



Report to the Board of Trustees

July 9, 2014

From the Director

Once again, I was fortunate to attend the annual American Library Association conference through the generosity of the Friends. This year's program took place in Las Vegas and I participated in a variety of programs, including makerspaces, public speaking, childrens/teens apps and data driven marketing. I picked up many signed copies of books to add to the collection, plus lots of ideas for future programs to implement with our staff.



Transforming Our Libraries, Ourselves was the theme of this year's ALA conference in Las Vegas NV. Here I am with the Proquest Transformer.

Did You Know?

A 2012 poll conducted for the American Library Association found that 94% of respondents agreed that public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed because they provide free access to materials and resources

There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the US—a total of 16,766 including branches.

Americans spend nearly three times as much on candy as they do on public libraries.

Americans go to school, public and academic libraries more often than they go to the movies.

From: ALA's Quotable Facts About America's Libraries

Co-Communications began the research portion of their work; they expect to have a mock-up draft of a campaign on July 14.

We posted an ad for a part-time development associate which closed on July 6. I am reviewing resumes and will schedule interviews in the next two weeks. Finalists will then meet the development committee.

Miss Carly and Miss Mary registered 193 children for our summer reading program at the Branford Festival. As children begin to read their books for the program, the marble columns are beginning to grow.

Rob Kuehne, our children's department intern from last

summer, is returning again this year and we are looking forward to working with him again. We also have several new volunteers helping us with shelving.

Carly and Katy visited the Westport Library for a personal tour of their makerspace; Westport was the first CT library to implement a makerspace and Katy and Carly gained a lot of insight. Kirsty Smith, one of our circulation staff, is attending a "makerspace" institute as part of her MLS program this summer. We hope to share in her knowledge as well.

A follow up to our May donor mailing went out to 75 donors during the last week of June.

All staff worked on annual evaluations and goal setting in June. This was the second year using the process we adopted last year, and I am very pleased to report that staff were successful in achieving their goals for the year; there is a renewed enthusiasm for the goals we have planned for this year.

The Friends of the Library began a new fiscal year; Helen Wong is the new president; Don Mitchell is the new secretary. I attended the FOCL meeting on June 14 where Fred was presented with his award for the Lecture Series he coordinates for us—it was a very proud moment for Fred and the Library!

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*

This Month in the Youth Services Department - May

We spent this month preparing for the summer reading program, which will be science themed. Miss Mary and I set up the calendar, booking programs and ordering prizes

Next month we are going "high tech" with online registration, virtual tracking and book reviews! This new form of tracking will streamline our summer reading process and make it possible to keep real time statistics on how many books are actually being read throughout the summer. Families are also able to sign up for the summer reading program on their own, so if they cannot come to the Green on Sat. June 14th they will not miss out. Additional information about the program and a link to the summer reading page has been added to our website.

We held a summer reading kick-off in collaboration with Branford Public Schools, the BECC, BEF, Read to Grow and other local organizations. The youth services department received a small grant for attending a Reading Together Conference in New Haven and agreed that promoting reading as a community would be a fantastic way to push reading as a family. The event featured different literacy activities, summer reading information, tips for parents and giveaways.

One of the most impressive things that came out of this

whole experience was the creation of our Marble Run Machine by John Kobylanski. Throughout the summer children will check in the youth services department with their virtual reading logs and receive a marble for every book they have read. They will then roll their marbles into the maze, filling the columns thus creating the Blackstone's marble columns! The artwork is truly amazing and we cannot wait to track the maze week by week on our facebook page. A big thank you to the Public Schools and Joe for creating something so unique that simply screams Blackstone! We are going to encourage everyone to participate so that our marble columns will rise.

This month was also packed with special scheduled events including a Muffins with Mom program the Saturday before Mother's Day. During the event Miss Mary and I put together a mother-based story hour that focused on different types of families and how they celebrate their parents and/or grandparents. We then used the iPads to share a Little Critter App called Just Me and my Mother, which has interactive elements that allowed children and caregivers to come together and experience the story in a new way. We closed the program with a Mother's Day craft and muffins for everyone!

ACES, traveling theatrical troupe came to perform their original project called *Folktales From Around the World*. Not only were their acting skills exceptional but also their determination to create such a project. Through reading Folktales and their past experience on set they came up with the play's dialogue, music/movement as well as their costumes and set. Their creativity was astounding and you could tell that they were really passionate about the project. It really was a refreshing experience and reminded the audience what teens are truly capable of.

Finally, local author and artist Cheryl Kling came to read her picture book *Nature's Royal Tea Party*. In order to celebrate we created an in-house tea party and invited children and parents to come dressed in their best to hear her book. Since Cheryl is an artist, she incorporated a crown-making activity so that everyone who participated felt like royalty. The program was a huge success and photos of the event can be found on our facebook page.

Carly Lemire



ACES Folktales from around the World



Cheryl Kling came into share her book, make crowns and have tea!

May Highlights from the Reference Department

We were creative:

Deb created a fantastic Blackstone Library Architecture Bingo board which had its first test drive during a library tour with 3rd graders! Whitney developed an awesome game board for our new and improved adult summer reading challenge called Literary Elements. Katy produced bright and cheery summer reading bookmarks for Teens and Kids (we copied the format for adults so everything would match!) and she hosted Creative Ink sessions for teens to work on creative writing.

We learned new things:

Deb attended the second of three Archives management workshops designed to get our extensive and unwieldy archives collection in order. Whitney attended Book Buzz at Westport Public Library to find out about some new and upcoming books and also spent some time learning about Windows 8 so she would be ready when patrons come to us for help. Barb played around with Pinterest and added some new pins for our adult summer reading program.

We made personal connections and helped people:

We delivered books to homebound patrons and ordered books for our book clubs. Whitney (and the library!) hosted great programs including Panic in Connecticut, Instagram 101, Pharmacology Confidential, CT Coast & Long

Island Sound, Tassy Walden Awards, and The Bat Lady. Katy gave two library tours to third graders from Mary T Murphy School. We helped a patron find information on personal stories of people with HIV; helped patron looking for consumer info including appliances and medications; We created two displays in support of important and often overlooked segments of our community: Mental Health Awareness Month and Foster Care Month which included books, pamphlets and contact information. We proctored exams. Barb helped a teacher get the latest information on curriculum planning for pre-k in Connecticut. Deb uncovered some information which may help a patron answer some questions about her mother's past.

We made plans:

Summer reading programs for adults were scheduled in May including Comics as Literature, Willoughby's Coffee & Tea talk, Thimble Island Brewing Company beer talk, a lecture on the Goldfinch & Dutch Baroque art, Sci-Fi Fridays, and more. Shauna reviewed the Branford High School Summer Reading list and made sure that we had the books that they needed for their summer reading assignment. The entire reference staff searched for books that had once been on the NYT Best Sellers list for a book display personally requested by a library patron.

We played with tech toys:

Deb set up a second computer in Tech Services to help with CCAR processing. We helped patrons download e-books to their e-readers, iPhones, iPads, and Kindles. Deb, Whitney and Katy made updates to the new website: Deb got the PayPal link corrected (whew!) and added the Branford High School Summer Reading book list to the web for easy access links to the catalog; Whitney created an Adult Summer Reading webpage to publicize the great summer events we have planned; Katy prepared the Teen portion of the website to advertise the upcoming Summer reading programs and events geared for teens.

We got organized:

Intern Gabriela helped us integrate some files that we had in the Branford History Room with the main file collection in the reference department. She helped us review and update our current magazine list, straighten up our Branford city directories and Branford High School yearbooks and reviewed and inventoried our collection of Ella Wheeler Wilcox books in anticipation of our upcoming local history and genealogy (re)organization efforts. Barb generated some inventory lists through LION which allowed us to make some room and remove some older non-fiction books on CD.

Barbara Cangiano



Summer Reading is in full swing.
Pick up your game board at the
reference desk!



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...more than books

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July 2014 Program Highlights

Round Robin Shakespeare

2nd Thursdays @ 10-12noon

July 10: *King Lear*

August 14: *Pericles*

Read with us and become familiar with the play before the performance.

Branford Historical Society Presents: Evidence of Haunting at Harrison House

Thursday, July 10 @ 7—8 PM

Adam Shefts, paranormal investigator, has discovered evidence of spirits at Harrison House; he will share his findings including footage of an orb and EVP.

Diners of Connecticut

Saturday, July 26 @ 2—3 PM

Join us for a book talk and signing with author Garrison Leykam, author of *Diners of Connecticut*, who hosts a road trip to Connecticut's diners, celebrating local recipes and diner lingo—order up a #81, frog sticks or a Noah's boy with Murphy carrying a wreath—as well as stories that make each diner unique.

Sci-Fi Friday

Friday, July 18 @ 1—3 PM

Celebrate Stanley Kubrick's birthday with a showing of his sci-fi classic, 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Downloading ebooks To Your Tablet

Saturday, July 19

@ 10—10:30 am

Explore our digital catalog, and get hands-on help with downloading content to your tablet.

The Art & Science of Great Coffee

Saturday, August 9, @ 11 AM

Learn the insider secrets to the world's great coffees with this wonderful presentation by Willoughby's Coffee & Tea. You'll learn to appreciate coffee on a whole new level!

May 2014 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 13,626

(May 2013: 15,334)

ConnectiCard: 2,828

(May 2013: 3,151)

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: **492**

Overdrive audiobooks: **144**

Axis360: **19**

Zinio: **162**

IndieFlix: 114 total patrons registered; **8** films viewed

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed **32**/Loaned **59**

Average Daily Visitors: 521

Days Open: 29

Facebook: 898 Likes

Constant Contact: 3695

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

18 programs/338 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

11 programs/189 attendance

School-age (6-11)

11 programs/574 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 40

Total Attendance: 1101

Teen Programs (12+)

2 programs/4 attendance

Adult programs

14 programs/345 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

51 meetings/123 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2513



Literary Elements is the theme of our 2014 Adult Summer Reading program.