A Place for Everyone!

From Paula—Earlier this year, Emily, Mackenna and I applied for and received scholarships from Vermont’s Department of Libraries (DOL) to attend two professional development webinars, How to Build an Antiracist Library Culture and How to Build Diverse Collections, both hosted by Library Journal and attended by library staff from around the country. The first webinar invited us to think holistically about the population we serve, and whether our library policies, collections, and programs welcome everyone and promote equity, diversity and inclusion, or EDI, in our community. The webinar reminded me to hold to a vision of GFL as “A Place for Everyone” and to invite extensive community input as we embark on our upcoming strategic planning process.

The second webinar encouraged us to scrutinize our collections in terms of the voices, experiences, and stereotypes they present to readers, and to consider EDI in our purchasing decisions. We each performed a diversity audit of one section of our collection, taking note of the presence or absence of titles with positive portrayals of historically marginalized populations. We did find gaps, especially in our children’s and adult biography collections, and are excited to fill some of the gaps with a $500 grant from DOL. We are a small library with a limited materials budget, but we aim to provide a collection in which readers can see themselves, as in a mirror, and also see the world around them, as through a window. We welcome your input in this endeavor. Please let us know how we can make the library a place for you.

From Emily—The summer reading theme this year is "Oceans of Possibilities," celebrating water. Our youth and family programming will feature water, including a small boat for play in the backyard, a bubble storyline, a seaside tea party, story walks along the Willey Beach Trail to Caspian, a stream walk, an exploration of water from space, ideas for keeping water clean, a visit from a pirate, Modern Times Theater and more!
Summer Programming

We have many programs planned for our backyard again this summer. We also have bigger plans for the space—we would like to build a permanent pavilion (bandstand) in the space to provide shade and a base for outdoor programs, increase our gardens and update the landscaping, and also modify the side path for full accessibility. We would love your input and support in this endeavor!

June 14: Be Tick Smart: Learn about tick behavior to protect your family from tick-borne diseases. 6:30 pm

June 21: Author Brett Stanciu reads from her book, “Unstitched” exploring the opioid crisis and addiction in our region. 6:30 pm

July 6: Author and son of a RR engineer, Tim Lewis will talk about the history of the Mt. Washington Cog Railway. 4:00 pm. Pre-registration appreciated.

July 12: Follow-up roundtable discussion around Brett Stanciu’s book “Unstitched.” 6:30 pm

July 24: Poetry Workshop with Ben Pease and Bianca Stone from the Ruth Stone House. 12:00 pm. Ages 16-adult. Pre-registration required. A poetry reading will follow at the Highland Center for the Arts at 3:00 pm

July 27: Author Janet Givens will read from her newly revised book, “Leap Frog: How to Hold a Civil Conversation in an Uncivil Era.” 4:00 pm

August 3: Vermont Humanities Council speaker Bill Mares, author of “The Land of Milk and Honey” will present a talk on the history of beekeeping in Vermont. 4:00 pm. This event is sponsored by Barr Hill, and will be followed by a pairing of Jasper Hill cheeses and Barr Hill honey. Pre-registration appreciated.

August 10: Master Gardener Ann McEntee will offer tips for maintaining gardens and joyful gardening as we age. 4:00 pm

August 13: Author Ray Perkins will read from his juvenile fiction book set in colonial Vermont, “The Mystery of the Silver Statue.” 11:00 am. All ages. Pre-registration appreciated.

August 17: Author Carol Berry will present talk on “Vincent Van Gogh and his Love of Nature.” 4:00 pm

August 20: Van Gogh Painting Party. All ages. 1:00-3:00 pm