

Director's Report June 2023

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on July 15th, 2023

Joys and successes:

- There were 46 people in attendance at our Summer Reading Club party on July 1st, and as of July 15th, 56 children and 27 adults have signed up for the reading challenge. As well, 13 caregivers and 21 children attended two Crafts with Ms. Betty programs. We hope Ms. Betty is on the mend! Her craft at the event on the 1st was a huge hit!



- People seemed pretty stoked to see our Pride display, and a few people even posted to social media about feeling more welcome in the library thanks to this display and our diverse collection.
- Happy birthday to Cynthia and Nancy!
- The new kids' "Readalikes" binder for kids is here and looks great!
- We received a thank you card from the caregivers at Franklin County Jail who participated in the Read to the Children program. One dad said, "Thank you for helping me to reconnect with my

children.”

- Chelsea attended ALA annual in Chicago, where the ALA Council voted to adopt the new Standards for Library Services for Incarcerated or Detained! Chelsea is named as a member of the working group, and as such, so is Griswold Memorial Library. This document will be published in August and sent to state libraries, jails, prisons, and other carceral facilities across the country. The Standards were last updated in 1992, making this a pivotal moment in the movement to ensure information access for people who are incarcerated. According to the Vera Institute, “the main drivers of mass incarceration are small and rural counties, not major cities,” but access to books and information varies greatly from facility to facility. The new Standards may help to close these gaps, and will also raise awareness across the library community about all the work to be done and being done.
- We are grateful to the estate of [Steven Warnecke \(1939-2023\)](#) for a bequest that will help the library to fulfill its mission and vision through services and programming, and improvements to our building and grounds.

Building & Grounds:

- The heavy rains brought attention to the roof and drainage, and the Town was going to send someone up to ensure that water can find the down spout (they were last cleared in April). Water was streaming into the basement down the entryway steps and pooling up all around that entrance, until Steve Daby helped us to find the storm drain, and Chelsea contacted Hartnett to see if they could clear the drain. Related to all of this, it is time to form the Building Committee that will supervise the proposed project, including posting an RFP and hiring an engineer for the feasibility study. It is suggested that the committee have five members, including a Library Trustee, a representative from the Select Board, and Ellen Weeks from the Friends of the Library. Chelsea has also asked Doug Macleay and Paula Harrison if they would be interested in taking part, and both answered in the affirmative.
- We are seeking some help to assemble the big white tent that is in the library basement, in advance of Fix-It Day. As well, we could also use a hand in acquiring a full-size refrigerator for the library basement. (It would be great if we could have ice packs on hand, for first aid, and also this would help us to store food when we host events.) Back to the subject of tents, the big 10' x 15' pop-up tent frame was ruined in one of the rain storms. Pine Hill Orchard found that their new outdoor tent that was meant to be semi-permanent did not stand the test, either.
- Let's give some more thought to the library's outdoor sign (the one that shows our hours of operation). The old sign is still in the basement, if we choose to have that re-painted, or maybe we could find an option that would allow for us to make changes if need be (e.g. if our hours of operation were to change).
- Aaron Foster will be working on our door as soon as the weather allows! (Rain and humidity are not conducive to the work that needs to be done.)

Programs and services:

- We hosted four class visits (approximately 56 participants) in June, and some of the students have returned to the library since to register for SRC or to get library cards and return or borrow their books.
- The Poetry Collective did not meet in July. We will meet again in August by Zoom (not in person, as previously discussed, since we will also be hosting the Library Social in August, and StoryWalk Party on Labor Day weekend).

- A group of doctors who are new to Franklin County came to the library on Friday, July 14th to hear about the area and our particular health needs. This was a good chance to talk to health care providers about the ways that public libraries help our patrons to access information, use technology, and connect with other people in the community.



Administration:

- Chelsea purchased two new Roku (streaming devices) and is cataloging them for loan, along with a digital radon detector (a purchase request) and snow shoes, all for the Library of Things. A patron borrowed the projector for her son's birthday party and they were very happy with their experience. Related, we re-did our CW MARS cataloging training this past month to ensure that we are up to speed with the best practices.
- We've set up a revenue account to receive program funds from the MTRSD/CFCE. This money is ear-marked for "activities" for families and children younger than seven, and in the past we would pass it on to the Friends, but keeping it this way will make it easier for us to use towards programs and presenters.
- Chelsea is planning to take a vacation August 11th through August 18th.

Further Reading:

- Hilbert, E.R. 15 June 2023, "Is speaking at a library really a constitutional right?" MV Times, available at <https://www.mvtimes.com/2023/06/15/speaking-library-really-constitutional-right/> Accessed 12 July 2023.
- Jensen, K. 30 June 2023, "A censorship language primer: Book Censorship News," *Book Riot*, available at <https://bookriot.com/a-censorship-language-primer/> accessed 12 July 2023.