



Bradford Public Library
Librarian's Report
March 14, 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:

The tax season is upon us with many requests for technical support, printing, and especially faxing as BPL has the only public fax service in town.

We continue to receive an abundance of positive response toward recent programs, the newsletters, BPL Gallery, and the general atmosphere of the library! Daily programs, meetings, computer use and 'everything library' keep librarians busy!

Work Schedule ~ Federal Holidays:

There are 11 official Federal holidays this year ~ request 6 paid holidays for 2024

Juneteenth National Independence Day: Wednesday, June 19th

Independence Day: Thursday, July 4th

Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 28th (4th Thursday in November) asking approval for the following day as well.

Christmas: Wednesday, December 25th asking approval for Christmas Eve as well

Grants:

BPL received a generous donation from the Donald and Harriet Peterson Charitable Fund "To be used for General operating expenses; in memory of Margaret Jenkins Pratt."

A \$1500 VELI grant was directly deposited and itemized for children's programming & needs.

BPL was notified on March 4 that we have been awarded up to \$1000 through the *Literacy Enrichment Grant for Spring 2024* from the Children's Literacy Foundation. This funding will pay for a Puppetry workshop for families and the No Strings Marionette Company scheduled to perform on April 20, at the Bradford Academy Building auditorium.

We have not yet heard back from Washington Electric on our request for \$600 through their community grant to cover the cost of formatting, printing, and other Poemtown expenses.

Summer Reading grant application for \$300 was submitted to the VT Department of Libraries for children's summer performance or other summer programming.

Donations:

Colatina Exit donated a certificate for 1 Lg pizza, 2 Liter soda, and family salad for the very exciting Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge.

A random \$300 donation came in and handed over to AA deposit

Michelle Sherburne of the JO called and thanked us for hosting the Bradford Selectboard forum with some free advertising in coming editions. This will be especially helpful for Poemtown marketing.

Crazy 8's Math Club materials. Crazy 8's after school club offers high energy games and activities for all math abilities.

Eclipse Kit materials from the Echo Museum to help folks understand the coming solar eclipse.

Old Church Theater will donate a season's pass as a Library Program Prize.

Professional Development:

As a result of participating in the Mental Health First Aid course, BPL will host a training open to the community in May. The course will be presented by Christalee Kinney and Paige Stevens from the Clara Martin Center. It will take place on a Tuesday in May, and Gail participated in the Adult Mental Health training on January 25, and February 1, 2024 Washington County Mental Health presented this online 2-part skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues. The class included 2 hours of independent pre-work online in addition to the synchronous sessions.

Technology:

Tax season is here and the usual requests for tax forms, scanning, and especially faxing services are important to townsfolk. BPL has the only fax machine in town.

Volunteers:

Jeremy Daigle was available and carried all the old computers down from the turret and packed them all in Gails' car for recycling.

Cheril Maynard led the recent BPL CREATES! Teaching the basics of crochet.

Program Attendance '23	96	139	158	174	176	227	251	307	159	76	157	220
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Programs:

Patron interest, requests, community needs, and collaborative opportunities drive library programming. High Mowing seeds have been ordered and will be available in the seed catalog as soon as they arrive.

Poetry Circle

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm and is open to the public.

BPL READS! Will discuss *Nothing Daunted*, by Dorothy Wickendon on May 16 at 6:30.

CREATE! ~ Adult Crafting

This group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00pm. On February 1 we created pop up greeting cards for Valentines Day! *If any board member has a craft they would like to present, let us know!*

BPL Gallery & Glass Cabinet

The gallery and cabinet displays feature an art project that has emerged from the VT carceral system. This exhibit posits art making as a transformative, healing, and cathartic practice and highlights the intensely human instinct to create as a way to transform one's relationship to community, the environment, and to the self. A spark of hope for the future emerges through the art of creation.

Curiosity Cabinet

This month celebrates Women's History Month with a wonderful exhibit of historic photos of Bradford area women. Photos provided by Larry Coffin

Seed Catalog

The seed catalog is full and ready to share. High Mowing seed packets are cataloged and folks may take what they need and swap what they don't!

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. Latino inspired foods are served 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.

Crazy 8's Math Club ~ This eight week program begins on March 27 from 3 - 4pm. Registration is required as space is limited. Volunteers Kelli Young, and Adri Petrossian are working with Gail as we build stuff, run & jump, make music, (make a mess), a totally new kind of math club! The club will not meet during April school break.