

December 14, 2023
Librarian's Report
Bradford Public Library

Mission Statement

The Bradford Public Library is committed to supporting and enhancing learning, creativity, and opportunities for personal growth and community connections with reliable information and resources, and the support necessary to navigate those resources in a safe and welcoming environment.

Administrative:

We are in full holiday swing with lovely decorations donated from our local banks and a gingerbread house from patron Marie Fogg. Be sure to thank Betsy's youngest, Athena, for decorating the tree this year! We also received close to 75 brand new children's books from the VELI and Vermont Humanities. These will be placed under the tree for our annual holiday book giveaway. The library will be closed the day after Christmas, December 26th.

I am honored to have been asked and will serve on a panel for the upcoming Vermont Reads program sponsored by the VT Humanities Council. *"With your background as a librarian, experience with several of our programs, and impressive community programs put on by Bradford Public Library, we feel your voice would be an asset to have at the table as we work to find our next Vermont Reads book. Let me know if you would be interested."*

The Vermont State Annual Report is live, in process and due December 31st. Grant reporting is on track in keeping with requirements and BPL in good standing for future opportunities.

Professional Development:

Website work with Terry Miller - December 6

Quarterly Orange County Directors ~ meet December 14 via Microsoft Teams at 10am.

Adult Mental Health First Aid Part 1 of 2 - 9:00am - 12:30pm, Thursday, January 25, 2024

9:00am - 12:30pm, Thursday, February 1, 2024

Washington County Mental Health will present this online 2-part training on Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues. Participants will be introduced to the [ALGEE](#) plan which will provide tools to support adults who are struggling until professional help arrives. MHFA also strives to reduce stigma around mental health challenges and focuses on the importance of early intervention to support better outcomes. *The class includes 2 hours of independent pre-work online in addition to the synchronous sessions.*

Technology:

Betsy and I spent time on the website with Terry Miller of TMiller Design on December 6. We are making updates to the layout as we receive input from our patrons and become more familiar with all things WordPress, tools, design vocabulary, and how to make BPL information more easily accessible to our users via the website.

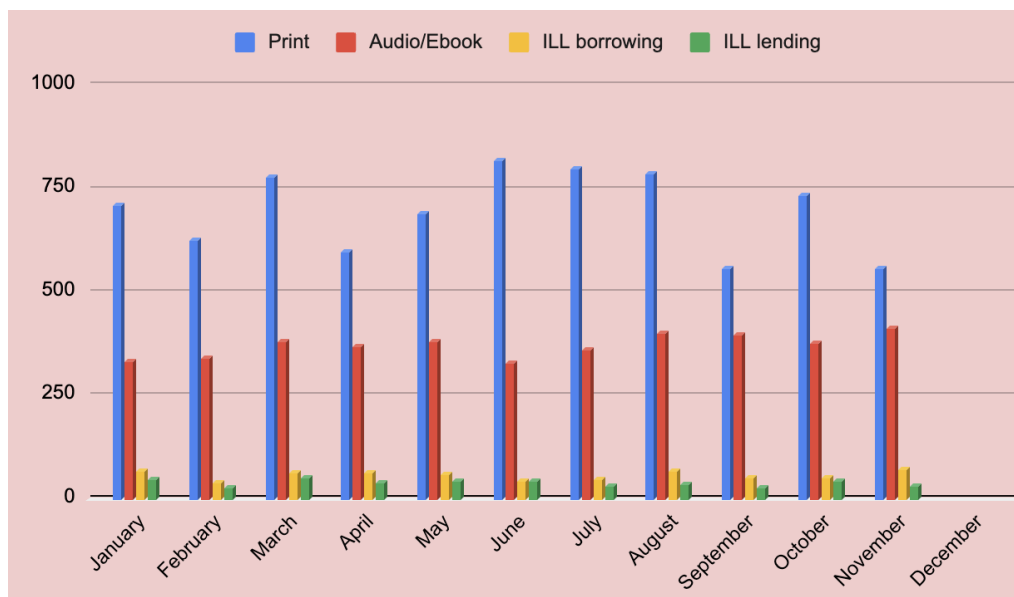
Donations:

Recent attention drawn to the library through local media outlets has brought assistance from social service providers. H2RC - HIV/HCV Resource Center (Leb NH.) has donated a Narcan Dispensary box which we placed outside on the free shelf. Within 2 weeks, 6 boxes of Narcan have been taken and we refilled with extras. More will be delivered as needed.

We received donations and have offered a number of very good used winter clothing, jackets, boots and gloves to folks in need. Many patrons have expressed their appreciation for this free 'pop up' service for either themselves or for others.

Don't forget to thank our friends at the Community Bank, Wells River Savings, and Woodsville Guaranty for donating our Holiday Decorations again this year!

Circulation:



November '23 Circulation Reports (see chart above)

In house 556 items borrowed from BPL

ILL - 70 borrowed, 31 lending

GMLC audio/ebook 375 checkouts

Visitor Tracking / New Patrons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits	691	605	821	697	748	927	918	1151	773	882	556	
New patron	14	11	13	8	13	15	12	10	7	10	9	
Program Attendance	96	139	158	174	176	227	251	307	159	176	157	

Programs:

Poetry Circle

Will not meet in December but will reconvene in January. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm and is open to the public.

BPL READS! Will discuss *The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson in February.

CREATE! ~ Adult Crafting

This group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00pm. This month we learned to Cross Stitch a holiday ornament with BPL Board member Denise Shannon. The group of eight women had a great time and look forward to our next meeting. Thank You Denise!! If any board member has a craft they would like to present, let us know!

Curiosity Cabinet ~

Betsy has created a wonderful display featuring a 17th century Wonder Cabinet in the tradition of natural scientists of days gone by. Check out the new lighting for this and the glass cabinet displays.

BPL Gallery ~

Carvings by 'Holmer' remain in the Reading Room showcase for another few weeks. Be sure to check out additions to the collection , especially the wood carvings. The BPL Gallery has brought new folks to the library as they can recognize or be recognized through personal creativity . We are looking for new collections and invite anyone who may have a 'secret talent' or special collection to share!

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D)

Adult campaign runs bi-weekly from 5-8pm in the YA Room. Dungeons & Dragons is a fantasy tabletop role-playing game (RPG) where the players form an adventuring party who explore fantasy worlds together as they embark on epic quests and level up in experience. This game has introduced 6-8 folks in their late twenties and early thirties to the library.

Mahjong ~

Mahjong emerged in China in the 1800s and became popular in the Jewish American community by the mid-20th century. Like many programs we offer at BPL, the game's history offers an interesting lens through which to see the intersection of people from different backgrounds and create a sense of belonging and community. Learn to play Mahjong each Thursday from 2 - 4pm. Experienced players help us learn. No experience necessary, experienced players welcome! 8-12 committed mahjong players participate each week.

Spanish Language / Conversation group

The group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 with at least ten learners in attendance and new members each week.

The Friday After School Program for elementary school aged children meets each week from 3-4:30pm with a focus on crafting and social skills. During this time one of our younger patrons is making new friends through teaching others to play the game of 'Magic - The Gathering' which is a tabletop roleplaying game. A donation of \$125 worth of decks (playing cards) were donated by the family so that others can play and learn.

Toddler Story Hour ~ Join Ms. Gail and sometimes Waldei each Friday at 10am, with stories, songs and crafts. Parents and caregivers appreciate Story Time as an [affordable] opportunity for children and their adults to make new friends, share with others, and practice fine motor skills.