

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

**Adult Book Displays:**

- **Latin American Heritage Month** – continued from September to mid-October.
- **Halloween!** – Two displays worth of materials for the month.
- **Mental Health Awareness** – Mental Health Awareness Day is October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Adult Programs & Activities:**

Program/Presenter	Attendance	Date
Coffee with a Cop	31	October 2
All Booked Club – Reading <i>I Remember You</i> by Yrsa Sigurdardottir	5	October 3
Family Board Game Night	9	October 10
<i>The Mystery of Crop Circles</i> with John Root	8	October 16
Family Board Game Night	10	October 24
<i>Crochet Crafting: Octopi!</i> with Justine Paulson	3	October 26

- Circulation Librarian Thomas Tagliavento edited the website to accommodate new links to the Gale Database Collection and to describe some changes to the Rosetta Stone Language Learning database for users.
- Our first Coffee with a Cop event was very successful! Thanks to Patrol Officer Brent Davis for helping to organize the event and get the word out on relatively short notice.
- As we've done for a number of years now, the Library hosted a flu shot clinic supported by the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Friends of the Ayer Library held their Annual Meeting at the Library on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the meeting included the election of officers for the coming year: Mary Metzger, President; Carol Horgan, Vice-president; Liz Nonis; Treasurer; Secretary, Laurie Sabol; Member-at-large, Elaine Sullivan. Also, the Friends pledged \$6,000 to support Library programming in the 2020 calendar year! Ten people attended this meeting. The next Friends meeting will take place on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Library Director's Activities:**

- Assistant Director Samantha Benoit, Head of Youth Services Amy Leonard, and I spent much of October reviewing applications and interviewing candidates interested in serving as the Library's next Head of Adult Services, a position that opened last month with the retirement of our colleague Nancy Askin. Following two rounds of interviews, our top candidate accepted the offered position on October 25<sup>th</sup> and will start work in late November. Stay tuned for the official announcement...
- I attended the New England Library Association (NELA) Annual Conference in Mystic, CT on October 20-22<sup>nd</sup>.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Circulation Librarian (and Ayer Library webmaster) Thomas Tagliavento and I spoke with Dale Dormody of Piper Mountain Webs, our current Library website host, about the costs and requirements of moving our site onto Piper's upgraded platform when our current contract ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The new platform is

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responsive (it automatically adapts its layout to best suit the size of the screen on which the site is being viewed) and easier to update than what we currently use.

- On October 25<sup>th</sup>, I proctored an online exam for a graduate student studying criminal justice.

#### **Library Director's Meetings:**

- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meetings on October 1<sup>st</sup> (meeting was rescheduled from September 17<sup>th</sup>) and October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board held its annual election of officers at the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Debra Faust-Clancy declined to run for another term as President and Bob Gardner was elected as her successor. Cyndi Lavin and Dana Bresnahan were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The position of Vice President remains vacant.
- Pastor Susan Gaeta of the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and I met on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Library to continue a discussion about building an informal network to connect all of the community advocates and social service providers that work in our community. As a follow-up to a meeting of community-minded people held at the Federated Church of Ayer in May, Pastor Gaeta will be convening another gathering in early November.

#### **Library Operations:**

- Easton Electronics conducted the annual fire alarm and sprinkler testing on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Johnson Controls performed the fall season maintenance on our HVAC systems on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The boiler received a tune-up, the filters were cleaned or changed on the air handling system and general operation of the heating and air handling system was checked, with minor adjustments made to aging parts to reduce noise. A second technician returned on October 25<sup>th</sup> to check the Meta-Sys control system that runs everything. There are two components – a temperature sensor and a damper control that need replacing. That work will be scheduled for November.
- We're very excited to have the granite 'Ayer Library' sign on East Main Street illuminated again after many years in the dark. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Renaud Electrical began the work to replace the non-functional light fixtures with energy-efficient LED fixtures and now the sign and the Library entrance stand out much more clearly in the evening hours. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, Renaud Electrical also performed the annual operational check of our emergency lighting system, repaired one interior light fixture and replaced bulbs in several exterior fixtures, including the pole that illuminates the walkway to the Children's entrance.

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**Youth Services Programs & Activities:**

<b>Children's Programs</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Date</b>
Story Ninja (Egg Drop)	14	October 1
Music & Movement w/ Ayer Family Partnership Center	34	October 2
Story Time (Apples)	34	October 3
Story Ninja (Slime)	19	October 8
Read with Willow the Therapy Dog	5	October 8
Music & Movement w/ Ayer Family Partnership Center	43	October 9
Story Time (Bangarang Yoga)	47	October 10
Story Ninja (Wands and Crowns with Mandy of Wicked Good Henna)	15	October 15
Music & Movement w/ Ayer Family Partnership Center	32	October 16
Story Time (Meet Ayer PD School Resource Officer Jennifer Bigelow)	16	October 17
Story Ninja (Catapults)	12	October 22
Storytime (Bug Hunt with Heather of Hands On Nature)	13	October 24
Ayer Downtown Trick-or-Treat tote bag decorating	113	October 26
Ayer Downtown Trick-or-Treat Parade from the Library	27	October 26
Story Ninja (thumb pianos)	9	October 29
Music & Movement w/ Ayer Family Partnership Center	43	October 30
Storytime (Pumpkins)	43	October 31

- The Youth Services Department is thankful for all the special programs we were able to offer during the month of October. The Friends of the Ayer Library generously supported our monthly yoga Storytime with Amy, local mom, and owner of Bangarang Yoga, a magical wands and crowns craft event with Wicked Good Henna, and a bug hunt with Hands On Nature. We continued our collaboration with our local Community Education Grant Program, The Ayer Family Partnership Center, for our weekly Music and Movement group. We also welcomed School Resource Officer Jennifer Bigelow of the Ayer Police Department for a Storytime program talking about being a helper and general safety.
- October means Halloween and boy did we have a good time this year. For the second year, Circulation & Outreach Librarian Christina Zoller led the charge for us to participate in the annual Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat event with local businesses. The library was open to families between 10 and 12 with tote bags that kids could decorate to use for trick-or-treating. During those hours we had about 113 people visit the library to participate. At noon, the costume parade set off from the Library to participate in the Downtown Halloween Trick-or-Treat, with Christina leading a group of 27 participants.
- Christina also attended the Makerspace Open Forum at Town Hall on Wednesday, 10/30.

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- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
  - Book displays
    - Spooky Scary Stories!
  
  - In October, the Teen Makerspace crafts were 3-D paper spiders and mini ghosts; the mini ghosts were especially popular.

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

Respectfully,

Tim Silva  
Library Director