

**Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
January 14, 2010**

This is usually a slow time at the library, but it has been extremely busy this month. Our "people counter" counted 110 patrons in the library on Tuesday! It was like a beehive in here. Soon Dick Many and Sylvia Bouvé will be leaving for warmer climes. Dick will be gone three months and Sylvia at least 6 weeks. MaryAnn Hogan has agreed to fill in for Dick. Maggie Buzzell, who is retiring from Shaw's after 33 years, has agreed to train to work the front desk. She will fill in for Sylvia, and after that will substitute when needed. I am happy that she has agreed to join us! And grateful to MaryAnn, who has been working at the library almost every week, filling in for volunteers who are away or ailing.

The Friends' Program Committee has come up with lots of ideas for library programs. I will meet with them next week to discuss them.

We've had a number of programs since our last trustees meeting. The kids' knitting class with 6 participants ran for 5 weeks at the end of 2009 and a new session has started up with an additional 5 students and all of the original class. Gail Bizer has a lot of patience with that age - fortunately! There are 12 excited students signed up for the adult knitting class which will begin on Friday, January 22nd.

There were 23 adults and 14 children at "The Best Christmas" program on December 22nd. The Friends came through with some wonderful refreshments and I heard many positive comments about the program. I will plan a similar event next December. 36 people, almost all young people, made Christmas cards at our make-your-own card station we had set up for three weeks before Christmas. I was disappointed that more adults did not take advantage of the opportunity, but the children were quite enthusiastic. Since we have plenty of supplies left over, I will probably set this up again next year.

The Freedom Flicks Film Series kicked off last Sunday with a strong turnout of 17 people. There were 26 at our last Pizza & Movie night and I expect a similar turnout tomorrow when we show, "Cloud with a Chance of Meatballs". We had 16 straight weeks of storytime in the fall. After a three week hiatus, it will resume next Wednesday.

I have started planning our summer programs, lining up volunteers, selecting movies, and brainstorming ideas for activities. The theme this year is "Make a Splash - Read!"

Thanks to our special DVD fund, I was able to replace with DVDs all of the VHS movies in the adult collection that I felt were worth keeping. I also purchased

many new titles. The fund is now depleted and we have an attractive new collection! Having mostly DVDs saves a lot of space and is more desirable to patrons.

Joel Clement of Freedom Computers has been to the library twice since our last meeting. He installed our two new computers, networked the copier so that we can print to it from any of the library's computers, changed the settings on the wireless router for greater stability, and fixed some problems we were having with the search computers. Ryan Brooks did a great job cleaning up our network cables – the computer room is very neat and organized now. The search computers are now wired rather than wireless, the copier is on the network, and he installed a second internet outlet where the public computer in the lobby is, in case we ever want to have a second computer there.

The new Time Warner Cable Business Class telephone system is scheduled to be installed on Friday, January 15th. I cancelled the fax line and will cancel the other Fairpoint Communications account once we are all set with Time Warner.

I am heading to Boston early on Saturday morning to go to the American Library Association Mid-Winter Meeting and will return on Monday. I am looking forward to networking with my colleagues, hearing authors speak, getting free books at the exhibits, and participating in discussion groups. I will be staying two nights at the Comfort Inn in South Boston. I got a decent rate bidding on Priceline.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director