



Report to the Board of Trustees

April 5, 2017

From the Director

BRANFORD Community Foundation

Branford Community Foundation Awards \$100,000 Matching Gift to Library Renovation

The Branford Community Foundation (BCF) is generously offering a \$100,000 matching grant for donations to the Blackstone Library's Campaign for the Blackstone. When you donate any amount up to and including \$1,000, BCF will MATCH your donation, doubling the gift you give! Read more inside.



Members of the boards of the Branford Community Foundation and Blackstone Trustees announcing the BCF Matching Gift of \$100,000 on March 28.

We are thrilled to announce a matching grant award from the Branford Community Foundation which brings us to the \$275,000 mark on our campaign thermometer, made appropriately of books, donated to the Friends book sale and used with permission. We look forward to adding books throughout the campaign which is expected to last for the next several months until we reach our goal of \$800,000. A huge thank you goes out to the BCF, their board of directors, and donors who made this gift possible. Now we are appealing to all those who enjoy and benefit from the library to complete the match!

This month we presented the renovation plan to the Town Center Revitalization & Review Board and were received very positively. Staff participated in four meetings with our architects to provide input on the design of the interior spaces. The building committee met with the architects on April 3rd to view options for materials for the new entryway. The Town of Branford issued an RFP for a construction manager and we will review proposals and interview firms in April.

The Welcoming Branford Exhibit is up and a reception is scheduled for April 19th at 6pm. The exhibit allowed ERACE students and other members of our community

to share stories that illustrate our unique backgrounds and also help us to come together as a community. Participants at the 5th annual ELL night on April 3 were among the first to view the exhibit.

My year as CLA President is winding down. I had the pleasure of attending the CT Places Advocacy Day on March 29th and spoke on behalf of the borrowIT CT cuts. I also contacted our House Reps to advocate against the federal cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We have 10 staff attending the CLA conference, and one part-time staff member is an award winner!

Karen Jensen

February Highlights from the Youth Services Department



Our teens showing
off their cooking
abilities!

We have some exciting news to share - Miss Mary and I are being inducted into the 2017 Branford Educational Hall of Fame in April. The Education Hall of Fame was created to give recognition to those that support the education and growth of the entire community. Miss Mary and I have been nominated as a team and whole heartedly believe that all of our storytimes, programs for older children, technology expertise, outreach and special events would not be possible without our Youth Services staff and rest of the Library's support. Having their input when it comes to initiating new ideas, creating displays and crafts allows for the department to run seamlessly and has become a level of backing that we continually rely upon. So, we just want to say thank you for always being there; we could not provide such a high level of service without your help and willingness "to do."

This month marked the return of our Read to a Dog program provided by Pet Partners. The response has been great with 25 families attending. Pet Partners was excited with the turnout and will be looking for additional volunteers next month. Many of our families were happy with the program and thought this was a great way for their children to not only read aloud to a non-judgmental listener but also get used to interacting with dogs in general. We hope that everyone will plan on coming back in March.

Miss Mary and Christina from the Reference Department were able to take part in our cooking event for teens. Over the shortened winter break we asked the Stop and Shop nutritionist to put together a Cooking Wars contest for teens in middle school and up. During the event participants broke into small groups and used a series of ingredients to create a healthy meal. Stop and Shop provides all of the cooking materials along with a "challenge" ingredient that everyone has to use in their dish. We had 8 teens participate and broke into boys vs. girls teams. Miss Mary, Christina and the Stop and Shop nutritionist acted as judges once each dish was complete. Miss Mary was impressed by their cutting skills and thought it was awesome that they could come up with their own recipes. Even though the judges enjoyed both dishes they felt that the boys team took home the grand prize. To see pictures of the event head to our Facebook page.

Another program we offered for teens was a SAT vs. ACT preparation class provided by Bulldog Tutors. Bulldog Tutors is a tutoring organization for high school and college students that is run 100% by Yale graduates. They provide one on one tutoring opportunities across a wide variety of subjects along with free workshops for small groups on various topics. This month they talked about the differences between the SAT and ACT and the benefits of each test. During the workshop participants identified which

test played better to their strengths, so that they could plan accordingly. We had 5 families attend this information session so we are planning to bring them back in the spring.

At the beginning of the month we worked with the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library to create a Take Your Child to the Library Day (TYCTTLD) program across both locations. TYCTTLD is a national movement that brings families to libraries by offering special events and services. This year we decided to focus on our youngest patrons (babies - age 5) by putting on music filled morning. During the two hour stretch families played, made their own instruments and took part in a Music Together class.

Katy and I also started our second session of Digital Design for 3rd—5th graders. This program is provided by Google's "Computer Science First" online program and allows participants to experiment with coding through MITs SCRATCH program. Last session Katy and I focused on sound which let participants learn how to create musical arrangements and add sound to cartoons. This session we are jumping into video gaming and animation. Participants will learn how to create controllers, characters and playable games that they can share. The kids that signed up are anxious to begin and hope to share their creations with the public so that everyone can play!

Campaign for the Blackstone-Update

On Tuesday March 28, representatives of the James Blackstone Memorial Library and the Branford Community Foundation met with local media at the Blackstone Library to announce major support for the Library's Capital Campaign effort. The Branford Community Foundation will be making the largest gift in its history to help the library continue to be an outstanding asset and community resource for Branford.

"This goes beyond financial support" said Andy McKirdy, Chair of the Library's Board of Directors, "it represents a deep and thoughtful partnership between two of this town's most significant institutions."

The \$100,000 grant will

jumpstart the Library's Capital Campaign by challenging the community to join in the effort. All individual gifts up to and including \$1,000 will be matched by the Foundation on a dollar for dollar basis, effectively doubling all contributions up to a total of \$100,000. This effort will account for 25% of the campaign's \$800,000 goal towards the \$4.8 million renovation and expansion cost. The state has guaranteed a grant of \$1 million towards the project.

"I'm very excited to help the Blackstone Memorial Library raise the funds needed to renovate its iconic Branford building," said Stephanie Farber, President of the Branford Community Foundation's Board of Directors. "The

Blackstone is a key resource in the very center of Branford, one that serves our citizens every day. The Foundation is extremely pleased to encourage contributions by matching any grant up to and including \$1,000, up to a total of \$100,000."

As of this date, the library has received commitments of \$275,000 towards the \$800,000 goal, including the Foundation grant, private gifts and support from the library's Board of Trustees. Significantly, the Friends of the James Blackstone Memorial Library, a separate non-profit organization established to support the library through a variety of fundraising activities, has committed \$25,000 to this effort.



Bradley Chidsey House
ca. 1924

Highlights from the Reference Department-February

We had another great month of programs, including a Branford Forum on political terrorism, attended by over 50 people, yoga, knitting, a program on Connecticut's bald eagles, classes on Excel and 3D printing, book groups, Ask-A-Lawyer, a Land Trust lecture, an opera preview (for a full length simulcast opera being shown at Branford's Regal Cinemas), and our monthly new release movie, *Manchester By the Sea*, which was attended by over one hundred people.

We had an interesting question this month from a patron who called to inquire about the Bradley Chidsey house. We are extremely fortunate to have a wealth of material on Branford houses provided by our Town Historian, Jane Bouley. We found a description of the Bradley Chidsey house, which was originally on the corner of Main Street and Home Place, until Shelley's Garden Center was built. At that time, the house was moved back on Home Place and now serves as part of the Garden Center.

The information on Branford houses is only one of many resources that Jane Bouley has provided the library. Thanks to her years of research, we have vital records indexes, transcribed church records, local history articles, scanned copies of newspaper obituaries, notes on local families, real estate records, maps, scanned city directories, photographs, and more.

Deb Trofatter



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...more than books

Join our email list for more
information about programs
www.blackstonelibrary.org

April 2017 Program Highlights

Hatha Yoga

Mondays @ 5:15—6:30 pm

Join yoga teacher Helen Lesprier every Monday evening. Free and open to all ages.

RAVE ON! Concert

April 9 @ 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Featuring the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, and other legends of early rock-n-roll.

Intermediate 3D Printing*

April 11 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join instructor Jim Davis for intermediate to 3D file creation. Once you learn this software, you'll be able to design and 3D print your very own creations. For all ages.

Menunkatuck Audubon:

Sea Level Rise

April 12 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Connecticut's beaches play a number of important roles. They provide recreation, stimulate economic activity,

and serve as buffers to storm wave damage. In a time of sea level rise, and potentially a time of intensified storm activity, Connecticut's shoreline is increasingly vulnerable. Presented by James Tait, PhD.

Tilde Cafe: Languages

April 15 @ 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

Professor Claire Bower, a scholar in this area, will tell us about her research.

Opera Preview:

Eugene Onegin*

April 17 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for a Metropolitan Opera Preview of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin, with Marc Verzatt, recently retired from the faculty of the Yale School of Music. Sponsored by Shoreline Village Connecticut.

Saturday Cinema:

Hidden Figures

April 29 @ 1:00 pm

Books 'n' Brews Book Club

April 26 @ 6:00 pm

We're bringing a book club to the Thimble Island Brewery! We'll have three different discussion groups happening, talking about *The Hike* by Drew Magary, *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Egan, and *The Noble Hustle* by Colson Whitehead.

If you've read one of these titles, come out and join the discussion. If you need to request a copy, you can do so through our online catalog. Place a hold, get your book, and join the fun!

Bestseller Book Club*:

April 29 @ 3:00 pm

The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley by Hannah Tinti

*Check our website for more programs! Programs with * require registration.*

February 2017 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 11,018

February 2016: 12,932

borrowIT: 2,598

February 2016: 2,708

Renewals: 2,637

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 711

Overdrive audiobooks: 279

Zinio: 210

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 17 Loaned 33

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

12 programs/331 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

8 programs/191 attendance

School-age (6-11)

9 programs/190 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 29

Total Attendance: 712

Teen Programs (12+)

3 programs/19 attendance

Adult programs

15 programs/381 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

46 meetings/183 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2037

Facebook: 1411 Likes

MailChimp: 5857 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 474

Days Open: 26