

Blake Memorial Library - Director's Annual Report 2016

For the Library Association at the April 18, 2017 Annual Meeting

TOTAL CIRCULATION: 12,639 (a 6% decrease from 2015)

DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO & E-BOOKS: 662 (a 48% increase from 2015)

VISITATION: 7,950 people (6,015 adults and 1,935 kids) (a 6% increase from 2015)

DOCUMENTED COMPUTER USERS: 1,673 (a 0.01% increase from 2015)

ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION: 1,225 (not including interlibrary loans, periodicals, or downloadable audios or e-books) (a 10% increase from 2015)

SPEAKERS/ENTERTAINERS: Presentation: Skiing the Catamount Trail, Presentation: Going Solar with SunCommon, Local author Janet Givens, Local author Katie Kramer, Presentation: Gardening with Jim Bulger, Presentation: Haiti with Mary Alice Osborne and Terry King, Presentation: Chromotheater: An Experiment in Art Education with Corin Hewitt, Erica Svec & Zach Wollard, Presentation: Three Weeks in the High Sierras with Ken Linge, Reading: "Winter Above Treeline" with local author Laura Waterman, and Local author Tracy Penfield.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS: *The Arabian Nights, The Conference of the Birds, Snow, Dreams of Trespass, Minaret, The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition, and Shipwreck at the Bottom on the World: The Extraordinary True Story of Shackleton and The Endurance*

READ ALOUDS: *Alice in Wonderland*

SCREENINGS: Documentary: *The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition*

ART EXHIBITS: In 2016, we continued to exhibit *Earth to Garden: Cookeville Composting in Corinth VT*, an exhibit of color photographs taken by Lora Nielsen at Bob Sandberg's compost operation. Our current exhibit, *Shaped by Nature*, is a collection of photographs by local artist Dana Ceccarelli.

STORYTIME: Wendy Heidenreich continued the BML tradition of stories and crafts every Thursday morning with attendance varying quite a bit from week to week throughout the year. Recently, Ann Little has begun rotating weeks with Wendy. In the summer, we hosted three children's performers: magician Tom Joyce, dance instructor Ashley Hensel-Browning, and musician and performer Dennis Waring, all of whom drew good crowds.

CHILDREN'S LITERACY FOUNDATION (CLIF) 'YEAR OF THE BOOK' GRANT: During the 2016-2017 school year, the library collaborated with Waits River Valley School during their 'Year of the Book.' I was able to join the students at WRVS for their Year of the Book kick-off last fall with CLiF Executive Director, Duncan McDougall and again for the CLiF 'Library Event' which featured CLiF storyteller Marilyn Taylor McDowell. As part of this grant, Marilyn also performed at the library for the Sugar Maple Preschool students and other children from the community. The library received \$1,000 worth of new children's books from CLiF in 2016.

OTHER LIBRARY USE:

- A group of local knitters continues to meet at the library a couple times a month.
- The homeschool group that meets at the library on Tuesdays has grown in size this school year. They regularly get about 20 kids and 15 adults for a variety of activities—including yoga with Anne Bergeron, Spanish classes with Kimberly Hotelling, chess with Hank Buermeyer, and this year, ukulele lessons have been added to the curriculum.
- Over the summer, we circulated summer learning bags in cooperation with the Waits River Valley School, which were very popular.
- The BML fundraising committee hosted about 30 library volunteers for a volunteer appreciation luncheon in March.
- The Women's Fellowship continued to host some of their meetings at the library throughout the year, and the library and the WF teamed up to offer a fall discussion panel about stepping outside of our comfort zones in the outdoors.
- In the winter/spring of 2016, Linda Weiss and Marcey Carver once again provided free tax help at the library through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.
- Linda has also been coordinating a group of Mahjong players at the library on weekend afternoons.
- In the fall of 2016, Justine Huntington from Little Rivers Health Care was here to help people navigate the VT Health Connect Open Enrollment period.
- Finally, about 40 people gathered at the library at the end of June to bid a fond farewell to former Library Director Ken Linge and to welcome incoming Library Director Emily Heidenreich.

WEB DEVELOPMENT & DIGITAL ARCHIVES: Over the summer of 2015, Abby Spanier edited several of the Corinth Oral History Project interviews conducted in 2009 and 2010 and attached photos to them so that they're now viewable as short videos. In December of 2016, these videos—and the new BML YouTube channel—made their debut on the library's new website. Many thanks to Anne McKinsey of AMCK Web and Print, who put in countless hours designing and building our new website.

Also of note in the online library world: The VT Dept. of Libraries has now made Vermont Online Library (including Universal Class and Heritage Quest) available to all Vermonters at no charge. The Vermont Online Library offers a wide array of electronic databases on a variety of topics geared to a variety of age levels, for both generalists and specialists. These resources are available 24 hours-a-day anywhere Internet access is available.

DEVELOPMENT: After the sale of the Clifford Building in 2015 (a gift from the Holland Family), the Board of Trustees began working with a committee of local volunteers to develop a plan for these funds, using the library's latest strategic plan as a guide. In spring of 2016, the development committee put their work on hold to allow the Board to focus on hiring a new director. Now that I've had a chance to settle in, the development committee plans to reconvene this spring.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN (ILL) SERVICE: In July 2016, the library signed on to a pilot Interlibrary Loan delivery service administered by the Green Mountain Library Consortium. Prior to this service, all items were sent individually through the USPS, a time consuming process for all Vermont libraries. The new delivery service (provided by Green Mountain Messenger) has increased our access to items from libraries throughout Vermont including DVDs and audiobooks while at the same time decreasing the staff time needed to process ILLs. A grant from the Department of Libraries has thus far paid for one half of the cost of the delivery service.

ON THE HORIZON:

On Monday, April 24 at 6:30 pm, in partnership with VT PBS, we'll be watching the 'Distribution' episode of the VT PBS documentary, *The Local Motive*. *The Local Motive* contrasts the vast and global industrialized food system with different aspects of Vermont's local food system. After the movie, local farmers from Pierson Farm in Bradford, Crossmolina Farm in West Corinth, and Hurricane Ridge Farm in Corinth will share their successes and challenges with getting their food to market.

Another great Plant and Book Sale is set for Memorial Day weekend (May 27 from 8am – 2pm & May 28 from 9am – 1pm). Once again we'll have thousands of great books carefully sorted by genre and author. As always, the library depends on community support to make this fundraiser a success: we are now accepting book donations (during open hours only, please, and no textbooks, encyclopedias, or moldy/mildew books) and we'll be accepting donations of plants in the days leading up to the sale.

On Thursday, June 22 at 10:00am, we'll once again start the Summer Reading Program off with a magic show. Last summer's magic show was so popular, we've invited another magical performer—Marko the Magician—to kick off our Summer Reading Program. A book giveaway will follow the event! More Summer Reading performance dates will be on our website soon.

In July, instead of a Secret Garden Tour, we're trying something new, a Secret Garden Tea. Xiaohong Liu and John Paden have offered their beautiful gardens for our use, and the fundraising committee is in the process of arranging a talk & demonstration with Don Avery of Cady Falls Nursery.

I am in the process of applying for a CLiF grant called 'Summer Readers.' With this grant, we'll be able to offer a CLiF-sponsored summer performance, where each child present will get to walk away with two brand new books from CLiF. The WRVS librarian, Amy Herrick, is applying for a CLiF 'Momentum Grant' for the 2017-2018 school year in order to keep up the literacy momentum we've built in the community through the 2016-2017 'Year of the Book' grant. A goal of this momentum is getting kids from the community into the public library, and to this end, I have a vision of transforming the children's area into an interactive play space—where kids can come to read, yes, but also to tinker, build, move, and imagine. But to meet this goal, we'll need some help! More on that to come...

The Vermont Humanities Council (VHC) 2017 VT Reads book selection is *Brown Girl Dreaming*, a childhood memoir told in verse, by Jacqueline Woodson. We'll kickoff our VT Reads programming with a read aloud in late summer or early fall and continue with something new: a fall VHC Reading and Discussion Series— *The African American Experience*— with scholar Suzanne Brown. The series includes *Brown Girl Dreaming* as well three other selections.

Last, I want to thank all of the library volunteers and the community at large for your help and support while I transitioned to the role of Library Director. There is so much to learn and do, and I couldn't do it without all of you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Heidenreich, Library Director