

Inlet Library Annual Meeting Summary of 2023

While the COVID crisis is behind us awareness of contagious diseases continues to affect our practices. In this post COVID era I am pleased to report that patron visits increased significantly to 7,287 visits in the past year (November 2022-October 2023). Materials checked out (books, movies on DVD and Blue Ray, books on CD) also increased to 4,264. The use of computers is the same indicating that though many use their own devices, having public computers remains a needed service. Use of our wi-fi remains the same (3,572) as does the use of Overdrive (728).

The hours of operation remain unchanged. The library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10-2 and Saturday from 10-12. From July through September the library is open 6 days a week: Monday through Friday from 10-3 and Saturday from 10-1. Patrons and visitors are appreciative of the library being open with access not only to books and materials but also access to computers, faxing & photocopying, and Notary services. The courtyard is used regularly to access both the 24-hour Wi-Fi and charging station as well as being a pleasant place to read and relax.

Staffing remains unchanged with Joanne Kelly as the Library Director and three Library Assistants, Debbie Haynes, Sue Huber, and Holly Koeppel who share the summer hours and fill in when Joanne is absent. Of note are the number of volunteers who have helped out with various projects throughout the year as follows: Noah Foster, age 11 who volunteered 2 afternoons a week during the summer; Andrew Milnor, a summer resident, who "reads" the shelves; Sue Scharf who helps with special book sales; Jim & Lynn Keough, Leo & Linda Fadel, Gordy Rudd and Keith Kelly along with Kim, JoAnn and Joanne, who assembled the new shelves; Dick Lasher, Keith Kelly, Joanne and Mary Jane who transported the initial supply of bookshelves; Paul Chambers & Reggie who swept, cleaned and sealed the courtyard and Barbara Thibado, Friend of the Library, who decorates the windows and interior with seasonal displays. We are fortunate to live in a community where so many people are ready to volunteer when help is needed.

The demand for best-seller books remains high. The demand for books on CD remains high by those having difficulty reading books or who regularly travel distances with limited radio connectivity. The demand for movies on DVD and Blue Ray remains high as some year-round patrons as well as many seasonal patrons and visitors do not have access to network tv programs. With a good knowledge of what patrons like and need Library Director Joanne Kelly works diligently to obtain materials which will be utilized. Good use is made of the SALS's interlibrary system. In 2022 we borrowed 364 materials but what is more noteworthy is that we loaned 1,934 materials to member libraries. (Data for 2023 not available) The Used-Book Room remains popular and is open any time the library is open and any time the Town has special events. Used books, movies, and puzzles are available on a free-will donation basis. There were four Town events this year: Christmas on Main Street, 11/25-27—raised \$448; Fire and Lights, 2/25—raised \$172—110 people came to the library. Children decorated kites to fly on 4th Lake.;

Arts in the Park-Inlet Craft Show—7/15-16—raised \$226 and Inlet Fall Festival, 9/16-17—raised \$255.

Funding for the Inlet Library comes from a variety of sources. Government sources include Town of Inlet, the Inlet Common School, SALS (library state aid) and Hamilton County. The majority of funding comes from the following sources: family trust funds, charitable trust funds, local Association funds, checks from individuals, donations for used books, the donation jars, fees for faxing or printing copies, library fund raising activities, and use of the upstairs space.

The library held two family friendly fund-raising events. On Sunday, July 16th the Annual Ice Cream Social was held combined with an open house to view our new flooring and shelving. Approximately 100 people attended, and 91 sundaes were served. Donations from the ice cream social plus the sale of Inlet Library glasses came to \$396. The second event held on Saturday, October 14th was a tour of the Moose River Farm. In addition to viewing all the animals Jean and Sue each read a story to children sitting on bales of hay.. Jean read “The Llama in Red Pajamas” with Bluffy decked out in her red pajamas and Sue read “The Wonky Donkey” with the 2 donkeys dressed in fancy leg socks, scarves, and headbands. Donuts and cider were served. Becky made bags of treats given to each child as they left. A most enjoyable and successful event with \$335 raised.

For programs 30 children participated in the summer reading program. Prizes, supplied by local businesses were awarded each time a child completed 300 pages. In addition, SALS provided a poster by Eric Carle. Numbered stickers were awarded and as they were placed the picture of a Brown Bear was revealed. What is note worthy is that these 30 children read 45,300 pages during the summer. The find-the duckie-program continues to be very popular. Once the duck, hidden somewhere in the library is found, the child can choose a miniature rubber duckie to take home. On October 6th & 7th children and families participated in Adirondack Kids Day events. Friday evening Gary & Carol Van Riper were in the library to tell the story of how the stories in the Adirondack Kids book series began and been continued twenty plus years later. On Saturday an illustrator was in the library helping children create their own illustrations. Three authors displayed, signed, and sold their books. One brought a live owl featured in his series. The Inlet Library Book Club has grown to 29 members with 7-16 attending the monthly discussion group. Many members are seasonal or don't wish to join the discussion group but do want to read the books.

Several major physical improvements were made in the library:

1. The new windows for the outside staircase arrived and were installed.
2. The boiler broke down in October 2022. As it was going to take 2-3 months for the part to arrive Mike Bartolotti from the Parks Dept ordered a new boiler for the library. He then removed our Boiler which was only 10 years old, for the Town to use. In true cooperation the Town paid for the new boiler and the library paid for the installation.
3. The major renovation was replacing the carpeting with Sandalwood luxury vinyl plank flooring. Kim obtained \$15,000 from the Scott Stuart Family Trust Fund for this project. Kim along with Jeanne, and JoAnn did an excellent job spending countless hours over

several months researching flooring options as well as options for removing/storing books, shelves, and furniture.

In addition, with board approval, they purchased a colorful rug for the children's area and contracted with Warrensburg Laundry to provide mats to protect the new flooring in high traffic areas.

4. Joanne learned that the Ballston Spa Library had wooden shelving they no longer needed. Though no cost, the shelving had to be picked up. Thus began numerous trips to pick up all the dismantled shelves with many parts and pieces. It looked like an impossible task, but the Board was most appreciative of the hard work the volunteers, board members and Joanne put in to get the shelves put together. They make a beautiful and functional addition to our library. Once all the shelving was installed Joanne rearranged the library collection, moving the non-fiction books to the back shelf and merging the mystery and fiction novels, labeling the mystery novels with green labels for easy identification.

Keeping in mind the values and goals developed in the Long-Range Plan the Board continued working with the Town and community groups to increase awareness of library services. Most notable is our working relationship with the IABA (Inlet Area Business Association and the IACTF (Inlet Area Community Task Force). These partnerships keep us informed of what they each offer to the community and allow us to show how library services can be utilized by them. The Library's website is viewed by many keeping them informed of events and services. The library purchased a museum pass for Adirondack Experience. Increased advertising in the Adirondack Express of new books/CDs/movies and events has continued with positive results. Joanne continues to provide Notary Services.

This year much of the focus has been on staff and trustee training. Each trustee was required to attend 2 hours of approved training. SALS was most helpful in keeping us informed of upcoming approved training available through webinars. All trustees met the minimum standard. The Library Director attended webinars through KnowBe4, security awareness training. Time has been spent reviewing the problems of cyber security and general liability. Katie has spent untold hours exploring the various necessary insurance policies to provide needed protection. It is anticipated that all needed insurance policies will be purchased and in place by 2024.

We are a small, rural community but very diverse. With a year-round population of around 300 we grow to triple that in the summer with seasonal residents and vacationers. People come to the library for many diverse reasons. They come for books/CDs/movies, to use the computers/Wi-Fi/charging stations, the Used Book Room, Notary Services, directions or just a place where they can relax/read or socialize. The Library family consisting of the Library Director, Library Assistants, 11 Trustees and volunteers are all committed to providing the best library services to our community. We could not provide these services successfully without the help and support of SALS and most particularly the Tech staff. In addition the board is grateful for the support that the Town officials and staff so generously give to the library. And, as always, we are most grateful to our patrons, for without them the library would not exist.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Jane Lasher, Library Board President

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