

June Board Meeting – Bancroft Public Library

Director's Report

News/Updates & Issues

- **Day of Service** – Karen worked with four students to wash windows, plant flowers, move stones, and clean-off the doors. The windows in particular look great, and the exterior had a nice shiny feel afterwards.
- **Seed Library** – We have placed a seed library in the lobby. Thanks to Jeanne Smith for mentioning the Free Seed Giveaway at Bentley Seeds in Cambridge. We were able to get two brown bags full of seeds for the seed library!
- **Historic Salem Courthouse** – they are looking for community collaboration for the parade this year. They asked us to decorate the windows for the parade theme, which Lori and Karen have agreed to do. They have also asked community members to help with parade floats and wondered if they library or Friends group would like to do a float?
- **Student Art on Display** – Artwork from elementary and high school students is on display in Proudfit. It's been heartwarming to see several whole family groups come in to see their child's artwork.
- **After-School Program** - A.S.A.P. has been going well. Depending on the day, there will be three – 15 kids participating in the program. Mondays are Makerspace Mondays, Tuesdays are LEGO club (usually with a build challenge of some kind), Wednesdays are designated as Wildcard Wednesdays and programs vary on that day, Thursdays are Art Club, and Friday is Movie Day. We are interested to see how this will shake out during the summer. Several families who come up for the summer have contacted us about summer programming and whether they can join in A.S.A.P.
- **Music by Caffe Lena** (Program with Courthouse and School) - There was good success with the Cafe Lena programs that came to the library and courthouse this spring. Herb Perkins mentioned that he and Gail Bearup will apply for another grant to do the same program again next year.
- **Book Donation Bin Being Used** – The book bin has been filled thirteen times and emptied. We are currently on our 14th bin, which is fantastic.
- **Melissa Away** – Melissa will be on vacation from July 1 – July 5.

Follow Up from Previous Meetings

Circulation Statistics

- See website for the May Circulation report.

Program Stats

- **Dinner and a Documentary** - 3 people
- **Day of Service** – 4 people
- **Build a Cardboard Car** – 12 people
- **Bluebird House Program** – 16 people (variety of ages)
- **Potluck** – 20 people
- **Yoga** – 3 people
- **Farm – to – Library** – averages 15-20 people each week.
- **Weekly/Monthly programs** – Book Groups, Scrabble, Tech Help, Book Club, Mahjong, and Chess all have a consistent number of people who attend.

Upcoming Programs and Ideas

Upcoming Programs	Date	Details
Homeschool Swap	July 24, 2025	Homeschool families can come and exchange materials during the swap.
Bancroft Birders Watchers Club: Avian Research in the Albany Pine Bush	June 26, 2026	Neil Gifford will provide a synopsis of the individual studies and conservation work being conducted there and share that their efforts have had a positive impact on the local shrubland bird community.
Compost Bucket Program with Community Garden	Launch in July	As part of the Climate Smart Community Initiative of which Salem is a part, the library will begin composting food scraps and taking them to the community garden.
Summer Reading Challenge	All Summer	Kids Version and Adults Version
Lunch, Learn and Play	6 dates, July – August	Students from LLP will come throughout the summer to a program.
Drumming Circle – World Awareness Children’s Museum	July TBD	Families and individuals can come and learn about drumming practices from around the world.
Turkey Program –Adirondack Audubon	July 31, 2025	So. Adirondack Audubon comes with another bird program in July about Turkeys.
USS Slater Talk – Senior Potluck	August 27, 2025	USS Slater will give a talk after the Senior Potluck in August.
Costume Program	August TBD, or possibly in the fall	World Awareness Children’s Museum to come in to present on costumes from around the world.
Orienteering Workshop – Merck Forest	August 16, 2025	Merck Forest returns with an orienteering workshop at the library. For ages 8 and above.
Crayon Recycling Program	Launch in August	We will install a crayon recycling bucket in the lobby for patrons to donate used crayons. Crayons will go to National Crayon Recycle Program.

Outreach in the Local Community (and Beyond!)

- **Climate Smart Initiative and Compost Buckets:** Continuing the conversation stemming from Melissa’s meeting with Sue Clary about the Climate Smart Community initiative: We are now working with the Courthouse to have our library compost go the Community Garden compost. We will be adding two small compost buckets into the Library and Proudfit spaces.
- **Storywalk at SAW:** Melissa emailed with the new director, Jim Letts, at SAW to ask about possibly doing a storywalk or two there this summer. She is waiting to hear back on that.

- **Courthouse – Library Collaboration:** Marissa Perkins (Courthouse) and Melissa have been in regular communication about programs, which feels very positive! We are working to do a few programs together this summer including co-sponsoring/paying for them). One of these program includes a music program for families and younger children.
- **LLP:** We are planning on having programs for each grade level this summer.

Financials and Donations

- **Printer replacement** - Melissa met with Seeley in mid-May. They offered us potentially \$250 to \$275 per month, maybe lower, to get a new printer to replace the public printer which has been acting up over the past two months. This cost includes ink (not paper). They also asked us to replace/lease a new Cassie Printer (the printer behind the desk).
 - We currently spend about \$1200 - \$1600 for ink for the public printer per year. The printer was originally \$500 (plus the aforementioned yearly ink charges).

Staff & Volunteers

- **Staff:** Lori, Gayle, Karen, and Melissa Curtis helped cover the library while Melissa Carll was away. Thank you to them for handling everything!
- **Volunteers:** Beth Dellarocco has been amazing over the past few months, helping to discard books, clean the lobby, and all around be helpful. Maggie Leary continues to help with shelving and spine labels. Mike Mugits helps a lot with the lobby book sale area over the past months! Mark Cooney was super amazing with making the birdhouse kits for the Bluebird house program.

Facility Update

- **Printer Issues:** Printer has been having some issues. It seems to have resolved, but we just want to keep board apprised in case anything goes wrong in the weeks ahead.
- **Lobby Changing:** Melissa started working on the lobby: To really clean the space deeply; to reorganize it so that items are easily accessible; to make the space welcoming and attractive. She'll finish out there after the windows are installed.

Technology

- n/a

Submitted by: Melissa Carll, Library Director, June 9, 2025