

## **Director's Report**

We submitted an application to the Village Planning Board for a full site-plan review of both the bathrooms and the Kids Corner. It was a bit tricky to find someone willing and able to serve as our attorney for the application because our normal attorney, Dave Daniels, serves as the Village's attorney and the attorney we used last time Dave had a conflict of interest, Mark Hellerer, was not able to help us with this matter. Thankfully, Stephanie was able to connect us to Ian MacDonald of Mackey Butts and Whalen, who is providing legal counsel at a discount from his normal hourly rate.

The personnel committee is recommending we update our employee handbook to reflect a change in wording required by New York state. The committee also discussed the report provided by HR on the Move following the employee listening sessions.

The Long Range Planning Committee has a proposed Long Range Plan which is ready to be submitted for board approval.

The annual report to the community was sent to the printer on April 25<sup>th</sup> and was printed on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It has already begun to hit mailboxes, which is great news because the book sale details are printed on the back cover.

The local Seventh Day Adventist church applied to use the annex for a "Financial Peace University" series of events. Though they signed the standard meeting room application form that specifies that any marketing material must disclaim that this is not a Library sponsored meeting or event, the mailer they sent out to the community lacked such a disclaimer and also provided no mention of the church or any contact information. As a result, many people were confused about whether this is a library event. Additionally, even people who were not confused but wanted more information had to contact the library, since they had no way of contacting the event sponsor directly.

Mid-Hudson will be resuming its trustee education series with one in-person event at Mid-Hudson headquarters and several other online programs. For more information or to register visit <https://midhudson.org/calendar/>

We received word that we were not selected as a medalist in the 2022 National Medal for Museum and Library Service competition.

## **Programming**

### **Donald Partelow, Adult Program Coordinator**

#### *Highlight of the Month: Rediscovering Native Perennials as Alternatives to Invasives*

The Public Libraries of Dutchess County created a variety of programs and events to celebrate Earth Day. Rediscovering Native Perennials as Alternatives to Invasives was one such program provided by the Pawling Library. This online program took place on Tuesday, April 19, from 7-8 pm. Our presenter was Master Gardener Cathy Lane from Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County. She was assisted by CCEDC Community Horticulture Resource Educator Joyce deVries Tomaselli. “Invasive plant species have escaped cultivation and thrived in wooded natural areas, outcompeting native species. They are among the top causes of biodiversity loss across the globe,” said Cathy Lane at the start of the program. During her PowerPoint presentation she informed the audience of the many native perennials that can be used to replace harmful invasives which not only provide beauty but also benefit pollinators. Each participant received the New York State Native and Invasive plant list, and some recommended resources that included Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants by Douglas W. Tallamy. One participant who enjoyed the program so much wrote to us, “These gardening programs offer a lot of valuable advice that goes beyond the immediate scope of the scheduled topic. In short, they are invaluable.” We thank all our environmentally concerned citizens for attending, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County for showing us the importance of our native perennials.

### **Maureen Meltzer-McGrath, Young Adult Program Coordinator**

We received a grant from the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. The grant is to be used for the Park Ambassadors program to purchase equipment (shovels, loppers, clippers, etc) needed to remove invasive plant species. The program is in partnership with Pawling Recreation, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the NY/NJ Trail Conference along with Reed Asher, and is planned to be a three-part series to educate middle through high school students. The teens will learn about the effect of invasive plants on native landscapes and then how to remove these plants. They will then get to put this knowledge to use by doing field work on the trails at Lakeside Park. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts to promote the program, only a handful of people signed up for the intended May dates. We had to cancel the initially scheduled programs, but we are hoping to reschedule for this summer.

We had a number of great programs with the teens & tweens this month. We now have a full team of five members for our Battle of the Books team. We’ve been meeting regularly and working our way through the books. The kids are having fun and getting to know each other—they are from three different school districts! One of the members told me his teacher saw him reading one of the books and asked him to explain the program to the class. He was very excited to share this information.

The Introduction Babysitting was a great success and all the participants received their certificates. Maia’s mom shared how she excited she is to work as a sitter. Her photo with her certificate is below.

We had four teen/tween volunteers for our Earth Day project. They worked very hard emptying the planters so that we could move them to their new location and then they mixed in compost with the soil and refilled the planters. The kids are looking forward to planting vegetables and flowers next month. Additionally, a teen patron contacted me to volunteer time in the garden so I am happy to report the garden program is back.

Our Peeps diorama making/contest was a lot of fun! The kids had a blast making them and enjoyed rallying their friends to vote for their creations. The Peeps Dance Party was the winner but Princess Peep's Castle came in at a close second!



### **Neena McBaer, Children's Program Coordinator**

Programming Overview: Weekly Spring programs started on April 11, with special events starting beforehand, on 4/2. Programming is primarily in person and kits; with occasional Zoom supplemental events.

Outreach: I visited Wish Upon a Star for a story time program with their toddler class on 4/11, which included 13 toddlers and 3 teachers.

Centennial Event: On 4/28, Museum educator and Egyptologist Marisa Horowitz-Jaffe (Museums with Marisa) visited the library to host her program "What's Up, King Tut? The Myths, Treasures and Archaeology of King Tut-Ankh-Amun." This program was held for youth ages 6-14 and was a wonderful partnership between the Centennial Committee, the Children's, and the Young Adult departments. With 14 attendees actively participating and an additional 13 picking up supplemental take-home kits, it was the most well-attended event of the Spring thus far, as well as a great opportunity to plug the Centennial.

New in the J area: Thanks to the help of a volunteer, we were finally able to install the new AWE tablets in the Juvenile area. These tablets are just as powerful as the kid's computers they replaced and contain improved graphics, response times, and content. They arrived just in time, as our older AWE computer was behaving erratically before being replaced. In addition, we have added new passive "Grab and Go" project kits to the space as regularly as possible. Families seem to really enjoy these projects; we gave out 24 in April.

Pictured below: Kids in our weekly Play Group program help cart each other around the courtyard while wearing block “seatbelts” and explore the sensory table.



### **Tom Clemmons, Circulation Manager / Homebound Delivery Services Coordinator**

There are currently 9 active Homebound Services patrons. In April, I selected materials (books, magazines, or audio books) according to reading preferences and made 11 Homebound Service delivery/pickups – 1 trip to Deerfield Ponds, and 3 trips to the Village, 1 trip to the King’s Apartments, 5 trips to Cedar Valley, and 1 trip to The Grand, including one donation from the PFL book sorters of 1 bag of large print books and magazines for The Grand’s Book Cart.

### **Buildings & Grounds**

Tri-County Plumbing came to attend to a leak in the boiler room on May 4<sup>th</sup>. They replaced two failed parts in the condenser unit.

### **Personnel**

We received 20 application for the open library clerk positions. Julieta Leon-DeJesus started as a clerk on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rosemary Mancuso will start on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Technology**

We received new laptops which were purchased with the Agency Partner Grant Infrastructure grant from Dutchess County. I have been working very intermittently on setting them up, but I hope to have more time to do so within the next few weeks.

The AWE stations Neena mentions were also purchased through the same grant.

## Programming and Circ Stats



