



Report to the Board of Trustees

May 10, 2017

From the Director



Campaign for the Blackstone

Our town-wide mailing went out this month, and we are beginning to receive donations. Open Houses are planned for May and June. See inside for more information.

Uncover Branford, the program developed through our participation with the State Library's Excite workshop, kicked off this month. Katy, Carly and Whitney did a wonderful job of getting the group acquainted, and by the end of the session they had made plans to go out and investigate two places in Branford—Young's Pond and a Thai restaurant for lunch. Jean Cherni, a local reporter, included a write-up in her Senior Moments column which runs in the New Haven Register and Shoreline Times each week. The program concludes with an open house exhibit on May 23.

This month we hosted the **Welcoming Branford** exhibit and reception in partnership with ERACE. Over 100 members of the community attended to celebrate and share their personal stories. The Branford Board of Ed later recognized the exhibit and our participation at their monthly board meeting.

Also this month, we introduced a new language learning program—Pronunciator, which has taken the place of Mango Languages. Pronunciator was developed by a librarian, offers 80 foreign lan-



The hands-down best event this month was attending the Branford Education Hall of Fame induction dinner. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Library, 7 staff members were able to attend. Congratulations to Carly Lemire and Mary Lockery for their outstanding contribution to the Branford Community through their work in the Blackstone Library Youth Services Department.

guages, ESL instruction in 50 languages, live online conversation groups and citizenship preparation.

Our fiber internet connection was installed, and we are waiting to connect to the CT Education Network. We expect to be up and running in another 60 days at the most.

Katy Dillman and Jenna Anthony have started a new book club for millennials. Books 'n' Brews meets monthly at Thimble Islands Brewery and is off to a successful start.

Our building committee heard presentations by 5 construc-

tion management firms this month, and ultimately selected Downes Construction for the pre-construction phase of the renovation plan. They will review the plans and prepare a phased construction plan with a detailed estimate which we expect to have by mid-summer.

May of each year is designated as Mental Health Month and the library is hosting the annual exhibit by members of the Options (Opportunities Provided through Interests, Outreach, Network and Support) social program of BH Care.

Karen Jensen

March Highlights from the Youth Services Department

This month the Youth Services Department offered a series of staff “training sessions” on our new museum pass software system. Library Insight allows patrons to reserve museum passes up to 90 days in advance, similar to reserving a book. Some of the passes are also printable, so that our patrons can reserve them, download them, print them and then head straight to the museum. This system is extremely different from our current “first come, first serve” policy that does not allow reserves or printable passes. We are excited to offer this new level of flexibility and convenience.

Taking time to train all of our staff members on the new system was also extremely beneficial. Realizing that patrons would have access to Library Insight from home meant that they were going to have questions, so we wanted everyone to feel empowered when it came to taking calls about the new system. We took staff members step-by-step through the reservation process and made sure to show them exactly what patrons would see from their home computers. Many were impressed by the system’s capabilities and agreed that it makes accessing a museum pass that much easier. Library Insight goes live on Monday April 3rd, so feel free to check the website for updates and try to reserve a pass on your own.

March also marked the beginning of Welcoming Branford, a photo-essay exhibit that shares a little about the lives and hopes of community members in Branford. Karen and I have been working with the East Shore Region Adult & Continuing Education (ERACE) and local photographer Cathy Wilson Ramin to bring this exhibit to life. The display began as a classroom assignment for ERACE’s Branford students but has expanded to include community members. Participants were asked to share a short story about their family, time spent in Branford or even hopes for the future along with a photo exemplifying their thoughts and feelings. Cathy was kind enough to offer photo sessions to the students and public, giving everyone the chance to take a professional portrait or to showcase something that is close to their hearts. Seeing each photo and reading each story exemplifies a little slice of Branford and reminds us that sure we are different, but at the same time we are a lot alike. I hope that people will take the time to read the essays and come away with the same feelings that I do. We are holding a reception for the project on Wednesday, April 19th at 6 PM, which will include light fare, special speakers along with a couple of community members reading their pieces aloud.

This month we offered a brand new 3 to 5 year old program provided by Miss

Audrey. Audrey is a retired private school teacher that has over 15 years experience teaching French and Spanish to elementary and middle school students. Audrey is a native French speaker who earned a in B.A. in Spanish. She has two daughters that were brought up in a bilingual household so she understands the importance of immersing children in different languages at a young age. Audrey currently provides private lessons but also arranges language classes in a couple of different pre-schools. When she reached out to us about offering a six week class at the Library I jumped at the chance, thinking that many of our families would be interested. The class uses a combination of stories, games and songs to introduce basic concepts like: greetings, colors and numbers so that she can fully engage the age range. Participants are also committed to attending each class so that the kids can reinforce what they have learned and build upon it so that they can expand their vocabulary. So, far the response has been top notch and Audrey has a kind and calm way about her that is inviting to our families. Many have been asking if we will continue these classes, so we are already looking into the summer months so that new families can take advantage of this immersive language experience.

Carly Lemire



This year's summer reading theme will be Build A Better World

Campaign for the Blackstone

BRANFORD Community Foundation

The Branford Community Foundation is matching gifts from individuals up to \$1,000, doubling the impact of your contribution to the campaign!

At the end of April, the campaign had received \$9,500 in donations that will be matched 100% by the Branford Community Foundation. This is nearly 10% of the total matching commitment of \$100,000.

This month, we sent a mailing to all the households in Branford, scheduled to hit mail-

boxes by early May. The brochure provides details of the project, open house dates and information about giving.

Open Houses are scheduled for the following dates:

Kickoff Celebration May 17 6:30-8pm

Learn more about the improvements to the building and how the renovation and expansion addresses critical challenges, see plans and virtual renderings, and meet members of the library's staff and board. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

Additional Open Houses:

May 20 10-11:30am

May 23 12:30-2pm

June 8 6:30-8pm

June 14 12:30-2pm

There will be a brief introduction at the start of each open house, please drop in as your schedule allows. All open houses will be held in the main floor rotunda of the library.

Highlights from the Reference Department-March

March was a fun month for the Reference Department. We had some great programs, including opera talks, a Tilde Café lecture on birds' nests, the opening of the Branford Schools Art Show, numerous workshops and classes, a lecture on Renaissance portrait painting, Saturday Cinema, book clubs and a Land Trust lecture on lobster.

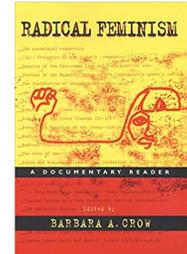
We've begun to plan for our Adult Summer Reading program, with the theme of Build a Better World. We'll have some games for adults to play and we will try our hand at a 3-D puzzle. Our puzzle table on the ground floor has been

extremely popular with patrons; we are working on our 8th puzzle since we first began offering jigsaw puzzles just a few months ago.

Christina joined Carly at Murphy School to work on Murphy School's "Library Night." Whitney continued working with Carly, Karen and Katy on a documentary of their participation in Excite and on the Uncover Branford project. She also met with the programming committee to decide on programs for the summer.

We had an interesting question from a patron who wanted to identify a quote her late

husband had made note of, but had not attributed to anyone. She knew that it included the phrase "alienated labor" and it made mention of carving wood. Debby was able to track down the quote, which was from an essay titled "Woman and Her Mind: The Story of Daily Life" in a collection titled "Radical Feminism: A Documentary Reader" edited by Barbara A. Crow. The author of the essay, Meredith Tax, has been a writer and political activist since the late 1960s and is considered to be a pioneer of the U.S. women's liberation movement.



Identifying a quote from an essay read long ago.

Deb Trofatter



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...more than books

Join our email list for more
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May 2017 Program Highlights

Hatha Yoga

Mondays @ 5:15—6:30 pm

Join yoga teacher Helen Lesprier every Monday evening. Free and open to all ages.

Rembrandt and Friends:

**Come Up & See My Etchings
May 10 @ 1:30 pm**

Sponsored by the Shoreline Village Connecticut. Presented by Marcie Slepian, Ph.D.

Intro to Arduino*

May 11 @ 6 pm

Use a computer microchip to control simple electrical elements, like LED's buzzers, motors, and more with Jim Davis!

Ask A Lawyer

May 18 @ 3:30-5:30 pm

Have a legal question? Get a free consultation with a lawyer, brought to you by the New Haven County Bar Association. Sign up at Reference

up to 30 minutes before the program begins. Free and open to all.

The Hofners: Beatlemania

May 21 @ 2 pm

Relive the music and the magic of John, Paul, George, and Ringo with note-for-note renditions of The Beatles' most beloved classics. Enjoy the greatest songs of the sensational 60s performed in replica costumes. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.*

Color From Plants:

**A Natural Dyeing Workshop*
May 23 @ 6-8 pm**

This hands-on workshop will introduce the long history of obtaining colors for clothing and textiles from plant pigments. With a focus on easy and safe techniques using common and exotic plants, each participant will dye a silk

scarf to take home. Resources for further exploration will be supplied. Space is very limited.

Saturday Cinema:

La La Land

May 27 @ 1:00 pm

Bestseller Book Club*:

May 27 @ 3:00 pm

Into the Water by Paula Hawkins

Books 'n' Brews Book Club

May 31 @ 6:00 pm

Meets at the Thimble Island Brewery! We'll be discussing *Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness*, by Susannah Cahalan, and *The Lola Quartet*, by Emily St. John Mandel.

New members welcome. You can borrow a copy from the library, or purchase your own copy. Read one of these titles and come out and join the fun!

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

March 2017 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 13,271

March 2016: 13,164

borrowIT: 2,900

March 2016: 2,861

Renewals: 3,018

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 743

Overdrive audiobooks: 285

Zinio: 241

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 8 Loaned 17

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

14 programs/327 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

13 programs/232 attendance

School-age (6-11)

9 programs/190 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 36

Total Attendance: 749

Teen Programs (12+)

3 programs/9 attendance

Adult programs

23 programs/504 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

67 meetings/219 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2347

Facebook: 1419 Likes

MailChimp: 6706 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 506

Days Open: 28