



Report to the Board of Trustees

March 4, 2014

From the Director

Christina Kondziela and Jenna Anthony started their full-time positions. We reviewed resumes and interviewed candidates for part-time positions in the Youth Services and Circulation Departments. Erin Byrne began work as our new part-time circulation assistant on February 25, and Kathleen Steer begins work as our new part-time children's assistant on March 16.

Take Your Child to the Library Day was a success with 65 children attending the JBML portion. At the WWML local author Cathrene Youngquist came to talk about *The Three Billgoats Gruff and Mean Calypso Joe* while author Jason Marchi and illustrator Ben Quesnel read their book *The Growing Sweater* at JBML. Both presenters provided interactive activities for kids of all ages.

Carly and Katy visited the Walsh Intermediate School this month, registering 56 students for library cards.

This month's Library Administrator's group was hosted at JBML. Devon Dabbs, Anne Yurasek's colleague, was our featured speaker on strategic planning.

Volunteers met on February 25 to begin planning the Murder Mystery fundraiser scheduled for May 9. Sponsor



Jason Marchi and illustrator Ben Quesnel read their book *The Growing Sweater*.

sheets will be included in the next Chamber mailer, and we are actively selling tickets, soliciting prizes for a drawing during the evening, and looking for sponsorships. The Roundtable Players have received the script and are planning its direction.

Artwork by the clients of SARA H Inc. was featured in an art show throughout the month of February; at the end of the month, the Branford Schools hung their annual March Art Show.

Due to inclement weather, we closed on February 2, and closed early on February 9.

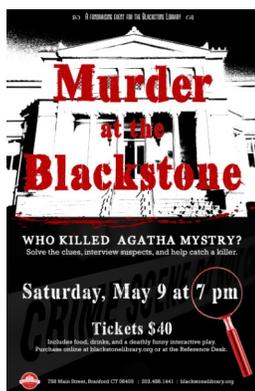
The 2016-2017 budget request was submitted to the Town of Branford. Dates for the Board of Finance hearings have not been set, but usually

are scheduled for mid-March.

The library was closed on the morning of February 27 for the staff's annual inservice training. This year, we invited Kim Kasparian of Success Genie to help us improve how we communicate with each other and patrons, using the DISC language. We also used part of the morning to focus on dealing with difficult situations. Both the new and experienced staff felt the workshop was very beneficial.

Debby has established a new collection development team for the non-fiction collection. Reference staff and others have been assigned sections, and begin selecting for those sections on March 5.

Karen Jensen
Library Director



Murder at Blackstone

Our newest fundraiser is planned for Saturday, May 9 from 7-10pm.

Solve the clues, interview suspects, and help catch a killer.

Tickets are \$40 and include food, drinks and a deathly funny interactive play.

This Month in the Youth Services Department - January

We spent a good portion of the month rearranging our picture book collection. Over the past two years we have been working toward expanding our picture book mini-collections to make it easier for families searching for specific topics.

Over the past couple of years we have seen an increased interest in certain topics like seasons, dinosaurs and the alphabet. This past month we added sports to the list which includes books on baseball, ice skating, football & soccer.

We also decided to expand our character/author shelf by including popular authors who have written well-known titles. Those additions included: Jan Brett, Eric Carle, Patricia Polacco and Nancy Wallace.

We have found that creating these categories or mini-collections makes it easier for caregivers and children to find what they need. Children who cannot read yet are also drawn to these sections because they are categorized by stickers rather than the author's last name. When they see a picture of a dinosaur or car they can immediately sense that these books will be of high interest.

Caregivers have also enjoyed this shelving change because it makes it easier for them to pinpoint topics and make quick selections. Gone are the days of searching through our entire picture book collection in order to find two or

three books about winter! These changes would not have been possible without the youth services support staff who looked through our entire collection and pulled books and authors so that they could be changed in our system. Patricia, in the technical services department also did a fantastic job of re-cataloging and covering these materials. These changes have been well received and these categories continue to fly off our shelves.

Christina and Jenna led a fantastic paper gingerbread house craft that made it possible for participants to create one of three houses - a traditional gingerbread house, Santa's workshop or the reindeer's barn. One of the best parts about offering paper gingerbread houses is the fact that everyone can participate, since food allergies do not stand in the way of children taking these decorative pieces home.

On the first Saturday after the New Year, Miss Mary, Katy and I put together our very first TinkerLab for elementary school students. Over the past couple of months Katy and I have been primarily using the MakerLab to bring middle school students into the building who are interested in getting hands-on experience with different technologies. Over time parents have shown interest in introducing these same technologies to some of our younger patrons, so I decided to put together a

TinkerLab or MakerLab open house for them. The morning merged technology with hands-on activities allowing families to investigate and for kids to get their hands dirty. Some of the stations included: the 3D Printer in action, an online storybook creator, a Lego challenge area and stop motion videos! We had a huge crowd attend (40 people!) and families had the best time moving from station to station and immersing themselves in something new. With such great success we are planning to put together another TinkerLab in the near future as well as intro to 3D Printing classes for the whole family.

The Youth Services Department has also created a new book club for middle school readers called Paper to Popcorn that compares books to movies. So far we have read and watched *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *Holes* by Louis Sachar and have had a terrific attendance. We start out the meeting by watching the movie which leads into pizza and conversation about whether or not the movie did the book justice and if you liked one more than the other. So, far the group agrees that the movies do a pretty good job but nothing can beat the book. It's been great watching these kids read for fun and compose book conversations. We hope that more kids will want to join throughout these colder months.

Carly Lemire



Families working on their gingerbread houses.

The Library was Transformed into Downton Abbey in January



Photo Credit: Gerry Roy



Karen & Tristan were the winners of the Bookmark Branford drawing for an iPad Mini!

Highlights from the Reference Department

The Reference Department continues to be extremely busy. Tax season is upon us and having received the news from the IRS that they will not be sending any booklets at all and only the three main tax forms, we are working hard to assist our patrons in obtaining what they need to file their taxes.

We see new faces every day and continue with our ongoing tasks of general reference, reader's advisory and computer help, as well as keeping up with social media and creating new displays. We are excited about our current main endeavors - collection development/maintenance and finding ways to increase circulation of our print materials and usage of online resources.

We are creating new displays in the library every month, with a relevant theme or with tie-ins to a library program. Kirsty created a "Snow Survival 101" display and Whitney set up an "Oscars" display (complete with ballots and a chance to win movie tickets). Jenna and Carly are continuing with our yearly "Blind Date with a Book" display, where patrons check out a gift-wrapped book, chosen from staff picks, without knowing what they are checking out until they unwrap the book at home. These displays are collaborative efforts and we appreciate all of the help from many staff members.

We are working on new ways to publicize our current online resources and we are investigating new resources. We are offering new classes,

including Microsoft Word, the Internet, and searching AtoZ databases. Many thanks to Katy for all of her efforts in getting these organized and set up. We have recently purchased 8 new laptops, which brings our total to 14. This will allow us to offer more spots in our classes and will simplify things for Katy when she holds MakerLab events and classes.

Many thanks to Whitney for her hard work on programming. We had good turnouts for our Menunkatuck Audubon and Land Trust lectures and a great turnout of 52 attendees at our showing of "Gone Girl" on Saturday the 31st.

Deborah Trofatter



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March 2015 Program Highlights

Writing Memoir

March 7 @ 10–11 AM
Methods for planning and writing memoirs, with writing exercises and discussion of your current and proposed projects. Registration a must.

The Fantasy World of Norman Rockwell

March 10 @ 7–8 PM
With Fred Biamonte.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Vampire Folk Belief: Historic New England

March 11 @ 7–8 PM
When two boys discovered human skulls at the site of a new gravel quarry, Dr. Nick Bellantoni, CT State Archaeologist, was called in to investigate a colonial cemetery. Further investigation produced the theory that the occupant was believed to be a vampire. Presented by Nick Bellantoni. *Sponsored by Menunkatuck Audubon Society.*

AtoZdatabases

March 24 @ 2–3:30 PM
Search for business information (management, annual sales, SIC codes), people (address, phone, home values), information on doctors, job searches, and more. An AtoZ rep will be here to guide you! Registration required.

Fight the Bite: Ticks and Lyme Disease

March 24 @ 7–8 PM
Dr. Kirby Stafford, III, Chief Entomologist at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the State Entomologist, will review the epidemiology of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. *Presented by Branford Land Trust.*

Mike Bielawa: Wicked New Haven

March 25 @ 7–8 PM
Author talk & book signing. *Sponsored by Branford Historical Society.*

Book to Art Club

Saturdays @ 3:00 PM
March 28, April 25, May 30
A creative way to engage with literature – where the process of art-making is more important than the product! We'll discuss Kristen Han-nah's newest novel *The Nightingale* in March; April's selection is *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, and in May we'll read *Dead Wake* by Erik Larsen. Books are available at the library; art materials provided. Or, bring your own project. Registration required.

Inside Granny's Head: Science of the Aging Brain

March 31 @ 6:30–7:30 PM
Yale graduate students & scientists discuss a science topic in the news. The presentations are geared to non-scientists. Future topics: April 29: *When Fantasy Becomes Reality: Invisibility, Immortality, & Mammoth Monsters.*

January 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 14,146

January 2014: 15,146

ConnectiCard: 2,788

December 2014: 2772

Renewals: 3,549

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 608

Overdrive audiobooks: 164

Axis360: 7

Zinio: 213

IndieFlix: 36

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 35 Loaned 65

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

15 programs/205 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

6 programs/145 attendance

School-age (6-11)

9 programs/207 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 30

Total Attendance: 557

Teen Programs (12+)

3 programs/24 attendance

Adult programs

11 programs/141 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

53 meetings/140 attendance

Computer Sessions: 1968

Facebook: 1096 Likes

Constant Contact: 4345

Average Daily Visitors: 538

Days Open: 26