



Report to the Board of Trustees

July 6, 2016

From the Director

Proposals for the renovation project were received and reviewed this month. Jamie Cosgrove appointed two members to serve on the review committee to represent the Town: Tony Thompson of Plans Ahead Architects, and John Herzan, Preservation Services Officer for the New Haven Preservation Trust. Both are Branford residents.



Branford Festival

Every year, Miss Carly and Miss Mary attend the Branford Festival to kick off the summer reading program and sign residents up for library cards. This year was no exception, and the library had a very visible spot among the many vendors. The weather could not have been more perfect and all enjoyed connecting with new friends and old.

All staff went through the annual review and goal setting process. It is impressive to know that our staff have made so many accomplishments over the year, and they have motivation and excitement to continually improve.

I visited more sites with the CLA conference committee and we have chosen a venue and dates for next year, to be announced at our July meeting.

The Branford Garden Club held their semi-annual garden tour on June 25, which started at the library. In preparation for the event, we updated our guide to trees and shrubs on the property, adding Lee's garden and other trees that had been planted since the last update.

During the week of June



19—25, the library and the Town Hall were lit with rainbow colors in support of the victims of the Orlando shooting.

This summer the library will serve as a drop-off point for the Branford Public School's Free Summer Meals Program. Bag lunches for children and teens will be provided most weekdays while supplies last.

The program will run from June 20—August 12 and other locations include: Branford High School, Tisko Elementary School and Sliney School. Breakfast will also be served at the high school from 7:30 – 10 each day.

I attended the annual CT Li-

brary Consortium meeting, State Library Board Meeting, and volunteered at the Rotary book sale tent for the Branford Festival.

Unfortunately, we continue to experience problems with deliverIT. The latest mandates from the state require that we no longer loan new materials through the service. Patron holds are limited to 5 as of July 1. Staff are helping as much as possible, but we expect to hear complaints in the coming months.

Finally, I completed e-rate paperwork to qualify for free fiber installation.

Karen Jensen

May Highlights from the Youth Services Department

This month the Youth Services Department worked closely with the Branford Public School System in a couple of different ways.

At the beginning of May the district held their annual English Language Learners (ELL) evening where the ELL teachers, principals and administrators celebrate the end of the school year with different language-based activities. The teachers set up stations throughout the auditorium that ask families to sing, read aloud, create crafts and more. Library staff register families for library cards, provide programming information and give tours. Since we had extra books from last month's Week of the Young Child, we gave them out, too. The event was considered a success with over 150 children and adults attending.

This month Miss Mary and I also worked with John B. Sliney Elementary School to set up a series of research visits with three second grade classrooms. Each student was working on gathering basic facts about different countries so that they could present them to their class at the end of the year. The school wanted to bring each class to the Library to learn how to use our online catalog and practice pulling out important facts from books while familiarizing themselves with the Youth Services Department. Miss Mary and I showed each class our non-fiction collection and how to locate information about their respective countries in

our catalog and encyclopedias. If a student was having trouble locating information about their country we then worked with them one-on-one to find information on our statewide database researchIT CT. ResearchIT CT allows us to zero in on age appropriate reads with kid friendly research engines and gain access to back issues of the kids magazine *Faces* that features a different country/culture each month. Having access to these resources ensured that everyone left with plenty of information.

The classes really enjoyed spending their morning at the Library and it was nice to hear the teachers encouraging them to visit us throughout the summer. Since each class ran so smoothly we are planning to repeat this trip next year.

Finally, we spent the entire month of May working closely with two amazing senior interns from Branford Public High School. This internship is a month long second semester class that has students working a 9 to 5 job at various locations around town. Students are expected to maintain a working schedule, collaborate with staff members, complete assignments and assist the public. The nice part about interning at the Library is that you get to experience different departments, projects and ways of service but still see how we come together to assist the public to the best of our ability. The teens told Miss Mary that they could not believe how busy we were and that it

was amazing how we served the public in so many ways.

Since both interns were tech savvy the Youth Services Department took this opportunity to have them inventory our Mobile MakerLab so that Katy and I could keep track of our supplies and easily reorder materials. Both gentlemen also had 3D printing experience so they were able to design this year's summer reading 3D giveaways and helped us figure out why our MakerBot was not heating and essentially fixed it by ordering and 3D printing new parts! Both interns were also heavily involved in our mini-maker table on Friday afternoons. They decided that they wanted to showcase stop-motion video creation and came up with a series of test videos to share. They then printed various 3D objects so that patrons could learn how to use the app through them and then create their own.

Working with these interns was not only delightful but also inspiring. Their determination to get our MakerBot up and running reminded me that experts come in all shapes, ages and sizes! Their persistence showed me that we all have the ability to solve complex problems just as long as we are not swayed by failure and just keep plugging away. We wish them nothing but the best as they head straight into graduation this June. To see some of their other completed projects just head to the Library's Facebook page.

Carly Lemire



Our AWESOME high school interns Ilya and Jarod

LSTA Grant Recap

Last year, the library was awarded funds from the CT State Library and Institute for Museum and Library Services to expand our maker programs for teens. We created **Learning Labs** - 3 different month-long classes for teens, offered in the summer of 2015 and spring of 2016.

The first class, **Creating 3D Designs with Sketchup**, was led by Randy Pareja, a local engineer, who worked with students to come up with a project of their choosing,

then design and print it out.

The second class, **Electronics with Arduino**, was led by Jim Davis. Jim had the kids first design a fan blade in 123dDesign, from Autodesk. We printed the blades out, and then the kids were shown how to program an Arduino, and connect that to motors that would turn the fan blades.

Our third class, **Sewing & Circuitry**, led by Zenaida Barrios, taught a group of kids

how to create light-up arm bands using batteries/LEDs/metallic thread.

Comments from teens included "I enjoyed what we were learning and the instructor is amazing!"

The grant year is complete, but the MakerLab classes continue for all ages. We appreciate the support from the IMLS for making it possible to bring this brand new resource to our community.

Katy Dillman

Highlights from the Reference Department-May

Our major focus in May was Blackstone's first Author Expo, which was very successful! Whitney worked very hard all year to make this day a special one for all of the authors and our patrons. We invited 30 local authors to set up tables in the reading room, meet our patrons, sign and sell books and network with each other. We had adult, young adult and children's authors, nonfiction, fiction and fantasy. Ann Nyberg was our featured speaker and we had two author panels for adult and young adult/children's literature. The authors who participated and others who were not able to participate in this expo, have expressed an interest in having another event next year. Kudos to Whitney and to everyone who helped to make this program such a success!

As we move forward, all of the reference staff is focusing

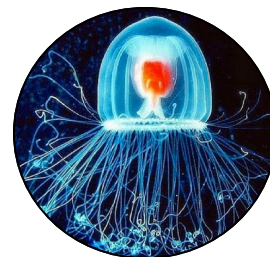
on ways to enhance and improve our patrons' experiences here at Blackstone. We are attending classes, roundtables, webinars, and committee meetings to develop and extend our knowledge. We are continuing to work on our Readers Advisory skills and participating in our in-house genre book group. We will be in contact with the Senior Center to get their input on what types of programs and classes will benefit our local senior citizens. We are discussing our technology classes program to ensure that we are providing those classes that most interest our patrons and looking at ways to reach more people with our course offerings. We are all spending time learning more about 3D file creation so that we are better able to assist patrons.

Christina had an interesting question this month: a student and her Mom came to

the library to get information on the immortal jellyfish. Why are these jellyfish special? They are able to reverse their life cycle. Using the ResearchIT CT database for students, Christina was able to find several articles for this student. Here is a little information from National Geographic:

"About as wide as a human pinky nail when fully grown, the immortal jellyfish (scientific name: *Turritopsis dohrnii*) was discovered in the Mediterranean Sea in 1883. But its unique ability was not discovered until the 1990s . . . when starvation, physical damage, or other crises arise, "instead of sure death, [*Turritopsis*] transforms all of its existing cells into a younger state," said study author Maria Pia Miglietta, a researcher at Pennsylvania State University."

Debby Trofatter



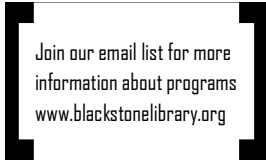
Turritopsis Dohrnii - Is It Really Immortal?



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...more than books



July 2016 Program Highlights

Internet/Email Basics*

July 7 @ 2PM

Learn about web browsers and how to use links, the forward and back buttons, how to find web pages, practice the basics of sending and receiving email, plus learn how to compose, reply to, or print your emails. Feel free to bring your own laptop or use one of ours. Previous experience with keyboards and mice is necessary.

The Barkers of Branford

July 13 @ 7PM

Ted Braun of Guilford will present from his new book featuring diaries spanning 72 years that were found in his in-laws' home on South Montowese Street in Branford. Ted added his own research and the book is richly illustrated with over 200 images

documenting the transition of a family, a town, and a nation. *Sponsored by the Branford Historical Society.*

Healthcare Career Workshop

July 19 @ 1—3 PM

Attendees may be eligible for free short-term job-related training in the Healthcare field through the Health Careers Advancement Project. Presented by American Job Center Workforce Alliance (formerly CT Works).

Ask A Lawyer

July 21 @ 3:30—5 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. Consultations are first-come, first-

served. Sign up at Reference up to 30 minutes before program begins. Free and open to the public.

A Woman's Reason: Shakespeare Round Table

July 28 @ 6:30 PM

A presentation and discussion where audience members will be invited to read scenes from *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, this year's free Shakespeare on the Shoreline play. Facilitated by Shakespeare Experience Artistic Director Emily Mattina and members of the cast.

Saturday Cinema*

July 30 @ 1—3 PM

The Boss starring Melissa McCarthy.

**Programs with an * require registration. Call us at 203.488.1441 ext. 318 or visit our website at blackstonelibrary.org*

Check our website for more programs!

May 2016 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 11,902

May 2015: 13,322

ConnectiCard: 3,121

May 2015: 2,827

Renewals: 3,181

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 670

Overdrive audiobooks: 277

Zinio: 238

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 3 Loaned 22

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

17 programs/194 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

9 programs/232 attendance

School-age (6-11)

11 programs/223 attendance

All Ages

3 programs/214 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 43

Total Attendance: 876

Teen Programs (12+)

3 programs/13 attendance

Adult programs

24 programs/441 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

55 meetings/179 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2221

Facebook: 1289 Likes

MailChimp: 4785 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 521

Days Open: 29