

Director's Report

October 2021

Submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on September 22, 2021

Gratitude:

- Thank you to everyone who helped me to go on a much-needed vacation, including especially Kate and Betty, and also new staff who bravely took shifts after just a few times shadowing with Chelsea. Betty "TOFU'd" (Take Ownership Follow Up) a sump pump situation during her shift, and also compiled the accounts payable for the week, and Ellis had to troubleshoot an internet outage! I wouldn't have been able to enjoy my time away without knowing that you all had my back.
- We are grateful to Betty, Mike, Jill, and Deb Porter (of Heath) for giving Kate a proper send-off, including almond torte, minted peaches, iced black tea, scones, muffins, and new connections!
- Thanks are due to Mike Slowinski and Kevin Fox for helping us to improve the experience of users connecting to our wifi.

Building & Grounds:

- Our sump pump needed to be replaced this month after one of the heavy rainstorms, and subsequently adjusted.
- We put out more "No parking" signs, and have updated the neighbor, as previously promised, as to next month's programs (though they will all take place virtually).
- Road construction has continued in front of the library all September. It is noisy and, for some people, a deterrent to visiting the library.

Administration:

- Three of four new staff have completed an on-boarding checklist, and are also completing a tech skills checklist to identify any areas where they may need more training. Between training, follow-up emails, and the questions that came up during Chelsea's vacation, we have created a training manual that will help future and current staff alike to learn, refresh their memories, or troubleshoot problems.
- Chelsea jumped on an opportunity to apply for an ARSL grant for capital projects that address community needs, putting forward the idea of a covered outdoor structure for gatherings, play-dates, and library programming. The amount was \$5,000, and the timeline to spend the money is February 2023.
- The final report for the Libraries Transform Communities grant is due Thursday, September 30th, and entails submitting an article to a local news organization. Chelsea has been in touch with the *Greenfield Recorder*, and will submit a feature on Monday or Tuesday for publication later that week.
- The annual state aid report is due October 1st.

Children's services and outreach:

- Chelsea attended the annual First Day of School celebration on Wednesday, September 1st, a good chance to promote the StoryWalk event and library services, in general. There were about 39 caregivers and their pre-school aged children in attendance, as well as other educators and social service providers.

- [The Story Walk kick-off event at Pine Hill Orchards on Sunday, September 5th was covered in the September 6th edition of the *Greenfield Recorder*.](#) There were about 30 participants in total. From the article:

While the StoryWalk and apple picking season are limited in time, the orchard and library each hope that the season bears fruit in the long term. More specifically, Jordan-Makely is optimistic that the StoryWalk can “inspire a love for reading” to help make for “a thriving, healthy community.”

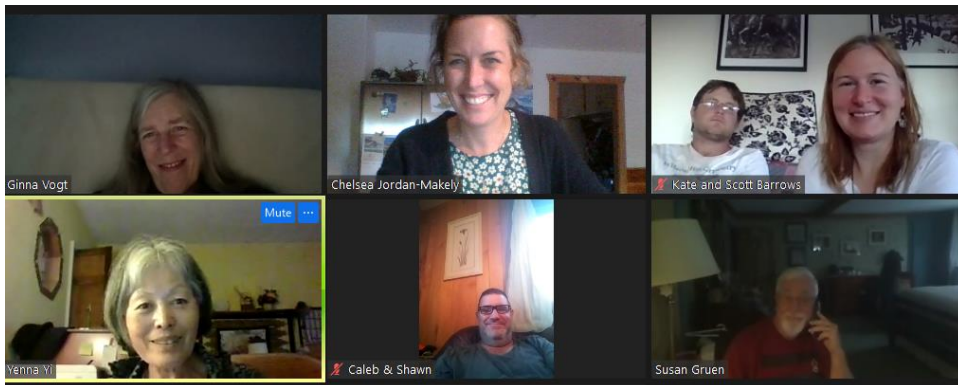
“This is the next generation of Colrain,” Jordan-Makely said.

- Ms. Betty’s Take & Make Crafts are as popular as ever! The last of this month’s kits was picked up just this afternoon, by a grandparent who came to the library specifically to get the craft in time for their grandchild’s visit. They then posted a picture of their completed paper apple to the library’s Facebook page along with their thanks to Ms. Betty!



Public services and outreach:

- The Carol Purington Poetry Collective met again on September 3rd, with a core faction of participants. Besides opening with poems written by Carol Purington, as has been our custom, several members also shared poems in memory of Denese Gurley. But, as seen in the screenshot below, we nevertheless had a fun time getting together. The CPPC meets the first Friday of every month at 6:00 by Zoom.



- Outreach to the Franklin County Jail is kicking up a notch! To date we’ve only been able to provide discards, but on September 28th, Chelsea will be going with Sarah Hertel-Fernandez, the Director of the Belding Memorial Library in Ashfield to meet with the women’s “pod” and hear what programs (e.g. book club or poetry club) they’d be most interested in attending. To that end, Chelsea completed a training with Franklin County Jail officials on August 31st, learning about safety and protocols while visiting the jail.

On a related note, Chelsea's *Library Journal* article, "[Outside and in: Services for people impacted by incarceration,](#)" is now available online and in print! (A copy is available at the library.) *Library Journal* has about 100,000 subscribers.

- Chelsea took the Library Pop-Up to the Colrain transfer station on Tuesday evening, September 7th, where she connected with 14 Colrainers in just two hours. A highlight was registering a young patron and their family who had not been to the library in a very long time, and who were very excited to join. The transfer station is only open on Tuesday nights through October 5th, though it would be great if we could offer two more pop-ups this fall.

Save these dates

- Friday, October 1st
Carol Purington Poetry Collective
6:00 p.m. by Zoom--email griswold@colrain-ma.gov to register
- Monday, October 11th
Indigenous People's Day
LIBRARY CLOSED
- Wednesday, October 20th
Kindness Reading Project: *See No Stranger*, by Valarie Kaur
6:00 p.m. by Zoom--email griswold@colrain-ma.gov to register
- Monday, October 18th or Monday, October 25
GML Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. by Zoom? (Location TBD)