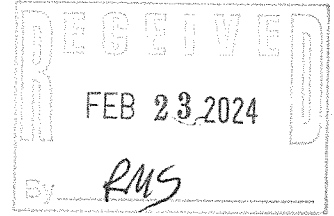


BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
February 20, 2024
Director's report



February 2024

Adults

Glass Cabinet Display

Our new Glass Cabinet Display "Lego Legacy" shows the unique collection of creations by long-time Lego admirers!

Center Shelf Book Display and Other Displays

"Love is in the Air" is everywhere and on our Center Shelf Display. Enjoy a romantic fiction read or a cool guide to all relationships.

Celebrate Black History Month with our new Adult Area Book Display in February. New and prominent personalities, interesting authors and their stories can found in this special feature.

Eldridge Housing Visit, January 30

Library Director visited the Eldridge Housing and exchanged the materials at the Center. The residents are participating in the Winter Reading Bingo, and are completing their rows in the Bingo card with titles of books read.

The next visit is scheduled to take place on February 20.

Mystery Book Club

The Mystery Book Club met on February 14, and discussed "Dissolution" by C.J. Sansom.

The event was attended by 8 patrons.

The next Club is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 13. The group will discuss "The Wrong Side of Goodbye" by Michael Connelly.

Popular Book Club

The Popular Book Club gathered on January 30. The group discussed "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion. 12 patrons attended the event.

The next Club will take place on February 27, and will discuss "The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin.

A. J. Fikry's life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone, his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over—and see everything anew.

E-book and e-audio are available via Libby app.

New registrations and book requests: 860-567-7440 or <https://morrispubliclibrary.net/library-calendar-event-registration/>

The Morris Public Library Online presents the Women & Money Roundtable Series, How to Make Sense of Today's Financial Markets, March 13, April 10, May 15, June 12, at 1 PM, with Julia Strayer and Liz Maccarone, of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management.

The Women & Money Roundtable Series is a way to empower and educate women of any age on financial matters that affect their lives. Morris patrons are invited to participate in the roundtables on a monthly basis.

Registration is available at morrispubliclibrary.net

“Winter Reading Bingo” for all ages at the Morris Public Library, January 2 – February 22, 2024.

The Winter Reading Bingo will end on February 22, and the prizes will be drawn on February 23.

Patrons are submitting their Bingo slips to the library. Each Bingo Reading card allows 12 entries, thus increasing their chances to win with each additional slip submission.

Young Adult and Fantasy Book Club, Morris Public Library, third Friday of each month, 6:30 PM

The Fantasy Book Club took place on January 26, at 6:30 PM, and was attended by 10 patrons.

The group discussed “Caraval” by Stephanie Garber, and enjoyed themed snacks.

The next Club is scheduled to meet on Friday, February 23. The book chosen is “Legendary” by Stephanie Garber, second in the Caraval series.

Virtual “The Five Elements. Are You Fire, Water, Wood, Earth, or Metal?” with Grounded Goodlife, Velya Jancz-Urban and Ehris Urban, Morris Public Library Online, Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 PM.

The Grounded Goodlife, Velya and Ehris, presented “The Five Elements” virtually on February 7, 2024, with the Morris Public Library Online. The event was attended by 35 patrons.

The mother-daughter duo spoke about their studies of the natural elements such as fire, water, wood, and metal, and the way these elements can determine/outline different personality types.

The Fire People were described as enthusiastic, magnetic, attention-seeking, and they can be good performers. On the negative side, they can be impulsive and can panic when they stress.

The Water People are patient, reserved and observant, yet they can be slow and messy. The Waters like being alone and follow their routine, they are private and are always deep in thought. Their reaction to stress is fear.

The Wood People can be silent, but they always get things done. The Woods work well under pressure, they are unapologetic, and never like slowing down.

The Earth People love comfort and dislike change. They are good listeners. Their reaction to stress is worry.

The Metal People are perfection seekers, and like to be held in high esteem. They are analytical, like to be alone, but can be monotonous, and may lack compassion.

All people can be a combination of more than one element.

Morris author and researcher Jan Henson Dow returns to the Morris Public Library with her new presentation “Taking a Shamanic Journey,” Thursday, March 21, 6:30 PM.

Shamanism has been practiced for thousands of years on every continent except Antarctica.

Shamanic journeying can be used by anyone today in order to get answers to personal questions, to learn different healing methods, to help others in the community and to work on world and global issues.

Jan is an author, researcher and an award-winning playwright, including an NBC New Voices Award. Her plays have received numerous productions, workshops, and staged readings around the country. Jan is Professor Emeritus at Western Connecticut State University. Her memoir “My Passionate Life” is published by Phosphene Publishing Company. Janet lives in Morris, CT.

Registration is required with the library: 860-567-7440 or <https://morrispubliclibrary.net/library-calendar-event-registration/>

NEW - “Pearls from Carol” Book Talk & Saxophone Sing-a-long, with Albert Ruggiero, Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 PM

Join Albert Ruggiero for his humorous book talk “Pearls from Carol” at the Morris Public Library, on Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 PM. The speaker will share the funny yet thought-provoking essays and poems from his late wife Carol. The book is a compilation of 20 years’ writings devotedly collected by the local writers’ group and published by her husband.

Learn about Carol's life and stories, and enjoy the participatory saxophone sing-a-long - compliments of Albert!

To register for the FREE event: 860-567-7440 or <https://morrispubliclibrary.net/library-calendar-event-registration/>

Children

Bulletin Board and Book Displays

One of our book displays in the Children's Area is devoted to the National Take Your Child to the Library Day Celebration, February 3. Picture and chapter books about modern libraries and librarians are available in the section for families to explore.

We celebrate Black History Month with our themed book display in the Juvenile Area.

Story and Music Time and Other Children's Events

Miss Stephanie reports:

The themes for February are Black History Month, Love, Libraries (in celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day), and Winter.

For story time we are focused on "love". We are reading *Love is a Handful of Honey*, *Will we Always Hold Hands?*, *I've Loved You Since Forever*, and *How Do You Say I Love You?*

Crafts include "I Love You to Pieces" (a heart decorated with pieces of red and pink crepe paper), a concertina heart card for Valentine's Day, a love-themed space rocket, and a heart-themed photo frame.

Winter After School Stories and Craft, Grades K-2, at the Morris Public Library

The special session of Winter After School Stories and Craft took place on February 9, and was attended by 19 patrons.

Author Judy Umstead and her companion dog Lola were noted guests at the event. Judy and Lola read their new book "Everybody Loves Lola" to the audience. The students completed a themed craft, and read more dog stories with Miss Stephanie and Lola.

JMS Grade visits to the Morris Library, January 31

James Morris School students and teachers (95 patrons) attended the Morris Public Library on January 31. The students borrowed their new materials and enjoyed stories in the Reading Room. The next date is March 6.

Thank you, Maureen Fitzpatrick and Cathy Wheeler, for your help during the visits!

Take Your Child to the Library Day, February 3, 2024

The National Take Your Child to the Library Day 2024 was celebrated on Saturday, February 3. Over 20 patrons participated in the event. We offered library crafts, new and favorite books, and a variety of family engagements

NEW - Spring Break – Hands On Drumming with Craig Norton, Morris Public Library, Friday, April 19, 1 PM

Hands on Drumming will take you on a musical journey, playing traditional songs from around the globe, creating our own rhythms, taking turns leading and experiencing improvisation, creative movement and dance. Participants will practice many positive life skills including respect, leadership, teamwork, cooperation, listening and communication as well as experience musical and cultural awareness. Everyone gets a drum to play.

Recommended for ages 5+.

About Craig:

Craig Norton has been facilitating drumming events throughout New England for over 25 years. He recently completed the 3rd year of Social Emotional Learning in The Arts through the national RAISE training program. His events provide opportunities for positive life skills that go beyond the music the audience plays.

To register for this FREE event: 860-567-7440 or <https://morrispubliclibrary.net/library-calendar-event-registration/>

Evergreen 3.11 updates, Bibliomation Webinar

Library Director and Library Staff viewed the “Evergreen 3.11” webinar and learned about the upcoming web client changes (coming February 2024).

New features/additions:

- New angular pages for circulation (introduction of an advanced way to format pages)
- New patron balance interface
- Top banner navigation
- Improvements in ‘did you mean” search
- Hold interface changes
- Introduction of recall and force holds (for own library items only)
- Experimental circulation interface (due date and hold modifications, a new bills/messages interface, patron password options).
- Advancement to the HTML-based e-mail

New Circulation Desk Printer Brother HL-L2350 DW acquired and installed

The Library purchased and installed the new Brother printer for the circulation desk area. The purchase was funded by donations via the Annual Appeal.

“Gratitude Gala” with the Northwest Community Bank Foundation, KidsPlay Museum, January 24

Library Director and Library Treasurer attended the "Gratitude Gala" held by the Northwest Community Bank Foundation at the Kids Play Museum, Torrington, on Wednesday, January 24.

The grant from the Foundation has helped with our purchase of VOX Books, Books That Talk and IR Books, Immersive Reality books.

The Hickory Bookshop Donations, January-February 2024

We received a generous donation of 66 brand new books from the Hickory Stick Bookshop in January-February 2024.

Thank you, Jennifer Whittlesey, for delivering the books to the Library!

Volunteers at the Library:

Linda McMaster and Beverly Huntley (glass cabinet displays, program support), Denis Williamson (computer help, Mystery Book Club help), Jennifer Whittlesey (Hickory Bookshop donations), Rosemary Liebowitz (program support), Cathy Wheeler (program support), Joanne Woodington (program support), Andy and Jenson Sommerville (program support), Tom Huntley (book donation help), Susan Kelly-Strom (program support) and all the board members, the Friends of the Library, and volunteers.

Thank you!

Programs Planned:

January 2 – February 22, 2024 – Winter Reading Bingo for all ages

January – June 2024 – Women and Money Roundtable Online, once a month on a Wednesday, via Zoom

February 23, March 15, 6:30 PM – YA and Fantasy Book Club

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 PM – The Five Elements. The Most Useful Thing You Will Ever Learn” with Grounded Goodlife, via Zoom.

Thursday, March 21, 6:30 PM – “Taking a Shamanic Journey ” with Morris author and researcher Jan Henson Dow.

Friday, April 19 – Hands On Drumming with Craig Norton, Spring Break event

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 PM – “Pearls from Carol” presentation and signing with Albert Ruggiero

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 PM – “New Zealand Culture Talk,” with Ms. Stephanie

Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 PM – “Healing Power of Biomagnetism” with Ms.Gina

Wednesday, August 14, 2 PM – Summer Reading Celebration with NEW Magic Show, Ed Pop

Respectfully submitted,

Elena Granoth, Director