Despite the Pandemic,
Our Library Continues to Serve the Community

By Sarah Cox

It has been over five months since Idaho began to cope with the coronavirus pandemic, and much has changed at the Garden City Public Library. After the initial shut-down, the library was able to open again under the guidelines from the governor. And so, here we are.

Our wonderful library staff has adapted and continues to find creative solutions to the daily challenges. While the library is open, patrons are asked to wear masks and maintain social distancing, and the stacks are closed to ‘browsing.’

One patron complained “If we can’t go into the stacks, what’s the point of being open?” The response from the staff was immediate and unanimous...“The Library is a lot more than the books!” This pandemic has dramatically shown how important the Library is in the life of the community. The Library is a place to escape the heat, a place for children of violent families to feel safe and have an hour of peace, and a place for isolated folks to simply see other people and not feel so alone. Less obvious, the computer services offered by the library offer a vital link for those without internet at home. Those of us with home internet may take it for granted, but telemedicine visits, resolving legal issues, and even enrolling children in school requires internet access.

MEET THE BOARD

Welcoming the Foundation’s new officers for 2020-21: Suzy Cavanagh, President; Amy Kohlmeier, Vice-President; Dan Robinson, Secretary; and Michelle Morris, Treasurer.

Portfolios holders include: Jason Leforgee, corporate sponsorships; Becca Bailey, annual BASH fundraiser and webmaster; Steve Brown, membership manager; Debbie Jo Pelton, Idaho Gives and new projects; and Larry Harrison, Treasure Valley Book Club Lunch and Share.

We have a board vacancy! If you would like to apply to serve on our Board, please request an application at gcpl.foundation@gmail.com.

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"DESPITE THE PANDEMIC" CONTINUED

Annie Adamson who staffs the Help Desk has been with our Library for over 6 years. Annie says "This has been an enlightening experience. We've had to learn to be more patient and face the fact that this disease is not in our control. We want every patron to leave with something, whether it is every book I can find on monkeys, or just a feeling of being heard. At the same time, we need to do all that we can to protect the health of our patrons and our fellow workers." Jolene Corder, another of the lead librarians, has been with the Library for over 5 years. Jolene says "It has been harder, but it feels good to be of help. These challenges have really solidified our library team. We work very closely to solve problems, and it has felt pretty nice." Has anything been a pleasant surprise? Yes! On-line programs have taken off like wildfire. The on-line Birding class was overflowing and the Container Gardening class – which ordinarily has about 20 attendees in person, had over 80 attendees on-line. The staff is determined to continue these enhanced on-line services even when they are no longer required by the current conditions.

All of this is a vivid reminder of how fortunate we are to have the Garden City Public Library and the truly amazing and dedicated staff who work for all of us. And many, many thanks to all of the Foundation supporters who help make all of these programs possible. Together, we are making our community a wonderful place to live and learn.

BOOTLEGGERS' BASH FOR BOOKS

Even a global pandemic can’t keep away the supporters of the Garden City Public Library! Although this year’s Bootleggers’ Bash for Books had to be rescheduled, reformatted and restricted only to the earliest ticket purchasers, the event came off flawlessly in the courtyard of the Garden City Hall on July 10. Staggered arrival times enabled flappers and fellas to safely peruse tables of artwork, jewelry, book collections and themed baskets for sale and to examine the list of exceptional library programs needing sponsors. Along with sequined dresses, feather boas, tuxedos, bowler hats and spats, guests sported matching face masks when posing for commemorative photos.

Adding to the fun were a classic car, a Date Night Game and a secret password worth a bottle of wine. Revelers left with delicious box dinners from Whatever Works Caterers so they could enjoy their meals near the Boise River or in the comfort of their homes. From all appearances, everyone who came had a roarin’ good time! Thank you to all of you who joined us at the event, bought items and sponsored programs. We are also very grateful to our Bash Sponsors: Idaho Central Credit Union, Republic Services, Intermountain 3D, Idaho Power, First Interstate Bank, U.S. Bank, Curtis Clean Sweep, D.L. Evans Bank, JST Manufacturing, and Mountain America.

Thanks to all of you, we raised $23,000 to support the Garden City Public Library.
“Your Journey is Your Story” will be the topic of our guest speaker, best-selling author Elaine Ambrose. Using humor, anecdotes and music, she will inspire us to focus on the key moments of our lives as we write our own stories. Ambrose believes that we are all storytellers, and by capturing festive, mysterious, tragic, inspirational, hilarious, and historical details, we can write compelling accounts of the unique journeys of our lives.

After registering online, you will receive the Zoom link via email. Questions? New to Zoom? Training will be available, just ask!
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