parks, Merrimack Repertory Theater, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, USS Constitution, and Zoo New England.

The Friends of the Dracut Library held their Book Sale in May and a Holiday Auction in December. In addition, the Friends run a daily book sale at the library that has exceeded their expectations. Hardcover books are sold at \$1.00 each. Paperback books are sold for fifty cents each.

In 2015, we held our first-ever town-wide book discussion. For our first *Dracut Reads* event, we chose to read *Defending Jacob* by William Landay. Over 400 Dracut residents, including 120 middle school students, read and discussed the books. In addition to the several book discussions that were offered, both at the library and off-site, people attended a plethora of related programs, including *CSI: Dracut*, where adults got to try out their crime scene "chops" by viewing a mock crime scene. After the viewing, retired Massachusetts State Police Lieutenant and current Private Investigator, Elaine Gill, went through the crime scene step by step, giving an overview of the evidence that participants had discovered.

Reference Librarian, Cathy Bence, ran a program on forensic genealogy. Three crime authors discussed where they get their ideas. Christopher Daley conducted a slide show presentation on infamous Massachusetts murders. A state and federal judge spoke with residents about the different ways that murder is handled in the courts. Author Hallie Ephron gave a crash course in

writing mysteries, and *Defending Jacob* author William Landay wowed the audience with a discussion of the book, his writing, and the legal system.

Although *Defending Jacob* is an adult title, children and teens were not left out of the fun. The Children's Room ran a Tween Book Group where mysteries were read and discussed. A special "Say No to Bullying" story time was held. A "Clue" party and a "Friendship" party were held. Teens helped solve the crime of a missing book in the library. They also participated in a Cyber Bullying workshop, and a self-defense class.

All in all, our first town-wide book discussion was a huge success. People have been asking us when we will do it again. Rest assured we are in the process of planning another one for the spring of 2017. You can nominate titles for consideration by following the *Dracut Reads* link on our website, which is <http://www.dracutlibrary.org>.

The Trustees would like to once again thank our fellow residents, our volunteers, the Foundation, the Friends of the Dracut Library, the staff, and – most importantly – our patrons for their continued support.

## BUDGET

The Parker Memorial Library met certification requirements with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

## STAFFING

In 2015, the Parker Library bid a fond farewell to Julie Sheehan, who had worked at the Library for nearly twenty years. Julie, who volunteers at the library weekly, reports that she is enjoying her retirement.

After receiving resumes from twenty-five candidates and interviewing ten of them, Cheryl Salem was chosen to replace Julie Sheehan as our Assistant Circulation Librarian. Cheryl has worked as an Adult Page for us since 2009. Her dedication to the library, her understanding of circulation practices, and her follow-through philosophy made her the ideal choice for the position.

William (Ned) Toomey, who has been working in Circulation and Technical Services as a Library Assistant since June of 2014, was hired as our new Young Adult Librarian when Anna Call took a full-time position in the Reference Department at the Nevins Library in Methuen. A Library School student with Drexel University's online MLS program, Ned has spent the last two months getting to know our Reference procedures and meeting Dracut's teens. He has some wonderful ideas for teen programming. Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming events.

Tyler Downing was hired to replace Ned Toomey in his role as Library Assistant. Adult Page, Shantelle Harty also left us in 2015 for full-time employment. Dracut resident Amy Spence replaced her. Will welcome both Tyler and Amy.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TUSTEES

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees,  
Nanci Milone Hill, Director

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Clee Ace (2016)

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