

# Library Director's Report

February 2, 2021

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

**January Monthly Statistics:** Statistical summaries for the month of December 2020 will be available at our meeting

## Financial/Donations:

We have received a number of memorial donations for Ruth Foster in the amount of \$1,245. Thanks you notes have been sent. We will be contacting the family at some point (donations are still coming in) to decide what to do with the donations. We were thinking of possibly ordering some Playaway Bookpacks for kids. The packs make it so kids can listen to the audiobook while reading along in the books. Each pack has multiple books. (I will bring a sample to the meeting).

We have also received a couple other donations: \$300

\$25

I will have copies of the donation checks at the board meeting.

We have applied for a Stewart's grant. If awarded the grant money, we would like to use it to continue our children's weekly craft and to buy supplies for a summer reading program.

## News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. Jack Scott at SALS is putting together a group called "The League of Extraordinary New Directors." which I have joined. There are quite a few new directors in the area. We will be had our first meeting Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Once again, we are very excited to have some new books on our shelves that are available for our patrons. These books are being checked out quite often. Many of the new books and DVD's are currently featured in the library's windows. Also, we were lucky enough to get 15 "new to us" donated audio books. We have several patrons that take audio books out regularly.
- We have received a ring light/tripod we purchased from SALS. We will

be learning how to use it soon and hope to use it for some virtual storytimes.

- We continue to keep our patrons informed of new books and library news through the use of the library's Facebook page, our webpage, and our newsletter.
- Curbside service has been running smoothly and patrons have been very appreciative of the fact they can still order and pick up books. As of right now ILL services are also still available.
- Thanks to an excellent suggestion from Rebecca (and with some help from SALS), our Overdue and Almost Overdue Notices now include a link that will take our patrons directly to their account if they want to renew their book.

### Looking Ahead:

- With COVID numbers still on the rise in our county we will continue to offer curbside service for our patrons.
- Erica at SALS contacted me about the possibility of us participating in the Farm-2-Library initiative (mid-July until mid-November). It's a partnership between Comfort Food Community and the Southern Adirondack Library System. I have included a copy of Erica's e-mail that describes what would be expected from our library. As of right now Argyle, Schuylerville, Whitehall, Granville, and Corinth have participated in this program. I think it would be something that would help serve our community and it might also bring some new patrons into the library that have never been here before. Also, I had one of our patrons call and recommend this program (She had seen it in the Schuylerville Library).

I spoke with Faith St. John at the Argyle Free Library and she advised it's a great program that their patrons love. They have been doing it for over a year.

- We've been notified that we will be receiving tax forms from the IRS to have here at the library.

**Programs:** All in-person programs are currently on hold.

- We have made available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community. All the grab and go craft bags are usually gone by Friday. These have been very popular and we have people asking for them each week now. We have received a lot of positive feedback.
- We are also offering free craft kits once a month from the Council for Prevention for kids Pre-K - Third Grade. The packets support social-emotional learning in fun way.
- Our January "Take Away" adult craft bags were Snowman Jars.
- During January the windows of the library were adorned with a New Year/New Books display that our patrons were able to enjoy. Each of the windows displays some of our new books, DVD's and audio books. We've had multiple patrons take out books they have seen in the windows. Since we will still be curbside this month, we will continue to feature the books in the windows.

## **FARM-2-LIBRARY INITIATIVE**

I'm reaching out to see if you would be interested in taking part in our Farm-2-Library initiative, a partnership between [Comfort Food Community](#) and the Southern Adirondack Library System. Its goal is to reduce food waste while improving food access and addressing food insecurity in rural food deserts. Four public libraries distribute free fruit and vegetables gleaned from local farms from mid-July through mid-November. The initiative embodies the Comfort Food Community ideal: When everyone eats, all are nourished.

The program began in 2017 as a way to support Adult Literacy efforts in our region. The idea is that by sharing fresh food with our friends and neighbors, we could develop relationships with people that may not currently use the library and encourage them to avail themselves of our services.

Participating libraries make fresh food available to everyone in the community. There is no qualification, and we encourage everyone to share food to reduce the stigma related to food insecurity.

Participating libraries receive:

- A small, glass front refrigerator to store fresh food
- One or two deliveries of fresh food each week
- Wooden boxes with the Comfort Food Community logo to display fresh food
- Marketing materials from SALS

In exchange, we ask that participating libraries:

- Keep the refrigerators clean
- Compost or make other plans for any remaining fresh food (this doesn't happen very often)
- Market the program, including using graphics on your website
- Collect monthly statistics about the number of users of the program
- Collect stories from participants
- We may ask you to pick up food from the cooler in Hudson Falls.

All of our current participating libraries (Schuylerville, Whitehall, Argyle, Pember, Corinth) love the program and have seen many new people come to the library.

(I'm thinking if there is food remaining we could work with the Food Pantry to make sure it finds someone who could use it)