



# Tigard Public Library

## 2004 Annual Report

### Artwork Brightens Up New Spaces

Commissioned artwork also enhanced the new library. Portland glass artist Rae Mahaffey created a series of 16 colorful fused glass panels to hang in the main lobby over the entrance. Entitled "Systems" the piece changes with the natural lighting.

The Children's Room also displays original artwork created by local painter Mary Josephson. Her colorful "Quest for Knowledge" piece adorns the columns with whimsical depictions of children seeking and finding knowledge in four different locations—the sea, the desert, the forest and the sky. The columns are complemented by Mary's richly colored mural of children reading and imagining. It hangs over the Children's reference desk.

Both pieces of art were dedicated at a special ceremony in the lobby on Oct. 9. Funding for the artwork came from the Friends of the Tigard Library, The Tigard Library Foundation and the estate of Neva Root.

### Tigard Opens New Library To Public Acclaim

2004 was a year of successful endings and auspicious beginnings for the Tigard Library. Tigard residents were rewarded for their enduring support of the library with a sparkling, new 48,000-square-foot building.

To drive down Hall Blvd. during the first half of the year was to witness the birth of a building. Day by day, week by week, dirt and dust gave way to concrete and steel, then brick and glass.

The old library closed to the public on July 16 at 5 p.m. During the next two weeks, staff assisted professional movers in moving more than 110,000 items in the collection, as well as furniture and equipment. The move was completed on schedule with a minimum of disruption. Library users helped out by returning items to other libraries while the Tigard Library was closed.

On Aug. 4 more than 200 people, mainly children, helped move a final piece of the library



Excited patrons arrive at Grand Opening on Aug. 21.

with the Wagons' Ho Parade. By wagon, wheelbarrow, stroller and suitcase, library books traveled the short distance down Hall Blvd. from the old library to the new building under the watchful eyes of the library's youngest patrons. Finally, the new building had what it needed to become a new library. Books and people!

When the new library opened in August, it was the culmination of years of hard work and anticipation. Tigard residents showed their support for a larger library when they voted to pass a \$13 million bond measure in 2002. At the Grand Opening on Aug. 21, many

viewed the library for the first time. More than 200 people attended the opening ceremonies and many more passed through the doors during the day. A series of performers entertained guests, both large and small, throughout the building.

The Houghton Room is one of the most stunning special features of the new library. With its warm

green, brown and plum décor, understated lighting and cozy fireplace, it didn't take long for the room to earn a new nickname: Tigard's Living Room. Created through a generous bequest from the estate of Grace Tigard Houghton, the room is a quiet place to study and read. Library staff also hope to use it for book discussion groups and author visits in the future.

In the five months the new library has been open, both the literary and the curious have visited more than 170,000 times. Based on comments from the public, it appears the new library has met or exceeded their expectations.

### Countywide Levy Fails to Pass; Results in Reduction of Library's Hours

Shortly before the new library opened in August, the failure of a countywide library operational levy in the May election created new challenges. Although it received about 4,000 more "yes" votes than "no" votes, a majority of voters failed to turn out for the election countywide, so the measure did not pass.

Tigard faced a reduction of revenues from the county just as it was planning to open a new library more than three times larger than the old one. The chief consequence was a reduction in open hours.

As a result, the library closed Sundays. The number of hours the library is open has dropped

from 69 hours per week in Fiscal Year 2001-02 to 54 hours a week.

The staff accepted these challenges and worked together to help acquaint people to the new library, while providing the best service possible under the circumstances.



*Portland Taiko enthralled audiences with their animated drumming.*

**In addition to the many jobs and tasks they accomplish, volunteers form an effective corps of library ambassadors in the community.**

## **Diverse Programs Entertain Children and Adults Alike**

- Super Tuesdays took on a non-political air as they presented a variety of interesting and exciting programs that fascinated audiences and provided creative alternatives to being glued to the tube.
- Over 9,000 people attended Youth Services programs in 2004.
- The new Community Room space has provided the Youth Services staff with a wonderful venue for providing family-oriented programs.
- Portland Taiko performers, with their dynamic drumming, introduced the Tigard audience to a different kind of rhythm.
- The interactive theater group Cwerks turned young patrons into instant actors by involving them in a Jack & the Beanstalk-type play.
- With puppets, masks and costumes the Tears of Joy Theater brought Coyote Tales to life.
- Phil and Pam Boulding of Magical Strings enchanted the audience of approximately 90 people with Celtic music and tales.
- Pajamas became a new fashion statement in the library when Pajama Story Hour was revived. And the ever-popular story times continued to elicit smiles and giggles.



*The Magical Strings bring Celtic tunes and tales to Tigard.*

## **Adult Programs Capture the Imagination and Promote Education**

- Adult Services continued the tradition of the Adult Reading Program with 75 adult participants reading for fun and attending programs in 2004.
- The library staged a few adult programs in early 2004, including a series of literary events coinciding with the Adult Reading Program. Murder By the Book store owner Jill Hinckley kicked off the series with a “mystery history” and discussed future trends for this popular genre.
- Chinese puppeteers packed the new Community Room with 150-160 people who delighted in the colorful puppets expertly manipulated to act out Chinese folk tales and stories.
- Friday Night Music entertained many audiences in the old library with performers ranging from vocalists to the Whiskey Flats Brass Band.
- In addition to the new Community Room, other new spaces in the library offer potential for other programs.
- For instance, the state-of-the-art Technology Room has allowed the librarians to once again offer immensely popular computer classes, including How-To’s for Email and using the library catalog. Given the popularity of these classes, the library has expanded its computer class offerings for 2005.
- A three-part series on job hunting and job searching skills provided timely assistance for those who are unemployed or are considering changing jobs.

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## **Circulation Explodes in New Library!**

- In the old and new libraries combined, the total number of visits to the Tigard Library in 2004 was over 290,000.
- Library cards were issued to more than 5,600 new users—47 percent more than 2003.
- **In August, the first month the new library was open, circulation issued 856 cards—a new record!**
- Considering the reduction in hours, the increase in library use is even more noteworthy.
- The library was open more than 1,000 fewer hours in 2004 than 2003, yet the overall use skyrocketed in 2004.



*The check-out desk has remained busy ever since the grand opening.*

## **Tigard Librarians Offer Expert Assistance to Growing Numbers of People Seeking Information**

- The new library presented new challenges to the reference staff. From a single reference desk in the old library to several service desks in the new one, more desks meant more questions.
- Librarians answered over 62,000 questions in 2004.
- As the word got out about the features of the new library, librarians saw an increased use in computers and in the three new quiet study rooms.
- In November the three new study rooms were used 141 times or almost 6 uses per day—a 50 percent increase over October.
- Total hours of computer use in November 2004 increased 68 percent over November 2003 in the old library.

## **Enthusiasm and Hard Work Characterize Volunteer Efforts**

- Both behind the scenes and face-to-face with patrons, a large group of volunteers helps make the Tigard Library truly a community effort. In 2004, 313 volunteers gave over 13,000 hours of their time to keep the library humming.
- In addition to the many jobs and tasks they accomplish, volunteers form an effective corps of library ambassadors in the community—informing friends and neighbors of library events and services.
- Speaking of events, volunteers were very active in the move and opening of the new library. They contributed over 300 hours to related activities, including preparing and boxing materials before the move, communicating with patrons while the library was closed during the move, baking and serving cookies and cold drinks that were welcomed wholeheartedly during the 90-degree moving days.
- The Grand Opening Committee, composed mainly of volunteers, planned and executed a warm, friendly event to welcome residents to their new library.
- Volunteers can participate in new ways at the new library. New positions include Technology Monitor, Welcome Desk Greeter, Asst. Volunteer Coordinator, Peer Court Coordinator and Technical Cleaning Specialist.
- Since moving into the new building, volunteer hours have begun to rise steadily. This trend is expected to continue.

## **The Scene Behind the Scenes**

- Imagine trying to find a book in the library without a label. Or trying to find a book that's supposedly on the shelf but not in the library catalog.
- A small, but industrious group of staff and volunteers works hard to make sure that books and other library materials are purchased in a timely manner, labeled correctly, entered in computer and repaired when necessary.
- Known as Technical Services, they labor behind the scenes to ensure that new books, DVDs, CDs etc. are processed efficiently, so that library patrons can check them out in a timely manner.
- Technical Services' greatest accomplishment for 2004 was successfully moving its operations between two buildings with minimal disruption to their work.
- With more shelf space in the new library, more library materials were ordered to anticipate the increase in users and to provide patrons new materials when the library opened its doors in August.
- Consequently, the Technical Services staff placed orders for more than 14,000 items in 2004. They cataloged and processed about 18,000 new items—2,000 items more than 2003.



*The Houghton Room is quickly becoming Tigard's Living Room.*



*Volunteers receive instructions before shelving in Children's area.*



*Some of the many books and materials processed by Technical Services*

# Tigard Public Library

## 2004 Annual Report

### We're on the Web:

[www.ci.tigard.or.us/library](http://www.ci.tigard.or.us/library)

*2004 could be called the Year of the Three C's: Construction, Cooperation and Community were the three building blocks that formed the strong foundation for the new library.*



## Foundation and Friends Build Financial Support for New Library

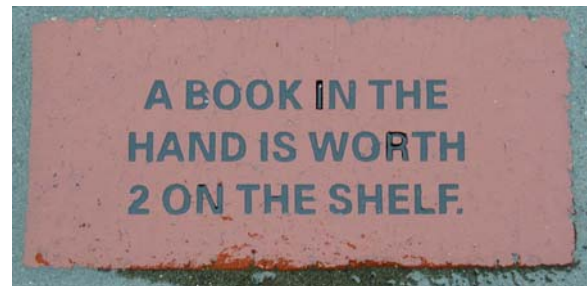
- Another indication of the community's support for the new library has been the active participation of the Tigard Library Foundation and the Friends of the Tigard Library.
- Both organizations were pivotal in providing needed financial support for the new library. Both contributed funding for additional books and other library materials for the new library. They also generously provided funds for the commissioned artwork and Grand Opening expenses.
- With its Bricks for Books program, the Foundation raised over \$19,000 selling engraved bricks for the entryway and courtyard of the new building.
- The Friends held book sales in 2004 to help raise money for the new library. They also sold book bags and other items as fundraisers.



Artist Rae Mahaffey views her "Systems" fused glass artwork as it is installed in library lobby.



Artist Mary Josephson and one of her colorful columns in the Children's Room



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