

Room(s) to Expand Your World. The Tigard Library has lots of room and rooms. In addition to the spacious seating areas by windows on both floors, the Grace Tigard Houghton Room is Tigard's living room, a traditional reading room with a great view! Need to concentrate or work with a study group? The Library has three study rooms for public use. They were used more than 700 times in 2006. The Community Room hosted both library and non-library events ranging from wedding receptions to the Reptile Man.

Self-Sufficiency for patrons was the goal in 2006. Such services as self-renewal and the self-checkout machine helped patrons become more self-reliant. After the 2006 patron survey determined that many people did not use the self-checkout machine, the Library moved the machine to a more visible location and initiated an intense three-month promotion to teach people how to use it. By the end of the year, 63,336 items had been checked out on the machine—a 17.9 percent increase from 2005. Patrons also embraced on-line self-renewal, which increased 52 percent in 2006. The more patrons help themselves, the more staff can assist those with more complex problems.

Teens Rule! Traditionally teenagers are a difficult group to involve in library programs, but Tigard's Young Adult programs continue to thrive. The Teen summer reading program registered 422 participants. Popular programs included GameFests, an Animagia Party, where teens created original origami, drew their own animé, learned about Japanese culture and viewed animé. A Jewelry Making and Copper Wire workshop proved popular as well as the Teen Movie night featuring *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Using the Library. Statistics can be as dry as stale bread, but not when there are faces behind them. More than 860,000 items circulated in 2006—a 7.5 percent increase over 2005. Books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, puppets, recorded books and large print books are just a few of the items that make up those numbers. The Cultural Pass program, sponsored by the Friends, also took off. Passes for admission to some of Portland's cultural gems allowed families to take advantage of them free of charge. The Children's Museum, Japanese Garden and the Portland Art Museum are just a few examples.

Volunteers continue to provide much-needed help in the library. The number of hours volunteered in 2006 was equivalent to seven full-time employees. More than 50 different volunteer opportunities were available. New positions included Conversational English Group Facilitator, Tech Room Host, Friends Lobby Book Sale Manager and Special Needs Volunteer Facilitator. Four volunteers proved so efficient that we hired them! More than 20 teens completed their court-ordered community service under the supervision of the Library's Volunteer Coordinator.

Wireless arrived as the Tigard Library plowed full steam ahead into the 21st Cyber Century. In the 2006 library survey more than 600 people requested wireless. Three months later, they were on-line. A total of 425 users went wireless in eight months in 2006. Laptops popped up everywhere. From the study tables to the study rooms to the coffee shop, people no longer needed to be "plugged in" to get connected.

Excellent Service is Tigard's goal. Tigard Library users demand it and commend it. In the annual library survey, respondents in 2006 gave the library's public service high marks. A total of 97 percent of respondents said the library was serving their needs. In open-ended questions 585 library users took the time to say "Thanks," "Good Job," or specifically gave positive feedback about the staff.

You're never too Young to start enjoying books. Book Babies, one of the most promising new programs, introduces storytelling and finger play to very young children up to 18 months old. Several tots have become "regulars." The program has been a hit with the Book Babies and their book parents who excitedly tell the librarian each week about how their child imitated some of the finger plays at home, participated in the songs or said new words. Says Marianne the librarian, "I feel like we are creating lifelong library users and readers."

Zounds! Perhaps the best proof of the library's popularity was the passage of the county-wide Library levy in November. Nearly 100,000 voters said "yes" to libraries throughout the county. The levy won by a 57 to 43 percent margin. The passage of the four-year levy should allow more options for hours and services in the future. Funding from the approved levy becomes available July 1, 2007. Tigard's Library turned two in 2006. With the passage of the county-wide levy, Tigard voters enhanced their investment in both their facilities and the future of their community.



The ABCs of the Tigard Public Library



2006 Annual Report

The Tigard Public Library is a place of arts and letters, words and numbers. In 2006 it was also a place for Activity, Books, Computers and Discovery. Looking for a good book? A thrilling movie? Some groovin' music? Make the Tigard Library your first stop. We have programs and services that run the gamut from

A to Z



Alphabet Chair was an inviting addition to the Children's Room. A bronze sculpture by Sarah Peters, it enticed children and their parents to spend some reading time in the oversized chair. Many studied the patterns in each of the letters and tried to figure out what they were. The Alphabet Chair was made possible by a bequest from Neva Root and a generous donation from the Friends of the Tigard Library.



Education came into and out of the Tigard Library in many forms. Patrons asked for more computer classes, and they got 'em. The library offered 100 free classes in 2006, up from the 60 offered in 2005. More than 750 people took the opportunity to become a little more tech-savvy. Popular new classes included Excel for Beginners, Browsing for Books, NovelList and the popular Open Lab run by volunteers.

Browsing Paperback Collection received two boosts this year. Volunteer Peter Higgins took over the collection in April reorganized it, restocked it and revitalized it. Peter's work prompted the Library to launch a special promotion during the summer adult reading program. In April 215 books were checked out. By August that number had jumped to 484—the result of the efforts of one dedicated volunteer!

Children's Programs continued to draw kids to the library. In 2006, 135 got silly with Captain Underpants. Two hundred talked to the animals at the Animal Expo; 120 explored the Chronicles of Narnia, and 40 got stuck in Charlotte's Web. Storytimes, Craft Times, Dogs and Tales, Super Tuesdays, movie matinees and Toddler Times have developed enthusiastic library users. The ever-popular Summer Reading Program signed up 1,323 young readers.

Display Cases highlighted a variety of collectibles, memorabilia and hobbies. The historic button display was one of the most popular, as well as the "Be Kind To Animals" celebration, miniature dollhouses with fairy-tale themes, an antique postcard collection and old 78s, 45s, LPs and sheet music to celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month.



Friends and a solid Foundation are the way to a Library's heart. The Friends of the Tigard Library raised nearly \$12,000 through three used-book sales. The ongoing book sale in the lobby raised \$7,500. Their generous contributions totaled nearly \$30,000, including the adult reading program, young adult programs, volunteer recognition and shelving parties, cultural passes, new magazine covers, the Mitten Tree and the Alphabet Chair. The Foundation underwent a makeover and adopted a business plan, created a newsletter and developed a web site. Check it out at www.tigardlibraryfoundation.com

Group dynamics were created by dynamic groups. Ever been to a shelving party? Volunteers came not only as individuals but as groups to put the library in tip-top shape. Groups such as Key Club, Americorp and various church groups participated. The Library hosted 15 group events for our new breed of "groupies." Another kind of group blossomed in 2006—the adult book discussion group. These "groupies" selected an eclectic array of books and authors to read and ponder ranging from E.L. Doctorow's *The March* to Thomas Friedman's non-fiction bestseller *The World Is Flat*.

History Happens. The monthly Stepping Back program brought local history to life with stories, photos and demonstrations. The most popular event was "Old Metzger," which featured local historians telling tales and showing pictures and maps of the area. Former residents came from as far away as Eugene for the event, which blended a happy mix of longtime Metzger residents, who came to reminisce, and new residents who came to learn the history of their new neighborhood.

Incredible increases in circulation show that the Tigard Library is still a popular place. Circulation records were shattered every month except August and October. Sunday, November 12, set a new record at 2,435 items checked out. The previous record for Sundays had been 2,300 during the four hours the library was open. The overall average of items checked out per hour on Sundays was 296. In 2006, Tigard checked out over 550 items per hour on some Sundays.

Juvenile Graphic Novels were introduced as a new collection in May and grew gradually through the summer. Checkouts increased from 59 in May to 703 in November—remarkable for a collection that only takes up four shelves. Many parents shared stories about how their children were reluctant readers, but once they discovered the graphic novel collection, they began to read and read a lot!



Kids Book Club showed that adults aren't the only ones who have fun talking about books. Children reading at a second- to third-grade level read a different book each month then met to talk about them, while enjoying fun activities and tasty snacks. Club members read books from the Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award nominees. They included *Ruby Lu, Brave & True*, *Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express* and *The SOS File*. Book club participants voted for their favorites. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Library2Go, the next big thing in library services, provided audiobooks for patrons to download onto their PCs or MP3 players through the Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) web site. Tigard Library made two computers available for patrons who wanted to download audiobooks to their MP3 players. Patrons also downloaded the books from home. Library2Go offered over 300 titles to choose from. Among the most popular titles in 2006 were *Fahrenheit 451*, *1984*, *How To Grow a Backbone*, *Dr. Blair's Spanish in No Time*, and *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

Mitten Tree celebrated its 10th Anniversary in December—ten years of sharing and caring. The Tigard Library invites people to donate new and "like new" mittens, scarves and hats to decorate the tree. In late December the items are given to needy families in Washington County. In 2006 patrons and staff donated 230 items, many of which were handmade. Over the past decade the Mitten Tree has been responsible for providing nearly 2,000 items to keep families warm.

New Items enhanced the Library's collection of books, DVDs, CDs, magazines etc. The Technical Services Division ordered 22,141 items and received 22,476. Staff added 25,191 items to the collection, and 2,534 were mended and returned to the collection.

Occupations of volunteers were as diverse as the books in the library. New volunteers included a retired Montessori teacher, NIKE employees, a forensic toxicologist, a parole officer and a car salesman. Teens who want to be translators, executives, teachers and tech support brought their enthusiasm and energy to help check in, check out and shelve books. The Library's volunteers are a worldly and wise lot. In 2006 volunteers from Taiwan, Wisconsin, Tonga and Russia joined the ranks of nearly 175 people who give their time to help the Tigard Library thrive.

Programs that enticed adults ranged from a Native American storyteller, Portland Taiko and the Adult Reading Program to the Portland Art Museum's popular Art Speaks programs. Art Speaks, a five-event series of slide shows and discussions, featured existing and upcoming exhibits. Subjects ranged from the master artists of Brescia, Italy during the Renaissance to the 18th Century to the Treasures of Ancient Egypt. Altogether 42 adult programs brought 1,161 people to the library for education and entertainment.

Quiet Times are not just for kids. The Library's serene setting, design and décor provide a "great escape" for adults as well as children. One businessman told a librarian that he had given up his weekly stress relief therapy sessions since he began spending his lunch hours at the library looking out the second-floor windows at the meadow/wetlands. Sightings have included Great Blue Heron, egrets, ducks, hawks, deer, coyote and the ever-present Canada geese.