

July Board Meeting – Bancroft Public Library

Director's Report

News/Updates & Issues

- **Problems Ordering Large Type Books:** Karen can generally order books through Polaris from Gale Cengage. For the past six weeks (after Gale Cengage did an upgrade to their server), we have not been able to order through Polaris. We have called several times with no change. We are hoping to have the issue resolved soon.
- **Washington County Home for Aged Women's Grant** – Karen has applied for the grant again this year. Generally, the funds are awarded in the fall.
- **Free Seed Library** – Almost all seeds have been taken. We'll have to plan to have more seeds next year!
- **Windows/Historic Salem Courthouse** – Karen and Lori created new windows for the Farm, Food, and Freedom Fourth of July Parade. Thanks to the Friends for helping buy the supplies.
- **After-School Program** - We are watching how the program might change during the summer months. The week after school got out was quiet, but we anticipate more kids at a regular time once LLP is going again this week. LLP gets out at 2:30pm.
- **Book Donation Bin Being Used** – The book bin has been filled approximately 15 times and emptied. We are currently on our 16th bin, which is fantastic.

Follow Up from Previous Meetings

Circulation Statistics

- See website for the June Circulation report.

Program Stats

- **Homeschool Swap** – approximately 10 families (29 people)
- **Bluebird House Program** – 16 people (all ages)
- **Weekly/Monthly programs** – Book Groups, Scrabble, Tech Help, Book Club, Herbal Study Group, Homesteading Group, Mahjong, and Chess all have a consistent number of people who attend.

Upcoming Programs and Ideas

Upcoming Programs	Date	Details
Bancroft Birders Watchers Club: Avian Research in the Albany Pine Bush	Moved to fall	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.
Pre-Health Pathway: Come learn about the steps to medical school with Dr. Hunter Southerland and med-student Audrey Roosevelt	July 15, 2025	If you are interested in becoming a provider or supporting a pre-med student, join us for an informational and Q&A session outlining the process of entering the medical field. Join med student, Audrey Roosevelt, and Dr. Hunter Southerland for this program.
Drumming Circle – World Awareness Children’s Museum	July 25, 2025	Families and individuals can come and learn about drumming practices from around the world.
Tromp Through the Swamp Songs at Salem Courthouse	July 28, 2025	Children’s singer/musician comes to the Courthouse. Library is co-sponsoring this program.
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 14, 2025	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.
- **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 three 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 on ink for the public printer per year. The printer was originally \$500 (plus the aforementioned yearly ink charges).

- Additional Note (from June) - **JA and several other libraries mentioned that working with Seeley has been just okay. JA struggles sometimes to get the Seeley printers to integrate with SALS system, and JA finds that working with HP printers to be the better option.**

Staff & Volunteers

- Karen is away for a portion of July. All staff are helping to cover, and our schedules will be different from July 16 – July 25.
- Thank you to Mark for keeping up with the needs of the vacuum, and for constructing ten bluebird boxes at the beginning of the month.

Facility Update

- **Vacuum is Still Acting Up:** Melissa called Gary for a quote on a new vacuum. Looked online for price quotes as well. Melissa has information if needed.

Technology

- JA coming in August to update all our older computers to Windows 11

Submitted by: Melissa Carll, Library Director, July 8, 2025