

Director's Report January 2023

A couple of comments we received lately. "We had a fantastic time with gingerbread houses. Thank you!" and "Thank you Hampstead Public Library for sponsoring so many amazing and varied activities!"

First Hampstead Library baby was born on January 4th and her name is Sidney Watt. Julie Watt officially started her maternity leave on the 5th because she did attend our staff meeting that morning. She'll be out until mid-April.

Building Updates – We had another leak in the sprinkler system. They will come back and repair this one and the last one at the same time. Right now, they are just patched. The service person said this is probably going to keep happening since the system is so old. This always happens with dry systems. We told the roofing company to go ahead and fix the roof since we had another leak recently. That repair will take care of building maintenance fund from 2022. I was mopping up water on the floor in the basement right outside the thrift shop. It was really deep so I called Bob and he came over and vacuumed it up. Bob is trying to figure out a solution. There are other leaks in the basement but they are in areas that don't really matter.

Julie Watt and Emily Wentworth created the strategic plan brochure so we have something to hand out to people. We did not want people to get bored reading the whole thing so we took out the highlights and put in lots of graphics. We can have it at the desk and I think we will bring some to the deliberative session and leave them on the table so people can take one if they want.

Kristina came and looked up the artists from the prints Wendell gave us and they haven't been selling well at auctions so we probably won't go that route. In March we're going to put some up in the meeting room and see if we can sell any that way.

Kate Thomas implemented the new system for museum passes, calendar of events and the Library of Things. We set up the Library of Things because people want to reserve these items but we had no way to do this with the ILS.

In looking at what we all do in preparation for implementing the Strategic Plan, I discovered how much the staff does for the Friends of the Library. We create and cut all the raffle tickets, sell all the raffle tickets for their baskets, coordinate the raffle money and set up Square to accommodate these purchases and then allocate their money out. Julie Watt does the most with them since she is the liaison going to their meetings, creating their brochure and creating posters and slides for each of their programs as well as make a poster for each basket. We create social media posts and schedule them when appropriate. Those are the main tasks that take the most time but then there are little things like unlocking the elevator, opening the basement and letting everyone in the back door.

Rosemary Krol, Library Director