

# The Ayer Library

## Director's Report for July 2019

### Adult Book Displays:

- Summer/Beach Reads;
- **Book Bingo Adult Summer Reading Program** book ideas, with bingo sheets, instructions, and raffle ticket bags on display;
- Astronomy/Space Exploration display, with poster and Space-related Summer Reading bookmarks in display (tie-in with Summer Reading programs, Book Bingo square);
- Hiking and local outdoors activities, continued from June;
- Young Adult (YA) books for patrons who might not visit the children's/YA departments, also a tie-in with Book Bingo.

### Adult Department - New Developments:

- In July, we launched **Book Bingo Adult Summer Reading 2019** to encourage patrons to read books that they might not often read and to interact with library staff for reading recommendations. Promotional materials were put on AyerLibrary.org (with downloadable bingo sheet), Ayer Library's Facebook page, and in the library. Prizes are five \$25 gift certificates to O'Neil Cinemas, Markoh's on Main (can also be used at Lucia's Tavola and Tipo Tacos); Kimball Farms, Capri Bakery, and Shop 'n Save. The program will last until September 10<sup>th</sup>, and a winner will be drawn that week.
- New Museum Passes added in July include: Action Discovery Museum, Boston Children's Museum, Trustees of Reservations GO Pass, and two more Mass. State Parks/DCR passes.

### Adult Programs & Activities:

| Program/Presenter   | Attendance | Date    |
|---|------------|---------|
| All Booked Club – Reading <i>Meddling Kids</i> by Edgar Cantero | 6          | July 11 |
| Hank Williams Song & Story with Ukelele J.                      | 9          | July 17 |
| Board Game Night  | 4          | July 18 |
| Legacy of Apollo with Aldrich Astronomical Society              | 8          | July 18 |
| Board Game Night  | 6          | July 25 |

### Library Building & Grounds:

- Steve Cristol and John Sullivan of MassCor Industries visited the Library to take some measurements and photos and to discuss our needs for new service desks on the Main Floor and in the Children's Room. We are looking to replace both desks (eventually) with furniture that more easily allows more than one staffer to assist patrons at a time.

### Library Director's Activities:

- I attended an instructional webinar hosted by the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) on July 8<sup>th</sup> about the new software they are using this year to collect FY19 statistics for the Annual Report Information Survey (ARIS). All libraries that wish to receive State Aid from the MBLC must complete the ARIS by August 16<sup>th</sup>.

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- Assistant Director Samantha Benoit and I met with LaGina Austin of Skinner Appraisal Services on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We have asked Skinner to appraise some of the Library's collection of historical objects in order to make sure that these items are appropriately insured in case of loss. Skinner's research may even give us additional information about some of these items.

**Library Director's Meetings:**

- Town of Ayer Department Director's Meeting, July 10<sup>th</sup>
- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meeting, July 16<sup>th</sup>
- Friends of the Ayer Library Meeting, July 18<sup>th</sup>

**Library Operations:**

- At their July meeting, the Library Board of Trustees approved a plan to acquire a collection of 1890s era glass plate negatives of Ayer and surrounding communities from a private collector. The images were photographed by Edward A. Richardson, a former Ayer resident, selectman and Library Trustee. Once the sales agreement has been reviewed by Town Counsel, we hope to complete the acquisition in August. We will be able to recreate and reprint the images from these glass plate negatives with our digital scanner, thus making them available to the public in the very near future.

**Youth Services Programs & Activities:**

| <b>Children's Programs</b>                | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| DIY Meteor Shower                         | 12                | July 2      |
| Bike Decorating Party                     | 8                 | July 5      |
| Ralph Masiello Drawing Class*             | 27                | July 9      |
| Aldrich Astronomical Society              | 75                | July 11     |
| Straw Rockets                             | 24                | July 16     |
| Ayer Family Partnership Center Story Time | 7                 | July 17     |
| DIY Recycled Robots with Mandy**          | 27                | July 18     |
| Ayer High School AP Literature Book Club  | 10                | July 18     |
| YA Cupcake Decorating Challenge           | 14                | July 19     |
| Blue Star Planetarium                     | 62                | July 23     |
| Ayer Family Partnership Center Story Time | 15                | July 24     |
| Gravity Painting                          | 47                | July 25     |
| Read w/ Mead the Therapy Dog              | 10                | July 25     |
| Movie Morning (Lego Movie 2)              | 10                | July 27     |
| Andromeda One Robotics Team               | 23                | July 23     |
| Ayer Family Partnership Center Story Time | 10                | July 31     |

*\*7/9 Program was adjusted due to a last-minute family emergency. Ralph did not make it but we still had a drawing 'class' with his books.*

*\*\*7/18 Program was adjusted last-minute due to weather. Harvard Alpaca Ranch was scheduled to visit but due to forecasted rain showers, we rescheduled them for a later date and were able to book Mandy for a replacement program.*

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- July was a hot one for the Children's Room Staff. We were up and down and stretching our imaginations to their full potential. Between last-minute changes and unpredictable weather, the staff made every effort to make sure our programs kept up with the high standard of quality that we hold ourselves too.
- We added in a new therapy dog, Mead, who spends a lot of time working in the Acton school district. Her owner/handler, Cricket, is very friendly and fit right in with our families.
- July started off on a bit of a sad note when the Town Offices were forced to cancel the Annual 4th of July Parade due to unsafe weather conditions. Christina and Sam had already gathered all parade supplies and goodies for the families participating and just couldn't see them go to waste. They both went down to Pirone Park that evening and walked around visiting with event attendees handing out the flags and necklaces they had purchased for the parade.
- The Children's Room was able to reconnect with the FLLAC Collaborative Program based in the Ayer School District and teachers and students of their summer program attended our Gravity Painting program on July 25th.
- With the bulk of the 2019 Summer Reading Program now over, the Children's Staff is proud to have hosted another summer of successful programming for Ayer and surrounding communities.
  
- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
  - Book displays
    - Books with red, white, and blue covers in recognition of Independence Day

| Programs   | Attendees | Date |
|--|-----------|------|
| <i>Board Game Nights &amp; Book Club</i> are now being reported under Adult Programs |           |      |

- Circulation Librarian Justine Paulson set up the Maker-space with dream-catcher kits; there was an easier version for younger kids with paper plates and yarn and a slightly harder version with string and pipe cleaners for the older kids.

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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