



# Report to the Board of Trustees

July 12, 2017

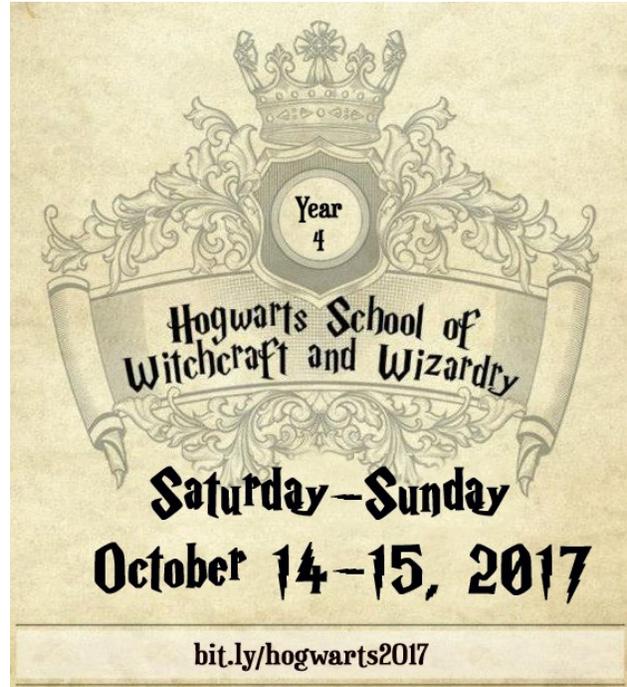
## From the Director

The Building Committee held a follow-up meeting with Downes Construction to review the revised project estimate. The estimate falls within the \$4.8 million originally estimated for the project, and there will be future meetings over the summer for further refinements.

We have raised \$49,500 in donations that are eligible to be matched by the Branford Community Foundation. We recently held two events to spread the word about the campaign: one with the Branford Garden Club, and one at the Pine Orchard Club. Response to the plan continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

Library staff spent much of June reviewing their annual goals and accomplishments, and preparing goals for the upcoming year. I am so proud of our staff for their accomplishments this year. I see our staff motivated to learn new skills as our building plan evolves to serve the increasingly complex needs of our patrons.

The summer reading program, Build a Better World, is in full swing with activities for children, teens and adults. This year's theme is game-focused; check out the game board in the chil-



*Hogwarts returns this fall.*

dren's rotunda, or pick up a bingo board from the adult desk.

LION is installing filtering software to help libraries comply with CIPA requirements, so that we can receive e-rate funding to pay for a portion of our monthly fiber costs.

LION has recommended SOPHOS software. It is set to the minimum requirement CIPA. LION will pay for the first year. After that, it costs less than \$200 per year. It also includes antivirus scanning. Library staff can override, or completely turn off filters for research requests.

The Friends Trivia night on June 8 was a success, earning

approximately \$500 for the library.

Rachel Wells, our summer intern, has been doing a wonderful job organizing the Blackstone Library files.

LION's new director is Joseph Farara. Joe is currently the Director of the Willey Library at Johnson State College, in VT.

I also attended the public workshop for the Town's transit oriented development study on June 22, and participated on the Rotary Club's scholarship committee this month.

*Karen Jensen*



### Thank You Connie Willis!

*Connie Willis, acclaimed author and winner of 11 Hugo Awards and 7 Nebula awards, stopped in to the library this month to revisit her old library and town. She and her husband lived in Branford over 20 years ago and were taking a trip back east. It was a pleasure to meet Connie and talk with her. She took the time to check our shelves for her books, and thanks to her generosity, we now own her complete works!*

## May Highlights from the Youth Services Department

Before getting into my report, I want to briefly note that Miss Mary and I were inducted into the Branford Education Hall of Fame. We were honored just to be nominated and were inducted this past April. The night was spent hearing positive educational contributions being made throughout the community as well as celebrating with family, friends, co-workers and board members. We could not have been more humbled by the experience and want to thank those that not only believed in us but continue to support us in our mission of creating access to information, resources and unique experiences for the youth of Branford. It truly "takes a village."

At the beginning of the month we partnered with the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative and Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library to provide our annual Preschool Fair. The fair is held at the First Congregational Church and brings Branford's Preschool programs together so that parents can meet teachers, compare curriculums and talk about financial information. We found that families appreciate this "one stop shop" atmosphere, and the programs provided crafts and/or hands-on activities to keep the little ones busy. Miss Stephanie and I manned the Library table and offered summer reading materials, free books and snacks. The turnout was manageable with 35 families.

Miss Mary and I also held our annual Muffins with Mom program the Saturday before Mother's Day. We always enjoy this event because it is nice to take time to not only recognize moms but also the grandmas, aunts and other caregivers that play a role in little ones lives. Miss Mary and I read books about what makes grandmas and aunts special as a little twist! We closed the event with an adorable handprint craft created by Jenn. We had 36 families attend.

This month we have also been lucky enough to work with our high school intern, Idriss. He has been helping out since the beginning of May, creating displays, running inventories, working on crafts and even setting up and breaking down programs. His assistance has made it possible for us to plan ALL of our summer reading crafts, change over the 2017 Nutmeg titles to 2018 and even update and sync our iPads so that they all have the same apps. It has also been a pleasure getting to know him and I know that entire staff wishes him nothing but the best as he finishes up his senior year and heads straight into college.

One of the biggest events we held this past month was the Murphy School night initiated by Martha Clark. Martha has been volunteering at Murphy School for quite some time and noticed that many of the kids she works with do not

take the time to visit the Library. She decided to contact us as well as Murphy's Literacy Coaches to see if there was a way that we could work together.

The event was held on Thursday, May 25th and drew in 65 or so families. Participants had to visit each of our information and activity stations in order to be entered into a school provided raffle prize. The response was nothing but positive and I think everyone's favorite part was the storytelling station provided by one of the reading coaches. Kids of all ages were laughing and the reader was able to ask questions and keep everyone engaged.

The rest of the month was spent preparing for summer reading. We are working on creating an interactive reading game that coincides with this year's summer reading theme - Build a Better World. Participants will be asked to complete a series of challenges to build their minds and their community. Staff members have been instrumental in not only creating the physical game but also preparing the department for the summer rush with craft ideas, supply lists, summer reading suggestions and more.

*Carly Lemire*



Clifford came to visit for Murphy School Night!

## A Hogwarts Halloween at the Blackstone

Hogwarts School is back in session this fall at Blackstone Library! On October 14 and 15, join us for special classes in Potions, Divination, and more. The event features two Saturday sessions and two Sunday sessions, for kids 6+.

New this year: ESCAPE FROM THE HOGWARTS GROUNDS!

A class caught misbehaving will be turned out of the

school onto the Hogwarts grounds – but a special locked box holds the key to get back inside. Can you help solve the puzzles to figure out how to open the box?

Adults can volunteer to help plan, organize and run the event. Teens can earn service hours for time spent before and during the event.

We are also looking for spon-

sors to help make this magical weekend a reality. Proceeds will benefit the Blackstone Library, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Please contact Katy Dillman ([kdillman@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:kdillman@blackstonelibrary.org) or 203.488.1441 ext. 313) to learn more about how you can help.

Visit [bit.ly/Hogwarts2017](http://bit.ly/Hogwarts2017) for more information.

## Highlights from the Reference Department-May

We had a fascinating question from a patron this month, who worked with Sarah and Debby to find the identity of a spirit she had seen in a house in Branford. It was a man, whose name was Roger, with two women whose names began with an M (you'll see more on this later).

Sarah was able to identify the owner of the house in Branford in the 1800's as Daniel Averill, whose cousin, Roger, was a Lieutenant Governor for the State of Connecticut. Unfortunately, finding a photograph or sketch of Roger proved difficult and this was what the patron hoped for most. We were not able to find a picture anywhere online, including on the State of Connecticut's website listing former lieutenant governors.

Fortunately, the library owns a genealogy of the Averill family and there was a pic-

ture of Roger Averill, as well as some personal history. Roger, as it turns out, had two wives, Maria and Mary (the two women with M names). We scanned and emailed a copy of the picture of Roger to the patron, who confirmed that this was the man she had seen.

From local history, we move on to technology. Another patron asked if it would be possible to have a private webinar on our AtoZ database. Thanks to the efficiency of our AtoZ database representative, we were able to set this up in a week's time. We connected one of our iPads to the projector in the auditorium and downloaded the GoToMeeting app so that the participants could speak with the trainer during the session. Each participant had one of the library's laptops so that they could practice how to use the database.

I think all of the Reference librarians would agree that

the variety of questions we field at the Reference desk is one of the most enjoyable aspects of our job. Each day brings a new challenge and we always learn something from our interactions with our patrons.

May was another month chock full of programs and activities. Christina taught a Word class with Sarah and hosted Murphy School Night with Carly. Christina and Whitney attended CLA. Whitney worked with Jim Davis to set up summer tech programs, worked with Jenna on planning a Paint Night, finalized our Adult Summer Reading Program and planned a number of future programs.

*Deb Trofatter*

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## BRANFORD

Community Foundation

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Individual donations in amounts of \$1,000 or less to the Campaign for the Blackstone will be matched 100% by the BCF up to \$100,000.

Donate today and help build a better Blackstone!

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## July 2017 Program Highlights

### Hatha Yoga

**Mondays @ 5:15—6:30 pm**  
Join yoga teacher Helen Lesprier every Monday evening. Free and open to all ages.

### Uncover Branford\*

**July 13 @ 6:00 pm—7:30 pm**  
Go out into the community to explore and uncover new places, make new friends, have lots of fun, and discover the hidden gems of Branford.

### Paint Night with Pam\*

**July 18 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Staring at the same blank walls day after day got you down? Then stop by the library to spice up your space on a budget! We'll be hosting PamHalligan of Pam's Picasos to help you create your very own masterpiece. All supplies and snacks provided.

### Ask A Lawyer

**July 20 @ 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm**  
Have a legal question? Get a free consultation with a lawyer, brought to you by the New Haven County Bar Association. Sign up at Reference up to 30 minutes before the program begins. Free and open to all.

### Stone Walls of England and New England

**July 26 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
This lecture will draw comparisons of the geology, building styles and techniques of stonewalls in England & New England from colonial times to present day. You'll learn how stonewalls have developed, evolved, and how they fit into the garden and wider landscape of past and present. Presented by Andrew Pighills. *Sponsored by the Branford Historical Society.*

### Books 'n' Brews Book Club July 26 @ 6:00 pm

Meets at the Thimble Island Brewery! We'll be discussing *Before I Go To Sleep*, by S.J. Watson, and *Ready Player One*, by Ernest Cline. New members welcome. You can borrow a copy from the library, or purchase your own copy.

### Game On!: Game Night\*

**July 27 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
A night of games, snacks, and new friends! We'll have a fun selection of card and board games available including Codenames, Sushi Go Party!, Dixit, & Pandemic. You're also welcome to bring your own. Adults of all ages welcome.

### Bestseller Book Club\*:

**July 29 @ 3:00 pm**  
*Camino Island*  
By John Grisham

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

## May 2017 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

### Total Circulation: 12,265

May 2016: 11,902

### borrowIT: 2,918

May 2016: 3,121

### Renewals: 2,803

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 740

Overdrive audiobooks: 353

Zinio: 194

### Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 5 Loaned 20

### Children's Programs:

*Babies (0-2)*

14 programs/304 attendance

*Preschool (3-5)*

11 programs/258 attendance

*School-age (6-11)*

6 programs/184 attendance

*All Ages*

0 programs/0 attendance

### Total Children's Programs: 31

Total Attendance: 746

### Teen Programs (12+)

2 programs/8 attendance

### Adult programs

26 programs/694 attendance

### Lucy Hammer Room

50 meetings/194 attendance

### Computer Sessions: 2190

### Facebook: 1429 Likes

### MailChimp: 6612 subscribers

### Average Daily Visitors: 524

Days Open: 29