

## Director's Report May 2023

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on June 10th, 2023

### Joys and successes:

- Thank you to the Friends of the Library for planning and planting our front gardens again this year. They are already filling in nicely!
- Look for the new kids' "Readalikes" binder with suggestions for what to read next based on other books that you may have enjoyed. Thanks to Dominique for putting this together!
- We helped a group of fathers who are incarcerated at Franklin County Jail to make video recordings of themselves reading picture books to share with their children, just in time for Father's Day!
- We helped to answer an interesting local history question this month, about one Reverend Harvey Morse Eastman. It turned out that Rev. Eastman had filled in as a Librarian at GML in 1917-1918, the gap year between Ms. Cram and Ms. Reade! Meeting minutes from June 25, 1918 trustees' meeting note that "Mr. Eastman resigns to enter the war service. Motion made and carried that the secretary notify Mr. Eastman that we accept his resignation and wish him success in his war work and a safe return. Miss Bertha Reed unanimously elected librarian." During his tenure as librarian, Rev. Eastman helped to raise money for books for soldiers.

### Building & Grounds:

- Peter Brooks, on behalf of the Colrain Energy Committee, has been following up with Mark Provencher of Advanced Energy Group, and the Town Administrator, in regards to a proposal to install mini-splits at the library. As it stands, we have not yet received an analysis as to how this would save the library money or compare against the current set-up, or answers to our questions about where the mini-splits would be installed.
- All Town Meeting is this Tuesday, June 13th, and there will be a vote on our warrant article: "To appropriate and spend up to \$35,000 from free cash for a feasibility study to determine the costs and technical requirements of addressing drainage, flooding, security, accessibility, parking, safety, privacy concerns, and the construction of a covered gathering space at Griswold Memorial Library."
- The Mass in Motion grant has generously offered to purchase new, ADA-compliant picnic tables. They supposedly are able to stay outside all year.

### Programs and services:

- Summer Reading Club begins Saturday, June 17th! We'll be hosting a kick-off party at Pine Hill Orchard, with a craft hosted by Ms. Betty at 11:00, and music by Hannah French at 12:00. We are hoping to stoke interest by attending school assembly on the 13th, and several classes are also visiting the library in the weeks leading up to SRC!

- 133 Skeele, aka Sheryl Stanton's band, is confirmed for Fix-It Day September 16th, and Two for Jazz, aka David Greenberg's band, is interested in playing for the ice cream social.
- Walk and Movement with Kathy Steinem is paused, at least until the Fall, though there was a little write-up about the program in the *Greenfield Recorder*, ["Class keeps seniors moving."](#)
- The Poetry Collective met on June 2nd with five people in attendance. In August, we plan to meet in person and use the stage behind the library.
- We hosted our second "pop-up" at the Transfer Station on June 10th, the same day that we also hosted a program about online banking and privacy at the library.



**Administration:**

- Chelsea followed up per the trustees' request to research the busts in the library's collection, and found in minutes from 1953 one mention of "8 busts" in a typewritten inventory of the library's collection, and from September 24, 1986, "Some concern has been expressed regarding the condition of the plaster busts stored in the basement. It was agreed to allow Carol Moscato and Gloria Pike to take them to clean them up, with the understanding that they are the property of the library." Chelsea also spoke with Dave Kazalt at Auctions International about their process and the questions we had in respect to selling the busts. This person confirmed that the library trustees would have the option to accept or reject any bids, and can also counter through the system. He said it would be best to list each bust separately. They could take the photographs and handle the listings, or we could send them photos if we preferred.

- Chelsea met with Kate Butler of the MBLC on May 24th regarding our Go Local grant. Shelley Quezada from the MBLC came to the jail to shadow our workshop with the Eric Carle Museum. The Education Coordinator at FCSO asked us to submit a proposal for continued funding through the jail, in the hopes that we can keep this program going even once the grant ends this September.