

Director's Report July 2022

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on July 22, 2022

Joys and successes:

- GML is the recipient of a \$7,500 "Go Local" grant from the LSTA! This grant will cover the costs of recording equipment plus stipends for Ohketeau Cultural Center and Piti Theater Company to research, write, and produce "A People's History of Colrain" podcast, beginning in October of 2022!
- As well, GML is a partner on another grant, in the amount of \$10,000 awarded to Belding Memorial Library from the LSTA for expanding our outreach services to Franklin County Jail.

Building & Grounds:

- A patron complained about the library's dirty windows. This is a project we noted in previous reports (May of 2022, and March of 2021), noting then that a patron recommended Joe's Window Cleaning. I've updated our [building maintenance log](#) to add this project for summer of this year, and called Joe's to request a quote. Meanwhile the project to add energy efficient inserts to the windows is moving forward, thanks to the Energy Committee and Town Office.
- We received some feedback from tutors that they appreciate the tent(s) and would like them up as much as possible. They should be taken down each time it storms, though it can be tricky for just one person, especially in the heat, so the fabric will not tear. We will add checking the weather to our daily chores and do our best to plan accordingly.
- Jeff Brisson, who cuts our lawn, increased his prices for mowing again to account for rising costs and the additional time needed to move our lawn furniture whenever he mows.
- Our air condition was serviced on July 21st and was found to be in good working order.

Programs and services:

- As of July 22nd, 97 people have signed up for Summer Reading Club!
- The clothesline project honoring the victims of the Uvalde school shooting was installed on July 20th. Comments we've received so far have been to the effect of how sad, or moving, this project is. Another patron emailed the Kindness Project list to say, "Thank you Chelsea for your enthusiastic response to this idea and to those who hung the photos, Betsy and Robbie. We hope that this exhibit will move to other libraries at some point." On the day that it went up, we posted a statement to the GML Instagram saying, "Public libraries are safe places to grapple with difficult ideas and discussions, and also to gather and recover in the wake of traumatic events such as these. We're grateful to live in such a caring community as #Colrain and the #hilltowns of #westernmassachusetts."



- Chelsea provided outreach services to the women’s unit in Franklin County Jail on 6/28 and 7/19. On 7/26, we will hold our book club discussion of Ruth Ware’s *The Turn of the Key*.
- The Kindness Reading Project will not meet to discuss *Disability Visibility* on August 17th but we invite everyone to read the book on their own. Copies are available at GML.
- Wellness Wednesdays began 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. *The Greenfield Recorder* promoted the program with a write-up, [“Colrain library expanding health care access with Wellness Wednesdays.”](#) Eight adults and one child attended the first event, and we received numerous inquiries about COVID booster shots.
- In addition to the public health nurses, a new program, “Walking and Movement with Kathy Steinem,” will be offered every Wednesday morning from 9:00 to 11:00.

GML

Walking and Movement

with Kathy Steinem

**Wednesday mornings:
Walk – 9-9:45
Movement – 10-11**



An outdoor program for all ages, beginning with a walk from 9:00-9:45 and continuing with movement from 10:00-11:00 on the library lawn. All ages are welcome! Please wear loose-fitting clothing and sneakers, and be sure to bring plenty of water.

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- GML is sponsoring a repeat of the zine-making workshop that we co-hosted last year with Just Roots in Greenfield. This event is scheduled for August 13th from noon to 2:00 p.m.
- We've hosted two pop-up libraries at the transfer station, on July 9th and 16th, connecting with 49 people in total, including several new families who registered for library cards and for Summer Reading Club. On the first of these occasions, our raffle/dialogue question was "What tech skills would you most like to improve?" The top two answers were "computer basics" and "smart phone basics." This information helps us to plan new programs this fall/winter. At the second pop-up library, we asked folks if they knew about our new public health nurse hours.

Administration:

- On the advice of the Town Administrator and Treasurer, GML is closing our PO Box and will receive mail at the Town Office, 55 Main Rd. We'll be following up with our primary vendors to change our addresses on our accounts, and forwarding is already in place.
- Our new laptops have arrived! As well, Northeast IT has refurbished the older laptops, so that they can be used when we begin offering computer classes for the public this fall and winter.
- A few months back, a member of the West County Kindness Project emailed the library to ask how we could support other libraries and library workers in light of challenges to controversial books and growing calls to censor these materials. In response to that conversation, Chelsea reached out to the Library Director at MTRSD, Emily Willis. This week, Emily asked Chelsea

and other library workers and educators to attend the school committee meeting in response to a different, but related issue, where they were being questioned about their practices of deaccessioning materials. As such, Chelsea shared remarks about the ways libraries are changing to better represent the needs of our communities, from gatekeeping repositories to welcoming and safe spaces.

- The ARIS report is due August 26, 2022.