

Library Director's report

Prepared by Director Susan Getty

December 4, 2018

Monthly statistics: statistical summaries for the month of November 2018 will be available at our meeting.

Financial/Donations:

- We received the \$1000 check from the Washington County Home for Aged Women grant (these funds are used for the purchase of large type books and audio books).
- Our final report for the SALS Library Services Seed Challenge Grant has been submitted. (This is the grant that funded our Makerspace project.)

News/Issues:

- As a result of our Gingerbread Contest on 11/24, we were able to give donations to the Salem Food Pantry in the amount of \$323.31 and 75 food items.
- Our Holiday Giving Tree this year will benefit the Salem Food Pantry, as well. The hats, mittens, etc. that are collected will be distributed through the Food Pantry throughout the winter months, and we also have a box to except toiletry/personal care items. Donations will be accepted during the month of December, then will be passed on to Lonnie Rasmussen to distribute as needed.
- I was asked to find out some information about upgrading our internet service. I do have a tentative quote, provided to me by Chris Mundell at SALS. Spectrum provides the best “bang for the buck”, according to him: 100Mbps download speed, and 10Mbps upload speed, and it's much more reliable than DSL. To give us numbers as fast as possible, he provided the current price from a previous quote... \$84.98 a month, and a \$99 install. When/if we are ready to move forward, he will have them draw up something that we will need to sign, but the price should be roughly the same.
- As I mentioned in last month's report, we have had a brief survey available to the community for some time now, asking for people's opinions on the hours they would like to be able to use the library. We also did an ongoing tally of people entering the library, broken down by hour of the day, for the entire month of October. Karen and I have gone over this data, and I will provide some charts and graphs for you to look at during our meeting. I have some recommendations for improving our hours that we can discuss.
- All staff and volunteers with accounts to access our computer system have to sign the new SALS security policy by December 11th. I'll be working on getting this completed.
- Our two Kindles are not being checked out by patrons at all. In the whole time that we've had them, they've been borrowed a very small handful of times, and the majority of the borrowers were staff or their families. Could we consider these “surplus” and make arrangements to sell them? I've had an offer on at least one.

Programs:

- All regular programs are happening as usual (Book Club, Chess Club, Scrabble Club, Silent Book Club, Tuesday evening computer help, Writing Group, Story Time).
- The Tai Chi for Arthritis group (offered by Washington County Public Health) has now ended. Participants and instructors were glad to be able to have the class in our space.
- The Washington County Office for the Aging will be offering a lunch for seniors on Wednesday, 12/19, at noon.
- I am working with Erica Freudenberger at SALS, as part of the Libraries Mean Business initiative, to offer an “Etsy Success” workshop in mid-January. More details will be coming soon.