

MARTHA CANFIELD LIBRARY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Martha Canfield Library is here to help you read, learn and expand your horizons in a variety of ways. Even with a pandemic, we have worked to find ways that you can still access the majority of our services with curbside pickup for books, movies, games and puzzles, interlibrary loan, and printing services. We have 24/7 online access to audio and ebooks, along with other databases for research and classes through the links on our website at marthacanfieldlibrary.org. All you need is your library card barcode. Our library assistant, Holly, has held virtual story times on Facebook, and we have offered virtual programs for adults as well as children. And, thanks to a grant from the Berkshire Bank, we were able to provide activity kits and free books for over 125 children during our summer reading program, Tails & Tales.

Despite fewer in-person research visits, 2021 was an active year for the Russell Collection. Researchers from as far away as Finland and Oregon contacted us for research on family history and genealogy building histories, local and Vermont history, yearbook and cemetery research, and church history.

There were several important donations. These included two ledgers from a local general store from the 1850 period and one ledger from Kelley Stand Hotel from the 1860s (thanks to Kevin Walsh and Tim Thomas). We also received a valuable collection of personal letters between Dorothy Canfield Fisher and Drs. Julita and Carlos Layug following World War II with the help of Don Keelan and Brian Allen. Randy and Claire Clayton donated the Harrington Newspaper Collection containing newspapers from about 1855 through the 1880s. Other items include the early sign from the State Seal Pine site, genealogy of the Prince family, World War II Civil Defense Records and pennant donated by St. James Episcopal Church, photographs, and Vermont history books.

In conjunction with the Arlington Common and Don Trachte, Jr. we installed the popular Rockwell and Arlington exhibit at the Watkins House. We also gave a short outdoor presentation on Lucy Prince. As always, donations of photographs, family history, memorabilia, and local ephemera are always welcome.

We greatly appreciate your support through the years as we strive to provide services essential to a well-informed community. Let us know how we can help: check our website, follow us on Facebook, email with requests and questions—call us.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis Skidmore, Director, Laura Crosslin, President, Board of Trustees

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