

Library Director's Report (July)

Meeting Date: August 16, 2022

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

*\$150 donation in memory of Ruth Foster to be used for the purchase of children's books or for the courtyard garden

*\$50 donation in memory of Ruth Foster

*State Aid Check for \$1,434.00

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 at least 73 community members 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. On Wednesday I attended a Zoom meeting with the other libraries that offer the program. Erica from SALS had us discuss what is working and not working with the program. The food in our fridge disappears very quickly these days.
- During the month of July we had 10 groups from Lunch, Learn, and Play visit the library---166 kids, 22 youth counselors, and 12 adult volunteer instructors. Each session the kids would have a book read to them and would then do a craft or an activity. We are so fortunate to have community members who are always willing to help! Many thanks to: Iris Rogers (Belle, Carl), Mary Skelly (Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors), Crystal Paul (I Say OOH You say

AHH), Tanya Carney (Snow White), Stacy Parker (The Garuffalo), Rachael Armstrong (Alice in Wonderland), Cindy Rogers (Jack and the Beanstalk's mother), Alexis Keenan (Teddy Bear Picnic), and Jillian Eastman and Huckleberry (Russell and Dug). I attended the LL & P end of program celebration where the kindergarten group performed. A great time was had by all this summer and it was great to work with Lunch, Learn & Play and to have so many kids visit the library!

- In July DMV returned to the library! On Tuesday, July 19th they were in Proudfit Hall and were able to help out many community members. There were quite a few people who came in to take advantage of their services and were happy to not have to drive to Fort Edward.
- 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! We're looking for some new people to display their art as Chris will be taking his down this month.
- We now have new Story Time bags (the old ones got musty while in the basement during Covid)! A huge thank you to Bev Kratzert who made them and to the Friends of the Bancroft Library for funding them. We will now be storing them on the shelves by the back door and will be promoting them during the next few weeks!
- 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 been getting checked out a lot over the summer!
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVDs to our shelves that are available for our patrons. Most recently she put into the system the children's books that are in Spanish that we have been collecting. There's not too many right now, but we hope to build this section up over time. We are very excited about this new addition to 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.
- During the past few weeks we have had to call Braymer Fuels to come take a look at the air conditioning in the library. They removed the filter in the vent above our work area and the air conditioning now seems to be working better. We received a call from the county asking us if the library could be placed on a state list of "Cooling Centers." The library would be listed as a place to go (during the hours we are open) when there is extreme heat outside.

Looking Ahead:

- The Office of the Aging will have another pop-up lunch in August. The program will be about Caregiver Support (This took place Wednesday, August 11th)
- 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:

- On Tuesdays in July we've been hosting Lego Club and Minecraft Club, led by volunteer Betsy Brander. Both programs have been very well attended and have been a lot of fun for everyone!
- Dungeons and Dragons has been meeting every Monday afternoon. This popular program, led by volunteer Zakk Eastman, has also been well attended by people of all ages - from kids to adults!
- Bancroft Classics, our weekly social hour for our "vintage" patrons, began in June and we had a great schedule for the month of July.

- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of July--- Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Bancroft Classics, Book Club, Kickin' Knitters, Tech Help with Noah and the Bird Watching Club.
- 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.
- 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.