

GALE LIBRARY REPORT

As the temperatures dropped outside, the programs began heating up inside here at the Gale Library. We began with the children's winter reading program, titled, *When It's Mitten Weather, We'll Read Together*, for children, and *Cabin Fever* for our adult readers.

These programs were a fun way to start the year off, especially if you had "read more books" as one of your new year's resolutions!

Other programs throughout the year included a visit from Elly Becotte of Kingston, NH. Elly gave a presentation titled, *John Greenleaf Whittier: From Legends to Poetry*, much to the delight of those who attended. The program summarized this New England native's life and his works. National Library Week was celebrated in April with an Open House and Art Exhibit. Our children's summer reading program theme this year was, *Reading Road Trip, U.S.A.* Mrs. Mears held a fun-filled summer for our enthusiastic readers. Mrs. Suraci and her *Art Room* students helped decorate the library to coordinate with our program. One of the highlights of the program was a visit from Tracy Kane, a local author and illustrator. Tracy read from her books and instructed the children on the art of fairy house building. Their works of art were on display outdoors for most of the summer.

Mr. Dana Allison led a no cost *Intro to the Internet* class for those who requested assistance as they surfed the web.

A soy candle making workshop for adults was presented by Lorna-faye Belleville. Participants learned the advantages of burning soywax and were able to create their own Crumble Candle to bring home.

The excitement continued into October with a visit from Diane Mayr, a local children's book author. Diane read and signed copies of her holiday books.

Pumpkin Carving Night with June Dunne is always a popular event. Attendees carved works of art that were of fantastic design.

The library held the annual *Food for Fines Program* again this year. There were a number of deliveries to the local Newton Food Pantry. We are pleased to help assist the community in this small way.

We were treated to a *Cornucopia, Candy, and Christmas Trees* presentation from Rita Parisi of Waterfalls Production. Rita visited the library in period costume (1890-1901), and spoke about holiday traditions from this time. Guests made their own cornucopia ornament and filled it with hard candies.

The Angel Tree was displayed and held gift requests for local needy families.

The library was fortunate to be one of the first local libraries to offer the *Paws to R.E.A.D.* program, presented by Mrs. Franceour and her two Irish setter dogs, Riley and Rusty. Children signed up for reading intervals and enjoyed the interaction with the dogs.

A new *Teen Book Group* was formed this year. This program will offer discussions and social enjoyment for current and new members.

The Friends of the Library continue to work hard to support us with a variety of service and items that were not included in our annual budget.

Passes were purchased this year through the Friends for the SEE Science Center in Manchester, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, and the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, ME. Assistance was given to set up and man the tables for our Scholastic Book Fair held this summer. The theme was *Book Fair Beach* and was held during the library's normal operation hours.

We were pleased to accept a monetary gift from the Friends of \$1,000 for technology purposes. This donation supports the annual subscription for two years to Overdrive online audio books. The Overdrive program was launched this year for the convenience of patrons who wish to checkout and download audio book titles from a remote site. A grant was obtained from a Gates Staying Connected Technical Support Grant form the New Hampshire State Library for a one-time set-up fee of \$600.00.

Santa made a stop at the library just in time for the *Friends Christmas Children's Party!* The library now has a comfortable reading area that includes two new chairs in which to relax with a book or two. The Friends supported this project with a \$500.00 check for the purchase of furniture. In addition, the Merrimac Savings Bank of Newton also graciously contributed \$500.00 towards the project.

Two computers were purchased to upgrade our catalog units. The machines operate on a Windows XP Professional operating system. A 17" flat screen monitor was also purchased as a replacement to better utilize our limited workspace.

Electrical lamps were upgraded on the lower level of the library, as well as a few on the upper level. This project will reduce electricity costs and provide optimum illumination to the library. A Utilil rebate was obtained for half of the total cost of the upgrade.

Gratitude is given to the many volunteers and donations throughout the year. Their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Be sure to stop by or give us a call for information or requests. We strive to provide materials that are educational and recreational.

Best wishes for the upcoming New Year!

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa E. Caswell, Library Director

Marilyn Landry, Chairperson
Sally Woodman, Secretary
Carol Szot, Treasurer
Beverly Batchelder, Alternate
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