



Report to the Board of Trustees

April 2, 2014

From the Director

We completed the Library Edge assessment this month and are waiting for results. Edge is a new tool designed to help libraries evaluate and develop public technology services.

Our budget request was cut by \$10,000 and our capital request was not approved for the upcoming fiscal year, but moved to 2016.

I contacted 3 firms for information about PR for our building project.

Ron Katz and I worked on the annual appeal which will be a direct mailing to all households in Branford.

We are still in the running for inclusion in the CLA's "Libraries Change Lives" showcase at the State Capital on April 16. Twenty libraries will be chosen. I plan to attend whether or not our project is chosen.

Shakespeare's 450th birthday in April is almost here. The Branford Festival donated \$500 to support the 24-hour marathon reading, and the Friends have sponsored the educational programs.

5 staff are registered for the CLA conference on April 28 & 29. I will be attending both days.

I met with other members of LION to discuss the future of



The annual Branford Public Schools Art Show took place in March.

ZInio. We agreed that we want to continue with the service, and we discussed various cost scenarios for the consortium.

The staff inservice training was wonderful. Almost every staff member participated in the presentations, which were given using a variety of styles—all very effective. The feedback from staff was very positive—we all gained a better appreciation of our fellow staff members and their many strengths.

Library staff will attend the BPS Kindergarten registration on April 1, 2, 3 to register children for library cards.

High efficiency lighting was installed inside and outside the building with the replacement of pole lights in the parking lots and additional safety lights illuminating the walkway and surrounding

areas of the garage. Tyco (formerly ADT) has completed the installation of a new fire alarm monitoring control box and has almost completed the installation of an upgraded burglar alarm system. Panic alarms at each service desk were checked and serviced.

The staff continues to monitor the "green room" off the auditorium stage for any additional water damage since the gutters and the roof of the rear dome were inspected and patched in January. (So far, there has been no further visible damage.)

In the community, I attended rotary meetings, Toastmasters, Town Center Merchants meeting, FLAG, CLA meeting, and chamber events.

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*

Don't forget Shakespeare!

There are still openings for the 24-hour marathon reading on Friday and Saturday, April 25 & 26.

We need audience members, too!

Donations of snacks to keep the readers going are also very welcome.

Thank you!

This Month in the Youth Services Department—February

This month we have been busily working on the kids' website to feature new links and provide updated information. We are extremely proud of our page and think that the links will be helpful to students, caregivers and teachers alike! One of the pages I am most proud of is our Early Literacy section that discusses the importance of talking, reading, singing, playing and writing with your child in order to build pre-literacy skills that are necessary in order for them to be successful in school. The page features a number of websites that give tips and tricks for building these skills as well as the science behind it, which is unbelievably important. Highlighting services like story hour, the preschool room and our early literacy backpacks shows caregivers that we are here to support them and acknowledges that they are their child's first teacher. Please feel free to take some time to navigate our site and see some of our newest additions. There are currently a lot of dedicated organizations out there that make it possible for families to access songs, audiobooks, downloadables as well as live picture book readings for FREE! Check back periodically for new sites, programs and fun ideas.

We also had a wonderful turnout for our early release day program provided by the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. The program was called "Animals in Winter" and talked about the different ways animals prepare for the coldest season. Participants were able to see a com-

ination of live, stuffed and pictures of animals and learned about how and why they hibernate, migrate or adapt based on the depletion of their food supply. One of the most exciting parts of the program was when participants were able to come forward and create snow; similar to the chemical reaction that creates snow for ski slopes and movie sets. You should have seen the participants' faces as the chemical reaction took place.

This month we also celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day with the Willoughby Wallace Library. Since the day was so close to the winter Olympics we created an Olympic program all our own with a series of stations or "library" Olympic events that participants had to complete in order to receive their gold medal. Some of the stations included: Olympic ring toss, creating an Olympic torch and charades where participants would have to act out different Olympic events. We also included a library scavenger hunt at both locations so that families could get an idea of how each library is laid out. The Blackstone's scavenger hunt asked families to find 8 Olympic host country's flags that have held the winter games more than once. The Willoughby Wallace library had families searching for this year's Olympic mascots. We closed out the event at the WWML with local storyteller Erin Zeidenberg who brought a couple of traditional Russian folktales to life in honor of the Olympics being held in Sochi. We were also able to

raffle off stuffed animals of the three official mascots of the 2014 games. This was one of our most exciting prizes since the mascots actually flew in from Russia! Photos of this event can be found on our facebook page.

Katy and I held our Teen Advisory Board book cart painting party this month. One group used the teen website's new color scheme and old graphic novels to create something bright, interesting and new. This cart can is located in the teen room and is currently displaying popular series. Our other cart is still in production since it is 100% decoupage. This cart will display all of our new teen materials so that we can take down two of our bookcases and put up a bulletin board with teen news, Blackstone events or even poetry and or reviews.

Finally, we have added new backpacks and book and CD packets to our collection. Through a generous donation from our Friends, we were able to expand our preschool backpack program to include baby backpacks. We were also able to beef up our book and CD packets so that children can listen and follow along to stories at the same time—excellent for ELL. We have included books in Spanish for those that want to read/listen in their native language OR are learning a foreign language for the first time. We will keep an eye on the circulating statistics to see if this is something we should continue to purchase.

Carly Lemire



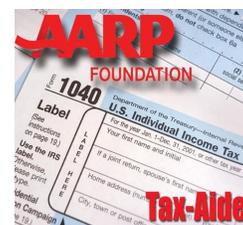
Take Your Child to the Library Day 2014

February Highlights from the Reference Department

February may be only 28 days long, but the reference department managed to fit in a lot of great things this month: 28 items and counting...

1. Worked on JBML library's new website.
2. Coordinated the new AARP Tax help appointments.
3. Offered daily "Teen Time" fun in auditorium.
4. Facilitated library programming including Audubon Society lecture, Opera Appreciation, Branford Land Trust and more!
5. Participated in February 8th wedding prep – cleared service desks of all computers on main floor on Saturday and then reconnected them in time for Sunday opening!
6. Ordered and stocked area bus and train schedules for public use.
7. Created online events newsletter – new and improved!
8. Helped out in Circulation and Youth Services Departments.
9. Integrated new non-fiction books into the general collection.
10. Removed outdated non-fiction books from collection.
11. Requested and distributed books for several area book groups.
12. Ordered and prepared books for weekly home-bound delivery.
13. Prepared and sent out monthly press release and library flyers.
14. Hosted CTWorks networking group – more attendees (10) than ever!
15. Rolled out our new graphic novel collection now located on lower level (integrated YA and adult collections).
16. Held weekly Tech Tuesday appointments for digital literacy.
17. Coordinated rotunda display case installations.
18. Added new magazine subscriptions to our collection complete with new labels for magazine racks and archive boxes for back issues.
19. Posted daily to Facebook and Twitter.
20. Ordered interlibrary loan items from statewide catalog for Branford patrons.
21. Provided readers' advisory assistance to library patrons- what should I read next?
22. Created inventory lists to review non-fiction collection book usage and relevance.
23. Assisted patrons with Branford history and genealogy research.
24. Created book displays - February is American Heart Month as well as Real Life Adventures and Incredible Survival Stories – lots of great books featured!
25. Updated our Pinterest page with fun and relevant pins!
26. Shelved and shelf-read the non-fiction collection.
27. Offered research assistance and homework help.
28. Helped patrons set up accounts for email and job hunting.
29. Maintained stock of federal and state tax forms.
30. Updated the local (Branford residents) obituary index.
31. Restocked and reprinted numerous library hand-outs as needed.

Barbara Cangiano





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April 2014 Program Highlights

Tech Tuesdays by appointment
 one-on-one sessions with a librarian for tech help.

Knitting: Wednesdays 6:00 PM

App/Tablet Tips 4/2 @ 6 PM

Yoga: Mondays @ 5:00 PM

Menunkatuck Audubon Society Presents: Salamanders 4/9 @ 6:30 PM

With Hank Gruner from the CT Science Center.

2nd Tuesday Book Club 4/8 @ 6:15 PM

Fever Tree by Jennifer McVeigh

Ask A Lawyer 4/17 @ 6-7:45 PM

Shakesperience Presents Macbeth 4/12 @ 2PM

Live performance by Shakesperience Productions- registration a must.

Reduced Shakespeare (film) 4/19 @ 3-4:30PM

Teen Advisory Board 4/21 @ 6-7 PM

For all teens who want a voice in the library.

24-Hour Marathon Reading of Shakespeare's Works 4/25 & 26 @ 12noon-12noon

Sign up for 15-minute slots at blackstonelibrary.org

A View of Macbeth's Tragedy: What Bloody Man is That? 4/29 @ 6-8 PM

Is Macbeth a tragic hero, or something more like a murderous warrior-tyrant? Presented by Mark Schenker, Dean, Academic Affairs, Yale College. Lecture begins at 6:15; come early for a light bite.

Library Closed on Sunday, April 20 in observance of Easter. The library is OPEN on Good Friday, April 18.

February 2014 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 13,653
(February 2013: 14,288)

ConnectiCard: 2,820
(February 2013: 2,783)

Downloadable Circulation:
 Overdrive ebooks: **506**
 Overdrive audiobooks: **121**
 Axis360: **11**
 Zinio: **123**

IndieFlix: 114 total patrons registered; **2** films viewed

Interlibrary Loan
 Borrowed **39**/Loaned **75**

Average Daily Visitors: 543
Days Open: 25

Facebook: 831 Likes

Constant Contact: 3336

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
 14 programs/365 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
 5 programs/120 attendance

School-age (6-11)
 5 programs/373 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 24
Total Attendance: 858

Teen Programs (12+)

1 programs/5 attendance

Adult programs

23 programs/394 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

70 meetings/164 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2025



Shakesperience presents Macbeth Saturday, April 12 @ 2-4 PM.