

KELLEY LIBRARY

Director's Report, 2024

*The Kelley Library staff and leadership continued to make the library space welcoming and ready to serve the changing library needs of the community of Salem. Maintaining the long history of quality books, films and music and services, the library is also ensuring that library services and material are easily available online. As always, we invite you to visit online, by phone or in person to discover what's happening at **your** local library.*

- Kelley Library and other GMILCS libraries welcomed Londonderry's Leach Library. This is the 13th library to join GMILCS, Inc. This is the largest consortium in New Hampshire. Member libraries include Amherst Town Library, Bedford Public Library, Derry Public Library, Goffstown Public Library, Hooksett Public Library, Manchester City Library, Merrimack Public Library, Nesmith Library (Windham), Rodgers Memorial Library (Hudson), Wadleigh Memorial Library (Milford), H. Raymond Danforth Library (New England College), Kelley Library and our newest member Leach Library (Londonderry). Kelley Library cards are accepted at all of these libraries.
- Thanks to a generous bequest from the June R. Belanger Supplemental Trust, the library is updating and replacing furnishings, equipment, and more. This year, an office pod called a "TalkBox" was added. It looks like an oversized phone booth. It is private and quiet, perfect for those with Zoom meetings, telehealth appointments, proctoring exams, etc.
- Again, thanks to the June R. Belanger Supplemental Trust bequest, a sensory wall was added to the children's room. It offers 2 giant Lite Brites and a MagWiz magnetic wall with gears. These are great for STEM learning and imaginative play. With the Salem Area Women's Club donation, educational toys were purchased for Playgroup and Story Explorers. Items were also purchased for various children's cool collections.
- The children's room now offers Tonies for preschool through elementary age children. Tonies are the new audiobooks. When a Tonie character is placed on a Tonie Box it will start reciting a story. For younger children, multiple stories and songs are available on one character. For elementary children, entire books are on one character. We offer over 100 characters including Sesame Street, Disney, Nat Geo for kids, and characters from Roald Dahl books; James the Giant Peach, The BFG, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, etc. Halloween and Christmas Tonies are offered seasonally.
- Programming is an important part of library service. The Youth Services Department now offers Story Explorers (modeled after Reading Rainbow), Baby & Me, monthly art programs, and Dungeons & Dragons for tweens/teens. Drop in activities are available whenever you and your family drops in. These include interactive bulletin boards, outdoor story walks, coloring/activity sheets, and the super popular scavenger hunts. We hosted several art exhibits throughout the year from local artists. Adult programming include the Knitters Club, Bone Builders, guest speakers and performers. Three book groups are offered at the library and books are supplied for Salem Resident book groups as well. If you are interested in starting a book group, the library can help. We are planning ahead to winter 2025 programs which will include jigsaw puzzle tournaments and Dungeons & Dragons for adults.

Did you know? The adult cool collection offers almost 200 jigsaw puzzles, a sewing machine, giant lawn games, Nintendo classic mini system, DVD player, VCR player and many more items.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Ducharme