



# Report to the Board of Trustees

June 3, 2014

## From the Director

The library's FY 2015-2016 budget request was approved by the RTM with no changes.

We were fortunate to have an intern from Branford High School with us for most of the month. He was a great help printing backlogged items from the 3-D printer, working with Katy on development and marketing projects, and being a general help in all departments. The internship program administered through Branford High School fosters important connections in the community, and this was the second year that our student was favorably impressed by the many different resources we offer! Don't be a stranger, Alex!

We got a call at the beginning of the month from the producers of *The Dead Files*, a TV show that pairs a retired police detective with a medium to conduct paranormal investigations. The show is in its eighth season and airs on The Travel Channel. Scenes for an episode featuring a haunted house in North Haven were filmed at the library this month—the crew used our reading room for an interview segment, and shot b-roll in the reference room. The episode is expected to air in December.



### *"Murder" a Success*

Our first ever Murder at the Blackstone earned \$4,500 for library services and programs.

Thank you to all who attended, and volunteered for the event—it was a blast, and photos are available on our website.

The Great Give on May 5 & 6 was also a success, earning \$2,637 for the library.

Finally, we continue to receive donations to the spring appeal. To date we have earned \$10,588.



*This year's adult summer reading theme focuses on getting out of your comfort zone.*

Friends of the Library and I worked together to organize the Annual John Loeb Lecture, scheduled for June 30, featuring a talk by Matt Bartlett about Female Civil War Spies.

The Friends will hold their annual meeting at the library on June 2, where they will present the library with a gift, elect new officers, and honor retiring officers. All trustees are invited to attend.

The Friends have won their third award in as many years from the Friends of CT Libraries. This year's award is for the overall group, and will be presented on June 13 at the FOCL annual meeting.

The Friends will be selling Italian Ice at the Branford Festival on June 19, 20 & 21. Volunteers are needed; if you are interested please e-mail [jbmlfriends@gmail.com](mailto:jbmlfriends@gmail.com)

I presented a demonstration of Mango languages to two ESL classes at ERACE, and made a presentation of library resources at a May Rotary Club meeting. Andy McKirdy and I also presented the renovation plans to the Board of Finance, and to a group of former trustees. The reaction all around was very positive, and we have scheduled a presentation to the RTM Education Committee for the evening of June 15.

Staff have submitted their self-evaluations to their supervisors; the annual review process will be complete by the end of June.

Thank you to the Guilford Savings Bank, for their very generous \$2,500 donation which will support children's summer programs, and a sponsorship for Caddystacks, our fall fundraiser.

*Karen Jensen  
Library Director*

## This Month in the Youth Services Department - April

Every year we do our best to provide a variety of spring break programs for different age groups, so I thought it would be nice to highlight a few.

Our most popular program was Jon Cap's Magic and Balloon Animal Show. Jon Cap is a Branford resident who teaches high school robotics and moonlights as a magician! Jon's performances are hands-on and informative. At the end of every show participants are given the opportunity to practice various magic tricks with simple household supplies, which makes it easy for parents to continue the magic at home. The hardest part about magic is the illusion you create and Jon shows budding magicians how to misdirect and command attention! This time Jon provided step-by-step instructions for creating balloon animals. With 75+ participants, things could get a little chaotic, but Jon held everyone's attention and it was great seeing caregivers take the lead and make balloon animals for their kids.

We reached out to the Regional Water Authority (RWA) for a series of environmental programs since Earth Day was right around the corner. The RWA puts together different environmental curriculums along with all the necessary supplies, teacher sheets and drop-off/pickup for FREE. Our most popular RWA program was the Oozing Obleck. Chris-

tina and I started out by reading the Dr. Seuss classic *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*. The book tells the story of a power hungry king that wants to control everything—including the weather! Of course, things don't go as planned and the King has to rethink his ruling ways. After we read and talked a little about the story's theme we created some oobleck of our own and participants had to use their observing and predicting skills to see whether or not mixing two liquids would cause a chemical reaction or change. This was a great way to introduce the differences between liquids and solids and it was nice to go through the scientific process as a group.

We also hosted a successful week long MakerLab program that focused on robots. Lessons focused on the creation of BrushBots, which use toothbrushes and small batteries to create friction and thus movement as well as an ArtBot that uses a pool noodle, electric tooth brush and markers to create friction so that the uncapped markers move and create swirls across plain white pages. Participants also used the online Hour of Code website to practice operating a computer generated robot. Participants learned that coding needs to be specific in order to create action. Participants wrote code for one another so that they could complete tasks around the room. We even

used the 3D printer to generate "swag" for our ArtBots and participants closed the program by designing their own robot with our 3D printing software.

The Youth Services and Reference Department also worked with the Branford Public Schools and East Shore Region Adult Continuing Education program to provide an English Language Learners Open House. During the event those who were learning English as a second language were invited to get a library card, take tours and see a demo of our MakerBot. Debby was also able to introduce our new subscription to Mango Languages.

Miss Mary and I were also able to attend this year's CLA Conference. We enjoyed a lot of the speakers and got hold of some hands-on science and technology programs that we will use in the future. But, our favorite was a workshop that focused on ways to enhance storytime through music. The speakers were amazing and they gave us a lot of new songs and rhymes that we can use in our storytimes. The workshop was truly inspirational and it got us both excited to try something new!

*Carly Lemire*



Oobleck Overload!

## Book Expo America

In May, Librarians Whitney Gayle and Katy Dillman had the opportunity to attend the annual Book Expo America (BEA) - the largest publishing event in North America. The conference features publishers, booksellers, authors & illustrators, and gives attendees the chance to see thousands of new books that are coming out in the Fall & Spring of 2016.

Whitney and Katy toured the exhibit hall, where they picked up free copies of advance reader copies of fiction and nonfiction books that will be published in coming

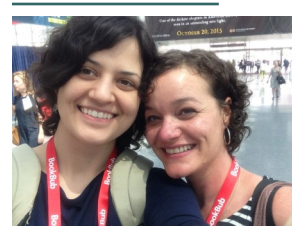
months. These advanced reader copies can be used as summer reading prize giveaways. Whitney and Katy also attended a "Book Buzz" program, where upcoming titles are reviewed (good information for the Blackstone's upcoming program). They brought back materials and catalogs about upcoming titles to purchase, which they will share with the rest of the Book Selection Committee.

They also attended a talk with actress Julianne Moore and Harvard Professor Amy Cuddy, whose TED talk on power postures has led to her

forthcoming book, "Presence: Bringing Your Boldest Self to Your Biggest Challenges." Katy also had the opportunity to speak with exhibitors about attending next year's annual CLA Conference.

Attending BEA is a great way for librarians to gain awareness of trends in publishing, and learn about forthcoming titles, and to speak with industry professionals.

*Katy Dillman*



## Highlights from the Reference Department-April

The Reference Department's month was filled with workshops, programs, conferences, and classes in addition to our everyday work of providing reference assistance, technology help and reader's advisory, creating displays, working on collection development, updating social media and much more.

Whitney, Christina and Kirsty all attended the Connecticut Library Association conference. Whitney attended a webcast on creating engaging book displays. Debby attended a two-part professional development program titled "Leader, Mentor, Coach: Supervisory Skills and Management Program."

Whitney led the Book to Art Club with Karen and helped

organize a new American History book club that will begin in the fall.

Christina and Kirsty developed a new Computer Basics course and are working on additional courses in our "First Thursday Computer Class" series.

Whitney has been working on getting the Adult Summer Reading Program "Escape the Ordinary" ready for launch in June. She also celebrated National Poetry Month by organizing Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 30.

Christina gave a Mango Languages demo to the reading specialists at Indian Neck School. She also helped a patron track down the owners of a set of old spoons that

were dug up on Harbor Street.

Our programs this month included: Poetry and Open Mic Night with Connecticut's poets laureate, a Shakespeare and Star Trek lecture, Saturday Cinema showing of the movie Wild, Tips for Spring & Summer Gardens, Writing Mystery Novels with author Michael Draper, and When Fantasy Becomes Reality presented by Yale graduate students.

*Deborah Trofatter*



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## June 2015 Program Highlights

### Tilde Café

June 6 @ 3—4 PM

Sunlight, excited electrons, and skin cancer, with Douglas E Brash PhD. Department of Therapeutic Radiology, Yale University.

### Bestseller Book Club

Saturdays @ 3:00 PM

June 20, July 25, August 29  
June's title is *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi; we'll read Stephen King's newest *Finders Keepers* in July, and end the summer with *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee in August. Books are available at the library. Registration required. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

### Adult Summer Reading Kick-off-Book Chat

June 9 @ 6—8 PM

Let us help you find what to read! Upcoming & recently released titles for adults. To register, call 203.488.1441 x 318.

### Intro to Email

June 4 @ 2—4 PM

Attendees will have the opportunity to create a personal e-mail address and learn some about navigating and composing e-mails. Registration is required.

### Writer's Workshop

Saturdays @ 10—11 AM

Session I: June 6, 13, 20, 27  
Session II: July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1  
This group will give you the opportunity to work on your writing in a supportive environment. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

### Seashore Touch Tank

June 10 @ 7—8 PM

Russ Miller, Director of Meigs Point Nature Center, shows off live specimens in the Seashore Touch Tank. Presented by Menunkatuck Audubon Society. From 6:30-7, children are invited to stop in to see and touch the specimens.

### What's the Buzz?

#### Honeybees & Beekeeping

June 24 @ 6:30—7:30 PM

Beekeeper and The Bee Happy Company owner Ned Farrell will share his considerable knowledge of bees and provide guidance on how to set up your own honeybee hives. Learn about these fascinating creatures and get a taste of life as a beekeeper. To register, call 203-488-1441 x 318.

#### Annual John Loeb Lecture For the Sake of the Country: Female Civil War Spies

Tuesday, June 30 @ 7—8 PM

Learn about four extraordinary Union and Confederate spies who risked all for the sake of their country. Presented by Matthew Bartlett, a 2013 graduate of American Military University with a Master's in Military History with a specialization in the American Civil War. Registration required.

## April 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

### Total Circulation: 13,965

April 2014: 14,696

### ConnectiCard: 3,231

April 2014: 2,731

### Renewals: 3,918

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 560

Overdrive audiobooks: 167

Axis360: 6

Zinio: 248

IndieFlix: 8

### Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 29 Loaned 58

### Children's Programs:

*Babies (0-2)*

15 programs/214 attendance

*Preschool (3-5)*

10 programs/284 attendance

*School-age (6-11)*

19 programs/549 attendance

### Total Children's Programs: 40

Total Attendance: 1047

### Teen Programs (12+)

4 programs/41 attendance

### Adult programs

27 programs/623 attendance

### Lucy Hammer Room

83 meetings/287 attendance

### Computer Sessions: 2514

### Facebook: 1112 Likes

### Constant Contact: 4651

### Average Daily Visitors: 572

Days Open: 29