

# Library Director's Report (September 2023)

Meeting Date: October 10, 2023

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

**Financial/Donations:** \$840

Love Your Library Funds - \$272.52 - To be used in the Summer of 2024 for Summer Reading/Programming

## **News/Issues:**

- The library continues to offer an incredible travelling exhibit called "Messages From Survivors." It's a powerful new exhibit about the Holocaust, survival and resiliency. Last week students from the AP World History, AP US History and English IV classes at Salem Central School and members of the Salem Rotary Club (I attended the Rotary meeting along with our guest speaker) came to the library to experience the exhibit and to listen to the child of a Holocaust survivor, Harry Engel. Harry shared his father's story of survival during his time in Auschwitz-Birkenau, a Nazi concentration camp. While here the visitors were able to view six exhibit panels that tell personal stories of Holocaust survivors, use QR codes to listen to videos of the survivors, and take-home cards that can be kept and read at home. We were able to borrow this exhibit thanks to SALS and a grant from Carrie Woerner.
- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings.

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- Be sure to check out the Fire Safety posters in the Proudfit Hall windows. They were made by the students at Salem Central School.
- The new cement has been poured in front of the library.
- Many people have come in to the library to purchase a copy of Tales and Legends From Salem.
- Farm-2-Library Program Update: Last month we had at least 68 community members take a food item from our pantry (Most likely more as people come and go that we don't see).
- 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. I'm currently working on a Fall Newsletter.

### Looking Ahead:

- In November the library will be hosting 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." The program will be held on Thursday, November 2nd from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
- On Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. the library will offer a program to the public focusing on the "Messages From Survivors" exhibit. Along with the exhibit, there will be a speaker, Suzanne Cohen, a local author from Greenwich. She will talk about the experiences of her family during the Holocaust.

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- The Court House will be having their Second Annual Trunk or Treat for kids on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. As part of the library's "The Great Giveback" we will partner with Books In Kids' Hands and the Salem Food Pantry to give away free books, crafts, and a healthy snack.

## Programs:

- Our September senior citizen Potluck Luncheon was held September 27<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and our special guest was Anna Maxwell, the Washington County Dairy Princess. Anna talked to everyone about the dairy industry in Washington County. Our next luncheon will be Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker will be Suzanne Cohen. She will talk about her family's experiences during the Holocaust and attendees will have the opportunity to see our "Messages From Survivors" exhibit.
- The last Office of the Aging pop-up lunch was held September 13<sup>th</sup>. The speaker was from Public Health. She gave a Tai Chi demonstration.
- In September Washington County Public Health, in collaboration with the Office of the Aging and Disability Resource Center, began a Tai Chi class for Arthritis & Falls Prevention at the library. It is on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in Proudfit Hall. The class will run until November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.