



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

April 2023

National Volunteer Month

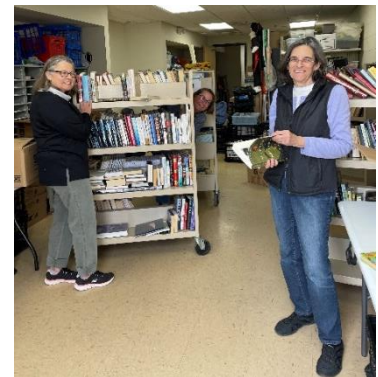
April was National Volunteer Month, and it is very rewarding to note that with more than 130 adult and youth volunteers, HRLS was the recipient of over 4,500 volunteer hours in 2022. These volunteers help our staff provide not only everyday services but also to present our extensive array of programming. The following are just a few of the volunteers who help to make HRLS an irreplaceable resource that is both for the community and of the community. To all of our volunteers we offer our most sincere appreciation and thanks.



Janet Daniels, Archives



Kaci Barth, Handley Information



*"Friends" Frost McLaughlin,
Mary Adams Legge & Judy Gedge*



*Kathi Hall, Bowman
"Paws for Reading"*



Eleanor Monahan "Friends" Bookshop



Amy Williams, Handley Information

A Program to Explore The Microscopic World

When doctoral student and scientist Steven Cummings (in the plaid shirt, right) was tutoring a student in math and writing, and trying to encourage him in his studies, he picked up a microscope and invited the student to do some science.



They went out and collected samples and put them under the microscope. That led to Steven being invited to teach a class about microscope use. That led to the tutoring company for which he works to buy him a number of microscopes and more presentations. During one of his presentations he crossed paths with a group of library patrons who barraged him with questions which gave him the idea of presenting to libraries. And so he did at the Clarke County Library with a group of fellow scientists, encouraging family members to explore the world through a microscope and through the incredible resource of library books.

From Science to Folklore



Besides holding a most successful Book Sale in April which raised nearly \$17,000 for the library, the “Friends” hosted an after-hours event to celebrate the release of author, artist, and area resident Ben Hatke’s new book, “Reynard’s Tale”. Perhaps, best known for his children’s books featuring “Mighty Jack” and “Zita” Ben has turned his pen to a very special project for adult readers, an atmospheric tribute to the medieval folklore tradition of

the archetypal rogue trickster starring Reynard the fox. Ben spoke, read from the original “Reynard’s Tale” and signed books. Winchester Book Gallery was on hand to sell the new book as well as some of his old favorites.

Farm Life in Frederick County in the 1800s

Each month the Archives receives any number of donations that must be reviewed, documented and cataloged. In April the Archives received a donation of the diaries of Frederick County farmer Hiram Fries. The diaries record farm life in the 1800s. The donation also included account books and a box made by Fries to hold the diaries (see photo left). This collection has now been processed and is available to researchers.



2000 Interactions!!!

In April, the Handley Youth Services Department finished hosting Winchester Public Schools' Spring Field Trips to the Library. With a robust effort to partner more intentionally with WPS, the department successfully interacted with every student Pre-K- 8th Grade during this school year. That made over 2,000 students with a least 50% of them being in a diverse minority demographic. Whether it was through library or off-site visits or simple through library card applications, each WPS student had the opportunity to learn about the many benefits of Handley Library. As a result of these focused efforts, more students are returning to the library and bringing their families as well.



For the Record

A new "Guest Book" was added to Handley's Rotunda to allow our many visitors to record their kind words about the branch and building. The first person to sign was from San Francisco and wrote, "I want to move here just to be able to come to this beautiful Library!" The idea for the guest book came from Kathy Crosby, in Circulation. Kathy submitted the idea as part of the annual "Handley Stakes", a contest sponsored by the Director to encourage ideas and suggestions for innovation and improvement.

Some Very Young Graduates

At the Bowman Library, graduates of the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program were honored with a celebration. The Spring graduating class of 2023 number 18. They joined the other 138 that have previously graduated over the past 10 years.



Contributors:

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Katie Moss, Handley Youth Services Manager
Cheryl Nakagawa, Manager of Public Relations and Outreach
Todd Strader, Clarke County Branch Manager
Ann White, Deputy Director

The Handley Regional Library System www.handleyregional.org