

Library Director's Report (June)

Meeting Date: July 12, 2022

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. We are meeting monthly.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Last month we had 113 community members (plus 44 at Fiesta) take a food item from our pantry (Most likely, more as people come and go that we don't see). Every month I have people tell me how much they appreciate the Farm-2-Library program.
- Bancroft Classics, our new weekly social hour for our "vintage" patrons, began in June and we have a great schedule for the month of July. We've put notices at the Shoppe Off Broadway, sent information to some of our area churches, and also gave the bank here in Salem information about today's program, Avoiding Scams, which is being taught by Noah.
- During the month of June we had 14 classes, 226 kids, and 38 adults from Salem Central School visit the library. The students participated in a scavenger hunt throughout the library so they could see all the things the library has to offer. I read them a story and each child chose a new book to take home and keep (courtesy of Books In Kids' Hands). A library card application and information about the library was sent home with the students. We had a junior high English class visit us too! We have seen a

noticeable increase in visits from kids and new library cards since the school visits.

- On Saturday, June 25th the library had a table at "Fiesta" that was held on the Court House lawn. The Comfort Food Community gave us extra food so we could promote the Farm-2-Library program at the library. In addition to the food, we had library card applications and information about what the library has to offer (both of these in Spanish). We also gave away free kids' books (Books In Kids' Hands). In all, 44 people took food, information, or books from our table.
- At the end of June, we offered an adult craft class. Susan Morrison taught a class on how to paint a barn square. The class filled up immediately and was enjoyed by nine people. A big thank you to Sue Morrison for volunteering her time to teach the class and providing the supplies for the class.
- Our Mah Jong class had a refresher class last month. Kathy Rapp and Lorraine, the instructors that taught the group at the beginning, came back and offered the group some help with their questions.
- Chris Smith, local artist and library patron, was the first person to hang his art work in our hallway gallery in Proudfit Hall. His work looks amazing with the brick behind it!
- 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. The cards have started getting checked out!
- In June we had a "Movie Afternoon" for kids! A movie and popcorn was enjoyed by all!
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVDs 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, newspaper articles, and our newsletter. A newsletter went out the last week in June.

Looking Ahead:

- Lunch, Learn, and Play kids will be coming to visit the library in July. Each group will have a guest speaker who will read a story to them along with a short activity. The first group came to visit on Thursday. Iris Rogers, dressed as Belle, from Beauty and the Beast, came to the library and read a story to the kids and then they made a craft to go along with the story.
- The Office of the Aging will have another pop-up lunch in August. I'm waiting to hear back from them about the specific date.
- I've been in touch with Julie at DMV. They will be returning to Proudfit Hall beginning Tuesday, July 19th 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.
- I recently had a Zoom meeting with Roseann from Tri-County Literacy. She gave me a lot of information about her organization and we discussed possibly starting an adult literacy program/English/Spanish at the library.

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.
- The Minecraft/Lego program for kids began this past week. Betsy Brander has volunteered to teach the class through the summer.
- Another new summer program is Dungeons and Dragons which is being led by Zakk Eastman. Their first meeting brought 15 participants to the library.

- 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!
- 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.