



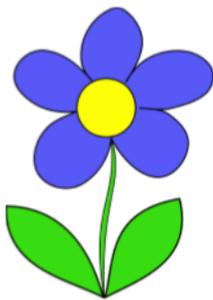
Report to the Board of Trustees

May 1, 2019

From the Director



The walls are coming up and work has begun on the future rooftop terrace.



May 18, 9 am–1 pm
Friends of the Library
Mini Book Sale on the
Town Green

Much has happened with the renovation project in the past month. The weather has been beautiful, creating optimal conditions for exterior construction. The new entry is on schedule to be finished at the end of July. Staff have completely moved out of the ground floor offices and tech services staff have a temporary location on the 2nd floor. Deliveries are being made to the ground floor circulation desk and brought up on the elevator. Painting and plaster repair has begun on the first floor, and reference staff have also moved temporarily

to the 2nd floor.

Donations are coming in from our spring appeal, and have earned \$9755 to date. 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.

Gennett Grinnell retired from her position as Associate Librarian for Technical Services April 30 and is returning to work as a part-time circulation assistant beginning in

May. It was nice to celebrate her achievement on April 26th. Many former library staff attended, and there were lots of photos and stories shared.

Sarah Mallory begins as Teen Librarian on May 14; she and Carly have already been discussing plans for summer reading.

LION voted to implement the automatic renewal feature in Sierra. It will be coming soon to Blackstone!

Karen Jensen

Highlights from the Youth Services Department—March



Kindness Alert

We launched two new programs this month targeting middle school and high school students. The ideas came from Christina, our fellow reference librarian who wanted to share some of her expertise. The first program is Teen Tabletop and introduces teens to different role playing games like *Dungeon and Dragons*. The game is played in a series of sessions and brings different players of various abilities together to find objects, combat enemies and solve puzzles! The cool part about it is that even though the game is ongoing kids can decide to jump in at anytime. With Christina's assistance we have been able to curate a series of stories, game pieces, dice and a board. The kids that have popped in seem to be enjoying it so far and it's nice being able to team up with someone that has experience playing. Learning from scratch is eye opening and a great way for me to bring in teens that have not played before because if I can do it so can they! The teens that came have played before and are planning on inviting their friends from school to participate.

The second program we are hosting is actually outside of the library and is a book club focused around YA materials that have or are being turned into television series/movies. It is called *As Seen On Screen*. The cool part about the program is that we meet at Common Grounds, a coffee shop

on Main Street. This way participants can walk from the high school and easily meetup with their friends. We recently reached out to the middle and high school media specialists to see if they can get the word out about both of programs to their students.

We also wanted to quickly thank Feed Branford Kids for donating snacks to ALL of our youth services programs. Being able to offer food to kids even studying in the Library is a great way to spread goodwill and create a warm and welcoming feeling. Plus, they can focus on the task at hand rather than listening to their hungry bellies.

At the beginning of the month we participated in Read Across America Day at Mary T. Murphy School. Ever This year Mary T. Murphy invited us to read a variety of Dr. Seuss books in one of their Kindergarten classrooms. We were paired with one of the children's librarians from Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library, so we got to talk about both libraries and read the books together. It was a delight. At the end of the "read" the classroom gets to keep the Dr. Seuss books so they said thank you by singing us a song! The kids were precious and their presentation was pretty impressive since they came dressed up as their favorite book characters that day.

Angela and other staff members worked together to create another interactive display for the downstairs rotunda. This time around I wanted to do something that could touch the entire community. I enlisted the help of Angela to compose a series of random acts of kindness that we could then print and put in a fish bowl! People could then pull and commit to doing an act for a family member, friend or stranger. Then I thought, let's take this a step further by allowing others to create their own random acts of kindness which could be added to our fishbowls as well as a white board where acts of kindness could be recorded in real time! I am excited to announce that the white board started to fill up and patrons expressed their pleasure with the entire display.

I would have to say the best part about this project was finding books about kindness for all ages. We were actually able to come up with a hefty amount, adults titles included! I cannot tell you how many patrons appreciated thumbing through our picture books, many had not read one since their children were little, so it was fun to see their reactions. PLUS, there were some precious handwritten random acts added to our fishbowls from our youngest patrons and we could not get enough of them, misspellings and all.

Carly Lemire

More Factual Fridays

Ella Wheeler Wilcox lived in Short Beach - she was the author of *Solitude*, from *Poems of Passion* (she published many books of poetry).

She is famous for these lines:

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;

Weep, and you weep alone;

For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,

But has trouble enough of its own.

The first transcontinental telephone call to Connecticut was made from San Francisco to the Doolittle home in Pine Orchard in 1915.

Branford had an observation tower on Cocheco Avenue during World War II.

Branford was home to many quarries over the years, including Green's Quarry, Granite Island Quarry, Pine Orchard Quarry, Red Hill/Stony Creek Red Granite Quarry, Beattie's Quarry, Norcross Brothers/Dodds/Castellucci Quarry, which supplied pink granite for Grand Central Station in New York City, the

Newberry Library in Chicago, R.H. Macy & Co. in New York City, South Terminal in Boston, the War College in Washington, D.C., and Chelsea Piers in New York City, among many others. Beattie's Quarry supplied the granite blocks for the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty.



The observation tower on Cocheco Avenue.

Highlights from the Reference Department—March

March was an exciting and busy month for the Reference Department. We welcomed Jenna Anthony to the staff full time; her new position is now Programming Coordinator and Reference Assistant. She jumped right into the job, planning for a programming committee meeting to set up programs for the spring and summer, searching for and recommending a new room booking program, organizing files of previous programs and making notes to recommend new ones and continuing with her everyday Reference tasks. She has also taken over the Bestsellers Book Club and is continuing with Books 'n Brews.

Christina had one of her busiest tech months so far. She met with six staff members to prepare them to take over staffing the new computer lab, taught a Computer Basics class, an Introduction to Excel class, held three tech appointments with patrons and managed all of her other Reference duties.

Anne continues work on the Vertical File project and has begun to take over some other tasks for us, including maintaining the Obituary index and taking over additional call number ranges for stacks maintenance and new book purchases. Anne and Jenna attended a CLC

Roundtable on Genealogy Reference at the Middletown Service Center, followed by a tour of the Godfrey Library.

Deb organized and participated in the moves of the DVD collection to the ground floor and the Young Adult collection into the reading room to free up those spaces for renovation, which has now commenced on the main floor. The moves went well, with help from an amazing staff from all departments who have been extraordinary in their cooperation and patience as we move forward with the renovation.

Debby Trofatter



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May 2019 Program Highlights

F2G2 Game Night**

May 3 @ 6—9 pm

We play all types of board games from fast-paced, hilarious party games to highly strategic, thinky games that will leave your head spinning! Adults of all ages and experience levels welcome.

Overdrive, HOOPLA and Kanopy**

May 9 @ 6 — 8 pm

Learn the basics of three (free!) fantastic resources offered through the library. Access e-books with OverDrive, movies with Kanopy and those plus more with Hoopla! *Hoopla and Kanopy streaming services are sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Uncover Branford**

May 11 @ 10:30am — 12

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

Ask A Lawyer**

May 16 @ 3:30 — 5:30 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.

Books & Brews**

May 29 @ 6—8 pm

Each month, Books & Brews offers 2 titles to choose from, each with its own discussion group to take part in. This month, choose from *Circe* by Madeline Miller or *She Would Be King* by Wayétu Moore.

We bring the following month's books to each meeting. You can also borrow one from the library (place a hold on our online catalog), or purchase your own copy. New members welcome.

Find us at bit.ly/blackstonebooksbrews or meetup.com to connect with the group and RSVP to the meeting. Books 'n' Brews meets at Thimble Island Brewery.

Bestseller Book Club**

May 25 @ 3:30 pm

We'll discuss *Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim. 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.*

March 2019 Statistics—Deirdre Santora

Total Circulation: 11,369
March 2018: 12,818

borrowIT: 2,335
March 2018: 2,796

Renewals: 3,094

Downloadable Circulation:
Overdrive ebooks: 1061
Overdrive audiobooks: 415
RB Digital: 443
Hoopla: 447 plays
Kanopy: 80 plays
Pronunciator: 408 users

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
0 programs/0 attendance
Preschool (3-5)
6 programs/120 attendance
School-age (6-11)
1 programs/13 attendance
All Ages
0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 7
Total Attendance: 133

Teen Programs (12+)
3 programs/10 attendance

Adult programs

20 programs/222 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

60 meetings/236 attendance

Computer Sessions: 1,800

Facebook: 1,642 Likes

Instagram: 530 Followers

Twitter: 894 Followers

MailChimp: 7,427 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: N/A*
Days Open: 30

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