

## Annual report 2003 Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library

The year 2003 began with extreme cold, a broken heating system and constant motion. From the day the contract was returned from the State and our first check arrived, no one involved with the Library stood still. The request for architects appeared in the Central Register and over 30 architectural firms asked for the proposal. Applications were examined, firms were interviewed and by March work began with the firm of J. Stewart Roberts. A combined decision by the Trustees and Permanent Building Committee led to a completely new and more efficient design for the New Library that fully integrated the 1922 building into the floor plan. The entrance is very visible and appears to welcome people into the building. As design work progressed on one front, other fronts opened.

A series of "Funraisers" sponsored by the M.G. Parker Library Enrichment Foundation began on a very hot day in August on the beautiful grounds of St. Francis Church. Instead of the usual walk a thons, the Foundation sponsored a "read-a-thon" and that day found people in the air-conditioned rooms reading and relaxing. At the same time, plans were well underway for one of the most extensive auctions I have ever seen. A small committee of dedicated people worked for months to organize and successfully complete a night full of fun, surprises and success. Our wonderful Auctioneer, Tom Keefe, encouraged great bidding and nearly \$30,000 was raised. Was this the end—definitely not! Under the direction of Dr. Linda Trouville, the first murder mystery featuring Dracut's own stars was held. The cast of characters, and they were characters, provided the whole Community with a delightful evening and demands for a sequel. The Foundation continues to develop projects to create an Endowment fund dedicated primarily to provide the "extras" not covered by any Library budget. Working with the understanding that the New Library will be a true Community Center they plan to sponsor the programs, speakers, author visits and other enrichment programs you requested.

On still another front the search for a temporary home began in earnest. Our search was limited by the need for extremely strong flooring to support the books shelves, budget and the need for adequate parking and accessibility for everyone. We looked at many buildings but, at what felt like the very last minute, we found a home in a wing of the Lakeview Jr. High School. If you have ever moved you have a small clue as to what this was like. Since the space was limited we knew a large part of the collection had to be put into storage. The Historical Society offered us space in Harmony Hall for what we could not take into the schools. Next came the decision making time, what do we take and what do we send into storage. That was hard. Everyone has their favorite authors and needs different items for research. The first problem was space. We could not fit the stand-a-lone shelving into the classrooms and had to use wall shelving. That meant every single item had to be moved by staff from one shelf to another. The plotting would have impressed a military strategist. We then asked our

patrons to help us move by taking as many items home as possible for the long month we would be closed. The response was wonderful. Close to 30,000 items went out to local homes for reading and viewing. It was nice to hear the professional movers tell us that we had done a good job preparing but our aching muscles told us that we had just started. There were problems, as there always are but by the end of December, most of the move was complete. As the year closes everyone at the Library, the Staff, Trustees and Director want to thank the Community for their help, involvement and support during the past year. It was wonderful to see everyone taking part in the events and helping with the move. It won't be too long before the buildings are gone and construction begins but that is for the next report.

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Trustees  
Susan A. Schwarz, Director

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Mary Lee Matthews 2006

John C. Katin 2005