



HRLS

Director's Report and Highlights

December 2023

Handley, Seemed to be "The Place to Be"

In addition to the 22 people who attended the regular, monthly, Handley building tour, two groups visited the Handley Library branch in December. Fifteenth 9th and 10th graders from Keystone Christian Academy came on a field trip and learned about the array of resources available at the library. From the historic resources in the Archives to the most current literary and media resources available to them with a library card. A "fun" element of their visit included learning about the history of this unique building and the opportunity of going up the "secret" spiral staircase from the Lower Level



The second group was the Lake Frederick History Club, whose members selected Handley Library branch as their chosen focus for their December gathering. The twenty-six club members got a personalized, behind-the-scenes tour with Pat Ritchie, a former library employee and an author of "Handley Regional Library, the First One Hundred Years". One special highlight (pictured to the left) was Pat showing the enthusiastic group the inscriptions left on the underside of a shelf, one by the original 1915 builders and one from Pat and John Berry, both part of the renovation team in 2001.

The Handley 100 Alumni Speaker Series continued to be a successful program partnership with the presentation of the "Guardians of History". Over 65 people attended the December 14th panel discussion moderated by Johathan A. Noyalas. The panel included our own former archivist, Becky Ebert as well as Cissy Shull, Winchester & Frederick County Historical Society, Sandra Bosley, Preservation of Historic Winchester, and Maral Kalbian, Historic Preservation Consulting. Each of these JHHS graduates shared their experiences in preserving local history and historical structures.





The Robinson Auditorium at the Handley branch was also the site of a presentation by author Brenda Nelson. Ms. Nelson has written a book about the life of Robert Orrick, an early entrepreneur in Winchester and a leader in the African-American community of his time. His legacy is still visible today, over 100 years later, at the Orrick Cemetery on South Braddock St.

Out With the Old & In With the New

Thanks to an unanticipated increase in State Funding, the Bowman Library was able to purchase new tables and chairs for its much used, meeting room. In some cases, the new items replace those that have been in use since the Bowman branch first opened over 20 years ago. Jacob and Dennis (pictured at left) unboxed and assembled the 22 tables in time for them to be used at the 2023 Staff Development Day held at Bowman.

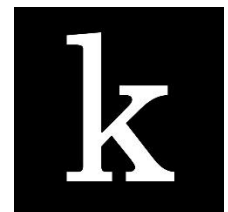


Educate and Appreciate

The yearly Staff Development Day (SDD) is an opportunity to bring all HRLS staff members together, regardless of schedules or locations, to become better acquainted with each other, to be updated on library issues, and to share information and ideas. This year the special focus was on the Library's collections and all the processes and efforts that go into creating and maintaining them. SDD is also the time to recognize staff members and their years of service to the Library. Pictured to the left with Director John Huddy is Adrienne Davis, Handley Branch Manager, Adrienne has been with the Library for fifteen years.

Keeping the Community Up-To-Date

“Hats Off” to our Public Relations and Outreach Department for all they do in promoting Library resources, whether in print, on the radio, on our website or through social media. Most recently, the department has been promoting one of our newest resources, **Kanopy**, a new streaming service containing a collection of expertly curated narrative and documentary films available to library patrons.



Handley Youth Services 2023

Over the past year, the department has seen consistent growth in patron participation and involvement. Compared to 2022, there has been a jump of almost 49% in program attendance. With the increase of activity in the children's area, two new staff members have been added to support the department's efforts and a new Early Literacy Associate has come on board to help with the branch's pursuit of Family Place Library accreditation. All of these efforts continue to ensure that the department's collection, programming, outreach, and space use are all rooted in early childhood development and literacy principles that the community can count on.



The Friends Continue to Innovate

Besides all of the wonderful musical programs sponsored by the Friends in December. They also undertook their first "Pop-Up" booksale at the Clarke County branch. The group made over \$900 during this one day sale, continuing an amazing year of successful events in support of the Library.

Something Old Becomes Something New

Among the new materials received this month in Archives was a scrapbook and photographs from the Bond family of Frederick County, donated by a family descendant in Massachusetts. The Bond family were early settlers to the area and members of the Hopewell Meeting, with strong connection to the Luptons, another Quaker family. The photo to the left shows Allen, Walker and Howell Bond, circa early 1900s.



Contributors:

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