

Director's Report

October 18, 2021

Submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on October 13, 2021

About this report:

This month's report has been updated with the following changes: "Gratitude" has been changed to "joys and successes" to reflect our team agreements, "Adult services" and "Youth services" are combined into "Programs and services"

Joys and successes:

- We submitted the annual financial report and final report for the Libraries Transform Communities grant the last week of September. As a part of the grant report, we were also required to share our story with local news and representatives, so we reached out also to the *Greenfield Recorder*, Colrain Select Board and to Senator Comerford, who responded, "This is terrific! Thank you for sharing!" We're grateful to the *Recorder* for the coverage and to everyone who has helped by sharing [the link!](#)
- The Carol Purington Poetry Collective is always a joy and success! The group met on Friday, October 1st, with 11 participants in total! A highlight of this meeting was Caleb Kimberley's recitation of "O Captain, My Captain." After the meeting, we received an email from one participant saying the following:

I can't tell you how much I appreciate your leading this group. Though it's a little tough to get to know people on zoom instead of in person, this is such a great group of people. I am also loving the exposure to poetry, which I hadn't really read for many years, but just started reading again about a year ago.

- Thanks to Mike Slowinski for attending to the lights in front of GML, two of which were moved for the paving project, and for upgrading our bulbs to LED.
- It's been great to collaborate more with the Heath Public Library and Arms Library in Shelburne Falls, both in discussing our joys and challenges as directors, strategizing, and planning programs.
- Brady at Pine Hill reports awesome feedback about the Story Walk. She shared one story about a homeschool group planning a trip to Colrain solely to visit the Story Walk. This is a great example of a partnership that helps to bring business to Colrain, while also promoting early childhood literacy and outdoor activity.

Building and grounds:

- In addition to the lighting upgrades in the front of the building, we received some feedback from patrons, and also have observed, that the new books display is not bright/accessible enough. Chelsea will speak to some possible changes at the trustees' meeting on October 18th.
- The sidewalk and paving construction looks terrific! Unfortunately, it meant that the library driveway and access were closed for two days, October 14th and 15th. We didn't learn about this until

Wednesday the 13th. We posted to Facebook, including the “Colrain, yeah, I’m from there,” page, and to our website, and reached out to some patrons whom we knew are not online.

- We are invited/scheduled to present to the Colrain select board October 26th regarding our vision for GML. Chelsea will speak more to this at the trustees’ meeting on October 18th and share her presentation in advance of the select board meeting on the 26th.

Programs and services:

- The Story Walk at Pine Hill Orchards will be open and free to visit now through the end of the “pick-your-own” season. Please check it out if you’ve not already!
- Weather permitting, Chelsea will be at the Colrain transfer station with the pop-up library Saturday, October 16th from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Outreach to the Franklin County Jail was postponed due to concerns about COVID. This program is now scheduled for Tuesday, October 19th at 8:30 a.m. Chelsea and Sarah Hertel-Fernandez of the Belding Memorial Library in Ashfield will meet with the women’s “pod” to explore programming needs and possibilities.
- The Kindness Reading Project will meet Wednesday, October 20th at 6:00 by Zoom to discuss *See No Stranger: A memoir and manifesto of revolutionary love*, by Valarie Kaur. Email griswold@colrain-ma.gov or call 413-624-3619. This program was also mentioned in the *Recorder* article.
- Halloween craft event
Saturday, October 30, 11:00-?
Join in community and crafting to decorate the Arthur A. Smith for Halloween! Be sure to wear your outdoor play clothes and a mask.
- Crazy for kimchi—with Kate!
Saturday, November 13th or 27th (TBD), 11:00-?, and also posted online the following week. Make your own kimchi, and learn fermentation basics, [the Maangchi way](#), with Kate Barrows! This event will take place at 18 Jacobs Rd., in Heath, pending approval. Email griswold@colrain-ma.gov or call 413-624-3619.
- The Carol Purington Poetry Collective will meet Friday, November 5th, at 6:00 p.m.
- Ms. Betty’s Craft kits went like hotcakes again in October, and she has already planned and executed the November craft (turkeys!).
- Chelsea has been in conversation with Talia Miller, the service learning coordinator for the Colrain Central School, and our friend Drew Lopenzina to begin planning William Apess Day 2022, which falls on a Saturday.
- We have not resumed Stories & Songs online as of this time, but hope to get back to this important program in the near future!