**February Newsletter**

Dear Patrons and Friends of Chase Library,

We hope you are surviving the winter months. January was the month of the Wolf Moon, so named because wolves could be heard howling at night, lamenting the lack of food. The end of January packed a snowy punch making us all howl at the moon!! February is the month of the Snow Moon. I can guess why that name was chosen, but I would rather pass on the snowy, frigid nights.

But winter months don’t have to be dreary. Think good book, good movie, seed catalogs, soup recipes, baking bread, participating in your favorite hobby of craft. It takes a bit of effort sometimes, but February is a short month and most of us can see the days lengthening as we approach March.

It’s very quiet at Chase Library. Patronage has not bounced back to pre-Covid levels. But we are busy! It’s the time of year when we weed out old books to make room for the books of the new year. And a funny thing happens to all of us: as we pull books from the stacks, we all tend to read the book blurbs when the title grabs us. And we end up bringing home old books we never had the chance to read! When we return them, they are slated for the summer book sales.

We are also beginning to work on our strategic 5-year plan. This will be our second plan and completion should go a bit easier this time. The strategic plan is our road map: it includes our goals and the actions needed to reach those goals. Goals can be related to many things: increasing patronage, providing new services, developing new programs, increasing book collections, offering technology, getting more involved in the community, assuring financial, building and facility stability….. We need to determine what we are doing well and where we are missing the mark. Basically, we need to know what YOU want Chase Library to focus on so that YOU will want to come to the library more often and value its services. Please feel free to send us a note – a sentence or two or a whole paragraph – tell us what your ideal Chase Library would be. Send to: chaselibrarywh@gmail.com Or go to our website, chase-library.com, and complete the short survey.

And now a literary note: February is Black History Month. At Chase, we have an entire gamut of books that deal with Black history from historical fiction to an excellent collection of non-fiction books that deal with numerous aspects of Black history. Come in and check out the selection we're highlighting all month.

Please note that we are working on two Zoom events for the months of February and March. This month marks the 70th anniversary of the Pendleton disaster and the amazing rescue by the Coast Guardsmen who manned the CG36500 and saved the crew, an event we hope to commemorate. We're reaching out to local authors, artists, and historical societies to create an interesting slate of programs for you.

We hope you have a healthy February. And we hope to see you soon back at the library. We receive books weekly. There are so many new volumes waiting to be read!