

Gilmanton Corner Public Library Book Chats

By Barbara Swanson,
GCPL Trustee

The Gilmanton Corner Public Library (GCPL) has been run entirely by volunteers for over 100 years! In December of 1911, the town's Home Study Club leased the old Pennock Shop in Gilmanton Village in order to establish a public library. Built in 1845, the Pennock Shop has housed several different stores and served as a printing office and a clubhouse for Gilmanton Academy students. Since becoming a library, the only changes to the building have been the removal of the fireplace and an ell addition. The library was opened to the public in January 1912, with members of the club taking turns as the librarian. The library continues to be staffed by dedicated volunteers. While there are also two privately funded libraries (the Iron Works Library and the



ABOVE RIGHT: The
Gilmanton Corner Public
Library

BELOW: The February 2023
Book Chat meeting



Year Round Library) available for residents, GCPL is the only public library.

Last fall, the GCPL celebrated its 100th anniversary and recognized the volunteers who help keep the library running with a small get-together that included cake, punch and laughter. Of course, there were many lively discussions about books! One of the volunteers enjoyed the open discussion so much that she suggested that the GCPL might consider starting an informal chat about books. The others agreed and that great idea started "Book Chat" – monthly gatherings that are open to the public. Unlike a typical book club, everyone is free to read whatever author and genre that they want. Discussions include likes as well as dislikes and sometimes several readers have read the same book with varied impressions. It's been interesting to hear about different books and "Book Chat" has encouraged many of the library's patrons to try an author and/or genre that they might not have considered before.

What's going on at your library? We want to know about your events, programs, or a recent success! Please e-mail all submissions to the editor, Katrinka Pellecchia, at k.pellecchia@nhlta.org.

NHLTA Conference Travel Reimbursements Available to Coos County Trustees

NHLTA received many memorial contributions following the death of longtime NHLTA leader Lillian Edelmann. 'Big Lil' was a trustee in Twin Mountain and in Dalton before moving to the Concord area. Because Lil was so committed to education for trustees, especially those in the North Country, the NHLTA Board has again decided to use a

portion of the Edelmann Memorial Fund to support Coos County trustees who wish to attend the 2023 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting on May 9 in Concord.

NHLTA is offering \$75 to Coos County library trustees which they can use to cover travel costs, including mileage, tolls, parking fees, and hotel

charges. This amount is in addition to covering conference registration fees through our separate Mildred McKay Scholarship Fund.

The application process is simple: submit an application for a scholarship to cover the registration fee, and indicate in your application that you are a trustee in Coos County.