

## Library Director's Report

May 2018

### **Library Survey**

In follow up to the Survey responses, we are looking at two immediate projects. First, is all day summer Saturday hours. That should be fairly easy to achieve. Second, revise the upstairs floor plan to provide better distinction between quiet, study areas and more social spaces, including teen spaces. We are working on different mock-ups and hope to start implementing them this summer. Thus far, the spaces most impacted are not donor named from the capital campaign funding raising for the building project.

### **Sculpture**

The sculpture has arrived and been installed. We are very pleased with it. We are looking at landscape options to soften the concrete base and the possibility of a community naming contest (more discussions are needed with the donor and TMLF on this before plans are finalized).

### **TMLF Generator Proposal**

I submitted a formal proposal to George Morse, TMLF President, on May 3 for the funding of a backup generator powered by propane for the Foundation to consider. I have included that proposal in the Committee packet for your reference. I believe this will be discussed at the Foundation's May 24 board meeting.

### **New Employee**

Longtime Circulation Assistant Brittany Kashar, departed TML last month for a full time position at the Kennebunk Free Library. After a search and hiring process, I am pleased to announce that one of our current substitutes, Ann Price, has accepted the Circulation Assistant position. Ann is currently a substitute for us and the Portland Public Library system, and is currently working on her Master's in Library Science through Simmons. We are very excited to have her on board in a permanent capacity.

### **Library Landscaping**

Janie Downey Maxwell (Innovative Programming Librarian) has reached out to the CE Garden Club for their assistance in improving our landscaping. They were heavily involved in the gardens at the previous library building. Several of them toured and measured our area; they are working on a couple of proposals at several different levels. We are very excited to see what they come up with!

### **Senior Programs**

Kevin Goody (Adult Services Librarian) has been working with the activities director at the Landing, Hannah Hauser on bringing library services into their facility. He has started a monthly book group

that will be held there, along with a technology assistance class. Kevin is working with The Landing and others to expand our outreach services to seniors.

### **Conference Presentations**

Rachel Dave (Youth Services Librarian) presented a program at Reading Roundup, an annual statewide conference for childrens and teen librarians, on successful programming for toddlers at the library. She has also submitted a program proposal to the Maine Library Association Conference, with Kiah Gardner (Children's Programming Assistant) and Maria Ahearn (local artist). The program is called "Beyond Cut & Paste: Creating Meaningful Art Experiences for Children at Your Library". This is the summary of it:

*For five weeks in March of 2018, artist Marie Ahearn teamed up with librarians Rachel Davis and Kiah Gardner at Thomas Memorial Library on an experimental project to bring an art exhibit to a child's level, providing rich opportunities for young children to experience art. Learn about this project, and how this exhibit can visit your library, as well as ways to use the project as model for creating your own art experiences for children at your library. In addition, Kiah Gardner will share ready-to-use ideas from "Art Adventures," her long-standing weekly process-based art program for preschoolers."*

### **Zimpritch Poematic**

With funds from the Gabriel Zimpritch Poetry Fund, we have put together a vending machine for poetry. Patrons can receive a free poem from the machine. It debuted in April for Poetry Month and Zimpritch Poetry Symposium. It has proven to be a big hit, especially with children who enjoy getting their poetry capsule. This Poematic is the result of an idea and collaboration between Andy Ryer (Circulation Librarian), Jenny Vezina (Technical Services Librarian), and Kiah Gardner (Children's Programming Assistant).