

# The Ayer Library

## Director's Report for March 2019

### Adult Book Displays:

- Women's History Month
- Books From the Bottom Shelves - A selection of "easy to miss" titles from the bottom shelves (continued from late January);
- Islam
- Adult Graphic Novels
- National Craft Month

### Adult Programs & Activities:

Program/Presenter	Attendance	Date
Pairing Tea w/ Cheese / Danielle Beaudette	17	Tues., March 5, 6:00 pm
BINGO / Christina Zoller	Total: 32	Thursdays March 7, 14, 21, 28 6:00 pm
Beginning Watercolor / Lee Muir-Haman	12	Sat., March 9, 10:30 am
Genealogy	4	Tues., March 12, 6:00 pm
Write a Stand-Out College Application / Caroline O'Brien	6	Wed., March 13, 7:00 pm
Sewing Essentials part 1 / Samantha Benoit	11	Sat., March 16, 10:30 am
Nutrition for Brain Health / Nashoba Valley Medical Ctr	14	Wed., March 20, 6:00 pm
Sewing Essentials part 2 / Samantha Benoit	18	Sat., March 23, 10:30 am
Crochet Crafting: Dinosaurs! (part 1) / Justine Paulson	7	Sat., March 30, 10:30 am

### Public Meetings and Programs by outside groups:

- The **Friends of the Ayer Library** hosted **Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation**, an open house event on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. About 47 attendees had a chance to chat with Library Director Tim Silva and several other staff members, as well as members of the Friends and the Library's Board of Trustees.
- **Healing Conversations**, a bereavement support group series offered by **Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice**, met at the Library on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Library Building & Grounds:

- Town of Ayer Facilities Manager Chuck Schultz and Library Director Tim Silva met with Dave Callahan of Johnson Controls on March 12<sup>th</sup> to review the Library's HVAC system and discuss some of the ways the system could be made more efficient should Ayer receive additional Green Communities grant funding this year.

## The Ayer Library

### Director's Report for March 2019

- Chuck returned to the Library on March 14<sup>th</sup> to install a new diaper changing table in one of the Library's public restrooms.

#### Library Director's Activities:

- Head of Children's Services Amy Leonard and I participated in Community Reader Day at Page Hilltop School on March 1<sup>st</sup>. With Dr. Seuss as the theme for the day, I read *Fox in Sox* to Mrs. Fitzgerald's kindergarten class. The kids were fantastic & Amy and I had a lot of fun!
- I attended two strategic planning workshops for libraries on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The workshops were presented by Massachusetts Library System (MLS) advisors at the MLS Office in Marlborough, MA.
- I attended the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce's *Taste of Nashoba Valley* event on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Library was a ticket sale partner for this year's event. We sold five tickets at the Circulation Desk, so the Friends of the Ayer Library will receive \$25 from the Chamber.
- As a "busman's holiday" of sorts, I visited the Woburn Public Library on March 16<sup>th</sup> to attend the official re-opening of the newly renovated and expanded library building. Like Ayer, Woburn renovated their original 19<sup>th</sup> century building – designed by noted architect H. H. Richardson - but, in contrast, the new addition is a modern glass and steel structure. The new addition is designed in part to allow patrons to see much of the beautiful exterior of the historic building while sitting comfortably inside the expanded library. It's worth a trip to see!
- Circulation & Outreach Librarian Christina Zoller and I traveled to Ayer-Shirley Regional High School on March 21<sup>st</sup> to meet with APAC Executive Director Scott Kurland and Public Access Manager Dave Melpignano. We discussed ideas for video story time programming and then toured the school's wonderful TV studio and editing room.
- I sat in on the Youth Services Summer Reading planning meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> that was hosted by Amy Leonard & Christina Zoller and attended by Kathleen Buretta, Hazen Memorial Library's Youth Services Librarian, and Ayer-Shirley elementary school teachers Diane Lyons and Nancy Pasquaretta. The group worked to update the school summer reading lists with newer book titles and discussed ways to make it easier and more enjoyable for Ayer-Shirley students and their families to participate in summer reading.
- I began meeting individually with the Library's four new part-time Library Clerks to check in with them after their first three months on the job.
- Pastor Susan Gaeta of the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Ayer and I met over coffee on March 28<sup>th</sup> to get to know each other and to begin to talk about how our respective organizations might work together to meet the needs of the people in our community.
- I contacted several IT companies to request information and pricing for upgrading and/or providing better maintenance and support for the Library's public WiFi network, the internal staff computer network, and the public computer network.

#### Library Director's Meetings:

- Town of Ayer Finance Committee, March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Town of Ayer Department Director's Meeting, March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Ayer Library Department Heads Meeting, March 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>
- North Central Massachusetts Library Directors' Meeting, March 15<sup>th</sup> at Fitchburg Public Library
- C/WMARS Users' Council Quarterly Meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup> at West Springfield Public Library
- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meeting, March 19<sup>th</sup> - Canceled due to lack of quorum.

## The Ayer Library

### Director's Report for March 2019

#### Youth Services Programs & Activities:

Children's Programs	Attendance	Date
Story Ninja	35	March 5 <sup>th</sup>
Story Time	37	March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Kids DIY – Pipe Cleaner Dinosaurs	8	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
Story Ninja	33	March 12 <sup>th</sup>
Story Time (Bangarang Yoga)	35	March 14 <sup>th</sup>
Story Ninja	41	March 19 <sup>th</sup>
Read with Willow the Therapy Dog	12	March 19 <sup>th</sup>
Story Time	32	March 21 <sup>st</sup>
Story Ninja	22	March 26 <sup>th</sup>
Story Time	22	March 28 <sup>th</sup>

- Amy Leonard led a project to expand and reorganize the board book collection in the Children's Room. With the help of Christina and Justine, we rearranged the furniture to allow for a second shelf for board books to be added. By moving the furniture we've also created a brighter and more welcoming space for our patrons and have received many compliments. The board book collection is still expanding to better serve patron needs, and the books are now sorted alphabetically to make them easier to patrons and staff to find.
- During the furniture moving process, we also put the play kitchen set back in storage and brought out the puppet theatre instead. This was a welcome change and the kids have been having a wonderful time putting on puppet shows for their families.
- The display for the months of March and April is a very exciting one. Christina's mother and grandmother loaned us their collections of vintage children's toys and books. These items, along with a few toys belonging to the library, donated by Carol Horgan for a previous display, have been excellent at encouraging friendly conversations between staff and patrons. Patrons of all ages have taken time to look at the items on display and admire them. We have received many compliments and questions about the display and have been encouraged to have it again.
- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
  - Book displays
    - Women's History Month

Programs	Attendees	Date
Dungeons & Dragons	7	Sat., March 2, 11 a.m.
Board Game Night	4	Tues., March 5, 5 p.m.
Book Page Poetry	3	Wed & Thurs., March 6 & 7, 5 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board	3	Wed., March 13, 5 p.m.
All Booked Club "Aristotle & Dante"	0	Thurs., March 14, 6:30 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons	7	Sat., March. 16 11 a.m.
Board Game Night	5	Tues., March 19, 11 a.m.
Mind Readers Book Club "Ranger's Apprentice"	0	Wed., March 20, 5 p.m.

**The Ayer Library**  
Director's Report for March 2019

LGBTQIA+ Drop In	4	Tues., March 26, 5 p.m.
Anime & Manga Club	3	Wed., March 27, 5 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons	4	Sat. March, 30, 11 a.m.

- We saw a quiet March in the Teen Room. Board Game Night and Tony Biondo's D&D program are each developing a small following.
- Circulation Librarian Justine Paulson set up the Maker-space with recycled newspaper basket and glass bead picture magnet projects.
- YA Librarian Autumn Dore attended two professional development programs: the summer reading workshop presented by the Mass Library System at Shrewsbury Public Library and the New England Roundtable of Teen and Children's Librarians at Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen.

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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