

**Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
May 19, 2016**

The Friends of the Library Spring meeting on May 7 went very well. I presented my report, attached.

I continue to plan for summer programs although not as much for the teens as I am still hopeful that we will have a teen librarian to do the planning according to what he or she will enjoy and feel comfortable doing with them. I am getting raffle prizes for the teens; at the very least we will have a teen summer reading program.

There was a big hassle getting the replacement screen for the Assistant Librarian's laptop. After dozens of emails, Dell Financial Services finally agreed to give us more money for the replacement since the \$75 they designated was inadequate. They also found the correct part for me. I was going to try to install it myself but it is too hard to find the time for such a project, so Joel Clement will be installing it this week.

Things are going reasonably smoothly without an Assistant Librarian. It is fortunate that we have all our volunteers back now and a new one being trained, Mary Marchand. I had two volunteers helping me with the afterschool program last week. 24 kids attended and it was a zoo, but a fun zoo. There were 40 total for Pizza & Movie. We tried a new pizza place and it is good; we will probably continue using Mumma Christy's in West Ossipee as long as we can get volunteer drivers to pick up the pizza.

Bill Stoops and Scott Cunningham with help from Charlie Gibbs and son completed work on the center shelving in the workroom, putting strips of wood behind the shelves to prevent books from falling through the back. Now I will be able to go through the many donated books that have accumulated.

The furnace circulator needed repair and another ballast needed replacing. The ground near the new curbing needs to be re-seeded. I will talk to Bill about having Matt Welch take care of this when the sprinkler system is turned back on.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director

Librarian's Report
Friends of the Library
May 7, 2016

I want to start by thanking the Friends of the Library for making it possible for me to attend the Public Library Association conference in Denver last month. I came away inspired and reinvigorated. The first event was the opening session with Anderson Cooper who was engaging and funny, talking mostly about his mother Gloria Vanderbilt and their relationship. That evening I attended an elaborate party put on by Overdrive, the company that we use for downloadable audiobooks and eBooks.

I put out a call on an email list to children's librarians from very small libraries who were going to PLA and wanted to meet up. I also was part of another group of librarians going solo to the conference. Eventually both of these groups merged together. We met over the four days to share ideas and to attend events together.

I was busy from early morning to night every day. My second day started with the main speaker Verna Myers, the most inspiring and thought-provoking speaker I heard. She talked about inclusiveness and cultural sensitivity, about moving from "well-meaning to well-doing" in a way that was humbling, eye-opening and practical. I bought her book for the library "What if I Say the Wrong Thing? 25 Habits for Culturally Effective People" which I hope everyone will read.

After this, I attended an unofficial gathering of about 30 children's librarians for "Guerilla Storytime" where we shared ideas for songs, fingerplays and for handling issues that come up. The workshops I attended were "52 Weeks of STEM" (math and science program ideas) and "Tech 2 Go" where librarians talked about lending technology such as wifi hotspots, Rokus, record players, and GoPros. I'd love to do more of that here and this workshop really got me inspired. I went to an author luncheon where children's author Sherman Alexie spoke – that was lots of fun. I met up with a small group to talk about summer reading program, checked out some of the exhibitors, and attended a party put on by Ingram, a competitor to Baker and Taylor.

Friday started out with a children's authors breakfast where a marvelous panel of 4 well-known authors and 1 illustrator talked about their creative process and books. Each attendee got a bag filled with books by these authors. The workshop I attended on Friday was "Makerspace for ages 0-108." I went to a luncheon where Arianna Huffington spoke. Her big thing is the importance of getting enough sleep. In the afternoon I concentrated on the exhibit hall, targeting vendors that we might use or do use. I got to meet the people behind our Apollo circulation system and I collected a large number of free books for the library's

collection. That evening I went out to dinner with some of the librarians I'd met through the email list.

On Saturday morning I heard author Anand Giridharadas who is a New York Times columnist and author of "The True American: Murder and Mercy in Texas" which was the focus of his talk. He tells the story of a Muslim immigrant shot and nearly killed by a revenge-seeker soon after 9-11 and his efforts to keep his attacker from the death penalty. What does it mean to be a true American?

I attended one workshop on Saturday, "Giving Your Community Back Its Voices: Making Your Oral History Collections Fully Accessible" This was not nearly as helpful as it should have been, but I now have people to contact for advice, as having Freedom's oral histories accessible is a goal of mine.

It wasn't inexpensive to send me to this conference, but I feel it was money well spent and I want to say thank you again for the opportunity to attend.

My plan for the summer is to keep program offerings pretty much the same this year with preschool storytime, writing workshop, Fun Fridays and pizza and movie. Sarah Groleau has agreed to help with the Friday afternoon children's programs and Jane Fullerton will run the six-week writing workshop. The teen program will probably be the same, but until we have an Assistant Librarian in place, this is a question mark.

The theme for this year's summer reading program is sports/games/exercise with the slogan "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" I am hoping to rent a bouncy house for the School's Out! Party on the last day of school, Tuesday, June 21. The SRP kickoff at the school is scheduled for **2:00 on Monday, June 20**. Robert Riordan will amaze and amuse with his combination of magic and comedy. Please try to come. We have received a Kids, Books and the Arts grant to pay for most of this program; the rest will be covered by the school. On **Wednesday August 3 at 10:00 at the Town Hall**, the Friends will be bringing musician Steve Blunt to the Town Hall. Steve is charming and fun and will get the kids up and participating. On **Friday August 5 at 3:30**, magician Andrew Pinard will be performing on the library lawn, weather permitting. He kicked off the SRP last year at the school and was the best performer we'd ever had. If you came to that you'll want to come again and if you missed it, lucky you – you have another chance!

I need help with the following:

- Soliciting prizes for summer reading program raffles
- Cookie-makers for teen nights and pizza and movie nights. There will be a sign up sheet.
- Help with promoting summer events – please spread the word on Facebook and in conversation and also please attend / participate.
- Publicizing museum passes
- Volunteers to help with the children's programs

Thank you Friends for all the work you do to plan, to put on programs, to volunteer at the library, and to raise money. I know you have lots of other things tugging at your sleeves. I am grateful that you choose to dedicate some of your time and talents to helping make this library the wonderful place it is. We make a good team!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director