CPH LIBRARY INSIDER

CLIFTON PARK HALFMOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Librarian's Technical Expertise Helps Patrons at Every Age and Skill Level

The response to Technology Librarian Kim Nemeth's programs has been very positive since she started them at the Library last fall.

"I just attended...[a] class to support my understanding of my computer-- it was awesome and I am looking forward to future classes," one attendee wrote on a comment card.

"Wow, Kim is articulate, knowledgeable, and teaches from a good curriculum," another wrote.

Kim has a bachelor's in business administration, a certificate in information systems, and a master's in library science. She began her career as a computer programmer in the New York State Department of Tax and Finance, worked as a computer lab aide at Gowana Middle School in Clifton Park, and was a librarian at Maple Hill Middle School in Schodack and Saratoga Springs High School.

Technology--understanding it and teaching it--has been a central focus throughout her career. She hopes to introduce more people to it at the Library, where the programs are geared to each level of learning.

Grades K-5

Young children can learn pre-coding skills by using Dash and Dot programmable robots that teach the thought process behind coding, such as how to give directions (move right, move left three squares, etc.) and ScratchJr, which gives them an opportunity to get creative with interactive stories and games.

"They are not writing lines of coding text, but are learning the scientific language and thought process of coding," Kim says.

Grades 6-12

This is when children and teens actually begin to write code using Python and HTML.

"Once students understand how to write code, they can begin to use it to create apps, games, and websites," she says.

Many teens are also enthusiastic about video game nights.

"People think of video games as 'just a game,' but there's so much social and emotional learning happening when they are playing and taking turns with the controllers," Kim says. "When it's not their turn, they're sitting in the back eating and talking to people they didn't know when they first got there. A lot of parents are very happy with that."

Adults

Library patrons in college or working in their careers may be fairly comfortable with technology, so programs are geared to help them get more out of their computers, phones, and tablets and include topics about using the internet and other digital resources.

Continued

You can find computer and technology classes in the monthly Program Brochure and under the Programs & Events tab on our website.

Director's Message

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our quarterly library newsletter. In the coming months, we will let you know about exciting changes to our building, new services and resources, and some information we think you will find interesting.

You may have noticed we recently updated our welcome flags as you enter the Library property with brightly colored reminders to Discover, Learn, and Do. This reflects the many opportunities you have to expand your knowledge and experiences at the Library.

We hope you enjoy this behind-the-scenes look at your local library. If there's something you're interested in finding out about or have a question you'd like to see answered in a future edition, please send an email to: cph-news@sals.edu.

2023 Winter Reading Challenge

- 650 adults, teens, and children participated
- 230+ books read

SUMMER READING BEGINS JUNE 21!

Looking for Your Next Book to Read?

The Library has multiple ways you can discover new-to-you books.

In the Library:
It starts, of course, with our librarians, who are always eager to share book recommendations. Don't hesitate to approach them for ideas and be sure to check out the displays they have specially curated for you.

You'll also find:
- *Book Page* –A free monthly magazine that features reviews of new books for all ages as well as author interviews and notes on upcoming releases.
- *The New York Times* Best Seller List–The most popular books in the U.S., based on sales in the past week.
- Staff Picks Brochure–Library staff members recommend their favorites.

On the Website:
www.cphlibrary.org
- Borrow > Find Your Next Read > Novelist–A fun way to explore genres, mood/style, award-winners, and age-appropriate books. Its *Explore Pages* delves deeper into specific topics, such as authors, book club resources, books in the media, and themes.
- Borrow > Find Your Next Read > Book Discussion Titles–Current and past titles from the Library's book clubs.
- Services > Book Matchmaker–Fill out the form and a librarian will suggest 3-5 books based on your answers.

Happy reading!

Kim introduced Tech-Talk, a free database of career-building articles, videos, and webinars that focus on technology, communication, and leadership skills. She also offers informational programs to help build computer literacy skills, such as social media, fake news, cookies, and understanding your digital footprint.

Seniors
Kim was recently certified as a Senior Planet trainer to help seniors (age 60+) use technology to meet their personal goals. Sponsored by AARP, Senior Planet is a national nonprofit that harnesses technology to help older Americans save money, improve their health, and make new friends.

"It's to help them build confidence and walk away empowered to try things on their own. I want people to be comfortable when they ask questions," she says. "It's teaching you to use technology the way you want to use it to enhance your life."

One-on-One Technology Appointments
The Library also offers one-on-one appointments to help patrons overcome a technology hurdle.

"These sessions are for patrons with unique problems that need specific, practical help," Kim says. "Then they should take advantage of all of the other technology programs we offer to help them grow their skills and understanding."

Kim says she is looking forward to offering more programs in the future and is pleased she can use her technical expertise to help CPH Library patrons.

"People have been so appreciative that they have somewhere to go to get help--especially when they might not understand what they need," she says. "I help them learn the correct terminology and work through what they are trying to accomplish."

Building Updates

EV Charging Stations: Four charging ports, made possible by a grant from National Grid and a generous contribution from the Friends of the Library, have been installed in the parking lot. There is no financial impact on library district tax payers. The pay-per-use charging stations will be available soon and the general public will have 24/7 access.

Children's Library Renovation: Please excuse our appearance as we make improvements to the Children's Library. We will do our best to minimally impact your use of library space and the Children's Library will remain open during this time.