**BERLIN-PECK MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY2019-2020**

 M**ISSION STATEMENT** The Berlin-Peck Memorial Library strives to enrich the community by providing lifelong opportunities to learn, connect, enjoy and discover.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** The year started off with a 56% increase in Passports and photo services before we were shut down due to COVID

We installed a library kiosk at the new train station where patrons can borrow/return items..

In October we participated in Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends Day and we raised $480 as well as receiving a $100 donation from Boscov’s as the Non-Profit Organization winner.

Our annual Baubles and Bling sale was held in early December with a profit of $900.

We received a grant for $4,015 from the American Savings Foundation to start a “Memory Café”. Memory Cafés are a comfortable, social gathering that allow people experiencing memory loss and a loved one to connect, socialize, and build new support networks. The group was going to meet once a month, however the start date coincided with the library’s shutdown due to COVID. The foundation is letting us repurpose the grant money to create memory Kits to circulate. We hope to begin the in-person Cafes when the pandemic subsides.

To supplement the Café, we established a caregiver’s support group in association with Hartford Healthcare and the Alzheimer’s Association of CT. This group meets once a month virtually.

Our own Barbara Ritchie was nominated for the State Volunteer of the Year Award. She was the winner and is well known in town for delivering books to our homebound patrons.

We now have a You Tube channel which has various taped presentations on many different subjects.

In this time of COVID, Berlin Peck Memorial Library and its fine staff have done an excellent job working on behalf of our town and its citizen’s. They have used this time to enrich their professional development, both in scope and depth. They used webinars, virtual town halls and roundtables in order to accomplish all this.

 A new option for our patrons was for curbside pickup of books We’ve offered that service since 6/1/20 and it has has been extremely popular by our patrons.. Patrons are now able to sign up online for Library cards also.

The staff developed online story times, created booklists recommending books to our patrons, released a new and improved website. Our patrons enjoyed virtual programming and virtual summer reading for all ages.

The library purchased software so that staff can assist patrons on the computers while being socially distanced and protecting the patron and themselves.

Despite being in the middle of a pandemic our Library has gone above and beyond to bring normalcy to our patrons. Thank you to all the staff of the Berlin Peck Memorial Library!

Donna J Moore

Berlin Peck Memorial Library Board Chairman