

Library Director's Report (May 2023)

Meeting Date: June 13, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

\$50 - Our first on-line donation from a former Salem resident

News/Issues:

- Our Proudfit gallery has had a Norman Rockwell exhibit during May and will continue through July. This exhibit was put together by Tom McMorris and Judy Flagg. It stems from a recent program at the Salem Courthouse Community Center by Stephen Haggerty who just authored a new book, "Norman Rockwell's Models In and Out of the Studio." The pictures have QR codes so patrons can use their phones to view interviews given by friends and family of Rockwell's models. There are also binders in the library where people can read additional information about the models and pictures. Tom recently did a Zoom interview at the library with Channel 10 News. This exhibit has brought some new people into the library!
- During the month of May students from Salem Central School helped the library out on their "Day of Service." Several students moved and put down the stone in the Courtyard.
- All staff are doing short cyber security training sessions through JA.

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- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. We are meeting monthly. Since COVID we've been meeting virtual. Beginning in June our meetings will be hybrid.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Last month we had at least 63 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. We had a virtual meeting this month to discuss the program---what works and what can be improved.
- 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 went out in April. A summer newsletter will be going out soon.
- We continue have a good number of kids come to the library after school. During that time our Maker Space items, Craft Cart, Play Center, public computers, I-Pads, and games from the Game Cart get a lot of use!

Looking Ahead:

- Plans are underway for end of the school year classroom visits to the library. I currently have 10 classes scheduled and four more that have expressed interest! I will read a book to each class, give them a library activity and information about the library, and each student will get a free book courtesy of Books In Kids' Hands. (The first two groups came this morning!)
- LLP will be sending groups of kids (Grades K - 5/6) to the library this summer. There are currently 10 groups scheduled. We are currently making plans for when the groups come to visit.

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- Karen has put together a great reading incentive for this summer! There are two challenges. The first one is an I Spy Challenge where you can choose a book connected to pictures on an I Spy page and the second one is Reading Through the Decades where you read books set during a specific time period.
- Salem graduate Lindsay Keys has created a documentary called "The Quiet Epidemic. It's a documentary about Lyme disease and it has had wonderful reviews. I've been in touch with her and the person who books viewing of the documentary. We will be booking a date in the fall to have a viewing of the documentary at the library. The Friends of the Library have agreed to pay for the fee.
- In June Cornell Cooperative Extension will be offering a Container Gardening kits to families in our community.

Programs:

- Our May senior citizen Potluck Luncheon was held April 24th. The program was a visit from veterinarian, Mary Maynard, who is a new member of the board at the Court House. Mary talked about ways we can connect senior citizens and youth in our community. At our lunch in July one of the LL&P groups will be joining us for lunch!
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of April-Bancroft Book Buddies, Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Mahjong, Book Club, Kickin' Knitters, Tech Help with Noah and Tri-County Literacy.
- We continue to make available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community.