

During the 1920's library usage continued to expand, and experienced important growth. There were at that time 17,000 books. In the 1930's the depression hit the library: budgets were cut, salaries were reduced, but circulation rose as people found a great source of free entertainment. Rules had to be made. In 1933 a guard was hired to "control the annoyance of noisy and unruly boys." Anyone ejected was subject to 6 months' loss of privileges. Also during this period chickens, ducks and geese often lived on the front lawn and were a constant annoyance to some and amusement to others. However, the library continued to grow, and by 1938 circulation had risen to over 100,000. After due consideration plans were drawn for expanding the building in 1931 and 1938.



The war years intervened, the Carnegie grants were no longer available, building costs has risen, and therefore the building still remained at its original capacity. In the early 1950's Union Free School District No. 24 had been expanded to include the Medford area. Again through the efforts and hard work of many individuals, new plans were drawn and a major addition was opened in March 1958. The addition tripled the capacity of the original building and cost \$315,000.

Today with membership of 22,000 and an annual circulation in excess of 260,000 the use of the building is again far beyond its capacity. It is now one of two co-central reference libraries in Suffolk County, and it contains 125,000 volumes. There are 5 professional librarians, 11 clerical employees, plus additional part-time help on the staff. The annual budget is now approximately \$500,000 per year. Because of crowded conditions some books are by necessity kept in another location, but are available on short notice. New additions and facilities have been considered. The costs are now in the millions, a long way from \$15,000 in 1908. In time these building problems will be resolved at the lease expense for the taxpayers, and the greatest benefit to the entire community.

Throughout the history of the library there have always been volunteers and interested persons who devote themselves to the betterment of the library. Special thanks should be given to the many generous patrons who over the years have donated books, phonograph records, exhibits, and objects of historical value to the library. With your help and the assistance of local groups and service clubs the library has thrived and grown. In 1973 a group was formed known as the "Friends of the Library". They have worked tirelessly to cooperate with the staff. Library programs have been broadened, movies, craft projects, and historical surveys have all become a natural part of the life of the library. After more than 75 years the library is strong and functional. With the support of all members of this community, for whom it was originally started, the library will continue to grow.

Keeper of the Books

Marion Brundage	1900-1902
Edith Terry	1902-1910
Claire Summer	1910-1914

Librarians

Alma Custead	1914-1945
Muriel Wiggins	1945-1952
Elaine Phipps	1952-

Childrens Librarians

Lois Conklin	1923-1928
Katherine W. Smith	1928-1930
Mrs. Woolfred	1930-1937
Muriel Stewart	1937-1940
Rita Kelly	1940-1946
Alma I. Jones	1946-1950
Lenetta Klein	1950-1972
Olga Mary Wilder	1972-
Helen Schreyer	1973-1975
Michele Bader	1975-

TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Mott Smith
Walter H. Jaycox
Willington E. Gordon
Frank Overton

James A. Canfield
H. A. Tenny
Willis A. Reeve
Miss Rosetta Terry
James Young
Robert Cruger
Frank Johnson
Frank Shaw
Leslie Mac Robbie
Roy B. Robbins
L. Terrell
Leslie Weiss
Lincoln G. Schmidt
Paul Bassett
Ernest Guttridge
William H. Hart

Harold L. Bates

Charles E. Alexander
Joseph Lifschitz
William Matsunaye, Jr.
Charles W. Taylor
Mrs. Harold Bates
Norman Lechtrecker
Milton Coe
Harold Hayden
John W. Stakes
Melvyn L. Jacoby
Joseph C. Valentine
Mrs. Julius Hastings
Miss Catherine Olinger
G. Howard Hatfield, Jr.
Charles Darcy
Kathryn Walsh

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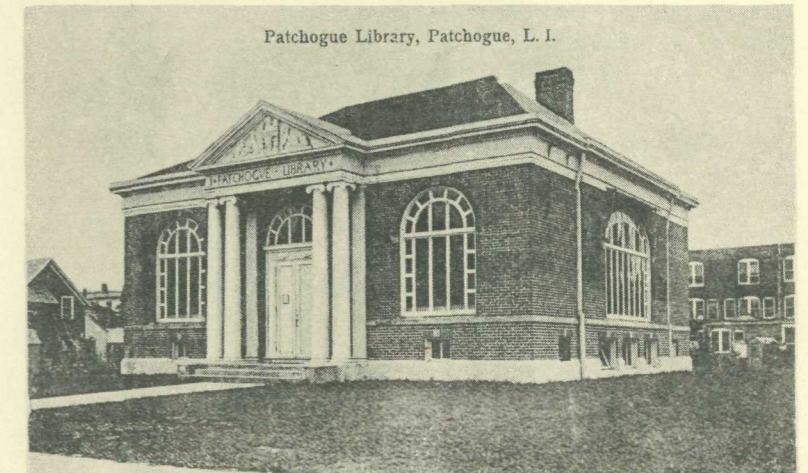
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Patchogue

Medford

Library



This booklet is not dedicated to an impersonal institution, but to you, the people, who have helped the Patchogue-Medford Library become a personal, vital and responsive part of your life during the past 75 years.

