



Bradford Public Library  
Librarian's Report  
May 9, 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:**

Another successful event, Bradford's 7th Annual Poem Town celebration, has come to an end for 2024. In showcasing more than 100 original verse style writings throughout town and hosting well attended live poetry events at the library, BPL welcomed a wonderfully diverse assortment of friends, neighbors, newcomers, and visitors to our library. My seat at the table among the medley of regular folks sharing snippets of their lives in verse with humor, honesty, sadness, and hope for better days, reminds me of what it is to be human. How fortunate we are when we take time and listen. *My sincere thanks to all involved.\**

*\*Gail will take 1 week vacation time May 7-10 and not present at this month's board meeting. Betsy will be present and available to answer any questions.*

### **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:**

Washington Electric Community Funding request for \$600 should come through this month as expected. This funding will cover the cost of Poemtown.

## **Donations:**

The Growing Peace Project has made seed packets of *Sunflowers for Ukraine* available for BPL patrons at the front desk.

## **Professional Development:**

The Mental Health First Aid course training hosted by BPL is scheduled for May 21, from 9am-4pm. The course will be presented by Christalee Kinney and Paige Stevens from the Clara Martin Center. The class includes 2 hours of independent pre-work online in addition to the in-person session. The course is open to the community, with special invitation to local business owners. If anyone on the library board of trustees is interested in attending, please let me know as space is limited and registration is required.

May 10 ~ Webinar

Security for Rural Librarians: Staying Safe at Work When Help is Far.

This webinar will provide tools for safely working alone, or almost alone, in a rural library. Topics will include how to decide whether to stay onsite or leave, setting up phone trees, code words, exit and evacuation plans, and improving physical security through cameras, panic alarms, better door hardware, remote locking devices, and safe rooms. It will also cover the value of Security Incident Reports and how to get better results from law enforcement. Scenarios unique to rural libraries will be used to demonstrate the concepts shared.

Weds, May 15 Gail will meet virtually with Brent Packer of the Niche Academy for an update on training opportunities applicable to our library.

## **Technology:**

**GMLC~ Listen Up Vermont** is in the process of adding a movie streaming service which may be available to our patrons as soon as July 1, costing us \$0.30 per patron. We are very interested in offering this to BPL patrons.

## **Volunteers:**

We have a number of young adults offering to volunteer at the library. Some need Honor Society hours, others simply enjoy the library and activities with young children. Our Spanish, Mahjong, and Adult Crafting volunteers continue to provide support for participants. The eight week Crazy 8's Math Club for young children continues through May with help from Kelli Young of K & K Equipment Sales here in Bradford. We are working with Hireability VT, along with school counselors from Riverbend and Rivendell schools, in order to help young people gain work experience and develop job and life skills.

Community Day ~ May 17

Approximately ten Oxbow HS students and a chaperone will be available to BPL for their annual community service day. In past years, these students worked with board

members cleaning windows, replacing storm windows with screens, etc. Board members are encouraged to participate! Does the maintenance committee have any jobs for these young people, or is there anything they can do for the Yard Sale? Could they work on cleaning up outside, raking, sweeping and such? *These young folks will do best with some guidance.*

### Circulation

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
house circ '24	631	703	732	618								
house circ '23	711	624	780	599	691	817	798	785	556	733	556	638
ILL in '24	116	92	73	81								
ILL in '23	68	39	64	64	61	42	49	69	53	50	70	59
ILL out '24	40	31	32	28								
ILL out '23	46	28	53	37	43	42	30	33	27	43	31	32
audio/ebook '24	384	402	375	357								
audio/ebook '23	331	388	382	367	381	329	359	400	396	375	412	356

### Visitor Tracking

***\*\*The visitor tracking reports were incorrect last month (March) !! They have been updated: the incorrect numbers are in red.***

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits 2024	778	868	924 (527)	877								
Visits 2023	691	605	821	697	748	927	918	1151	773	882	556	707
New Patron '24	5	7	6 (2)	8								
New Patron '23	14	11	13	8	13	15	12	10	7	10	9	8
Program Attendance '24	341	264	240 (138)	276								
Program Attendance '23	96	139	158	174	176	227	251	307	159	76	157	220

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

**Sierra Longmoore Author Event ~ May 4, 10am - 12pm Meet The Warrior**

Bradford's Sierra Longmoore will be at the library promoting her book *Unmask the Invisible: An Incredible Story of Faith, Family and Miracles*. Sierra survived the impossible and wants to share her experience with all as a Beacon of Hope. Her testimony illuminates so many aspects of traumatic brain injury, caregiving, the rehabilitative journey, and spirituality that are often invisible in our society.

**Laura Waterman ~ Author Event ~ Thursday, May 30, 6pm**

Laura will introduce and sign copies of her most recent book "Calling Wild Places Home; a Memoir in Essays."

*"In this latest memoir, celebrated wilderness steward Laura Waterman reflects on her years of homesteading, and her relationships--with herself, her late husband Guy, and the world they dove headlong into together."* -- Michael Wejchert, author of *Hidden Mountains: Survival and Reckoning after a Climb Gone Wrong*

**CREATE! ~ Adult Crafting**

This group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. This month Pam Benware helps us personalize a traveling jewelry case (for Mother's Day) with iron on vinyl using the Cricut Machine. *If any board member has a craft they would like to present, let us know!*

**Crazy 8's Math Club ~ Weds 3-4pm**

This program for children in grades K-2 continues through May 22. We have a group of 8 enthusiastic youngsters participating in this eight week long program! New friends have been made between the public and homeschool community. Many thanks to the volunteers who support this program.

**Teen Script Writing ~ Wednesdays 4-5pm**

This group will meet on the 3rd, 4th, and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays and Thursdays of May (15th, 16th, 22nd, 23rd, 29th & 30th) from 4:00-5:00 at BPL. (Snacks will be available.) Using Fairy Tales to inspire our writing, teens will work on how to present the stories and characters, what time period we will use, costumes, how to write good dialogue, settings and props. Local muralist Matthew Denton will join us on Wednesdays to help design sets. This program serves as a precursor to the BPL Teen Drama Camp coming in June.

**BPL READS!** We will discuss *Nothing Daunted*, by Dorothy Wickendon on May 16 at 6:30. The book is a captivating true story of two restless society girls who left their affluent lives to "rough it" as teachers in the wilds of Colorado in 1916.

**Hooks & Needles** meet the third Thursday of each month from 6-7pm. Bring your knitting, sewing, crochet, sewing, quilting or any fiber arts projects to the group!

### **Poetry Circle**

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm and is open to the public. In lieu of this week's meeting, the group met for the *BPL Poem Town Coffee House* live poetry reading event last week.

### **BPL Gallery & Glass Cabinet**

Michael Tessier will be showing his latest photography in the Reading Room beginning mid May.

### **Curiosity Cabinet**

This month will host a collection of rocks and other "cool stuff" found by some of our young patrons!

### **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!

The Growing Peace Project has made seed packets of *Sunflowers for Ukraine* available for BPL patrons at the front desk.

### **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.

