

Library Director's Report - February 2022

March 8, 2022

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

February Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of February 2022 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations:

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

\$100 - given as a thank you for the assistance Noah gave one of our patrons

\$200 - donation in memory of Robin Hanks

\$150 - donation in memory of Robin Hanks (books will be ordered)

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Food deliveries continue every Thursday—mostly root vegetables. Our numbers are lower this time of year but will increase in the coming months. Every month I have people thank us for having the free food available to them.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVD's to our shelves that are available for our patrons. New children's fishing books by Lane Walker have been added to our circulation. The books were purchased with money donated in memory of John Seale. We have also added several new children's books in memory of Robin Hanks. The books have themes about acceptance of those with disabilities.

- In February work in Proudfit slowed while we waited for the doors to be delivered (Update - doors are on!). Hopefully by the time of our board meeting the work in Proudfit Hall will be done.
- 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.
- The 2021 Annual Report was completed and submitted in February. Many thanks to Rebecca Brown and Karen Hickland for their assistance in getting it done.
- In February our library windows promoted a love of reading through a hearts/Valentine display.
- 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. During February I attended a Town of Salem Planning Board meeting to let them know what our plans are for the Story Walk. They like the idea and advised us to have a written consent form signed by property owners before placing the posts throughout town. I will also be attending a meeting of the Historical Preservation Committee in the near future to discuss our plans with them.

Looking Ahead:

- Now that the Annual Report is done, Jack (SALS), will be helping us put together our Report to the Community. That should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- I'll be attending a virtual workshop on March 11th that will advise us on how to be prepared if someone were to submit a book challenge to our library.
- Karen Hickland shared a virtual workshop with me from another library that describes how that library implemented an "After Hours Pick Up" locker. We are in the beginning stages of seeing if that's something we could have here

at Salem (on a smaller scale). It would involve placing a couple of small lockers outside the library. Each locker would have a combination lock (the combinations would be changed after each use). Patrons would be able to call the library and request their books be put in the locker. They could then pick them up during hours we are closed. This would give our patrons another way to pick up their books/DVDs.

- Towards the end of this month I will be extending an invitation to the teachers at Salem Central School to visit the library with their class to see what the library has to offer!

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, but with Proudfit Hall opening soon, Mark may want to start the group up again.
- 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.