



Report to the Board of Trustees

June 6, 2018

From the Director

Thanks to the Branford Garden Club and Friends of the Library, our planters at the library entrance are in bloom for the summer.

Speaking of the Friends, the annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5 from 5-7pm. Up for election are Mary Hally for President, and Al Bertoline for Vice President.

The Spring appeal was mailed at the beginning of the month, and so far has returned \$16,665 in donations. Thanks to the efforts of Robin Sandler and Andy McKirdy, the Capital Campaign received several larger donations this month, bringing our total to \$701,393 of our \$800,000 goal.

In May, we had two interns—one from Notre Dame High School, and the other from Branford High School. Joey scanned and archived a very large collection of photos and videos from 1996, and Will was a great help in troubleshooting and teaching 3-D printing. Both students were a great help in the youth services and circulation departments as well.

We were happy to see Genett return from her extended leave, and we owe a huge thank you to Patricia, who



The modified design for the new entry as approved by the State Historic Preservation Office.

kept the tech services department running flawlessly in her absence.

The supervisor's group met with SP&A interior design team to discuss furniture requirements for the various departments and offices. We will receive ideas for furniture options over the next few months.

The RTM approved the Town of Branford budget this month. The library allocation was reduced by \$9,851, specifically in the Maintenance & Repairs line item. We have been instructed to work with Otto Berger, who is responsible for Town of Branford buildings, to make sure we have the best rates with all vendors who do business with the town and the library, and to request a contingency transfer from the town if additional funds are needed.

Our grant application to the Greater New Haven Community Foundation has successfully passed the first round of reviews, and we are scheduled for a site visit at the end of June.

Our new medical insurance agent, Stratford Insurance Group, met with staff, and will ensure that all eligible staff are enrolled by July 1st.

Finally, I attended a meeting of library directors, the Shoreline Nonprofit Council, and served on a panel to interview candidates for a children's librarian at the Trumbull Library. I was also invited to be a judge for the second cohort of librarians who completed the *EXCITE, Transform Your Library* training with the State Library and I will be taking facilitator training from June 12—15.

Karen Jensen

Win Naming Rights in the Renovated Library

Over the next several months, members of the Board of Trustees will be selling raffle tickets in support of our renovation.

Tickets cost \$20 each—the grand prize is naming rights to the Upper Rotunda art gallery. Once the renovation is finished, this space will feature a rotating exhibit of works by local artists. This is also the gallery which affords the best view of the murals decorating the dome. If you have not visited this space, it is certainly worth a look.

The grand prize drawing will be held at the library on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Highlights from the Youth Services Department—April

At the beginning of the month we participated in Branford Public School's annual ELL Night. This event usually takes place at the library but with the renovation plans underway it was relocated to Mary T. Murphy School. The evening was very successful, bringing in 150 participants that completed different literacy activities. Our table created about 10 new library cards, all of which were new to Branford. This has always been an excellent way for us to reach out to the community and let new members know what the library has to offer. We cannot wait to host the evening again, post renovation.

Jenn represented the Blackstone Library at the YMCA's annual Healthy Kids Day. During this event she manned a table with a variety of library resources, coloring pages, created cards and gave away books provided by Read to Grow. She said that the turnout was smaller than in years past, probably because it was the first weekend that it wasn't cold or rainy. Despite the small number of participants she was able to talk about the Library and felt good about attending the event.

Fourth graders from John B. Sliney School also visited this month to grab information for their final projects on biomes. We were able to work with the school's media specialist to create library cards for those visiting, making it possible for them to check out books on their field trip. We hope that this visit will encourage them to come throughout the summer

months, realizing that they can grab books, movies and other materials with ease. The school media specialist thanked us for taking the time to work with them and hopes that they can bring more classes to visit next year.

The Youth Services Department also put together a couple of last minute programs for spring break. These programs included Maker Monday and Teen Café and some popular programs from the past like a 3D File Creation Class and the reincarnation of last summer's Whitney Relay. These classes brought in a small number of participants since they weren't included in the printed calendar but the kids that did attend had a blast!

The girls that attended the 3D printing class with their parents were able to open their own TinkerCad accounts and were designing models of people by the class's end. I am always amazed at how well children take to not only computers but also software in general. They aren't afraid to just jump in and "try it out!" Their level of confidence and ability reminds me that anything is possible and that if you stick with it, you will eventually get it. It is also always fun to see the kids working closely with their parents, creating a shared learning experience.

The participants that took part in the Whitney Relay were also equally as engaged. I started off by showing them a few YouTube videos of Rube Goldberg Machines in

action, which really built up their excitement and then gave them each the same number of ramps, marbles and various pieces so that they could create their own. The group jumped in right away and started experimenting with the different ramps and material combinations to get their marbles moving. Caregivers stayed nearby making suggestions and taking videos of their kid's machines in action. We even shared a few on our Facebook Page.

Everyone from the Youth Services Department attended this year's CLA conference in hope of snagging some new ideas. We were all thoroughly impressed with the programming lineup and were inspired to set goals and possibly try some new things once the renovation is complete.

Some of our favorite presentations included: Book Leveling for Beginning Readers, Bilingual Storytime and putting together a Storywalk® in your town. We are committed to redesigning the kids collection in our new space, which will include a "tween" area as well as some newly leveled materials based on the book leveling workshop. We also want to reach out to our friends at ERACE in hope of putting together a bilingual story time series once story times are up and running in 2019. Also, please note that Storywalk® is coming to Branford's Main Street very soon, information to follow!

Carly Lemire



Kids and their Marbles!

Follow Blackstone Library on Instagram & Burbio

There are so many opportunities to participate in social media, and we are constantly challenged to choose carefully and make sure the library is present and relevant.

Instagram has been on our radar for some time, and we recently took the plunge to establish a social media committee that will coordinate posting on Instagram, contribute to Facebook and Twitter, and evaluate new social media platforms as they come along.

Under the leadership of Katy McNicol, who has kept our Facebook page at the forefront for several years, and Carly Lemire, an avid Instagrammer, a group of staff

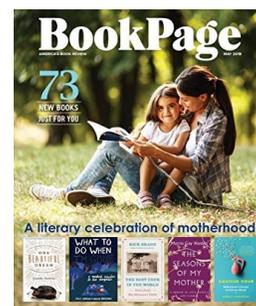
met this month to collaborate on an Instagram account. Staff were able to set up an account for the library and create our first posts. We discussed several ideas for future posts, including the renovation project, book clubs, book and movie recommendations, events, and more. Instagram, like Facebook, allows us to follow other organizations in town, and we have jumped on board with this, too.

On the wish list of many residents, especially parents, has been a universal calendar that includes all events happening in town, in one place. Enter **Burbio.com**, a free website and app that brings

local school, library, and other local events all into one calendar. Now, you can create a personalized event feed, so you only see upcoming events from the places that matter to you.

Burbio lets you sync events to your Google or iPhone calendars, and you'll be notified when events change or get cancelled.

Sign up at **Burbio.com** and start following the Blackstone Library feed and any others that interest you. As more and more local organizations join, this will be the go-to place for all upcoming events in Branford!



Book Page—Find your free copy where new fiction is shelved in the library.

Highlights from the Reference Department-April

The library has been very pleased to be able to partner with the ESL teachers at ERACE in providing resources for Branford immigrants. We have pamphlets, information sheets and booklets on preparing for the naturalization test. Connecticut is regarded as a very welcoming state for immigrants and Branford in particular has been noted as being especially welcoming. Deirdre recently heard a BBC World News America broadcast on immigration where Branford was featured. The clip is available on archive.org at https://archive.org/details/KQED_20180412_003000_BB_C_World_News_America/start/1500/end/1560

Whitney and Christina attended the CLA conference

this year and both enjoyed the talks and workshops that they attended.

Christina and Sarah taught an Introduction to Social Media class and Christina and Whitney taught an Introduction to Hoopla class this month. In addition, we were all very busy with individual technology appointments with patrons, helping them with Google Drive, downloading eBooks to an iPad, Microsoft Word and Excel, smartphone apps and helping a patron connect via Skype with a physician in California.

Debby and Deirdre attended the LUX Committee meeting that focused on LION's new catalog overlay, PIKA. The entire staff is looking forward

to the official launch on May 14th of this new, improved catalog. Some of the favorite features include being able to see all formats (book, large print, audiobook, eBook, etc.) of a title on one screen as well as the many options for refining a search. Patrons can place holds from the results screen, including holds on downloadable titles. The library's Hoopla and Kanopy titles are also now available from this one source. While the new catalog has a different appearance, we are confident that our patrons will appreciate it very much once they become accustomed to it. Debby developed an instruction sheet which is available at the library and on the website.

Deb Trofatter



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...more than books

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

June/July 2018 Program Highlights

Programs with an ** require registration. Call the library at 203.488.1441 ext 318, or visit the website: www.blackstonelibrary.org

Drop In Tech Help June 7 @ 2—4 pm**

Having trouble downloading ebooks through OverDrive? Need help on a Microsoft Word document? Can't figure out how to email a picture from your iPhone? Drop in to the Lucy Hammer Room for some tech help! No registration required. Help available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ask a Lawyer June 21 @ 6 pm**

A free consultation with a lawyer, brought to you by the New Haven County Bar Association.

First-come, first-served. Signup available in the Reference Department 30 minutes before program.

Uncover Branford June 23 @ 10:30 am**

Share your favorite Branford spots and plan an outing as a group to visit and uncover new places in town.

Books & Brews June 27 @ 6-8 pm

Each month, there are 2 titles to choose from, each with its own discussion group to take part in. This month, we'll discuss *Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch —OR— *A Wild Swan and Other Tales* by Michael Cunningham. Meets at Thimble Island Brewery.

Bestsellers Book Club June 30 @ 3:30 pm**

We'll discuss *Varina* by Charles Frazier. Copies available at the library—all are welcome! *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Sewing 101: 2-Part Series Part I: Patterns** July 24 @ 6 pm**

In this first class of the series, you'll learn how to take proper measurements, choose a pattern and interpret all its components.

Part II: Zippers, Buttons, Snaps & Hems July 28 @ 10 am**

In this second part of the series, you'll learn a variety of useful finishing skills.

You may register for one, or both classes in the series.

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

April 2018 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 11,766
April 2017: 11,666

borrowIT: 2,437
April 2017: 2,773

Renewals: 3,047

Downloadable Circulation:
Overdrive ebooks: 801
Overdrive audiobooks: 384
RB Digital (Zinio): 138
Hoopla: 205 plays
Kanopy: 72 plays
Pronunciator: 356 users

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed 5 Loaned 7

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
11 programs/224 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
9 programs/116 attendance

School-age (6-11)
6 programs/161 attendance

All Ages
5 programs/191 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 31
Total Attendance: 792

Teen Programs (12+)
7 programs/45 attendance

Adult programs

18 programs/181 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

58 meetings/179 attendance

Computer Sessions: 1917

Facebook: 1,530 Likes

MailChimp: 7,253 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 439
Days Open: 30