

Black Rock Monthly Report

September 2021

“It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon.” – Sarah Addison Allen

Black Rock crunched through the leaves to Fall, saying “Goodbye” to Summer Reading and “Hello” to Library Card Month, Back to School and all the usual fun of Fall.

Trina Preston created a stunning display of books and ephemera to memorialize the sacrifices of September 11, 2001. Patrons stopped and stared and picked up and read and checked out. Trina’s bulletin boards and seasonal décor continue to be a standout.

Mike Bielawa led a small but enthusiastic crew for Talk Like a Pirate Day. Participants colored pictures, did puzzles and had a good time “talking like a pirate.” Michael also had a lively discussion about “Shoeless Joe” the book that became the basis for the film “Field of Dreams” with those attending his Baseball Dugout Book Club.

Michele also found an audience for her “Stories in the Garden”: 2 families came on two different occasions. Unfortunately, her usual audience for The Story Telling Jar was suffering summer colds and were unable to attend. The Story Telling Jar begins again on October 15th at 7 p.m.

We were pleased to receive a scanner from Sara Santos, which will make sending over necessary items and requests that much easier—once we find a place for it!

Black Rock also put together a grant for AARP. The proposal is for the creation of 25 memory kits, 5 for each currently existing branch. Kits will be based on auditory, visual and olfactory cues helping those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer’s to capture memories and perhaps share them with families, friends and caregivers. Each kit will have a theme: a decade, a scent training experience, as well as such experiences as going to the seashore, the circus, a holiday and so on. Kits will be rotated among branches and Burroughs so that all experiences can be shared. If our project is selected, we plan to have monthly gatherings in partnership with the local senior center and use the kits for writing and art prompts. We will also be offering programs for financial issues

As always, Black Rock continues to weed shelves as more materials come in. We would like to set up our give away bins as soon as COVID guidelines allow! Staff members Carmen Ramos, Ana Tollinchi and Henrietta Jefferys continue to do their part in deaccessioning items, keeping patrons apprised of what’s going on and being points of light when things get tough.

We have a great staff here at Black Rock!

Respectfully Submitted

Michele A. Jacobson

