

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2020 TRUSTEES MEETING

January Statistics

There were 273 visits in January (214 adults and 59 children), a 39% drop from January of 2019. Six active programs were held with a total of 23 attendants (this includes 4 weeks of Baxter Café and two of the board game group) and two passive programs with 10 participants (bulletin board question and Short Story Club). There were 295 library materials borrowed from BML, 67 from ListenUp Vermont, and 25 through ILL. Combined, this is a 22% drop from January of 2019. Over 15% of all BML checkouts were of "NEW" books.

Collection Development

I attended the first meeting of Librarians of the Upper Valley in January and was able to add 35 audiobooks and 40 DVDs to the collection. Every two months, the DVDs will be rotated, and every four months, the audio books will be rotated, at which time, we'll receive fresh titles.

Programming

Ron Lacer began hosting Community Board Gaming in January and has run two sessions, so far. The first was decently attended with six attendees; however, the second session occurred on a day when heavy snow was forecast, and the four people who had planned on attending contacted him to say they were each staying in. The next session will be this Thursday.

On Thursday, March 5th from 5:30 to 7:00, Aaron Hoopes, Vermont author of *Reconnecting to the Earth: Reclaiming Our Relationship to Nature and Ourselves*, will give a talk on realigning ourselves with a planet in crisis. The book "offers concrete suggestions to assist in reestablishing our relationship to nature and offers respite to those overwhelmed by a society that has lost the ability to recognize the harm that is being done to the earth by providing a framework for changing our way of relating to the natural world."

I intend to start the Lego Club back up. Russ may be interested in hosting occasionally, but I think that, regardless of whether there's a dedicated host, it will take minimal effort to set out Legos, create challenges, take photos of finished work and post them to a blog page. I may even set up a rotating weekly "leader" who gets to choose a theme and be the designated "helper." I'm not sure yet what day/time will work best for this.

Artwork

Jools Skeet has removed her artwork (save for the two pieces she's gifted to Baxter), and Jess Kimball's photographs honoring motherhood have been put up.

Get the Books Back Campaign

I have not yet sent out notices for overdue books. Instead, I thought I'd start by emailing a few of the patrons who have a large number of items more than a month overdue. The previous report indicated we had more than 260 items that fell into this category. After emailing, 22% of the materials were returned. A letter will be the next step.

Computers

I've talked to a few techy people, and I'm ready to order the Asus Chromebook Flip C434s, but I'm not sure how to go about it. The pre-purchased Visa card that acts as petty cash only has a \$200 limit. Deb also mentioned that, for such a large purchase, we may need to have prices from three different sources before purchasing (at least, this is how it's done in the town office). It's currently \$482.92 with free shipping at Amazon, \$569.99 with free shipping at the Asus website, and \$557.99 with free shipping at Best Buy.

CLiF Revive Your Literacy Program Grant

We were awarded this \$500 grant (\$250 for books and \$250 for an event). The grant will provide for a series of weekday children's poetry activities that take place in the library during March, culminating in a Saturday afternoon children's poetry reading (performed by a local volunteer voice actor) after which children (and their caregivers) will write and perform their own poetry. Ideally, this event will happen during National Poetry Month (April). Poetry is often seen as stuffy and inaccessible, but poems can be introduced to young people and their caregivers in a fun and engaging way. In addition to silly, zany poems, of which there will be many, of course, the poems that are presented will show that this form of literature can be a novel way of entering into difficult subjects, allowing readers to see things from different perspectives than they might otherwise have done. Writing poems has many benefits, too, including taking control of emotions and experiences that may be confusing or frightening, as well as simply having fun with words. And, for writers who are unsure of themselves, a poem is less daunting than an essay or story. It can be short and contained, and when finished, a great source of pride: "I made this."

This is from CLiF:

"Because of how quickly the year will go by, we will need the following by **MARCH 13th**:

1. Committee meeting – We really want this grant to engage your staff, so the committee meeting is crucial to this process. We need to know who is on your committee and that you have met and discussed the programming. Please submit minutes from a meeting that include: committee members, date and time of meeting, discussion topics, and calendar (see next bullet).
2. Calendar – We will need a proposal with dates for completing your program.

Meg and I have worked out a few of the details. We'll be working with the third- and fourth-graders, and the schedule that works best for her is 8:00-9:00 and 2:00-3:00 on Tuesday, March 17 and Tuesday, March 24. There may be another school date, as well: Friday, April 10. We'll need to set up a time for families, as well (probably a weekend).

Coverage

There will be several days for which I will need (mostly partial) coverage:

- Cataloging Core Course (pt. 1) in Barre - 9:30-3:30 Thursday, March 5 (I will be heading straight to the library after the course and will be here by 4:30, certainly before Aaron Hoopes' presentation from 5:30-7:00)
- LUV meeting in Etna, NH - 12:00-2:00 Monday, March 16 (I will leave as soon as is practical and head straight to the library; Etna is less than a half-hour away.)
- Poetry at Sharon Elementary - 2:00-3:00 Tuesday, March 17
- Poetry at Sharon Elementary - 2:00-3:00 Tuesday, March 24
- Cataloging Core Course (pt. 2) in Barre - 12:00-3:00 Thursday, April 2 (I will be heading straight to the library from Barre and should be here by 4:00)

Library Happenings

- A boy watched as I added magnets to the new whiteboard for magnetic poetry and spent over an hour creating silly poems and reading them to me.
- A woman came in wanting to print off photographs to send to her son's teacher. After talking for a bit, she told me that she'd rather email them, but couldn't figure out how with her new phone. By the time she left, she understood how to email photos, had her own library card and had checked out a book for her son that she'd "been trying to find for years."
- Three generations of a family met each other and stayed to read books to the youngest before heading out together.
- Two people who hadn't seen each other for years bumped into one another at the cafe and chatted about hobbies.
- Two patrons who had used the library long ago came back in recently - one to check out books, and one to print off tax forms (but he decided to check out a few books, as well).