

ANNUAL REPORT 2000
MOSES GREELEY PARKER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

We crossed the bridge into a new century with fear and trepidation but, to the amazement of all, there were no problems. The calendar changed, the century changed and the Library still stands on the historic corner of Bridge and Arlington Streets.

During 2000, the Library continued to grow in use and in patrons. We continue to shrink in floor space and ability to provide for a very demanding population. As the need for technology increases, our wiring and wall space prohibit any more computers and, though we have time limits and time reservations, the waiting lengthens. As the need for more research and reference work increases, our ability to provide study areas and quiet places to work is non-existent. As students increase their workload and reading needs under the shadow of the MCAS tests, our collection grows, our shelf space decreases. On the humorous side, we are creative. We found shelf space in the children's room by moving all the reference collection onto wall shelves in the closet. We now provided a space for reference and more shelf space for our materials.

The high point of the year 2000 was the exceptional summer reading program provided for the children of the Community. Under the wonderful leadership of Penny and Lauren, the children's room became "fish heaven", the window a small view of the underwater world, and the library staff was caught in the massive undertow. With well over one thousand children registered for the program, the denizens of the deep filled one room and soon took over the whole building. Each fish meant five more books were read and the giant sea turtle gave reference to either one hundred small books or twenty chapter books of one hundred pages each. We had so many children moving from fish to shark to jellyfish and to the ultimate sea turtle that it was not long before there were silver and gold edges indicating the second and third time around for some readers. This was certainly the summer of reading. The staff is looking forward to the coming summer with mixed feelings.

During this year the plans for the new library building were changed, re-worked and changed again. The more we examined, the better the plans. In the fall the State Library Board announced a construction grant round. Before we began the process of applying for State funds, the Trustees applied to the Finance Committee, the Permanent Building Committee, the Capital Planning Committee and, of course the Town Manager for their support for this project. During the Town Meeting in October the Community was also petitioned for their support. With the approval of everyone asked, we began the process. Though this report covers only until December 31, 2000 I will report that seven- one and one half inch wide binders containing the grant application were delivered to the State Board of Library Commissioners in Boston on January 17, 2001. We now wait.

This was a year that found no upheaval in the Library and for this, we, the Trustees, Staff and Library Director, are very grateful.

For the Board of Library Trustees
James Ace 2001
John Katin 2002
Mary Lee Matthews 2003

Respectfully submitted
Susan A. Schwarz, Director