

Quarterly Staff Report — March 2024

Gustavus Public Library

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General Library Statistics December 2023 – February 2024

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb
Library Visitors	615	458	516
Books Checked Out	454	573	559
Movies Checked Out	198	161	172
Interlibrary Loans Checked Out	21	24	17
Digital Materials Checked Out	1,113	1,151	1,156
Other Materials Checked Out	71	70	47
Events Hosted at/by Library	17	31	29

Public Outreach:

Look for a survey from the Gustavus Public Library later in March. The goal of this survey is to clarify our patrons' wishes and wants. Example questions: What materials, books, DVD's, kits, etc. are not on target and what suggestions do they have? What programs and services are already meeting the Community needs. Would they like to see more of anything specific? What do they need that we are not providing? Do our hours meet their needs and if not, what would work better for them? What other services do they wish and dream for? Does the City Council specifically have any suggestions?

Surveys are a useful way to receive constructive criticism anonymously to enact positive change for our patrons and community. For example, we have been working on having more adult programming after hearing that some felt our programs were overly targeting the youth and that they missed the adult programming that the library hosted

before the pandemic caused so much change. We took that to heart and have since reintroduced hosting adult Author Talks, Maker Meetings, Plein Aire Artists, the *ever expanding* Everybody Welcome Library Band (now including Contra) and the well-attended Travel at the Library Series.

We welcome all suggestions. This survey will help us gain additional insight into what the citizens of Gustavus are thinking and will be very valuable. However, please don't wait until the survey comes out if you don't need to be anonymous. We would love to discuss ideas directly with you and are always looking for library appropriate presentations. Please contact one of the library directors at your convenience.

We Our Volunteers

Volunteers: Our long-time mission reflects our volunteer appreciation and gratitude!

GPL Mission Statement: *The mission of the Gustavus Public Library is to provide community members and visitors of all ages with a welcoming and supportive environment to freely access information, materials, and programming; to support literacy and life-long learning, facilitate connection to place and culture, and meet the recreational, social, intellectual, and cultural needs of the community.*

At the Gustavus Public Library, Volunteers Are Our Foundation.

Over the years, some Gustavus citizens have been vocal about wishing for more volunteerism and less paid time by entities such as the City of Gustavus. Communities are built largely through volunteers. Gustavus would not be what it is today without the incredible investment of time our locals have dedicated to making this the town we love to call home. Volunteers continue to support our community and hold us together.

The Library, unfortunately, has seen a trend of volunteer fatigue in the winter, partly because the number of weekly volunteers shrinks when winter travel begins, but also because it is difficult to schedule around holiday happenings. *(And we are all low on Vitamin D!)*

Our library volunteers work a combined total of 27 hours a week, which translates to about 1,400 hours a year. These are often the same volunteers that you see at the Community Chest and the Gustavus Community Center. And volunteer hours play a part in the amount of grant money GPL receives every year to purchase all-inclusive materials and keep the library and community thriving. The core of our volunteer team is 12 people, along with a handful that are available for covering who don't want to commit to a weekly schedule at the library (and we value them all equally!)

We have tried reaching out to past volunteers by direct calling, emailing, and are about to send out an appeal to the entire patron list to fill a few time slots we haven't been able to fill. When substitutes are unable to help, we, the directors, must cover the desk. This is, of course, our responsibility but it also pulls us away from other important tasks.

All of this is to say we would like to reach out to you, our City Council, and to the citizens of Gustavus for help in our recruiting new volunteers. There are lots of benefits to being a library volunteer—come talk to us and we can discuss how we can help one another!

Status of Active or Upcoming Grants

The 2022 Alaska Community Foundations Grant of \$10,000 continues to help us host incredibly popular and valuable programs. Books for Babes and 1000 Books Before K programs are integral to our community, especially with how many newborns we will have in Gustavus in the next year! This grant will help parents with a free resource to be sure their children are on track for early literacy, which gives families the tools they need to prepare their children for later reading success. We will continue to use this money throughout FY24 for programming.



The PLA (Public Library Assistance) Grant application is due April 1st and is currently under way. We were awarded \$7000 for FY24, which is used for a lot of our materials (books, DVDs, etc.) We plan to start using the funds from this grant to expand our collection in new and exciting ways.

For example, we are soon to subscribe to Kanopy, an on-demand streaming video platform for public and academic libraries that offers over 30,000 popular videos, TV series, independent films, documentaries and more. Featuring titles from Warner Bros., MGM, BBC, Paramount Pictures, Lionsgate, The History Channel, A&E, The Criterion Collection, Kino Lorber, The Great Courses, among others, this vast and diverse collection has something for everyone. All you need is a library card to create an account and enjoy Kanopy. The service is free for users, and the contract includes Public

Performance Rights which allows us to show them at the library. The company also boasts Kanopy Kids, which promotes empathy, critical thinking, and helps build STEM skills. Enjoy Kanopy's carefully curated titles from Weston Woods, Sesame Street, Jim Henson Productions, Highlights for Children, Signed Stories, and more. You may set Parental Controls, so your children only see videos in the Kanopy Kids section on Kanopy. We plan to have a Kickoff in April to introduce Gustavus to this new program with a tutorial.

The Interlibrary Cooperation (ILC) Grant is open for proposals for projects with significant statewide impact on the sharing of resources; cooperative services with another library; innovative programs for the delivery of library services; or training or other programs that strengthen library services. We have applied for this grant in the past but were turned down. Just last week we attended an informal presentation to talk about changes with the Head of Library Development Public Library Coordinator of the Alaska State Library on March 7th. They have extended the application deadline to April 22nd. We hope to come up with some projects and apply again with better results.

Past, Current, and Upcoming Programming for Winter 2024:



- Travel at the Library:
 - Japan** hosted by Wayne and Kim
 - Norway** hosted by Megan and Daniel
 - Ireland** hosted by Kate and Annie



- Gustavus School: I Love to Read Celebration
- Plein Aire Painters, Wednesdays 10:00 -12:00
- Grab & Go Kits
- Pizza, Puzzles & Games, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 3:30-6:00 pm
- Library Volunteer Appreciation event twice a year!
- Maker Meetings begun at the request of the organizers of the GCC's Fiberpalooza, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm
- Art Club, Grades K-2nd and 3rd-5th and the Art Club Shows
- NPS Meetings and Trainings utilizing the Meeting Room which gains library revenue.
- LEGOs with Annie, Fridays, 2:30-4:00 November through February
- TACO (Teen Advisory Council organization) Meetings –beginning again in partnership with the new G.C.C. Operations Manager
- Gustavus Virtual Adult Book Club (new books chosen monthly) **OPEN TO EVERYONE!**
- Everybody Welcome Devilsclub Contra Band, Thursdays at 5:30 and Banjo Classes 5:00

- Story Walk with new books often
- Gustavus Preschool and Elementary Class Weekly Visits: Ms. Quynn's preschool and Ms. Jessie's 3rd-5th grades
- Homeschool Library Learning Time, Wednesdays at 12:30 pm
- Books for Babes - Friday's at 10:00 am and 1000 Books Before K
- Test Proctoring (including driver's license, college classes, EMT, AK STAR)
- Curbside Services 5 days/week
- Custom-made book boxes – please let us know if there are any requests.
- Library Friends and Volunteers Meetings every 2 or 3 months
- Seed Library is well used.
- Gustavus School: We continue to reach out to the school and offer support and programming.

Programs and Services in the Spotlight

Pizza, Puzzles, & Games for **all ages** started off with a big bang in November and continues to be well attended! “Come to the library to play games with others and do puzzling together while also eating Papa Murphy’s Pizza! We even have a puzzle in progress in the YA area. We also have lots of brand-new puzzles and games being added to the collection that you can check out for 3 weeks at a time. Two more events are scheduled in March, and we plan to continue this program through the school year.



The Brian Waverly fund, named for a longtime summer resident, friend of the library, and artist which brought about our killer whale skeleton project is being used finally, and we want to thank Gustavus Construction for lending the scaffolding to us to get this project started. Since the whale skeleton was installed in the library, we found that many people (even those living in the community for a long time) didn't realize we had the skeleton because she is lost in front of the white wall, so it was decided to create a mural with an ocean scene that included a killer whale to complement the skeleton. Local artist Jess Mulligan has 98% completed the mural and a celebration of it was hosted. Thank you to all that attended and to Sean Neilson for the incredible photos of the event!

Past, Current, or Upcoming Trainings

Both directors attended an OWL Zoom training on February 14th on how to better utilize Zoom. We hope to be able to record future happenings when appropriate for our archive.

Melisa attended a webinar on the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program and Libraries hosted by The SHLB Coalition, ALA, and COSLA on February 21st and verified that Gustavus is “on the map” for 1 GB upload/download broadband that will be subsidized by the US government. Our status is “unserved, but with broadband projects funded”, and we are excited for the library to be able to welcome better service for our patrons.

Melisa has signed up for a few upcoming ALA eLearning opportunities such as Practicing Adaptive Leadership: Library Management for Staff and Personal Wellness.

LeAnn is attending the Alaska Library Association Grant update training on March 6th.

Both directors attended an informal presentation to talk about changes with the Head of Library Development Public Library Coordinator of the Alaska State Library for the ILC Grant on March 7th.

Thank you to our City Council!

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of Gustavus.