

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for February 2019

Adult Book Displays:

- Books From the Bottom Shelves - A selection of "easy to miss" titles from the bottom shelves;
- Cookbooks, continued from January
- National Library Lovers Month - Books and media about libraries, the people who love them, librarians, and books about books;
- New England Sports – Books about New England athletes and teams, from the recreational level to professional. Continued from January.
- Black History Month – Books by black American writers and books about black society and culture in the US. Began display 1/30.
- How to Make Mixed Media Art – A tie-in with the Library's Mixed Media art program for adults scheduled for Saturday, 2/2.

Adult Programs & Activities:

Program	Attendees	Date
Bit O' Fun with Mixed Media	12	Saturday, 2/2
<i>Paint a Snowman</i> Craft Program	5	Wednesday, 2/13
Crochet Crafting with Justine Paulson: Turtle Pockets	6	Saturday, 2/23

- Public Meetings and Programs by outside groups:
 - Healing Conversations, a bereavement support group series offered by Nashoba Nursing Service & Hospice, met at the library on February 28th.

Library Building & Grounds

- Keystone Elevator and Lookout Security Systems worked with the state's elevator inspector to complete the annual elevator inspection on February 4th. Lookout Security updated the library's intrusion alarm codes at the same time.
- Johnson Controls came on an emergency service call when the heat stopped working in the Library in the early evening of February 19th. We have a temporary fix in place, but will need to rebuild the seals in one of the hot water circulator pumps.
- Keystone Elevator returned to the Library on February 28 to make a minor adjustment to the elevator door to fix an intermittent problem with the door not opening on the upper floor.

Library Director's Activities:

- FY2020 Budget process:
 - My budget review meeting with the Town's Finance Committee is scheduled for March 6th.
- I attended an introductory training webinar on CommBuys, led by the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division, on February 5th.
- Library IT improvements:

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for February 2019

- Ayer's IT Director Cindy Knox, and I met on February 14th and discussed the library's needs for an improved Wi-Fi network for public and staff use, more easily managed public use computers, and a more robust network for library staff computers.

Library Director's Meetings:

- Ayer Library Department Heads Meeting, February 1st.
- Town of Ayer Department Director's Meeting, February 13th - Canceled
- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meeting, February 19th - Canceled due to lack of quorum.

Youth Services Programs & Activities:

Children's Programs	Attendance	Date
Story Ninja (Anansi the Spider)	22	February 5 th
Story Time (Bangarang Yoga)	44	February 7 th
Story Time (Valentines)	43	February 14 th
Story Ninja (Pokemon)	21	February 19 th
Puppets and Pajamas Party (PJ Drive tie-in)	87	February 21 st
Kids' DIY craft: Origami	8	February 22 nd
Story Ninja (Dr. Seuss, with Willow the therapy dog)	52	February 26 th
Story Time (Dr. Seuss)	25	February 28 th

- February was an exciting month in the Youth Services Department. Despite the cold weather, snow and ice storms, and flu season having us firmly in its grasp, we had happy patrons all month long.
- Two new volunteers were added to the schedule downstairs, Dakota, and James. And one of our existing volunteers, Eben, added in another shift to his volunteering schedule.
- Story Ninja continues to grow in popularity, quickly catching up to the high attendance numbers that our Thursday Story Time program has been pulling in for years now.
- We were very fortunate to bring John McDonough's *Pumpnickel Puppets* show to the library on Thursday, February 21st. John has been performing for over 40 years and is an amazing person to work with. We were able to bring his show to our patrons thanks to a very generous donation by a local family to our Friends group. John's puppet show also helped kick off and promote the Library's participation in the 12th Annual Boston Bruins PJ Drive this year. Many families came wearing their pajamas, and donated to the drive, which runs February 1st to March 15th. Donated pajamas will be distributed to local families in need through Cradles to Crayons and the Mass. Division of Children and Families' Wonderfund.
- Head of Youth Services Amy Leonard visited two Ayer preschool classrooms on Wednesday, February 27th to read a story and talk with the kids about the library.
- Christina attended two webinar workshops in February.
 - The first took place on Wednesday February 20th and was hosted by Star_Net. (The Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning (NCIL) provides interactive STEM exhibits, programming, and training to public libraries nationwide through its *Science-Technology Activities and Resources Library Network (STAR Net)*.)

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for February 2019

This webinar provided advice on hosting a "Night Sky Viewing Party" at the library. The hosts provided tips and tricks, as well as many valuable resources for projects and activities for kids of all ages.

- The second webinar - *Introduction To Library Advocacy* - was held on Wednesday, February 27th and hosted by the EveryLibrary Institute. Patrick 'PC' Sweeney provided information on how to properly advocate for your library with your community and your community leaders. Christina is excited to use these new ideas and share them with staff to help strengthen the library.

- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**

- Book displays
 - Blind Date with a Book
 - Black History Month Books

Programs	# Patrons	Date
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	4	Fri., Feb. 1, 4 p.m.
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	6	Sat., Feb. 2, 11 a.m.
Board Game Night	8	Tues., Feb. 5, 5 p.m.
All Booked Club "Handmaid's Tale"	6	Thurs., Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	5	Fri., Feb., 8, 4 p.m.
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	11	Sat., Feb. 9, 11 a.m.
Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating	6	Thurs., Feb. 14, 5 p.m.
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	4	Fri., Feb. 15, 4 p.m.
School vacation		Tues., Feb. 19- Fri. Feb. 22
Harry Potter Board Game Night	4	Tues., Feb. 19 5 p.m.
Tween & Teen Marvel Movie Marathon	3	Wed., Feb. 20, 11-6 p.m.
Teen Advisory Board	0	Wed., Feb. 20, 4:30 p.m.
Artist Trading Card Workshop	0	Thurs., Feb. 21, 1 p.m.
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS Marathon	11	Fri., Feb. 22, 1 p.m.
LGBTQIA+ Drop In	0	Tues., Feb. 26, 5 p.m.
Anime & Manga Club	4	Wed., Feb. 27, 5 p.m.

- Aided by Justine Paulson, our Makerspace featured making Valentine's cards and Valentine's Gift Boxes meant to hold Hershey Kisses.
- Tony Biondo directed DUNGEONS & DRAGONS on two Saturdays and ran a three hour marathon on the Friday over vacation. He will continue to direct DUNGEONS & DRAGONS in March. Our Friday DUNGEONS & DRAGONS with Owen Salter will merge with Tony's Saturday program due to robotics season at ASRHS.

The Ayer Library

Director's Report for February 2019

- Over vacation, a program was scheduled every day. This will continue for April vacation.
- We've added a fish tank in the Teen Room with baby platys. Patrons that don't have pets at home along with others enjoy feeding the fish and watching them grow.
- Justine Paulson and Autumn Dore attended a Mass. Library System webinar *Programming with Cosplay: Embracing Costume Play in your Library* and we're inspired to try some of what we learned in the coming months.
- Colorful bookmarks with March Tween and Teen events as well as calendars are available now.
- Instagramming daily on @AyerLibraryTeens connecting with other libraries and even authors!

I would like to thank the following Ayer Library staff members for their contributions to this report: Nancy Askin, Autumn Dore, Justine Paulson, Thomas Tagliavento, and Christina Zoller.

Respectfully,

Tim Silva
Library Director