Lately, I have been thinking about gifts. Maybe it is the time of year as we move into celebrating holidays, but every day I find myself grateful for the gifts I get to receive as the Library Director. It is a gift for me to work for the Marshall community & to interact with so many of our library visitors.

For me, another one of those gifts is working with our library’s staff members. At MDL, we emphasize to all of our staff members that we have the opportunity to use our individual gifts & skills to help our community learn & grow. Through that work, we also have the opportunity to learn & grow ourselves. We are fortunate to have library staff members with many different backgrounds who help us build programs & services for the Marshall District residents. We have staff members who have experience in teaching, writing, archiving, art, technology, graphic design, records, event planning, management, bookkeeping, music, & any number of other areas. I am a better librarian & person for having the chance to learn from them & with them.

Another gift I get to share in is getting to know our volunteers. They give of their time, energy, & expertise to make the library a better place for our visitors. Our dedicated group of Adopt-a-Dewey volunteers help the library with their attention to detail. Many books that have wandered make their way back to their rightful place before the staff even notices they are missing thanks to their efforts. Our library board members are a group of volunteers who invest their time & talents in committee work, advocacy in the community, reporting to governmental units, & reviewing the administration of the library in a number of areas. Many of our program presenters are volunteers who are willing to share their areas of expertise so the library can provide quality educational events for our visitors. In the last few years, the library has had the chance to work with volunteers through other projects & we are looking forward to expanding these opportunities.

The library has also received a number of generous gifts from our donors in the last year. I often have the opportunity to work with these donors & they have a genuine heart for community. Many library visitors have seen our “Lend a Hand” wish lists & donated craft supplies, equipment, & funds to help support the library. Funds have been used to support the purchase of books & movies, magazine subscriptions, computer equipment, & programming supplies. Groups like Marshall Women’s Philanthropic Circle provided funds to start services like our Digitization Station. Additionally, the Marshall Rotary Foundation & Marshall Community Foundation supported continuing digitization of our library newspapers. We would not be able to provide all of the services we do without the support of these individuals & groups. Because of the generosity of several individual donors in our community, we will be launching some great new projects in the new year, so keep your eyes on future library newsletters for more information.

We hope you will have the time to celebrate all the gifts you have in your life this winter, & if you are looking for a space to explore, discover, grow, or just keep warm, that you will visit us at Marshall District Library. If you ever have any comments or questions about library services, please contact me at 269.781.7821 ext. 11 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.

~Angela Semifero, Library Director
Crafty Thursday/Friday: Live Holiday Centerpieces
Thu, Dec 5, 6:30–7:30 pm OR
Fri, Dec 6, 10:30–11:30 am
Craft your own holiday centerpiece with fresh evergreens! Supplies for this free & festive DIY will be provided. Adults 18+ are invited to register. Please register for 1 session. Allergy warning: this craft uses live evergreen pieces. (11/21, 11/24)

January
Canvas Creations
Thurs, Jan 7, 6–8 pm OR
Thurs, Jan 28, 6–8 pm
In this quarterly program, learn tips & tricks to creating beautiful works of art. This adult-only project involves painting a guided acrylic piece featuring a red cardinal on a winter background. Library Assistant Hali Shepherd leads. 18+ only. Register for 1 session. (12/20, 12/23)

Polar Express Interactive Movie
Sat, Dec 7, 10:30am–noon
See Youth Programs for info. (11/23, 11/26)

Creative Cafe
Fri, Dec 13, 5–7 pm
This evening is set aside for adults looking for time & space to create. The library will provide the space; you use it as you like. Please bring a project you want to work on or any necessary tools & supplies. Possibilities include, but are not limited to: painting, sewing, instrument playing, coloring, needlepoint, songwriting, knitting, origami, whittling, writing, photography, or video game designing. Connect with other members of our creative community, complete your U.F.O. (unfinished objects), or learn something totally new. Ages 18+ only. (11/22, 12/2)

Writing Practice
Tues, Dec 17, 6:30–8 pm
This program explores writing as a practice. Exercise your writing muscles with various prompts & tools. Share & get feedback from peers. Whether you journal, write about your day, are building the next sci-fi world, or America’s next bestseller, join fellow writers for a time to get words on the paper & share achievements. 18+ only. (12/3, 12/6)

Crafty Thursday/Friday: Winter Wonderland
Thurs, Jan 16, 6:30–7:30 pm OR
Fri, Jan 17, 10:30–11:30 am
Create a mixed-media winter wonderland. Use paint, paper, fabric, glitter, buttons, & more to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art. All supplies are provided at this free workshop. Adults 18+ are invited to register. Please register for 1 session. (1/2, 1/9)

Big & Little Bites
Sat, Jan 18, 10:30 am–noon
See Youth Programs for info. (1/4, 1/7)

Writing Practice
Tues, Jan 21, 6:30–8 pm
See December for details. (1/7, 1/10)

Used Books Sale
Fri, Jan 24, 10 am–4:30 pm
Sat, Jan 25, 10 am–2 pm
A wide variety of books & media will be available at our winter used books sale! Monies collected will be used to fund library programming. Cash, check, or credit card accepted.

Library Spotlight: Volunteers
People often ask how they can be part of the magic that is Marshall District Library! Our volunteers are truly magical! The goal of the Volunteer Program is to provide ways for people to use their skills & passions in ways that prove meaningful to them & beneficial for the library.

Our Adopt-a-Dewey program matches a volunteer with an assigned section of shelves at the library. Once the section is “adopted,” the volunteer is responsible for keeping the items in their section under care in order & easy for patrons to locate.Volunteers tidy shelves, remove items that are out-of-place, & arrange their section following library guidelines.

In the last year, 22 volunteers donated 499.5 hours! Since 2014, 3,600 hours have been donated. Our collection has over 60,000 circulating items. Thus, we certainly appreciate our Adopt-a-Dewey volunteers for keeping Marshall District Library looking its best! We can always use more hands & hearts; let us know if you’re interested.

Volunteer Interest Event
Feb 25, 6:30–7:30 pm
We’re expanding our volunteer opportunities. If you’re interested in donating an occasional hour or two to the library, come to this informational session. We’ll hear from Adopt-a-Dewey volunteers about what they do to keep us in tip-top shape. New opportunities for assisting with books, building, & programs will also be offered. Ages 12+ are invited to attend.

Mary grew our Adopt-a-Dewey program from a handful of dedicated volunteers to a group of committed community members who take pride in keeping our collection functional & attractive.

We appreciate the hours Mary spent training & connecting with our Adopt-a-Dewey Volunteers.

Thank you, Mary!

Mary has passed the baton of caring for volunteers to the Public Services Department. For more information, visit the library, call 269.781.7821 x18, or email Shauna Swantek at swantek@yourmdl.org.

The Book Connection
That Special Book Is Waiting for YOU!

Need some help finding that next great book to read? Simply tell us about your reading interests. Our librarians will match you with 5-10 possible titles.

Your next favorite book(s) will be ready to pick up within 3 business days!

Pick up a Connection Slip at the Help Desk or... complete our online connection profile at https://www.yourmdl.org/services/the-book-connection/

Looking Ahead...

2020 Summer Reading Program:
Imagine Your Story
(Fairy Tales/Mythology/ Fantasy)
**JUMPIN’ & JAMMIN’**
**Ages 2-6**
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:15 am
Dec 4, 11, & 18; Jan 8, 15, & 22
Feb 5, 12, & 19
Listen to fun, interactive music while dancing & moving along! Warm up slow, get moving fast, & finish with a cool down. A variety of music will encourage imagination, counting, & development of language skills. For safety, appropriate shoes required to participate.

**TODDLER TIME**
**Ages 1-3**
Thursdays, 10:30–11:15 am
Dec 5, 12, & 19; Jan 9, 16, & 23
Feb 6, 13, & 20
Help your child prepare for preschool! This program includes, books, songs, & other activities that promote early literacy & self-esteem. Stay & play after the program; toys & games are provided during social time.

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**HOMESCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**Art Party**
**Wed, Dec 4, 12:30–2 pm**
Let’s celebrate winter with an art party! We’ll enjoy a winter story, some treats, & free painting time. Intended for ages 6-13; all are welcome. (11/20; 11/23)

**LEGO Party**
**Wed, Dec 11, 12:30–2 pm**
It’s a LEGO-bration! Treats, minute-to-win-it style party games & free building will fill the room. Intended for ages 6-13; all are welcome. (11/27; 11/30)

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**FEBRUARY**

**CREATIVE CAFE**
**Fri, Feb 7, 6–9 pm**
See December for details. (1/10; 1/13)

**DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN? WINTER READING PROGRAM 2020**
**FOR ALL AGES**
Stop by the Help Desk beginning Feb 3 to pick up your reading log. Reading equals fun rewards & an entry into a grand prize drawing. The last day to turn in logs is Feb 29.

**BINGO FOR BOOKS**
**Tues, Feb 4, 6:30–7:30 pm**
Celebrate Winter Reading Month with Bingo for Books! Enjoy an evening of fun while winning books to add to your home library. Recommended for those in Kindergarten & up. (1/21; 1/24)

**CRAFTY THURSDAY/FRIDAY: VALENTINE WINE GLASS**
**Thur, Feb 6, 6:30–7:30 pm OR Fri, Feb 7, 10:30–11:30 am**
Paint a valentine-themed wine glass just in time for the holiday. Use it as intended or as a candleholder. All supplies are provided at this free workshop to make 1 wine glass per person; you may bring a 2nd glass to paint if you like. Adults 18+ are invited to register. Please register for 1 session. (1/23/1/26)

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**BOOK CLUBS**

**MONDAY NIGHT BOOK CLUB**
**Meet at the library @ 7 pm; Walk to a local pub for discussion.**

Dec 9: *The Bartender’s Tale (Doig)*
Jan 12: *Mr. Dickens & His Carol (Silver)*
Feb 16: *Rosemary: The Art of Memory Daughter (Larson)*

**FRIDAY NOON BOOK CLUB**
**At the library @ 10 am**

Dec 13: *All Creatures Great & Small (Herriot)*
Jan 10: *Life After Life (Alzian) *
Feb 14: *The All Girl Filing Cabinet’s Last Reunion (Flagg)*

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**OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP**

Visit the Help Desk for copies of books for programs & volunteers. Audio & Large Print usually available.

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**RESOURCES**

**Free Technology Help Appointments Available**
Call 269.781.7821 x27 to make a 1 hour appointment.
For more information: www.youmld.org/services/technology/training/
WHAT’S HAPPENING
For Teens
LATE NOV 2019—FEB 2020

BIWEEKLY

Dungeons & Dragons
Thursdays, Dec 5 & 9, Jan 9 & 23
Fri & 20, 5:30–8 pm
Join your fellow adventurers on a drop-in campaign of Dungeons & Dragons. Ages 13-19; all levels of experience welcome.

GRAD3S 6-12

Holiday Hoopla
Fri, Nov 22, 5:30–8 pm
’Tis the season to party at the library! Join us to make simple holiday gifts in Santa’s Workshop, decorate the library (including painting windows & creating centerpieces), & eat magical amounts of sugar. Ugly sweaters encouraged but not required. (11/8/11/11)

Santa & Singing:
A Community Event
Tues, Dec 3, 6:30–7:30 pm
See Adult Programs for info.

Polar Express Interactive Movie
Sat, Dec 7, 10:30 am–noon
Experience the magic of the North Pole as you play along with props, snacks, & other goodies. Watch Polar Express with a vault of supplies: golden tickets, Santa hats, & Christmas sweets. Be ready for a Christmas adventure from the comfort of your library! (11/2/11/26)

JANUARY

Big & Little Bites: A "No Bake" Cooking Activity
Sat, Jan 18, 10:30 am–noon
Create & enjoy some easy-to-make treats with your favorite big or little friend or family member. Join us in making simple recipes that can be created without “cooking.” We will be making cheesy spinach dip, winter punch, oatmeal energy bites, & strawberry cheesecake cups. Each child (ages 5-12) must be accompanied by a teen or adult (13 & up). Photo credit: https://res.peg.sweetpickle.com/no-bake-strawberry-cheesecakes/

NEW: Wow! Wednesdays
Starting in January, the library’s staff will provide activities on Wednesdays! Watch for the “wow” factor!

No Program Thursdays
The meeting room will still stay open until 4… …but no formal programs on Thursdays.

Finally…Frndays
LEGos, Board Games, & Friends.
Relax…It’s Friday, finally.
(The above programs are intended for grades 6-8.)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Registration dates are listed in parentheses, with cardholder date (if applicable). Please visit the Help Desk for additional information. Call 269.781.7821 x10, or register online at www.yourmdl.org/events.
WHAT’S HAPPENING
For Teens
LATE NOV 2019—FEB 2020

BIWEEKLY

Dungeons & Dragons
Thursdays, Dec 5 & 9, Jan 9 & 23
Feb 6 & 20, 5:30–8 pm
Join your fellow adventurers on a drop-in campaign of Dungeons & Dragons. Ages 13-19; all levels of experience welcome.

GRADERS 6-12

Holiday Hoopla
Fri, Nov 22, 5:30–8 pm
‘Tis the season to party at the library! Join us to make simple holiday gifts in Santa’s Workshop, decorate the library (including painting windows & creating centerpieces), & eat magical amounts of sugar. Ugly sweaters encouraged but not required. (11/8; 11/11)

Santa & Singing:
A Community Event
Sat, Dec 3, 10:30 am–noon
See Youth Programs for info. (1/4/1/7)

Pokémon Party
Sat, Jan 12, 10:30 am–noon
See Youth Programs for info.

Bingo for Books
Tues, Feb 4, 6:30–7:30 pm
See Adult Programs for info. (1/21/1/24)

Volunteer Interest Event
Tues, Feb 26, 6:30–7:30 pm
See Adult Programs for info.

Registration required.

WHAT’S HAPPENING
For Youth
DEC 2019—FEB 2020

DECEMBER

Santa & Singing:
A Community Event
Dec 2, 6:30–7:30 pm
Join the library staff for a social evening with classic Christmas carols led by our “house band”, The Long Overdues. There will be treats, a sing-along, &a visit with Santa. Bring your camera!

Holiday Hoopla
Fri, Dec 13, 6:30–8 pm
Warm up & wind down with your favorite video games at the library! Bring back couch co-op for an evening by enjoying your favorite games with others. Bring your own handheld or console or play on one of ours. Whether you’re Team Xbox, Sony, or Nintendo, we’ll save a space for you! (2/14/2/17)

New: Wow! Wednesdays
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LEGOS, Board Games, & Friends.
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Afterschool @YourMDL

Each day, your library hosts between 50 to 80 students after school. From 2:30 to 4:30 pm, there are frequently more than 100 people using the library at any given time. Marshall District Library’s staff members strive to make the library & the library grounds a safe recreational learning environment for users of ALL ages. To aid in this, the library offers planned activities for grades 6-8 (see below) & many passive activities. It is expected that users will engage in activities associated with the use of the public library.

If you have any questions, please ask to speak to a manager.

Magical Mondays
Every day is magical at Marshall District Library… but after school on Mondays… there’s always something extra.
You may encounter:
Bingo, Cupcake Wars, No Bake Cooking, Holiday fun, & More!

Crafternoon Tuesdays
Each week, a different craft. Some will require tickets; watch the announcement monitors in the lobby & teen area.

Early Release & Half Days: Perler Beads!!!

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LEGOS, Board Games, & Friends.
Relax… It’s Friday, finally.
(The above programs are intended for grades 6-8.)

 registration required.

A Note: Youth Computers
From 2:30–4:00 pm, youth wanting to use a public computer are required to show either their MDL library card or their MPS issued student ID card. Youth are permitted 1/2 hour of computer use during this window of time; there are no renewals issued unless a staff member verifies that the computer is being used for school-related research or project.

Polar Express Interactive Movie
Sat, Dec 7, 10:30 am–noon
Experience the magic of the North Pole as you play along with props, snacks, & other goodies. Watch Polar Express with a vault of supplies—golden tickets, Santa hats, & Christmas sweets. Be ready for a Christmas adventure from the comfort of your library! (11/22; 11/26)

JANUARY

Big & Little Bites: A “No Bake” Cooking Activity
Sat, Jan 18, 10:30 am–noon
Create & enjoy some easy-to-make treats with your favorite big or little friend or family member. Join us in making simple recipes that can be created without “cooking.” We will be making cheesy spinach dip, winter punch, oatmeal energy bites, & strawberry cheesecake cups. Each child (ages 5-12) must be accompanied by a teen or adult (13 & up). Photo credit: https:// sugarspiceandglitter.com/no-bake-strawberry-cheesecakes (1/14/17)

Stuffed Animal Sleepover
Sat, Feb 22, noon–1 pm (Pick Up)
Bring your stuffed animal to the library on Friday night for a special after-hours storytime. Leave your friend for a sleepover with other friends & pick up your pal on Saturday…along with a scrapbook of the night’s adventures. (2/7/2/10)

FULL DAY 

Bingo for Books
Tues, Feb 4, 6:30–7:30 pm
See Adult Programs for info. (1/21/1/24)

FEBRUARY

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ROCK!
A Rock Star Reader Event
Sat, Feb 8, 10:30 am–11:15 am
Celebrate our Rock Star Readers with a special party featuring ‘Where the Wild Things Are’. Let your Wild Thing Rock & the Wild Rumpus start! Birth-Kindergarten are invited.

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Jumpin’ & Jammin’  Ages 2-6*
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:15 am
Dec 4, 11, & 18; Jan 8, 15, & 22
Feb 5, 12, & 19
Learn to fun, interactive music while dancing & moving along! Warm up slow, get moving fast, & finish with a cool down. A variety of music will encourage imagination, counting, & development of language skills. For safety, appropriate shoes required to participate.

Toddler Time  Ages 1-3*
Thursdays, 10:30–11:15 am
Dec 5, 12, & 19; Jan 9, 16, & 23
Feb 6, 13, & 20
Help your child prepare for preschool! This program includes, books, songs, & other activities that promote early literacy & self-esteem. Stay & play after storytime.

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For All Ages
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WHAT’S HAPPENING
For Adults
DEC 2019—FEB 2020

WEEKLY

Yarn Clubs
Mondays, noon—1:30 pm
Wednesdays, 6–8 pm
Crafteers of all experience & skill levels are invited to socialize, brainstorm, & create. Light refreshments are provided. Librarian Chelsea Johnson will be available to answer questions. Please bring your own supplies.

Mah-Jongg Meetups
Mondays, 6–8 pm
Tuesdays, 10 am–12:30 pm
This is a game of skill, luck, & most of all fun! Join volunteer Marsha Powers & play American Mah-Jongg each week. New-to-the-game players welcome.

Tech Times
Mondays, 6–6 pm
Wednesdays, 1–3 pm
Drop by with your technology questions for a 30 minute session. Our IT staff members are glad to help troubleshoot your phones, tablets, & laptops or teach you a desired tech skill. Appointments also available.

DECEMBER
Santa & Singing: A Community Event
Tues, Dec 3, 6:30–7:30 pm
Join the library staff for a social evening with classic Christmas carols led by our “house band,” The Long Overdues. There will be treats, a sing-along, & of course, a visit with Santa.

All programs are FREE & open to the public. Space for some programs is limited. Library cardholders have priority access to event registration for the first 3 days. The remaining spaces will be available beginning on the 4th day of registration. Registration opens at least 2 weeks in advance of any event. Meet at the library unless otherwise noted.

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Thur, Dec 5, 6:30–7:30 pm OR Fri, Dec 6, 10:30–11:30 am
Craft your own holiday centerpiece with fresh evergreens! Supplies for this free & festive DIY will be provided. Adults 18+ are invited to register. Please register for 1 session. Allergy warning: this craft uses live evergreen pieces. (11/21, 11/24)

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Writing Practice
Tues, Dec 17, 6:30–8 pm
This program explores writing as a practice. Exercise your writing muscles with various prompts & tools. Share & get feedback from peers. Whether you journal about your day, are building the next sci-fi world, or America’s next bestseller, join fellow writers for a time to get words on the page, share achievements. 18+ only. (12/3; 12/6)

Winter Wonderland
Thur, Jan 16, 6:30–7:30 pm OR Fri, Jan 17, 10:30–11:30 am
Create a mixed-media winter wonderland. Use paint, paper, fabric, glitter, buttons, & more to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art. All supplies are provided at this free workshop. Adults 18+ are invited to register. Please register for 1 session. (1/2/19)

Big & Little Bites
Sat, Jan 18, 10:30 am–noon
See Youth Programs for info. (1/4; 1/7)

Used Books Sale
Fri, Jan 24, 10 am–4:30 pm
Sale, Sat, Jan 25, 10 am–2 pm
A wide variety of books & media will be available at our winter used books sale! Monies collected will be used to fund library programming. Cash, check, or credit card accepted.

Registration required. Registration dates are listed in parentheses, with advance notice required. Please visit the Help Desk, call 269.781.7821 x10, or register online at www.yourmdl.org/events.

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: Volunteers

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The Book Connection
That Special Book Is Waiting FOR YOU

Need some help finding that next great book to read? Simply tell us about your reading interests. Our librarians will match you with 5-10 possible titles. Your next favorite book(s) will be ready to pick up within 3 business days!

Pick up a Connection Slip at the Help Desk.
Or...complete our online connection profile at https://www.yourmdl.org/services/the-book-connection/

Looking Ahead...

Big & Little Bites
Fri, Jan 24, 10 am–4:30 pm
Sale, Sat, Jan 25, 10 am–2 pm
A wide variety of books & media will be available at our winter used books sale! Monies collected will be used to fund library programming. Cash, check, or credit card accepted.

Registration required. Registration dates are listed in parentheses, with advance notice required. Please visit the Help Desk, call 269.781.7821 x10, or register online at www.yourmdl.org/events.

For more information, visit the library, call 269.781.7821 x22, or email vanbierkley@yourmdl.org.

BOOK delivery service

UNABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE LIBRARY? LET US COME TO YOU.
DOORSTEP DELIVERY AVAILABLE AGAINST A MONTH TO THOSE WHO CAN’T VISIT DUE TO ILLNESS OR OTHER LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES.

2020 Summer Reading Program:
Imagine Your Story
(Fairy Tales/Mythology/Fantasy)
Lately, I have been thinking about gifts. Maybe it is the time of year as we move into celebrating holidays, but every day I find myself grateful for the gifts I get to receive as the Library Director. It is a gift for me to work for the Marshall community & to interact with so many of our library visitors.

For me, another one of those gifts is working with our library’s staff members. At MDL, we emphasize to all of our staff members that we have the opportunity to use our individual gifts & skills to help our community learn & grow. Through that work, we also have the opportunity to learn & grow ourselves. We are fortunate to have library staff members with many different backgrounds who help us build programs & services for the Marshall District residents. We have staff members who have experience in teaching, writing, archiving, art, technology, graphic design, records, event planning, management, bookkeeping, music, & any number of other areas. I am a better librarian & person for having the chance to learn from them & with them.

Another gift I get to share in is getting to know our volunteers. They give of their time, energy, & expertise to make the library a better place for our visitors. Our dedicated group of Adopt-a-Dewey volunteers help the library with their attention to detail. Many books that have wandered make their way back to their rightful place before the staff even notices they are missing thanks to their efforts. Our library board members are a group of volunteers who invest their time & talents in committee work, advocacy in the community, reporting to governmental units, & reviewing the administration of the library in a number of areas. Many of our program presenters are volunteers who are willing to share their areas of expertise so the library can provide quality educational events for our visitors. In the last few years, the library has had the chance to work with volunteers through other projects & we are looking forward to expanding these opportunities.

The library has also received a number of generous gifts from our donors in the last year. I often have the opportunity to work with these donors & they have a genuine heart for community. Many library visitors have seen our “Lend a Hand” wish lists & donated craft supplies, equipment, & funds to help support the library. Funds have been used to support the purchase of books & movies, magazine subscriptions, computer equipment, & programming supplies. Groups like Marshall Women’s Philanthropic Circle supported continuing digitization of our library newspapers. We would not be able to provide all of the services we do without the support of these individuals & groups. Because of the generosity of several individual donors in our community, we will be launching some great new projects in the new year, so keep your eyes on future library newsletters for more information.

We hope you will have the time to celebrate all the gifts you have in your life this winter, & if you are looking for a space to explore, discover, grow, or just keep warm, that you will visit us at Marshall District Library. If you ever have any comments or questions about library services, please contact me at 269.781.7821 ext. 11 or semiferoa@yourmdl.org.

~Angela Semifero, Library Director