Librarian’s Report

May 10th 2017

# Building

Floor outlets in Craig Room are going to be resolved by Portrie’s according to Nancy Monaghan.

Bill McCoomb will be doing the outside upkeep of the grounds – we will be paying him. Larry Miller and Judy Day will give us the bills.

New Hampshire Room is almost complete with the transformation. Local History items have been moved to the main library except for a few items that will stay. The Historical Society is picking up parts of their collection that the library has housed for many years now. They now have room to store them. We have copies of most of these items, or they have been digitized and are on the shared drive and a USB drive.

We had pest control done May 2nd by a new company *Dependable Pest Solutions* to prevent mice and ants from entering the building.

Waiting for the plumber to contact me about installing the new drinking fountain. We moved the cooler next to the drinking fountain. Have not yet purchased another cooler, pending the installation of the new drinking fountain, if we can make that happen.

# Operations

Circulation is down from last year and last month, but the number of people who visited the library increased over last month. This could be a result of programs and meetings resulting in no materials being checked out.

The most popular museum pass this year has been the New England Aquarium. We added Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, NH to our list of museum passes. The $75 yearly fee gives us 6 passes that can be used by families or individuals at any time. It is an educational museum on local Native American heritage.

We added Lynda.com to our online resources for patrons which will go live May 22nd. It is a popular resource for short webinar classes and training used by many libraries for staff and also used by patrons. After analyzing our budget this year, we are looking into acquiring some other online, digital, and other types of resources, programs, etc. for our patrons.

We got a quote from Kate Hamel to do a strategic planning program for the library. Trustees can discuss options for updating the plan which expired in 2010.

# Financial

The closing balance for the operating account bank statement for April was $66,672.14. The non-appropriated account balance was $72,319.32. We are under budget which enables us to look at some digital services we have wanted to offer patrons and try out subscriptions to see how they will be used, such as Lynda.com. We will be spending the money allocated for computer services before the end of the fiscal year. While we are under budget, we are over budget in some areas and under in others that will prompt some changes in the next budget preparation cycle.

# Staff

Marcia, Barbara, Liz, Connie and Susan attended the NHLA spring conference in Portsmouth for one or both days May 4th and 5th.

Yearly evaluations and goal setting have been completed for all appropriate staff. Eileen who is new will have one on one interviews on a regular basis, and Jill Brandt who works only a few hours a week and is away for 2 months out of the year will also continue to have one-on-one interviews on a regular basis.

Volunteers who assist us are Jane Cummings, Eli Levy, Wendy Black, and Carol White. Carol and Wendy assist Connie in the Youth Department, Eli does shelving on Tuesdays, and Jane covers new books as needed.

# Programs

In April we had John Perrault perform for Poetry Month “Poems that make a people great/Songs that make a country strong” which was on a cold rainy night with only 7 attending, but was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. He is a local treasure.

Patty Shorland, director of the Family History Center in Exeter, did a workshop on using FamilySearch attended by 10 people. We are doing a follow up May 16th for further exploration of FamilySearch.

Peter Philbrook’s fly-tying class was attended by 4 people – two fathers and two sons – the limit for this small class. Peter volunteered to do this class and share his love of fly-fishing.

Janet Sanborn of UCC asked if we wanted to collaborate to bring Rev. Charles A. Kennedy to the library to present his program “A Short Course on Islam: for Non-Muslims.” We agreed to share his fee since it was not possible to apply for a NH Humanities grant, and we will host with UCC on May 22nd here at the library at 6 p.m. We agreed it was a timely topic and he has been presenting this talk in other Seacoast area libraries. Sue Hatem of NH Humanities called me to let me know that some individuals have been following Dr. Kennedy’s presentation and being less than respectful. He has handled the negative responses and questions very well. We will hold the Q&A through written questions gathered or will wait until the end for any questions to be asked.

Looking ahead to September 14th, George Morrison, historian, will be presenting the NH Humanities program *Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor?* The popularity of the TV series *Turn: Washington’s Spies,* based on the book by Alexander Rose,should make this a riveting program. The 4th and final season, ends in August and is about the Revolutionary War, and includes several episodes chronicling Benedict Arnold’s illustrious role in the war.

# Adult Services Report for Trustees Meeting-May 2017

Liz Herold, Adult Services Librarian

Notes

* The most popular fiction books in April were ***The Black Book*** by James Patterson, ***All By Myself*** by Mary Higgins Clark, ***A Gentleman in Moscow*** by Amor Towles and ***Heartbreak Hotel*** by Jonathan Kellerman.
* The most popular non-fiction book is ***Between Breaths*** by Elizabeth Vargas.
* The most popular DVDs to checkout were ***The Accountant, Doctor Strange, Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them, Jackie, Miss Sloane*** and ***Sully.***
* 9 new patrons registered for library cards in April.
* We have had ten people sign up for our mindfulness series, with six attending the first meeting.

Upcoming programs

* **Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 6:30pm**- UNH Master Gardeners Program-“Bringing Pollinators to the Garden”
* **Wednesday mornings in May 3, 10, 17, 24 at 9:30am**- Mindfulness series with certified mindfulness instructor, Liz Korabek-Emerson. In this four-week series of workshops participants will learn the practices that actually grow the grey matter of our brains, and help us to become more resilient, emotionally intelligent and happy. The topics are mindfulness, taking in the good, loving-kindness, and compassion. Each workshop focuses on a single topic and will provide formal instructions for the practice, exercises for integrating the practice into your life and discussion. Come for a single topic or all five in the series. No prior experience required.
* **Thursday mornings June to July, June 1, 8, 15,22,29 and July 6,13 at 9:00am**- 7 week Tai Chi class with certified Tai Chi instructor Marsha Carr. Weather permitting class will be held outside, if not class will be held in the Craig Room. (Two sign-ups already!)

Ongoing programs-

* Friday Flicks- Every Friday at 2pm schedule is: May 5-Silence(R), May 12- Collateral Beauty (PG13), May 19 & May 26, TBA.
* Color Yourself Calm- coloring for adults, drop in Tuesdays 2-6.
* Wellness book club- Meeting Monday, May 22 at 3:30 to discuss ***The Book of Unknown Americans*** by Cristina Henriquez.
* Hooked on books book club- meeting Thursday, May 18 at 7pm to discuss ***Beyond the Beautiful Forevers*** by Katherine Boo. This book club breaks for summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grant, Director