



Griswold Memorial **GML**
LIBRARY
COLRAIN, MASSACHUSETTS

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Director's Report June 2022

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on June 27th, 2022

Joys and successes:

- Congratulations and thanks to everyone who helped us to celebrate the second annual William Apess Day! There were 49 people in attendance, including Lisa Brooks, Marj Bruchac, Drew Lopenzina, Deborah Spears Moorehead, and Robert Peters. We especially appreciated the help of Kate Barrows, Jonathan Rehms, Emily Thurber, and Ellen Weeks in helping us to set up and manage the event, and feedback as to the community potluck and open mic format was all positive!





- We're pleased that the 2023 budget passed at town meeting on June 14th!
- The Friends of the Library received a bequest from the estate of Hale Johnson in the amount of \$36,725.00 earmarked for a future project.
- Thanks to Nancy for the amazing graphic design work to create our Summer Reading Club poster and reading logs! And also, for negotiating with Staples such that the cost of printing was \$0! You just can't beat that!!
- We held a great party for "Summer Reading Kick-Off" at Pine Hill Orchards on June 18th, with 26 people in attendance, great music, and a lot of s'mores! Thanks to Betty and Nancy for attending, and especially to Brady and the gang at Pine Hill for making this event so special!





- Thank you to Kate and Betty for rallying to keep the library open on a day when Chelsea was out of town and the person who was scheduled fell sick. Teamwork makes the dream work!

Building & Grounds:

- We are grateful to Holly Hayes of the Spatcher Farm, Rich Pascale of Shoestring Farm, and the Friends of the Library for making our front gardens look spectacular! This year's plantings include some perennials in addition to our favorite annuals.
- Thanks to Clint Dodge for fixing the light switch in the bathroom, free of charge, when it broke this month.
- The patron who has commented previously about the need to improve the lighting over the new fiction noticed that we had turned the spotlight towards the books, and said that it was an improvement.
- Sue Booth-Daniels rescinded her request to use the library grounds to grow pumpkins for the Arthur A. Smith Bridge Halloween event/Colrain school service learning.
- Chelsea submitted the online inquiry (application) to the Conway School for them to create plans that would address our drainage and parking issues, and the neighbor's privacy concerns, etc., as one of their fall projects.

- The Highway Department cleaned our gutters the week of May 23rd.
- Our neighbor recommended Niles Tree Service to care for the mulberry and apple trees that are overdue to be pruned. She also advised that the apple tree was actually planted by the previous homeowners at 10 Main Rd. Benjamin Niles can be reached at 413-824-6108. We also received a call from Timothy Daniels who has just started Daniels Land Management, LLC. He can be reached at 413-512-9872 or danielslandmgmt@gmail.com.
- We received an advertisement from Blackburn Building Conservation, LLC, Contact Walter Eays, 5083-947-1739, walter@blackburnconservation.com, which says they specialize in decorative paint and murals, gold leaf, decorative plaster, and window restoration. I wanted to note this information as it may relate to the cracks in the plaster dome, stained glass, and cracked window pane.
- Betsy has been a driving force in getting our basement cleaner and more organized. We took several loads of debris to the transfer station, and organized all of the catering supplies, and also all of the book donations for the Franklin County Jail and Books Through Bars. We set up a table for items we weren't sure about keeping, and imagine that we might have a "free table" at the Fix-It Day to find new homes for these items.

Programs and services:

- The Carol Purington Poetry Collective met on June 3, 2022. This was a pretty somber meeting as we processed two mass shootings. We were joined by one new member along with a number of our "regulars."
- As reported last month, William Apess Day was attended by 49 people on May 21st. Feedback suggested that the "open mic" and potluck formats worked well, and that people appreciated the tents and seating.
- Chelsea continues providing outreach services to the women's unit in Franklin County Jail, with Sarah Hertel-Fernandez from the Belding Memorial Library in Ashfield. Recent dates included 5/31, 6/7, and 6/13. Our book club will meet in July to discuss *The Turn of the Key* by Ruth Ware. This program has just received funding from an ALA grant so Chelsea will discontinue doing this work on GML time, though we will continue to share some of our discards and to circulate books from our collection there.
- Summer Reading Club is here! About 26 people attended the kick-off party at Pine Hill Orchards, not counting Hannah and Chelsea. Summer Reading will now continue through August 27th.
- The Kindness Reading Project discussion of *The 1619 Project* went off without a hitch on June 15th by Zoom, with eight people in attendance, not counting Chelsea.
- Wellness Wednesdays will begin on July 20th, and be held the third Weds. of every month through the year's end, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Chelsea and Lisa White, the public health nurse, shared a press release with *The Greenfield Recorder*, and a story will run prior to the program's launch.

Administration:

- It's the end of the FY22 (June 30th) and the ARIS report will open soon!

- Chelsea is attending the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. June 21st through June 26th.
- The Select Board approved our request to conduct outreach at the Colrain Transfer Station again this summer.
- Chelsea has been compiling a presentation to show where we stand with our strategic plan and action items.