

Library Director's Report

January 11, 2021

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

In the last month the library has received the following donations:

\$50

\$100

\$200

\$1,500

\$50 (In memory of Ruth Foster)

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Food delivery is back to the main entrance to the library. During the winter months we will continue to receive deliveries, but they won't be as big as other times of the year. Since beginning the program on March 24th of this year we have counted 1,056 people that have taken something home from the food in our foyer! I'm sure it's much more than that as we don't see everyone that comes in. This a great way for the library to serve our community!
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVD's to our shelves that are available for our patrons.

- In December the construction on the outside ramps were completed and patrons have returned to entering and exiting through the main entrance. Our Interlibrary Loan pick-up and drop-off is back to normal too. The Book Drop is also back where is used to be. Progress continues to be made in Proudfit Hall and construction should be finished by the end of the month.
- We continue to keep our patrons informed of new books and library news through the use of the library's Facebook page, our webpage, newspaper articles, and our newsletter.
- Mary from SALS came to the library during December and replaced two of our patron computers. Around the same time, we began having problems with our printer. The printer is at least ten years old and isn't working well with the new computers. We asked Mary to give us price quotes for a new printer. She's going to order the printer for us and the Friends of the Bancroft Public Library will be meeting the same night as the board meeting and they will discuss purchasing the printer for us.
- Many local children enjoyed the library's "Missing Elf Hunt" around town. Once they located all the elves, they were able to come into the library and pick out a free book (courtesy of Books In Kids' Hands) or pencil. Our count for the number of participants is 34 although I know of some families who did the elf hunt on their own when the library was closed. The elf hunt was a safe way for families to enjoy themselves and spend some time outside.
- Our Christmas/Winter windows promoted the Missing Elf Hunt and showcased many of our holiday books that could be taken out by our patrons. The windows now welcome the new year and encourage reading.
- We recently completed the Stewart's Matching Grant. We requested grant money that could be used for our weekly crafts/summer programming/new bags for our Storytime Bags. As the Storytime Bags have been stored in the basement, they smell musty. We're looking to replace them and find a spot upstairs to store them.

- In December we moved our paperback section to a new location in the library to make room for our DVDs. We've also been weeding out some of our older books and books that no longer get taken out.
- I have started to put together "Welcome to Salem" bags for our patrons that are new to Salem. Bev Kratzert has agreed to sew bags for us and I've started to gather information to put in the bags. This was one of the ideas that came from our Five Year Strategic Plan.
- We have let our patrons know that "Curbside Pick-Up" is still available to them.

Looking Ahead:

- Karen Fronhofer and I are continuing to work together (Salem Central School and Bancroft Public Library) on putting together a permanent Story Walk in Salem.
- I have started to put together "Welcome to Salem" bags for our patrons that are new to Salem. Bev Kratzert has agreed to sew bags for us and I've started to gather information to put in the bags. This was one of the ideas that came from our Five Year Strategic Plan.

Programs:

- Scrabble Club continues to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings, Book Club meets the beginning of each month, Mah Jong also meets on Wednesdays, and Noah continues to provide tech help every Tuesday. Chess Club continues to be on a break.
- 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.