

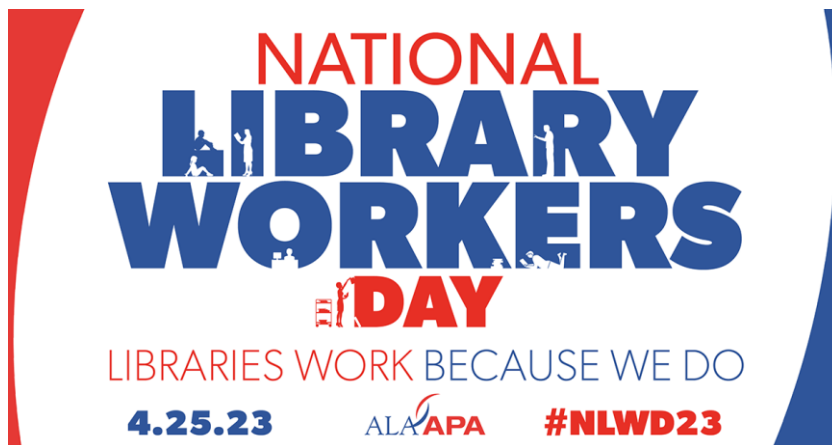
Director's Report

April 2023

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on April 19, 2023

Joys and successes:

- Thank you for supporting library workers! Library Workers' Day is April 25th! "Libraries work because we do!" Visit <https://ala-apa.org/nlwd/> to learn more!



- "The Carol Purington Collective is the place to be!"
-Ginna Vogt, Colrain, MA
- We're celebrating National Poetry Month with a "Poet Tree"! Swing by to add your contributions by May 1st.



Building & Grounds:

- A piece of masonry near the roof line on the left-hand side of the library facade, if you are facing the building, has come loose. The mason happened to be working on the property next door and said this is something he has fixed previously; he believes that the piece that fell out is probably on the ledge and that they can use adhesives to fit it back into place the next time they are in town and that it will be an inexpensive fix.
- Chelsea reported the issue with the leaky sump pump hose to the town, and the repair is underway.
- The highway department will be sending someone to clear the gutters soon.
- We've not received any further communications from the Energy Committee regarding their energy audit or proposal to add mini-splits to the library.

Programs and services:

- "Colrain Craft Central"--a hub of craft supplies that can be used in house, or borrowed with staff approval--is now open to the public! A list of available materials is available in-house, at what used to be the circulation desk.
- Chelsea traveled with Rhonda Anderson to the Mashpee Meeting House to see a play about William Apess, Saturday, April 8th. This was a good opportunity to connect with Jim Peters, Mother Bear, Gail Hendricks-Hill, and Drew Lopenzina, and to plan for William Apess Day this May 21st! We brought a gift of 8 small maple syrup from the Ryan Brothers and Pine Hill Orchard, who generously offered a 20% discount and expressed their interest in running more programs at Pine Hill Orchard this summer.
- Our program "Earth Day, Every Day" with Robbie Murphy was postponed until the launch of Summer Reading Club due to low enrollment and conflicting events. We'll now integrate this theme with the Summer Reading Club theme: "Find Your Voice."
- Candidates' Night will be held on April 26th at 6:00 at the library, and also live streamed via Facebook. The Poetry Collective will meet on May 5th at 6:00 by Zoom. May 22nd and every 3rd Wednesday, Public Health Nurses from FRCOG will be at GML from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 21st is William Apess Day! (Please plan to bring a food item to share.) Last but not least, throughout May, join Kathy Steinem on Wednesday mornings for a walk at 9:00 a.m., and movement (e.g. dance) at 10:00 a.m. on the library lawn. Also, be sure to log your walking, beginning in May, at walkmachallenge.com, and be sure to name the Colrain Council on Aging when you register. All ages are welcome!
- Chelsea and the FRCOG nurses followed up on some staff suggestions for training and programs that would be especially pertinent in our community, including stop-the-bleed, opioid overdose response, and making hygiene supplies available in our public bathroom. Meg will be following up with the Board of Health, and may attend one of our staff meetings to offer training on responding to an opioid overdose in July or soon after.
- Chelsea and Sarah Hertel-Fernandez, the Library Director at Belding Memorial Library in Ashfield, had the honor of speaking to a class in the MLIS program at Simmons University about rural library services for people who are incarcerated. Services in the jail have continued on pace through March and April, and we are gearing up for another round of "Read to the Children," this time offering literacy skills training to some of the men who are incarcerated in time that they can make videos in time for

Administration:

- The library received a bequest from the estate of [Steve Warnecke](#) in the amount of \$25,000.00.
- GML staff held their first all-team meeting and training in about a year last month, where we reviewed and discussed the FY24 Action Plan, and then Chelsea gave an introduction to “Web Works,” so that all staff can help keep our web page more current.
- After receiving feedback from the MBLC on our Archives Arrangement & Description grant proposal, Chelsea met with Jake Sadow, the Statewide Digitization Project Archivist with the Boston Public Library, per the advice of Evan Knight, the Preservation Specialist for the MBLC and contact for the Archives Arrangement & Description grant.

Takeaways from this conversation were as follows:

The Boston Public Library can assist with digitizing up to 15,000 pages (bound), or 5,000 items per year, though it is easier for them to handle books/bound materials than items. For items, they must first be prepared—all paperclips and staples should be removed, and everything needs to be numbered, with a minimum of metadata (at least title and a date range). In the case of our vital records, the folders would be numbered, and the family name would suffice for the title. News clippings are more difficult to handle.

The Digital Commonwealth, the portal where these materials will be made available, does not offer admin access, meaning that our team would not be able to enter or edit the records once they are uploaded to their database. There is no crowdsourcing option, either, whereby people in our community could add data or comments to these records.

If we were to handle our own scanning in-house, then we would still need to send the digital files to BPL to be uploaded to the Digital Commonwealth.

Our grant proposal was for us to do just this, but after discussing the details with Jake, it seemed like we would do better to work within the existing paradigm, continuing to send materials from our collection to Boston to be digitized, rather than attempting to manage this project in-house. Evan said in response, “I think this approach may serve you and your collections better in the long run.”

- The public laptops finally received their scheduled updates from Northeast IT.
- Chelsea signed on with Citizens Security for the new hand-held panic button, and also followed up with the Town Accountant to be sure that the refund from October was credited back to the library’s account.
- We added 73 new items to the collection in March, and circulated 1,462 physical items. In February, we added 88 new items, and we circulated 1,408 physical items in total. Physical circulation for January-March is up a little over 10% compared to the same time period last year. We loaned an average of 112 eBooks per month so far in 2023, and 142 audiobooks per month. This is also in increase over the previous year.