

EASTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Easton Public Library experienced another year of growth and change. The use of the Library continued to grow and the number of items circulated exceeded all expectations. The people of Easton use their Library and their Library provides them with a sense of community.

The beginning of this fiscal year began on a sad note. In August, Ms. Gayle Bogel, the Library's Assistant Director/Children's Librarian, resigned. She accepted the position of Media Specialist at Samuel Staples Elementary School, a job with a significantly higher salary and better benefits than the Library can afford. Ms. Bogel is a very fine librarian and the town is fortunate that she is still serving its precious children. In December, Ms. Deborah White resigned her position as Part-time Children's Programming Assistant. She accepted a full-time position at the Pequot Library as Children's Librarian with a starting salary that is higher than Easton's rate for Library Assistant Director/Children's Librarian. While deeply saddened by the loss of these two fine employees, the Board of Trustees and the Library staff wish them well. Regrettably, with the loss of the children's staff, children's programming was brought to a complete halt.

In February 2004, Ms. Mary Jo Scala joined the Library's staff as Assistant Director/Children's Librarian. Ms. Scala brings many years experience working in Long Island public and school libraries to her position here in Easton. Pre-school, elementary and middle school programs were reinstated, on a limited basis, in May 2004, to the delight of our young patrons. Ms. Scala successfully led the very popular 2004 Summer Reading Program, *Another Super Summer*. Four hundred and eight young "super" readers joined the reading program and read 6,333 books in six weeks. In conjunction with the *Another Super Summer* program, the Library hosted eight special events. These programs, which included comic book experts, bubble magic and book discussions, engaged 549 children in the world of books.

The Library's Community Room is a hub of activity and as such, adds to the quality of life in Easton. The space is used by individuals, civic groups, social agencies and Town Hall departments for meetings and events. On average, the space is used by thirty-one non-library related groups per month. From boy scouts to Congressmen, the Library staff does its best to accommodate all those who choose the Community Room as their gathering place.

The Library serves all of Easton's citizens—from babes in arms to senior citizens. During FY 2003-04, the Library circulated 139,337 items. That number translates to each of Easton's residents borrowing 9 books/print items, 7 Videocassettes/DVD and/or 1.4 CD's/books on tape. These statistics indicate that Eastonites use their Library and that the Library is responsive to their needs.

The Friends of the Library continue to offer its wholehearted support to the Library through its monetary donations for special needs, its creation of excellent programs, and its advocacy on the Library's behalf. Indeed, the Annual Family Fun Night sponsored by

the Friends during National Library Week has joined their Story Book Parade as a social “must” for Easton’s children and parents.

After a period of regrouping, the Library regained its momentum, circulation continued to rise and 74,431 people crossed its threshold. Programs were greeted enthusiastically and books were discussed passionately. Special thanks are due to all those who have donated materials, time and energy to the Library and to the Library staff who continue to make the Library a warm a friendly place to visit. Indeed, the Library looks forward to serving the informational, recreational and cultural needs of the community in the future.

Remember—find it @ your Library
www.eastonlibrary.org

2003-2004 Statistics

Circulation	139,337
Registered Borrowers	4,960
Total Materials	70,422

Respectfully submitted;
Bernadette Baldino, Library Director