

Director's Report
April 2010

Staff Development

The library will be closed on Friday, May 14, 2010 so the staff can attend the annual NHLA conference in Bartlett, NH. I attended the conference last May and I learned a lot from the seminars and vendor exhibits. I know it will be a great opportunity for the entire staff to network with the many great librarians in the state and learn what other libraries are doing to promote good library service in their communities.

Joyce and Heather also attended the spring CHILIS conference entitled "Kids, Books, and Art showcase" on March 25th in Manchester. They got to see various local groups present their library programs for this year's summer reading program. They were so impressed with a group called "Mad Science" that we have already booked them as the opening performers at this year's program.

I would also like to have more in-house staff training on technology and I will be asking the Friends to assist us with this by purchasing several laptops that can be used for both staff and patron for hands-on workshops. If the Friends approve the laptop purchase at their meeting in early May I anticipate that we could start the staff training at our May staff meeting. The first area of training will be on the downloadable audio-book software which is gaining in popularity. We now have over 100 registered users for the downloadable books in our community.

Library Programs

All of the adult programs I have offered so far this year have suffered from poor attendance. The first three films in our film series had between six and twelve people in attendance but then attendance started to drop after the first two screenings and for the last two films I had just one couple show up for the screening. I cancelled the remaining two films in April due to the lack of attendance. The films have been added to our DVD collection and most are circulating well.

The two town-wide read events in March had fifteen and seven in attendance which includes the four people on the read committee. I offered two programs in March as part of the state Big Read initiative and the first program did have twenty-two participants thank to Tom Coverdale, who offered his 10th grade students extra credit for attending so fifteen students were responsible for the majority of participants to that event. The second program, a book discussion had only one person show up.

Sunapee is a tough community to crack in regards to adult programs. I believe there may be several factors involved with the low attendance at our events. Many people don't like to drive after dark, parents are over scheduled and want to stay home on the few evenings available to them, people are nervous and/or uncomfortable with book discussions with strangers and all of our adult programs are offered off site which may be confusing to some. It's been discouraging but I will continue to forge ahead and hopefully we will have more success in the future. If the Friends approve the laptop purchase, I will be offering some technology workshops this summer. I think these small hands-on workshops will be of interest to the community.

I am happy to report that the new middle school group held their first event in the library on Friday, April 9th and we had a great turnout with twenty-two middle school kids, fourteen of whom were ASK participants last year. The kids had a blast with our duct tape crafts and board games and they were anxious to know when we would do it again. My goal for the evening was to have them enjoy themselves socially without the need for cell phones and computers and I think we were very successful. I will be meeting with the advisory group after the spring break to see what events we can offer in May and June and to generate interest in our teen summer reading program as well.

National Library Week

National library week was April 12-17 and we offered cookies, daily raffle prizes including mugs, posters and a library bag and we waived library fines for the week. I believe all of these things generated a lot of good will in the community. The staff and I enjoyed the week and we look forward to planning more events next year.

I am also happy to report that Joyce has returned to work.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Walden
Director