



Report to the Board of Trustees

December 2, 2015

From the Director

Our end of year appeal was mailed before Thanksgiving, and responses are beginning to come in.

The Branford Arts & Culture Association held an art exhibit at the library during November. They kicked it off with a reception on November 6th.

Our mini-maker table debuted in the adult department on Fridays and Saturdays this month—several patrons were introduced to electronics by making a simple flashlight.

I attended the annual ACLB conference in Hartford, along with several trustees. The conference featured presentations on library advocacy, future trends, and breakout sessions included library board basics, social media, and the Freedom of Information Act.

Thanks to Kathy O.'s initiative, we have new vending machines in the café. The new machines feature a small selection of healthy snacks, plus a credit card payment option.

The Cedar Street doors are almost finished—just another week or two before



Wow! This earnest student used our 3-D printer to print replicas of human hearts for a science project. The heart on the left has a tumor and the one on the right is healthy. Here's hoping he got an A+!



Rave-On! played to a packed house on November 8. The donor reception that followed was a fun way to meet members of our Leadership Circle.

they will be re-installed. We are also very close to having the handrail installed on the granite steps.

Library Amnesty week is planned for December 6-12. Outstanding fines will be forgiven during that week, even for long-overdue items. We are hoping to get a significant portion of these items back, and allow our patrons to start 2016 with a clean slate.

The next time you borrow a book from the library, you may notice that we have new barcode scanners. This state of the art equipment is now capable of scanning barcodes on a smartphone and works equally well with Apple and Android. If you would like to streamline your wallet, try

the **stocard app** to begin storing your loyalty cards.

Also, electronic payment of library fines is now available. You can login to your Blackstone Library account and click on the unpaid fines and bills icon, which is located on the left hand side of your patron account page. Accepted forms of payment are Discover, Visa and Mastercard.

Finally, our three wifi hotspots are ready to lend to the public. The hotspots provide unlimited bandwidth for up to 7 devices. They can be borrowed for one week, no renewals, and no holds.

Karen Jensen
Library Director

October Highlights from the Youth Services Department

October is always one of our favorite months since we put on our annual Halloween Parade! We LOVE dressing up and have been all sorts of characters including: crayons, turtles, rabbits, witches and more! This year, Halloween fell on a Saturday, so Miss Mary and I decided to hold the parade on a weekend. We know that Halloween can be a busy time and if some of our younger participants had older siblings than they may not be able to attend. But, on that same note we liked the idea that we could bring the entire family together: parents, sibling, grandparents, etc. and thought creating an event that was accessible to all was worth the risk.

We had a total of a 150+ participants and it was great seeing not only the kids but also the parents dressed up in an array of costumes. The positive energy in the room was immense and the kids had the best time marching around the building to grab prizes from the different circulation desks, PLUS all of our staff members participated by wearing witches, devils ears and tiaras! Katy snapped some pretty awesome pictures, which can be found on our Facebook page.

Since the Halloween Parade is traditionally geared towards babies through age 5 we wanted to offer something special for our older patrons, so we invited the Sciencetellers to put on their interactive science geared storytelling performance enti-

tled *Dragons and Dreams*. Sciencetellers is something truly unique in the sense that it meshes science and storytelling in such a way that the audience is 100% enthralled and does not realize that they are taking in scientific principles throughout the show.

The Scienceteller performer is also really great about setting up expectations and allowing everyone to participate in the story. It is refreshing to see a performer that will do everything in his/her power to make sure that everyone is involved; including staying well after the performance to ensure that everyone had a chance to do one of the science experiments. And, that is something our kids will never forget. We had a total of 56 participants at the show and received a lot of compliments for including it in our calendar.

Now that school is in full swing we want to continue to strengthen our bond with Branford's Public Schools by keeping the lines of communication open and discovering new ways to collaborate. This year Miss Stephanie from the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library and I decided to contact all three elementary school's reading teachers to see if we could support them in any way. We discovered that the schools are encouraging students to take on the Nutmeg Reading Challenge and wanted access to the nominee titles so that their students could be reading

them as a group or as a silent reading choice in their classroom.

The Nutmeg Book Award is an annual childrens/teen award, specific to Connecticut. The award was created to encourage children in grades 2—12 to read quality literature while taking an active role in the voting an award process. The Nutmeg Committee is made up of children's librarians, school media specialists and student readers from across the state. There are four award levels: Elementary for grades 2—4, Intermediate for grades 4—6, Teen for grades for 7—8 and High School for grades 9—12. Each award offers 10 nominees from various genres and topics. Students read them throughout the year and then vote for their favorites at the beginning of the new year. I am currently on the 2017 teen selection committee and have spent the past year reading various titles, which helps me add to our collection and make book recommendations.

Stephanie and I were able to use our own copies, and the LION system to provide multiple copies of this year's Elementary level nominees to every 3rd grade classroom in Branford. Each class will return the titles at the end of November along with their votes for the 2015 Nutmeg Award. This winter we will do the same with each school's 2nd grade classroom to keep the reading and voting going.

Carly Lemire



MICKEY AND MINNIE!

Re-envisioning Libraries

Library trustees attended the Association of CT Library Boards' annual conference on November 6, where Dr. Norm Jacknis, Senior Fellow at Intelligent Community Forum presented "How the Future Requires Us To Re-envision Libraries: Trends in Technology, Society, the Economy and Government Provide New Opportunities for Libraries."

Dr. Jacknis believes libraries will become institutions of the 21st century and beyond by taking a serious and educated look at the world of technology, which will tell us what information users really want and need.

"Libraries do not exist in isolation from the rest of the world," Jacknis says. "They need to be embedded in their

communities to understand and respond appropriately to how their patrons' lives are changing."

Libraries can be real hubs of the community by offering relevant programs, solutions to a myriad of daily challenges involving technology, social services, school projects, tax filing and so much more. Librarians have taken on the role of a "discerning personal search engine with a personality and the ability to serve with compassion and grace."

Jacknis likened a digital book to the image of a DJ that he showed mixing different beats and sounds on a set of turntables. A digital book is a mash-up of sorts, combining sources of information in a way that is most accessible to the patron.

Often when people search Google, the problem becomes "too much information and too little knowledge." Libraries and information professionals can organize and curate the vast amount of information online to create individually appropriate learning packages in a whole range of subjects.

Jacknis concluded his presentation by noting that libraries are in a position to lead in the search for relevant knowledge. "Innovation is the competitive edge in a knowledge economy."

Karen Jensen



Nonfiction DVDs are now interfiled with nonfiction books. Nonfiction books on CD are also shelved with nonfiction books.

Highlights from the Reference Department-October

The Reference Department continued working on several projects this month, including preparing to move the nonfiction DVDs downstairs and weeding and shifting nonfiction. Whitney attended webinars on Finding Reliable Information Online and Appealing to Genre Readers. Christina and Kirsty taught two Microsoft Word classes.

Everyone in the department has worked hard, with Genett, to make sure that we are able to continue to fulfill

interlibrary loan requests. The statewide catalog is not yet available, but we are able to search other library consortia and large standalone libraries to find requested titles.

We are excited about some upcoming programs. This month's CT Works program will be a job fair; many of our regular patrons are job hunting and it is our hope that this program will help them to find employment. The programming committee is al-

ready at work on a Local Author Expo planned for the spring.

As always, much of our daily work involves finding information for people. On that note, here is a fun quote:

Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one. —Neil Gaiman

Deborah Trofatter



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...more than books

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December 2015 Program Highlights

Movie: Star Wars Trilogy

We're showing all three Star Wars films from the original trilogy in anticipation of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* which will be released in theaters on December 18.

Star Wars: A New Hope

Tuesday, 12/8 @ 6 PM

The Empire Strikes Back

Monday, 12/14 @ 6:30 PM

Return of the Jedi

Wednesday, 12/16 @ 6 PM

Golden Wings & Hairy Toes:

Encounters with New England's Imperiled Wildlife

Wednesday, 12/9 @ 7—8 PM

Todd McLeish will share excerpts from his book *Golden Wings and Hairy Toes* which profiles fourteen of New England's most rare and endangered flora and fauna. He follows the biologists who are researching, monitoring, and protecting them and provides a first-person account of his experience with these ex-

perts, plus details about the species' life history, threats, and conservation strategies. *Refreshments will be served.* Sponsored by Menunkatuck Audubon Society. For information, contact program@menunkatuck.org.

3-D Printing Intro: Design & Create 3-D Printed Files (Lucy Hammer Room)

Saturday, 12/12

@ 10AM—12noon

Learn how to design and create your own 3-D files for printing. Join instructor Jim Davis for an introduction to 3-D file creation. Jim will walk you through the free 3-D modeling software 123Design, from the makers of AutoCAD. Once you learn this software, you'll be able to design and 3-D print your very own creations. All ages.

CT Accordion Orchestra Holiday Concert

Saturday, 12/12 @ 2—4 PM

Join us for a concert of Christ-

mas music and traditional songs by the CT Accordion Orchestra.

Music Makers

Annual Holiday Concert

Sunday, 12/13 @ 2—3 PM

The Music Makers from Branford High School and conducted by Cathynn Rodin will perform holiday classics, including traditional carols, music from the European Renaissance and modern selections. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Bestseller Book Club

Saturdays @ 3—4 PM

12/26, 1/30, 2/27

In December we will read *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende; in January, *Ashley Bell* by Dean Koontz. February's title is *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* by Melanie Benjamin. Books are available at the library.

October 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 12,431

October 2014: 13,798

ConnectiCard: 2,497

October 2014: 2,706

Renewals: 3,663

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 530

Overdrive audiobooks: 169

Zinio: 350

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 18 Loaned 32

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

20 programs/224 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

10 programs/319 attendance

School-age (6-11)

12 programs/221 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 42

Total Attendance: 764

Teen Programs (12+)

2 programs/12 attendance

Adult programs

18 programs/252 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

60 meetings/246 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2319

Facebook: 1217 Likes

Constant Contact: 4957

Average Daily Visitors: 517

Days Open: 29