Friends of the LINCOLN LIBRARY

FALL 2023 newsletter

Melissa Roderick Selected as New Lincoln Library Director

Chosen by a search committee headed by the trustees, Assistant Director Melissa Roderick was appointed Director in May to succeed Barbara Myles. We welcome Melissa and talked with her about her new role.

Melissa reports "I am grateful to be working with a wonderful team of service-oriented librarians, Town staff members, and community partners." She appreciates the support of the Friends of the Lincoln Library and enjoys her collaboration with the Town Clerk on the Town Archives. Melissa is also thankful for the work of local volunteers in shelving and processing materials. Joint programming with the Council on Aging & Human Services on events like the St. Patrick's Day Concert has been popular. Under Melissa's leadership, the Library will continue to be a dynamic community hub fostering lifelong learning in a welcoming space. She cites the Library's extensive collection of databases and other resources for specialized research needs including Ancestry and Heritage Quest, New York Times Cooking, and Medline. Melissa also plans to make the Library's physical spaces even more welcoming, including making improvements to the Art Gallery and Turret Room (see article on p. 3), along with further development of the "Library of Things."

Melissa notes that the Library continues to explore how to diversify, expand, and offer variety to address community needs. The Library participates in the Minuteman Library Network DEI group; follows ongoing diversity goals in the collection; and offers programming such as the "Reading for Racial and Social Justice Book Club." It also provides meeting space and other resources for climate action groups. Please stop by the Library and say hello to our new Director!

DONATE USED BOOKS, CDs & DVDs TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

Donation bins are located at:

- The Mall at Lincoln Station
  160 Lincoln Road
- Tracey's Service Station
  Bedford Road & Route 2
- Lincoln Gas & Auto
  Route 117/S. Great Road

Many thanks to these generous Lincoln businesses!

The Friends of the Lincoln Library (FOLL) is a nonprofit organization that encourages community use of the Lincoln Public Library (LPL) and raises money to pay for services not included in the Town budget: adult and children's programs, museum passes, lectures, events, and special equipment.

New Staff Member at LPL

Joanne Pagounes is the new Administration Assistant and Bookkeeper at the Lincoln Public Library. Prior to working at LPL she served as a benefits coordinator for Human Resources at the Buckingham, Browne, & Nichols School. Joanne likes working at a Library that is so integral a part of the community. She enjoys checking out the Library's programs and services as well as finding out what the patrons are interested in. LPL Director Melissa Roderick says about Joanne that "she is personable, customer-centric, and a valuable addition to the Library team."

Summer Fun in the Children's Room

The children's room hosted over 25 programs this summer!

Goats and Giggles with Chip-In Farm and Solve the Rubik's Cube were two clear highlights.

Farmer Ben set up a pen on the library lawn and families were able to visit with baby "fainting goats" and Nigerian dwarf baby goats. Children enjoyed petting, playing, and feeding the goats while staff were pleased to be asked to carry the goats from the truck to the pen. We aren't sure who had more fun, the children or the children's librarians!

Interest was high to learn how to solve the Rubik's Cube. Celia and Tim Kwartler, mother and son speedcubers, presented a three-session workshop on how to solve the 3x3 cube. Participants appreciated the individualized instruction, and everyone solved the cube at least once!

Arts programs included Music and Movement with Lincoln's own Kat Chapman, a Puppet Show with Talking Hands Theater, a Kite Making Workshop, and a Tie Dye afternoon. Budding naturalists enjoyed learning about Earthworms with Hands On Nature. STEM enthusiasts were at home with Buildwave. This creative building event featured familiar toys like Lego, but added a game format that fostered collaboration and kept the energy high.

Finally, rivaling the goats for cuteness, our "Drive-In" movie returned. Young children decorated boxes to look like cars, then sat in their cars to watch a feature film, *Winnie the Pooh.*

Thank you to the Friends of the Library for their generous support. With the Friends' support, whether artist or scientist, nature lover or musician, there was something for every child's interest this summer at the library.

FOLL Juneteenth and Pride Participation

In June FOLL had the opportunity to participate in two joyous community events: Lincoln's Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration and The Lincoln Public School's (LPS) LGBTQ+ Pride Event.

Sunday June 11th was Lincoln's Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration at LPS's Codman Field and Donaldson Auditorium hosted by the Lincoln METCO Parent Board and the Lincoln METCO Coordinating Committee. The event included speakers, performers, incredible food, music, ice cream, snow cones provided by FOLL, and many community supporters. Lincoln's Juneteenth Celebration is a day of celebration, learning and reflection. The joy, excitement, and engagement was palpable.

On June 14th the LPS SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance Group) hosted a Pride Celebration at the LPS Learning Commons. The event included guest speakers, raffles, snow cones provided by FOLL, a performance by the LPS Step Team, lots of rainbows, and so much joy!

FOLL is honored to have been a part of such powerful celebrations alongside many other local community organizations.

LPL Welcomes New Assistant Director Ran Cronin

We welcomed Ran Cronin to her new position as Assistant Director of Lincoln Library on July 31st. Ran deeply believes in access to information and entertainment for all, and her career reflects this. In addition to serving most recently as Technical Services Supervisor at the Needham Free Public Library and as Head of Information and Technology at the Winchester Public Library in an earlier position, Ran taught Information Literacy at Southern New Hampshire University.

Ran is interested in American labor history and holds BA and MA history degrees from George Washington University and Salem State University. In obtaining a Master of Library Science from Simmons University, she focused on archive management and had an internship as well as her first professional position at the Massachusetts Historical Society where she handled current and newly-donated collections. Ran tells us she first became interested in a library profession in college. When preparing a term paper, she asked a research librarian for help, and she had the sudden realization that one could work in research but not have to write papers about it!

As Assistant Director, Ran manages adult services, staff scheduling, training coordination, implementation of automated services, and adult programing among many other tasks. Outside work, Ran is an avid gardener and reader, particularly of non-fiction and fiction with "what if" plots. Asked what might surprise us about her background, we learned Ran was the goalie for her ice-hockey teams in both high school and college. She still has all her hockey equipment, but, alas, her work schedule now interferes with the sport's typical 4:00 AM ice-times.

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Meetings in the Turret Room

Patrons frequently ask if there is Library space that can be used for a small private meeting or to hold a private zoom. The answer has been "Sorry, no" until this fall. The Tarbell Room, available to patrons for private meetings, is very large and often reserved for library programming. Other rooms with doors, DeNormandie and Historical Archives, contain part of the library collection and must be kept open.

In response to patrons' needs, FOLL is supporting the conversion of the first floor Turret Room to a meeting space. Its bookcase has been removed, and new shelving constructed outside the room. The interior space has been repainted, and new furniture is under consideration. A door is on special order and will be partially glass so patrons can see if the space is in use.
Many thanks to the anonymous donor whose gift to the Friends made this valuable expansion of the Library's services possible.

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You can donate regularly or only one time through PayPal using your credit or debit card. Go to Lincolnpl.org. Click on 'About," then 'Friends of Lincoln Library,' and use the PayPal 'Donate' button or scan the QR code below.

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