



**Bradford Public Library**  
**Librarian's Report**  
**January 11, 2024**

### **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:**

Librarians are looking forward to a fresh start for the new year! The staffing schedule is working well and library visits have grown considerably with programming and patron support. Folks who are new to Bradford are becoming patrons almost daily! All are pleased with the services we provide as they become familiar with the area. The library is a great place to make new friends for all ages whether at story hour or over a game of mahjong. Others find comfort or perhaps relief from isolation in this socially active atmosphere.

### **Professional Development:**

Adult Mental Health training; 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:**

We are keeping our eyes open for funding possibilities and hope to update our projector and conferencing tools for better virtual programs and meetings this year. Going along with this idea, we are also thinking about blackout treatments for the upper 'half moon' windows in the Reading Room.

### **Donations:**

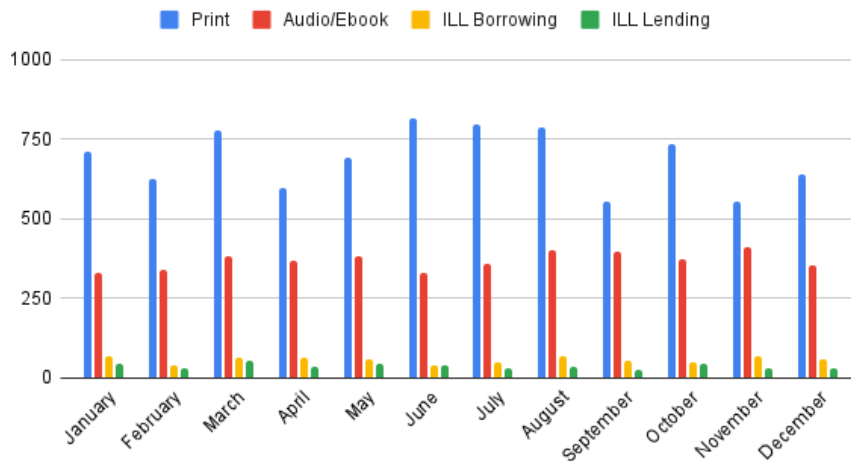
We continue to receive and have begun storing books in excellent condition for the 2024 Book, Plant, & Yard Sale. We have also received a large amount of crafting materials many of which will be used in the CREATE! ~ Adult Crafting / Card making

session in February. “Thank you” to the many local artists who have been donating their time, expertise and often the materials for this popular adult program!

**Circulation:**

Spring cleanup (April) and the new school year (September) show predictably lower circulation numbers in 2023.

**Print, Audio/Ebook, ILL Borrowing and ILL Lending**



December '23 Circulation Reports (see chart above)

In house 638 items borrowed from BPL

ILL - 59 borrowed, 32 lending

GMLC audio/ebook 356 checkouts

**Visitor Tracking / New Patrons in 2023:**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Visits</b>	691	605	821	697	748	927	918	1151	773	882	556	707
<b>New Patron</b>	14	11	13	8	13	15	12	10	7	10	9	8
<b>Program Attendance</b>	96	139	158	174	176	227	251	307	159	76	157	220

**Programs:**

Patron interest, requests, community needs, and collaborative opportunities drive library programming.

**Poetry Circle**

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 Dot Paint Mandalas with local artist Jo Ostien. Next up : Card making on February 1 and in time for Valentines Day. 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**

Now showing some lovely Dot paintings by Jo Ostien of 3 Dimes Designs. 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 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.