

AYER LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2023

FACILITIES

- On May 3 WM moved the dumpsters to a more sensible location.
 - On May 5 all of the interior and exterior windows were cleaned.
 - On May 15 we had the carpets and upholstered furniture cleaned.
 - On May 22 the shed was relocated to the concrete pad where the dumpsters were.
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PERSONNEL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- On May 8 and 9, staff attended the MLA Conference
 - Becca: "Attending the MLA conference was a wonderful experience to connect with fellow librarians and discuss a myriad of topics, from planning dynamic Dungeons and Dragons sessions to dealing with the rise of censorship, book banning, and conflict in library spaces across the country. It was wonderful to gain knowledge and insight on specific and niche topics of my job, like developing programming and curating collections for neurodiverse youth, as well as to learn about different areas of librarianship, such as library social work and legal librarianship. Attending the conference filled me with many new ideas and exciting opportunities to connect with other librarians and brainstorm about possibilities here in Ayer!"
 - Raye: "I was able to attend the annual MLA Conference on their Tuesday session, where I attended the keynote address given by Michael J. Bobbit. This

keynote address was particularly moving as Bobbit discussed his childhood and how his library served as a safe haven for him as he grew up. Bobbit discussed how libraries in the past have neglected the very communities that need them the most (low-income families, first-generation immigrants, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, etc.) and how now more than ever it is our duty as librarians to create libraries where everyone can feel safe and welcomed. I also attended programs put on by other libraries/librarians in the Mass Library System, which included Who Let the Dogs Out? Using Therapy Dogs to Help Your Patrons De-Stress (Worcester Public Library and Tufts Paws for People); Library Programming for Neurodiverse Youth (Reading, Holbrook, Medford, and Lexington Libraries); and Trans Identities: Myths and Misinformation (Morrill Memorial Library). I really enjoyed getting to network with other librarians from libraries across Massachusetts, as well as getting to attend the panels which contained information that I feel would be immensely beneficial towards growing and evolving our library's programming and outreach. All the presenters were very professional, and I felt that I walked away with valuable knowledge and insights that I can use to better myself as a librarian to serve my community. I am so immensely thankful for the opportunity to attend this conference, and I hope to be able to attend it next year!"

- Luke: "It was a wonderful experience to return to MLA this year after several years not attending. It was important to reconnect with colleagues across the state who might not have known about my transition to Ayer. Several sessions Monday addressed different challenges that directors (especially new directors) face, and I learned a lot. Tuesday's keynote with Michael J. Bobbitt was a highlight and reminder of our core values. On Tuesday I was also able to meet in person with representatives from MLA and the MBLC who I have been corresponding with as I learn more about my new role. And I connected with some vendors to explore new products we might offer the library. Most of all, it was a wonderful opportunity to grow relationships with Becca and Raye—we all came away energized and eager to take Ayer to the next level. I am excited about offering this professional development opportunity to staff in the future."
- On May 10 Marco Carneiro started as Administrative Support Specialist.
- On May 16 Luke attended a training on State Aid and ARIS.
- On May 18 Marco Carneiro resigned from his new Administrative Support Specialist position.

- On May 18 we hired Sarah Gomes for our part-time Library Assistant - Adult Services position.
 - On May 23 we hired Isaiah Donovan for a full-time Library Assistant - Adult Services position.
 - Luke has been working with Amanda Fauver at MLS to explore the possibility of hiring support staff through Bibliotemps.
 - Luke has been in touch with area library directors to explore the possibility of building a regional group of subs who might be able to fill in in the future at various libraries.
 - Barbara Cheeks completed the following trainings:
 - 5/4-5: Employment Law
 - 5/10: BLT Class Reference
 - 5/18: Library Safety
 - 5/31: Effective Strategies to improve teamwork
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OPERATIONS & OUTREACH

- On May 2 Luke met with Harvard Public Library Director Mary Wilson.
- On May 9 the Library closed for professional development.
- Staff have all been chipping in wherever needed to weather our low staffing.
- The Children's Room has been working on exciting programs for Pride Month in June.
 - On June 7 at 4 Strega Mama will lead our Pride Storytime.
 - On June 10, 2023 from 10-12pm we will be hosting a Pride Party in the Children's Room. There will be games, activities, and music.
 - On June 10, 2023 from 4-5pm Rowley Public Library has organized a virtual event for teens with New England Drag Queen Giganta Smalls and invited us and 27 other participating libraries (including Groton and Fitchburg) to participate. During this program, Giganta Smalls will present an inside view into the life of a drag queen, how she became interested in it, why she does it, and how it has helped her become more confident.
 - On Wednesday, June 21 we will be hosting a panel for community members, families, and trans/questioning individuals where a group of trans librarians from across New England will talk about their experiences with being transgender, as well as answer questions about trans terminology and etiquette. This program will serve as a safe space for individuals to engage in

respectful dialogue regarding the unique experience that gender identity is for all of us.

PROGRAMMING

Children's Programs

- Story Time:
 - 5/4: Yoga 57 ppl
 - 5/10: Strega Mama 35 ppl
 - 5/11: Through Me to You Puppetry 59 ppl
 - 5/18: Family Partnership Music & Movement 54 ppl
 - 5/25: Family Partnership Music & Movement 15 ppl
 - 5/31: Yoga 19 ppl
- Wee Read & Play:
 - 5/5 Water Play 37 ppl
 - 5/12 Animals Go Vroom 27 ppl
 - 5/19 Shake Sillies Out 23 ppl
 - 5/26 Monsters Love Cupcakes ppl

Teen Programs

- 5/3: Comic Club 11 ppl
- 5/17: Lego Club 12 ppl
- 5/17: D&D with Burncoat Teen volunteers 8ppl
- 5/20: D&D 18 ppl
- 5/24: D&D 11 ppl

Adult Programs

- 5/3: Iron Works (Zoom) - 1
- 5/5: Friday Flicks: Dog - 5
- 5/6: Book Group: Persepolis -10
- 5/9: Growing Places - Canceled
- 5/10: North Adams Historic Park (Zoom) - 0

- 5/10: Back to the Future - 0
- 5/16: Growing Places (rescheduled) - 30
- 5/17: Springfield Armory (Zoom) - 0
- 5/23: Stitch Group - 3
- 5/24: Lowell Park (Zoom) - 0
- 5/24: Felting Class - 13

Takeaways

- Adult Craft: Butterfly Canvas - 25
- Tea of the Month: Coronation Tea - 25

Displays

- Kid/Teen Display: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month
- Adult Displays: Killer Moms/ Digital Detox Week/ Paranormal Day/ Great Beginnings

STATISTICS

CW MARS

- Total Circulations: 4987
- Total Patrons with Ayer as Home Library: 4,080
- Items Added: 533

Overdrive

- Total Checkouts: 1190

Museum Passes

- Total Museum Passes Checked Out: 38
- Most Used Passes: New England Aquarium (5) & Massachusetts State Parks (Department of Conservation and Recreation) (4)

Facebook

- Facebook Followers: 1395 (+11)

- Facebook Page Reach: 3090 (-43%)
- Facebook Page Visits: 749 (-3.4%)

Instagram

- Instagram Followers: 1048 (+3)
 - Instagram Page Reach: 310 (-29.2%)
 - Instagram Profile Visits: 52 (-26.8%)
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POLICY

- Luke has completed a first draft of a new Patron Conduct Policy and will proceed to work on the three other policies the Trustees agreed to consider together: Collection Development & Request for Reconsideration, Programming Policy, and Meeting Room Policy.
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FINANCIALS

- See the attached spreadsheet for FY23 account balances.
 - Luke has arranged for the HVAC repair funds to be recategorized to be taken out of our normal operating budget. The Trustees' funds will be returned to the Trustees' accounts.
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TOWN

- On May 10 Luke was unable to attend the Town Department Heads meeting due to staffing needs. He was able to get an update on content covered.
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FRIENDS OF THE AYER LIBRARY

- Various Friends continue doing great work to beautify the Library grounds. Liz Nonis continues to keep our vessels on the front porch looking great with beautiful seasonal arrangements. Laurie Sabol, Liz, and others planted our raised garden beds. And Elaine Sullivan has acquired two decorative urn planters to spruce up the front of the Library.