



Highlights of the months of November & December, 2015

The well attended programs of Roger Payne and Lisa Harrow who together spoke about climate change, shared the songs of whales and selections of poetry, attracted 50 attendees.

Wassail weekend was a great success again this year, with 130 attendees, who came to listen to Ham Gillett's reading of *A Christmas in Wales* and there were an additional 220 attendees who flooded our mezzanine and first floor to listen to the acapella singing group, Sly Voxes. The Woodstock Elementary Chorus sang seasonal songs on our front steps Friday evening with the lawn filled with proud parents and grandparents.

We displayed the sustainable houses crafted by students of WES STEM classes in the library and our story hours have sky rocketed in numbers with parents and grandparents hustling into the library just to get an available seat in the Children's craft room -- to hear Melissa's engaging stories and songs.

Our poetry program show cased Marv Klassen Landis who read poetry and Ham Gillett supplemented the program with his read of humorous historical news columns. In another program, Dan Hopkins spoke about African Wildlife and the safaris he leads to Namibia and Botswana.

Jackie Fisher and Ron Miller led a group discussion about race and culture that was well attended and Kathy Beard's son, Ben, gave a stellar program on Glacier Melt with 75 attendees.

Our collaboration with the UU Church and the Thompson Center on our series, *Aging with Grace*, has a loyal following of a dozen patrons.

This week Lesley Hatch's will again provide instruction about "How to use your iPad" from which we have received much acclaim from attendees. Dave Sullivan continues to assist individuals and is helping one young local entrepreneur create a web site for his new business.

Our initiative to promote economic development, organized with Ron Miller's leadership is moving forward, with a meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 in the library mezzanine and is currently referred to as "April in Woodstock" See details below. \*\*\*

Appeal letters were well received by the community and thank you letters have been sent out within 3 days of receipt of the contribution – usually on the day received. From October 1<sup>st</sup> until Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> we have taken in \$43,300.53 totaling 86 gifts, of which, one gift was \$25K. Controlling for that large donation, the average gift was \$215.

Our volunteers continue to play a vital role, each month keeping the doors open and donated 254 hours of their time to the library.

Our new book shelves house a larger number of books for sale, and by making our foyer more welcoming, our book sales are increasing. Donations are also pouring in, including many first editions, which will be saved for the Rare and Vintage Book sale next July.

*Statistics for November:*

- 804 reference requests (7 in depth) reflecting increased traffic during tourist season
- 313 individual sessions were recorded using our public computers during the month, with many more connecting to our wireless network
- 40 patrons requested books from other libraries (ILL), and we received 69 requests for items from our collection from other libraries. \$249.43 was spent on postage, supported in part, by patron donation
- There were 16 adult programs with 265 attendees and 14 children's programs with 334 attendees.
- Our circulating collection consists of 54,550 items
- We have 3,639 patrons, 62% from Woodstock
- Townspeople, patrons and visitors connected to the Internet throughout the Village via our Wireless Woodstock, totaling 2,729 sessions, transferring 76 gigabytes of data.
- 95 eBooks and 16 audio books were borrowed from GMLC (Listen Up).
- 2,471 items were loaned out during the month and 739 were renewed.

Addendum: \*\*\*

April in Woodstock!

Since the arts contribute significantly to cultural tourism, our proposal, scheduled for the "shoulder" season is called:

*April in ~~Paris~~ Woodstock: a proposal for a cultural and educational adventure.*

Tag line: Make the time to learn something new!

Cultural activities attract tourists to stay longer, shop more and eat in more restaurants, which results in higher rooms and meals taxes and business enterprise tax revenues.

With minimal upfront cost dedicated to marketing, the Woodstock area cultural organizations and creative business have agreed to offer stimulating programs, which will be marketed through social media, participating organizations, restaurants, B&B's and Inn's.

The current list of participating organizations include: NWPL, ArtisTree, Pentangle, Woodstock History Center, The Learning Lab, VINS, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP, Sustainable Woodstock, Bookstock, BarnArts, Billings Farm, Shackleton Thomas, Art galleries, Farmhouse Pottery, Simon Pearce. For additional information, contact Ron Miller ( [rmiller9@sover.net](mailto:rmiller9@sover.net)) or Jennifer Belton ([jenniferbelton@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferbelton@gmail.com))

