

**Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
December 3, 2020**

Dick Many is retiring from creating the monthly New Materials e-newsletters after doing it faithfully for many years. It is a time-consuming job, compiling the list and linking each title to the library's catalog so that patrons can reserve materials they'd like to borrow. Many thanks to Dick for all these years of service! I'm happy to say that Mary Marchand, a summer volunteer who helps us with our computers, among other tasks, is willing to take over that job now.

Last month I submitted a final report to the NH Humanities Council which is administering the CARES grants that were awarded in the state. I listed the following as what we accomplished with the \$3000 grant:

- The grant money allowed us to provide 8 weeks of Take-and-Make activities for kids and teens. Families picked up supplies for activities to do at home such as making solar ovens, a Diamond Painting project, and coloring a summer reading poster with markers provided. 41 kids and teens participated.
- We began recording our weekly preschool storytime and uploading to YouTube. We were able to pay a video editor a stipend of \$50 for the 22 videos we created during the grant period.
- We purchased a Zoom license with grant funding and were able to hold our kids' 6-week writing workshop on Zoom and to pay our writing workshop leader. Our Zoom account was also used by community groups, for trustees meetings, and for three different book clubs.
- We purchased many \$25 gift certificates to use as Summer Reading prizes in our summer reading programs. Usually these are donated to us by local businesses, but we couldn't ask struggling businesses to do that this year. So we not only got prizes for our program but were able to support businesses in our community during this financially difficult time.
- Purchased face masks, sanitizer and sanitizing wipes
- Summers are always busy at the library with people participating in our summer activities and our summer reading programs. The major impact of this grant was to be able to continue to provide a modicum of normalcy to our patrons, despite the restrictions, the loss, and the change of routine that COVID brought to all of us. We received a great deal of positive feedback from patrons of all ages who were grateful that we were able to provide so much.

We have received another yearly donation for the Margaret S. Morrow Bequest in the amount of \$2900. That amount, plus what is in the account now, will pay for storytime video editing for 6 months at \$150 each. Mary Rhymer is bowing out at the end of this month and has trained a

freelance video editor she works with to take over in January. I hope that by summer we will be able to meet again in person for storytime. I emailed the Morrums and they agreed that using the funds for this purpose fits the mission of the bequest and is a good use of the money.

I have gotten figures from Pam about where we stand with respect to our Friends of the Library budget. There is quite a bit left over in the Summer Reading line that will not be used, but we have approximately \$250 to spend in supplies and I plan to use that to purchase storytime craft supplies.

There have been some issues with some of the Dell refurbished computers that I bought last fall. The motherboard on one failed and we were reimbursed for the computer. We were also reimbursed for a hard drive that failed in a different computer. Before I shipped back the dead computer, I moved its good hard drive into the computer with the failed hard drive. Brilliant! Unfortunately, I still had to reinstall Windows on it. There is still a lot to upload and tweak to get that computer ready to use, such as installing printers and software, so I am going to get Joel Clement to take over from here. Fortunately my computer and the ones at the front desk have been working perfectly. I probably will not replace the broken computer and have just three computers in the computer room. It will be less crowded in there with three computer stations and we rarely, if ever, need four anyway.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A Rhymer
Library Director