



Report to the Board of Trustees

May 6, 2014

From the Director

Andy McKirdy and I presented the library's budget request to the RTM's Education Committee on April 6th. The meeting was held in one of the Fire Station's conference rooms this year, and we were able to have a less formal conversation with members. As happens often, we heard some very positive feedback about the helpfulness of our staff!

We have requested the opportunity to present the building renovation plans to the Board of Finance at their May or June meeting. After meeting with Keith Goldberg of Arcadis Consulting, we revised our presentation boards to include more detailed written information about the project.

Attorney Robin Sandler and DeCaprio CPA & Associates are our newest Business Circle members—our sincerest thanks go out to both firms.

The Spring appeal was mailed the first week of April. So far we have received \$7,200. We greeted approximately 20 donors at the April 19th reception.

I presented an overview of Library services to the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit circle; members were impressed by the variety of programs,



online resources, and books at the JBML!

In May, Friends of the Library will move their book sorting operations from the Branford Hills School to a new location at 4 Sycamore Way. They are sharing the space with the Thimble Island Ferry which will be housed there during the off season, when the book supply is lowest. In conjunction with the move, the Friends will begin pre-sorting in the library garage to weed out materials for recycling before transporting to the sorting locations. This will also allow library staff to peruse donations for possible additions to our collection, before they get packed for the September sale.

I attended a FLAG meeting in Stamford on April 8. The speaker was Len Vlahos, executive director of the Book Industry Study Group, who shared some interesting insights about reading and print vs. electronic resources. After a lively discussion, we discovered/decided that ebook use has peaked, and

that it is best for immersive reading like fiction. People like the experience of reading a paper book, just like they enjoy the experience of visiting the library, watching movies on the big screen, etc. Libraries have truly evolved in the past few years, and there is a lot of potential for strong use and support in the future.

The annual CLA conference was excellent; six staff members attended and were able to hear library notables including Stephen Bell Jessamyn West, Michael Stephens, JP Porcaro, and talented CT librarians who presented their own programs.

We've given out bookmarks reminding people about The Great Give on May 5 & 6. This is an excellent opportunity to reach new donors, and earn matching opportunities from the Greater New Haven Community Foundation.

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*



A thank you to our legislators

Thank you to Lonnie Reed, Ted Kennedy Jr., and Sean Scanlon, who supported our call to restore cuts made by the governor to the State Library Budget.

The resulting budget approved by the Appropriations Committee restored 95% of the amount requested for Connecticut and grants to public libraries.

This Month in the Youth Services Department - March

This month we worked hard to complete our easybook weed. The shelves currently look fantastic and finding particular titles has never been easier. Through this process we were able to locate items that have been missing for quite some time, due to being mis-shelved or in some cases hidden beneath our shelves! Either way, it was really exciting to get those missing books back and it has been a relief knowing that we now have space to add new titles to our collection. Next month we will continue the weeding process with our easybook categories.

Until this month, our MakerLab has been primarily targeted to our middle school and adult crowd. The response has been positive from the get-go and we have cultivated a new group of volunteers and students who are excited to come to the library and take part in the maker process. It was just a matter of time before our younger patrons got word of the MakerLab and wanted to get their hands dirty, so we decided to offer two programs this month with our younger makers in mind.

The first was a TinkerLab for elementary school children and families. Some of the activities included video game design, 3D modeling software, squishy circuits, stop motion videos and more! We hosted the day on the school's half day and pulled in a nice crowd. One of our MakerLab Open House

volunteers also came to join in the fun. Christine has worked with the youth services department before and used to provide STEM based after school activities for middle school students. She has a wealth of knowledge and always comes up with the most interesting projects - including the ArtBot she put together especially for the TinkerLab event! Using a dollar store electric toothbrush, pool noodle, and set of markers to create a cute bot that vibrates colors across the page. Kids then decorated the bots to their pleasing. We are going to expand this project during April break so that teens can decorate their ArtBots with the help of the 3D printer.

The second program for elementary school families invited children and their caregivers to see the 3D printer in action and get hands-on experience with our 3D modeling software. During this program one of our newest volunteers, Daniel, (who owns a 3D printer himself) assisted in the workshop and shared some of the items he created on his own. He was fantastic to work with and a great help when it came to some of the 3D technical terms as well as assisting families with their TinkerCad (3D modeling software) projects. The program started with a 3D printing demo where everyone got to learn the printer's components as well as how to feed the filament and find their files once they are prepared to print. In

each of these sessions we hope to give participants enough tools and hands-on experiences so that they will feel confident operating the 3D printer on their own. Once they saw the printer in action, families went through a series of TinkerCad demos and eventually created something with the 3D design software on their own. Three of our families were able to complete their projects before the end of the workshop and one has already dropped by a couple of times to create new prints. It was satisfying to see families working together, proving that age is but a number when it comes to accessing the 3D printer and software.

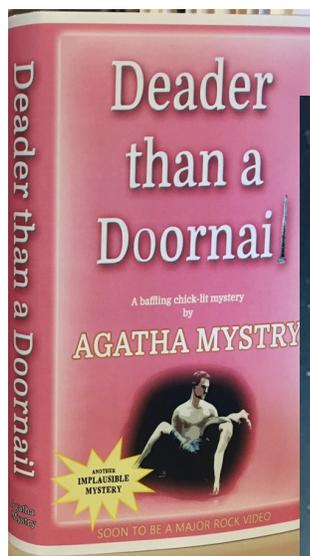
Finally, we celebrated the "luck of the Irish" by inviting local storyteller Erin Zeidenberg to share a couple of Celtic Tales. Erin loves creating her own stories and researching traditional tales—bringing them to life with accents and costumes. It really makes for an excellent show. Each story requires some form of audience participation so that listeners are pulled into the story and become an active part of the show. As always, Erin did not disappoint and our families had a wonderful time learning a little about Ireland's rich history and the tales that continue to be passed down from one generation to the next.

Carly Lemire



3D prints from our TinkerLab!

Murder at the Blackstone is almost here!! May 9th 7—10 pm



Getting items OFF the 3D printer's build plate is the hardest part!

Highlights from the Reference Department

The library launched its new digital offering, Mango Languages, two days before the official April 1st start date. We are delighted to report that we have 46 registered users already.

Debby was contacted by the Musical Art Society of Branford, one of the town's oldest organizations, about the possibility of housing the Society's archives at the library. Debby and Jane Bouley, the town historian, will work on getting the material into archival boxes and organizing them chronologically. They will then be stored in the Branford History Room, along with other archives from a variety of local organizations.

Our displays this month included one on Les Miser-

ables, in support of the high school's production of the play, Survivor Stories and one titled Happy Spring.

We had another great turnout of 60 people to our monthly Saturday movie, The Theory of Everything.

Whitney began preparing for this summer's Adult Reading Program, titled "Escape the Ordinary". Two of the programs we have planned are a 4-part World Dance Class & What's the Buzz?: Honeybees & Beekeeping.

Katy taught a Microsoft Word class with Christina this month. Christina and Kirsty taught an Excel class and are working on creating and offering other computer classes, on a more regular

basis. They hope to include Computer Basics, Internet and Email, as well as additional Microsoft Office classes.

Debby attended the LUX committee meeting, where some of the discussion centered on the possible loss of library funding in the governor's budget. Area libraries are encouraging staff and patrons to contact their representatives, in the hope that funding will be restored. In addition, LION informed us that staff can now provide greater support to patrons for OverDrive problems and that there have been updates made to the online catalog.

Deborah Trofatter



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May 2015 Program Highlights

Healing Through Poetry and Prose

*Saturdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23
@ 10 AM*

Amy J. Barry, a writer, expressive arts facilitator and Hospice-trained bereavement counselor, will engage participants in writing poetry and short prose followed by group discussion about what we read and write, in order to heal through loss or transition. Writing experience is not required. Registration a must.

VNA Blood Pressure Clinic

May 7 @ 12:00 noon

A nurse will be available to check your blood pressure and answer your questions in the Lucy Hammer Room. No reservations required. Free and open to the public. Contact VNA Community Healthcare at 203.458.4200 or ConnecticutHomecare.org for more details.

Music in the Movies

May 10 @ 2—3 PM

Nicole Biamonte, Associate Professor of Music Theory at McGill University, looks at the ways music is used in film soundtracks. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Second Tuesday Book Club

May 12 @ 6:15 PM

Join a discussion of *The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. New members welcome; books available for loan in advance.

Opera Appreciation:

May 18 @ 7 PM

Charlotte D'Aniello hosts a lively look at the world of opera featuring a lecture and video.

Ask A Lawyer

May 21 @ 3:30—5:30 PM

Free fifteen-minute consultation with an attorney from the New Haven County Bar Association. Sign up in Refer-

ence 30 minutes before the scheduled time.

Tassy Walden Awards

May 27 @ 7—8 PM

Annual children's author awards presented by the Shoreline Arts Alliance.

Job Search Boot Camp

Last Thursday of the month

May 28 @ 10—11 AM

A networking group led by CT Works. To register, call 203.488.1441 x 318 or email reference@blackstonelibrary.org

Book to Art Club

May 30 @ 3:00 PM

Come discuss *Dead Wake* by Erik Larsen and work on a related art project. New members welcome; books available for loan in advance.

March 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 14,819

March 2014: 16,177

ConnectiCard: 3,092

March 2014: 3,148

Renewals: 3,988

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 596

Overdrive audiobooks: 168

Axis360: 10

Zinio: 256

IndieFlix: 7

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 36 Loaned 88

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

14 programs/289 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

11 programs/340 attendance

School-age (6-11)

11 programs/205 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 36

Total Attendance: 834

Teen Programs (12+)

5 programs/57 attendance

Adult programs

11 programs/199 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

67 meetings/113 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2425

Facebook: 1089 Likes

Constant Contact: 4551

Average Daily Visitors: 518

Days Open: 31