



# Report to the Board of Trustees

February 5, 2014

## From the Director

Our show and PSA aired on BCTV the week of January 27–31, and is scheduled for Feb 3 –8 . The patrons who participated in the show were thrilled. I ordered DVD copies for the library and will send one to the state library archives. Also of note is that five other library programs are running concurrently; they will also be available to borrow on dvd.

Kathy O., the finance committee and I prepared a budget request to submit to the town with three different scenarios: one to reflect actual library needs, one reflecting a 0% increase and one reflecting a 2% decrease. The Board of Finance meetings are scheduled for the week of March 17-20.

AKV produced color-coded CAD drawings of the building project; they were presented to First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove. AKV continues to work on renderings for the project. We plan to submit a capital request for the project as part of our 2014-2015 budget request.

“Embracing Diversity in our Community” was held at the library on January 25; a group of 90 residents, including community and business leaders and parents, at-



*Embracing Diversity in our Community-photo from Branford Eagle*

tended. The information gained in the meeting was valuable as we promote community acceptance and understanding. The event was covered by the Branford Eagle: <http://bit.ly/Mq7NV1> The committee has planned a follow up meeting for February and we hope to develop programs to continue the diversity conversation.

I nominated Miss Carly and Miss Mary for the Branford Education Hall of Fame; going to the election meeting was an interesting experience. They didn’t win this year, but I received a lot of tips and hopefully we can all turn out to vote next year.

The Branford Public Schools held an ELL Breakfast at the library on January 23. Nine families participated the event; we gave tours, issued library cards and demonstrated our iPads and ESL

apps. Carly is working with the school system to organize a “summer reading kickoff” at the library in May.

FrediB continued to make progress on our website this month. Debby and Whitney received training so that they can maintain the site; Barbara, Katy and I will receive training in February. The new site will be ready to launch in February.

In the community, I attended rotary meetings, read stories to a class at the Mary Murphy school again, attended toastmasters meetings and the MLK Breakfast on January 20.

Remember that the library will be closed on the morning of Friday, February 28 for staff inservice training. We will open at 1:30 that day.

*Karen Jensen  
Library Director*

## This Month in the Youth Services Department—December

This month was jam-packed with winter programming. We had a little trouble following the schedule here and there due to snow...but our department was a permanent hotspot throughout winter break! Photos can be found on our Facebook Page.

The most popular program by far was our hot cocoa and a matinee. This was the third annual showing of *The Polar Express* with hot cocoa and of course, candy canes. Every year Miss Mary and I consider changing the movie, but families get excited about the Polar Express, so it is becoming a tradition. Christina worked hard, creating 40-plus cocoas and she made sure that everyone got a candy cane!

We also had a nice showing at our cookie decorating program. Children and caregivers listened to a combination of cookie-filled stories and were then given five sugar cookies to decorate. Confections included: frosting, M&Ms, chocolate chips, peppermint, sprinkles and more! Participants had the best time overloading their cookies and it was a wonder that anyone left with a single cookie intact since they immediately started eating away!

Christina led a snowman decorating craft at the end of the month, similar to our cookie decorating demo that included snowmen stories and then an array of edible decorations! She actually took a series of marshmallows and then created the

cutest snowman with pretzels for arms, chocolate chips as eyes and then an Oreo as a cap! Participants had the best time coming up with their own creations and I have to say one of the most creative ideas I saw was the use of vanilla frosting as snow, with a mixture of crushed candy canes that completed the holiday feel.

This month Miss Mary and I hosted our very first Tablet Tales session. The program uses a combination of books and apps to represent a theme. Our first storytime had a small showing of three families but registration has picked up for the month of January. In our first class Miss Mary and I created a train theme where we used a combination of songs, rhymes and train books. One of the best things about hosting this class once a month is that Miss Mary and I can introduce new songs and rhymes on a regular basis since the class is brand new! We actually provide "cheat" sheets before the class begins and introduce the new apps so that everyone can participate once they are distributed. This past month we featured two apps: *Build a Train* and *Trains*. The first app allows participants to build their own trains and race them around a variety of tracks. Fully interactive and sounds included. The second app is more of a virtual book that reads Bryon Baron's book *Trains*. Each page is fully interactive allowing participants to point to objects and hear words as well as move

trains and characters up and down the track. This app also has a recording feature which allows participants and caregivers to read the story together and then view it played back with their voices! Perfect for those that are just starting to read or are in the mood to create a story of their own.

Another tech-based program we introduced this month was Tech this Out. This program is meant for teens and will use a combination of apps, PCs, games and demos to show how technology can be used in neat ways. Our first session introduced participants to a stop motion app, which allows them to play a series of pictures at different speeds in order to create a video. We tested out the app and then composed a small video that we want to feature on our website. Once again, we started with a small number of participants but enrollment has grown for next month.

This month the youth services department has also been working extra hard to update the teen space. Once our combined graphic novel collection on the ground floor has formed (adult and teens) we are most looking forward to opening up the space and possibly featuring a teen events board. Katy has done an amazing job of promoting and creating teen activities. She has been a huge asset to the team and we could not have moved forward so quickly without her help.



*The Youth Services room has a new reading nook, donated by the CT DOC workshop.*

## December Highlights from the Reference Department

### **The 12 days of Christmas\***

**12 public computers:** In use all day every day by patrons who are looking for jobs, want to connect with family and friends, do research, watch videos and movies, create letters and resumes and much more. *Reference staff can and will offer technical support and assistance to all our computer-loving patrons!*

**11+ large print books:** selected each week for one book loving homebound library patron! Mrs. V loves westerns and specific mystery writers and “good” stories and we try very hard to please her with new titles each and every week. *We use our shared library catalog (LION) to find the latest and most appropriate large print books for her!*

**10 special programs this month:** organized by the programming committee and supported by the reference staff. We create the press releases, the online newsletter, set up equipment and chairs and act as greeters, too. *This month’s highlights included Opera Appreciation, CT Accordion Association Holiday Concert, Community Discussion, Friends Lecture: Classical Music in Classic Cartoons and more!*

### **9 categories of books weeded:**

Travel, law, consumer health, parenting, food

and drink (cookbooks!), sports, biography, literary criticism, military history. *We love making space for new and updated materials!*

**8 homebound patrons:** Each week we select, request and prepare materials for homebound patrons who love using the library but are unable to get to the library on their own. *Our homebound patrons are life-long readers who deserve and get our personal attention!*

**7 days a week:** The reference department (and library) is open every day. *We hardly ever close!*

**6 scheduled Tech Tuesday sessions:** Our one on one appointments continue to be popular and fun. *We helped patrons use their Kindle Fires, iPads, get an overview of Windows 8, transfer photos from their camera to their laptop and set up email accounts.*

**5 services to make your life easier:** Public fax, scanner, copier, Optelec reader and color printer available anytime the library is open! *We can be your friendly neighborhood copy shop- but much more affordable!*

**4 ways to get research or reference assistance:** email, in person, by phone and social media. *If you can’t make it into the library, you have lots of options to get in touch*

*with us or request our help.*

**3 book displays:** We are proud of our book collection. *This month, we featured holiday craft books, books to help you cope with stress (joke books, self-help, meditation) as well as a tribute to Nelson Mandela.*

**2 service desks:** Reference staff is available on the main floor and the lower level to answer questions, locate books, provide reader’s services, help you download e-books and more. *The library is three stories high: we try to be where we are needed!*

**1 awesome Reference staff:** We have a group of amazingly helpful, tech-savvy, competent, professional reference librarians committed to excellence in customer service! *Yeah, Reference!*



*Teens can submit reviews of their favorite books.*

**\*JBLM Reference style**

—Barbara Cangiano



## February 2014 Program Highlights

James Blackstone Memorial Library  
758 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

203.488.1441  
[reference@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:reference@blackstonelibrary.org)  
[facebook.com/blackstonelibrary](http://facebook.com/blackstonelibrary)  
[twitter.com/blackstonelib](http://twitter.com/blackstonelib)  
[www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org)

**...more than books**

Join our email list for more information about programs  
[www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org)

**Tech Tuesdays @ 10am**  
one-on-one sessions with a librarian for tech help.

**Knitting: Wednesdays 6:00 PM**

**App/Tablet Tips 12/5 @ 6 PM**

**Community Discussion**  
Sunday, 2/2 @ 2:00 PM

**Yoga: Mondays @ 5:00 PM**  
February 3, 10, 24

**2nd Tuesday Book Club**  
1/11 @ 6:45 PM  
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

**Opera Appreciation**  
2/24 @ 7:00 PM  
Great Love Scenes

**Ask A Lawyer** 2/20  
@ 6-7:45 PM

**Audubon Society**  
2/12 @ 7 PM  
Nature Show & Share Night.

**Game Night**  
2/19 @ 5:30-7:30 PM

Looking for free, fun indoor activities this winter? Come play great games, meet new people, and enjoy free refreshments at the library! We'll have classic and new board games to choose from.

**Tilde Café**  
2/22 @ 3-4 PM  
Synapses-connections that make your brain work.

**Silk'n Sounds Concert**  
2/23 @ 2-3:15 PM  
An a cappella chorus comprised of 40 women who sing a variety of music in the four-part harmony in the American Barbershop tradition.  
*Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

**Branford Land Trust**  
2/26 @ 7 PM  
CT's Peregrine Falcons.

**Closed for Presidents' Day:**  
Sunday, February 16  
Monday, Monday, February 17

## December 2013 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

**Total Circulation: 12,936**  
(December 2012: 13,696)

**ConnectiCard: 2,403**  
(December 2012: 2,619)

**Downloadable Circulation:**  
Overdrive ebooks: 457  
Overdrive audiobooks: 100  
Axis360: 10  
Zinio: 271

**IndieFlix:** 114 total patrons registered; 10 films viewed

**Interlibrary Loan**  
Borrowed 28/Loaned 62

**Average Daily Visitors: 475**  
Days Open: 29

**Facebook: 803 Likes**

**Constant Contact: 3169**

**Children's Programs:**

*Babies (0-2)*  
11 programs/284 attendance  
*Preschool (3-5)*  
12 programs/209 attendance  
*School-age (6-11)*  
12 programs/233 attendance

**Total Children's Programs: 35**  
**Total Attendance: 726**

**Teen Programs (12+)**  
1 programs/2 attendance

**Adult programs**  
14 programs/509 attendance

**Lucy Hammer Room**  
63 meetings/124 attendance

**Computer Sessions: 2160**



*Missed Classical Music in Classic Cartoons? See it on BCTV along with five other library programs in February.*