

Library Director's Report (March 2023)

Meeting Date: April 11, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

***Donations:**

The Smithsonian magazine we have here at the library is donated by Donald Ketchum in memory of Joe Montgomery (The engineer who designed the second floor of Proudfit Hall). He just renewed the subscription.

Other: \$16,873.00 - State of New York (Construction Grant)

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 95 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 March 27th the SALS libraries will have OverDrive reciprocal lending with Mohawk Valley, Mid-Hudson and Upper Hudson Library Systems. This allows patrons to borrow select available content from any partner system's Overdrive collection. To access the available titles, patrons just need to add the other library systems to their accounts in the Libby app and log in with their library card.

- The Tri-County Literacy organization continues to have tutors meet with students at the library. Our numbers continue to grow as we currently have three groups meeting weekly.
- Late in March patron Dave O'Keefe hung his artwork up in the Proudfit Hallway. Be sure to stop in and see his work! It will be up all through the month of April.
- Our birding backpack has arrived! It has been put into our circulation and patrons have been taking it out!
- The Annual SALS Trustee Meeting will be held on Monday, May 15th at 5:00. Ed is unavailable and cannot attend. Is there another board member that could go? The deadline for reservations is Friday, April 28th.
- Dave and Peg Culver have fixed several of the library chairs recently. A big thank you to both of them for their hard work.
- 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 spring newsletter will be coming out sometime this month.

Looking Ahead:

- Our newest program, "The Bancroft Writing Group" will start on Tuesday, April 11th. The group will meet twice a month, the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The group is being started at the request of one of our patrons and will be run by the participants, focusing on writing and critiquing pieces of writing.
- After taking a break over the winter, the Kickin' Knitters will resume meeting this month.

- Our next senior citizen Potluck Luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 26th. The program will be a performance by a musical group from Montreal called E.T.E. It's through a program at Cafee Lena called "On the Road." The group is a lively Quebecois trio which also features a step dancer. There is no cost for the program.



Programs:

- On Wednesday, March 22nd we had our monthly senior citizen potluck luncheon. A delicious meal was shared and it was followed by a trivia game led by Gail Bearrup.
- On Wednesday, March 8th, the library hosted a pop-up luncheon prepared by the Office of the Aging for our local senior citizens. Thank you to the Friends of Bancroft Library for paying the fee for our patrons.
- In March we offered a Beginning Crocheting class. The class was taught by Alexis Keenan with some assistance from Karen Hickland, Lucy Fronhofer and Tanya Carney. The class was well attended and we are in the process of setting up another program soon. Thank you to the Friends for providing the supplies for the class.
- Our weekly story time, Bancroft Book Buddies, continued in the month of March. Our volunteer, Nan Valler, has been leading it every Wednesday.
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of March-- Scrabble Club, Chess Club, 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.