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READS

REFERENCE AND ADULT SERVICES SECTION

December 2023/ January 2024 Newsletter

Welcome New READS Board Members



Hello! My name is Martha Simmons, and I am the Technical Services Librarian at Hooksett Public Library. I've been working in libraries for over 15 years, beginning with my first job as a page at Kelley Library in Salem, NH. Having previously facilitated our library's book club for 10 years, I am pleased to now serve as the chair for the READS-to-Go Committee and continue helping connect readers with books!



Sarah Frost graduated from Clarion University with her MLS in 2020 and completed the New England Library Association's (NELA) Emerging Leaders Summer 2021 cohort. She began her work in libraries in 2014 and is now the Adult Services Librarian at Laconia Public Library. During her time working in New Hampshire libraries, she served as Vice President, President, and Past President in NHLA's Paralibrarian section. She is looking forward to the new position of Secretary for READS.

Michelle Cole Recognized with 2023 READS Award of Excellence



Congratulations to Michelle Cole (left), from the Kingston Community Library, on being named this year's READS Award of Excellence Recipient! This award was presented at the READS Annual Business Meeting at the Reads Fall Conference by READS Past President Natalie Moser (right).

Michelle Cole is a go-getter who worked her way up from para-circulation positions in Manchester and Hooksett to recently get her MLS and join the staff here at the Kingston Community Library a little over a year ago. She is extremely knowledgeable about most aspects of library services. She is also a very eager learner, willing to educate herself, take direction, and seek new opportunities for improving library service for all patrons. Michelle provides exceptional service to all of the library's patrons, but her work has most greatly impacted Kingston seniors. This under-served group has found a home at the library with programs that Michelle has designed, which keep them active and visiting the library daily. Michelle runs a regular jigsaw puzzle group, hobby group, non-fiction book club, movie afternoon, and bingo, as well as special programs that are designed specifically to attract this population such as Introduction to Computers. In addition to the service Michelle gives to patrons, she also directs Kingston's circulation staff with kindness and has been a great mentor to those who are new to library work. Furthermore, Michelle serves as the technical service department and head of ILL. She provides technical support for all computer issues. In short, she does everything, without complaint and with a smile. She works late when needed without being asked. Her dedication and knowledge have enhanced work behind the scenes and with the community, and has positively influenced the work ethic and outlook of staff.

Michelle has gone to great lengths to serve the needs of the Kingston community. Thank you for all that you do, Michelle!

READS 2023 Election Results



READS 2023 Election Results



Thank you to all who voted in the READS 2023 Election! At our annual Fall Business Meeting, we announced the winners of this year's election:

- Jane Martina was elected to serve a three year term as the READS Vice President/President Elect/Past President.
- Sarah Frost was elected to serve a two year term as the READS Secretary.

Together We Learn: Thank You for Attending the READS Fall Conference

READS Fall Conference

**THANK YOU
FOR JOINING US!**

2023

This past October, READS successfully hosted its annual Fall Conference, *Navigating the Storm: Empowering Librarians to Address Political and Social Challenges*. The conference featured three sessions that explored various methods for libraries to navigate challenges in a candid, respectful, and effective manner. Each presentation offered a wealth of practical guidance and actionable tips. Thank you to the programming committee for their dedication to organizing this event and to all of those who contributed to its success.

If you weren't able to attend, revisit Goffstown Courageous Community Conversations: Can we Talk About Race? presentation by Dianne Hathaway and James McKim [HERE!](#)

Don't Miss Out - Renew Your READS Membership Today!



Renew your READS membership in the New Year! You won't want to miss out on these great benefits of being a READS member:

- Bi-monthly newsletter featuring news, programming ideas, reference resources, editorials, and event reminders!
- Member-discounted rates for BOTH the READS Spring Roundtable and Fall Conference!
- Networking Opportunities to serve on READS Committees and the Executive Board!
- Specially curated event reminder and announcement emails!
- A dedicated and knowledgeable group of librarians and library staff who are ready to share ideas!

For just \$5, you'll get another fun year of adult services related news, highlights, and events. Renew both your NHLA and READS memberships [HERE!](#)

Thank you for continuing to be a part of the READS Family!

The READS Programming Committee Wants You!



READS is looking for individuals to join the Programming Committee. This committee typically organized 3-4 Roundtables, the Annual READS Fall Conference, and occasional collaborations with other sections. Responsibilities include arranging for speakers, choosing venues and caterers, and reviewing surveys. The approximate time commitment is 2-3 hours per month. Please contact Eileen Gilbert, Programming Committee Chair, at director@belmontpubliclibrary.org for more information or if interested.

Explore the Latest Program Submissions to the Programming Database



Looking for a fresh and engaging program idea? Look no further than these new submissions to the READS Programming Database!

Becoming Wolf: Eastern Coyote in New England, Lane Memorial Library

Originating as the smaller western coyote, our eastern coyote shares genes with the eastern wolf, the grey wolf and the western coyote. Its hybrid nature enables its resilience and adaptability to live in farms, forest, or city. It has rewilded the northeast with its howl and ability to prey on large and small mammals but despite its ecological benefits, it is the most persecuted carnivore in North America. And despite human efforts to eradicate it, it survives and thrives among us.

We were thrilled and very impressed with Chris' presentation. She is very funny, has a deep and wide knowledge of wolves and coyotes, and the topic is truly fascinating. Very enthusiastic. ~ Lane Memorial Library

Cooper Falconry 101: Hawks in Flight, Lane Memorial Library

Monadnock Falconry offers the chance for nature enthusiasts of all ages to imagine life as a bird of prey! Come experience first-hand these amazing creatures rarely encountered up close in the wild. The hour-long program gives the opportunity to meet a Harris' Hawk and see it on the wing.

Top 10 program I've hosted in 19 years. Very well liked. Photographers and birders both came. ~ Lane Memorial Library

Author Presentation by Bruce Robert Coffin, Ossipee Public Library

Bruce discusses his experience as police detective turned author. Bruce is the award-winning author of the Detective Byron mystery series and co-author of The Turner and Mosley Files along with bestselling author Lyn Dee Walker. A former detective sergeant with more than twenty-seven years in law enforcement, he supervised all homicide and violent crime investigations for Maine's largest city. Following the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, Bruce spent four years investigating counter-terrorism cases for the FBI, earning the Director's Award, the highest award a non-agent can receive. Winner of Killer Nashville's Silver Falchion Awards for Best Procedural and Best Investigator, and the Maine Literary Award for Best Crime Fiction Novel, Bruce was also a finalist for the Agatha Award for Best Contemporary Novel. His Anthony nominated short fiction appears in several anthologies, including Best American Mystery Stories 2016." ~ Ossipee Public Library

100 Classic New England Hikes, Nesmith Library

Jeff Romano, author of New England: 100 Classic Hikes, covered hiking destinations in all six states. He shared advice, provided insights, and answered questions on planning your next hiking adventure. The presentation also included information on New England wildflowers, birds, wildlife, history, and conservation success stories. ~ Nesmith Library

The Capital Crime of Witchcraft: What the Primary Sources Tell Us, Nesmith Library

Margo Burns explored an array of prosecutions in seventeenth century New England using facsimiles of primary source manuscripts demonstrating how methodically and logically the Salem Court worked. This program focused on the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692 and 1693, when nineteen people were hanged and one crushed to death, but it also examined a variety of other cases against women in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. This is a New Hampshire Humanities program.

Margo is the 10x great granddaughter of Rebecca Nurse, who was hanged in Salem in 1692 on the charge of witchcraft. She knows her stuff and is an engaging presenter. ~ Nesmith Library

If These Walls Could Take - Celebrating 100 Years of the Red Arrow Diner, Nesmith Library

Mike discusses the history of the Red Arrow Diner, and talks about celebrity sightings and the political history of the diner.

Mike is a wonderful storyteller and is very engaging. He's always gives us a great program. ~ Nesmith Library

Decoding the Mysteries of Cats, Laconia Public Library

Stephen Quandt, founder of Stephen Quandt Feline Behavior Associates, LLC and certified Feline Training and Behavior Specialist most recently with the Animal Care Centers of NYC and also of the ASPCA has created a feline behavior webinar for the public that explains cat behavior from the perspective of the evolutionary and adaptive forces that help shape their lives. This presentation covers: the Cycle of Predation that can lead to ""drive-by"" ankle biting, play aggression, early morning wake up, and food aggression, cats' relationship with us as it's influenced by the Mother/Kitten bond, and the Confidence Scale that can result in fearful cats, victimized cats (cat-on-cat aggression), fear aggression, or redirected aggression.

Everyone loved this event and wants him to do another! ~ Laconia Public Library

18th Century Cooking, Moultonborough Public Library

Allyson Szabo, author of several books including *The Re-enactor's Cookbook* and *Cook Small, Live Large!*, presents programs on foods and spices of early Colonial America. She does a cooking demonstration and tasting, such as Beef Collops, a quick dish out of Hannah Glasse's cookbook of 1747. She gives a talk on the various foods that our Colonial ancestors enjoyed, shares a slideshow, and brings reference books related to the subject. Allyson dresses in 1750s kit, as the wife of a back woodsman during the French and Indian War. ~ Moultonborough Public Library

Browse these new submissions and booking information in the READS Programming Database [HERE](#)! With over 80 programs to browse and new recommendations being added monthly, you're sure to find programs that your patrons will love.