



## **Coldwater**

Like all the BDL branches, here at Coldwater, we're gearing up to start doing curbside pickup next week. The staff has worked to get the collection organized to make pulling holds as efficient as possible. We've also converted the meeting room to a "quarantine zone" that allows us to hold all materials, included MeL items, for 72 hours to ensure the safety of our staff and patrons. In addition, we are preparing for the eventual reopening of the library to the public with additional signage and floor markings to act as social distancing guides.

Coldwater staff have also been hard at work prepping for new virtual programming. Linda Dull, along with Angie Richards and Cheryl Graham, have a lot of great programs in store for kids, families, and patrons of all ages, including a new Traveling Tales, a performance by Mr. Jim, and, of course, a variety of story times. Ben Lyon and Cheryl Lawrence both have art programs in the pipeline. In addition, some of our creative coworkers have come up with nontraditional displays that I'm very much looking forward to seeing.

Despite the uncertainty of the near future, thanks to our staff's creativity, reliability, and flexibility, we believe we're ready to move on to the next step of BDL's reopening plan.

## **Quincy**

*May 18, 2020:*

- In the last month I provided six more story time videos and 4 craft/of interest videos to the Marketing department for their use.
- I participated in 7 hours of webinars that were of interest and provided good information:
  - 4 hours of Weeding protocol/policy – both days required homework including essays
  - Harper Collins Fall Preview Children's Books – these Booklist webinars always provide more in depth insight about subject matter, not just book topics, to aid in purchasing choices.
  - MCLS Supporting K-12 Education with Mel – a lot of great information was gleaned from this webinar.
  - Library of Michigan, Shannon White facilitated an Adult Programming Virtual Discussion with several staff members from Willard Public Library – this discussion panel meets weekly covering different topics. A lot of their good information and marketing is being done by our own marketing department.
- With today's issues of supply and demand, I was able to secure the last piece of plexiglass available from the Quincy Hardware. With John's ingenuity, it covered the large door opening between the office and the children's area. I am very appreciative of the protective measures being taken for the staff and to John for installing the shields.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

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*June 12, 2020:*

- In the last month I provided five more story time videos and two craft videos to the Marketing department for online content.
- Over the past month I gleaned good information during the Monday morning Michlib-I Adult Programming discussions and the Wednesday morning MiYouth discussions.
- Several other webinars were informative or provided collection development information:
  - “Women in Focus: the 19th in 2020”; this August 26 will mark the hundredth anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. This webinar by Booklist covered an assortment of books perfect for Young Adult crossover readers.
  - Graphic Novels by Novelist
  - Picture Book Parade by Booklist
  - The Evergreen International Conference was online June 9-11 with interesting session options.
- Last week was a good catchup week for cleaning, some book weeding and organizing the library. The following issues happened at once, of course:
  - Otis Elevator serviced our elevator following a power outage
  - Solutions of Southwest Michigan serviced our copier following a toner “explosion”
  - The accessible access door currently needs service
- A new flag has been put up on the outside pole and we feel ready for opening June 15!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood

## **Union Twp.**

*April 2020:*

Once again, Union Township Branch was informed that we would be receiving a grant for programming, this time from LSTA and the Library of Michigan. I am planning to start a “Music for Munchkins” program on alternate Thursdays opposite story time. I will be spending \$867 on musical equipment, recordings, playthings, games, and books to be appreciated for the upcoming

program. While the start date will not be for several months, there will be virtual programming using the various items purchased in order to fulfill the grant's requirements. Again, honored and excited for this opportunity!

Speaking of virtual programming, I contributed the reading of local author Patricia Polacco's *Rechenka's Eggs* to BDL's Facebook page on April 28.

I have become fairly familiar with Zoom as it is the meeting option of choice during this time of social distancing. Regular meetings with the other Branch Managers and Administration has become the norm on Mondays.

With this being the first year of having the seed library, I am interested in gaining any information concerning the project. I joined the One Seed, One State program and received emails concerning the statewide seed exchange. It was there where I learned of the nationwide seed library newsletter and website. They were conducting weekly meetings and networked with other seed saving organizations. Through the weekly meetings, I have heard from seed librarians from around the nation and the world about the struggles during the COVID-19 crisis. One meeting had participants from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, and Nova Scotia, so very interesting.

MSU has been having a program called Cabin Fever Conversations every Friday and the content has related to seed saving and gardening so have applied the knowledge to the Seed Library resources.

Another weekly Zoom meeting has been with Cathy Lancaster, Children's Services from Library of Michigan on Wednesdays at 10 am. The discussion has been about the various MEL.org services, virtual programming, and the Summer Reading Program.

In order to get to know some of the residents of Union City, I have joined a Ladies' Lunch Zoom meeting that meets on a weekly basis. We have discussed schooling at home, what the library can offer during the summer, and becoming familiar with the area.

Royal Oak Public Library offered a few virtual presentations in their schedule that is open to anyone. I attended the Bees in the Garden one and plan to attend the others in order to gain information and support Royal Oak in their efforts.

With the prospect of the music program at Union Township, I have attended a number of webinars concerning ideas to incorporate in the program. Singing Our Way and Moving and Grooving were two I attended. Ideas for the Creating STEAM program were encouraged in a Motion webinar through Library of Michigan. Another option during these times is the phone call-in programs with story times and the reading of poetry ideas and the webinar was offered through Colorado Public Libraries. I also attended a webinar on the Wandoo program to familiarize myself with BDL's SRP logging.

Thank you for supporting libraries during this difficult time! Be Safe, Be Strong!!

Respectfully, Julia Baratta, Union Twp Branch Manager

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May 2020:

The month of May has been quiet as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause havoc with Stay Home, Stay Safe orders effective until May 28. Working from home has consisted of virtual meetings, exploring of library collections, and planning for the future.

I have continued to attend the MiYouth meetings through the Library of Michigan where the topics ranged from virtual programming to encouraging play to activity kits to go. These meetings have also provided an option to network with other librarians and support one another during this time.

I have also collected additional resources for the Seed Library collection by attending a Southern Seed School where Michigan native and seed saver Ben Cohen presented. Weekly meetings with the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance introduced me, and others, to Seed Elders, those who have saved seeds for many years and share the stories of those seeds. Royal Oak Public Library had more presentations including one on Spring Beauties (native plants of Michigan) and seed saving. MSU's Cabin Fever Conversations are another regular feature with talks on gardening with children. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation offered a number of live stream events at Monticello with gardening and books being the focus of some. Slow Food USA was another group who offered excellent gardening, seed saving, and food videos.

Books were in the spotlight for the Feeding Minds Press Picture Book 101 webinar as well as the Lit All Day presentation by Jenifer Strauss. Incorporating puppets and crafts into story time was also offered by Jenifer in the DIY Puppets and Props webinar. I attended the excellent presentation by Irene Butters and appreciated her story.

STEM in the Kitchen was another offering from the Library of Michigan that I viewed and was encouraged by the information and resources shared.

The LSTA grant that the Union Township Branch received required me to watch a video about the grant, the process and what was needed from me to fulfill their requirements.

When not watching videos, I have looked into the various book collections and tried out the STEM kits.

As of May 1, I was allowed to order the items for the LSTA grant so made an order to Amazon and spent \$866.44 out of the \$867 we were given. The order included numerous musical instruments, a multi-media player, a keyboard, and several items for musical games. There were also twenty books and seventeen music CDs purchased that will be added to the collection at Union.

Thank you for your support as we look to the future!

Julia Baratta

Branch Manager, Union Township Branch