

2019 Annual Report Narrative

Berne Public Library

By Kathy Stempel



Strengthening our Libraries: The early part of 2019 began the collection of over 200 varieties of seed for the new seed catalog. Friends of the Berne Library began receiving donated boxes of seeds from the garden companies. By the time early spring came patrons were able to get free seeds from the new seed library. They could choose from an amazing variety of vegetables, flowers and herbs. The old card catalog with its many drawers now houses the seeds by alphabetical order. To kick off the gardening season, Ann Hein, a Friends of the library member, presented a program about container gardening. The seed library has been a wonderful asset to the Berne Public Library and it's community.

Expanding Services for Kids and Teens: On August 6th, 2019 cartoonist Tom Payne came to the library to teach children about cartooning. The full class had children making their own art for a comic book they created. You could hear the laughter through the library as Mr. Payne taught them to come up with a story and how to draw figures on panelled pages. This was a perfect prequel project in relation to the library's annual "Incredible Heldercon" (comic-con) that was held the following month.

Increasing Cultural Activities: February and March marked the 4 th Annual Juried Photo Exhibit. The Friends of the Berne Library hosted this special program. Contestants enter photos taken by them in four different categories. The 2019 categories were; Charms of the Season, All Creatures Great and Small, Shadows and Reflections, and Our History/Heritage. Over 35 entries were judged and awarded ribbons. First place and Best of Show receive professional written critiques by the judges. All month long the gallery is visited by patrons, family and friends who can put in their vote for the Popular Choice category. A reception was held on March 2 where refreshments and awards were given out.