

J. V. FLETCHER LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

Ellen Rainville, Library
Director

FY 2018 continued the J. V. Fletcher Library's launch of new initiatives, collections, services, technology and expanded programs to the public, including:

- Digitization of the *Jubb Brothers Civil War Letters* (courtesy of the Boston Public Library)
- Digitization of *The Rustic* (Westford paper from 1885) and the *Westford Eagle* (1970-73)
- New network platforms, public computers, laptops, iPads and WiFi Access points
- Story Walk at the Community Garden
- L.S.T.A. Readers Advisory Grant from the MBLC

Massachusetts Public Library Construction Project Grant:

Since 2011, Library staff, the Library Facility Needs Committee, and the Library Trustees Board have worked to poise the municipality for a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Massachusetts *Public Library Construction Project Grant* application which was submitted in 2017.



The Town of Westford is now waitlisted [at number 10], in line for \$7,851,944 million in grant funds. This award rests upon state funding and future Town votes in favor of proceeding with this project (slated for potentially 2021 or 2022). The future design devotes almost all new space to the public and to the residents who use it most. The Library design:

- More than doubles the space for children
- Triples the space for young adults and emerging adults
- Doubles public meeting spaces
- Centralizes Circulation functions
- Increases silent, tutorial and collaborative study options
- Offers improved technology & spaces to accommodate future trends and uses
- Offers improved traffic flow & increased parking
- Is fully handicapped-accessible and meets current fire, safety and building codes

"Readers so do ROCK and it is you who lead and inspire!"
Facebook Compliment

Youth Programs:

Exciting and new Youth Services programming in FY 2018 included:

- Library Miniature Golf (funded by the KDK Foundation in memory of Kurt Kelly)
- Library Book Clubs K-6 and Middle School
- SNAP Circuits, OZOBOTS and iROBOT [STEM programs]
- Drop-in LEGO and GIANT Games
- Make and Take Mondays
- Chinese New Year Lion's Dance
- Diwali drop-in program
- Ramadan drop-in program
- Teen and Tween Fun Food Challenge and Peeps Diorama



- Teen and Tween Taste Test Challenge
- Teen and Tween Star Wars, Minecraft, and Stop Motion Animation
- Pet a Bunny-4H Rabbit and Cavy Club Meet and Greet
- Harry Potter Birthday Party on July 31!

Adult programming offered the monthly *Library Book Discussion Group*, the *Cookbook Book Club*, the *Monday Mystery Book Club*, weekly *English Conversation Circle*, *Adult Coloring Party*, *Knitting Group* and the *Westford Job Seekers Network* hosting free weekly motivational and practical sessions to job seekers. Adult programs included:

- 📖 History of Howard Johnson's
- 📖 Indian Literature Series
- 📖 New England's General Stores
- 📖 The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease
- 📖 Celtic Holiday Celebration: Holiday Harp Music
- 📖 Create a Book Purse
- 📖 The Magic of the Snowy Owl
- 📖 Alice Paul and the Fight for Women's Rights
- 📖 Discover the Birds of Costa Rica
- 📖 Life Cycle Gardening
- 📖 Pastel Paint: Monet, Van Gogh, O'Keefe, Sailboats

"Yahoo for Ukulele Strum Along!"
Library Suggestion Book

The three Summer Reading Programs (child, tween and adult) netted 2,313 registrants from June 2017 through August 2017, with thousands of program attendees. The 2017 state-wide reading themes were: *Reading is Awesome!* (Juvenile); *Build a Better World* (Tween/Teen) and, *Build a Better World* (Adult). This program-packed summer read-fest is the engine for our busiest season of the year and was funded by the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library, Inc. and the Massachusetts Library System.

Gift- and Grant-Funded Initiatives and Awards:

In FY2018, the Friends of the J. V. Fletcher Library Inc. provided almost \$20,000 in book and media funds, and one-half of the Library's MVLC annual membership was paid from the State Aid to Public Libraries account. The Library thanks those gracious donors who gave to the Friends' fall 2017 "*BINGE WORTHY BEST!*" campaign to fund raise and to supplement Town funds for new media and technology purchases. The Friends are also thanked for funding multiple museum passes, 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 underwriting the gift of passes to the *Tower Hill Botanic Garden* facility in Boylston and for improving the Library's Main Street entrance with such beautiful and bountiful plantings! The Library and families of Westford thank the KDK Foundation (Kurt Kelly Hockey Memorial Fund) for funding the extremely-popular mid-winter 9-Hole Mini-Golf Tournament in the Library, as well as three other fun-filled programs! The Library won First Place in the *Westford Festival of Trees* for its LEGO-constructed (plastic) evergreen and the Coveted Roudenbowl for its *Readers Rock Float* in the Apple Blossom Parade!

We again thank the Community Preservation Commission for additional funds to launch the preservation of the historic Greek Revival windows in the Mary Atwood Hall (third floor). The support of this grant application will mean the restoration of an historic original feature of the 1895 Library façade on the Town Common.

L.S.T.A. Readers Advisory Grant Award:

The J. V. Fletcher Library was the recipient of a \$10,000 Readers' Advisory Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant to ensure that Library staff receives the training and education to provide consistent and exemplary Readers' Advisory Services to library patrons. Via presenters' workshops, training, activities and Book Discussion Groups over the course of a year, staff worked to develop confidence and Readers' Advisory skill-sets in fulfilling "high touch" service responses for our patrons. A critical by-product of this grant will be patron satisfaction with a Library environment in which book discussions, suggestions and recommendations proliferate and are valued. New book kits and an additional new Book Club are already by-products of this year-long grant.



A highlight of the year — in addition to staff attending the *Concord Book Festival*, the *Boston Book Festival*, the *Massachusetts Library Association Conference* and numerous



Book Discussion and Staff Development events — was the *Book Club Tea* the library hosted for all Westford Book Clubs on April 29, 2018. This grant award is made possible with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Administrative, Personnel and Volunteer News:

The Library thanks all staff for their enthusiasm and customer service, as Library programming, circulation and attendance continued to expand. We also thank here the many volunteers – both adult and juvenile – who assist us and particularly 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. Additionally, we thank Carol Morse for running the weekly *English Conversation Circle* which provides real-life practice in English for attendees of all backgrounds.

Facility Maintenance:

In FY 2018 the Library tackled the following maintenance issues within the facility:

- Elevator pit waterproofing (under warranty)
- Emergency heating repairs to avoid frozen pipes and to ring in the (sub-zero) New Year!



Professional Development and Town Civic Activity:

Library staff continued to be active in various professional organizations, with Director Ellen Rainville serving as MVLC Treasurer and on the MLA Executive Board. The Board of Library Trustees is here thanked for their sponsorship of professional memberships, development and activity in the following organizations which results in an improved library experience for the Westford public:

- ALA (American Library Association)
- MLA (Massachusetts Library Association)
- MSLA (Massachusetts School Library Association)
- MVLC (Merrimack Valley Library Consortium)
- NELA (New England Library Association)
- NOBS (North of Boston Youth Services)
- TEEN Summit
- PLA (Public Library Association)
- YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association)
- School Library Journal Day of Dialog

“Way to go, JV Fletcher Library- you are amazing!” *Facebook Compliment*

Library Staffing FY 2018:

Director — Ellen D. Rainville

Asst. Director — India Nolen (*resigned 10/6/17*); Kristina Leedberg

Senior Librarians:

Head of Youth Services — Nancy Boutet

Systems/Head of Technical Services — Dina Kanabar

Head of Reference & Information Services — Sarah Regan

Head of Circulation — Holly Sheridan-Pritchard

Staff Librarians:

ILL/Serials Librarian — Charles Schweppe

Young Adult Specialist — Kira McGann

Local History/Genealogist — Virginia Moore

Head Cataloger — Alla Brovina

Substitute — Sandy Kelly

Library Associates:

Cataloger/Data Entry — Lauren Evans

Fine Arts Librarian/Acquisitions — Carol McCahon

Juvenile Reference/Program Assistants — Ellen Apicco; Jacki Dibble; Gwen Junghans

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

Judy Madsen; Paula McWilliams; Emily Merz; Deborah Santoro; Chantale Shepard

Substitute — Mary Boutet

Library Technicians:

Order and Acquisition Receiving — *Vacant*

Inter-Library Loan Support — Jeanne Millet; Marianne Logan (*resigned 1/12/18*);
Melissa Seldon

Maintenance Worker I — Robert Otto

Maintenance Worker II — Joseph Burke

Office Manager — Amy Spadano

Library Pages (4)

Volunteers (22)

