



# Report to the Board of Trustees

February 5, 2020

## From the Director

The Youth Services department continued to fine tune and organize their space. Regular programs resumed in the new children's area in January. We hope to have new flip/nest chairs and tables in the program room soon, which will make it possible to hold programs in the program room. As always, the YS staff approaches each new challenge with a positive attitude, and we are hearing lots of praise from families.

In January we were approached by SCSU to host an internship for an MLS student who is interested in working with teens. Carly is following up to set an interview and we hope to have the student on board shortly.

Also, thanks to the efforts of Trustee Heather Nolin, we were selected as a site for a Yale School of Management Fellow. Eloise Owens will attend her first board meeting soon and will help with board governance and strategic planning.

Polly Fitz, John Herzan, Jamie Cosgrove and I met with representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office to discuss grant funding for the auditorium roof repairs. We learned that our project has a strong chance of qualifying for a grant funded by the Community Investment Act



In January we learned that one of our young patrons, Lorelei Ranalli, wanted to make a significant donation to our children's department.

Lorelei had saved her birthday and allowance money in order to present the library with a \$100 check!

To show our appreciation, we created a special certificate and organized a photo op.

Thank you Lorelei for your thoughtfulness—you are an inspiration and your gift has made an important difference for our library.



**Mini Golf**
*at Blackstone Library*

FUN FOR ALL AGES



**18 HOLES OF MINI GOLF INSIDE THE LIBRARY**  
 Play downstairs, play upstairs, play everywhere!  
  
 Course is open for play:  
 Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 4 pm  
 Sunday, March 29, 1 pm to 4 pm  
  
 \$5 per person, per round. Golf clubs and balls provided.

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**  
A WEEKEND OF MINI GOLF FUN FOR EVERYONE AT BLACKSTONE LIBRARY



**Mini Golf:**  
*After Hours*

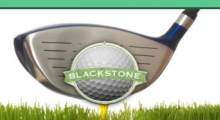
AGES 21+



**Saturday, March 28, 7 pm**  
  
*Featuring*  
 Tastings: whiskey • spirits • beer • wine  
 hosted by Branford Wine & Liquor  
  
*Plus*  
 mini golf • food • silent auction  
 prize drawings • prizes for lowest scores

**Tickets: \$40**  
 per person

Purchase advance tickets for both events at [blackstonelibrary.org](http://blackstonelibrary.org) or at the library. Tickets will also be available at the door. All proceeds benefit the James Blackstone Memorial Library.



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which is awarded on a rolling basis. We would like to submit an application by March 10 to be reviewed at the SHPO April meeting. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$100,000 depending on project cost, and require matching funding from the grantee.

The building committee subsequently met January 23. We are expecting to review a proposal from the architect for the roof repair at our February 13 meeting.

Polly and I attended the January 27 Board of Finance meeting to provide an update on the renovation project and roof situation.

Meanwhile, regular programs will officially resume in the auditorium beginning this summer and our regular partners including the Historical Society, Land Trust, Audubon Society, etc. have been notified.

Karen Jensen

## Highlights from the Youth Services Department—December

December was busy as we moved into our new home on the ground floor as we prepared for winter break and spring programs. So far, everything is coming together nicely and it's great knowing that we can make the space fit our needs.

Over the holiday break the we offered some new programs that were a huge success! We showed *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch* the day before Christmas Eve and filled families bellies with various snacks. The cool part was that we were able to show the movie in our teen space by projecting the movie on a white wall. We had eight families attend plus walk-ins just visiting the department. Being able to project on the ground floor gives us a new level of flexibility and makes it possible for Sarah to host movie nights and Anime Club, while the children's department is planning to use the space once a week to offer Picture Books LIVE, a 30 minute storytime that uses a combination of music, books and a mini movie screening of popular authors books.

We also hosted our annual cookie decorating and gingerbread house building programs for those looking for something sweet. Both programs produced a robust attendance and the families had the best time decorating their cookies and graham crackers. As a matter of fact, I believe this was the first year that families were actually

able to assemble functional houses out of the crackers and frosting. Each year we tweak the building process but the roofs always seemed to cave in but for some reason this year the crackers and frosting just clicked!

Sarah and I also offered additional programming for our middle and high school users by hosting a "Santa Breakout" in the teen space. This program is essentially a live action puzzle where a group of 8 tweens worked together to find Santa's missing Naughty or Nice book. The book was hidden in the teen area along with a series of locked boxes and clues and the group had a total of 40 minutes to complete their task. The group was successful and the cool part was that they had to use mathematics, science and logic in order to meet their mark. In the end, the kids were successful and celebrated by sharing hot chocolate.

With all the hype surrounding Jeopardy and discovering who the GOAT, or greatest (player) of all time is - Miss Sarah and I decided to host our own game but with pop culture questions! We developed the slides in our Google drive and then used our trusty white wall again to project the game so that everyone could see. The day of the event we had 4 teams that played a total of two rounds. To make the game more interesting we also purchased a small batch of "Bertie Bots." These came

straight from the pages of "Harry Potter" and are essentially jelly beans that come in a combination of delicious and awful flavors. For example, a yellow bean could taste like popcorn, lemons or boogers! Disgusting for sure but also fun since teams would have to close their eyes and pick a bean if they answered wrong! In the end the kids had a blast competing against one another and they enjoyed seeing one another's reactions when they had to eat a bean.

Our annual "Noon" Years Eve Party was once again well attended. We squeezed 66 folks in our kids space and took everyone through a series of books, rhymes and dancing. This was Miss Sarah's first experience with such a large crowd and she had the privilege of passing out the glow sticks, noise makers and necklaces, which made her the most popular person in the crowd. We closed our "noon" years story hour with paper hats, a countdown, and bubbles which brought smiles to everyone's face.

Finally, we hosted local author Madelyn Kavanaugh who read her new book, "Mermaid's Winter." The book was inspired by a talk she hosted a few years back, when a young boy asked, "What happens to your mermaid in the winter?" She thought this was an excellent question and set out to find out!

Carly Lemire



Happy NOON Year,  
from the ground floor.

## Factual Fridays—*Branford's Neighborhoods*

Branford's neighborhoods have had a number of name changes over the years. Looking at the 1868 Beers map, some of these district names include Northwest, Scotch Cap, and Paved Street as well as the more well-known ones of Mill Plain, Damascus and Stony Creek. The northern part of Granite Bay was once called Klondike, Mulliners Neck was in the Branford Point area, the section around Route 139 was called Hopyard or Hopping Plain, and Double Beach was once known as Town Neck.

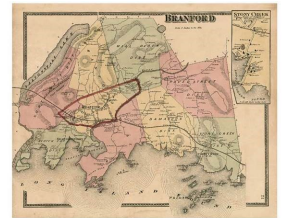
Note: The Beers family were important map publishers who worked from the mid to late 19th century, creating state and county atlases and

maps of much of the northeastern United States. Published by F.W. Beers, A.D. Ellis & G.G. Soule, 1868, the Beers Atlas includes a name index of individuals, corporations, locations, and geographic features.

With the industrialization of the east coast and western migration to settle America's heartland, county atlases became very popular in the latter half of the 19th and early 20th century. These atlases showed property ownership, which usually included the individual's name and often the footprint of their house. The publishers of the Beers county atlases included artistic renderings of

homes, businesses, and civic buildings. Today, not only are these county atlases aesthetically pleasing, but they are an important source of information for historians and genealogists. County atlases show the development of communities in new streets, railroads, the realignment of waterways, and the trend from residential to commercial districts.

*Thanks to the Morristown and Morris Township, NJ Library for their excellent description of the Beers map and atlases.*



Map of Branford from the F.W. Beers Atlas of New Haven County Connecticut published in 1868

## Highlights from the Reference Department-December

It has been an amazing, engaging, and challenging year for the Reference Department and the library. We are approaching the end of the renovation and we are excited about seeing every space completed. As a department, we are focusing on a few areas as we begin the new year. We are working on increasing our programs and workshops, adding new classes and offering more one-on-one tech appointments and we have numerous archives projects to complete.

We will continue to partner with ERACE, the Senior Center and other local organizations to provide support to the community. Jenna and

Christina will be attending a Census Workshop to learn how the library can help households complete their Census questionnaires. Christina is scheduling help sessions with the Senior Center and a game night with ERACE.

Jenna, Anne and Debby have a number of archives projects in the works. Our photographs and postcards collections are nearly complete. Anne has finished indexing the Vertical File and is working on determining what has been digitized and what needs to be. Debby is working on library history, a number of our local history scrapbooks and is working with

Town Historian Jane Bouley on a long-term digitization project of our archives and manuscript collection. Ultimately, the goal is to have a combined index so that our staff and eventually patrons can locate materials on hundreds of local history files quickly and easily. As time permits, we will also add some of these digitized files to our website.

*Debby Trofatter*



James Blackstone Memorial Library  
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Branford, CT 06405  
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## February 2020 Program Highlights

### Lock Picking for Beginners\*\*

**February 15 @ 10 - 11:30 am**

Did you know that lock-picking is a widely growing hobby in the maker community? A pin-tumbler lock is a puzzle waiting to be solved. It combines manual dexterity, patience, and problem solving. We provide everything that you need to learn how to open simple pin-tumbler locks, learn which locks are secure and which are not, and have a great time doing it! We also cover local and federal laws surrounding this hobby.

### Ask A Lawyer

**February 20 @ 6 - 7:45 pm**

Have a legal question? Get a free consultation with a lawyer, brought to you by the New Haven County Bar Association. Each month, lawyers visit area libraries to provide free consultations. Consulta-

tions are first-come, first-served. Sign up at Reference up to 30 minutes before program begins. Free and open to the public.

### 3D Print Club\*\*

**February 25 @ 6 - 8:00 pm**

Our 3D print club is building a robot arm! These classes will show how 3D modeling, 3D printing, electrical components like servos and step motors, as well as a programmable microchip like the Arduino, can all be used in concert to create a unique and functional electronic device. It is ideal but not required for you to have already at least taken the intro to 3D printing class. However, because we will be working on this as a group, interested beginners are welcome to come.

### F2G2 Game Night\*\*

**February 28 @ 6 - 9:00 pm**

Join us for game night! We play all types of board games, from fast-paced, hilarious party games to highly strategic, thinky games that will leave your head spinning! We've got games for everyone, no matter your experience level. Adults of all ages welcome.

### Traveling on a Budget\*\*

**February 29 @ 1 - 2:30 pm**

Matt Cadorette has visited over 25 countries on 6 continents. In his presentation he'll share strategies he's learned and resources he trusts for creating a positive travel experience. Whether you're new to traveling or a jet setter looking for a good deal, you're sure to learn something new!

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

## December 2019 Statistics—Deirdre Santora

### Total Circulation: 8,834

December 2018: 9,686

### borrowIT: 2,329

December 2018: 2,701

### Renewals: 5,934

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 897

Overdrive audiobooks: 466

RB Digital: 258

Hoopla: 542 plays

Kanopy: 121 plays

Pronunciator: 471 users

### Children's Programs:

*Babies (0-2)*

*2 programs/43 attendance*

*Preschool (3-5)*

*4 programs/159 attendance*

*School-age (6-11)*

*3 programs/41 attendance*

*All Ages*

*2 programs/23 attendance*

**Total Children's Programs: 11**

**Total Attendance: 266**

### Teen Programs (12+)

*17 programs/124 attendance*

### Adult programs

*13 programs/80 attendance*

### Hammer & Conference Room

*104 meetings/312 attendance*

**Computer Sessions: 1,587**

**Facebook: 1,803 Likes**

**MailChimp: 7,731 subscribers**

**Days Open: 29**