



Report to the Board of Trustees

June 5, 2019

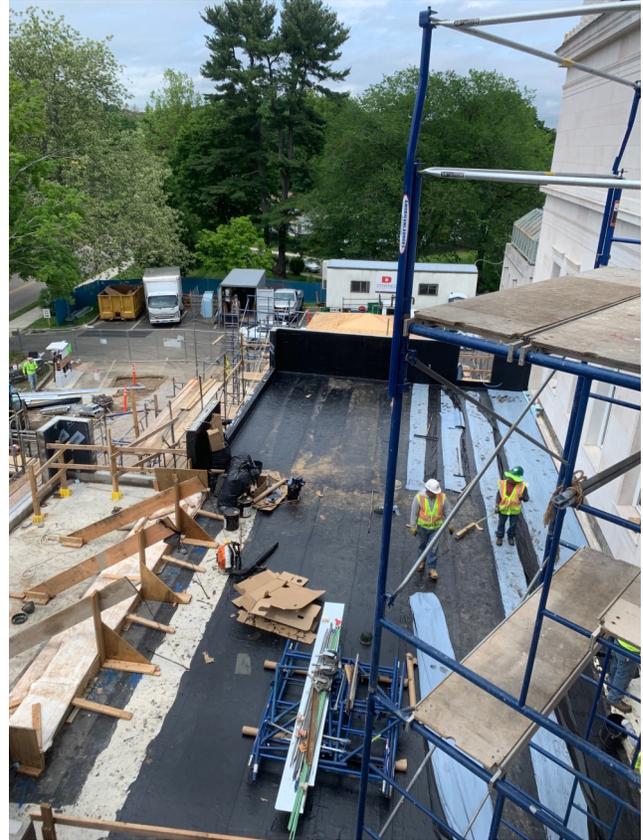
From the Director

Painting and plaster repair is mostly complete on the first floor. The reference office is waiting for the egg & dart plaster moldings to be repaired and will then be painted. The history room and new café millwork is finished; staff are making plans to move the non-fiction collection to this floor in the next phase.

Also over the next month, we may see some construction in the lower rotunda, as trenching is added for electricity to children's desk.

Our Spring appeal and participation in The Great Give earned over \$15,000 in donations. The development committee has planned a Shred-a-Thon for Saturday, June 22 from 9am-12noon. Tickets for shredding will be sold in advance; \$7 for the first box and \$5 for each additional.

Sarah Mallory joined us on May 14 as Teen Librarian; she has already been to the High School and Middle Schools to introduce herself to the School Media Specialists. She held her first teen advisory group meeting on May 31 with over 25 students participating. Some had followed her from East Haven, and many others were teens who regularly use the library. Others had heard of the program



It's not pretty yet, but this photo represents significant progress. Concrete for the stairs was poured at the end of May, and the roof terrace of the new entry was sealed. It is on schedule to open this summer.

through flyers Sarah sent to the school libraries.

The Friends of the Library held a very successful mini-book sale on the Town Green on May 18 in collaboration with the Garden Club's annual plant sale and the Compassion Club's community tag sale. Between 9am — 1pm, the Friends earned almost \$2,000 and generated much goodwill for their members and the library. The event was fun, and my gratitude

goes out to Joe Genua and Barbara Barrett, who organized the event, along with all who volunteered.

Staff submitted self evaluations as part of the annual review process. All will be complete by end of the month.

Karen Jensen



Bring your copy paper boxes to the library for our first Shred-a-thon on June 22 from 9am—12noon. \$7 for your first box; \$5 for each additional box. Pre-paid cards available at the library \$10 for two boxes and \$20 for four. Check our calendar for other events supporting this fundraiser.

More Factual Fridays

The Leather Man

He first appeared on Connecticut roads about 1857 and was a familiar sight for the next 30 years. He wore only leather from his head to his toes; his entire outfit weighed over 60 pounds. He followed a precise 360-mile course through Connecticut and New York, which took exactly 34 days. He passed through Branford, stopping at Harding's Grocery Store at 116 Montowese Street. His health began to fail during the blizzard of 1888 and his body was found on March 24, 1889 in a cave near Ossining, N.Y.

Hurricane of '38

The hurricane of 1938 (September 21) hit Branford hard. The town had received 12 inches of rain the previous week so waters were already high and the ground was very soft; many trees came down in the 80 to 100 mph winds. Shore cottages were destroyed and seven people died on the Thimble Islands.

Shipwrecks and The Ark

The most famous of Branford's shipwrecks was that of the "Jenny Lind," a 70-foot schooner from Sag Harbor that hit Morris Rocks off Sumac Island in Indian Neck on

July 12, 1878. It sank and scattered its cargo of pine boards into the Sound. The crew abandoned ship and were rescued by a passing fishing boat. George Averill laid claim to the boat and hauled it to the shore at the end of Linden Avenue. The boat was converted into a restaurant known as the "Ark," - Jane Peterson Bouley

On January 25, 1943 a plane crashed on Sagal Lou Farm on Cherry Hill. Actor Robert Young was a guest of the farm's owner that night; Young and the pilot exchanged autographs and sent Christmas cards for years.



Actor Robert Young

Highlights from the Reference Department—April

We had another great, busy month in the Reference Department. Christina, Anne and Jenna all attended the Connecticut Library Association annual meeting. Christina taught two classes on iPhone basics at Evergreen Woods Retirement Center and hosted one drop-in tech session at the Branford Senior Center. We are actively working to provide more services, both in the library as well as outside of the library, to the senior community. Christina also taught a Word Basics class, had five individual tech help appointments and three board game sessions at the Adult Education Department as well as the usual Friday Night Game Night at the library.

Anne continues her work on the vertical file; once complete, we hope to digitize at least a portion of the local history articles that we own. Anne has also taken on additional nonfiction sections for maintenance and purchasing.

Jenna is familiarizing herself with the programming coordinator position; she led her first programming committee meeting and began planning our adult summer programs. She created a summer reading bingo card and has taken over running the Bestseller Book Club as well as continuing with Books 'n Brews. She met with the Uncover Branford group and attended a social media workshop.

Debby has assisted in a number of staff moves, setting up staff computers in temporary locations as the renovation continues. She continues to provide the Branford 375th committee with Friday Fun Facts and is working with Karen, Jane Bouley and two artists to complete a map handout for the 375th celebration. She is working with Jenna on programming choices and is working with Jane Bouley on a large, ongoing digitization project with the goal of providing much more local history and genealogy on the library's website. She has also taken over processing all interlibrary loan items.

Debby Trofatter



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...more than books

Join our email list for more information about programs
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June 2019 Program Highlights

Keeping Family Informed**

June 6 @ 7 — 8 pm

Attorney Christian Edmonds will offer practical advice and tools for planning and organizing estate documents. Chris has 35 years of experience in service to Connecticut families, with law offices in Branford since 1991. He is admitted to the Connecticut and Florida bars, and is a member and past president of the New Haven County Bar Association. Chris is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Estates and Probate section of the CT Bar Association, and a Certified Public Accountant.

Uncover Branford**

June 8 @ 10:30am — 12

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

iPhone Basics**

June 13 @ 2 — 3:15 pm

Learn the basics of using your iPhone. Downloading apps, using Safari, changing settings and more will be covered.

Ask A Lawyer**

June 20 @ 6 — 7:45 pm

Free consultation with a lawyer, from the New Haven County Bar Association. First-come, first-served. Sign up at Reference up to 30 minutes before program begins.

What is Opera**

June 22 @ 2 — 3:30 pm

Opera is a smorgasbord of the arts. Charlotte D’Aniello will guide you on an exploration of all the elements that combine into this amazing art form. Whether you’re an expert or a complete beginner, you’re sure to learn something new!

Tax Documents: Which Ones and How Long?

June 20 @ 7 — 8 pm

The CPAs of Amore and Beatman will answer all these questions and more in an informal presentation. Anthony Beatman is a certified public accountant, small business owner, and Adjunct Professor of Accounting at Central CT State University. John Amore, CPA, has been in business for over 45 years, servicing thousands of individual tax filers and small businesses over the years.

Bestseller Book Club**

June 29 @ 3:30 pm

We’ll discuss *Confessions of Frannie Langton* by Sara Collins. Copies available at the library—all are welcome!

*Check our website for more programs! Programs with ** require registration. Please note that during construction, the auditorium will not be available. Programs will take place in other areas of the library, or off-site as indicated.*

April 2019 Statistics—Deirdre Santora

Total Circulation: 10,558

April 2018: 11,766

borrowIT: 2010

April 2018: 2,437

Renewals: 2,768

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 999

Overdrive audiobooks: 453

RB Digital: 365

Hoopla: 480 plays

Kanopy: 84 plays

Pronunciator: 409 users

Children’s Programs:

Babies (0-2)

0 programs/0 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

2 programs/48 attendance

School-age (6-11)

3 programs/35 attendance

All Ages

2 programs/180 attendance

Total Children’s Programs: 9

Total Attendance: 263

Teen Programs (12+)

5 programs/15 attendance

Adult programs

12 programs/141 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

28 meetings/1083 attendance

Computer Sessions: 1,908

Facebook: 1,642 Likes

Instagram: 553 Followers

Twitter: 789 Followers

MailChimp: 7,414 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: N/A*

Days Open: 29

* The people counter at rear entrance is disabled until new entry is complete