

Frank J. Basloe Library  
Trustees Meeting  
July 13, 2020

### Director's Report

June was a very busy month, but not in the usual manner. The library reopened for curbside pickup on June 15<sup>th</sup>. During that week, we heard from several patrons how much they had missed the library and how grateful they were that we were back, even with such limited service. We opened our doors to the public on July 6<sup>th</sup>, again limiting services and access. And again, we heard from patrons how good it is to be back inside the library. We didn't advertise this soft opening, because I wanted to evaluate the new procedures I'd established, making sure we could ensure the safety of our staff and patrons alike. We are taking every precaution possible: requiring PPE, disinfecting everything we can and maintaining appropriate distancing. In our first week, we consistently saw about 25 patrons a day. Most are coming in quickly to borrow items, but a few have stayed to use the computers.

While we were closed, we were able to complete another step in the building renovation project. The remainder of the main lobby was carpeted and the entire adult book collection was moved. This move required staff and volunteers to move about 20,000 books, first taking them off the shelves and then putting them back. We boxed up many of them, but kept about half of them available for curbside pickup. It was a massive undertaking and happened very quickly with the whole project being completed in less than 4 weeks. The new arrangement is much more efficient and looks great, and the stacks are now completely accessible. Patrons have been commenting very favorably on the new look.

While moving the shelves, we discovered a section of the back wall that was rotting and requires repair. I contacted the Village about the problem, which seems to stem from water seeping through the concrete wall. The Village has replaced the downspout on the outside of the building, which should solve the problem permanently. We are responsible for repairs to the wall itself.

The portraits of Judge and Mrs. Earl have been returned to the library, in time to celebrate the library's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Friends of the Library, led by Mary Macrina, had commissioned Oskar's Picture Framing in New Hartford to clean the paintings and restore the frames. Extensive work was done, especially on the frames, including rebuilding them and applying gold leaf. The process took almost a year, but the paintings look wonderful.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Fleischer