

## **REPORT OF THE WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

FY15 was another active year for The Wellesley Free Library (WFL) as it continued to strengthen its role as Wellesley's community gathering place and cultural destination for our citizens. WFL circulation and usage at both the main and branch libraries has continued to be strong. Attendance at free programs and classes has increased, and space at the main library continues to be in high demand. In the face of an increasingly tight budget, the efforts of our supporting organizations and the dedication of the library staff allows the WFL to continue to set and meet high goals for standards of service to the residents of Wellesley.

The Massachusetts Library System (MLS) bestowed the first ever "Stronger Together" Award upon the Wellesley Free Library for its contributions in strengthening library excellence in Massachusetts.

### **Budgeting**

The Library Trustees begin the budget process every year by an examination of the needs of the community based on statistics and other collected information available to them as well as goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. Within a relatively flat budget, the WFL has leveraged technology to meet basic patron demands and private funding to add enhancements expected by the residents of Wellesley.

### **Sources of Funding**

The Friends of the Wellesley Free Libraries continues to fund many of the programs at the Library as well as the museum pass program. The Centennial Fund, which moved under the umbrella of the WFL Foundation this year, supports the purchase of materials that enhance the collection of the Library; this includes specialized databases, eBooks, and streaming media. The Wellesley Free Library Foundation has a broad mission, supporting general enhancements to WFL offerings that enable the library to continue to meet community expectations, such as ESL classes, technology education, and the operations of the Branch libraries. Strategic support from the Wellesley Media Corporation continued to enhance the WFL, with a technology upgrade to the Wakelin Room, including wiring for cable broadcasting of programs and events.

### **Facilities**

In May, "Main Street," also known as the main circulation area, was given a fresh look when new carpet was installed. As part of this update, patron holds/reserved materials were moved out from behind the circulation desk, streamlining the checkout process. In a continued effort to improve the patron experience at the WFL, public computers were upgraded on schedule, a new small conference room was created, and new chairs replaced old in the Arnold Room.

### **Serving the Public**

In April, the Wellesley Free Library welcomed new Director, Jamie Jurgensen. Jamie's rich and diverse library experience and her history of professional accomplishment make her a valuable addition to the Wellesley Free Library and the community. She leads a staff of 64 full and part-time employees working to serve the public. The Library's expert staff was assisted in FY15 by 277 volunteers who

donated 11,247 hours to shelve books, teach in our ESL program and perform other important support activities.

### **Library Usage in FY15**

Total Main Library circulation was thriving as 743,337 were checked out. The circulation statistics reported above describe one piece of the picture in measuring library use. Other statistics of interest for FY15 are:

- 371,568 visits to the Main Library
- 13,226 visits to the Branch Libraries
- 110,256 reference questions answered by phone, email, and online
- 24,384 children attended 585 children's programs
- 7,637 people attended 635 general interest, teen programs and computer classes
- 731,947 visits were made to the Library' website  
[www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org](http://www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org)
- 25,701 electronic checkouts through Overdrive (a 68% increase over FY14)
- 17,733 Wellesley residents with library cards.

### **The Library's Collection**

In FY15 total library holdings are as follows:

- 243,446 books
- 66,894 eBooks
- 20,260 audio cassettes and CDs
- 19,995 DVDs

The library also offers access to 8035 audio titles in a downloadable format from the website, 254 magazines and 47 databases.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann-Mara Lanza  
Board of Library Trustees