

**Skagway Public Library**  
Librarian's Report  
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Staff:

Katherine Moseley, permanent part-time Library Clerk  
Anna Nelson, permanent part-time Library Assistant  
Crystal Harris, permanent full-time Library Assistant  
Rachel Dewan, Library Director

Personnel

Grace Robbins served as our seasonal Library Clerk throughout the fall and winter of 2023-24. Her contract finished up in the spring of 2024, and as she moved away from Skagway, she finished up her time here at the Skagway Public Library. We are grateful for all Grace did to help us this winter, from daily library tasks to Late Night Library programming, and wish her all the best in her future!

A posting for a part-time, seasonal Library Clerk was made public at the end of March/early April. Adalia Deach has been chosen to fill this role, as she will be returning to Skagway in May for the summer. We look forward to having Adalia back as part of our team, bringing her creativity and enthusiasm.

Programming

We recently wrapped up another successful Tournament of Books, a fun bracket-style competition where various members of the community act as judges through subsequent rounds of head-to-head competitions until two books compete in a head-to-head final. Jeremy Simmons, Julene Brown, Emily Deach, Jeff Brady, Theresa O’Gorman, and Arthur Pruitt all served as this year’s judges, and the community chose Paul Harding’s *This Other Eden* as this tournament’s winner! Next year, I hope to make this an even larger community event with more community engagement and participation.

The end of February saw the end of another fun Winter Reading Challenge in the form of Book Bingo. Anna Nelson’s *hygge*-themed Bingo board inspired patrons to cozy up with books this winter and explore new parts of the collection they may not otherwise have explored. Participants thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and three patrons completed a “bingo card blackout,” reading 25 books and filling all of the board’s squares! Congratulations to Eloise Matsov, Paislee Authier-Cozzens, and Deb Boettcher on a fantastic achievement.

We are now transitioning into our Summer Reading Challenge and summer programming. The Summer Reading Challenge for kids 18 years old and younger will once again be a reading log to encourage them to keep reading throughout the summer. Starting at the end of May, participants can pick up a log at the library, then mark every time they read 10 minutes of a book. When they’ve filled in all 50 spots on the log, they can bring it back to the library to claim a prize! For the first time this year, adults will also have their own Summer Reading Challenge – a book bingo for the summertime! This time, instead of having one large board available in the

library, participants can pick up a bingo card from us at the library and take it home with them. Once they've filled in all of the spots through the summer, they can bring it back for their prize.

The national theme for 2024's Summer Reading Program is "Read, Renew, Repeat," with a focus on sustainability, conservation, and environmental advocacy. The staff at the library has been enjoying planning the programming for all different age groups to go along with this theme. We will continue our Wednesday morning Windy Valley Babies story time for little ones ages 0-6, and Friday evening Late Night Library events for tweens and teens. In addition to this regular programming, we'll be hosting morning activities for 7-12 year olds every Thursday morning from 10:30-11:30 am. We have an exciting line-up of activities for these mornings, including a visit to the Lazy Daisy Farm, a virtual session with the Alaska Zoo on polar bears and climate change, obstacle courses and mini activity sessions with recycled materials, and a visit to the Skagway Brewing Company's aeroponics farm. These activities will start on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and run through August 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Summer Reading Program has also been a focus of the library's recent increased partnership with the Skagway School. Throughout this past year, I have met with teachers about how the library and school can strengthen its relationship, be mutual beneficial to one another, and assist one another with literacy initiatives for young people. Throughout the school year, this has meant encouraging class visits to the library, setting up in-school library tables and displays to increase library visibility amongst the students, and hosting classes in the library for special educational events such as Skype a Scientist. As we head into the summer, the school is eager to keep up kids' reading skills and engagement, and so is encouraging all students to participate in the library's Summer Reading Program and Challenge. Prior to the end of the school year, teachers will be bringing their classes to the library on field trips, during which I will speak to them about summer programming and encourage them to use library resources.

### Maintenance

The accessible, automatic door that was funded through last year's "Libraries Transforming Communities" (LTC) Grant was successfully installed this winter! Big thanks to Public Works for making this happen, and for their ongoing maintenance as we work out minor issues with the door. We are still working out some challenges, including the buttons sporadically malfunctioning, but are excited to have this addition to our building which will increase the accessibility and inclusivity of our library.

### Budget and Finances

For the second year in a row, we have been granted an LTC grant to aid in accessibility initiatives at the library! This year's grant is for \$10,000 and will be implemented sometime between now and April 2025. The specifics of how the money will be used are still being discussed.

Rachel Dewan  
4/22/2024