

Library Report 9/23/2024

The Malone Central School District Free Lunch Program ran from July 8th through August 16th at the Wead Library location. A school employee handled the distribution while the library supplied the table and space. In July 314 lunches were handed out and August saw 224 lunches distributed. The daily average was 18 lunches. This was an increase from last year possibly due to the elimination of the St. Joe's School location this year. Positive feedback was sent to Malone Central in hopes they continue to utilize the library for next summer's program.

On Patron Appreciation Day August 22nd, 85 build your own sundaes were given out. Last year's event total was 80. J Lavoie came out of retirement to help K Smythe and S Carey scoop. Pipsqueak the Clown was in the gazebo painting faces. C Russo and J Dabiew helped patrons make buttons. B Brabon and B Perry were stationed at the front desk. C Boulais (Bokie's) helped me with set-up, crowd control and clean-up.

The library continues to try to build community collaborations when possible. In addition to the Franklin Correctional's *Celebrate Your Children Event* July 27th (giveaway books were supplied), K Martin and N Andre represented the library at the Pride Event on June 1st and J Dabiew and I manned a library table at the Brushton Moira School's Open House on August 20th.

Donations have been coming in for the next book sale scheduled for Oct 4-12. J Lavoie has returned to help organize the donations. Volunteers have been scheduled for opening day. Setup with anticipated teen volunteers will take place Sat Sept 28th. The Free Trader will be running yet another book sale ad at no charge. Their continued support in helping spread the word is much appreciated. The sale would not be possible without the generosity of the volunteers and the many donations received from the community.

Existing part-time staff members have filled the shifts of college students J Dabiew and D Andre who are expected to return to the library during college breaks. This month, however, multiple vacations and planned and unplanned sick leave have seen the library employees working understaffed a bit. The situation is being monitored and hopefully schedules will return to normal. The staff flexibility is valued.

With the help of A Bouchard, coordinated outreach librarian at CEFLS, I was able to reestablish the E-rate Grant for the library. It is anticipated to save the library \$1,440 on internet charges this year. I also met with M Spofford, CEFLS accountant on August 19th to continue working on the 2023 Comptroller's Report. A portion of the report had

changed from the previous year. Clarification from NYS and more information from Malone Central School District was needed. We are hoping to have the report finished in the next month.

One laptop and one hard drive were purchased through Symquest to replace two public computers that were unusable after an update. I hope to work with Symquest to establish a schedule to replace existing computers. Although there is a discount for ordering multiple computers at once, it is a large expense and a rotating schedule replacing a few per year would be less daunting.

Seven C's Masonry completed the repair work to the handicapped ramp and the front steps last week. We will reevaluate a few problem areas that were found near the roof after completion of the roof/window project. Due to cost and feasibility issues, I asked Malone Central Schools building and grounds to add the library to their lift inspections and the Library will pay its portion. They agreed and indicated the inspections would take place in the fall. I was recently informed by Cornerstone Services that as of January 1st they were no longer servicing fuel oil boilers but would be happy to give us an estimate for a propane replacement. I contacted Harris Oil out of Brushton, NY and they are scheduled to take over the boiler maintenance on October 17th.

Respectfully,
Mary McDonald, Principal Library Clerk

Librarian Report
September 23, 2024

In July, the library was contacted by C. Tourville, the Deputy Superintendent of Franklin Correctional. The facility was in search of 21 children's books (for the ages of 4-17) for their *Celebrate Your Children* Event on 7/27/24. This event was for children to visit with their incarcerated parent. Accompanying caregivers were brought to Saint Mark's Episcopal Church for a day filled with presentations, workshops, and wellness activities. I was able to collect books through our stock of new Scholastic books (summer reading prizes), old book donations, my personal collection, M. McDonald's Story Hour collection, and some came from Rescued Treasure's thrift store. It was important to me that the books looked new and would be interesting to potential readers. I would like to build a larger collection of books that can be donated to the public. According to Scholastic, 61% of low-income families have no books at all in their homes for their children. Through the Scholastic Literacy Partnership, a program designed to get books into children's homes, the Wead Library can purchase books for up to 68% off.

During the Summer Reading Program (SRP), adults and teens read for a total of 18,804 minutes. Five adults completed paper reading logs, five adults participated on Beanstack, and all seven teens logged their reading on Beanstack. The library hosted ten programs in total for children & teens with 315 attendees. The Reptile Show by Her•petology was a great success. I hope to be able to book Her•petology for additional shows in the future. Potentially two smaller shows with required registration. I submitted the Summer Reading Report to Juliette B. at Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (CEFLS), a follow-up required by the New York State Library and part of the Summer Reading Mini-Grant which I applied for in June. The Cordwood Masonry Presentation by local author Rob Roy went well with 12 attendees. Overall, I think the SRP went well, however I hope to provide more programming for children between the ages of 0-5 and their caregivers in the future.

Fall is looking to be very busy. As part of the Great Give Back, the library will be hosting a Sustainable Fall Clothing Swap to take place on **Saturday, October 26th, 2024, at 1 p.m.** The library will accept donations for the two weeks prior to the event. All the details will be explained on both flyers, the Great Give Back website, and the library's website. I have also been in

communication with history professors from SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Plattsburgh to potentially present separate lectures at the library that would appeal to community members interested in the history of witchcraft and the history of Halloween. These lectures would be geared towards adult community members. An upcoming event that I think many are excited about is Carol Hoenig's author visit. Carol will be visiting the library to promote her new novel *Before She Was A Finley*, the prequel to *Without Grace*. The visit will be held on **Friday, October 11th at 5 p.m.** There has been an increase in events needed to go beyond the 6 p.m. closing time.

I have continued to prepare for the American Library Association (ALA) Thinking Money for Kids grant. I will be hosting two of the programs during Stories & STEAM this fall, and I am looking into offering one of the sessions again during the evening. As grant coordinator, I am required to host each of the five in-person children's programs at least once, and preferably twice, during the programming period (September 2024 – December 2025). Many of the programs will need an additional staff member or volunteer to assist, so I am considering that as we near the end of September. I have viewed the six required pre-recorded training videos and attended the required virtual training session on Monday, September 16, 2024.

I have continued to meet with K. Martin to discuss upcoming programs and projects that I believe should be completed during her librarian hours. Many of these projects have been on my radar for quite some time. K. Martin and I have both recommended non-fiction books for purchase that I believe will help further civic education and increase voter engagement.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Chelsie Russo
Librarian I

Part-time Librarian I Report
September 2024

C. Russo and I organized the Bear-y Book Bash for children 8 and under and their caregivers, which was similar to the popular Elephant and Piggie Party held last year. This time, we offered two sessions to accommodate patrons with different schedules: one on Tuesday, July 16 and one on Monday, July 22. Participants joined us for stories and crafts. Each child left with their own stuffed bear from Bill Martin Jr.'s *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

After a successful Teen Escape Room during the library's series of total solar eclipse programming this spring, we decided to offer another during the Summer Reading Program. I planned it for Wednesday, July 24th. Participants completed a series of six challenges in small teams; some examples included a Sudoku-like game, deciphering codes, arranging puzzles, and even an activity like the very popular *New York Times* Connections game.

I spent a lot of time this summer continuing collection management. In one of our storage rooms, I weeded several boxes of old fiction and nonfiction books. Through this project, I created much-needed storage space for program materials and other library equipment. On the mezzanine, I continued to weed non-circulating fiction and nonfiction. This has allowed for the majority of books and magazines to be stored in one location, as well as the Playaway Launch Pads from the American Library Association "Thinking Money for Kids" grant and our collection of Learning Kits. This will facilitate easier access to these materials.

With the 2024 United States presidential election fast approaching, I have been working on a display of relevant books and informational materials for our community. I consulted the American Library Association's *Reader. Voter. Ready.* toolkit and resources for recommended practices. I am also creating social media posts about voter registration, election dates, and local election resources to be posted in the coming weeks.

Other projects have included: creating a blog post on our website for Carol Hoenig's upcoming author talk and processing more children's materials. I also updated large adult nonfiction books that previously stuck out into the aisles or were stacked on the bottom of shelves without proper labeling; they will be easier to locate and no longer a hazard.

This may be my last librarian report, as I recently accepted an employment offer out-of-state. I am so grateful to have worked at the Wead Library over the last 9 years, with the past year including this Part-time Librarian I position. I will sincerely miss working with this wonderful community. I am working with M. McDonald to establish my schedule for the next few weeks. I anticipate my last day at the Wead Library will be in early or mid-October 2024, with more details coming soon.

Thank you,
Karlee Martin