

The Ayer Library

Monthly Report for November 2018

Submitted for the December 18, 2018 Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Adult Collections:

- We are weeding the DVD collection – much of this work revolves around assessing the condition of the discs and, in some cases, ordering replacement copies.
- We received a collection of local newspapers *Ayer Sentinel*, *Ayer News*, and *Evening News and Times*, dating from 1880 to 1923. They will be assessed for condition and the ability to be microfilmed.
- Samantha Benoit retrieved a donation of print materials from the R. Murphy Knife Company, with more items to come later. Also, Ruth Rhonemus delivered a number of historic photographs of Ayer, formerly part of the collection of Thomas May, for the Library's collection.

Adult Book Displays:

- Native American Heritage Month
- Veteran's Day
- World War I Armistice Centennial
- Winter Holiday Cooking and Crafts
- Patrons' Picks – An interactive display of books recommended by Ayer Library patrons! We asked patrons in-person and on Facebook for their recommendations for fiction and non-fiction titles. Thomas compiled the recommendations we had received by mid-November and created bookmarks with a list of the "favorited" titles that patrons can take. The display sign explains that patrons can add recommendations to a collection jar on the display, or even add books to the display as a way of sharing their favorites. As more recommendations come in, Thomas is creating new bookmarks.

Adult Programs & Activities:

Program	#patrons	Date
Pastel Workshop – Greg Maichack	23	Sat., Nov 3, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Movie Matinee: Book Club	10	Thurs., Nov 8, 5:30 pm
Water for Soldiers – Paul Przybyla	5	Thurs., Nov 14, 6:00pm
Crochet Crafting – pumpkins & apples with Justine Paulson	8	Sat., Nov 17, 10:30 am
Understanding Nutrition Labels – Nashoba Valley Medical Center	8	Wed., Nov 28, 6:00 pm

- Ayer Library staff gathered to wish Brenda Jones a fond farewell with a pizza lunch on November 14th, her last day of work. Brenda has retired after nearly 40 years of employment at the Ayer Library.
- The Ayer Community Garden committee held organizing meetings in the library on Nov 6 & 20.
- Library Trustee Cyndi Lavin's book group (which was launched decades ago!) met on Nov 6 and will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the library's Nutting Room.
- The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners held a Library Trustees orientation class at the library on Nov 13. Approximately 29 people attended.
- Healing Conversations, a grief support group, met at the library on Nov 14.
- Nancy Askin proctored an exam for an NCSU student on Nov 9.

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- Thomas Tagliavento has been communicating with webmaster Dale Dormody about the upcoming new website template options. Asked about the possible integration of Burbio calendar into website with the changes. He said this is something that the developers working for Piper Mountain Webs are working on at the moment (another, out-of-state library had asked for this feature earlier).

Library Building & Grounds

- Chuck Schultz, Ayer Building Department, found a company to clean the gutters on roof edge above the Children's Room entrance. The initial attempt to clean them out was postponed by snow, however.
- Renaud Electric replaced bulbs in several hanging light fixtures in the Reading Room and the nearby hallway. They also installed motion-detector switches in the public restrooms so that the lights will turn on and off automatically.
- Prescott Landscaping sent a crew of three to pick up all of the leaves on the library grounds just ahead of the Library Holiday party planned for December 1.

Library Director's Activities:

- Worked with Ayer IT Director Cindy Knox to jointly launch a community calendar app called Burbio. The application aggregates events from schools, town government, non-profits, and other community organizations so that community members can subscribe to the calendars they choose and find all their events in a single place.
- Began advertising for part-time and on-call Library Clerk positions.
- Began reviewing library finances for preliminary budget preparation.

Library Director's Meetings:

- Massachusetts Library Association Annual Meeting, November 6th, Worcester, MA
- Town Department Directors' Meeting, November 14th.
- Library Department Heads Meeting, November 16th.
- Ayer Library Trustees Meeting, November 20th.
- CWMARS User's Council Meeting, November 27th, Athol, MA.
- Library Department Heads Meeting, November 30th.

Library Staff Training:

- On November 28th, Scott Kurland of Ayer Public Access Corporation came to the library to train Autumn, Christina, and Tim in the use of APAC's digital video cameras, tripods, and accessories. Tim, Christina, and Autumn are now able to sign out this equipment and use it to record programs, presentations, and other events at the library or anywhere else in Ayer for broadcast on APAC.

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Youth Services Programs & Activities:

- In November the Youth Services Department hosted 11 Juvenile programs with a total combined attendance of 331 people.

Programs	Attendance	Date
Storytime	15	11/1
Trick-or-treat Tote Bag Decorating (for Halloween parade – rescheduled from 10/27)	111	11/3
Story Ninja	14	11/6
Pointillism Painting	4	11/7
Storytime	36	11/8
Children’s Author Visit with Amanda Moeckel	30	11/8
Story Ninja	16	11/13
Story Time – Hands on Nature	43	11/15
Story Ninja	13	11/20
Story Ninja	22	11/27
Story Time	27	11/29

- This November’s highlights included a visit from local author, Amanda Moeckel, who read from her debut picture book 'Khalida and the Most Beautiful Song' on Thursday, November 8th. Amanda is originally from Lunenburg and her visit was arranged through her previous connection with Young Adult Librarian Autumn Dore.
- On Thursday, November 15th we had Heather of Hands On Nature visit for a special story hour program. Heather came and spoke with the kids about local owls, their diets, how they hunt, how they communicate, and the kids even got to dissect owl pellets. We have worked with Heather many times in the past and she is absolutely one of our top picks for our favorite outside people to work with.
- Our most notable display from the month of November was a display featuring the libraries entire collection of 'Who Was' books. 'Who Was' is an extremely popular series of biographies for kids in the 2nd-5th grade, that covers a wide range of political, celebrity, and historical figures among many others. The Children's Room staff work hard to make sure we are always up to date and have the complete collection of published books due to their popularity.
- Also during the month of November, Christina separated out all of the juvenile TV seasons and re-cataloged them to make them easier for patrons to find by having their own separate space on the shelf, similar to the adult TV collections and, have them circulate for 2 weeks opposed to the standard 1 week for regular DVDs. This is also keeping in line with the way that TV seasons are managed in the adult collections. The project took a couple of days and has been well received by patrons. Christina has had many patrons tell her that they feel the change was a smart decision and they are much more likely to borrow from the selection of juvenile TV seasons now.

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- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
 - Book Displays:
 - Gaming (Board & Video Games)
 - National Adoption Awareness Month

Programs	Patrons	Date
Dungeons & Dragons	8	Fri., Nov 3., 3:30 p.m.
Family Game Night	4	Tues., Nov .6, 5 p.m.
YA Book Club	5	Wed, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Teen Paint Night	17	Thurs., Nov.15, 5 p.m.
LGBTQIA+ Drop In	8	Wed., Nov. 21, 3:30 p.m.
Teen Night	12	Wed., Nov. 28, 4 p.m.
Anime & Manga Club	9	Thurs., Nov. 29, 5 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons	5	Fri., Nov. 30, 3:30 p.m.

I would like to thank the following Ayer Library staff members for their contributions to this report:
Nancy Askin, Samantha Benoit, Autumn Dore, Justine Paulson, Thomas Tagliavento, and Christina Zoller.

Respectfully,

Tim Silva
Library Director