



December 12, 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:

December is a time of reflection as our fiscal year comes to an end, year end grant opportunities are submitted, and data is submitted for state and local reporting and analyzed to understand how we can better serve the community and our patrons. But numbers do not tell the whole story. More important are the people who call on the phone, contact through email, and walk through the door. Certainly these past few months marked by political and social unrest are an important reminder of the importance of the library as a welcoming space, our commitment to inclusivity, and persistence to adapt to changing times.

The Library will be closed on Christmas Eve, and Christmas day.

Maintenance:

We are grateful to John Hathoway for many visits, stopping in as he passes by the library to check on the system just to be sure things are in working order with the season change. John does not charge the library for these 'check-ins'.

ALARMCO switched out the Fire Alarm panel on Friday, November 25.

The carpeting in the children's area will need replacing soon.

Donations:

MANY THANKS! To The Wells River Savings Bank, Community Bank, and the Guaranty Savings Bank for the lovely holiday decorations. Each year these community banks donate the wreathes, poinsettia, and holiday tree.

Grants:

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

The Colby Insurance group request for \$6000 was submitted to help to cover additional operating expenses resulting from the Board of Directors decision to raise our librarians' salaries to a minimum living wage.

The Libraries transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities request for \$10,000 to purchase a large HD screen, desktop video magnifier, and custom window treatments for the upper windows in the reading room was submitted on Dec. 9.

Professional Development:

I am reminded of how PD does not always come in receiving training through conferences and workshops. Sometimes the opportunity to research and update our work comes through answering questions and presenting to others. Gail was asked to speak and demonstrate reading to children at an online VELI training for twenty child care providers on Thursday evening, December 5. This was a great opportunity to try new ideas and to remind caregivers of all that the library has to offer!

Technology:

The two Apple computers in the mezzanine are no longer able to update making it difficult for patrons to access the programs and websites they want access to including Google and GMAIL. Possible workarounds are hard to find, cumbersome and time consuming especially when supporting patrons with low tech skills.

Volunteers:

Special thanks to Dottie Unkles for presenting the December BPL CREATES craft! Dottie prepared and provided materials for eight regulars at this monthly adult program.

Welcome 'Joy Ellsworth' to our part time circulation staff team and thank you for volunteering your time to train these past three Thursday evenings! Joy will be working on Thursday evenings.

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	624	
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	61	
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	28	
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	350	
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	79	
Little Libraries Youth	57	61	76	101	103	77	153	99	139	107	118	

Visitor Tracking:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Visits 2024	778	868	924	877	1010	861	925	934	714	813	675	
Visits 2023	691	605	821	697	748	927	918	1151	773	882	556	707
New Patron '24	5	7	6	8	3	3	14	15	12	13	19	
New Patron '23	14	11	3	8	13	15	12	10	7	10	9	8
Program Attendance '24	341	264	240	276	384	301	160	191	244	257	178	
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. Library programs are free and open to the public.

Puzzle Challenge! Held on Saturday, December 7 was another success! Three teams competed to complete a 500 piece puzzle for the prize. This round the prize of gift certificates to the Vittles Coffee Truck was donated by A&J Tree Care. The next puzzle challenge will take place in March.

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 demonstrated a chainmail jewelry making technique on Thursday, December 5, at 6PM. Participants created 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.

Tuesday Homeschool Meetup

This group is growing and bringing folks from Groton, Corinth, Topsham, and Bradford. A few older homeschooling children from New Hampshire attend the Friday Art Club as well.

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.