

Director's Report January 2024

Respectfully submitted by Chelsea Jordan-Makely on January 8, 2024

Joys and successes:

- Happy 2024!
- At last, we have released two episodes of the [People's History of Colrain Podcast!](#) These are posted to our website and Facebook, and were shared also via the Clarion. Bella Levavi is interested in writing an article and would like to interview Chelsea later this week.

Building & Grounds:

- We are working on scheduling the electrician and plumber to be here at the same time to install the new hot water heater (for the bathroom sink).

Programs and services:

- Six people attended the Carol Purington Poetry Collective on January 4th.
- Judith Roberts will be leading a Yoga Story Hour for All Ages one Saturday per month starting in March. Bill Dornbusch has volunteered to help host a peer-to-peer technology and social group, alongside Betsy and Jill, beginning sometime in the not-too-distant future.
- All programs and book lending at the Franklin County Jail has been suspended pending further notice. Meanwhile, we will be meeting with the Re-Entry Services team and the Greenfield Public Library to review and improve strategies to serve patrons who have recently been released from jail or prison.

Administration:

- The library survey tool is complete and ready to be sent for printing, along with the Friends of the Library flier, for the Town Mailer.
- The Colrain Cultural council has awarded GML \$1,400 to support library programs including an Earth Day event for all ages, with local presenters and the Colrain Seniority Dancers; William Apess Day with Hartman Deetz and friends from the Wampanoag; Summer Reading Club kick-off; Fix-It Day music; and, a StoryWalk at Pine Hill Orchards.
- "RFQ 2023-2112 COLRAIN GRISWOLD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS FEASIBILITY STUDY" has been posted to the FRCOG and library websites, and the mandatory walk-through is scheduled for this Wednesday, January 10th at 1:00 p.m.
- Chelsea has prepared a first draft of a budget for fiscal year 2025 for review. This draft includes the following:
 - A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 3%.

- Restructuring staffing to create a 10-hour/week “Assistant Director” position whose responsibilities would include (further to the Library Assistant responsibilities) cataloging, communications, and website maintenance, and who would act as Library Director when Chelsea is away. In total, this person would work 536 hours per year. In turn, the total hours for Library Assistants would decrease from 759 per year, to 311. The Library Director position would be posted internally, with the intent of moving one of our current Assistants into this position.
 - All together, these would mean an 12.4% increase to library wages over the previous year, without a “merit based wage increase.”
 - The possibility of extending library hours, as determined by results from the outgoing library survey.
 - The proposed budget includes \$350.00 for the annual subscription fee to SquareSpace, or some other content management system, in order that we can redesign and improve the library website.
 - An increase to professional development in the amount of \$500 to help cover costs of strategic planning and ongoing staff training.
- Chelsea and Sarah Hertel-Fernandez will be presenting on the topic of library services for incarcerated patrons and their families at the Franklin County Legislative Breakfast on January 18th.

Further Reading:

- [“How a Drag Queen Event that Never Happened Forced a Library to Shut Down,”](#) in *The New York Times*, January 4, 2024.
- [“The Week in Libraries: January 5, 2024,”](#) in Publishers Weekly, January 5, 2024.