



# HRLS

## *Director's Report and Highlights*

*March 2025*

### *Handley Library is Busy "Growing Readers"*

The Handley Youth Services Department celebrated the soft launch of the new **Grow a Reader** program brand that will encompass all the library's efforts to help our very youngest patrons (0 to 5 years) and their families to be "school ready". Over two hundred participants gathered for the event that included a puppet show, games, crafts, face painting, balloons, and even cotton candy, while families and caregivers learned how the library can help them grow their own readers. This new brand includes the efforts already underway with the *Campaign for Grade Level Reading* and *Family Place Library* designation.



### *Enjoying An Irish Heritage*

Local fiddle player and music teacher, Laura Cullinane, (Fiddle Mama) came to the Clarke County Library for a special Irish Heritage presentation. Laura read stories to the families, taught them fun songs, gave a musical performance, and then let everyone try out her instruments.

### *Then a Slightly Different Beat*

During March, The Friends of Handley Library continued to host one of their most entertaining programs, *A Little Noon Music*. The Barnes at Rose Hill in Barryville was the location, the *Jon Rose Trio* were the musicians, and the easy sounds of jazz and bossa-nova added sunshine and warmth to an early Spring Day.



## ***Reading Together***

In March, the Handley Library hosted its first “Leyendo Juntos” program: ***Getting to know your library, Spanish Edition***. Leyendo Juntos, which means “Reading Together”, is a subcommittee of the Campaign for Grade Level Reading with a focus on supporting the Hispanic community. The entire program, which included a building tour and children’s story time, was presented in English and Spanish.



Kimberly Peterson and Orianna Urbaez Largent from the Winchester Public Schools ESOL Department were the main coordinators for the program and Adela Borralló-Solis from Shenandoah University was the Spanish interpreter for the building tour and library overview provided by Branch Manager Adrienne Davis.

The highlight of the program was a Spanish/English reading by local author Camila Sousa Sakai, who presented each family a free, signed copy of her book “Is It a Spaceship”.



## ***Storytimes Return to the Airport***

Through the auspicious of the Bowman Library, sharing stories at the Winchester Regional Airport resumed in March. An excited crowd showed up to hear stories about airplanes and flying, to dance a little, and to see an airplane up close. Young patrons even got the chance to climb into its cockpit.



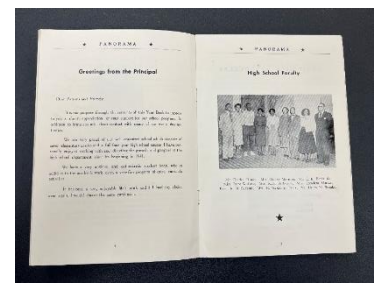
## ***On Nature’s Wings***



Lisa la Civita of the Information Services Department at the Bowman Library developed and presented “Birding 101” on four Mondays evenings in March. As part of the evenings Lisa also took the groups out for bird walks around the lake. On the March 17<sup>th</sup> Walk, the group spotted a bald eagle snatching a fish from the lake. On March 24<sup>th</sup> they observed an American Coot on the lake, a new bird for the Bowman Bird List.

## ***High School Memories***

Each month Archives receives many linear feet of new materials to review, process, document, and store. In March it received a 1955 issue of “Panorama” a yearbook from Douglas High School. The copy will be added to the Archives wonderful collection of Frederick County High School yearbooks, some dating to the 1920s.





## **Noah's Ark Collaboration**

With the talents of many artisans (woodcarvers, wood burners, painters & stainers), and the help of children, parents and grandparents, a storybook Ark was created at the Bowman Library. The beautiful and imaginative art project is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when many hearts and many hands work together.

### **Contributors:**

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***The Handley Regional Library ... [handleyregional.org](http://handleyregional.org)***