



**November 14, 2024**  
**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:**

After a short lull in patron visits during the beginning of the school year, library activity is back in full swing. Programs are very well attended. Print, faxing, and tech support keep librarians busy with the start of tax season. And, our presence at the annual Trunk or Treat was a great success in promoting library services as we handed out brand new books to hundreds of children!

As outside temperatures fall, librarians notice an uptick in visits and demand in supporting the needs of our more vulnerable community members. Community action agencies provide folks in need with lists of forms and documents necessary to help lower-income Vermonters meet their basic needs and become self-sufficient. Many folks have no transportation, phones, email addresses or the computer skills necessary to access websites or agencies in order to help themselves. Well, that's life on the front lines. Welcome to the library...

### **Maintenance:**

John Hathoway exchanged a circulator on October 30th. He suggests we replace all fixtures outside of the furnace in the coming spring as the system will need to be drained and refilled. He estimates the cost to be under \$5000.

### **Donations:**

Annual Appeal donations have begun coming in!

## **Grants:**

### ***Just in from Vermont Humanities!***

*I am pleased to report that Vermont Humanities has approved a Project Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the Spanish Conversation and Humanities project.*

BPL has been notified as “selected to receive funding..approved for an award of \$683.80” for the Fiscal year 2024 Inter Library Loan Courier Grant for Public Libraries.

Gail has been meeting with grant committee members Dotti and Will working on two specific grants.

1. The Colby Insurance group invited us to submit a request for funds from their Community Grant. Board member Will Giblin signed as acting agent with a request of \$6000 stating “This grant contribution will provide support for our annual capital campaign and incentivize greater giving by encouraging our contributors to match donations. Grant application submitted Nov 8, 2024.
2. The ALAmerican Library Association invites us to apply for the third round of [Libraries transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities](#). I am looking into screen casting or interactive white boards and sound systems for the Reading Room. *see Technology*

## **Professional Development:**

**VELI Meetup**, ~November 1, ZOOM. Monthly catchup. VELI funding supports children’s programming. Gail was asked to support VELI by presenting at an online picture book read aloud training to child care providers via ZOOM on December 7.

## **Library Directors Summit ~**

Gail attended the first in-person Director’s Summit since 2019 at the State House in Montpelier on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The event included presentations and breakout sessions on the topics of First Amendment Audits, fundraising, safety in libraries, facilities management, HR, social services in libraries, and Open Meeting Law. Department of Libraries staff were joined by guests from the Vermont Library Association, the Secretary of State’s Office, and Vermont Humanities to present and facilitate.

**Annual LUV Meeting**~ November 18th. Betsy will attend the annual Librarians of the Upper Valley luncheon meeting at Carpenter & Main in Norwich.

**Technology:**

We are researching screen casting or interactive white boards for the Reading Room. This technology will reduce tech clutter, make it easier for presenters, and most importantly make programs and presentations more accessible for visually and hearing impaired program attendees.

**Volunteers:**

Alex continues to volunteer at our weekly Story Hour. Alora Crawford is reaching out to local businesses requesting small prizes to support our Puzzle Challenge programs. Thanks also to Christine Pratt for teaching our successful BPL Creates sewing series and Tom Marshall for providing coverage at the desk.

**TRUNK or TREAT!**

The BPL presence at the annual Bradford Trunk or Treat event was a huge success! Dotti and Gail handed out *hundreds* of brand new picture books to the little ghoulies and ghosties. Book donations were made by our friends at the Children’s Literacy Foundation(CLiF).

**Circulation:**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
house circ ‘24	631	703	732	618	528	694	805	810	585	616		
house circ ‘23	711	624	780	599	691	817	798	785	556	733	556	638
ILL in ‘24	116	92	73	81	106	57	89	45	59	83		
ILL in ‘23	68	39	64	64	61	42	49	69	53	50	70	59
ILL out ‘24	40	31	32	28	35	23	44	21	26	38		
ILL out ‘23	46	28	53	37	43	42	30	33	27	43	31	32
audio/ebook ‘24	384	402	375	357	342	333	344	318	310	376		
audio/ebook ‘23	331	388	382	367	381	329	359	400	396	375	412	356
Little Libraries Adult	50	37	40	95	53	61	81	76	65	76		
Little Libraries Youth	57	61	76	101	103	77	153	99	139	107		

**Visitor Tracking:**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Visits 2024</b>	778	868	924	877	1010	861	925	934	714	813		
<b>Visits 2023</b>	691	605	821	697	748	927	918	1151	773	882	556	707
<b>New Patron '24</b>	5	7	6	8	3	3	14	15	12	13		
<b>New Patron '23</b>	14	11	3	8	13	15	12	10	7	10	9	8
<b>Program Attendance '24</b>	341	264	240	276	384	301	160	191	244	257		
<b>Program Attendance '23</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. Library programs are free and open to the public.

**\*SPECIAL PROGRAM**

**A Bridge Across Our Two Vermonts ~ Will Eberle - November 21, at 6:30PM**

Vermont is not immune to issues like addiction, housing insecurity, and poverty.

Join Recovery Vermont Executive Director Will Eberle as he explores how to surmount the effect of bias and stigma so we can improve the health, happiness, and sense of belonging for all Vermonters. This program is in conjunction with Vermont Reads and is sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

**BPL READS! Adult Book Club** will discuss How to say Babylon, by Safiya Sinclair on December 19, at 6:30PM. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

**Poetry Circle**

The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm and is open to the public. One member of the BPL poetry circle joins the group via ZOOM from outside of the USA!

**BPL CREATES, Adult Crafting group!**

Dotti Unkles will demonstrate a chainmail jewelry making technique on Thursday, December 5, at 6PM. Participants will create a Celtic Star ornament or pendant constructed of individual silver and brass rings.

**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.

**Toddler Story Hour** ~ Join Ms. Gail 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.

**Friday Afternoon Art Club** ~ Fridays from 3 - 4:30pm

For elementary school aged kids interested in drawing, paint, clay, collage and more! Weekly projects are on display in the children's room.

**Magic the Gathering** ~ ages 11+. This fantasy trading card game of tactical gameplay, and worldbuilding teaches many valuable skills, including reading/comprehension, communication skills, strategic thinking, mental math, and planning ahead.