



Holyoke Public Library

~ THE LIBRARY IN A PARK ~

Summer 2014

www.holyokelibrary.org

A Grand Opening for a Grand Building

The morning of November 22, 2013 dawned dim and foreboding, a fitting backdrop to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of America's late President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. But, as the hours passed, the atmosphere brightened. Holyoke had something to celebrate.

By the appointed time for the start of proceedings for the long awaited official opening of the city's restored, renewed and greatly expanded Holyoke Public Library, the day was illuminated by the occasion. The glow on the faces of the trustees, public officials, patrons, honored guests, and especially the children in attendance, generated enough good will and enthusiasm to warm the entire gathering.

In his welcoming remarks, Board of Trustees President Terry Plum reflected on the library's history, dating back to its founding in 1870, and the construction of the original building in 1902. He called attention to the care and consideration that had been given to the preservation and restoration of the major portion of the original building, as well as to the exciting 21st Century addition with its wealth of efficient, convenient and innovative technological tools.

Terry reflected on the long road that had to be followed for the library to achieve success in its goal of providing the people of Holyoke with a library that would truly meet their needs not only for the present, but for a far distant future, a library they so richly deserved. "The library is part of Holyoke's history... see the renovated history room...the conserved and bright murals...restored skylights...beautiful center space and wings...and how the outside of the building is integrated into the new wing."

He also identified the library's key role as part of Holyoke's future. "See the 5,000 square foot children's room, the glass expanses looking out over soon to be renovated (neighborhood) buildings and the young adult room. Check out the computer room and computer classroom combining the history of Holyoke in its murals with the current digital technology."

Terry also reflected on his view of Holyoke's spirit as a "tough, resilient, empowering commitment to moving forward in industry, in jobs and to bettering oneself and family." He went on to identify the multiplicity of nationalities, races, religions and backgrounds that make up Holyoke's population. "Why do

What Do We Do With This Beautiful Facility?

Those were the opening words of Holyoke Public Library Director, Maria G. Pagan, on the occasion of the Official Grand Opening Celebration for the completely restored, renovated and enlarged Library. In many ways Maria answered her own question as she addressed the large gathering of enthusiastic patrons and other well wishers of the Library's mission "to provide residents with the opportunity to improve their quality of life through free resources and services that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration."

Maria reminded her audience that "The Library will continue to provide services that inspire and empower users through education and entertainment." She also noted that "patrons would find even more than expected services, including increased children's programming, more computers, more meeting spaces, access to a collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video."



The audience was assured that they could also anticipate new and increased "services and programs that include education, information and enrichment for the people of Holyoke in such areas as citizenship, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness...(and, that) the Library will continue to play a critical role in the development of (a) strong community."

In concluding her remarks, Maria reminded her audience that "This is your Library and it is up to you to determine how you want to use it."

Our Staff

Library Director

Maria G. Pagan

Assistant Director

Carla Wessels

Reference Librarians

Michael Baron &
Cheryl Livengood

Computer Coordinator

Jose Figueroa &
Jose Cartegena-Ortiz

Children's Librarians

Jason Lefebvre & Nathan Hayes

Financial Manager

R. Andrew Parker

Financial Assistant

Florence Stefancik

Technical Service/Acquisition

Linda Kurowski

Technical Service/Cataloger

Martha Olver

Technical Service/Data Entry

Meg Haley

Library Assistants/ILL

Lucy Diaz, Anne Gorman, Jane
Frankel & Mayra Rivera

Custodians

Mark Gadboury & Tom Keeler

Board of Directors

2013-2014

President

Terry Plum

Vice President

Susan Carey

Treasurer

George Mettey

Clerk

Jeremy Smith

Board Members

Manuel Frau-Ramos
Wesley Kulig
Patrick Leahy
Bellamy Schmidt
Sandra Ward

Newsletter Editor

Walter Haggerty

Children's Room News

Whales, Dragons, Starlabs and Mad Scientists

The participants in this year's Summer Reading Program at the Library, as well as other youngsters, enjoyed an exciting, fun-filled summer as the Children's Department presented a great group of new and different entertainers who visited our Library during July and August for a series of extra-special free programs.

Kicking the schedule off on Wednesday, July 9th, we had the story of how "A little fish, the sole survivor of a school of fish swallowed by a tuna, devises a plan to camouflage himself and his new companions." This story, adapted from an exquisite picture book, has been turned into an animated multi media shadow puppet presentation by The Puppet Tree and answers the question, "What can one little girl do to clean up her river?"



On Thursday, July 17th, the summer Nickelodeon™ award winning children's entertainer, Mike Bent presented his Abra Kaboom! "Mad Scientist Magic Show." This silly, science themed show combines science fiction and fact with amazing magic and hilarious comedy.

Cynde McInnis recently embarked on a new venture, called "Whalemobile." She is on a tour of schools, libraries and summer programs with Nile, her 43 foot, life-sized inflatable whale based on an actual, 25-year old whale who often summers off the coast of Massachusetts. Cynde hopes to bring Nile to youngsters around the country to teach them about whales and the oceans, and inspire them to become a new generation of ocean advocates. Cynde and Nile visited the library on Tuesday, July 23rd, complete with "Whalemobile!"



On Tuesday, July 29th, the Sciencetellers presented a program about Dragons and Dreams. In a faraway world with castles, kings, dragon keepers, ice sorceresses, and a powerful Horn of Fire, two villagers took a daring journey to release the dragons and save the kingdom! Patrons learned about the science of fire and ice and also saw dragon's breath!

On August 15th Kevin Kopchynski visited with a special program demonstrating how we can discover many patterns, shapes and designs in nature and how the plants and animals around us are design engineers in their own right. The following week on Friday August 22nd, Mr. Kopchynski will return for two presentations at 10 and 11 am, with Starlab, a portable planetarium offering highly realistic views of the night sky in an indoor environment.

On-Going Activities

Mondays @ 10 am.....Toddler Story Time

Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 11 am.....Story Time

Thursdays @ 10 am.....Drop-in Craft

Library Appoints Computer Coordinators



The passing of Jay Borges at the critical time when the library was about to move into its fully restored and expanded space created an unavoidable delay in the installation of public computers and the opening of our new Computer

Lab. With the help and support of professional technicians that work has been completed and the library has appointed two new Computer Coordinators, Jose Figueroa, and most recently Jose Cartagena-Ortiz. Depending on rotating schedules one or both Coordinators will be on hand on a daily basis to offer guidance and direction as well as supervision of the Computer Lab.

Jose Figueroa has over eleven years experience as a Systems Administrator, responsible for establishing priorities, security policies, and providing support for all aspects of server management for PCs, etc. In this capacity he has assisted users of PCs and related systems, software, network, peripheral use and trouble shooting.

In addition to his responsibilities at Holyoke Public Library Jose Figueroa also serves as Systems Administrator for Computer Engineering Services at the College of Engineering at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Jose Cartagena-Ortiz, who joined the library staff most recently, is a graduate of the University of the Sacred Heart in Santurce, Puerto Rico, where he earned a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Technology. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Visual Arts Education from the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras. Jose has more than ten years experience in educational technology covering a broad span of experience in both Puerto Rico and in New England.

From 2007 to 2009, Jose Cartagena-Ortiz served as an Educational Designer in the Center for Development and Support of Academic Technology at the University of Puerto Rico Humacao. In 2010 he moved to Holyoke and where he served as a Technology Integration Assistant at the John F. Kennedy Middle School in Northampton for more than two years. In 2013 he accepted a position as a teacher of Spanish as A Second Language at the Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School in Hampden Connecticut. In addition to his broad based teaching experience.

Jose has also been an active volunteer with Nuestras Raices (Our Roots), an agricultural non-profit and grass roots community organization in Holyoke, where he manages the technological infrastructure and communications, both physically and digitally. He has also been a volunteer coordinator with the Holyoke Youth Program of the Holyoke Youth Task Force.

At Holyoke Public Library both Computer Coordinators/IT look forward to offering additional educational opportunities related to local citizens at all age levels including, but not

limited to, providing instruction in basic computer skills as well as the study of English as a second language.

With its two Computer Coordinators now on staff, the library has instituted a series of programs for patrons from preschoolers to seniors that will open up the broad world of computers to everyone. Watch for the announcement of specific programs and their schedules in the near future.

Grand Opening for a Grand Building Continued from Page 1

people come to Holyoke? They come for a chance, for opportunity and for community. The library is part of this. It is that common ground for all ethnicities and all ages, which says, come here, here is where you can create your own opportunities; here is what is possible through information and through technology; here is where you can learn and find meaning; here is community that will support you”.

Recognition of the many special participants and contributors to the library project followed with Terry identifying current and former mayors, city departments, the Financial Development Agency, architects, contractors, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Also receiving special thanks were: Holyoke Police and Fire Departments, Holyoke Gas and Electric and members of the Holyoke City Council.

Additional words of appreciation for support of and participation in the project, were directed to federal and state senators and representatives including Representative Richard Neal, who, along with Mayor Alex Morse, State Representative Aaron Vega and others, also addressed the audience.

In his closing comments Terry said “The last two groups I would like to single out are the Friends of the Library, and the Library Board...Congratulations to the Board and Friends. You did it. Well done.”

This was followed by a final quotation from the late President John F. Kennedy: “If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need new ideas from more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all – except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms. Let us welcome controversial authors.”

Climb Aboard the LEARNING EXPRESS!

How are your career ambitions progressing? Have you set your site on achievable goals? Do you need some help? That's why we're here. If you have concerns about taking tests, need to improve your skills or test scores, all you need is your Holyoke Public Library Membership Card and the click of a mouse and your riding free on the "Learning Express!"

"Learning Express" is one more of the countless free services that are available with your HPL Library Card. With "Learning Express" you can take advantage of innovative instructional information and test preparation websites that can be accessed 24-hours a day. They cover hundreds of subjects and provide comprehensive courses in math, reading and writing, and essay writing practice with instant scoring. You can access information on how to create your own resume and learn how to improve workplace skills in whatever field you are interested - and that's just for starters!

"Learning Express" provides more than 300 online practice tests that allow you to test your own skills – they also include instant scoring reports that help you target those skill areas most in need of improvement – and they show you how to do it. Complete answer explanations accompany each test question, so you can understand why a particular answer may be either right or wrong.

Holyoke Library also offers hundreds of data bases which you can access for up-to-date detailed information on virtually any profession you may be considering. The Library also provides specific details on job opportunities that is updated on a daily basis through a separate "Job & Career Accelerator" guidance program that is available to all Holyoke Public Library card holders, free of charge.

At Holyoke Public Library you can enjoy free unlimited access to interactive, skill-building courses that include a broad range of practice tests based on such official exams as ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, Firefighter, Police Officer, Paramedic, EMT Basic, Postal Worker, Real Estate Agent And Broker, as well as U. S. Citizenship. These are just a small sampling of the hundreds of subjects that are covered. So check out the full list on line or at the Library. You are certain to find resource material that matches your career choice. For detailed information regarding all of the offerings that "Learning Express" makes available, log on to the Holyoke Public Library's new website: www.holyokelibrary.org or visit the Library during regular summer hours, Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM or Thursday and Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.



Library Receives Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation Award

Mayor Alex Morse, the Holyoke City Council and the Holyoke Public Library Corporation Board of Directors were recognized recently by the Massachusetts Housing Development Corporation with the 2013 Award for Excellence in Community Development, "For the spectacular makeover of the Holyoke Public Library, a 21st century educational center providing new opportunity for the region's neediest citizens."

In its just released 2013 Annual Report, the Massachusetts Housing Development Corporation stated that "MHIC takes special pride in presenting an excellence in community development award (this year) to the Library, Mayor of Holyoke, the City Council and Library Corporation Board of Directors." They also noted that the transformation of the Library "was made possible by a dedicated, hard-working public-private partnership between the Mayor, City Council, the volunteer board members of the Holyoke Public Library Corporation, and many city departments."

The MHIC report also noted that the design and facilities plan was developed as a result of professional studies, meetings with residents that included focus groups and public forums encompassing a cross section of Holyoke residents, library users, and city and state officials. To deliver this plan for the residents of Holyoke, while preserving HPLC's endowment to fund programming, required a complex pairing of municipal bonds, a state library grant, capital campaign proceeds, and New Market Tax Credit financing. All members of this public-private partnership stretched far beyond the call of duty, and their respective normal procedures, and worked long and hard to bring this project to fruition.

As MHIC also reported that the redevelopment included both historic renovation and modernization of the existing structure, removal of a wing, and a new addition. The result increased space for books by 90% and tripled usable space. The library now provides traditional library services and expanded Poipi9p/j. /l/education and training programs for residents of all ages. It has a dedicated computer room, a special teens' room, a children's area, and space for classes and community meetings.

While HPL serves all Holyoke residents, it is the city's low-income residents whose lives could be most dramatically improved by its transformation. Library visits have increased dramatically since the renovated and expanded facility has reopened, enhancing the safety and economic vitality of this struggling neighborhood adjacent to the city's downtown. For example, it was recently announced that a row of vacant properties across the street will be renovated into affordable and market-rate housing, reflecting the impact the dynamic new library has had on the local area.

The New Holyoke History Room

The opening of the new Library permitted The Holyoke History Room to relocate from its temporary quarters at Holyoke Community College to its renovated space on the Library's third floor. The History Room is open 20 hours per week: Tuesdays 10:00-6:00, Wednesdays 12:00-6:00, and Thursdays 10:00-4:00. Archivist Eileen Crosby reports how much patrons seem to like using the new History Room, which has two large research tables, three microfilm readers, and two computers for patrons engaged in historical research. For genealogical research, patrons also now have free access to the Ancestry Library Database from any computer in the Library. Access to the database is available thanks to generous support from the Friends of the Holyoke Public Library. The History Room currently has 6 dedicated volunteers who assist patrons and work with collections.



The History Room organized a Guest Speaker Series, which continued through May. Recent talks included presentations on Holyoke farms, turbines, and parks. Other programs presented more recently highlighted "Tom Brown – King of the Whistlers," a portrait of a famous turn-of-the-century vaudeville performer who grew up in Holyoke and is an ancestor of Tom Kass who lead the presentation. Another popular program, "Looking for Judah," was presented by David Brule, a northern Pioneer Valley writer. One day in August of 1973, the author was closing up the home of an elderly relative. An eccentric aunt was helping that day, and she began to share a deep secret. Once he swore never to tell, she revealed what she had been silent about for more than fifty years.



Exhibits drawing on History Room collections can be viewed in the display cases on the third floor Gallery of the Library. This spring, they featured items related to the spring lecture series and a collection donated in 2013 by Nancy Crosier McKersie and Charlotte

Crosier Orrall. The collection belonged to their grandfather, Major William J. Crosier of Holyoke. Major Crosier served in the Spanish American War and was Superintendent of Parks and Playgrounds in Holyoke for fifteen years. He was well-known for riding his Cuban mule around the city. Soldiers' Field was renamed Crosier field after his death in 1938.

To stay up-to-date with History Room news and events, visit its webpage at <http://www.holyokelibrary.org/holyokenew/historynews.asp> or its Facebook page.

Holyoke Library's Children's Librarian Releases First Book!



Jason Lefebvre, a Children's Librarian at Holyoke Public Library since 2005, has recently had the pleasure of seeing the publication of his very first children's picture book. With art work by first time illustrator Zac Retz, Jason's book, "Too Much Glue," is selling well on the children's book market.

Jason's book was inspired by a situation that occurred when he was working as a paraprofessional in an area preschool. "We were shorthanded to begin with and when the other person with whom I was working had to leave the room, I was on my own! I decided to set out an art project with glue in cups on the art tables for part of the group. With the rest of the children we began a movement game which involved the children lying down and pretending to sleep when they heard the name of a certain animal. This involved the children moving around the room until the name of the animal they were supposed to be was called. In the process one of the cups of glue was overturned causing glue to drip off of one of the tables, which in turn dripped on one of my little sleeping animals. This wasn't noticed at first. Later, during a different activity, I noticed one child with a giant splotch of glue on his back. As I was locating a replacement shirt for him I started to think of what would happen if I never noticed it and the idea was born."

In Jason's book the story takes on a much more amusing series of turns, all focused on one youngster, named "Matty" who loves to work with glue..

The New York Journal of Books in their review of "Too Much Glue" commented that it "...cleverly captures young children's love of art, hands-on construction, and messy glue, and combines it all with the wonder of boundless imagination...a veritable explosion of color, wild facial expressions and in-your-face activities that children are sure to love...perfect for art time in an elementary class or as a favored book before bedtime. It might be given to a budding artist as a birthday or anytime gift, and it's a definite must-have for library shelves." Other reviews have been equally enthusiastic, as have been comments from kindergarten teachers.



Jason is currently working on several concepts with hoping one will find its way to publication.

Library Features Latest Convenience Services

With the opening of Holyoke's 21st Century Library patrons are discovering many new, user-friendly conveniences designed to make using basic services faster and more efficient than ever. The first of these innovations can be found even before one enters the building. It is a new "Smart" Book Depository, located just to the left of the main entrance. With this new book deposit unit patrons arriving before or after regular library hours can simply place their return items into the book drop and they will be checked in on a daily basis as they are returned.

Another major change in service is the new "Self Check-out" procedure which enables patrons to check-out their own selection of books, DVDs, CDs and other materials by scanning them with the aid of computers located directly opposite the circulation desk. The Self Check-out procedure is very easy to follow. The first step is for the patron to scan their own library card bar code, following which they can scan books, DVDs, and CDs individually. Once all items have been scanned, the patron then presses the "Print" button on the screen and a receipt for the selected items will be printed for the individual. In the event that an item is overlooked an alarm will sound as the patron starts to exit the building and the item can then be scanned.

In addition to the "Smart" Depository for the return of books, etc., an additional book return is located on the left side of the entrance area in the lobby. This book drop will automatically record all returns whether they were checked out manually at the circulation desk or scanned through the Self Check-out.

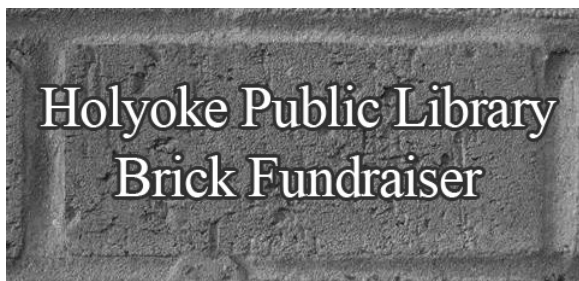
Hours of Operation

School Year Hours
September—May
Monday thru Thursday
8:30 am—8:30 pm
Friday and Saturday
8:30 am—4:00 pm

Summer Hours
June—August
Monday thru Wednesday
8:30 am—6:00 pm
Thursday and Friday
8:30 am—5:00 pm
Closed Saturday

Holyoke Public Library
250 Chestnut Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

(413) 420-8101



Make your mark in history! Be a permanent part of Holyoke's heritage with just the stroke of a pen. You can now become a visible part of Holyoke's beautiful new Public Library by contributing a brick for a new patio.

At the base of the staircase leading to the Library's original main entrance on Maple Street, we now have a handsome new brick patio. By purchasing a patio brick in your own name, or to honor some special person in your life, that name will be permanently etched on a brick that will become a part of this memorial patio in recognition of your generosity. A modest contribution is all that it takes to be immortalized in stone.

Bricks are available in two sizes: Standard size bricks, 4" x 8," allow for three lines of information of up to 16 characters per line, and are \$125 each. Square, patio bricks are 8" x 8," and allow for up to 5 lines of 16 characters, and are \$250 each. To participate, simply print clearly whatever information you want as it should appear on your brick. Print each character, symbol or number separately, leaving a space the size of a single letter between each word. Also, please count the empty spaces between words as part of the 16 character maximum per line.

To order a brick, or bricks, please follow the instructions noted above and send your information with your tax deductible contribution of \$125 or \$250, with check made out to Holyoke Public Library, to Holyoke Public Library, Attention: Nancy, 250 Chestnut Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. To order bricks online, please visit holyokelibrary.org. Please note: Bricks recognizing a business, organization, and/or institution are also welcome. If you would like additional information, or have any questions, please call Nancy at 413-420-8109.