

Library Director's Report (December 2022)

Meeting Date: January 10, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

*Donations: \$200

\$50 donation in memory of Margaret Waite

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 56 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. As there wasn't a delivery the week of Christmas, our numbers for the month of December are a little lower than usual.
- Chris Smith resigned (shoveling) as of January 1, 2023. We have hired Andy Erbe to take over shoveling as of January 1, 2023.
- In December young kids were invited to find the animal ornaments (they are all holding or reading a book) on the library Christmas tree. If they found them all, they received a free book. We had 18 kids participate.
- As of January 1, 2023 the Bancroft Public Library has joined many of the other libraries in the SALS system in becoming fine free.

- After school use of the library seems to be increasing. We have many kids coming in after school to use the computers, the craft cart, the play area, the I-Pads and some even meet to play Dungeons and Dragons or Minecraft together.
- In December the Office of the Aging hosted a pop-up lunch for our senior citizens.
- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVDs to our shelves that are available for our patrons. We are very excited about having added quite a few books in Spanish to our lending library (children and adult books).
- In December we had a holiday gathering to honor and thank the library's volunteers and staff for all their hard work and the time they've dedicated to the library. We are truly grateful for everyone's help.
- 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 Year/Winter newsletter will be going out this week.

Looking Ahead:

- We have suspended the weekly senior program at the library for the month of January. Instead, we have planned a pot luck luncheon on Wednesday, January 18th at noon. All seniors are welcome to join us for lunch and a discussion about how the library can best serve the senior citizens in our community. We have handed out about 50 hand written invitations for this event.
- I have been in contact with the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society. They are putting together "birding backpacks" and I requested one for us to have

at the library to loan out to patrons. We should have at least one sometime in February.

- We are planning to begin a weekly Story Time for preschoolers in January. We've tentatively scheduled it for Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. starting at the end of the month.
- We have started making plans for programming during February break (Tuesday - Friday).
- The next senior citizen pop-up luncheon will be in February.
- I've been in touch with Francesca Telesco who owns a therapy dog. She has agreed to come in with her dog, Joy, and read with kids at the library a few hours a month. She'll be bringing the dog in several times before starting so she can get familiar with the library.

Programs:

- Bancroft Classics, our weekly social hour for our "vintage" patrons, met several times in December.
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of December--- Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Bancroft Classics, Mahjong, Book Club, Kickin' Knitters, and Tech Help with Noah.
- 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. A big thank you to Gayle Shaw who has volunteered to make these crafts for the library.