

Programming Report, January 2024

Cherish Inman, library assistant (programming, teens)

Attendance for teen programs have been great, but my adult programs were a mixed bag so far:

January 2024 Stats		
1/3/2024	Teen Gaming Club	8
1/4/2024	OTAB Pride Club	12
1/8/2024	Adult Dungeons & Dragons (DnD)	0
1/9/2024	OTAB January Meeting	8
1/10/2024	Teen DnD (Team A)	8
1/12/2024	Teen Jackbox Games	7
1/13/2024	Adult Knit & Crochet Club	3

Adult Dungeons and Dragons featured a new (volunteer) game master for the OPL, Cody Green. The night of his program was, admittedly, absolutely terrible weather-wise, and three of the four people who contacted him interested in playing were all either home with sick kids or sick themselves. Cody and I waited around about an hour, then decided to call it a wash for the night. We'll regroup in February and go from there. He's agreed to offer the program on the second Tuesday of the month through at least March and seems quite optimistic despite the poor attendance.

Knit and Crochet club, on the other hand, had three people brave the storm on Saturday and a fourth message me for a Zoom link for next month, citing a prior commitment this month preventing their attendance. I was absolutely thrilled with that turnout. Participants discussed ideas for projects going forward, with possibly creating hats for either local newborns or local school kids as a possibility. The group agreed to discuss it more next month. They would like to meet monthly on Saturdays around lunchtime, with the second Saturday of the month offered up as a possibility. As the gallery and the conference room are booked for that date in February, I'll be putting a message out on Facebook closer to the event advising of the date change to (tentatively) February 17th.

My final adult program for January, Night Owls Book club, will occur on January 25th. Two patrons so far have reached out expressing interest, so I'm cautiously optimistic at the time of this report. If I get two or more people, I'll be thrilled.

Our usual teen programs, once again, are holding steady for attendance, with us averaging 8 teens for most all programs. The Olean Teen Advisory Board's (OTAB) Pride Club had a whopping 12 teens attend, including the leader. They discussed ideas for activities going forward, with games winning out for next month. (Why this population of teens are obsessed with card and board games is beyond me, but I'm happy to oblige.) OTAB also discussed at their last meeting ideas for potential crafts in February. They decided they want to decorate cookies to share with friends close to Valentine's day, then vote on what they would like going forward from painting, journal making, and origami as potential options. I pitched offering craft programs every other month at first, with an option to run it monthly if the demand proves to be there, and the OTAB agreed on trying that first. They also requested that I investigate bringing back both swordfighting and improv classes. Wayne Wellburn, whom we've worked with in the past for swordfighting, has had a rough month according to his posts shared in our CCLS Teen Discord, so I'm holding off on contacting him for a few weeks; in the interim, I'll be looking more into how the improv class worked the last time Alijah ran it and determining how to offer it in spring.

Not all of the news with the teens has been great, though. Over the past month, we've had a small handful of teens exhibiting troublesome behaviors in the teen room as well as the library overall. I'm working closely with Cathy W. and Joe on keeping an eye on this. Our regular, well-behaved teens have been the chief complainers about their peers' behavior, so I'm hoping that the troublesome crew will weed themselves out. We'll obviously be holding firm to the behavior expectations of all library users in the interim. Thanks to Cathy, Joe, and the other afternoon staff for all they've done to keep the library a safe, inclusive space for all even when a small handful would rather it be otherwise.

In better news, Samantha Aldritch's painting are exhibiting in our art gallery this month. No reception was requested. To my surprise, the art teacher at Olean High School reached out this week, well ahead of the expected April phone call I referenced last month. She is approaching her art department head in the coming weeks about a possible juried art exhibit for Olean City School District students, to be held in our gallery with a reception/awards ceremony in early June. I've tentatively scheduled them while the details are ironed out. As of the time of this report, the gallery is booked through June 2024! A call for art exhibits will continue to run in our newsletter to try to fill the slots for July 2024 and onward.

We, to my surprise, received a sizeable donation of feminine care products and socks from The Genesis House in late December for our Comfort Cabinet. They responded to my thank you email with a request for a meeting to explore a possible partnership for our Comfort Cabinet, so I'll be quickly setting up that meeting. I'm still exploring additional ways of sustaining that program going forward and hope to report on any leads soon.

Finally, we (happily) did not repeat the crafting program scramble of December this month, though I feel it's too early to tell if it was from our change in policy or the smaller number of programs with attendance caps offered this month. Patrons so far seem to be receptive to both the No Call No Show policy and Plus One policy—or, at least, I've not been inundated with complaints. I'll be keeping an eye on it going forward.

I've attached our January 2024 teen programming poster at the end of this report.

TEEN PROGRAMS IN JANUARY

Jan 03	Teen Gaming Club 4:30 pm -- 5:45 pm
Jan 04	OTAB Pride Club 4:00 pm -- 4:45 pm
Jan 09	OTAB January Meeting 4:30 pm -- 5:00 pm
Jan 10	Team A, Teen DnD 6:00 pm -- 8:30 pm
Jan 12	Jackbox Games 3:30 pm -- 4:30 pm
Jan 17	Teen Anime Club 4:30 pm -- 5:45 pm
Jan 24	Team B, Teen DnD 6:00 pm -- 8:30 pm
Jan 26	Jackbox Games 3:30 pm -- 4:30 pm
Jan 31	Teen Dnd Battle Royale 3 5:30 pm -- 8:30 pm