

**Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
October 26, 2017**

On September 28, Chris went to the NHLA YALS conference at the Local Government Center in Concord. The theme of this year's conference was creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ teens, in terms of space, and in terms of resources offered. Certainly a lot to think about...when teens return to the library.

On October 2-3, Chris went to the Maine Library Association annual conference at Sunday River in Newry, Maine. The conference featured librarians from all over Maine, as well as representatives from the New England Library Association. Keynote speakers were author Jack Gantos and library advocate Patrick P.C. Sweeney. Chris attended workshops on Teen Volunteers, Reader's Advisory, Robots in the Library, Graphic Novel Collection Development, and Genealogy Resources beyond Ancestry. Some good ideas in there, but they'll need to be scaled back for a smaller library (most presenters were from the large public libraries in the state.)

I attended the Children's Librarians of NH conference in West Lebanon, NH last week. The entire conference was a workshop on Early Literacy with the very knowledgeable and entertaining Saroj Ghoting. I enjoyed the in-depth training and the timing of the subject matter was perfect because of my launch of 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. I learned a number of ways to incorporate early literacy skills into storytimes.

Speaking of 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, I am pleased to say that we have received full funding from a family in the community who wish to remain anonymous. We will have them write a check to the Friends of the Library and the FOL will administer the funds. I have purchased 144 children's books through Scholastic Literacy Partnerships, 14 copies of a book I'll give to parents called "Raising a Rock-Star Reader: 75 Tips to Help Your Child Develop a Lifelong Love of Reading," 25 canvas bags with the 1000 Books logo on it, and 12 binders. I will be launching the program sometime in November.

The new book club for grades 3 & 4 led by Cindy Fleming was a big hit last month with 9 kids attending. They have named themselves the Fire Unicorns and seem very pleased with that name. Unfortunately no one came to the book club for grades 5 & 6 and few took the book for the next gathering, so Sarah Groleau (who runs it) and I have decided to dissolve the book club entirely. We will focus on the Fire Unicorns and hope to retain the members as they as they age.

We have held two monthly afterschool programs plus Pizza & Movie since the last trustees meeting and both went well. Merrifield Farm Stand in Porter donated 33 pumpkins for our pumpkin-carving event last week. We had four volunteers helping with this program and definitely needed them! Some kids left their jack-o-lanterns for the library to light on Halloween. They are super cute. We are keeping our fingers crossed that teens will come this Friday to Teen Night featuring the debut of Freedom Village Clue, a new version of the classic board game Clue that Chris created, set in Freedom Village with locals as the suspects. His creativity is wasted on the teens I'm afraid! We are thinking of having an adult game night to play the game.

The sprinkler system was going off in the afternoon instead of early in the morning. Matt Welch came to investigate. We figured the battery backup was dead so that when the library lost power, the timer settings were lost. He replaced the battery and re-set the timer. However, we noticed a few days later that the system was back to sprinkling in the afternoon. He came back again and we tested the replacement battery – it's fine – so we will need to replace the timer itself. In the meantime, we have gone ahead and turned it off for the season. He will finish shutting down the system next week.

The Friends of the Library volunteer dinner at the Cunninghams was very nice last night. Unfortunately Chris was unable to attend because of a conflict with his other job.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director