

The Ayer Library
Director's Report for April 2019

Adult Book Displays:

- National Poetry Month: books of poetry, books and movies about poetry and poets;
- Mushrooms - A selection of titles to promote the *Specialty* Mushrooms program on April 24th;
- Islam (continued from March);
- Adult Graphic Novels (continued from March);
- National Craft Month (Continued from March);
- National Photography Month – May is National Photography month – the display went up at the end of April.

Adult Programs & Activities:

Program/Presenter	Attendance	Date
Laugh, Relax, Paint with Acrylics with Siiri Paton	12	Sat., April 6
Genealogy	4	Tue., April 9
Living with Bears with Chalis Bird, Mass. Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (held in Ayer Town Hall)	63	Wed., April 10
Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia / Denise Thomas, Alzheimer's Association	11	Wed., April 17
Crochet Crafting: Dinosaurs! (part 2) / Justine Paulson. Crochet Crafting is now on summer break until September!	7	Sat., April 20
Specialty Mushrooms w/Willie Crosby of Fungi Alley	25	Tue, April 23
Dr. J.C. Ayers' Century of Cures	16	Wed., April 24
Zentangle / Cindy O'Brien	9	Sat., April 27

Public Meetings and Programs by outside groups:

- The Friends of the Ayer Library held their spring quarterly meeting at the Library on Tuesday, April 18th.

Library Building & Grounds:

- H. M. Flagg Tree Service sent a crew to the Library on Monday, April 8th in order to prune some of our ornamental trees and remove a number of others from the library grounds. This work has improved the aesthetics and safety of the grounds and eliminated some maintenance issues where several tree limbs were hanging over and, in some cases, actually contacting the Library's roof.
- Keystone Elevator performed routine maintenance on the Library's elevator on April 9th.
- Prescott Landscaping began mowing the Library's grass April 23rd.

Library Director's Activities:

- Library Information Technology Upgrades

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- I met, spoke, and/or emailed with several IT service providers – Drive-Tech, Whalley Computer, Azimuth Computing Solutions, and Comcast Business - to request some options and cost estimates for improving some of the library's IT infrastructure and providing ongoing support.
- I concluded my 3-month check-in meetings with our new part-time staff members in early April.
- April is typically the time of year when debate around the coming fiscal year's budget heats up on Beacon Hill. In addition to some personal advocacy work, I spread the word about pending budget amendments relating to State Aid for libraries in the Massachusetts House of Representatives to members of the Friends of the Ayer Library and the Board of Trustees.

Library Director's Meetings:

- Town of Ayer Department Director's Meeting, April 10th
- Friends of the Ayer Library Quarterly Board Meeting, April 18th
- Library Department Directors' Meeting, April 26th
- Ayer Library Board of Trustees Meeting, April 23rd - Canceled due to lack of quorum.

Library Operations:

- Head of Technical Services Nancy Askin attended the 2019 NETSL (New England Technical Service Librarians) Annual Conference on April 5 at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.
- All Ayer Library staff spent a few minutes this month reviewing the new features in the latest version of Evergreen, the software that our C/WMARS network libraries use for circulating books, DVDs and other physical items. C/WMARS staff installed the update over the Patriot's Day weekend.
- Circulation Librarian Thomas Tagliavento added new Niche Academy widgets (links to tutorials) to the Library website's "Online Resources" page. Niche Academy produces and regularly updates teaching tutorials that instruct patrons on how to use library resources such as Ancestry for Libraries, Consumer Reports Online, Overdrive (eBooks and eAudiobooks), and many others.
- Thomas also shared our Readers' Advisory bookmarks with the librarian at the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center after getting feedback from her about them;
- Autumn Dore is transitioning from her role as Young Adult Librarian and joining the Circulation Librarians. She will be working both the Youth Services and Adult Services Circulation Desks beginning in May but she'll continue to host the Board Game Night and YA Book Group programs. Assistant Director Samantha Benoit and has been working to tweak Autumn's job description and weekly work schedule to accommodate the change.
- The Friends of the Ayer Library held a "Fill-a-bag for \$1.00" special in the book sale room. This is always a hit with patrons.

Youth Services Programs & Activities:

Children's Programs	Attendance	Date
Story Ninja - <i>The Red Ripe Strawberry</i>	23	April 2
Read with Willow the Therapy Dog	8	April 2
Story Time - <i>Chicka Chicka Boom Boom</i>	32	April 4
Story Ninja – <i>Sophie Johnson Unicorn Expert</i>	27	April 9
Storytime with Bangarang Yoga	29	April 11

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Kids' Craft – Tissue Paper flowers	0	April 16
Family Concert with Roger Ticknell (sponsored by a grant awarded to the Family Partnership Center)	53	April 17
Story Time with Therapy dogs Suzie & Rosie	64	April 18
Spring Chicks DIY Craft	5	April 19
Story Ninja - <i>Ladybug Girl & Bumblebee Boy</i>	17	April 23
Story Time – Teddy Bear Clinic with Nashoba Nursing	7	April 24
Story Ninja – <i>Melvin and the Boy</i>	14	April 30

- April is National Poetry Month and Circulation Librarian Justine Paulson celebrated that with the Makerspace projects this month. Patrons could make blackout poetry bookmarks, magnet poetry, or collage poems.
- Circulation & Outreach Librarian Christina Zoller started attending the Town 4th of July event planning group at the Town Hall. The library is excited to be participating in this event again this year.
- During school vacation week the library hosted a family concert with acclaimed children's performer Roger Tincknell. This concert was booked through the Family Partnership Center, our local Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant Program, with a grant they received from the Ayer Cultural Council.
- We also welcomed a representative from the Nashoba Associated Board of Health and Nursing Service to host a Teddy Bear Clinic for our families. Even though the weather ensured that we had a small crowd that morning, the families who came had an amazing time learning about and playing with all the medical equipment.
- The display for the months of March and April is a very exciting one. Christina's mother and grandmother loaned us their collections of vintage children's toys and books. These items, along with a few toys belonging to the library, donated by Carol Horgan for a previous display, have been excellent at encouraging friendly conversations between staff and patrons. Patrons of all ages have taken time to look at the items on display and admire them. We have received many compliments and questions about the display and have been encouraged to have it again.
- **Young Adult (YA)/Teen Programs & Activities:**
 - Book displays
 - Women's History Month

Programs	Attendees	Date
Board Game Night	6	April 2nd
Book Club - <i>The Hate U Give</i>	6	April 3rd
Teen Advisory Board/Teen Movie Night – <i>Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse</i>	5	April 10th
Dungeons & Dragons	0	April 12th
Board Game Night	5	April 16th
Dungeons & Dragons	2	April 20th

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- Circulation Librarian Justine Paulson set up the Maker-space with a National Poetry Month theme for April. Craft options included word magnet poetry, blackout poetry bookmarks, and collage poems.

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