

BOOK CLUBS

Whodunits | Tuesday, March 4th | 1:00pm

Love mysteries? Join the Whodunits to sleuth through a new one every month! This mystery-exclusive book club meets at White Rock Senior Center on the first Tuesday of every month.

March Book Discussion: *Motherless Brooklyn* by Jonathan Lethem.

Book Talk at BFL | Tuesday, March 11th | 12:30pm & 6:30pm

Do you love to read? Are you willing to try books outside your comfort zone? Do you enjoy talking about books with others? Then our monthly Book Group is for you!

March Book Discussion: *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath

White Rock Book Group | Tuesday, March 18th | 1:00pm

Do you want to read outside of your comfort zone? Do you enjoy talking about books with others? Then our monthly Book Talk at White Rock Senior Center is for you!

March Book Discussion: *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath



IN THE GALLERY

February Exhibit – Racial Unity Team: 6th ANNUAL ART & POETRY CHALLENGE

Belonging – What does it feel like to Belong? Or... NOT TO BELONG?

The Racial Unity Team is a nonprofit organization that exists to advance relationships among people of different racial identities, increase understanding, and reduce racial bias in our communities.

Our Vision is a future in which Granite Staters fully embrace, respect, and encourage racial diversity and unity so that New Hampshire fosters a genuine feeling of belonging for all who live, work, and visit here.

The theme of our sixth annual Art & Poetry Challenge is ‘Belonging.’ K-12 students and adult artists and poets from 36 New Hampshire towns submitted their work in competition. They were encouraged to consider the following questions.

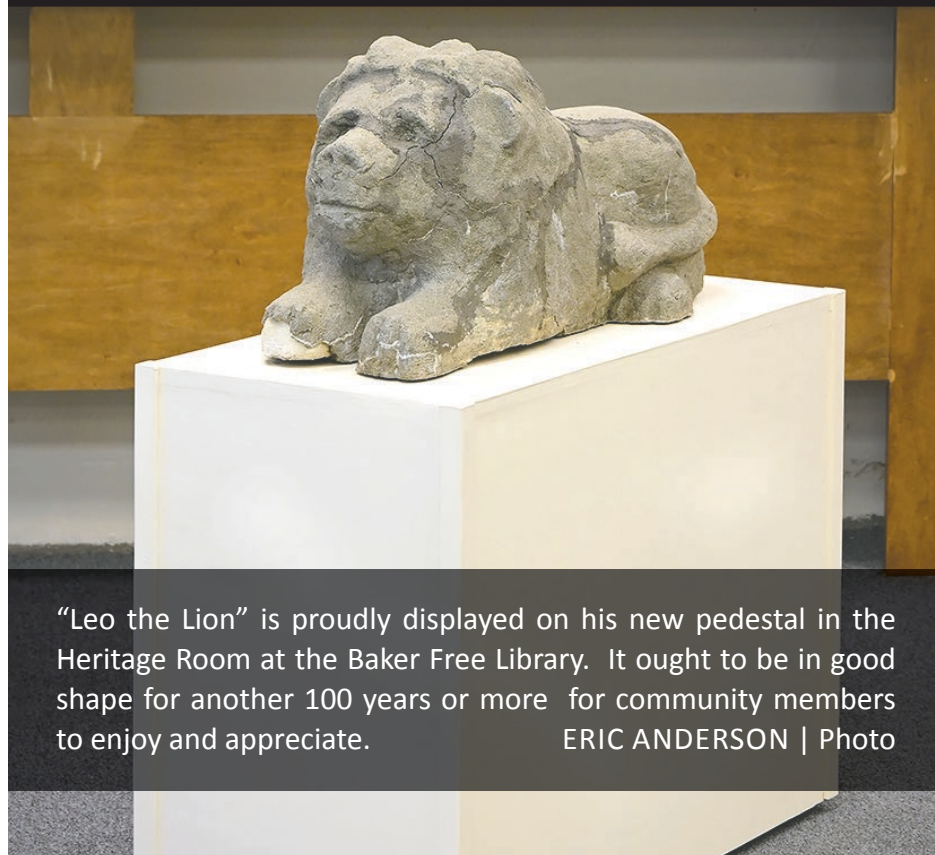
- What does belonging mean to you?
- What does it feel like to belong?
- What does it feel like to *not* belong?
- How can we help others feel a greater sense of belonging?
- Do you ever feel like you don’t belong because of your identity?
- What is the cost of belonging?

We hope that you find clear answers to these questions as you experience the art, poetry, and personal messages within this exhibit.

For information, please visit www.RacialUnityTeam.com.



A PEDESTAL WORTHY OF LEO THE LION



“Leo the Lion” is proudly displayed on his new pedestal in the Heritage Room at the Baker Free Library. It ought to be in good shape for another 100 years or more for community members to enjoy and appreciate.

ERIC ANDERSON | Photo

Jim Dimick, of the Bow Heritage Commission, constructed the pedestal and painted it to display “Leo the Lion.” Casters have been installed to make it easier to move the “Leo the Lion” display around.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. I am writing this piece in January; you will be reading it near the end of February. It does not matter. The main point is to become aware of a problem that may not be on your radar. Just like the looters stealing from the vacated homes during the LA fires, traffickers take advantage of natural disasters and conflicts to exploit others. It is estimated that over 27 million persons around the world are subjected to human trafficking. All forms of trafficking ultimately involve exploiting human beings for economic profit. This can involve organ removal, persons with disabilities, migrants and asylum seekers, forced marriages, and ‘slave’ labor in homes or industry. Victims of trafficking can be found at the bottom rungs of any industry.

According to the Department of Justice the number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking in the US more than doubled from 2012 (805 persons) to 2022 (1,656 persons). Human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states.

There is much bureaucracy involved in trying to track and apprehend those involved in the trafficking trade. There are laws in place and public figures make statements supporting efforts to combat this evil.

But what can you and I do? How can we become more aware of the presence of a trafficked person? Physicians and health care professionals should be particularly alert to the signs that should trigger a further investigation. A “red flag” would be: Is there a person with the patient who does all the talking and is reluctant to leave the patient alone with the health care professional?

Here are some warning signs from the Polaris Project that may indicate a person is a victim of human trafficking:

- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures.
- Lacking official identification documents.
- Poor physical or dental health.
- Tattoos/branding on the neck and/or lower back
- Not being allowed to go into public places alone or speak for themselves.
- Not being able to leave their job.

As we say in many other areas: “If you see Something, Say Something.” We all play a vital role in keeping our communities safe, protecting the vulnerable, and rescuing the trafficked person.

Here are “Hot Lines” for help: **Call: 888-373-7888 Text: 233733**