



Report to the Board of Trustees

November 4, 2015

From the Director

This month, we all had some time to take advantage of professional development opportunities.

Katy Dillman and I attended the New England Library Association conference this month. This was an excellent opportunity to learn what our New England neighbor libraries are doing and get ideas for our own CLA conference in April. Of particular note were programs on working with local authors, reader's advisory and technology. One program focused on libraries loaning mobile hotspots, which is something that we are planning for the near future.

I also had an opportunity to attend the CT Conference of Municipalities convention this month, as there was a panel of librarians from around the state who spoke on the importance of ensuring that libraries meet current community needs. The CT State Library intends for libraries to be included in future CCM conferences.

We submitted our statistics for the state report, and found that overall circulation was up from 2013 by 8.5%, and we have 10,289 registered cardholders, also up slightly.

Wearable Technology

Wearable technology can be as complicated as a fitbit or apple watch, or as simple as lights incorporated into clothing with a battery and switch to illuminate your way in the dark.

Young adults in our September Learning Labs were able to learn about wearable tech, and then to create designs of their own.

This winter we'll bring learning tables out from the Youth Services Department so that adults can play, too. Watch for information in our upcoming program newsletters.



The annual Blackstone Halloween Parade is always a hit!

Circulation staff attended a workshop on customer service presented by Maxine Bleiweis at the beginning of October. Those who attended felt that it was a good reminder to always "come from a place of yes", even when delivering no. Staff learned that they could turn a "no" into "yes" by offering creative alternatives that keep within established policies and directives.

The Development Committee met and worked on ideas for 2016 fundraisers, the 2015 end of year appeal, and planned giving. We are set to host a donor reception immediately following the RaveOn! concert on November 8th.

Following a suggestion from a wheelchair-bound patron, we

installed a wireless doorbell by the inside door at the lower entrance. This door does not have automatic opening hardware installed, and now staff can be alerted to open the door when necessary. This will be helpful for patrons with strollers and walkers as well. It is an inexpensive, temporary solution until a building renovation can be completed.

The Cedar Street doors were removed and are expected back before the end of November. A handrail for the granite steps on the property is being fabricated, and should also be installed before the end of the month. The concrete sidewalk at the library entrance was repaired.

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*

September Highlights from the Youth Services Department

With school beginning and summer reading ending, we started the month by getting our shelves back in order. Everyone in the department took a turn shelf reading different sections, and we weeded the chapter book and teen collections. Once the shelves were back in shape we were able to locate some missing materials, delete lost and paid items and reorder popular books that were damaged or lost throughout the summer months. The department is looking spic and span and it is nice knowing that everything is back in its rightful place!

September closed out our final Learning Labs workshop for teens, which was a combination of sewing and circuitry. Teens learned the basics of hand stitching and how to operate a sewing machine in order to create light-up bracelets. This wearable technology incorporated conductive thread to attach LEDs, battery and an on/off switch. Participants experienced a circuit in action and learned that crossing lines will cause it to short circuit. This Learning Lab was scheduled for a total of two days but we did not account for the fact that this was a first time sewing experience for many of our participants. Our instructor Zenaida Barrios was kind enough to tack on an additional day so that everyone could get used to operating the sewing machines and complete their projects. The results were pretty great!

Katy and I know that the Labs were a huge success and if

anything the teens wanted more time to work on their projects and experiment with different types of technology. This winter we will be taking a Learning Labs break but we cannot wait to set up our second set this coming spring. This time we will offer the classes on Saturday mornings rather than weekday evenings to see if we can grab teens that have extracurricular activities throughout the week, once again expanding who uses the MakerLab.

This month we also offered our first set of caregiver/child led 3D design courses. Katy and I have been offering basic 3D design courses to adults and teens for over a year and have realized that the 3D design software known as TinkerCad is pretty simple to use since it is combining basic shapes. I decided to create a Saturday morning caregiver/child course where elementary school students could create TinkerCad accounts and create 3D models with the help of an adult. The classes have been filling up fast and it is nice to see the caregivers and kids completing tutorials, solving problems and essentially learning and printing together. Some of the designs created so far include dogs, light sabers, cars, boats, nameplates and more. Many have continued to design at home and visit the Youth Services Department to print their creations — this is what we really like to see.

One of our most popular programs this month was a visit

by magician Jon Cap. We had a fully packed room, to the point that Miss Mary and I had to watch the show from the balcony of our auditorium! Jon is always so fantastic and he does his best to bring new tricks and jokes every time he visits the library. I cannot tell you how many families complimented the program and appreciated the fact that we were offering something interactive while their kids were out of school. Since Jon is a high school teacher by day he really enjoys talking to the families one-on-one and makes suggestions while the kids practice his tricks! He is also a big reading advocate and has suggested some magic books to add to our collection, which go out like crazy every time he visits.

Now that school is back in session Miss Mary has also continued her storytime outreach by working with Saint Mary's School, the Child Development Center, and the Family Resource Center. This year Mary is really encouraging groups to come to the library so that they can become comfortable with the building, create library cards and see first hand what we have to offer. Saint Mary's School is excited about having the opportunity to visit and they are already planning to come a couple of times throughout the year so that they can borrow leisure reading materials in addition to project specific items. Miss Mary cannot wait for them to come and is already planning a mini-lesson on how to navigate our catalog.



The first caregiver/child 3D design class.



Jon Cap's Magic Show was sold out!



This family made mini-flashlights at our table at the Alps Farmers Market.

Highlights from the Reference Department-September

The entire staff of the Reference Department enjoys the multitude of ways in which we interact with our patrons. We have daily interactions at the Reference desk, involving reference inquiries, computer help, reader's advisory, and genealogy. But in addition to those everyday interactions, we also connect in many other ways.

Christina and Kirsty teach technology classes every month. Whitney leads the

monthly bestseller book club. I give library tours to ESL groups. Christina and Whitney host a monthly board game night.

To enhance our knowledge and improve our abilities to provide excellent service to our patrons, Karen encourages us to participate in webinars and to attend workshops. Kirsty and Christina attended "Teaching Technology to Patrons" and "Microsoft Word" workshops.

Whitney participated in an EarlyWord Galley Chat (once a month, librarians talk about the hottest galleys).

Libraries are constantly evolving and changing to meet the needs of their patrons. We make it a priority to stay current on library trends and to work hard to improve a broad skillset.

Deborah Trofatter



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November/December 2015 Program Highlights

Intro to PowerPoint

11/5 OR 11/14 @ 2—4 PM

Learn the basics of Microsoft PowerPoint. Familiarity with using computers and mice is necessary. You may bring your own laptop (with PowerPoint already installed) or use one of ours. Space is limited, register today!

Writing Your Family History

11/7, 14, 21 @ 10—11:30 am

Sarah Bradley hosts this series of writing workshops focusing on helping you write your family's history.

Rave On!

11/8 @ 2—3:15 PM

The music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and other legends of early rock and roll. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Charge or Retreat at Gettysburg—You Decide!

11/10 @ 6:30—7:30 PM

Learn more about those who commanded the Union forces

and decide for yourself: order Pickett to advance or heed the advice of Longstreet. Presented by COL (Dr.) Richard Young, Connecticut Army National Guard.

Menunkatuck Audubon: Tree Swallows

11/11 @ 7—8 PM

Presented by Katie Blake.

Brain Health & Warning Signs: 10 Signs of Dementia

11/12 @ 11 AM— 12 Noon

Learn more about the 10 warning signs of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease and how they differ from typical age-related dementia. For caregivers of people with any type of dementia. Register at 203.230.1777, ext. 14.

Ask A Lawyer

11/19 @ 3:30—5:30 PM

Have a legal question? Get a free consultation with a lawyer, brought to you by the New Haven County Bar Asso-

ciation. Consultations are first-come, first-served. Sign up at Reference up to 30 minutes before program begins.

Board Game Gathering: The Game of LIFE

11/19 @ 6—7 PM

Let's see who wins- you or the librarian! Refreshments provided.

Saturday Cinema: Mr. Holmes

11/28 @ 1—3 PM

Bestsellers Book Club

11/28 @ 3—4 PM

This month we're reading *After Alice* by Gregory Maguire.

Opera Appreciation: The Original Spaghetti Western

11/30 @ 7—8 PM

Charlotte D'Aniello hosts Opera Appreciation. Join us for a lively look at the world of opera featuring a lecture and video.

September 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 13,653

September 2014: 14,195

ConnectiCard: 2,870

August 2014: 2,864

Renewals: 3,482

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 599

Overdrive audiobooks: 207

Zinio: 155

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 15 Loaned 39

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

16 programs/249 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

7 programs/111 attendance

School-age (6-11)

11 programs/218 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 34

Total Attendance: 578

Teen Programs (12+)

5 programs/26 attendance

Adult programs

30 programs/493 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

79 meetings/247 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2402

Facebook: 1197 Likes

Constant Contact: 4990

Average Daily Visitors: 587

Days Open: 27