

February 2021 Monthly Report

"Probably more pests can be controlled in an armchair in front of a February fire with a garden notebook and a seed catalog that can ever be knocked out in hand-to-hand combat in the garden." — Neely Turner

We may not have been sitting before a fire with a seed catalogue, but we did have some notion and a hope of making the world a brighter place in February. Alas, things were made difficult by Covid's dainty knock upon the door. This time, a member of the staff was forced to remain home through her vacation and teleworked for several weeks while the family was in Covid lockdown. Ana Tollinchi kept up with her statistics, wrote articles for our Black History Facebook presentation and kept us posted on her health.

Speaking of, we garnered many likes with our Black History presentation on Facebook. Staff researched and wrote short biographies of various African American icons, a few of them names that don't normally get attention: Simone Biles, Kwame Alexander, Mother Clara Hale, Cecily Tyson and local baseball hero Harry Herbert.

Michele wrote film reviews for both Burroughs' Salute to Black History month and another Salute to Valentine's Day. She also led a book discussion on Octavia Butler's "The Parable of the Sower" a powerful, frightening, and beautiful story of hope amid unimaginable disaster. Although only two people connected for the story, the conversation was scintillating and one of the participants was a teacher at John Winthrop who is trying to get Octavia Butler on the school reading list.

Monthly programs were sparsely attended. Sabina John's workshop on Retirement and Investing had two people while Michele's Family Story Night brought in 4 people, one of them eight year old Molly. Highlight: Molly's Mom called later in the week to say that they had such a good time, they wanted a schedule of all story telling events at Black Rock (happening every other Friday each month) to share with friends and family. Michele hopes to bring in other tellers to entertain children and their grownups.

Aspiring Authors have taken to Zoom once more, with all the authors committing to writing goals and planning to take advantage of Biblioboard's independent author project. (We hope; there have been problems accessing it.)

Going forward, we continue to weed in anticipation of making things easier for patrons coming in to browse starting on March 8th. It is always hard parting with books, but room must be made for the new.

The staff looks forward to some new projects and programs come Spring and Summer, with plans being made for a bilingual story hour once we have proper equipment to film videos for Facebook and Youtube. We cannot wait for doors to open and browsing to begin!

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele 3/3/2021