

## Library Director's Report (December 2023)

Meeting Date: January 9, 2024 (Postponed)

January 16, 2024

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

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

### **Financial/Donations:**

- Adirondack Trust/SALS Grant - \$283.88 (Summer of 2024 kids programming)
- \$50 donation from Bonnie Hoag
- \$1,500 donation from Joshua Levy and Pamela Anne Magnuson
- \$250 donation from Paul Hayes Tucker and Maggie Moss Tucker in memory of Roy Moss

### **News/Issues:**

- I have been participating in virtual Director's Council meetings. Regular director's meetings will now be every other month. However, the small, rural library group will also meet every other month.
- 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 always see). There was no delivery Christmas week. The Comfort Food Community continues to provide our patrons with free, healthy food each week. They now also provide us with the names of the farms that provide the food and we post them in the lobby.

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- Karen continues to add some wonderful new books, games, and DVDs to our shelves that are available for our patrons.
- We once again offered the animal ornament hunt to kids during the month of December. Thanks to Books In Kids' Hands each child got a free gently used book to take home and keep.
- In 2023 electronic access to magazines was added to what the library offers. In the month of December 2023 we had 150 magazine checkouts! If you look at the chart Karen printed out, you will see that our Overdrive checkouts for 2023 has increased dramatically from past years. In October there was over 350.  
Starting in August of 2023 the library's computer usage also increased dramatically (see chart). In the month of December our public computers logged in 361 sessions.
- The windows are decorated for winter/Christmas.
- 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'll be starting a winter newsletter this month.

### **Looking Ahead:**

- The SALS Annual Report Party will be coming up on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The report should be open sometime at the end of January.
- We are currently making plans for some children's programming during school vacation week in February. On one of the days Bernadette from the Pember Museum and Library will be presenting an animal program.

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- I'm in the process of scheduling a showing of "The Quiet Epidemic" during the month of May which is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. We are hoping Lyndsay Keys (Salem graduate and creator of the documentary) will be able to join us.
- We are also hoping to offer a program around St. Patrick's Day. SALS recommended it. The program will demonstrate the Irish martial art of "Bataireacht" and Shillelagh fighting. They will show the moves and explain why this art was such an integral part of life in Ireland long ago. There will also be music and story telling.
- With the help of one of our patrons, we are scheduling an eclipse event for April. We already have the glasses and will be making further plans in the next couple of months.
- An adult craft class is also being scheduled for the beginning of March. Sue Morrison has offered to teach the class.
- The staff will be meeting soon to plan programming for the 2024 year.

## Programs:

- Our monthly Senior Citizen Potluck Lunch was on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. The person scheduled for our program was ill, so we had a great time figuring out the titles of Christmas carols from words or phrases. Thank you to Gail Bearup and Ed Donoghue for helping with the luncheon each month.
- On Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> the library hosted a pop-up story time with the Grinch (me) and Cindy Lou. (Stacy Parker) The Grinch read "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Kids were then invited to enjoy a green Grinch treat and do

- some fun crafts (make reindeer food, make bead ornaments, make a Grinch, and a Christmas scene). There were approximately 20 kids in attendance and many parents. It was great to see some new families in the library! A big thank you to Stacy Parker for volunteering her time and donating the Grinch snack.
- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of December, 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).
- Our Mahjong group has grown this winter! We've had two groups of four the past couple of weeks!
- We continue to make available weekly "Take Away" craft bags for the children in our community. Thank you to Gayle Shaw for putting the craft bags together each week.