Announcements

The READS board is actively seeking a Website Coordinator!

Are you comfortable with WordPress?! Ready to contribute at a state-wide level?! Looking to network with some great librarians?! Look no further.

READS needs you! We are looking for a website coordinator to post minutes, event announcements and make other updates as needed. We wouldn’t say ‘no’ to someone looking to do a site refresh either! READS meets the first Friday of the month, every other month, in Concord.

Contact Mindy Atwood, READS vice-president/president-elect at director@abbottlibrary.org or 763-5513 with any questions or if you are interested.

Join the Programming Committee to help coordinate READS Roundtables and Fall Conferences!

Meetings are held every other month and can be attended remotely. This committee typically organizes 3-4 Roundtables, the Annual READS Fall Conference, and occasionally collaborates with other sections. Responsibilities include arranging for speakers, choosing venues and caterers, and reviewing surveys. The approximate time commitment is 2-3 hours per month.

The next Programming Committee meeting will be in February at the Concord Public Library. Contact Eileen Gilbert, Programming Committee Chair, at director@belmontpubliclibrary.org for more information or if interested.

Don’t forget to renew your READS membership when you renew your NHLA membership this December!
READS Fall Conference

Congratulations to this year’s
READS Award of Excellence winner,
Pamela Dziama, from Wiggins Memorial Library!

2019 Award winner Pamela Dziama (center), with Lesley Kimball (left), Director, Wiggan Memorial Library and Beverly Pietlicki (right) READS Past President.

For Conference Notes and copies of Presenter’s Slides, visit: http://reads.nhlibrarians.org/resource/

Deck the Shelves!

Get in the holiday spirit with these festive program ideas from libraries around NH
Holiday Open House at Elkins Library

- by Susan Leclair, Library Director, Elkins Library

Elkins Library has held a Holiday Open House on the first Saturday of December for the past thirty years. Recently, we have chosen different themes for the party, including Christmas in Mexico, Merrie Olde England, A Swedish Christmas, Seussical Christmas, Russian Christmas, and The Night Before Christmas (where we had little mice hidden around the library for the children to find). We have a wonderful Friends of the Library Group that make savory and sweet foods. The staff and the Trustees bake and cook, as well. There is always cookie decorating and a themed ornament to make and bring home. A local musician is hired to perform holiday music with singing, and recently a portion of the evening incorporated contra dancing!

Merrie Olde England was lovely and the Seussical theme was great fun, but finding and borrowing costumes that are not too cumbersome to wear is a lot of extra work. My favorite theme so far was the Russian Christmas. We had a baker from Russia that provided a Samovar for tea and made Russian pancakes and tea breads. He also stayed with us to serve the tea and chat with our guests in his charming accent.

Canterbury is a small town, but we usually draw over 100 guests ranging in age from infants to seniors, during the two hour event. The air is filled with friendship, great food, active children and music.

DIY Holiday Gift Extravaganza at Derry Library

- by Liz Ryan, Program Coordinator, Derry Public Library

For the past three years, The Derry Public Library has offered a 'DIY Holiday Gift Extravaganza' to patrons of all ages. Typically held on a Wednesday evening sometime during the first half of December, this event encourages patrons to ditch the mall and make gifts. Past gifts have included jewelry, cards, soap, bath salts, and cocoa in a bag.
The key to success is making the crafts easy (so patrons can do them on their own with little help), limiting attendance to 50, putting a cap on *when* people can arrive (no admittance after 7:15 PM), and having volunteers to supervise each craft table. The one craft we would not really recommend is soap - our teen librarian was confined to the kitchen area the entire time. But overall, if you pick five or six low-key crafts, this is a surefire hit for all ages. This December 11th will be our fourth Etravaganza!

**Holiday Show and Tell Luncheon at Ingall's Library**

- by Donna Straitiff, *Director*, Ingall's Library

One of our most successful Adult programs every year is our Holiday Show and Tell luncheon. The library provides lunch and a dessert, and participants contribute additional goodies if so inclined.

Each person who attends is invited to bring a project they have made....some are fiber crafts, paintings, homemade cards, quilts, decorations. It's a fun way to explore the many talents that are hidden in our community.

This picture is of Laurel, who last year explained the fine art of creating a Chicken Wreath!
Interactive *Elf* Script Reading

- by Tessa Narducci, *Youth Services Assistant*, Conway Public Library

We did an interactive reading of the script for *Elf*, which we found on a librarian's blog. The best part was probably the advertising we did leading up to the event! We moved a life-size blow up version of Buddy the Elf all over town. We took him to a dance class, an after school program, the bank, a biology class at the high school, the Humane Society, and got lots of hilarious pictures of him throughout the library (including him peeking through the stacks) that we posted on social media.

Everyone had a goody bag filled with props, a copy of the script (including prompts to take part with sound effects and props to use when lines were said in the movie). There were moments we would pause the movie when it was time to eat things like, spaghetti with syrup, or have an indoor snowball fight, etc.

It was fun, but we did have a few issues. We let a couple of kids in late, and they were disruptive with side talk and constant bag-crinkling. Unfortunately, they did not follow the script or our directions, and were annoying to the other participants. Also, the goody bags participants rummaged through to find the right props were too loud.

Next time, we would be more clear about ground rules from the beginning, and not allow stragglers to disrupt the event. We would also put the props in quiet, maybe even gallon-size ziplock bags.

**READS-To-Go: Year in Review**

- by Brianna Hemmah, *Teen and Tween Librarian*, Laconia Public Library, READS-To-Go Chair

It has been a very busy year for the READS-to-Go Committee. We have implemented a plethora of updates and changes that have streamlined the process of adding book club kits.

**Social Media**

The committee has retired the READS-to-Go Blog in favor of a page on the READS section of NHLA’s Website. As part of this transition we have updated flyers, Processing Instructions and FAQs. Discussion Questions and other reproducible materials are now solely available through
this page. We have also retired the READS-to-Go Facebook page. All publicity will now be directed through READS channels.

**Policy Updates**

We have had two major policy shifts this year. Our collection of kits is now robust enough to require a Deaccession Policy, which was developed over the summer. The committee will reassess kit titles at the request of a host library. Otherwise, the lowest circulating kits will be reviewed at the end of the year. Alternate titles may be offered to those libraries hosting one of the lowest circulating kits. The second major change came with the State Library’s new ILS. Our kits used to be catalogued independently by them, however in the new system the kit records would no longer function the way that we would like. Therefore, we are no longer sending kits to the State Library to be catalogued. We thank Mary Russell for all of her help over the years!

**Kits by the Numbers**

24 kits were so popular that they were continuously checked out for the whole year. The kits with the most future reservations in KitKeeper are Eleanor Olyphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman and Never Caught by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, which are booked into 2021. We have added 11 new kits this year, including: A Piece of the World, Exit West, Saints for All Occasions, The Alice Network, Salt Houses, Waking up White, Hillbilly Elegy, The Den, A Gentleman in Moscow, The Ghost of the Innocent Man, and There, There. Kits in the process of being added include: Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk, Where the Crawdads Sing, Educated, The Library Book, and Becoming Nicole.

2 committee members have retired this year, Claudia Mayer and longtime Chairperson Diane Mayr. We are grateful for all that they put into the committee; they will be missed! Anyone wishing to join the READS-to-Go Committee or to host a READS-to-Go Kit please contact Brianna Hemmah at rtgchair@nhlibrarians.org.