



Alganssee

Our Adult craft was painting your own personal coffee cup, 2 Adults came.

YA craft was a Mod Podge canvas Bag.

We have lots of several Holiday coloring pages for all ages to color.

November 19th I went to Portage with other Library staff to a program called "Imagine your story". We learned a lot of good ideas for programs for all ages.

On the same day we had a program on Virtual Reality. I really enjoyed watching others taking part in the activities using the headsets and how silly they looked.

I asked for new chairs for patrons computers and a microwave for our lunches and received them right away, very nice!

Come and check us out! Happy Holidays!

Alganssee Branch Manager

Janice Clark

Bronson

November & December programs have been filled with holiday stories, songs and crafts. Adults made beautiful ornament wreaths, Family craft was marbled ornaments, Teens created wreaths and Kidz Crew had a "Jingle All The Way" party. During the Christmas break from school we will have the basement open for kids and teens to play games, legos, crafts, coloring, puzzles and much much more. (Thank you to Bronson Township for letting us use the Township hall!)

Jessica Tefft and I visited the Anderson Elementary teachers during their December teacher's meeting to remind them of the services we offer. We updated them regarding teacher cards and the Library1 card program. It was a small time slot but we filled their heads with as much info as we could.

Our Friends group had a rough day this week. There was an issue discovered that they are dealing with ASAP and then the same day their donation jug was stolen from the library. Guy walked in, went right to the jug and out the door with it! He was only slowed down by the fact the jug was taped to the stand it was sitting on, so he made quite a bit more noise than he intended. The library was full of after school kids with several right outside the door when he left. Thankfully no one was injured in his exit. Police were called and a report filed.

Can hardly believe 2019 is coming to an end! Onward 2020!

Coldwater

Coldwater patrons were treated to many seasonally-appropriate crafts and events this month. A few of us gathered for the first Quiet Cocoa Club, a silent reading group featuring an optional book discussion and a cozy cocoa bar. Our snowball wreath craft for adults was well-attended, with a waiting list twice as long as the actual registration list. We were able to use leftover supplies from the craft to create to-go bags for a few waitlisted patrons to create their wreath at home. Staff member Cheryl Lawrence also held the first of two Christmas card programs for adults. In this program, Cheryl teaches patrons the art of quilling, creating patterns and images out of tightly rolled paper. Cheryl's quilling programs have proved popular enough that she's started to offer both evening and weekend sessions. Cheryl also held another roleplaying game for adults. While this was the last in this particular series of programs, we will definitely be offering similar programs in the future.

Unfortunately, two of our adult programs had to be rescheduled. The goal-setting program, "New Decade New You", by local life coach Aimee Myers, will now be held in January, while Kim Osterholzer's presentation about her book *A Midwife in Amish Country* will be rescheduled sometime in 2020.

We're also spreading holiday cheer in Coldwater with our "secret gift" book display. These "gifts" are library books that have been covered in wrapping paper. When a patron checks them out, it's a surprise what book they get. Last year, we wrapped over 50 books, and most of them were checked out by the end of the program, so we hope that our patrons enjoy it again!

Cheryl Graham-Machida, a Public Services Clerk here at Coldwater, will be sharing her cultural knowledge at her Japanese New Year program in January. Meanwhile, every Tuesday in January, Cheryl Lawrence will be teaching patrons basic crochet while recycling plastic shopping bags into sleeping mats that will be donated. We will also be holding our first book club of 2020. The Looking Forward Book Club, a discussion group focusing on social issues, will be talking about *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah in January.

Teen Anime Club returned to Coldwater this month with the popular series *Sword Art Online*. Teens also participated in a freeform wreath craft. Instead of creating a specific wreath, teens were provided with a variety of wreath forms as well as ribbons, Christmas ornaments, and other holiday decorations and encouraged to express their creativity. Teens also competed in the first Chocolate Olympics, an after-hours program consisting of a series of candy-themed challenges such as a Whopper Race, Bobbing for Donuts, and a blind taste-testing of different candy bars.

For Coldwater teens, finals are almost upon us, so in December we will be having a Cocoa, Coffee, and Cram study session as well as a stress ball craft. Teens will also have a special open mic night where they can share their poems and spoken word pieces.

Staff member Lindsay Villa will be helping both teens and adults prep for the new year with two programs introducing patrons to bullet journaling, an organization system that encourages combining creativity with setting and tracking goals. Another Coldwater Branch clerk, local artist Ben Lyon, is offering a series of seasonal craft programs, creating baked clay ornaments with adults, teens, and kids.

In Kids' Place, Gene Wasserman of the Michigan Bluebird Society visited to make bird feeders with children and families. We also saw a lot of enthusiasm for our family craft, a Thanksgiving table runner. Angie Richards injected a bit of the holiday season into her Pancake Art program, in which tweens used griddles to make their very own tasty pancakes with four thematic categories: Minecraft, self-portraits, free choice, and, of course, turkeys. Our homeschool group learned the original rules of basketball (no dribbling!) while the Lego club held an exciting race lead by James Wallace, who will be returning "yeti" again this winter for another Lego challenge.

We kicked off the holiday season in Kids' Place with an interactive concert and story time led by Rob and Jan Cooper. The event was catered by JT's, and volunteers from the Coldwater Friends of the Library helped it run smoothly. Happily, people lingered and socialized after the program despite the busy time of year. This December, we're having a variety of seasonal crafts for kids, starting with luminary jars. Santa Claus himself will be making an appearance at the library this December 21st to collect letters, eat cookies, pose for photos, hold a story time, and give away books purchased with generous donations from the Coldwater Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs. The Quincy Book Haven are also providing gift certificates for all children who attend.

To keep everyone busy over Christmas vacation, Kids' Place is also offering Star Wars Bingo, Cartooning with Jonny, a special winter storytime, tween club, an Under the Sea art activity, and a delightfully punny Noon Year's Party.

Quincy

The Mayor of Southfield/Author Kenson Siver gave an entertaining presentation on his book *An Uncommon Criminal* November 14.

I attended a workshop in Portage on November 19 in regards to next summer's reading program. The speakers were informative and I always walk away with good information and tips for the reading program and/or crafts or events ideas.



The adult painting session on Dec. 2 was enjoyed by seven adults.

Our branch has been a Toys for Tots drop off location again this year.

During the school Christmas break, we will offer an ongoing craft table for children and teens.

We will have 2020 glasses, New Year's hats, etc. for our Dec. 18 Teen New Year (early) Party and have the extra as giveaways during the school break.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wood



Sherwood

Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Sherwood Branch!

It's been a peaceful month at the Sherwood Branch.

I continue to visit UCES every Thursday to read to two classes. It's a relationship that I'm incredibly thankful for! Maria has been busy in the programming department and always comes up with awesome things for the kids (of all ages) to do! District Teen programs are fun and creative, and, as always, Lindsay does a great job!

As we say goodbye to one decade, we'll be kicking off the new with an "Emoji" reading challenge which includes prizes for three age groups. Read a book and then choose which emoji best describes the book! Fun! Make sure to check it out.

Until next month,

Warm wishes, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager

Union Twp.

The Union Township Library staff have been attending various trainings and coming back inspired! I attended the Young People's Literature seminar in Kalamazoo on a scholarship, met three authors and a children's lit enthusiast, learned about literacy in communities, and received four free books to include in the library collection. I also caught three webinars on STEAM/science activities in the library: Citizen Science Month (and Beyond!) at Your Library webinar on Nov 14, Imagine Your Story...with a STEAM Twist! webinar on Nov 20, and an international webinar called Playful Hands-on STEM Learning in UK Libraries on November 22. Judy attended SRP workshop in Portage along with several other BDL staff members.



Programming included the introduction of the Creating STEAM with a marble maze kit that was put together by the participants. The District Teen program had 11 come to the Mod Podge Program. The library offered a name art craft and a candy turkey with 11 young people participating in the two programs. Early American foods were featured for the Storytimes with apples and popcorn. A fun video was taken of the dancing corn experiment and posted on the district's Facebook page.



The popular Meal Voucher giveaway served 82 seniors for November. A successful Small Business Saturday event happened with five vendors participating. We are hoping to join the UC Chamber of Commerce in their Small Business campaign for 2020. Eight adults made decorative cookie plates on November 12.



The Union Township Library is hosting a Holiday Book Challenge throughout the month of December with prizes given out at the end of the month. It is an opportunity to promote the holiday book collection and encourage giving the gift of reading for the season.

Thank you for your continual support of the library and literacy!

Sincerely, Julia Baratta