

Easton Public Library

Change was the watchword at the Library during FY 2007-08. July ushered in the new year with a major technological change and June ended the year with a personnel change. During the ten months in between, the Library introduced some exciting new services, programs, and collaborations. At the same time, some long standing relationships came to an end.

On July 9, 2007, the Library went “live” with a new automated system. Bibliomation, Inc., a cooperative library service organization with forty-nine members throughout the state, now manages the Library’s circulation system and on-line public access catalog. With the rapid changes in technology and financial limitations, it is difficult for libraries, especially small libraries, to keep current. By becoming a member of this consortium, the Library is provided with database management, reduced pricing for computers, computer equipment, and software, training and technical support. Furthermore, the collections of all members are available for borrowing, interchange is quick and efficient, and our patrons enjoy a large inventory from which to select materials.

Once again, the Library’s Summer Reading Program propelled July into the Library’s busiest month, with 6,060 visitors and 8,314 items circulated. August was a close second with 5,993 visitors and 8,395 items circulated. In eight weeks, 417 children read 5,505 books and 97 adults joined in the fun and read 633 books! The high point of the summer’s activities was the Harry Potter Party, which began at midnight and celebrated the release of *Harry Potter and the Deadly Hallows*, the seventh and last book in J.K. Rowling’s’ outstanding series. One hundred and eleven Potter fans joined together in a dazzling display of wizardly fun.

The Friends of the Easton Public Library support the Summer Reading Program and many other Library activities. In September, the Friends added a new event to their calendar—an Arts and Crafts Show held on the Easton green. October’s Story Book Parade was its customary success, the November Book Sale attracted many bargain hunters and the 4th annual Holiday House Tour and Holiday Party brought a busy 2007 to an end. In April, during National Library Week, the Friends hosted the annual Fun Night bringing neighbors together at the Library for a literature based event. The Friends’ unwavering support and enthusiastic members make the Library a very special place to visit.

The Library continued its efforts to introduce the wonders of today’s technology to its patrons by adding wireless service, Playaways, and downloadable books to its resources during FY 2007-08. The Library is fully wireless for our users’ convenience. A laptop may be used in any corner of the Library and the Community Room. A Playway is a marvelous self contained, pre-recorded audio player. Audio books are now available in this format. About the size of a small box of matches, weighing only two ounces, a Playaway is capable of storing up to 80 hours of audio. Like an MP3 player, an audio book can be listened to via earphones or an external amplifier. Entire audio books can be downloaded from the internet to a PC or MP3 player with just a click of a mouse. Visit the Library’s web page, select “Downloadable Books” on the side bar and follow the instructions. A valid Easton Public Library card is needed to take advantage of this 21st century service.

The Library remains committed to collaborating with Easton schools, clubs and organizations. On December 14th, the Easton Historical Society, the Library and Helen Keller 6th graders joined in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Weston/Easton meteorite strike. The Historical Society buried a time capsule on Library property adjacent to the Community Room entrance. A marker will be placed on the site with instructions for future Eastonites to open it in 2208.

In 2002, the Library Director and a congregant of Easton's Congregational Church created the Library "Beyond Reading" book discussion group for adults. Meetings were ably facilitated by Rev. Nayiri Karjean. In January 2008, Rev. Karjean accepted a position in Texas. Nayiri's incisive questions and keen observations guided the group and made for lively, interesting discussion. Group members continue to exchange ideas and opinions based on classic and modern literature the third Thursday of each month. The "Beyond Reading" group welcomes new members.

A new partnership was born in January. The Library hosted Joel Barlow High School's first jewelry auction. Through the Art Department, the jewelry design class at Barlow became involved with teens on a Lakota reservation. As a part of class work, each Barlow student created one piece of silver jewelry to auction off. One hundred twenty people engaged in animated bidding wars for the beautiful, unique creations and the Lakota Reservation's high school art program from their enthusiasm and generosity.

In April, Mrs. Sharon Daniel, Children's Librarian/Assistant Director, resigned her position. Hired in 2004, Ms. Daniel formed many friendships with Easton's young parents and children. She was a definite asset to the Library. On a happier note, in May, the Library hired Ms. Lynn Zaffino, to fill the position of Young Adult/Children's Librarian which had been vacated by Kelley Giles.

On May 31st, the Library hosted a Dog Show to kick-off its first One Book program. A One Book Program is a community-wide initiative, which brings people together to share their thoughts and ideas regarding one specific book. Easton's One Book choice was *Marley and Me* by Jon Grogan. It was a perfect fit for the Town in that there are three versions of the story. The adult/young adult biography, a middle grade novel *Marley: A Dog Like No Other* and a picture book *Bad Dog Marley*, thus insuring that all Easton's citizens could be involved in this collective experience. The Dog Show was a howling success with 58 canine entries and 150 humans in attendance. Another fun-filled event is planned for Spring 2009 to bring One Book! One Town! Easton Reads! to an end.

The year ended with the Library, once again, hosting Helen Keller 7th grade students and their families at the culminating event of their year long study of diverse cultures, "Take a Walk in My Shoes". The students showcased their projects and everyone tasted delicious foods from the many nations studied. Also, in June, the Library added Lisa Forman to its staff. Ms. Forman, an experienced librarian, replaced Ms. Daniel as Children's Librarian/Assistant Director.

In FY 07-08, the Easton Public Library presented 196 programs with over 4,500 people in attendance, a true example of the Library as a learning and activity center for all to enjoy. While societal, technological and economic changes are occurring at breathtaking speed, the Library will continue to do its best to meet the informational, educational and recreational needs of its users.

Remember – Find It At Your Library! www.eastonlibrary.org

FY 2007-2008 Statistics

Circulation: 100,779

Registered Borrowers: 5,105

Total Materials: 70,415