

Frank J. Basloe Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Sept. 11, 2017

#### Director's Report

The month of August brought the end of the summer reading program, the third public meeting with architect Paul Mays and an unplanned visit from New York Library Association executive director Jeremy Johannesen and his son Jack. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the Johannesens have embarked on Jeremy & Jack's Excellent Library Adventure, a week of touring as many of NY State's public libraries as they can. This year, we were the 15<sup>th</sup> stop of the 51 libraries they visited. They commented on the large diversity within the library communities. While we all have the same basic goals and missions, we all have unique characters and unique ways of meeting those needs within our individual communities.

At the third public meeting, Paul Mays presented the results of the 2 previous meetings to attendees and invited them to participate in an exercise in which they prioritized the library services they most favor. The same exercise is still being conducted daily in the library to elicit even more public opinion. To date, we are seeing a strong preference for continual additions to the traditional collection and a large demand for additional reading niches in the building.

We were able to obtain and distribute about 150 pairs of solar eclipse glasses for the August 21<sup>st</sup> event, a woefully inadequate supply given the demand. While we did not plan a formal viewing party, we did hold an impromptu one in the library park. We shared 5 pairs of glasses with about 80 passersby, including Assemblyman Mark Butler. We had an unexpected rush of spectators after someone posted on Facebook that we had the glasses.

We have completed the inventory of our collection and have moved on to weeding. Adding windows to the N. Main Street façade will necessitate losing book space. The easiest way to deal with the issue will be to decrease the size of the collection by eliminating no longer used titles. Many outdated materials can be removed easily, making room to carry out the renovation plans while still keeping our book collection relevant.

On Saturday Oct. 7, we will be holding another community outreach. We're calling it "Pumpkins in the Park". This will be a family friendly event featuring pumpkin painting, pumpkin story times, book giveaways, fall crafts, music and a bake sale. Mid York will bring the pop-up library to promote services and Eat Smart NY will have a table featuring nutritious autumn foods. 100 pumpkins have been donated for our use. Stewart's Shops also donated, giving us \$500 to purchase books for giveaway.

We are also beginning to make a concentrated effort to add to the Herkimer Telegram obituary index. There are about 20 years' worth of newspapers to go through, a very tedious and time consuming process. Even with everyone contributing to the project, I expect it will take it will take many months to complete.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Fleischer