

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**New online calendar and room booking system:** We received notification in September that our meeting room booking system/event calendar software would not be supported beyond the end of 2023. We have selected, set up and launched a new room booking system/event calendar program which we released to the public on Jan 8.

**Closed Mondays in January:** The library has been closed on Mondays in January because two Mondays were holidays and we are very short-staffed for the remainder of the month. Regular hours will resume February 5.

**Annual Inventory Closure:** We'll be closed for inventory Monday March 4 – Thursday March 7.

**Library Plants:** Thank you to Beverly Richardson, the library's long time plant volunteer. For over a decade she has devoted countless hours to creating an extraordinary plant filled space at the library. She has now stepped away from her role and Julianne Thompson is taking over basic care of the plants.

**Maintenance:** The library slate floors were cleaned and recoated in January.

**Libraries in Community Systems (LICS) Research Project:** Our library is part of a group of 17 rural libraries researching the impact of libraries in their community systems (more information at: <https://lics.nnyln.org/>). LICS is funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services as part of the National Leadership Grants to Libraries program.

Over the next few months, I will be talking to 20-30 people in the community to gather data for the project. I'd like to start by talking to Board members. These are the questions that will guide the conversation:

*Tell me about your time living in our community. What do you really enjoy here?*

*Roughly, how many people do you know in town? Is it more like 5%, 50%, or almost everyone? How close are you to these people?*

*How do you use your skills and talents to uplift the community?*

*Do you feel you're able to contribute to community-wide decisions? Why do you think so?*

*How would you describe your ideal community? What ideas do you have for how the library could help our community be more like that?*

## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Programming slowed down slightly in December but for the most part was still going strong.

**Auntie's House with Debra O'Gara** was a highlight in December. We had 12 volunteers register and donate their time hand sewing and beading 15 Tlingit Christmas stockings, one for each patient in Long Term Care. Debra and others also donated treats to fill the stockings. Jeanett Ness delivered the stockings to LTC.

Another highlight was the **Jingle Mingle at Sandy Beach**. This event was a holiday celebration led by Parks & Rec that involved many other Borough departments and volunteers. Power and Light lit up Sandy Beach and the harbor department delivered Santa via skiff. Santa was in Shelter #1 where kids could sit on his lap and tell him what they would like. There were cookies and hot cider, and kids could make smores with police officers. There were bonfires on the beach tended by the Volunteer Fire Department. There were holiday games for kids and the library had sensory tables (one sand table and one rice table) in front of the fire where Sarah Hanson Hofstetter sang Christmas carols. The weather was great, the event was a success, and they hope to do it again next year. My favorite comment of the evening was a surprised parent who said, "Who knew that a pile of sand would be the most popular activity at a Santa event?!" (Sensory play helps young children calm themselves and self-regulate in over-stimulating environments. I use it at all my story times to help reluctant kids socialize, and active kids contain themselves.) It was a wonderful experience as many of the children who attend the library's story times, past and present, enjoyed the sensory tables and a visit with library staff at the festive event.

We have some newer programs that started this fall that are developing a strong following, **Yogi's Playground with Ms. Barb**, **Gaming Tournaments with Gus Petersen and Keston Lyons**, and **Ashley Lohr's enameling classes**. Some older favorites like **Curiosity Creates**, **Yoga with Karen Malcom** and **Robotics for Kids** are also being offered.

In January the library hosted **Creating a Community-Based Landslide Warning System**, a Petersburg Science Series talk & workshop by Lisa Busch of the Sitka Sound Science Center about the steps Sitka took to set up an advance warning system for landslides and outlining the basic science of landslides. About 50 people attended. Petersburg Science Series is a collaboration between the Petersburg Marine Mammal Center, Sea Grant Alaska Marine Advisory Program, and the Petersburg Public Library.

We are looking forward to the **Build a Better World Winter Reading Challenge** in February, and plan to do outreach to all the schools to strengthen participation. The program is sponsored by the Friends.

