



Report to the Board of Trustees

July 8, 2014

From the Director

Library managers spent a good part of the month preparing and discussing annual performance reviews and goal setting. I feel very proud of all the staff, board members and volunteers who really stepped up this year to help make the services and experiences we offer truly outstanding. Thank you!

The Branford Garden Club installed tiny Faerie Gardens on the library grounds at the beginning of the month. They were delightful and patrons of all ages had fun locating them all around the property.

We sold over 50 magnets with a vintage picture of the library as a fundraiser at our main circulation desk.

I participated in the annual Community Read at Sliney School with other community leaders on June 15.

Andy McKirdy and I presented the renovation plans to the RTM Education Committee on June 15, and the reaction was positive. The New Haven register ran an article about the renovation here: <http://bit.ly/1G76VbS>

Library staff attended the Branford Festival on June 20 to promote our summer



Library staff worked with the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative, Read to Grow and Branford's local Exchange Club to offer free Baby Bundles for expectant parents or those that have a child up to 18 months.

reading program and online offerings. Staff brought laptops and library cards to complete off-site card registration. Unfortunately, the day was cut short by rain, but we made a good impression during the morning and early afternoon.

Congratulations to Amanda Magleby and Colby Morawski who celebrated their wedding at the library on June 27.

I attended the FOCL meeting on June 13 in Middletown, where the Friends received their group award.

The Friends organized a very successful annual meeting, inducting new members to the executive committee.

The Annual Loeb Lecture was held on June 30. The presenters were outstanding, we had a good turnout and it was great to meet Rhoda Loeb.

There was an article in the June issue of Coastal CT Magazine, which featured information about shoreline libraries. You can read an excerpt here: <http://bit.ly/1JU8aQW>

I took a week of vacation at the end of June. I was fortunate to attend a training session on "Bulletproof Leadership" which was geared toward law enforcement professionals, but very relevant to managers in all fields!

Karen Jensen
Library Director



Library Wins Competitive Grant

We are proud to announce that we are the recipients of a competitive grant from the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which combines federal and state funds to allow libraries to offer special initiatives.

We have been awarded \$6,458 which will be used to expand our MakerLab program offerings with Learning Labs for teens. The Learning Labs will be held in Summer 2015 and again in Spring 2016.

This Month in the Youth Services Department - May

This year's summer reading theme is SUPERHERO based with "Every Hero Has a Story" for our K thru 4th graders AND "Unmasked" for our middle school students.

We have tons of interesting events planned—comic book creation, a Greek Gods and Goddess play, a series of community helpers story-times for our little ones as well as tons of environmental activities to promote happy and healthy futures for all!

Staff members are creating book recommendation lists to help parents searching for summer reading titles. This is the first year that the elementary and middle schools have not had recommended or required reading lists. The district wants summer reading to be enjoyable and hopes that giving kids the freedom to choose will encourage them to continuously read since they are picking books at their personal interest and reading level. So, we thought it would be nice to offer a couple of book lists/author recommendations as a jumping off point. In order to hit everyone's needs the lists can be found behind the youth services desk, in pamphlet form to take home as well as online.

We were also able to present our digital summer reading tracking program to the public schools this month and discovered that they were interested in partnering with our logging system so that they could have real time

statistics! All three elementary schools and the middle school will sign up for our summer reading program ahead of time. One of the aspects the schools really liked about the program was that it is 100% digital. Kids could keep track of their reading whether they were home, on vacation or even when the library is closed. Having a digital record makes it near to impossible to lose their lists so students do not have to worry if their list gets wet or if they leave them behind in their summer cabin. In order to accommodate the school's initiative of setting a summer reading goal we required them to set their goal during the online registration process. In order to entice them to meet that goal we have created a series of superhero 3D emblem prints like the "S" for Superman as well as the official "Bat" for Batman. When children reach their summer reading goal the system will automatically notify them to come to the library to see our 3D printer in action! Since the 3D printer has been really focused for our middle school students I think this will be a great way to introduce it to our younger users in hopes of enticing them to join our Maker Monday programs in the fall.

Once summer reading is through we will be able to pull reading log statistics directly from our system and import them in an excel spreadsheet. These statistics will be shared with the public

schools come September so that they can isolate the lists to specific students as well as grade level. We are really excited about working together and are interested to see how participation numbers will shake out due to the in-school push.

This month Saint Mary's School celebrated Catholic Schools Week. In order to show their appreciation for the library, the school's elementary school students came over with a bunch of baked goods, handmade cards filled with kind words as well as a song filled with gratitude! The staff was blown away by their kindness. Unfortunately, Miss Mary and I were not working that day, so we unable to see their kind words and thanks firsthand so Miss Mary set up a special spring storytime session with the youngest students in order to let them know how much we appreciated their goodies. The school's artwork had been on display in the Youth Services Department throughout the month of May so this gave students who have not seen their work a chance to find their pieces and comment on each other's work. The kids were amazingly well behaved and were delightful to work with while the teachers appreciated the chance to see their student's work and share in this special experience of visiting Miss Mary at the library.

Carly Lemire



Summer Reading
began on June 17.

CaddyStacks@Blackstone: *Save the Date!*

We're planning our first-ever mini golf event at the library on October 3 & 4, 2015!

CaddyStacks@Blackstone will take place on Saturday from 10am-4pm, and Sunday from 1pm-4pm, where the library will be transformed into an 18-hole mini golf course for the enjoyment of the community. The greens and holes of the course will wind throughout the library, between the stacks and down stairs, on all three levels. Putters, balls, and scorecards will be provided to players, and favors and prizes will be offered throughout the course.

Approximately 500 individuals are expected to play at the event, and since the Li-

brary will be open, hundreds more will witness the fun. The Blackstone Library's daily attendance during 2014 was an average of 600 people per day. A flat \$5 admission fee applies to all golfers, making this an affordable family outing and opportunity to support the Blackstone Library. In addition to mini golf, there will be food trucks on site during lunch time on both days.

On Saturday evening, there will be a special adults-only event, The 19th Hole Party. The event includes the opportunity to play the entire 18-

hole course, a beer tasting with Branford breweries, appetizers, and a silent auction. Tickets for the adult event are \$40 in advance.

There are a variety of sponsorship levels available, each with valuable opportunities for community exposure. Title sponsorship is still available at \$2500, Hole sponsorships are available for \$250 and scorecard ads for \$100. For more information, please contact Katy Dillman at 203.488.1441, ext. 313.



Kat and Christina at the Branford Festival on June 20.

Highlights from the Reference Department-May

Debby spent much of the month filling in as Circulation supervisor in Deirdre's absence. She also worked to prepare staff annual performance reviews scheduled for June, in addition to managing the book selection committee, and everyday reference and technology troubleshooting.

Whitney and Katy attended the BEA conference in New York. Whitney has organized a special book chat with

other staff librarians to highlight new books coming out over the summer.

Adult Summer Reading begins on June 17, and Whitney has created a program where adults will submit one-word book reviews for chances to win prizes.

Christina and Kirsty continued to teach Computer Basics, and they have planned Intro to Email and some introductory MS Office classes over

the summer.

Christina's *Nifty, New & Notable Nonfiction* display was popular, with books flying off the table each day.

Deborah Trofatter



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...more than books

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

July 2015 Program Highlights

World Dance Class

*Mondays @ 6:30—7:30 PM
July 6, 20, August 3, 17*

Join us for a 4-part series with Marina Zovich, certified music teacher and Artistic Director of Marina's Studios. Learn line, circle and couple dances from all over the world for beginner and intermediate dancers.

The U.S. Government and U.F.O. Disclosure

July 2 @ 6:30—8:30 PM

The Mutual UFO Network of Connecticut (MUFON CT), a local affiliate of the national MUFON, invites you to participate in World U.F.O. Day. We will show a documentary on the topic of U.F.O. disclosure and the U.S. Government, and talk about MUFON CT, our mission and activities. This program will be facilitated by Dyke Spear, MUFON CT Director of Public Relations & Media, with fellow MUFON CT Field Investi-

gators. Registration required. For more information, please contact: Tamara Petro: tamara.mufonfi@gmail.com/203.208.6065

Biblio Bards of Connecticut

July 28 @ 5:45—8 PM

Announcing the launch of Biblio Bards! We gather at different CT libraries to read one of Shakespeare's plays aloud, round-robin style. We'll have some copies of the play available, but please bring your own copy if you can. Whether you are a Shakespeare junkie or have always meant to get around to his work, come join us. No acting experience is necessary. Readers and listeners are welcome. This month's meeting is at the Blackstone, and we'll be reading *Comedy of Errors*.

Dr. Henry Lee Lecture

August 8 @ 2—3 PM

Spend an afternoon with the famous Dr. Lee as he dis-

cusses some of the most famous and interesting cases he has helped to solve. Registration is required; please call 203.488.1441, ext. 318. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Tips for Home Organization

August 11 @ 6:30—7:30 PM

Tips and techniques to organize your home. Presented by Elaine Johnson, Professional Organizer.

The Wicked Stage:

A reading of a new play

August 26 @ 7—8:30 PM

Acclaimed Connecticut playwright Joe Landry premieres a new play read by the Legacy Theatre resident acting company. Inspired by actual events from the rich history of the Stony Creek Theatre, with characters based on legendary showmen Orson Welles and William Castle. Please register at BuildingLegacyTheatre.com

May 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 13,322

May 2014: 13,626

ConnectiCard: 2,827

May 2014: 2,828

Renewals: 3,380

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 523

Overdrive audiobooks: 163

Axis360: 9

Zinio: 135

IndieFlix: 4

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed **27** Loaned **67**

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

15 programs/194 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

10 programs/238 attendance

School-age (6-11)

4 programs/74 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 29

Total Attendance: 506

Teen Programs (12+)

2 programs/14 attendance

Adult programs

33 programs/518 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

90 meetings/189 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2675

Facebook: 1128 Likes

Constant Contact: 4683

Average Daily Visitors: 519

Days Open: 29