

# DIRECTOR'S PRESENTATION

Hello library people!

As we emerge from the past two years, the trustees, staff, and friends would like to thank you, our patrons, for your understanding and support. Along with us, you too have had to be “nimble and flexible” throughout the various iterations of library services. It hasn’t always been easy but, I feel that the experience has made our organization stronger. I am extremely proud that our staff logged ZERO sick days due to COVID. Other than the initial society-wide shutdown, the TFL had no additional closures. Sure, sometimes it was clunky and it may have looked different but we still found ways to provide library services to you, our community.

Going forward, trustees, friends, and staff continue to work to normalize services and hours. Six months ago we would have never considered holding an event like this here. Resetting and continuing in their role as library ambassadors, the Friends are now planning to have a presence at the Farmer’s Market and Tuesday night concerts. They are sponsoring an event with the concert committee for elementary school kids this June. Our Page Turners book group continues to meet monthly. We have returned chairs, created conversational areas and work spaces. We are up to a full complement of new computers on the Main Floor and in the Kids’ Department. We are in the process of hiring additional staff that will allow us to expand evening and weekend services. Finally, we are hoping to offer in-person story time this summer along with a fabulous reading program that you have come to expect.

Who makes all this happen? Allow me to introduce you and thank the people who have supported this library throughout the pandemic.

TRUSTEES	FRIENDS	STAFF
John Capuco	Gwen Airgood	Josh Colby (February)
Anne Crotti	Mary Corsetti	Denise Getts
Deb Kreutzer	Sylvia Lennox	Lynne Lawrence
Joe Petrick	Naomi Praul	Erin Longan
Fran Tain	Rob Reno	Grace Caplan

Dezmund Newcomb

You may have noticed the absence of one person on our Board. After 20 years she handed over the baton in 2021. With the pandemic we were unable to properly acknowledge the contributions of Patti Osgood so let’s take a moment to express our

sincere gratitude to a leading library ambassador and advocate for TFL. Thank you Patti for all you have done for the good of Tucker Free Library.

18 years ago when Denise and I joined the staff, we were the mavericks, the renegades, the revolutionaries. Now, we find ourselves sometimes saying, “because that is how it is done.” So, while this change is going to be difficult, I see it as an opportunity for new energy and ideas. Bringing that fresh perspective is our first hire in the team building experience, Rose Jansen.

Rose Jansen joined the staff as our new Library Services Coordinator on April 5th. Rose has been a substitute at TFL since 2019 so you may recognize her from behind the desk!

Rose has an BA in English Literature and History from Saint Elizabeth University. She also has a master's in Library and Information Science from Drexel University in Philadelphia. She has served on the board of the Concord Public Library Foundation, assisted with the Concord Reads event, and designed and initiated their Mailchimp newsletter. She most recently worked for GOBI Library Services (formerly YBP) as a Library Technical Services Specialist.

A NJ native, Rose has been a NH resident for over 10 years. Rose, you have two giant pairs of shoes to fill but WE are confident that you will succeed. Rose and Lisa welcome to the “FAMDAMILY!”

Now, the hard part of the program. Denise and Lynne Lawrence have decided that now is the time to transition to new phases of their lives. We, the staff, have been through a lot the last 5 years. We have supported each other emotionally, caring for each other with an extraordinary amount of empathy, compassion, and concern. I strongly believe that there is “no I in team,” but as I have worked through these departures, it has become obvious to me that there is in fact an “I” in our team and that is ME. I felt grief, I felt great sadness, and I felt really overwhelmed. I felt and continue to feel a great sense of loss.

But, in typical TFL fashion the TEAM didn't sit around wallowing. Instead we rolled up our sleeves and got right down to the business of building a new team. The trustees lent a hand, they reviewed the job posting announcements and assisted in the process of interviewing candidates for the Library Services Coordinator position. The Friends of TFL planned and are hosting this event. As soon as Rose was on staff, she and I began interviewing people for additional support positions. We keep moving forward, pulling new rabbits out of the magic librarian's hat!

Lynne Lawrence has been at Tucker Free since May of 2010. A key member of our team, she is the ganache that has held us together. Lynne has always provided balance, offsetting Denise's energy with a calming presence, Erin's endless need for a million circles and squares with patience, and my verbosity with solid editing. She has accepted new responsibilities graciously. Always diplomatic, she takes the time to check in with each of us, sussing out the atmosphere. Lynne has had quite the life and I think it is because of that experience that she exudes a “don't sweat the small stuff” aura. Her calm demeanor makes the challenges of leading this rambunctious crew manageable. An awesome conversationalist, Lynne could always be counted on to soothe the savage patron. She has a way of making everyone feel validated and important.

When Denise started here in November of 2005, she quickly became the emerging technologies librarian. Mind you, in 2005 that simply meant she rid the library of the ancient typewriter we used to produce labels for our materials! Whenever I came to her with an issue, her first question would always be, “did you Google it or watch a YouTube video?” Denise basically taught herself how to run our computer infrastructure, her willingness to learn allowed us to eliminate the need for a computer consultant. She also never backed down from a challenge, her favorite way to solve any problem “Can I blow the hard drive?!”

We have been co-workers for 18 years! We have gone through several life events together, always stalwart supporters during good times and bad. Much like siblings, we have laughed, yelled, cried, and reconciled. She was never afraid to burst into my office, announce she had a new way of doing things, presenting her plan for implementing her ideas. She was never afraid to speak her mind. I always patiently listened to Denise. I usually let her have her way because on most days it was easier to say yes when she came up with a new brainstorm! Sometimes we struggled with minor details and I just had to say “don’t sweat the small stuff.” But there were also times when I totally abdicated control when things were just too tedious for my brain to manage. Regardless of the issue, event, project, or pandemic Denise was always ready to roll up her sleeves and contribute!

Lynne and Denise, you will always be a part of the institutional history of our wonderful library. More importantly, you will always be part of the Tucker Free Family. And even more importantly, you have made your way into my heart and soul. You have made me a better librarian, leader, and person! I thank you for those lessons and the gifts that were revealed as we worked together. I do hope you know that I will answer any text you send me and be there whenever you find yourself in need or just want to tell me about a great book you are reading. And to Erin, I know you are losing two people who provide you support, please know that Rose and I will make every effort to help you with this transition.

Thank you both for your years of service to the Tucker Free Library and the Henniker community. As a small token of our gratitude, the trustees and staff have collaborated to get you a little something for your journey! Enjoy the freedom that your retirements bring!