

## \* J. V. FLETCHER LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

FY 2015 was notable for the J. V. Fletcher Library's launch of new initiatives, collections and services to the Westford public, including:

- Streaming Video from *Overdrive*
- *Overdrive Listen* for eAudiobooks
- The Great Courses Lecture Series on Books on CD
- Chinese Language downloadable eBooks
- Orion Starblast 4.5" Circulating Telescope [given by the Aldrich Astronomical Society, Inc., Materion Barr Precision Optics, and UPS ]
- New Friends-funded Museum Passes — Harvard Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art, Concord Museum, Historic New England, and Salem Witch Museum

Ellen Rainville, Library  
Director



### **Planning and Design Grant:**

In June 2014 the J. V. Fletcher Library was one of twenty Massachusetts libraries to receive a \$50,000 two-to-one matching Planning and Design Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. With both Town Meeting and Library Trust Funds, the Library is half-way through the two-year grant to study the feasibility of a potential renovation/addition to the library facility. Mid-year a Library Facility Needs Committee was convened comprised of one-half Permanent Town Building Committee members, and one-half Library Trustees and Library Director. The Library thanks the Permanent Town Building Committee for their expertise and assistance during the grant application process, during the recent selection of the Owner's Project Manager and Architect/Designer and over the remaining grant year and any resulting project. Thanks also is extended to the Engineering Department which has been so supportive with maps, surveys and plans.

"The Great Courses audiobooks are so valuable. I feel like I'm making the best use of my daily 2.5 hour commute." *Library Suggestion Book*

### **Programs:**

New Youth Services programming in FY 2015 included:

- Blue Star Planetarium
- Science Magic with the Museum of Science
- Whalemobile
- Library Book Clubs K-8
- SNAP Circuits and iROBOT [STEM programs]
- Diwali for Teens & Tweens
- Random Fandom, Zentangle and Manga
- Drop-in LEGO and GIANT Games
- Page Turning Pals
- Project Runway for Teens & Tweens
- Minecraft
- Peeps Dioramas for Teens & Tweens
- Bubbleology
- Make and Take, and Rainbow Loom Band-It programs
- Meet the Magic of Harry Potter Day

Adult programming offered the monthly *Library Book Discussion Group*, the quarterly *Cook Book Club* and the weekly *Westford Job Seekers Network* hosting motivational and practical sessions to job seekers. Additionally FY 2015 brought:

- “It’s Not About the Hike”
- Creating and Edible Still Life for Your Holiday Buffet
- The Reluctant Empath
- The Map Thief with author, Michael Blanding
- Sounds of the Season with the Merrimack Valley Chorus
- iPad Basics (morning and afternoon session)
- MIT Haystack Observatory Lecture
- An Evening About Afghanistan with Professor Bruce Browne
- Pastel Paint Like the Masters: Georgia O’Keefe’s Poppies
- Musical Duo —Two Old Friends
- Isabella Stewart Gardner
- Gravestone Girls: A Virtual Tour of Westford’s Cemeteries
- Internet Privacy with Alison Macrina from the Library Freedom Project
- An Evening in India with Professor Bruce C. Browne



The three Summer Reading Programs (child, tween and adult) netted over 2,400 registrants from June 2014 through August 2014, with thousands of program attendees. The 2014 state-wide reading themes were: *Fizz, Boom, Read* (Juvenile); *Spark a Reaction* (Tween/Teen) and, *Literary Elements* (Adult). The busiest season of the Library year with our highest circulation ever — this program-packed summer read-fest was funded by the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. and the Massachusetts Library System.

### **Gift- and Grant-Funded Initiatives and Awards:**

Again in FY 2015, the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library Inc. supplemented the materials budget with more than \$30,000 in funds, and one-half of the library’s MVLC annual membership was paid with State Aid to Public Libraries funds. The library thanks those gracious donors who gave to the Friends’ fall 2014 “*The Future is Now!*” campaign to raise and supplement Town funds for new media and technology purchases. The Friends are also thanked for funding multiple new museum passes (see above), all library programming, the annual Wishlist and for ALL the ways their support expands and enhances daily library service.

We thank the Westford Garden Club for their on-going gift of passes to the popular *Tower Hill Botanic Garden* facility in Boylston and for the seasonal beautification of the library’s Main Street entrance.

The Library’s “Every Hero Has a Story (Harry Potter)” entry in the May Apple Blossom Parade won the “Coveted Roudenbowl” for best float!

During a hard winter, an additional “Frozen” program was funded by a donation from generous “Feastivities Catering”! The Library was awarded a \$2,000 FAIR (Family



Adventures in Reading) Preteen Book Club Grant from Massachusetts Humanities, with book-based programming in the early Fall. The Library won an MLA PR First Place Award for its *Community Reads* entry from the Massachusetts Library Association!

### **Administrative, Personnel and Volunteer News:**

The Library thanks all staff here for their flexibility, creativity, originality and teamwork, as library programming, circulation and attendance increased, despite having to hold the line on costs. We thank here the many volunteers – both adult and juvenile – who assist us in these efforts. We also note the *Link to Literacy* program, under coordinator/volunteer Elizabeth Elliott, which pairs tutors and pupils in English as a Second Language and basic literacy tutoring.

“The Staff at the Library is superlative and always willing to help.”  
*A Library Patron*

### **Professional Development and Town Civic Activity:**

Library staff continued to be active in various professional organizations, with director Ellen Rainville serving as MVLC Assistant Treasurer, and presenting on Facility Management at the annual Massachusetts Library Association conference in Worcester. Staff Professional Development included participation in the following professional associations or activities, and the Board of Library Trustees is here thanked for their sponsorship of professional memberships, development and activity:

- Massachusetts Library Trustee Association/ Massachusetts Friends of Libraries
- MLA (Massachusetts Library Association)
- MLS (Massachusetts Library System)
- MSLA (Massachusetts School Library Association)
- Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC)
- MassLNC
- NELA (New England Library Association)
- Teen Summit
- ALA (American Library Association)
- YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association)
- Staff Development Training on Intellectual Freedom; Emergency Procedures



### **Planning for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library:**

The \$20,000 received at the March 2012 Annual Town Meeting as matching funds for the competitive *Planning and Design Grant* was supplemented by an additional \$35,000 at March 2015 Annual Town Meeting. The *Feasibility Study* being conducted under this grant should poise the town for the next competitive matching grant round for the Commonwealth’s *Public Library Construction Project* due January 2017. While completely cognizant of the current fiscal climate, the Board of Library Trustees and library administration are committed to planning for 21<sup>st</sup> century library services for Westford residents in a facility designed for those services. The design now being developed will offer space to put the “public” in our public library. Receipt of the *Planning and Design Grant* marked the beginning of what could be a decade-long expansion process, with the most recent renovation now twenty-seven years old.

## Facility Maintenance:

In FY 2015 the Library tackled systems and maintenance issues within the facility:

- Increased COMCAST speed & added IT port
- Grant-funded energy-efficient Parking Lot Lights
- New Hot Water Heater & mechanical room drain
- New Heat Detectors (16)
- Heat Pump #5 repaired
- New snow blower purchased
- Roof shoveling, icfall removal, copper downspout, and flat roof repairs necessitated by the punishing winter
- Repaired Chiller shaft and motor
- Replaced public toilets with low-flow units installed by Water Department
- Maintenance and safety issues addressed as identified in MIIA Insurance walkthroughs
- Funded via the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. Wishlist: a new Meeting Room lectern



## Library Staffing FY 2015:

**Director** — Ellen D. Rainville

**Asst. Director** — India Nolen

### Senior Librarians:

Head of Circulation — Holly Sheridan-Pritchard

Head of Youth Services — Nancy Boutet

Head of Reference & Information Services— Kristina Leedberg

Automation/Systems/Head of Technical Services— Dina Kanabar

### Staff Librarians:

ILL/Serials Librarian — Sarah Regan

Young Adult Specialist/Asst. Youth Services— Kira McGann

Local History/Genealogist — Virginia Moore

Head Cataloger — Alla Brovina

Substitute — Bharti Joshi

### Library Associates:

Cataloger/Data Entry — Pat Matheson (*retired 11/14/2014*); Charles Schweppe

Fine Arts/AV Librarian/Acquisitions/Fund Accounting — Carol McCahon

Juvenile Reference/Program Assistants — Ellen Apicco; Jacki Dibble; Seana Rabbito

Circulation and Reader's Advisory — Jean Butler; Laura Fowler; Mayleen Kelley;

Judy Madsen; Paula McWilliams; Deborah Santoro; Chantale Shepard

Substitute — Amy Spadano

### Library Technicians:

Order and Acquisition Receiving — Nancy Ellis Barrett

Inter-Library Loan Support — Lauren Evans; David Wesson

Substitute — Mary Boutet

**Maintenance Worker I** — Dennis Mulligan

**Maintenance Worker II** — Evelyn Desharnais (*retired 4/9/2015*); Carole Climo

**Office Manager** — Zoe Daniel

**Library Pages (4)**

**Volunteers (31)**

*This Annual Report is dedicated to retiring staff members Patricia Matheson and Evelyn Desharnais in recognition of their combined fifty years of dedicated service to the J. V. Fletcher Library and the Town of Westford.*