

Another month gone by, and it feels like it's gone at warp-speed! Here's what I have to report:

**Craft Kits:**

Adult craft kits are here at CPL! Tell your friends! We've got 72 kits ready to go, with 27 having been given out during our "soft opening". What we did there was to put out a test batch of crafts, to see if there would be interest here at Catskill for this type of library service. Bathsheba and I discussed it and while we knew that Palenville has a dedicated following of crafters, we weren't sure if that would translate into patrons of the main building. Turns out we needn't have worried, we had to pull them from the floor to prevent them all from going out. We've also incorporated our new Sign Up Genius and Website modules for faster, more efficient sign-ups.

**Book Club:**

This month's book club is scheduled to happen on Thursday, December 16, 2021. Our next book for discussion is *The Last Wish*, by Andrzej Sapkowski. It's the first book in the *Witcher Saga*, which is a popular creative franchise spanning 3 different formats (literary series, television series, and video game series). This book follows the exploits of Geralt of Rivia, a Witcher (monster hunter), and is written as a series of short stories following the character through a variety of adventures and mysteries. I've played the video games and watched the TV show on Netflix, but I've never read any of the novels. I find myself enjoying this book less than I did the previous selection (*Homeland*, by R.A. Salvatore), but I'm soldiering on and have some talking points planned regardless. I am anticipating another lively discussion on this book 😊.

**Santa:**

Santa came to Palenville, and I was asked to help with the program. With the role of Santa Claus filled by our very own Bathsheba, the kids were super thrilled with the event. As a very tall and Jewish elf, I mostly did intake by the door and made sure that people were registered. Plus, it helped to make sure that there weren't any hold-ups or traffic jams. I also assisted patrons with filling out the forms for the photographer (to retrieve their photos), as well as helping kids write their letters to Santa and putting them in our "special mailbox which goes directly to Santa." I think that the program went well, we didn't have any freak-outs or meltdowns, and between Ashley, Crystal, Myself and Bathsheba we seemed to manage the event without any significant issues. Glad he comes only once a year though...

**Turning Outward:**

While I had some health concerns on the week of this webinar, I attended it remotely and felt it deserved mention. Ben, Emily, and myself all attended the *Turning Outward Cohort Program* introductory webinar, and in it we saw that many libraries are struggling with the same issues and concerns we have at CPL regarding outreach and community engagement. One of the main things which stood out to me in the program was the fact that getting out into the community and having substantive conversations, or hearing substantive conversations from others, could help shape the library's programming and service initiatives. I look forward to exploring this more, as well as CPL's participation in the *Turning Outward Cohort Program*.

**Website/Event Booking:**

And finally, we're live with a new website and event booking software. I'll let Emily and Bathsheba expand on these if they wish, but we're moving along with planning for programming and events and these new system additions to that process should allow all of us to work more quickly and efficiently. This, as well as the benefits to our patronage, should prove to be quite useful in the future.