

Library Director's Report (August)

Meeting Date: September 13, 2022

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

*\$200 donation in memory of Ruth Foster to be used for the courtyard.

News/Issues:

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. We are meeting monthly.
- An oil on linen canvas painting has been donated to the library and is hanging on the back wall in the Children's Section. The painting of Salem is painted in primitive style by artist Shirley Hunter Smith, 1980.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Last month we had at least 81 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.
- During the months of July and August we had 10 groups from Lunch, Learn, and Play visit the library---166 kids, 22 youth counselors, and 12 adult volunteer instructors. (See July 2022 report). It was a very successful program and exposed a lot of kids to the library! There are pictures of the summer programming on one of the West Broadway windows.
- DMV was here again in August. It's a great service that the library can help provide for our community.

- The new Story Time bags were a big hit in August! We will continue to promote them.
- The library discount cards for the Wild Center, the Adirondack Experience, and Fort Ticonderoga were checked out quite a few times during August.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVDs to our shelves that are available for our patrons.
The place we order our books from, Baker & Taylor, have had a ransomware attack so we've had a delay in ordering and receiving new books. They are working to resolve the problem so they can get back to business as usual (They are back to taking orders as of yesterday).
- 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 new newsletter will be going out soon!
- The Office of the Aging had a pop-up lunch in August. The program was about Caregiver Support. I spoke with Stacey yesterday about setting up luncheons in October and December.

Looking Ahead:

- I am in the process of planning some kind of Open House for the new faculty and staff at the school. It would be a nice welcome for them and it would give them an opportunity to see what the library has to offer.
- I continue to be in touch with Roseann from Tri-County Literacy. We are hoping to get some adult literacy tutors and students here at the library this fall.
- Plans are underway to once again have a "Great Give Back" day here at the library like we did last year. Many libraries throughout New York State participate in some way on this day.

- Printer Update: SALS is waiting to hear about when we will be receiving our new printer. As of right now, there is no ETA for it. In the meantime, they will be coming to the library on Tuesday, September 20th to install our new Cassie PCs.

Programs:

- On Tuesdays in August we hosted Lego Club and Minecraft Club, led by volunteer Betsy Brander. Both programs were very well attended and have been a lot of fun for everyone!
- Dungeons and Dragons met every Monday afternoon in August. 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 September.
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of August--- Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Bancroft Classics, Book Club, Kickin' Knitters, Tech Help with Noah (part of the month) and the Bird Watching Club.
- A Summer Reading Challenge was offered to our patrons. Participants can come in to the library to receive a free book (courtesy of Books In Kids' Hands) for filling in their bingo card and their names are being put into a drawing for a gift card to a book store. Many thanks to the Friends of the Bancroft Library for providing the gift cards.
- 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.
- Recently I met with Rachael Armstrong who has volunteered to lead two adult programs in October both having to do with growing succulents.