

Director's Report Summer 2010

Programming

Summer Reading has concluded, and the green theme of “recycled” fairy tales was a big hit and allowed Marie to offer the children many creative activities and Amy to create beautiful graphics. The tree in the children’s room is now decorated with the results of all the books read over the summer. Unfortunately, because the Board of Health placed a ban on outdoor activities (because of the Eastern Equine Encephalitis threat), the final three outdoor activities, including the Pet Show, were cancelled.

Last week, Marie and Jean presented the inaugural Company H puppet show which was the result of the gifts to the Sandra LaCivita Children’s Art Fund. The LaCivita family attended and were honored by the stories and words shared about Sandra and delighted by the beautiful puppets and set Marie and the children created. The show was well attended, and children and adults alike had a lot of fun. Jean filmed the program, and Marie is making DVDs for the participants.

On July 22nd, the two Adult Reading groups joined forces with a Pot Luck Supper and very lively discussion of Bad Things Happen. The supper was held in the Community Room and the discussion in the Adult Reading Room. The reaction to the program was so positive Jean and Susan plan on making the Supper an annual event.

Elaine has spent the summer preparing flyers and support material for the new Literacy program. Next week, she will be contacting area libraries, setting up displays, handing out flyers and alerting the media. The tutor training is set to begin in early October at the Plymouth Public Library.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has awarded our library one of the Next Chapter grants in the amount of \$6,992 so we will be purchasing six laptop computers, a smart board, projector and other equipment for participants to use. Next month, Susan and I will begin to prepare publicity and contact workshop leaders. There will be a lot of additional adult programming at the library this fall and spring as a result.

Services

With the assistance of SAILS staff, the library now offers self-service pc access using software from Envisionware called PC Reservation. With their library cards, patrons can sit down at a computer, enter their library card and work for 30 minutes. If no other patron has reserved their pc, the software offers additional time. PC Reservation system keeps excellent usage statistics which will help staff make better decisions in terms of computer servers. In addition, the issues with the two young adult pcs has been resolved, and the two oldest public computers have been upgraded, and the two aged pcs recycled to other library use.

The Library now offers access to online instruction to more than 50 foreign languages through BYKI. BYKI is an excellent product, developed by Recorded Books and purchased using the Library’s materials budget on an annual subscription basis.

Building

Gerry Elliot and the Building Committee have tentatively scheduled roof construction (Giroux Construction) for the first week after Labor Day and the HVAC installation (Mercury Mechanical) for the week of September 20. There will be scaffolding and a 6-foot plywood cover

over our walkway. The dumpster will be located next to the Handicapped Parking space. The Staff and I will play it by ear-closing or scheduling a skeleton staff if conditions warrant.

Annual Report

The ARIS report is ready for signature and has been submitted electronically to MBLC.

Long-Range Planning

The Planning Committee met twice this summer, on Saturday, June 26 and July 31. The Staff met between the Committee's sessions on July 13 to provide feedback to the Committee. At their second meeting, the Planning Committee chose five service roles (from a total of 18). Once the Trustees approve these, the Staff and I will write the Goals, Objectives and Activities for the Trustees' final approval. The plan is due at the Board of Library Commissioners on October 1. The Committee's work could not have been accomplished so easily or efficiently without the facilitation skills and sense of community provided to us by Luanne Teller. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

This is a draft of the final service roles in priority order as chosen by the Planning Committee on July 31.

-Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong learning--13 votes. Broadly defined to include Stimulate imagination: reading, viewing & listening for pleasure) Lifelong learning includes all ages

-Know your community--11 votes (and combined with Be an informed citizen BUT just the local affairs piece; not local, national and world affairs)

-Visit a comfortable place (physical & virtual spaces)--10 votes

-Information Fluency: How to find, evaluate & use information--5 votes

-Create young readers--early literacy--4 votes

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeJonker-Berry,
Library Director