

Library Director's Report (August 2023)

Meeting Date: September 12, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

Financial/Donations:

News/Issues:

- Our Proudfit gallery has had a Norman Rockwell exhibit up for several months. As I'm writing this, SALS is sending us our newest exhibit, The Memory Project. This is a Holocaust Exhibit we are able to borrow thanks to a SALS grant. The exhibit will be up through the month of September. I have contacted the history teachers at school to see if they want to schedule a visit to the library to experience the exhibit!
- Karen put together a great reading incentive for the summer! There were two challenges. The first one was an I Spy Challenge where you could choose a book connected to pictures on an "I Spy" page and the second one was "Reading Through the Decades" where you read books set during a specific time period. We are still in the process of collecting participant log sheets.
- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Last month we had at least 105 community members take a food item from our pantry (Most likely more as people come and go that we don't see). We have had amazing food deliveries from the Comfort Food Community this summer.

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- The new router from SALS is hooked up and working well. Also, I have multi-factor authentication set up for my account. We will get everyone else set up in the next few weeks.
- 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 summer newsletter went out last month.

Looking Ahead:

- I've been in touch with the person who books events for "The Quiet Epidemic." We are in the process of setting up a viewing of the documentary at the library in the fall.
- Starting September 18th Washington County Public Health, in collaboration with the Office of the Aging and Disability Resource Center, will be offering a Tai Chi class for Arthritis & Falls Prevention at the library. It will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in Proudfit Hall. The class will run until November 9th. The class is currently full with a waiting list. Ed has kindly offered to unlock the doors and lock up again when the class is over.
- I am in the process of setting up a program on Alzheimer's and Dementia with the Warren, Washington & Hamilton County Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York. The name of the program is "Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia." As soon as I hear back about a date, we will get the word out to our patrons.
- The next Office of the Aging pop-up lunch will be September 13th. The speaker will be Public Health with a Tai Chi demonstration.

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- Courtyard - I met with the Foster family to discuss what things we could add to the courtyard in memory of Ruth. She has put us in touch with Douglas Durning and Nancy Knapik of Indigo Iris Garden Designs. Since then, the Courtyard Committee has met and discussed further plans for the courtyard. I can update you during the regular meeting.

Programs:

- Our August senior citizen Potluck Luncheon was held August 23rd. Our guests enjoyed a lunch of pizza and dessert, followed by a sing along led by Gail Bearup. Our next luncheon will be Wednesday, September 27th. Anna Maxwell, the Washington County Dairy Princess will be joining us and providing the program for the luncheon.
- August brought the end of the Lunch, Learn, and Play kids visiting the library. It was a hugely successful program thanks to our volunteers who read to the kids and provided a fun, engaging program to go along with the book that was read!
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of August- Bancroft Book Buddies, Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Mahjong, Book Club, Writing Club, Kickin' Knitters, Tech Help with Noah and Tri-County Literacy (We are now up to four tutors and students).
- We continue to make available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community.