

Library Director's Report (March 2024)

Meeting Date: April 9, 2024

Prepared by Lori Stokem, Director

Monthly Statistics: Statistical summaries for the month of March 2024 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations: \$500 Stewart's Grant

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 80 community members take a food item from our pantry (Most likely more as people come and go that we don't always see). The Comfort Food Community continues to provide our patrons with free, healthy food each week. A big thank you to our volunteers who help us each month: Diane Jilek, Brenda Levey, Laura Harrison & Dianna Verge.
- The Courtyard Committee met on Monday, March 18th. Karin Foster joined us along with Douglas and Nancy from Indigo Iris Garden Designs. Doug and Nancy provided us with ideas for the garden in the courtyard along with an estimate of the cost.
- The library gave away free eclipse glasses during the month of March. Many people that had never been in the library before came in to pick up their glasses. It was a great way for people to see the library for the first time.

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- Crystal Paul, our library cleaner, gave her notice last month. She always did an outstanding job. This week I hired Jeannie Smith as our new cleaner. She comes highly recommended and has cleaning experience.
- 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.

Looking Ahead:

- The Courtyard Committee will meet again on Friday, April 12th to review the information Doug and Nancy from Indigo Garden Designs gave us and to review our budget for the project.
- On April 25th I will be attending Parent Night for Kindergarteners at Salem Central School. They have asked me to come and describe the 1,000 book program (purple bags) that we share with the school. I can also have other information about the library available for the parents.
- Soon we will start planning for Lunch, Learn, and Play for this summer.
- The month of April will be a month of transition at the library. Melissa Carll will begin as the new Director on Monday, April 15th. Melissa has already been in several times to start learning the job. We welcome her and will do what we can to make the transition as smooth as possible.

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Programs:

- On Wednesday, March 27th, Anna Maxwell, the Washington County Dairy Princess was our guest reader at Bancroft Book Buddies, our story time for Pre-K. Anna read the kids a story, offered them a fun cow craft and brought them some milk to drink.
- On Saturday, March 16th Bill Fredrick of the Salem Astronomy Club offered a program about the upcoming eclipse. Bill talked about how to safely observe the eclipse on April 8th. The library provided eclipse glasses to all participants.
- On March 20th we hosted the County Office of the Aging Pop-Up Luncheon. Thank you to the Friends of Bancroft Library for paying the small fee for the luncheon.
- Thanks to the Friends of Bancroft Library, we were able to offer a St. Patrick's Day program on March 13th. The program demonstrated the Irish martial art of "Bataireacht" and Shillelagh fighting. They demonstrated the moves and explained why the art was such an integral part of life in Ireland long ago.
- An adult craft class was held on Tuesday, March 12th. Volunteer/patron Sue Morrison taught a class on how to make decorative jars.
- Washington County Public Health is offering a free six week workshop for people with chronic diseases/illnesses and/or their family members, friends, or caretakers. It began March 21st and will run through April 25th.
- Our monthly Senior Citizen Potluck Lunch was on Wednesday, March 27th. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all followed by a fun program led by Gail Bearup.

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- All of our regular programs continued throughout the month of March, Bancroft Book Buddies, Scrabble Club, Chess Club, Mahjong, Book Club, Writing 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. Thank you to Gayle Shaw for putting the craft bags together each week.