



Report to the Board of Trustees

June 4, 2014

From the Director

Summer Reading Kickoff!

Over 300 children and parents attended our first "literacy day" with the Branford Public Schools on May 31.

The event included representatives from BECC, SACC, FRC, Camp Invention, Read to Grow, children's authors Frank Dormer and Leesan Villa, and teachers from Branford Public Schools.

Children and parents were introduced to the summer reading programs sponsored by the library and schools and parents had an opportunity to talk with teachers and staff about the best ways to support their child's reading this summer.

Summer reading for children starts officially on June 14 with registration at the Branford Festival.

Summer Reading for Adults starts now-pick up your game board at any of the library service desks.

This month we prepared an exciting program of summer reading fun, with special programs for adults, teens and children. Our summer calendar was professionally printed by K&G Graphics, and will allow us to distribute it at various venues around town, including Branford Festival.

The Friends of the Library are donating \$20,000 to be used to supplement our materials collection, and also to fund the purchase of a mobile maker lab.

A highlight of the month was that our own Miss Carly was a guest on the Colin McEnroe show. She did a great job of fielding questions about children's literature.

Speaking of the Friends, Fred Biamonte is receiving an award from the Friends of CT Libraries for his work on our lecture series. The meeting will be held in Middletown on June 14.

During the month of May we were fortunate to have an intern from Branford High School, Gabriela Buckanavage, who helped in various areas of the library. It was a great experience for all of us to learn from the perspective of a graduating high school student, and also for Gabriela, who got a very different view of all the working



Book Counting Marble Run created for our summer reading program by Joe Kobylanski, Branford Public Schools

aspects of the library.

On the staff front, Sandy Jarmie left employment as a part-time circulation staff, and her position has been filled temporarily by Evan DeFrancesco, a college student from Madison, who will be working with us through the summer.

We had two graduations this month: Whitney Gayle received her Masters in Library Science from SCSU and was promoted to a professional reference librarian. Jenna Anthony, a part-time circulation assistant, graduated from Stonehill College.

We were invited by the Counseling Center to host a part-time intern for 7 weeks in the summer as part of a grant program. We partici-

pated last year and it was a great experience for the student and the library.

Our Spring appeal went out; we are still receiving donations; many new donors are being added to the list. The website is being updated with a donor list, and Kathy O. and I are investigating new donor management software recommended by Ron Katz.

In the community, I attended rotary meetings, Toastmasters, program planning meetings, CLA meeting, New Director's Roundtable, CEN conference, LION meeting, and an appearance on the Marcia Chambers Show on BCTV. I also took a week's vacation in May.

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*

This Month in the Youth Services Department - April

We had a busy start to the spring with the addition of the 2015 Nutmeg Nominees. Christina in children's and Patricia in tech services worked together to gather all the 2014 nominees and change their location codes so that they could be shelved back with their corresponding collections. Christina also located all of the "soon to be" 2015 nominees so that Patricia could catalog them along with the new paperback copies we ordered. We closed out the changeover by creating displays on all 3 levels and posted their arrival on facebook as well as the kids and teens website. The response has been amazing—we have been watching them fly off the shelves. A job well done to both staff members for completing this project in a timely fashion!

We also had an extremely successful April break, featuring a variety of programs. Our favorite was the Shakespeare workshop that Ingrid Schaffer created especially for our teens. The workshop was made in honor of Shakespeare's birthday and allowed participants to learn a little about the background of the time period as well his different plays. Teens warmed up by playing a variety of improv games. The more they loosened up the louder and more expressive they became which made it possible for Ingrid to not only put on a miniature *Midsummer Nights Dream* production but also assign parts according to their comfort level and

ability. You could tell that the kids really enjoyed coming together as a group and performing. We had a total of 15 teens attend and were extremely happy with the results.

Miss Mary and I also put together a DIY sock bunny craft that allowed caregivers and parents to come together to create "Easter" bunnies. The library provided the socks, glue, decorative materials and really allowed the kids and caregivers to take the reins when it came to the kind of bunny they wanted to create. One of the coolest parts about this project is that Miss Mary and I incorporated the iPads, which featured detailed bunny making directions. This way participants could create at their own pace. This style of working not only brought children and caregivers together but also allowed Miss Mary and I to spread out and provide assistance as needed - more like facilitating rather than leading. We had 25 children attend.

We closed out April break with our annual Easter Egg Decorating Event on Good Friday. We ask families to bring their hardboiled eggs and then we supply the rest - dyes, stickers, white crayons and more. We had well over 65 people attend and it is clearly something that families will enjoy year after year. Photos of all of these spring break events can be found on our facebook page.

We also held our annual ELL Fair in collaboration with the Branford School District and ERACE program. Karen, Barbara and I put together a Blackstone table that featured literacy-centered apps on our iPads as well as library pamphlets and registration forms. Other tables included: music/movement, sentence games and matching. We made a total of 17 cards that night and Karen gave a spirited tour to the ERACE students, who are adults learning English as a second language. We had a total of 109 attendants and it is a wonderful feeling knowing that we are reaching those who may not have come to the library before.

Finally, in teen news Miss Katy and our Teen Advisory Board took part in World Book Night. This is a worldwide initiative that encourages reading and sharing knowledge with others by handing out a select set of books to strangers. Those interested simply sign up online and choose which books they would like to distribute. A few weeks before the event a box of books arrives, then everyone distributes their books on the same day. I talked to a few of our teens after the fact and they seemed to really enjoy the whole process. They said that it was nerve wracking approaching people at first but they really got a lot of satisfaction out of giving a book. They cannot wait to sign up for next year.



Easter egg dyeing was a hit.



The Nutmegs have arrived! (Displays are on all 3 levels.)

April Highlights from the Reference Department

April certainly was not the cruelest month, but it sure was a busy one! In addition to the regular duties of the reference department, there were a number of newsworthy accomplishments:

Technology

Deb worked with Fredi B to make some website improvements and enhancements including the ability to track usage statistics.

Katy (and Carly) attended a training session for the library's new online Summer Reading Program Signup utility and prepared the teen SRP signup section.

Deb revised in-house instructions for updating staff PCs.

Whitney collected program evaluation forms through Survey Monkey and is reviewing responses.

Community Outreach/ Collaboration

On April 9th, Katy hosted an episode of BCTV's show Gray Matters on iPads and Tablets for Seniors which was an overview of iPad technology including a Q&A session with local seniors. She also handed out 40 free books for World Book Night to the local police department as well as on the green, with the assistance of some teens from our Teen Advisory Board.

During April, Whitney was busy scheduling, organizing and covering a wonderful selection of programs and events including the April

28th Opera Oggi live performance, the Menunkatuck Audubon's presentation of Salamanders of Connecticut, a family game night and Mark Schenker's talk on Macbeth.

Barbara, Karen and Carly participated in ELL Night at the Library on April 30th which was a literacy Open House for Branford Public Schools and ERACE.

Reference and Research Services

Each year there is a homework project for 2nd graders who are asked to pick a Branford monument and answer questions about it using library resources. This year, everyone in the reference department had a chance to help students. Monuments selected included the Harrison House, the Armory, Branford Point and the Blackstone Library.

The library celebrated National Library Week in April. One highlight was the use of butcher block paper placed on each floor of the library so that patrons could tell us why they came to the library. Some of our favorite comments were "I need a good read", "Great books for free!", "It's time to turn off the TV, "I need good entertainment!" and "Thought this was city hall!".

Branford was founded in 1644 and the library has a lot of information on its early history. This month, visitors

from Texas came to the library to research their Frisbie family ancestors and were able to fill in some missing information which had eluded them - as well a map with the location of former Frisbie homes in Branford.

Professional Development, Workshops and More:

The second Poem in Your Pocket Day was fun. Teen Advisory Board (under Katy's supervision) rolled two basket's worth of poems to hand out to library patrons. Whitney was the brains behind the library's participation in this initiative which took place this year on April 24th.

Barb, Katy and Whitney attended the Connecticut Library Association Annual Meeting, Highlights included a session on Makerspaces: A Revolution, Teens and Technology, Bullying in the Library Workplace and Not your Mother's Reader's Advisory.

On April 15th, Deb attended the first of three workshops in a series called "Getting your Archives in Order" sponsored by the Connecticut State Library. We hope to get our archives in tip top shape!

Interest in hiking and being active outdoors shot up in April and Shauna is vigilant about keeping our stash of hiking trail maps well stocked for patrons' use.

Barbara Cangiano



Our teens try their hand at **A Midsummer Nights Dream.**



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June 2014 Program Highlights

Literary Elements Summer Reading Challenge for Adults begins June 2!

Farms, Factories and Families: Italian Women of Connecticut

Wednesday, June 25 @ 7 PM

Author Anthony Riccio will discuss his new book about the hidden story of Italian American women who finally tell their largely unknown history in their own words.

The Goldfinch: The Painting Behind the Story

Monday, June 9 @ 7—8 PM

Join us for a lecture with Dr. Robert Baldwin, Associate Professor of Art History at

Connecticut College to learn the story behind the painting featured in *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt.

Nutmeg Chamber Players Piano Quartet

Tuesday, June 10 @ 7—8 PM

Selections from the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Robert Schumann, and Johannes Brahms will be performed. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Round Robin Shakespeare

2nd Thursdays @ 10-12noon

June 12: *Much Ado about Nothing*

July 10: *King Lear*
August 14: *Pericles*
Read with us and become familiar with the play before the performance.

Sci-Fi Friday

Friday, June 13 @ 1—3 PM

A showing of the film *Gravity*, the 2013 sci-fi thriller and Oscar winner.

Downloading ebooks To Your Tablet

Saturday, June 21 or July 19 @ 10—10:30 am

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

April 2014 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 14,696
(April 2013: 15,169)

ConnectiCard: 2,731
(April 2013: 3,046)

Downloadable Circulation:
Overdrive ebooks: **470**
Overdrive audiobooks: **160**
Axis360: **5**
Zinio: **162**

IndieFlix: 114 total patrons registered; 1 films viewed

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **62**/Loaned **73**

Average Daily Visitors: 557
Days Open: 29

Facebook: 875 Likes

Constant Contact: 3630

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
17 programs/410 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
4 programs/138 attendance

School-age (6-11)
10 programs/277 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 32
Total Attendance: 959

Teen Programs (12+)

4 programs/25 attendance

Adult programs

24 programs/716 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

75 meetings/205 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2632



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