

SHREWSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

TRUSTEES:

GEORGE STROM, CHAIRMAN (2006)
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ROSEMARY RENNIE (2004)
FRANCES WHITNEY (2004)

MEETINGS:

The Library Board of Trustees meets the Fourth Tuesday of every month
(excluding July and August) at the Library, 7:30P.M.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR:

BONNIE L. O'BRIEN

HOLDINGS as of December 31, 2003

VOLUMES	133,966
ART PRINTS	325
VIDEOCASSETTES	4,008
DVD'S	464

COMPACT DISCS	
BOOKS ON CD	283
MUSIC	2,730
AUDIOCASSETTES	
BOOKS ON TAPE	2,638
MUSIC	1,018
MULTIMEDIA KITS	514
PERIODICALS SUBSCRIPTIONS	160
NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS	16
CD-ROM	230
BOOK & CD	35
ON-LINE RESOURCES (E-BOOKS)	6,546

The Library was open on Sundays from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM through Sunday, May 25th. The Library was closed on Sundays until September 7th when it re-opened for Sunday hours. The Library was closed for regular service on Sunday, September 21st for the 100th Birthday celebration of the Howe Memorial Library. The Library was closed Sunday, September 28th so that the staff could march in the 'Spirit of Shrewsbury' parade. Sunday hours continue to be very popular with Library patrons. The Library is happy to be able to provide these hours of service for its patrons.

The Library provides Internet access for patrons via the Town's fiber optic cable. There are six PC's, which are IBM compatible, for patrons to use to access the Internet, as well as one IMAC in the Children's Area. By using the Internet, patrons are able to access a number of databases provided through MLIN (Massachusetts Library Information Network). The databases available include: General Reference Center Gold; Expanded Academic ASAP; Health Reference Center Academic; General Business File ASAP; Business and Company ASAP; Contemporary Literary Criticism – Select; Biography Resource Center; The Complete Marquis Who's Who; and, Professional Collection. Through the C/WMARS automated network, patrons can access

Novelist which is an electronic readers' advisory resource assisting fiction readers in finding new authors and titles. The Library provides on-line Poem Finder, Massachusetts General Laws and Code of Massachusetts Regulations. In CD-ROM format, the Library has Gale's Quotations, Masterplots, the Dictionary of American Biography, Thomas Register, an Atlas, the Human Body, and World Book Encyclopedia are available for use on the IBM compatibles. Grolier's Encyclopedia is available on the IMAC in the Children's Area. The Children's Area also has: Counting on Frank; Reading Blaster; Where in the World is Carmen San Diego?; Where in the United States is Carmen San Diego?; Mario Teaches Typing 2 and Mario's FUNdamentals are loaded on the Children's Room IMAC. Children's Services has purchased a number of educational CD-ROM's to circulate. The Library will continue to provide additional databases as they become available to us and as funding permits. The library has added Envisionware software to the Internet computer so that patrons can sign themselves up for computer time. If all of the computers are currently in use it gives you a reservation time for a particular computer at a specific time.

Betsy Perry, the new Electronic Librarian, has made significant changes in the computer class offerings for the public here at the Library. We have implemented a new curriculum which consists of four classes: Introduction to the Computer; Introduction to the Internet; Introduction to Word Processing; and, Intermediate Internet. These classes have supplemented the Introduction to the Internet classes that were previously available to patrons. Students now learn about the computer from the absolute basics to high level search techniques. These new classes have been met with enthusiasm by staff and public alike, with classes routinely filling up to capacity.

The Friends of the Library is an organization that works to support the Library and its programs. The Friends hold their annual Book Sale on the Saturday following Mother's Day. They continue to sell 'Be a Friend' aprons and FRIENDS' book bags. The Friends purchase Polaroid film on an on-going basis so that when children receive their first library card they can have their picture taken. This has proved a big hit with the children. The Staff and Trustees thank the Friends for their continued support. The Friends are always looking for new members. Please inquire at the front desk for more information.

On Friday morning, March 14th, a Legislative Breakfast for Senator Guy Glodis' district was held at the Shrewsbury Public Library. In attendance were trustees from Auburn, Grafton, Leicester, Mendon, Shrewsbury, Upton and Worcester Public Libraries, library directors from local public; academic; and law libraries and Talking Book Library Users. Speakers included: Senator Guy Glodis, Representatives Karyn Polito and George Peterson, Paul Ericsson from the Central Region and Commissioner John Arnold from the Board of Library Commissioners. Additional speakers included: Shrewsbury library patrons Annie Moriondo, a fifth grader from Floral Street School, Mary Farmer, a user of the Outreach Service, and April Prince, author and book editor.

During National Library Week in April tours of the library were held several times a day for interested patrons. A wide variety of programs was presented throughout the year and included a college preparation workshop for parents and students presented by Joan Bress; David O'Docherty's St. Patrick's Day celebration featuring Irish wit, folklore and songs; a program on Sikhism; a field trip for the Genealogy Club to the National Archives in Waltham; Norma Chang, the Traveling Gourmet, did a cooking program featuring foods to prepare ahead and take on a picnic; Gershon Weisenberg's talk on Georgia O'Keefe; a job searching on the Internet workshop; John O'Toole's presentation of the Tornado of June 9, 1953; a Windsor Chair presentation by Ken Milley; a massage therapy lecture and demonstration; Richard Maurer talking about Katherine Wright, Wilbur and Orville's sister; a program presented by UMASS Memorial on aging well; Ellen Swartz and Roger Bruno's "Too Human" Duo concert of blues-jazz and folk music; and, John Berberian's concert on the Oud. The Library, through AARP, provided tax help on eleven Saturdays during the months of February, March and April. The Library's Great Books Discussion Group meets the third Tuesday of each month to discuss books of interest to the group. Anyone interested in the group should inquire at the Circulation Desk. The Library hosts a Genealogy Club which meets once a month. One month, the meeting is on a Tuesday evening and the following month the meeting is on a Thursday evening. Anyone interested in genealogy is encouraged to join. The library hosts a French conversation circle on Tuesday afternoons and an Italian Conversation Circle the first and third Saturdays of each month. Each Wednesday, during the month of July, members of the Embroidery Guild of America demonstrated their skills in the lobby of the Library from 2:00 to 7:00 PM. Completed projects were on exhibit in the Library's display cases. The Library continues to provide space for Literacy Volunteers to work with their clients.

Library staff attended numerous workshops provided by the Regional Library System to member libraries, as well as those provided by the Massachusetts Library Association, the New England Library Association, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, C/WMARS and NELINET. During the year, Library Staff attended numerous training sessions given by C/WMARS on various aspects of the Innovative Interfaces Inc. software. Sarah Sogigian, Young Adult Librarian, was selected to participate in the YA LEADS workshop at Endicott College in August. Sixty children's and young adult librarians from across the state participated in the three day workshop.

The Library Director is a member of: the Massachusetts Library Association's Legislative Committee; the Central Massachusetts Regional Libraries Breakfast Committee; the Executive Committee of C/W MARS; chair of the C/W MARS Finance Committee until July 1st and continues as a member of the committee; and, a member of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System's Revenue Enhancement Committee.

The Library provides an OUTREACH SERVICE to any resident of town (regardless of age) who is unable to come to the Library. In addition, the Library provides deposit collection to various Day Care facilities in town, the Montessori School, Shrewsbury Nursing Home, Southgate, Shrewsbury Crossings and Westbrook Crossings. Please encourage anyone you know who might benefit from this service to call the Library at 508-841-8535.

The Shrewsbury Public Library in conjunction with the American Library Association sponsors Library Card Sign-up Month during the month of September. In order to promote literacy and to encourage reading, members of the Children's Services and Outreach staffs visited all of the second grade classes in the elementary schools in Town to insure that any second grade student whose parent or guardian would like them to have a library card, has one. Stories were read to the children. The students who received new library cards signed them. Each child in the class received a bookmark. Prior to the visit to each school, a library card application and a letter explaining the library card program were sent home to all second grade parents or guardians. They were asked to complete the form and return it to the school if they wanted their child to have a card. This year, 82 cards were issued to second graders who previously had not had a library card.

During the school year, Children's Services provides a variety of storytimes for preschoolers. This past year, four sessions of parent/toddler storytimes were held for children two-and-a-half years old who were accompanied by an adult. In the spring and the fall, the Library continues to offer two storytimes per week for three-and-a-half to six year olds. During the year, Children's Services offered four 'Lapsit Storytimes' for children from birth to two-and-a-half years old. Children are accompanied by an adult and may also bring a sibling with them to this particular storytime. During the summer, the Library participated in the 'READ! THINK! CREATE! @ Your Library' Reading Programs sponsored in conjunction with Regional Children's Services throughout the state. One hundred forty-five children registered for the 'READ! THINK! CREATE! @ Your Library' Summer Reading Program. The reading program focuses on the amount of time spent reading rather than on the number of books read. Each participant had to read at least fifteen minutes every day. Participants record in a logbook the title of each book they read and the amount of time spent reading. Participants had to bring their logbooks to the Children's Room during specific check-in times and answer a general question about the book. In seven weeks, ONE-HUNDRED EIGHT PARTICIPANTS read a total of ONE THOUSAND FIVE-HUNDRED NINETY-NINE HOURS AND THIRTY-THREE MINUTES!!!!!!.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated.

The "Read-To-Me" Program is designed for non-readers and their parents or guardians. Fifty-one children listened to books for THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO HOURS AND FORTY MINUTES.

On Monday evenings during the summer, four evening storytimes were held in the courtyard off the Children's Area. Two hundred-thirty-five children participated.

Six "Traveling Storytimes" were held on Tuesday mornings at the following locations: Edgemere Park; Heberts Candy Mansion; Spag's 19; Donahue Rowing Center; Shrewsbury Library; and, Dean Park . One hundred sixty-four children attended.

In conjunction with the 'READ! THINK! CREATE! @ Your Library' Summer Reading Program, twenty-nine children participated in three craft programs.

A picnic was held for 'READ! THINK! CREATE! @ Your Library' Summer Reading Program participants and their families on Wednesday, August 6th at the Library.

During the course of the summer reading programs, five hundred and eighteen coupons and passes were distributed to the children. The passes included: 7 passes to the American Textile History Museum; 23 passes to the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History; 14 passes for Connecticut River Cruises; 74 passes for the Ecotarium; 11 passes for the Green Briar Nature Center; 5 passes to Hancock Shaker Village; 53 passes to the Higgins Armory Museum; 16 passes to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; 20 passes for the New Bedford Whaling Museum; 58 Old Sturbridge Village passes; 16 passes for Roll On America; 26 passes for the Salem Witch Museum; 33 Seven Seas Whale Watch passes; 11 passes to the Sports Museum; 12 passes to the Springfield Museums at the Quadrangle; 30 passes for the Zoo in Forest Park; and, 49 passes for the Zoo New England.

Again this summer, R.E.C.E.S.S. (Reading Everyday Can Ensure School Success) was run by the School Department and coordinated by Kristine Gustafson and Rosemary Royer. The program was run in conjunction with the Shrewsbury Public Library and the Shrewsbury School Committee. Children entering grades K through 6 could sign up at the Library and hear one of the assigned books read aloud to them. The sessions were conducted by community volunteers who included discussion and related activities. Twenty-four sessions were held between July 8th and July 24th at the Public Library. A total of four-hundred and thirty-one children participated in the R.E.C.E.S.S. program. All reading materials needed by the volunteers were supplied by the School Department. Audiocassette copies of some of the required readings were available at the Library for use by Special Education students.

Throughout the year, the following special programs and events were held: three 'After School Craft' programs; a Valentine workshop; a Thanksgiving Storytime, held before the holiday; a 'Raise Your Juice to Dr. Seuss' program in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, as part of the 'Read Across America' program; two vacation craft programs, one in February and one in April; three after school storytimes; a Thanksgiving craft program; two drop-in storytimes one in February and one in April during vacation; a fire safety for preschool children presented by the American Red Cross; an Origami storytime and workshop; Halloween stories followed by a costume parade throughout the library with several trick or treat stations; and, a family holiday ornament craft program. During April School Vacation Fran Flynn presented a Magic Show to the delight of all who attended. Several times during the year, a 'Family Internet Training' was held which highlighted ways to access the Internet and stressed the importance of safety when

using the Internet. Countless class visits, in addition to Cub Scout and Girl Scout troop tours take place throughout the year.

The Library received an Arts Lottery grant this past year which helped to fund a program presented by Betty Lehrman which featured “Little House” stories. The program was held Thursday, June 26th and was a kick-off for the Summer Reading Programs. The Library thanks the Shrewsbury Cultural Council for their support of the program.

On Friday, October 4th, the Library along with other departments in town, participated in Lee’s National Denim Day which is celebrated nationally. The purpose of the day is to advocate for breast cancer awareness. Anyone who wore denim to work that day made at least a \$5.00 donation to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. In 2003, over seven million dollars was collected on National Denim Day for cancer research.

Young Adult services had an exciting year with a variety of programs of interest to everyone. These programs included: a Henna Art program; a scrap booking workshop; and numerous “Book Chat” programs which involved first reading the book and then watching the movie. Discussion of the two mediums followed. Titles included in the ‘Book Chats’ were: The Princess Diaries; The Taming of the Shrew; Legally Blonde; and Holes. The following movies were shown for young adults during the year: ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’; ‘Buffy the Vampire Slayer’; and, ‘Clue’. The Young Adult ‘MOVIE MANIA’ Summer Reading program began on July 1st and ended August 26th. Sixty-three students registered. Upon registering for the program each student received a bag of microwaveable popcorn. Thirty-eight students participated and read **THREE HUNDRED AND SIX BOOKS**. Participants included 16 sixth graders; 18 seventh graders; and, 9 eighth graders. As part of the ‘MOVIE MANIA’ Summer Reading program movies were shown every Wednesday afternoon. Movies shown included: Spider-Man; Josie and the Pussycats; The Parent Trap, 1999 version; The Fast and the Furious; Charlie’s Angels; Scooby Doo; Bring It On; and, Orange County.

A private movie screening for all ‘MOVIE MANIA’ Summer Reading Program participants of “Bruce Almighty” took place at the West Boylston Cinema on Tuesday morning August 26th.

Prizes for the 'MOVIE MANIA' Summer Reading Program included: the Grand Prize of a limo ride home from school on the first day of school; a first prize of a DVD player; and, a second prize of a portable television. Special thanks go to John Palmieri from **SCISSORS HAIR SALON**, 196 Boston Turnpike, Shrewsbury, for sponsoring the limo ride and the theatre rental.

The highlight of the year took place on Tuesday afternoon, March 4th, when Ramiro, JAM'N 94.5's Morning Show host came and visited with the Young Adults. Forty young adults came and listened to Ramiro talk about everything from his favorite color to his experiences working for a radio station. The young adults had the opportunity to ask him questions, participate in raffles, and receive photos and have them autographed. Two interns came with T-shirts, magnets, cups and keychains to give to all who attended. EVA Subscription Services donated five magazine subscriptions to raffle off. On the morning of March 5th, on his radio program, Ramiro gave a shout out to the library, the young adults who attended the program and to Sarah Sogigian, the Young Adult Librarian. He told his co-host Pebbles about the program he had done at the Shrewsbury Library and said what a nice library it was. Ramiro answered Sarah's e-mail invitation concerning his doing a program immediately and knowing the state of budgets in the Commonwealth would accept no payment for his time. It was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all of the young adults who attended.

In the spring, the Library Board of Trustees voted to expand the space allocated to Young Adults by designating the Mezzanine area as an additional area for their use. In this room young adults can work on their homework, talk with each other, eat snacks and just hang out. The Young Adults are grateful for the space and treat it accordingly.

Early in the year, Young Adults discarded paperback books from the circulation system whose circulation had declined. These were donated to the adolescent unit of Worcester State Hospital.

The Library Board of Trustees and Staff would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who so generously give of their time to help the Library. Volunteers perform numerous tasks on an ongoing basis which enable the staff to have more time to serve the public. The following is a list

of the people who volunteered at the library this past year: Eleanor Ambach, Ann Biggins, Tara Clark, Fannie Dang, Tiffany Dang, Nirmal Devarajan, Dean Gillam, Navin Jain, Shivani Jain, Sumathi Jamakandi, June Jardarian, Hyungjoon Kim, Pawan Kodandapani, Mala Krishnamoorthy, Teresa Kuravilla, Xi Lian, Xidi Liu, Rosamaria Mastrocola, Samuel Miller, Beata Pupczyk, Nandini Rajagoplan, Casi Richardson, Ross Robbins, Adrian Sealy, Geetha Shivashankar, Jean Slavkovsky, Nick Slobotkin, Hema Swamy, Dorbet Thomas, Chrissy Tongel, Carol VanBerkel, Matt Wen, Ren Whitley, Chang Xu, Jing Zhang, Cindy Zhou and Wendy Zhou. If you are interested in volunteering at the Library, please inquire at the Circulation Desk.

The Library publishes a Newsletter six times a year. The fall issue of the Newsletter is sent to each household in town. The Newsletter is intended to inform the public of both new and ongoing services provided by the library, as well as to highlight new additions to the collection or special upcoming events. If you would like to be on our mailing list for the other issues of the Newsletter, please leave your name at the Circulation Desk. The printing and postage of the Newsletter for town-wide distribution is funded by Library Trust Funds.

Again this year, the Shrewsbury Rotary Club generously funded one hundred and fifty passes which would admit four people on any one day to the Ecotarium (formerly the New England Science Center). The tickets were available at the front desk on a first-come basis. Each household was limited to one ticket. The families who received the passes thank the Rotary Club for their generosity.

The Library would like to thank the Shrewsbury Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union for providing library card covers. The cover has the library's hours and telephone number on one side and the credit union information on the other side.

The Library has passes for Davis' Farmland; the Discovery Museums in Acton; the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; the John F. Kennedy Library; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Science in Boston; the National Plastics Center & Museum in Leominster; the Worcester Art Museum; and, the Worcester County Horticultural Society (Tower Hill Botanical Garden). These passes are purchased from Library Trust Funds. If you have a valid library card, are a Shrewsbury resident and are interested in reserving a pass, please call the Library at 508-842-0081- x3.

The Library thanks Alan Daniels from the H. Alan Daniels Insurance Agency, Inc., for, again, this year, providing the Library with bookmarks that have the Library's hours on them.

During this past year, carpeting was installed on the landings and on the stairs of the oak stairway leading from the first floor to the large meeting room; new CD and cassette displayers were purchased; track lighting was installed in the lobby area; and, the beam outside the front entrance opposite the elevator was repaired, restored and protected from the elements to prevent further damage.

In August, Penny Cole joined the staff of the Library as a Senior Library Assistant in Technical Services. Penny had previously worked in the Technical Services department of the Fitchburg Public Library for almost eight years.

In preparation for the 100th Birthday celebration of the Howe Memorial Library, the two large portraits which hang in the fiction area, one of Jubal Howe and the other of Artemas Ward, were cleaned and restored before being re-hung. Lighting was installed to highlight these portraits of two men who so generously gave monies to the town to build the library in 1903 and to fund an addition in 1922. Look for these portraits the next time you are in the library.

The old Librarians' Desk, which is used as a podium in the large meeting room, was repaired and refinished in conjunction with the 100th Birthday celebration of the Howe Memorial Library.

The Highlight of the Library's year was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Howe Memorial Library on September 24, 1903. Several events took place to celebrate this very special occasion. On Thursday evening, September 18th, Ted Zalewski portrayed President Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt was President of the United States when the library was dedicated in 1903. On Saturday morning, Sept 20th, Children's Services held a program as part of the 100th Birthday Celebration. Mary Jo Maichack presented a program of storytelling and music titled 'Books are Celebrations'.

On Sunday, September 21st, the Library celebrated the 100th Birthday of the dedication of the Howe Memorial Library. Special guests included Representative James McGovern from the United States House of Representatives; Senator Guy Glodis from the Massachusetts Senate; and, Representative Karyn Polito from the Massachusetts House. In 1903, both U.S. Senator George

Hoar and Representative John T. Thayer were speakers at the dedication. We were most honored that Representative McGovern helped the Library replicate the original dedication by speaking. Speakers, in addition to the elected official, included Rev. Meredith Brown from the Wellspring United Methodist Church, Rev. Peter Racicot of the First Baptist Church of Shrewsbury, and Barbara Carpenter, Vice-Chair of the Library Board of Trustees. Town Moderator Kevin Byrne served as Master of Ceremonies for the program. Guests in attendance included former acting library director Beverly Fisher and former library trustee John D. Barry. Trustees attending included Joan Barry, Alice Canty, Carol B. Cullen, Carl Larson, Rosemary Rennie and Frances Whitney. The Shrewsbury High School A Capella Choir sang the national anthem and two additional selections during the program. Matt Goldenberg made balloon creations for the children who each were given a birthday party hat. Before the program and during the time refreshments were served the string quartet from Shrewsbury High School played a variety of selections. Floral decorations for the event were provided by Danielson's Florist, Lakeside Florist, KaBloom and Skaff Floral Creations. Items for sale to commemorate the event included a brass ornament of the original Howe Memorial Library, a leather bookmark commemorating 100years of the Howe Memorial Library and note paper with a sketch of the 1903 building done by Shrewsbury artist Carol Lebeau. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

On Tuesday afternoon, September 23rd, Children's Services held an after School storytime to "Celebrate 100 Years of the Howe Memorial Library". Librarians' 'favorite oldies' stories were the feature of the program.

The Young Adult Advisory Board had a table on the Common and sold 'Decorate your own cupcakes' as part of the 'Spirit of Shrewsbury' celebration. Monies raised by selling the cupcakes were used to purchase a DVD player for the library. In addition to the cupcakes, memorabilia for the Library's 100th Birthday celebration – bookmarks, ornaments and stationary were for sale.

On Sunday, September 28th, to continue the celebration of the 100th Birthday of the Howe Memorial Library the library staff participated in the 'Spirit of Shrewsbury' parade. The Library had a float which was four large books decorated as a present. The truck pulling the float had happy birthday signs in the bed of the truck. Balloons were tied to the truck and the float. Staff members dressed as favorite book characters. Characters represented were Abraham Lincoln, Charlie Brown, Angelina Ballerina, Winnie the Pooh, Waldo, Tiger Lily, a fairy godmother, The

Cat in the Hat, The Shopaholic, a Goldy Bear Baker, Princess Mia, Little Red Riding Hood, Julia Ward Howe, Professor McGonagall, and a Shrewsbury Library staff member. The Library's Outreach Van was decorated as 'The Little Engine That Could' with the driver and a passenger dressed as conductors. Calendars for 2004 with the byline 'Our Service is Always in Season' and the Library's telephone number and the town's and C/W MARS' websites on it were passed out to the public along the parade route.

After working at the Library for almost eighteen year Bernadine Piecz retired at the end of April. Bernadine worked part-time for five years and full time for the remaining years. She worked principally in the Technical Services area of the Library adding items to the collection for circulation and reference use. For many years she took and transcribed the minutes of the Library Board of Trustees. We wish Bernadine much happiness as she enjoys traveling and spending time with her grandchildren.

In September, Elizabeth Osborn, former Director of the Shrewsbury Public Library passed away. Betty worked for the Library for eighteen years. She was the Director from 1964 until her retirement in 1977. Many of Betty's former employees and colleagues joined together to plant a beautiful sugar maple in front of the Library in her memory.