



Report to the Board of Trustees

January 8, 2014

From the Director

This month we stretched ourselves to accomplish new things. I borrowed a camera from BCTV to tape my first library tour aimed toward seniors. Doug at BCTV began editing the footage and the finished product should be ready by the end of January. We are also scheduled to tape an interview session with a few selected patrons on January 16 at BCTV.

Staff from the children's and reference departments collaborated to get the ipads working and loaded with apps, and patrons are beginning to use them in the library.

December was also a month of celebrations. The library board of trustees invited all staff to join in a special after-meeting social hour—it was great to relax and chat in a spirit of friendship.

We honored our outgoing selectman, "Unk" DaRos, for his support of the library over the years—it was a touching lunch with remarks from Andy McKirdy, and even our past director, Kathy Rieger. Many past members of the board of trustees were also able to attend.

Our staff attended a holiday party at the Fired Up! ceram-



Doug Sisson, Operations Manager at BCTV

ics studio on December 5. This was the second year of holding the party at the studio—we have an impressive array of creative talent here!

FrediB continued to make progress on our website this month.

The development committee met with Ron Katz to review a draft of the new development plan. We expect to present a final draft to the entire board in February.

The building committee reviewed CAD drawings of the proposed renovation.

In the community, I attended rotary meetings, read stories to a class at the Mary Murphy school, attended the Chamber of Commerce NonProfit Council meeting, and continued to work with community members to plan our January 25 program exploring diversity in Branford.

It was a snowy December, even before the official start of winter on the 21st. We closed early on the 14th and the 17th for safety concerns.

The investment company that manages our endowment moved its business from Merrill Lynch to HighTower at the beginning of the month. Nothing has changed in terms of investments or personnel.

I met the new president of the Historical Society, Virginia Page, and toured the Harrison House.

Reading room chairs and tables from DOC were delivered and they look fantastic!

Department heads and I met with Anne Yurasek to plan our February training. We will be closed on the morning of Friday, February 28 for the training. We will open at 1:30 that day.

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*

Friends of the Library Holiday Basket Sale

The Friends raised over \$2,000 from sales of the baskets. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated items for sale.

This Month in the Youth Services Department—November

We spent a great deal of time completing our easybook weed, which headed straight into a jfiction weed in order to make space for our summer reading inventory. The process has been long and I must say that it takes a lot of patience and a fine eye in order to track down the books! A big thank you to Christina and Mary F. for taking on a bulk of this work. You have both made it possible for our collection to grow.

I would also like to thank Patricia B. for taking the time to recatalog our summer reading collection. Since the school changed the summer reading list and duties this past year we have had an influx of titles that we did not know where to store. Now that the weeding process has been completed Patricia B. is able to not only recatalog but also give some of our older titles a facelift with new covers and spine labels. A big thank you to her for getting these books out of storage in the hands of our patrons.

Katy, Debby and I prepped our brand new iPads for next month's programming. The process has not always been easy and it has taken a lot of help guides and message boards to get to the point where we feel comfortable downloading, managing and updating all of the devices at once. Our persistence has made it possible for the youth services department to offer some pretty exciting programs that will integrate the use of this technology seamlessly. The first will be a

monthly storytime for preschoolers entitled Tablet Tales that will marry traditional storytime elements with theme-driven apps. The goal is not only to introduce quality literacy based apps but also give children and parents the opportunity to explore this form of technology together and encourage co-viewing. We are also starting a middle school technology program called Tech this Out, which will introduce different apps, computer programs, and even games that teenagers would be interested in trying. We are also hoping to bring in outside speakers or workshops to introduce them to different technological products and industries that will get them thinking about the future. Miss Mary and I have also talked about ways that the iPads can be used during special events. We currently have the ability to connect our iPads to the projector; creating an interactive experience for larger groups, which could be a lot of fun. We cannot wait to test it out during next year's summer reading kickoff and Halloween Parade.

Speaking of teens Katy, Christina and I have also been meeting with a small group of young adults' ages 12 to 17 who are interested in contributing to the library and increasing teen activity. We are already working towards creating teen driven programming and are exciting to introduce a few of their program ideas next month. They have also taken an interest in

making recommended reading lists/reviews for other teens so that they have peer recommendations to go in the teen room. Most recently they are interested in creating a volunteer space where teens can get information about ways to give back to the community. Katy is composing a list of local organizations/businesses that are interested in enlisting teen help! All of these ideas have built a new liveliness in the teen space and we are looking forward to allowing that drive to blossom and grow. Katy and I are actually working on putting together "teen time" in the auditorium for a few hours each afternoon so that they can have their own space and hopefully get used to coming to the library to meet their friends, study and create!

This month Miss Mary and I also put on a "create your own wreath" craft in celebration of Thanksgiving. We had the best time creating three stations for various ages. Some had premade kits while others allowed them to create their wreaths from stencils and scraps! Out of all the crafts we provided, our "tie dye" coffee filter turkeys were the biggest hit. We found the craft on Pinterest. The kids could not get enough of what they created and this will actually be a nice alternative to traditional tie dye for our younger patrons in the summer months. We had a total of 45 children attend.

—Carly Lemire



December Highlights from the Reference Department

The Twelve 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 Car-*

toons 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 pa-

trons: 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 re-

search 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!*

Miscellaneous Statis-





James Blackstone Memorial Library
758 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

203.488.1441
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facebook.com/blackstonelibrary
twitter.com/blackstonlib
www.blackstonelibrary.org

...more than books

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

January 2014 Program Highlights

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

Knitting: Wednesdays 6:00 PM

App/Tablet Tips 1/8 @ 6 PM

**Community Discussion
Sunday, 1/5 @ 2:00 PM**

**National Letter Writing Week
1/6 @ 7-8 PM**

An informative workshop on
the art of handwritten letters.

**Yoga: Mondays @ 5:00 PM
January 6, 13, 27**

**2nd Tuesday Book Club
1/14 @ 6:45 PM**
The Art of Hearing Heartbeats

by Jan-Philipp Sendker

**Opera Appreciation
1/27 @ 7:00 PM**
Wagner

**Watercolor Demonstration
1/14 @ 7-8 PM**

**Ask A Lawyer 1/16
@ 3:30-5:30**

**Affordable Care Act
1/21 @ 6-7 PM**
With Randi Oster.

**Branford Land Trust
1/22 @ 7 PM**

**Transcendental Meditation
1/23 @ 6-7 PM**

**The Journey to College
Begins in Middle School
1/29 @ 7-9 PM**

**Gettysburg & Lincoln:
150 Years Later
1/30 @ 7-8 PM**
With Dr. Richard S. Young

**Closed for Martin Luther
King Jr.'s Birthday:
Sunday, January 19
Monday, January 20**

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: 485
Days Open: 27

Facebook: 801 Likes

Constant Contact: 2983

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
5 programs/205 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
13 programs/215 attendance

School-age (6-11)
8 programs/243 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 26
Total Attendance: 663

Teen Programs (12+)

1 programs/5 attendance

Adult programs

26 programs/376 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

47 meetings/156 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2464



Branford Town Band played in the Reading Room on December 4