

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
January 14, 2021

Margarete, Amanda and I are putting one foot in front of the other here at the library, continuing to offer in-person and contact-free lending, helping people scan, fax, and print documents, creating and filming preschool storytime and providing storytime craft supplies weekly to local children, purchasing and processing new materials, and being an oasis of calm and comfort in a time when people need it most.

We have a stunning exhibit at the library now, featuring the photographs by Melinda Reyes of elderly patients she works with in nursing homes who are isolated due to COVID. I hope you will all come see the exhibit and tell others about it. Our curator, Joel Rhymer, plans to host a Zoom program with Melinda in the next month or two. I plan to get additional Zoom programs scheduled for the winter months. In the meantime, we have been fortunate that other libraries have shared their offerings with us, including a NH Humanities Council program on the opioid crisis in NH earlier this week and a talk with author Ty Gagne about his new book, *The Last Traverse; Tragedy and Resilience in the Winter Whites* on January 21.

We also had the good fortune to be included in a "Battle of the Libraries" trivia competition between Christmas and New Year's, organized by Lichen Rancourt, director of the Jackson Public Library. Her goal was to provide families something to do together even if they were celebrating the holidays apart, giving them something to talk about over Zoom. The competition also offered a way for teams to feel a sense of community by providing a goal they could reach together. There were 61 teams from 8 libraries, 11 of which were playing for Freedom. The overall winning team would win a book of their library's choosing and another book for the library with the highest total score for its 3 highest scoring teams. I am proud to say that Freedom swept the awards! The teams had a lot of fun and I'm grateful to the Jackson Public Library for including us.

I am continuing to film Preschool Storytime and make them available to people far and wide on YouTube. We now have a new video editor for 2021, Julia Cavé, who created our 36th storytime this week. Volunteer Luane Genest is my rock, providing fun and creative storytime craft activities and putting together the supplies for distribution to 24 local children.

We have started to get occasional help from some volunteers for non-circulation tasks. Cindy Fleming and Raylene Newbury have shelved books and Ann Pierce is adding photos of our puzzle collection to the catalog so that patrons can see what the puzzle looks like before borrowing it. Mary Marchand took over the big job of creating the New Materials e-news from Dick Many and did a great job on December's list. John Perkins reached out to a Freedom resident seeking help with Windows 10 and is going to use

the library's Zoom account to help him as a library service and is also planning to offer computer help on Zoom for others in the near future.

I received a 50% off coupon from Dell Refurbished which they provided along with refunds for a computer and a hard drive under warranty. I used this coupon to purchase a laptop for Margarete. The one she had been using was the only computer in regular use running on Windows 7. We will use her old laptop as a backup and for projects such as inventory.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director