

The Ayer Library

Monthly Report for January 2019

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do/With your one wild and precious life?"
-from *The Summer Day* by Mary Oliver*

Adult Book Displays:

- Best Books of 2018 (fiction and nonfiction). Continued from late December. Selections are based on "Best of 2018" lists from the *Kirkus Review*, the *New York Times*, *Bookpage*, Man Booker Prize shortlist, National Public Radio, *Entertainment Weekly*, and more.
- Collections and Hobbies for the New Year – Continued from late December. The idea for this display came after a full inventory of books that had been marked "Missing" for at least two years. Items "Found" during the inventory included one stamp collecting book, one *Matchbox* car collecting book, and one silk painting book.
- New Year's Resolutions – Continued from late December. Books that might inspire and support to anyone looking to make a change with the New Year.
- *Remembering Mary Oliver – Books by the poet (and long-time Provincetown, MA resident), a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, who passed away on January 17 at the age of 83¹.
- New England Sports – Books about New England athletes and teams, from the recreational level to professional.
- Black History Month – Books by black American writers and books about black society and culture in the US. Began display 1/30.
- How to Make Mixed Media Art – A tie-in with the Library's Mixed Media Art program for adults scheduled for Saturday, 2/2.

Adult Programs & Activities:

Program	Attendees	Date
Genealogy	3	Jan 8 th
Movie: <i>Crazy Rich Asians</i>	15	Jan 16 th
Crochet Crafting: Fingerless gloves with Justine Paulson	7	Jan 26 th

- Thomas Tagliavento attended "From the Mountains to the Sea: Rural Health Issues and Resources," a workshop for librarians co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Library System and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) in Marlborough, MA on Thursday, January 24th. The workshop is designed to help public librarians provide quality health information resources to their communities.
- The Library is a ticket sale partner for the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce's 18th Annual *Taste of Nashoba Valley* event this year. Tickets for the March 19 event are available at the Library's Main Circulation Desk for \$30 per person. \$5 from each ticket purchased at the Ayer Library will benefit the Friends of the Ayer Library.
- Public Meetings and Programs by outside groups:

¹ Neary, Lynn. "Beloved Poet Mary Oliver, Who Believed Poetry 'Mustn't Be Fancy,' Dies At 83." *All Things Considered*. National Public Radio. January 17, 2019.

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- The Ayer Community Garden committee held organizing meetings in the library on January 8th and 22nd.
- Healing Conversations, a bereavement support group series offered by Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice, met at the library on January 31.

Library Building & Grounds

- Lauren Stara, Library Building Specialist with the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, toured the library with Tim Silva, Samantha Benoit, and the Ayer Building Department's Chuck Schultz, Jr on Friday, January 18th. The group discussed ideas for improving energy efficiency and the better use of space within the existing building for both patron service and staff functions.

Library Director's Activities:

- FY2020 Budget process:
 - Reviewed Library budget proposal and budget process timetable with Town Manager Robert Pontbriand and Town Accountant Lisa Gabree on January 9th.
 - Researched and answered questions from Library Board of Trustees members about the Library's preliminary FY2020 budget.
 - Received a vote of approval for the preliminary FY2020 budget from the Library Board of Trustees on January 15th.
- Library IT: Began researching options for improving management and operation of the Library's public access computers.
 - Met with Library Director Joe Mulé on January 31st to see the Groovix software in use on the Thayer Memorial Library's public computers.
 - Spoke with Bellingham Public Library Director Bernadette Rivard about the Useful public computer network that her library has had in place for several years, and then participated in an on-line demo with a sales representative from Useful on January 31st.

Library Director's Meetings:

- C/WMARS Area Directors' Meeting, Bigelow Library, Clinton, MA, January 3rd.
- Ayer Library Department Heads Meeting, January 4th.
- Town Department Directors' Meeting, January 9th.
- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meeting, January 15th.
- Friends of the Ayer Library Board Meeting, January 17th.
- Library Legislative Breakfast, Leominster Public Library, January 18th.

Library Staff News:

- New part-time staff members Barbara Breese and Sumedha Chandra Sekhar began working at the Library in January. Welcome Barbara and Sumedha!
- The entire staff of the Ayer Library met after closing on January 25th for the first of what will be periodic "all staff" meetings to discuss library projects, goals, staff training needs, etc.

Youth Services Programs & Activities:

Children's Programs	Attendance	Date
Story Time (Yeti)	12	Jan 10 th
Story Ninja (Over and Under the Snow-with Willow, the Read Therapy dog)	38	Jan 15 th

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Story Time (Polar Bears)	44	Jan 17 th
Story Ninja (Snowflakes)	26	Jan 22 nd
Kids' DIY craft: Painted Wooden Snowmen	11	Jan 23 rd
Story Ninja (Narnia)	31	Jan 29 th
Story Time (Pablo in the Snow)	23	Jan 31 st

- Justine Paulson and Christina Zoller tested out some ideas for creating a recorded “Story Time” that could be uploaded to YouTube and/or broadcast on Ayer Public Access Corporation TV.
- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
 - Book displays
 - Best of 2018 YA Fiction
 - “Beat the Winter Blues with Feel-good Books!”

Young Adult Programs	Attendees	Date
Book Club	5	Thurs., Jan 3., 6:30 p.m.
Board Game Night	3	Tues., Jan 9, 5 p.m.
D&D	2	Fri., Jan. 12, 4 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board	5	Wed., Jan.16, 5 p.m.
Board Game Night	4	Tues., Jan. 22, 5 p.m.
D&D	3	Fri., Jan. 25, 4 p.m.
LGBTQIA+ Drop In	2	Tues., Jan. 29, 5 p.m.
Anime & Manga Club	6	Wed., Jan 30, 5 p.m.

- Circulation Librarian Justine Paulson set up the Maker-space with New Year’s Resolution Cards, bracelet and origami Lucky Stars paper star-making materials.
- Manga and Graphic Novels are now separate. Manga’s new spine labels are organized by series name as opposed to author last name and include volume number for easier identification.
- We had an exciting Teen Advisory Board meeting in which we discussed starting a tween book club (which starts in March), establishing patron art display space, and some programming requests.
- Starting in February, YA or Teen events will have their own calendar sheet to distribute to schools and patrons.
- Ayer Library Teens on Instagram topped 500 followers.

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

Respectfully,

Tim Silva
Library Director