**Library Director’s Report**

**June 1, 2021**

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

**May Monthly Statistics:** Statistical summaries for the month of May 2021 will be available at our meeting.

**Financial/Donations:**

None to report.

**News/Issues:**

* I have been participating in virtual Director’s Council meetings. This past month I also attended a Courtyard Committee meeting, an Engaged Planning meeting with SALS, the SALS Annual Business Meeting, a Hoopla Informational Meeting, and a virtual webinar concerning safety and NYS’s changing mandates.
* Farm-2-Library Program Update: Everything seems to be running smoothly. The fridge is pretty close to empty every week! I’ve had several senior citizens express their appreciation for having the veggies available right here in town. While the veggies are free, we can also get fruit each week for $450 a year. I’ve contacted SALS to let them know we would like to do this. I have put some feelers out in the community for donations and we currently have about $30 from people who have insisted on giving us a donation when they take something. We’re hoping to fund this year through donations. Also, SALS now sends us simple recipes to give out that include the foods that are delivered each week.
* Karen has completed the requirements to become a Notary Public and just received her stamp. She will now be available to provide notary services to our patrons!
* With help from SALS we are now able to offer for a limited time the Library Edition of Ancestry.com for our patrons. This edition will enable patrons to access Ancestry from home if they have a library card.
* The Certificate of Registration and Charter are framed and my husband has been “voluntold” to put them up in the library.
* Library Hours – As of Monday, May 24th, the library hours have increased and are now: Monday: 1:00-6:00, Tuesday: 2:00-8:00, Wednesday: 10:00-4:00, Thursday: 2:00-8:00, Friday: 1:00-4:00, and Saturday: 10:00-2:00
* Karen continues to add some wonderful new books and DVD’s to our shelves that are available for our patrons.
* 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. We will be sending out another newsletter this week (after the board meeting).
* Curbside service continues for patrons who are not comfortable coming into the library at this time. Currently, there are not too many people using this service, but there are still a few, so we will continue to offer it to our patrons.
* In May the theme of our library windows was “Bits and Pieces of History.” The dioramas made by Cindy Whitman and were very well received by the public. I’m hoping to invite her back again later in the year. She offered to do them again and said she could also do a small history program for kids too!

**Looking Ahead:**

* Strategetic Plan: I’m in the process of scheduling our first committee meeting for some time this month. At the meeting we will start to develop our plans for the next five years. Our committee members are: Lori Stokem, Alesa Wilson, Rachael Armstrong, Ethan Hickland, Katie Lapishka, Mark Cooney, and Anna Maxwell.
* Challenge Grant: The deadline for using and reporting the challenge grant money is toward the end of this year. We’ve moved in a bit of a different direction with it at this point (It has been approved by SALS). We’re in the process of using the remaining money to create a game lending library for our patrons. Games will be available here at the library for families to borrow and bring back. For our seniors, we have a number of people interested in learning how to play mahjong and I’m contacting someone I know that has taught it in another library to see if she would teach a class here in Salem. This game would be one of the ones included in our game lending library.
* Mrs. Fronhofer, at Salem Central School, has invited me to come in and talk to some of her library classes about the Bancroft Public Library. At some point this month I’ll be visiting her students and will be able to tell them about all the great things at our library!

**Programs:** All in-person programs have been on hold.

* Last month we were fortunate enough to be able to offer our families with kids “gardening kits” from Cornell Cooperative Extension. We distributed kits to 17 families. The kits came with all they would need to grow lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers.
* 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. Last week they were all gone the day we put them out. We had made 17 of them and made 6 more. These have been very popular and we have people asking for them each week now. We have received a lot of positive feedback.
* Summer! We are very excited about our summer reading programs. As we weren’t sure what we would be able to do and not do this summer, we planned activities for outside. Karen has put in a tremendous amount of planning and work into our “Community Solar System” activity. Starting this month and throughout the summer there will be sign posts throughout the community with pictures and information about each of the planets, along with a 3-D printed model of each of them (Made in coordination with Todd DeSoto at Salem School). The placement and models of the planets are to scale. This is a wonderful activity that everyone in the community can enjoy.

The library will also offer a “Read Across America” program. Participants can pick up a map of the United States at the library. Over the summer they can read a book that takes place in different states, read one book for each state—there are many possibilities.

I’m working together with directors at the Argyle and Greenwich libraries to book a musical kids’ program at the end of the summer (August 28th). The name of the program is “Farmer Tom.” He sings and provides entertainment for kids. With the three libraries booking him for the same day, it reduces what he charges each library. As our renovation project will be underway by then, I’ll be seeking an alternative outdoor venue for the program. It will be a great way to end the summer and hopefully kick off more programs for the fall.

SOAR Exercise

The SOAR exercise comes from Appreciative Inquiry, a philosophy that focuses on assets, not deficits. In strategic planning, we use this framework to identify our strengths and opportunities as we look to the future and identify what results we want to create.

Strengths (Inquiry)

What the library does well, along with its key assets, resources, capabilities and accomplishments.

• What are our greatest strengths?

• What makes us proud?

• What are our greatest accomplishments?

• What is our preferred future? Who do we want to become?

Opportunities (Imagine)

Circumstances your library could leverage for success

• What are our best possible future opportunities?

• What changes do you expect to see over the next five years – in the community and in

the state?

As you look at the changes you’ve identified ask:

• Which changes could have a positive impact on the library?

• Where could the library make a difference?

• What are key areas of untapped potential for the library?

• What partnerships could lead to greater success?

Aspirations (Innovate)

An expression of what you want the library to be and achieve in the future. A vision to build on current strengths, provide inspiration, and challenge the current situation.

• What are we passionate about?

• What kind of community do we want? What are the most important

attributes or essential components?

• If you could wave a magic wand and transform this community, what

change would you most want to see?

• Thinking more globally – as you reflect on the changes happening in the

world today describe one that gives you hope. How might this community

respond to this one big hope?

• How can we make a difference?

• What strategies and actions support our perfect future library?

Results (Implement)

Tangible outcomes and measures that demonstrate the achievement of the stated goals & aspirations.

• What measurable results will indicate we have achieved our vision of the

future?

• How do we translate our vision of success into measurable outcomes?

• How do we know we’ve achieved our goals?