

# Gleason Public Library

## **Gleason Public Library Mission Statement**

The 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.

## **General Services**

GPL maintained a wide-range of established services, including access to 49,000 locally-held books, audiobooks, music CDs, DVDs, magazines, and newspapers, 67,000 downloadable ebooks, e-audiobooks, and downloadable videos, and about three million items via membership in the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC). Circulation of digital downloads (ebooks, e-audiobooks, and downloadable videos) leaped by 38% over previous years and continues to rise. GPL also provided access to computers, printing, online research databases, and the Internet. In 2018, GPL added the following services and resources:

### New Collections/Services:

- Hoopla Digital - instant access to 500,000 books, audiobooks, music albums, and videos for download or streaming
- Wowbrary – weekly email alert of newly added items at GPL
- Downloadable magazines – a collection of 50 always-available e-magazine subscriptions was added to the MVLC Overdrive collection

### New Equipment/Technology:

- New public internet computers were purchased and installed, offering Windows 10 and Bluetooth connectivity
- Online credit card payment option
- Automated phone renewal service
- Upgraded networking equipment for improved staff connectivity

### New Museum Passes:

- Worcester Art Museum<sup>1</sup>
- Zoo New England<sup>1</sup>

## **Building & Grounds**

GPL is fortunate to be housed in a beautiful facility that is well used and well loved by the community. In 2018, regular maintenance and improvements included:

HVAC System: Continued repairs and maintenance to improve operations included the installation of a Filter Feeder, replacement of a hot water pump, and repairs to the boiler motor after a rodent damaged the system.

Exterior Grounds: A damaged section of sidewalk was replaced with paving stones, and after a winter storm in March, a fallen tree was removed and other damaged trees were pruned.

Automatic faucets: Automatic faucets were installed in the first-floor public restrooms to conserve water and improve cleanliness of restrooms.

Septic tank: Faulty sensors for the septic tank pump were replaced in February.

### **Love of the Written Word**

From story times for young children to book clubs for kids, adults and seniors, GPL fosters a love of reading for all ages. GPL was pleased to offer the following in 2018:

Story Times: Story times were offered for babies through children aged six. Over 40 sessions were attended by about 350 people. Noah's Ark Preschool visited GPL monthly for a story time session. Story times were led by Nicole Claire and Tahleen Shamlian.

Book Clubs: A variety of book discussion groups met regularly at the Library, including the Mysterians Book Club (led by library assistant Janet Hentschel) and the Community Book Club (led by volunteer Mary Zoll) for adults, and two book clubs for children in grades 1 through 4 (led by Nicole Claire and Tahleen Shamlian). A new youth book club, for tweens in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, was started in fall of 2018 by Tahleen Shamlian.

Poetry: GPL held its eighth Annual Poetry Contest<sup>1</sup> during National Poetry Month in April. The theme was "Space." The winners were Julia McIlhenny, Sally Hutchinson, Thalia Westland, and Rick Blum. Winning poets were invited to recite their poems at a special poetry reception. The "Reading Poetry Anew" group met monthly to read and discuss poetry, led by Mary Zoll.

### **Children's Events & Services**

In addition to regular story times, crafts, book discussions, and family movies, the Children's Department offered a variety of special events in 2018. All events were coordinated by Nicole Claire, with assistance from Tahleen Shamlian, unless otherwise noted.

Summer Reading: 145 children signed up for this year's program, themed "Libraries Rock!", and total participation and attendance at events for all ages was over 600. Reading incentives included a special Book Bingo and Reading Raffle. Summer Reading included educational shows by the Little Red Wagon Theater Troupe<sup>1</sup>, Ed's Magical Flea Circus<sup>1</sup>, ScienceTellers<sup>3</sup>, and Dino-Adventures<sup>3</sup>, and musical performances by Bates & Tincknell<sup>6</sup>, Alastair Mook<sup>1</sup>, and Jeff Jam<sup>1</sup>. Craft workshops<sup>1</sup> included Rain Sticks, Guitar Cut-Outs, and Rock Marbling. For teens, there was a reading raffle with scratch tickets<sup>1</sup>, and for adults, there was a book bingo<sup>1</sup>.

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Spectacle<sup>1</sup>: More than 50 pumpkins were entered by students in grades K-4. The event featured spooky stories told by Tony Toledo, followed by a pumpkin contest.

Polar Express Story Time & Party<sup>1</sup>: In December the Library hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Polar Express Story Time. 82 pajama-clad participants and their families listened to a reading of the book, crafted a reindeer out of craft sticks, posed in a photo booth, and enjoyed seasonal refreshments.

Literary Haunted House<sup>1,6</sup>: On Halloween, over 700 trick-or-treaters enjoyed Halloween fun with a literary twist, including book-themed crafts, a Great Pumpkin Patch photobooth, themed vignettes, and bobbing for donuts.

Special Events: Special events included several baby sign language classes with Sheryl White of Baby Kneads<sup>1</sup>, Mantis Boxing Martial Arts, Magic for Muggles Wizarding Workshop<sup>1</sup>, Ukelele Storytime and Sing to Your Baby with Julie Stepanek<sup>1</sup>, Lil Puppets with Mr. Vinny<sup>1</sup>, Origami with Lisa Corfman<sup>1</sup>, and Gingerbread Houses<sup>1</sup>.

### **Teen Events & Services**

GPL offered a variety of regularly scheduled and special events for Carlisle teens and tweens. Teen and tween events were coordinated by Tahleen Shamlian, with assistance from Nicole Claire.

TAB<sup>1</sup>: The Teen Advisory Board meets monthly to gather input from local high school students about what they want to see in the Library. The group has helped by volunteering at events such as the Pumpkin Spectacle, Summer Reading, and the Polar Express Party. The Teens also provided valuable advice on collections and programs most appealing to a teen audience.

Special Events<sup>1</sup>: Special events included a video game design workshop, “Viewing Graffiti Through the Art of Keith Haring”, “Henna Alchemy”, and an author talk by former GPL librarian Jennifer Petro-Roy.

Crafternoons<sup>1</sup>: A variety of craft workshops were provided after school once each month, including Fluffy Slime, Suncatchers, and Snowglobes.

Early Release Movies<sup>1</sup>: Each month on the Carlisle School’s early release day, GPL screened a movie for students in grades 5-8.

### **Adult Programs & Events**

GPL offered a wide-variety of educational and entertainment events for adults throughout the year. Adult events were coordinated by Martha Feeney-Patten and Abigail Noland with assistance from the Council on Aging, local organizations, and a variety of volunteers.

Art at the Gleason<sup>1</sup>: As part of its mission to provide for the cultural needs of Carlisle’s citizens, GPL offers space for art exhibits. These exhibits are curated entirely by volunteers. There were 4 shows in 2018:

- Recent works by Maris Platais, Painter & Amy Fennick, Ceramic Artist (January-March)
- Four Part Harmony: works by Brenda Cirioni, Louise Hara, Mollie McPhee, and Aaron Slater (April-May)
- Carlisle School Student Art Exhibit, Featuring works by Grade 2 and Grade 3 students, and select middle school students, and Featured upstairs: Photography by Cristine Van Dyke (June-September)
- Something About Food: Ceramics by Doug Hansel and Photographs by Catrine Kelty: Photographs (October-December)

After-hours Friday evening receptions, featuring live music, wine, and snacks, were held for the spring and fall exhibits, with a total of 175 people attending.

Community Conversations<sup>2</sup>: Community Conversations were held monthly during the school year and featured a variety of topics and local speakers. 2018 topics included: computer basics and maintenance, senior safety with DA Marian Ryan, brain-healthy cooking for one, estate planning, and managing the circle of life. For several months a support group for families dealing with mental illness met at the library monthly as well.

Summer Reading<sup>1</sup>: For the fifth year, GPL offered a special Book Bingo reading challenge for adults. Participants were encouraged to read books in a variety of genres to enter a raffle for a \$50 restaurant gift certificate.

Cultural Programs: Educator and artist Jane Blair returned to present a three-part lecture series on art<sup>1,2</sup>; subjects included Women Artists 1 & 2 and Portraits in Art. In June, Greg Maichack led a pastel painting workshop on Monet's water lilies<sup>6</sup>. In the fall, cultural and educational lectures<sup>1,2</sup> included "America by the Book" with Gary Hylander, "Eastern Religions" with Jason Giannetti, and "The Great American Songbook" and "Leonard Bernstein" with Richard Travers.

Nature & Science Programs: Talks related to science and nature included "Ecological Pollinator Conservation" with Robert Gegear<sup>3,5</sup>; "Design Lessons from Great British Gardens"<sup>1,4</sup>; a talk on Wildlife Cameras with local resident Judy Asarkof<sup>1,5</sup>; "Freshwater Mussels"<sup>1,5</sup>; and "Hiking the Bay Circuit Trail: A Video Journal"<sup>1,5</sup>.

Health & Wellness Programs: GPL partnered with the Carlisle Council on Aging to offer a variety of health and wellness programs in 2018<sup>1,2</sup>, including "Seven Steps to Managing Your Memory" with Dr. Andrew Budson, and "Your Eyes and How to Care for them as you age" with Dr. Ann Burnham.

Technology Help: Workshops were offered on ebooks, music downloads, and the new Hoopla download service, led by Martha Feeney-Patten. Jill Weintraub of Concord-Carlisle Adult & Community Education led a workshop on "Technology/Life Balance for Families." Residents also sought one-on-one technology assistance from reference librarians throughout the year.

### **Stewarding Carlisle's History**

Historic Collections Curation: In 2018, GPL received a three-year grant from the Manton Foundation funding a Historical Curation Project. The results of this project will be the preservation, cataloging, and ability to properly view of hundreds of historical documents and artifacts for future generations, including the GPL's collection of Gettysburg artifacts and other historical artifacts and documents related to the history of Carlisle. Reference librarian Janet Hentschel was hired as curator for this project.

Expanded genealogy offerings: in February, local resident Claire Smith began teaching a monthly class on various topics related to genealogy research, and several books were purchased for a new genealogy shelf in the reference section.

Carlisle Mosquito digitization: GPL tax workers and volunteers took on the project of digitizing back issues of the Carlisle Mosquito for preservation and public access on the Mosquito website. Over 7000 pages from the 1980s and 1990s have been scanned so far.

Carlisle Poppy Project: GPL provided a meeting space and collection site for the creation of thousands of handmade poppies for an installation in the town center in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I.

### **Saying Goodbye and New Beginnings**

The library was sorry to see the following staff move on: Library Director Abby Noland, who resigned in late June; and library assistants Chelsea Dill and Mary Boutet. Library Assistant Leslie Kmiec retired from her regular hours but remains on-call as a substitute.

Assistant Director/Head of Technology Martha Feeney-Patten served as interim director following Abby Noland's departure. She was hired as director permanently on August 14, 2018. Jennifer Pike started as the new assistant director in November.

### **Support & Collaboration**

GPL could not offer the range and quality of services we do without ongoing support from the community as a whole. The Library staff is greatly indebted to the following:

Friends of the Library: FOGPL continue to support GPL by providing funds for special events and services. Donations from 231 members supported a variety of museum passes, many special events, and technology enhancements. Journalist Dan Kennedy was invited to speak at the Annual Meeting in November on "The Future of the Free Press."

Volunteers & Senior Tax Program: Over 40 volunteers donated their time and energy in 2018. Volunteerism and the involvement of Senior Tax Workers keep GPL rolling by helping with shelving, cleaning, displays, programs, landscaping, marketing, and completion of special projects. Additionally, the Library Trustees and other committees and groups, including the Art at the Gleason Curators, donate countless hours of their time to keep GPL operating.

## Library Statistics\*

Hours open per week	
January—June and September—December:	55
July—August:	51
Items owned by GPL (physical):	49,924
Items owned (downloadable):	67,445
Items provided by other libraries:	14,408
Items provided to other libraries:	24,241
Carlisle patrons:	5,478
Total circulation:	79,284
Digital circulation:	7,212
Number of visitors:	74,085
Number of reference transactions:	4,391
Meeting room uses by public:	370
Public computer sessions / wifi sessions:	4680 / 34,229
Number of programs / attendees:	257 / 5,698

## Library Staff

Director (July-December): Martha Feeney-Patten  
Assistant Director/Head of Technology: Jennifer Pike  
Children's Librarian: Nicole Claire  
Teen and Children's/Reference Librarian: Tahleen Shamlian  
Reference and Special Collections Librarian: Janet Hentschel  
Reference Librarian: Kay Edelberg  
Head of Circulation: Deena Scaperotta  
Library Assistants: Jenn Buliszak, Linda Dodge (substitute), Andrea Dollen, Leslie Kmiec (substitute), Emma McKenna, Kim Money Priddy, Shoba Ramapriya (substitute), Ellen Royalty  
Assistant to the Director: Kathryn Untermeyer  
Custodians: Dan Brainard, George Collins, Vincent Carfagno  
Library Pages: Sally Duscha, Marissa Ih

## Board of Trustees

Priscilla Stevens, Chair	Term expires 2019
Steven Golson, Treasurer	Term expires 2020
Christine Stevens, Secretary	Term expires 2021

Submitted by Martha Feeney-Patten, Library Director.

\*Circulation and Holdings data is based on FY2018 (July 2017-June 2018) as reported to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Endnotes denote sponsorship/co-sponsorship by the following organizations:

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| <sup>1</sup> Friends of the Gleason Public Library | <sup>2</sup> Friends of the Carlisle Council on Aging |
| <sup>3</sup> Susan Zielinski Natural Science Fund  | <sup>4</sup> Carlisle Garden Club                     |
| <sup>5</sup> Carlisle Conservation Foundation      | <sup>6</sup> Carlisle Cultural Council                |