

Holmes Public Library

Director's Report

April 21, 2015

Since the March trustees' meeting, the library has been as busy as usual. On April 8, we held an evening poetry program with Faye George reading from her new collection. Sponsored by the Friends, the reading was attended by sixteen people, who braved a nasty cold rain to come.

The Children's Book Club for grades 3-5 has taken off like a rocket this year, and the April meeting was attended by 17 children, who all participated in activities led by Miss Marie while discussing the book *Masterpiece* by Elise Broach. Our three adult book clubs, the Genealogy Club, and Word Game Night continue to meet monthly, and although they may not be hitting the same numbers as the Children's Book Club and Infant Lapsit, they have their faithful fans, as well!

I am compiling a list of people to ask to serve on the library's Strategic Planning Committee by attending two meetings, and have received some suggestions from the staff, as well. I had hoped to get this process started this month, but realized the time frame coincided with Town Meeting too closely to ask people to attend two additional evening meetings, so we will plan to launch the strategic planning process in September, with invitations to the committee to go out in August.

Library Legislative Day at the State House was held on Wednesday, April 1. I was able to meet with Rep. Tom Calter's aide Betty DeBenedictis and also to talk briefly with Rep. Calter. Senator Kennedy was at a Ways and Means Committee meeting, but I spoke with his aide. Library advocates were urged to tell legislators their library stories and to remind legislators that "state aid to libraries is local aid", and it is very much needed by libraries as an incentive for local municipalities to continue to fund local libraries. Since Legislative Day, cuts have been made to budget line items related to libraries. Thank you to all who were able to contact legislators last week to ask them to sign on to the budget amendments that have been filed! Rep. Calter was one of the first to sign on to the amendments, I was told today.

Susan, Jean, and I attended a meeting of the Southeastern Mass. Reader's Advisory Roundtable on Wednesday, April 15, at the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy. This is a year-long study of the mystery genre designed to help us improve our reader's advisory skills by familiarizing ourselves with different types of mysteries and helping readers find books of the type they like. This is part of the \$7,700 LSTA Customer Experience in a Digital Age grant we received. LSTA funds are federal funds administered by the Board of Library Commissioners. This grant also allowed us to purchase access to NoveList Plus and NoveList K-8 Plus for a year. These are databases of books and authors that staff and patrons can use to find read-alikes or books in their favorite genres (e.g. historical fiction, mystery, science fiction, etc.). If you would like to try it from home, click on the link to NoveList on our Web site at <http://holmespubliclibrary.org>. Amy, Jean, and I have also been working on an e-component to our monthly New Books list, so Halifax library patrons can receive an email alerting them to some of the popular new books available at the library. This will draw on our new BookLetters service, which was also funded for a year through the LSTA grant.