

Latah County Library District

DIRECTOR'S REPORT May 2010

Activity Summary

- Juliaetta Branch Supervisor Jan Welles retired on April 30th after 22 ½ years of service. The Friends of the Juliaetta Library hosted a festive retirement party for her at the Kendrick Senior Center to give the community a chance to thank her and wish her well.
- On April 19th Linda Dahl began training as the new Juliaetta Branch Supervisor. Linda's orientation has included meeting with the Friends group and local book club, as well as with different library managers. Linda is scheduled to go on the LCLD courier run before summer reading begins in June. It's been a pleasure to see Linda's commitment to serving the library community.
- This month the Friends of the Deary Library held a series of special activities as part of the Grand Reopening Celebration following the library's renovation. Our thanks for their generosity and enthusiasm.
- Election of a new library trustee will be part of the Latah County primary election on May 25th. Bob Hassoldt and Caroline (Carrie) Bitterwolf are vying for the full-term position, while Mary McGregor is on the ballot unopposed for the partial term position. There were no write-in candidates for either vacancy. Candidate statements are available from the library website.
- On May 3rd, I attended the Bovill City Council meeting to present a draft of the new lease between the city and the LCLD. Bovill Branch Supervisor Paula Winter and longtime library supporter Sheila Loomis also attended the meeting in support of renewing the lease as well as of continuing the agreement between the city and the Bovill Library Historic Building Preservation Committee.
- The LCLD's annual Food for Fines campaign ended on April 24th. Nearly 900 lbs of food was brought to the libraries in lieu of payment for overdue fines. It was then promptly donated to area food banks.
- An all-staff meeting was held April 27th to review newly approved policies and say goodbye to Jan.
- The Washington-Idaho Network (WIN) budget for 2010-2011 has not yet been approved, though their fiscal year begins June 1st. On May 6th library directors from both VALNet and Cooperative Information Network (CIN) consortiums met at the Moscow Library to share their concerns and suggestions.
- On April 23rd I attended a meeting of the Inland Northwest Council of Libraries to share information with other library directors from Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Carpooling to the meeting with the director of our neighboring Whitman County Library was a particular highlight.
- Four library staff members chose to attend the regional Idaho Library Association conference in Clarkston on May 7th. We participated in sessions on teen programming, online continuing education, a recent Idaho School Library impact study, and other topics. As always, one of the most appreciated aspects of the conference is the chance to visit informally with other Idaho librarians.
- I wrote two columns for publication in local papers: one expressing appreciation for our many wonderful library volunteers and another regarding the upcoming trustee election.
- The new Technology Plan has been submitted to the Idaho Commission for Libraries for approval.
- The monthly meeting of VALNet directors was postponed until after approval of the WIN budget.
- Thanks once again to our excellent pool of District substitutes for keeping the Deary library staffed while Branch Supervisor Debbie Fischer is on leave.
- I attended a meeting of the Friends of the Moscow Library on May 13th. Like all of us, they are gearing up for the start of summer reading activities in June.
- This month has been unusually challenging due to a series of family emergencies for staff members.

Department and Branch Reports

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- Planning and preparing for the start of summer reading. Cleaning out and going through some of the old prizes and supplies. I think this program this year will be a fun one. If and when the weather shapes up we will be able to do a lot of outdoor games in the yard with water that will be fun for the kids. What kids don't like to play in the water on a hot day?

- Friends are planning a pie social for Bovill Days, hoping to raise some money for the library with a variety of pies featuring huckleberry AND huckleberry jelly will be available also. Last year we had a huckleberry pie sell for \$18, everyone loves huckleberries. Plans are finally underway to replace the kitchen counter that has needed replacing for several months but kept getting pushed back for various reasons. This is a project that will be funded by the friends group. We are hoping to have that project completed by Bovill Days when the White Family is in town for their reunion and will want to tour the library.
- Lease for the building between the district and the city of Bovill came up for renewal in April and the new lease was given to the city for review. It sounds like they are all fine with the new lease and will just be a matter of signing it hopefully at the next council meeting in May.
- Some repair will need to be done to the flashing on the bell tower of the library; part of it has come loose. The gentleman that put on the roofing has taken a look at what needs to be done and has been in touch with the building committee members. This work should be covered under his warranty. I will pass on more information on that as I find out what will be done to address the issue.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- This month's information is contributed by Maxine and Gina; two substitutes who are keeping the library running in Debbie's absence. Thanks to Maxine and Gina, and a warm thanks also to the Deary Friends for their very generous help with programs and storytimes. Debbie is doing well and tentatively plans to return to work Monday, June 7th.
- The Deary Friends sponsored several events during the Grand Reopening Celebration week of April 19th. On Monday Juliaetta author Pamela Thorson had a well-attended book signing and also donated an autographed copy of her book to the library. On Tuesday Mickie Brown offered assistance on genealogy research. Tuesday night Craig Dalton held a workshop for those interested in writing and publishing their works. The Deary Friends provided cookies, prizes, and other goodies throughout the week.
- The Deary community seems very pleased with the library renovations. Both Gina and Maxine heard favorable patron comments. As a measure of renewed interest, nine new library cards were issued in the month after the reopening and several patrons remarked this was their first time in the Deary library.
- Five storytimes were offered in April. During the week of the grand reopening storytime was hosted by the Friends and four people attended.
- During the Food for Fines campaign, 28 lbs. of food was collected and donated to the local food bank.
- As one of the final phases of the remodel, the Deary collection continues to increase in size and variety.

Genesee Branch Report – Connie Sobczyk

- Genesee's Story timers identified and sounded out letters "W, X, Y and Z" at the end of April. We celebrated with an alphabet party of lettered treats and Alphabet Fish Game. Our alphabet train has reached its journey's end. Now, the quest is on in deciding what to do this fall????
- A visit from Genesee School's 3rd grade class in mid April led to several new library card applications. The class visited as a result of their "Read Around Genesee" challenge. The class clocked 255 hours and 7 minutes of reading. Once here, the class listened to stories and heard what this librarian liked to read. (I was impressed that they knew what historical non-fiction was!)
- I previewed a potential summer reading program for next year at the Genesee School. Kenn Nesbitt, an author of poetry from Spokane, gave an all day program. The kids loved hearing his poems and learned how easy it is to write their own poetry. They also learned how to publish their own book (s) for free!
- Genesee Friends completed a grant application to the Genesee Recreation District to help fund their Summer Reading Program this month. I have been informed that the Recreation District will be contributing to our program which I am very thankful of.
- Some electrical contract work is anticipated in the very near future in the library. Contract bid (s) are in, now the parties involved need to discuss when best to have this work performed. The upgrades include, but not limited to, changing out the outdated ballasts.
- Genesee Friends held an informal discussion on what type of programs they would want to support. Friends' members mentioned that adult programs have never been well attended in Genesee and therefore are not worthwhile. Discussions of why this is so were numerous. Some of the reasons mentioned were: 1) Kids are more important and the community is very kid/school/family oriented. 2) People are burned out going to/doing committee work. 3) People travel more from Genesee and tend to

go to school events first and then remain at home as tired of driving and being places (Genesee does not have their own track, pool, etc). The Friends are in favor of having a good library in their town with 1) increase number of holdings, 2) more choices and 3) good quality resources available at their library. I will need to put some thought into this one.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story times were fun and sad this month. The next to the last week was my last program and I am really going to miss the little ones. There were 27 children and 19 caregivers in attendance for the 4 programs.
- Class visits were all on schedule except for two classes that were rained out. 67 students and 6 teachers came in to check out books.
- Book Prowlers met on April 13 to discuss "The Guernsey Literacy and Potato Peel Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer
- The Friends met on April 20 with 12 members present. Randy Haylett has abdicated the throne of President. Elections were held, new officers- President (pro tem) Jan Welles, V. President Michelle Cope, Treasurer Anna Bruce and Secretary Jill Groseclose. Summer reading was briefly discussed and Linda Dahl was introduced to the Friends.
- The Board meeting was entertaining and informative. I am going to miss you all! Thanks for the cake!
- The Friends sponsored Scrapbook Class was held on April 17 with 4 youth and 4 adults attending.
- The staff meeting retirement party was great. Thank you to everyone. I will miss very much but will still be haunting the libraries so we shall see each other from time to time.
- Linda started on the 19th and I tried to teach her everything I know which sometimes isn't much.
- If I forgot anything, Linda will catch you up next month.

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- We collected 96.6 lbs of food for the food for fines campaign
- U.S Census used the conference room for 3 days of training. The room was used 25 other times.
- We had the Reed Lewis program "The Geologic and Mining History of Latah County" with 17 people attending.
- Storytime was very busy with 4 programs and 80 kids and 39 adults attending. Last storytime was April 30th.
- Friends meeting was busy getting Summer Reading letters ready to send. We sent out over 70 letters to local businesses.
- Proctored 2 exams.
- Have finished moving all of the January red and orange dots on. Now on to February!
- Got the closet cleaned out. Now on to the workroom!

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Mickie Brown has offered her expertise to the Library every Wednesday evening from 5pm-7pm to help patrons with their genealogy questions.
- Filled out the Fred Meyer Survey to earn books for the Summer Reading Program.
- Received plastic book bags and flying disks from the Idaho Commission for Libraries to give to the kids for Summer Reading Prizes.
- Betty Leslie made the Troy Friends a Facebook page. Be sure to check it out.
- The Boy Scout Troop, 6 boys, visited the Library. They were very interested in the World Largest puzzle and where all the books come from. Issued some new library cards.
- Friends Meeting on the 21st.
- Food for Fines was a success this year. We collected 89 pounds of food for the local food bank. Patrons were very happy to be able to get their fines paid.
- Pre School visited again this month. We did Earth Day stories with color page handouts. 15 kids and 2 teachers showed up in the pouring rain.
- Story Time will end this month so I can prepare for Summer Reading Program. It will resume in the fall.

- Attended the staff meeting to discuss the changes of the policy. Also attended the retirement party for Jan Welles. Sorry to see her go but I am sure we will see her from time to time. Anne introduced us to the new Branch Supervisor from Juliaetta, Linda Dahl. Welcome Linda. ☺
- The Winter Reading Program is officially over. We had 33 sign-ups and 16 finishers this year. Frank Luzzo beat his number of pages this year at 18588, last year he read 16934 pages.