

Library Director's Report (January 2023)

Meeting Date: February 14, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

January Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of January 2023 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations:

*Donations: \$50

\$32 (Donations given to us "just because.")

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 72 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 of January 1, 2023, Andy Erbe has taken over shoveling at the library. Andy has been doing a fantastic job!
- On Wednesday, February 8th, I was the guest speaker at the Salem Woman's Club monthly meeting. To help them learn about our library I set up a game of "Two Truths and a Lie." After they determined the "lie" on the card, I would talk about the "truths." (Facts about the library and what the library has to offer). I handed out information about the library, invitations to the senior luncheon, and even had one person sign up to be a literacy tutor. They are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. I contacted Judy Flagg and she brought over some items from their archives. They are being housed in the

Reading Room and members of the Woman's Club are welcome to come look at them any time the library is open.

- Our first tutor and student have been matched up through the Tri-County Literacy organization and have been meeting weekly. As time goes on, there will be more tutor/student meetings here at the library.
- You can now borrow magazines through Overdrive and Libby - you have access to over 4000 titles that can be borrowed immediately (no wait time!!) and renewed as needed!
- Our after school craft cart volunteers continue to help us out once or twice a month.
- After a long wait, the new printer is finally here and we've been using it for a few weeks. Thank you to the Friends for the purchase of the printer.
- Our current patron artist is Rue Hunter. Be sure to stop in and see her beautiful paintings.
- As of January 1, 2023 the Bancroft Public Library has joined many of the other libraries in the SALS system in becoming fine free. This has been a smooth transition.
- SALS is now requiring all staff to take Cyber Security Training. The training is to help us prevent/recognize "phishing" and other cyber risks. SALS advises it should also help reduce the amount we have to pay for cyber insurance. The training is done on the computer.
- Thanks to the efforts of SALS we will soon be sharing Overdrive collections with the Mohawk Valley Library System. Opening this up will give us access to more materials. Also, in the next couple of months we will begin sharing with the Upper Hudson Library System and possibly Mid Hudson too.

- We have finally been able to add a "Donation" button on to our website. Be sure to take a look. Thank you to Karen, Ed, and Rebecca for all their research and extra work to make this happen.
- 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 New Year/Winter newsletter went out in January.

Looking Ahead:

- 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. The organization asked us for information about local places people might go birding to include in the backpack. We should be receiving ours soon.
- February is Annual Report month. I've started the report and will continue to work on it throughout the month. Many thanks to Karen who keeps track of our numbers throughout the year which is a tremendous help when filling out the report. Also, thank you to Rebecca for all of her hard work filling out her part of the report.
- The next senior citizen pop-up luncheon will be Wednesday March 8th. (They are doing them quarterly now).

Programs:

- In January the library had a pot luck luncheon for our area senior citizens. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all and we asked those attending for ideas of what the library can do to better serve our senior population. At least for the

winter months, we decided to forego the weekly meetings and have a monthly pot luck lunch with some kind of program or activity afterwards. Our next luncheon is Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 12:00 noon. Volunteer, Gayle Bearup, has agreed to take charge of the lunch that day.

- In the month of January, we started a new Story Time---Bancroft Book Buddies. The program is geared for kids birth to 4, but any kids at home at the 10:30 time are welcome to join in. Nan Valler, has been volunteering her time to plan and be here to do the program. We started the first week with 3 kids and this past week we had 12! We're off to a great start!
- Kids programs are planned for the week of February Break. Tuesday - Movie Afternoon, Wednesday - Perler Bead Crafts, Thursday - Board Game Café and Hot Cocoa Bar, and Friday - Lego Build Tournament.
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of January-- Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Bancroft Classics, Mahjong, Book Club, 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.