

Library Programming

Lanpher Memorial Library, Hyde Park, VT

The Lanpher Library is led by the idea that as our community grows and changes, we will do what we can to also grow and change to meet the needs of our community. We are continually assessing our programming, reaching out to local organizations as community partners, and listening to our community members to learn more about what is important to them.

1) Children's Programs

The Lanpher Library holds 2 year-round, weekly story time programs.

Night Owl Story Time on Monday evenings at 6:00 started 16 years ago as a 6 week program where children were invited to come to the Library in their pajamas and participate in a "bed-time story time". When the 6 weeks were over, the father of one of the kids said: "Really? This is the last one?" Since he worked during the day, he liked that he was able to join in story time with his kids in the evening. We've met almost every Monday night since.

Wednesday mornings at 10:00 is Story Time for 0-6-year-old. We have participated in Vermont Early Literacy Initiative (VELI) and VELI Stem and have incorporated these practices into our story time programs, so that we are intentional about planning our programs to help children gain the skills they need before they learn to read, and also to inform the adults so that they too can use early literacy skills in their daily lives with children.

Each winter we hold an 11 week "Red Clover Program". Each week for 10 weeks we explore a different book on the Red Clover list and on the 11th week, children vote for their favorite. We submit their votes to VTLib and hold a short "reveal" program after the state winner is announced.

Summer Reading Programs.

Using the annual Collaborative Summer Library Program theme, we hold a series of special programs for school age children throughout the summer to engage them in reading, goal setting and winning prizes when they set their goals.

Monthly Junior Naturalist Programs

Sponsored by a variety of local businesses, the Outreach Educator at the Lamoille County Conservation District comes to the Lanpher Library once/month to excite children on a different topic specific to the outdoors in Vermont. Snakes, Trees, Bees, Winter Adaptations, Tracks and Traces...

Annual Author Visits

A local family observed children coming and going from the Lanpher Library and wanted to donate money to support children using the Library. The donation is used to host an author visit each year.

Annual Mystery Ingredient Challenge

In February, March and April of 2021, we hosted a Mystery Ingredient Challenge" for students in grades 4-8, based on the Food Network TV show, "Chopped". This program was during a time when, due to Covid, we weren't holding in-person programming. It was so popular that we've made it an annual event to take place each year in February. The Lamoille Retired Educators group loved this idea and has sponsored the 2022 program.

Students who were interested signed up in advance. They picked up their bags of 4 "Mystery Ingredients" (for example, in February it was goldfish crackers, carrots, a Granny Smith apple and a beef stick). Students had a week to create an original recipe using the 4 ingredients plus any others from their own pantries or refrigerators. Their recipes could be "inspired by" an existing recipe, but students were asked to create their own version. We aided any family who wanted it (no questions asked) to purchase additional items to make their recipes.

In their mystery ingredient bags, each participant got a "recipe card" for them to write down their recipe and also a "score card" for fun.

Students had a week to:

- Send/email a photo of their original recipe
- Send/email the recipe they created and used
- For fun, if they wanted to, send in the score card so we could know how it tasted!

We are currently working with the Green Mt. Technology & Career Center's Culinary teacher to adapt this program for use with culinary students.

2) Adult Programs/Community Programs

Monthly book discussion. Free and open to all. Copies of the book are available in advance and obtained by the library through Interlibrary loan. Regular participants take turns working with the librarian to choose a title and facilitate the discussion.

Programming specific to Seniors:

- We host monthly programs at a local senior community center with topics of interest to the folks who attend. We've had everything from a visit from VINS with live raptors, Living Wills, Falls Prevention, Music & Memory, Fire Safety, Bird Identification, and more.

We host 12 weeks/year sessions of Seated Yoga.

We partner with Lamoille Neighbors, an organization that has built a network of volunteers to help folks age in their homes for as long as possible. We've co-sponsored author visits with Madeline Kunin and Bill McKibben; facilitated book discussions using the VT Reads titles; and co-sponsored virtual programs of interest during Covid.

The services/programming for seniors is funded by an annual gift to the Lanpher Memorial Library from the Copley Trust in Morrisville, VT.

- Programs that evolve naturally...
A local Civil War history researcher published two books of letters to home written by Lamoille Co. soldiers during the Civil War. She did a majority of her research in the Library and we hosted book launch parties with Civil War reenactors reading the letters and even a 90-year-old great grandson of one of the soldiers reading the letter written by his great grandfather.

The Hyde Park version of “Chronicling America” series was compiled and published. The Library held a release party for the book and a program called “Stories of Yesteryear” where folks who grew up in Hyde Park told stories and remembrances to all in attendance. This evolved into regular periodic “Stories of Yesteryear” programs and these evolved into a history walk along the Main Street of Hyde Park Village. We hosted “History Walk Tours” with a local resident who told stories of Hyde Park’s past to those who walked along.

Often, a program is developed out of a conversation with a Library patron. Examples:

- A Hyde Park resident is co-founder of the Vermont Holocaust Memorial. The Library invited her to lead a program. This program developed into a regular partnership for programming, education and support.

- The Friends of the Green River Reservoir group has members who are regular library users. They provided a series of programs with photographers of the wildlife around GRR, a game warden telling stories about his work around GRR, history of GRR.

- A retired Biological Science professor at Johnson State College (NVU Johnson), lived in Hyde Park and led interactive programs on healthy soil and growing food.

Some programs are developed out of conversations about needs from community members. Examples:

- A group of women were talking about how they felt unsafe walking alone on a local trail. We hosted a women’s safety talk with the Sherriff and a local victim’s advocate. They listened to the concerns of women in attendance. Offered ideas, tips, and info. on laws. Out of this talk, the Sheriff had 2 police officers, myself and one of the women in attendance trained to teach women’s self-defense classes through RAD.

- When the term “Fake News” first became a more prominent issue recent years, we hosted a talk with Professor of Journalism at Johnson State College (NVU Johnson) to inform folks how to find accurate information.

-We were hearing a pattern from community members wanting to have big community meals. We worked with a local chef and a local church to host "Stone Soup Suppers". Community members donate a soup ingredient and drop it off at the Library. The local chef looked at the donations and from them, and with assistance from volunteers, created 3 large pots of soup. The church provided the space, and we hosted annual Stone Soup Suppers for the general community. Often we'll have music, a group game, or other activity to bring folks together.

In similar fashion, we had a historical recipe pot-luck. Folks could take a look at a 100+ year old cook book from Hyde Park Ladies and create a recipe inspired by one in the book. We served them at a pot luck supper at the church.

- We partner heavily with other community organizations. Years ago, I organized quarterly meetings at the Library and invited leaders of local groups and organizations to come and share info. about their organization. Through these meetings, strong partnerships developed that helped us plan programming for the larger community:

-Annual "sneak peek" performances. The Hyde Park Opera House is located just down the street from the Lanpher Library. Each year the Library gets to invite the community into the Opera House to a sneak peek at one of the shows. The performers will get a chance to practice a scene, or a musical number, or a sneak look at how the make-up for the show CATS is put on the actors...in front of a live audience, and the community gets a chance to see what they're working on.

-When a Homeless Shelter opened up down the street from the Library, we started programming specific to fair housing issues in partnership with the "Lamoille Community House".

-The Regional Solid Waste Management District does regular programs at the Library to help explain new laws re: recycling, composting, hazardous waste, etc. We also started a Composting book discussion series with them and other Lamoille Co. Libraries joined in. We now have sets of books for other libraries to borrow for similar partnerships and discussions in other areas of the state.

-The Clarina Howard Nichols Center, the local domestic and sexual abuse survivor shelter reached out to us to help them with a programming series. We co-facilitated a book discussion with them using the book “Know My Name”, by Chanel Miller.

-The Lamoille Restorative Center is located near the Lanpher Library. In partnership with them, we held a 4-week program for mothers whose lives have been affected by incarceration.

Their JOBS program works with youth to develop employment skills. We’re working with JOBS intern right now who are curating a community art show at the Lanpher Library called: “Waking Up to Social Change”.

-We worked with the Racial Equity Alliance of Lamoille (REAL) to create a community reads program using the book “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You”, by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi.

-Global Campus, a post-secondary education opportunity for adults with disabilities meets regularly at the Lanpher Library to research topics they are teaching. Occasionally, we get to host one of the classes taught by the participants as an off-campus event. History of Whoopie Pies! All about Tim McGraw! The Art of U.S. Postal Stamps!

- **Movie License**

With the VT Dept. of Libraries Public Performance Movie License, we’ve been able to show movies in the Library.

School winter break movie days inspired a local family to donate a popcorn machine to the Lanpher Library.

We have also sponsored books to movies programs and discussions over the years as well.

COVID IMPACT

Of course, many of our regular programs moved to virtual or outdoor format.

Attendance is lower.

“Take and Make” programming became popular. We put together a “Story Time” and parents could take it home to do with their children. We aren’t able/willing to hold large gatherings.