

Martha Canfield Library Report for Town Report 2023

The Martha Canfield Library is here to help you expand your horizons in a variety of ways. Last year we learned all about owls, marveled at the talent of our local students in their gallery exhibit, learned about the science of soap bubbles as we stood inside a giant bubble, made Valentine cards for veterans, and made lots of crafts. We also helped people with emergency printing of documents, linked people to audio and e-books, answered reference questions, lent passes for museums, parks and historic sites, gave out free books to children, and much more. All in addition to traditional books, magazines, help with the internet, and summer family programming.

2023 was an active year for local history in the Russell Vermontiana Collection. Genealogy research continues to be important, but we saw an increase in house history questions this past year. Twelve presentations were given this year on Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Introduction to Genealogy, Our Lesser Known Artists, Revolutionary War History Minutes, early New England settlement, and local history for Arlington Middle School student research. There were sixteen donations including a Jack Towsley painting, additional photographs by the late Arlington artist Ellen Lipshutz, early McAuley family deeds and memorabilia dating from 1830, Equinox Hill Climb programs, a framed Dorothy Canfield photograph, booklets on the Carthusian lifestyle, a dinner ticket to an 1863 East Arlington Oyster supper, postcards of local scenes, four 1866 Harper's Weekly issues sent to a West Arlington subscriber, and a collection of vintage Vermont history books. Preparation is almost complete for the re-publication of the out-of-print Arlington Along the Battenkill in 2024. Finally, planning has started in preparation for the 250th Commemoration of the founding of the United States and the Vermont Republic.

We greatly appreciate your support through the years as we strive to provide services essential to a well-informed community. Let us know how we can help: check our webpage, follow us on Facebook, email with requests and questions, call us. If you would like to sign up for our monthly email newsletter, just let us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Skidmore, Director
Laura Crosslin, President, Board of Trustees

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