

Librarian's Report
Freedom Public Library
May 12, 2011

We were very pleased with the positive feedback on the program the Friends sponsored "Best Plants for NH Gardens & Landscapes" which was attended by approximately 40 people. Clearly there is an interest in gardening programs and we hope to offer more in the future. The next Friends-sponsored program will be on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00. The NH Humanities Council presenter Allen Koop is well known among NH librarians for his excellent lectures. He will be speaking here on The Appalachian Mountain Club's Hut System. He will discuss how the huts and their people have formed a world apart, a mountain society with its own history, traditions, and legends. Please spread the word on what will undoubtedly be a very good program.

The school, library, Friends of the Library and community were collaborating on a One Book, One Community series of events around the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. We had our planning well under way and publicity just about to be published when the story broke in the national news that called into question, among other things, the veracity of the book and the finances of the non-profit organization that raises money to build the schools. The committee felt that given the unanswered questions and the negative publicity, the timing was not right to proceed with our plans. The only events that are still happening are the building of a compost bin at Freedom Elementary, implementation of composting lunchroom waste and the coming together of the community to expand the perennial gardens at the school.

Margaret Rydin, cousin of longtime library volunteer Kay Compton, recently donated funds to purchase books and DVDs about two of Kay's special interests, gardening and rug hooking, from a list of suggested titles I had provided. These materials are now in the library's collection with book plates in Kay's memory. We used part of the Jim Scully memorial donations to have Chuck Brooks build a beautiful new cabinet for my office. It fits perfectly in the space and will really help me stay organized. I need to move my files over and will then put the rickety old file cabinet by the side of the road as "free".

The Freedom Historical Society has purchased a pass to 19th Century Willowbrook Village in Newfield, Maine. The pass, which gives free admission to two adults and two children each day, will be administered by the library along with the passes the Friends have purchased to Remick Farm, McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, and Squam Lakes.

I am intensely focused on planning our summer programs. I am happy to say that we have received a Kids, Books and the Arts grant to help pay for our summer reading program kick-off performer. Odds Bodkin will be returning to Freedom for this program at the Freedom Elementary School on Wed June 22nd at 1:30. For Old Home Week, as Andrea Wright was not able to come this year due to a scheduling conflict, I have booked Wildlife Encounters, a non-profit out of Rochester, NH, which will bring a variety of zoo animals to Freedom, some to touch and some just to look at and learn about. This will be the Wednesday morning program at the Town Hall. For Friday on the

library lawn, we will have the Toe Jam Puppet Band, a rowdy and funny group of musicians and jokesters that will put on a great show for us. I saw them at last year's performer showcase and tried hard to book them, but they weren't available when I needed them. Rain location will be the Town Hall.

Last year Water Country gave a ticket to the water park to every child and teen who met their reading goal for the summer. Unfortunately, they are not giving these tickets away this year. I am searching for another business that will offer tickets to our readers, preferably something local. I may have to offer to help pay for the tickets rather than getting them completely free. I hope to have a sponsor in place by the spring meeting of the Friends on May 21st.

I have an appointment with Doug from Cinamaesque Home Theatre in North Conway to discuss possible upgrades to our "theatre" downstairs. I am interested in upgrading the quality of the DVD player, finding a way to gain access to our free cable television subscription, hiding unsightly cords, upgrading the projector for improved connectivity to computers and for a better picture, making the connections to the projector more accessible so we don't have to have long cords coming from the ceiling and messing up the alignment of the image on the screen, and possibly upgrading the sound system. This meeting is scheduled for 12:00 on Friday so if you are interested in being a part of this conversation, please feel free to come.

Other things going on in brief:

E-news: I've begun sending out monthly emails listing materials added to the collection in the previous month. This seems popular and instigates a flurry of patron activity when it goes out.

Pizza & Movie Nights: Our last monthly pizza and movie night is May 20th. Then we will do it weekly through the summer. Around 30 children & adults have been coming routinely.

Preschool Storytime: We have had several new kids attending and many friendships formed among the parents and grandparents. Storytime brings in 6-10 preschoolers every week plus their baby siblings.

Kids Book Club: It was hard to find a time that didn't conflict with other after-school activities so there were only two at the last book club whereas the previous two had brought in 6. There seems to be enough interest to continue through the summer.

Book Repair: Judy is attending a book repair class in Bedford, NH on Thursday, June 9th.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Rhymer
Library Director