

GLEASON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Gleason Public Library Mission Statement

Gleason Public Library provides materials, programs, services, technology, and space to support all ages in their endeavors to learn, to discover, to engage, and to connect with one another, the Carlisle community, and the wider world.

Annual Report

The Gleason Public Library could not function without its many volunteers and town organizations. Some of the types of volunteer library service are: middle and high school students doing community service, patrons leading monthly programs, community members assisting with programming and special projects, patrons presenting and sharing their expertise, town committee members giving time to improve the library building. Some of the local organizations who work in conjunction with the library are the Carlisle Garden Club, groups that co-sponsor guest speakers such as the Council on Aging and the Friends of the Council on Aging, the Carlisle Conservation Foundation, Susan Zielinski Natural Science Fund, and Carlisle Cultural Council. Not least among these the Friends of the Gleason Public Library without whom the library could not exist as it does. Carlisle is a town of volunteers who make a significant difference to your library.

Carlisle is also a town of readers. According to the Public Library Association most recent statistical information, the *2017 Public Library Data Report: Characteristics and Trends*, the average circulation/capita was 8.55 in 2016. The most recent data gathered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) reports that the average circulation in Massachusetts is 9.9/capita. In 2017, the Gleason Public Library was about 23 circulation/capita. This is more than double the state average or almost three times the national average.

The American Library Association's survey estimates that two-thirds (2/3) or about 66% of Americans have library cards or are registered users.* The percentage of registered users in Carlisle is over 95%.

Personnel: The GPL Board of Trustees welcomed Christine Stevens to the Board with the departure of Andrew Beal. As of July 2017, Steve Golson serves as Chair, Priscilla Stevens as Treasurer and Christine Stevens as Secretary. There are many new staff at the Gleason Public Library this year. With the departure of Christine Schonhart as director in May, Martha Feeney-Patten became the interim director. Under the guidance of the Trustees, Ms. Feeney-Patten stepped into all the normal duties of directorship, as well as assisting in the hiring of new staff and training staff on the new catalog system.

In just over a year, Gleason Public Library has added Director Abby Noland, Library Assistants Chelsea Dill, Andrea Dollen, and Emma McKenna, Children's Librarian Nicole Claire, and Page Marisa Ih. With the advent of all these changes, the Trustees made the decision to restructure some positions. The library now has four full time

positions: the Director, Assistant Director, Children's Librarian, and Children's and Teen Services Librarian. These changes improve the staff's ability to meet patrons' needs. With the retirement of Marty Seneta in late 2016 as Assistant Director and Head of Children's, the two aspects of her job were separated. Nicole Claire, formerly of the Upton Town Library, was hired as Children's Librarian to focus entirely on youth services, while Martha Feeney-Patten was promoted to the new position of Assistant Director/Head of Technology. Staff stepped up to cover two different absences for parental leave in 2017, including Nicole Claire taking responsibility for all children's and teen programs while Tahleen Shamlian was on leave.

Facilities: In May, the well pump was replaced due to breakdown. Our security system became unreliable in the summer and has been upgraded. Thanks to the Town of Carlisle's approval of the Long Term Capital Expenditures, the library has made repairs to the patron plumbing, the HVAC system, and installed new security lights. Due to nitrates in the water and other concerns, the heating in the library had become unreliable. After the 2016 study of issues with the HVAC system, WJS Mechanical was hired to begin implementing the study's recommendations. Improvements have already been seen this winter in the consistency of heating throughout the library, with more work planned.

Technology: In early 2017, the Gleason Public Library as a member of the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium chose to rejoin the SirsiDynix family and become a Symphony library on the Enterprise discovery system. The Symphony allows for a more integrated inclusion of e-books and other online resources; which patrons can now check out directly from the catalog. The staff were immersed in training for the new system. The library expanded their collection of "hot titles" to ensure that Carlisle patrons have access to the most in-demand materials.

One of the most significant requests of public libraries in 2017 has been technology training classes. In order to respond to this trend, your library acquired four new laptops for training classes and in-house use.

The library's largest acquisition this year is due to the Friends of the Gleason Public Library. The new photocopier with updated features allows patron and staff to scan in color and has staple-less stapling.

Saying Goodbye & New Beginnings: The library was sorry to see the following staff move on: Director Christine Schonhart, Joan Hoffman who retired after thirteen years, Seana Rabbito, and Kelly McMaster.

Program Highlights:

- Hosting community officials read to the children at the Grandparents' Day event (Sponsored by the Carlisle Cultural Program, Friends of the Gleason Public Library, Carlisle Body Shop, Rollins Insurance Agency, Friends of the Council on

- Aging, Barrett Sotheby's, Lincoln Tree and Landscape, Landscape Visions Corp., Concord Oil Company)
- Offering baby storytime and an American Sign Language (ASL) course for parents and their babies (Sponsored by the Friends of the Gleason Library)
 - Polar Express and the Pumpkin Spectacle (Sponsored by the Friends of the Gleason Library)
 - Providing an eclipse-viewer craft program (Sponsored by the Friends of the Gleason Library)
 - Saying goodbye to TAB (Teen Advisory Board) members and welcoming new members
 - Receiving a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council for an upcoming literary haunted house event
 - Hosting Marcella Pixley's reading of her new young adult book *Ready to Fall*
 - Completing the cataloging of the Town of Carlisle's Gettysburg Collection (Funding provided by the Carlisle Community Preservation Fund)
 - Reading Poetry Anew led by Mary Zoll meets monthly
 - Art at the Gleason receptions and shows (Sponsored by the Carlisle Art Committee and the Gleason Public Library Endowment)
 - Offering the Mystery Book Group
 - Presenting the *Ecological Pollinator Conservation* by Dr. Robert J. Gegear (Sponsored by the Carlisle Conservation Foundation and the Susan Zielinski Natural Science Fund)
 - Offering a three part series entitled *Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms* with Richard Travers (Sponsored by the Friends of Carlisle Council on Aging and Friends of Gleason Public Library)

Library Statistics

Hours Open per Week	January–June and September–December:	55
	July–August:	51
Physical Items owned by GPL:		64,970
Items provided by other libraries:		13,770
Items provided to other libraries:		24,101
Consortia, network and state-wide digital usage:		32,968
GPL material circulation:		89,068
Total Circulation		102,838
Number of Carlisle registered borrowers:		5,362
Number of visitors:		77,553
Number of programs/attendees:		200/4791
Number of storytime programs/attendees:		25/494
Summer Reading programs/attendees:		25/714
Number of times the Hollis Room was used:		319

Number of reference transactions:	3,333
Number of non-subsidized volunteers:	45
Number of Tax-Workers:	4

Circulation, program and holdings data is based on the FY17 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) as reported to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Library Staff

Director Abby Noland (Full-time)
 Assistant Director Martha Feeney-Patten (Full-time)
 Assistant to the Director Kathryn Untermeyer
 Children’s Librarian Nicole Claire (Full-time)
 Children’s and Teen Services Librarian Tahleen Shamlan (Full-time)
 Library Assistant II: Kay Edelberg, Janet Hentschel, Deena Scaperotta
 Library Assistants I: Chelsea Dill, Linda Dodge (substitute) Andrea Dollen, Leslie Kmiec, Emma McKenna, Kim Money, Shoba Ramapriya (substitute), Ellen Royalty
 Shelves: Marisa Ih, Sally Ryder
 Custodians: Dan Brainard, George Collins

Board of Trustees

Steve Golson, Chair
 Priscilla Stevens
 Andrew Beal (through June 2017)
 Christine Stevens (since July 2017)

* The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) statistics collects the number of "registered users," defined as "a library user who has applied for and received an identification number or card from the public library that has established conditions under which the user may borrow library materials or gain access to other library resources." But a note requires that the report should be for files that have been purged within the past three years.

Provided by Abby Noland, Library Director