

# Library Director's Report (May)

Meeting Date: June 14, 2022

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

## **Financial/Donations:**

Mark, Noah and Ed have installed the new Smart TV in Proudfit Hall that was donated in memory of Janet Donoghue.

A \$50 donation. Thanks was mentioned---for having Noah here to help with tech problems and for having free notary services available.

## **News/Issues:**

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. We are meeting monthly.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: As of last Thursday, all the libraries participating in the Farm-2-Library program are now picking up food items at the Comfort Food Community building on Fiddler's Elbow Road in Middle Falls. Karen and I went last week and picked up the food so we could see what it involved. Directions are being given to our volunteers and this past week one of them (Brenda Levey) picked up the food and delivered it to the library. The program has grown from just a few libraries to many throughout the area.
- Bancroft Classics, our new weekly social hour for our "vintage" patrons is well under way under the direction of Susan Getty. The first week everyone enjoyed a game of Uno and some snacks. Today (Friday), the program was Iris Rogers. She sang and provided entertainment for our seniors.

- The Office of the Aging had a pop-up senior citizen lunch in May. The lunch was well attended. The next luncheon will be in August.
- The Friends of the Bancroft Library have made it possible for us to have discount cards patrons can borrow using their library cards. The cards may be used at the Wild Center, The Adirondack Experience, and Fort Ticonderoga.
- In May students from Salem Central School came to the library on their "Day of Service" and helped spread soil out in back of the library. They did a great job—a thank you note was sent letting the students know their help was very much appreciated. Many thanks to Alesa Wilson for contacting the sod farm and getting the sod for the courtyard donated. A great team of Al and Alesa Wilson, Ed Donoghue, John Bardwell, and Mark Cooney put in the sod. Thanks to all of them and to Ed for all the watering, and thanks to Kent and Travis for all their volunteer help too.
- Story Walk Update: We are currently exploring ways to get the posts made.
- Last month Wendy and I sorted the books that have been out in the bays for some time. We boxed them up and put them together with books Karen has weeded from our shelves (many of those were put out in the foyer for people to take with a donation). Glenn and I delivered all of the books to the drop off in Pawlet for their annual book sale.
- In May Melissa attended the Spring Into Salem Artisan Fair. She was there representing the Salem Food Pantry, Books In Kids' Hands, and the Bancroft Public Library. She gave out information about the Salem Food Pantry, Books In Kids' Hands gave out free gently used children's books, and I put together some crafts from the library for kids to do. Library card applications and information about what the library has to offer were distributed.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVD's to our shelves that are available for our patrons.

- In May Karen and I met with a patron to discuss possible ways to encourage members of our community to come into the library.
- 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. A newsletter went out in May.

### **Looking Ahead:**

- Lunch, Learn, and Play kids will be coming to visit the library starting next month. Each group will have a guest speaker who will read a story to them along with a short activity.
- In May the elementary classes and English classes at Salem Central School were invited to come and visit the library. We currently have 12 classes scheduled—five of them have already been here. Each group gets to do a small scavenger hunt in the library so they can see all the things the library has to offer. Each student receives a pencil, a free book (compliments of Books In Kids' Hands), and an application for a library card. Mrs. Fronhofer will also be sending home information about Bancroft Public Library in her end of the year packet. We've already had some kids come in and get a library card!
- I've been in touch with Julie at DMV. They will be returning to Proudfit Hall beginning Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 - 2:30. DMV has sent out news releases informing the public of when they will be here and what services they can offer.
- SALS sent us a notification that there will be an event, Fiesta, at the Court House for non-English community members. We would like to have a table at the event that would include information about the library (translated into Spanish) and through the Farm-2-Library program, we would also have food to give out. We're still working with SALS to get the details worked out for this event and hope it will all come together. This event would be on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

- We have already had one patron contact us about displaying his art work in the Proudfit Hall hallway (see agenda).

## Programs:

- Two new programs have begun at the library: The Kickin' Knitters, a knitting group that meets the third Thursday of the month and Bird Watchers, a bird watching group that meets the fourth Thursday of the month.
- A Summer Reading Challenge is being offered to our patrons. Participants can fill in a reading bingo card for a chance to win a bookstore gift card at the end of the summer.
- 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 meets every Saturday! Their participation has been great!
- Karen and I are working to get some more programs lined up for the summer. We already have an Adult Craft Night planned for the end of this month. Sue Morrison has volunteered to show patrons how to make three colored wooden barn quilt squares. We are in the process of setting up a Dungeons and Dragons group that will meet throughout the summer and we also have a patron who has volunteered to direct a Lego and Minecraft program for kids.
- 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.
- Several patrons participated in Cornell Cooperative Extension's Garden Kit program. This year families had to go to Greenwich or Fort Edward to pick them up.