



BELFAST FREE LIBRARY www.belfastlibrary.org

106 HIGH STREET • BELFAST, MAINE 04915 • 207-338-3884 • FAX: 207-338-3895

October 9, 2020

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Dear Library Supporter,

“May you live in interesting times.” It’s a familiar expression. These current times are, yes, interesting— but mostly they are mind-blowing. It’s no wonder this quote was originally meant to be a curse.

Throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, the Belfast Free Library has continued to play an essential role in the community. As access to the building closed, access to digital resources and virtual programs ramped up. The staff rapidly adapted and expanded online services, including e-books and streaming media. Library programs went virtual and library card registrations skyrocketed. Wi-fi access outside of the building continued with countless individuals accessing the web while sitting at the library plaza tables.

Online storytimes (including yoga storytime and children’s authors presenting read-alouds and activities) and streaming programs about chess, cartooning, and “Lunch Doodles” are just a small sampling of the diverse and creative offerings from the Youth Services Department during the pandemic crisis.

Adult online services include access to films, books, audios, reference and research resources, how-to information, as well as local programs offered by the library. Individuals can “Zoom” in from anywhere and watch library lectures and performances. These presentations are recorded and can be viewed anytime from the website. And, of course, individual help and instruction by a trained professional is available by simply calling the library. All of these rich resources and much more can be easily accessed by using the Belfast Free Library card.

“Now more than ever” is another familiar phrase, and it is one that gets to the heart of this year’s Annual Appeal. You have generously shown your support of the library in the past and we are most grateful. The library needs your support now more than ever. Library financial support from the City of Belfast has dropped for the second year in a row: a 7.7% decline over two years.

Help the library survive and thrive as it continues, even during a pandemic, to offer all of the services we have come to depend upon. Help maintain the library’s financial integrity and relevance. Let’s move forward in a manner that reflects the vitality and values of our community...a community that places great importance and reverence on the opportunities offered equally for all at its public library: the Belfast Free Library.

With thanks for your consideration,

Kay Zegel, President
The Board of Trustees

Your donation can also be made at the library’s website www.belfastlibrary.org

The Belfast Free Library is a not for profit organization recognized as tax exempt under Internal Revenue code section 501(c)(3). Contributions to the Belfast Free Library are tax-deductible to the fullest extent established by law.