

**Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
March 30, 2010**

Although it just barely turned spring, I am deep into planning for the Summer Reading Program. I met last week with a group of area librarians at the Cook Memorial Library in Tamworth for a SRP brainstorming session. It was also attended by Ann Hoey, head of Children's Services for the State Library. The session helped to get the gears turning and ideas churning in my head. Last Thursday I traveled to the University of Southern NH in Manchester for the spring conference of the Children's Librarians of NH. There I got to pick the brains of my colleagues and hear snippets of acts from the ten performers on the Kids, Books and the Arts roster. This year's theme is "Make a Splash – Read!"

I have booked storyteller John Porcino to kick off our SRP at the school on Monday, June 21st (school ends on the 22nd). I had helped bring John to the school in December 2006 for a week-long artist in residence program where he taught storytelling and was a big hit. Principal Corinne Rocco is excited that he is coming back. I will be applying for a Kids, Books and the Arts grant again this year; keep your fingers crossed.

I have also booked magician Norman Ng who was one of the performers on the summer reading program roster last year and who got numerous over-the-top rave reviews from libraries who hosted him. It is going to be a super show! He will perform on the library lawn during the second Friday of Old Home Week. (I'll make sure the Town Hall is available in case of rain.) Reptiles on the Move was so popular last year, I decided it was a good idea to have another professional program on that day. Also, Andrea Wright is all set to bring her "Books Alive!" program back to Freedom on the Wednesday of Old Home Week.

Speaking of Reptiles on the Move, we are very fortunate that Judy is friends with the woman who runs that program as Marie has agreed to come to the library at no charge during April vacation to give a workshop on The Care & Feeding of Reptiles. The program will be restricted to 12 participants. Because of the strict size limitation, the program is scheduled for 12:30 on Thursday, April 22nd before the library opens.

I had met with the Friends Program Committee a while back and we discussed program ideas that they had brainstormed. One of the ideas on the list included more technology/computer training. We decided that I would offer a workshop in how to use the downloadable audio books service. I have scheduled this training for Tuesday, April 27th at 6:00 and am requesting folks to pre-register.

Before Laura Thomson went on vacation, we hurriedly decided on a NH Humanities Council program for the end of May. She made arrangements with the Pontine Theatre to bring their "Silver Lake Summers" program about e. e. cummings to the library and Maureen Elliot filled out the grant application. Unfortunately, when the materials came back from the Pontine Theatre, I learned

that they need a great deal more space than we can offer. Too bad, because I hear they are great. The NH Humanities Council said they would hold our grant application until today, to give us a chance to find another scholar. I decided to go for the sure-fire hit and invite back Rebecca Rule. She will be performing "That Reminds Me of a Story" at 7:00 on Tuesday, May 25th.

I will be speaking at the first NH Small Libraries Summit on Friday, April 16th in Concord. I will be on a panel about "Creating a Welcoming Library" and I am to talk about marketing, so I will briefly discuss our sign, e-news, blog, website, Freedom Column and Facebook page. This conference, put on by the NH Library Association, is by invitation only and is for libraries serving populations of 3,000 or fewer. Sounds like it's going to be a very good conference.

I forgot to mention at our last meeting that Laura Robinson is a new volunteer at the library. When we were discussing my time pressures at the January meeting, I was complaining about how much time the interlibrary loan emails were taking me. It occurred to me afterward to ask Laura Robinson for her help as she had said she wanted to volunteer at the library, especially with something involving computers. We created a new email address for her and signed her up to receive the emails from the State Interlibrary Loan email list. When other libraries are looking for multiple copies of books for their book groups, this is the list they use to post their requests. Laura determines if the books requested are available, gets them checked out and ready for the van delivery, and handles all correspondence. She gets dozens of emails a day to plow through. It's a big job even for someone retired and I am very grateful that all those emails aren't cluttering up my inbox and to-do list anymore!

Last month we shifted young adult reference, fiction, and non-fiction for improved utilization of space. This month we moved the back issues of periodicals to free up more room for Adult Fiction. Peg Scully, Nancy Griffin, and Lee Allison helped organize and move the periodicals and Lee took on the big job of shifting all of the fiction to use that space. Now there's more room and it looks better too. Thanks, gang!

Henry Kucera died recently and the family suggested Freedom Public Library for memorial donations as they did when his wife Jackie passed away. So far, we have received donations in the amount of \$1205.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director