

## Board of Library Trustees Yearly Report for 2023

Once again, 2023 was a year of activity and accomplishment for the library trustees. We started the year by planning and orchestrating a Winter Book Sale held on January 21. This was held in the Flora T. Little Room of the library. These events are always popular and resulted in a large turnout of patrons eager to pick up books for their personal libraries. The month of April always brings with it National Library Week, an opportunity to highlight the many contributions made by libraries throughout the country. This year it was celebrated from April 23-29 with the 25th designated as National Library Worker's Day. Our staff here at BPL is hard working and dedicated to helping patrons in a variety of ways. We wanted to honor their work and did so by adding decorative touches to the newly renovated staff lounge, providing coffee and special treats. In addition, each staff member received a hand written card expressing our appreciation. Staff members were thrilled to be acknowledged and honored in this way. April also brings with it the Town Election at the end of the month. We were pleased when two new members were elected to the Board: Joan Carson and Nancy Donnelly. Both women jumped right in and were soon active participants with our endeavors. Once again this year, we were asked to participate in Bridgewater's Juneteenth celebration sponsored by BCCR. In preparation for this event scheduled for June 17 and with the assistance of the library staff, we posted our Storybook Trail outside along side of the library driveway. This "trail" consisting of poster sized pages tells the story of the origins of Juneteenth and why it is important. It did catch the eye of patrons as they drove in or walked to the library. Our intent was also to display it at the actual Juneteenth celebration but this plan was thwarted when the event had to be cancelled due to significant rain.

An activity we all look forward to each year is our participation in Christmas on the Common. For the past two years, we have passed out gently used, wrapped books for free to children of all ages. Once again, weather intervened and we had to cancel at the last minute. Fortunately, however, the library had a holiday open house a short time later and we were able to pass out books then. Two of our trustees made special contributions to this festive event-Nancy Donnelly who played the piano and led a sing-a-long and Matt Gerritsen who was a terrific Santa. Throughout the year, trustees continued to augment their webpage on the library website with monthly Trustee Tidbits. These submissions often focused on past and upcoming events and pictures of trustee activities. In response to the recent attention given to book banning, we created and posted a Freedom to Read statement asserting everyone's right to choose what they read.

Overall, the trustees continue to carryout their mission as stated in the Town Charter to provide free access to the public library. In concert with our director Jed Phillips and his talented staff, we continue to support the BPL's goal to educate, inform, enrich and inspire. We welcome attendance at our monthly meetings and also maybe reached at [trustees@sailsinc.org](mailto:trustees@sailsinc.org) with any comments or questions.

Respectively submitted,  
Constance H. Franciosi  
Chair, Board of Bridgewater Public Library Trustees