

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
March 18, 2011

This month my major focus has been on program planning, book ordering, and on cleaning up errors in our cataloging database. Next week I will finish up the annual report required by the State Library.

Last week I went to a meeting called by Shannon Ames who is the reading teacher at Freedom Elementary. She is working on a "One Book, One Community" project using the book Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson. This book, about Mortenson's mission to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, has been written as a picture book, a children's chapter book and an adult book. I asked Jane Luke if she'd like to participate as representative from the Friends of the Library and she enthusiastically agreed. The first grade teacher, Mary Ellen Holmes, was also at our first meeting. Ms. Ames' vision is to have a week of activities and book discussions taking place at various locations in Freedom including the library. We brainstormed ideas and are meeting again next week to continue the planning. A firm date for "One Book, One Community" has not been selected, but we are leaning toward the first full week of June. This project will segue nicely into our Summer Reading Program theme "One World, Many Stories."

Another possible program that is also world-oriented is a symposium "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream." A patron suggested I contact Becky Mulkern of the Center for Natural Health in Conway about offering this symposium here and she came last week to explain it to me. The idea behind it is to get participants to understand the full scope of humanity's current situation and to be filled with hope and optimism about taking action to affect the world in a positive way. I have not set a date for this half day-long workshop yet.

Upcoming programs we do have scheduled include Kathy Neal from the NH Cooperative Extension on April 26th at 6:30. She will be speaking about "Best Plants for NH Gardens" and a NH Humanities Council program "White Mountain Huts - Past and Future" with Allen Koop on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00. Jane Luke has also invited a man who traveled from NH to the tip of South America on his motorcycle and enjoys doing programs about his adventures. We have not yet nailed down a date, but think it might be in the summer.

Yesterday I traveled to Manchester for the spring Children's Librarians of NH conference. The ten performers chosen for the Kids, Books and the Arts roster gave us a sampling of their acts. I will choose one for the Summer Reading Program kick-off at the school and hope that we get a grant again. It was good to talk to my colleagues about summer programming as summer will be here before we know it and I have a lot to do.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director