



Report to the Board of Trustees

December 4, 2013

From the Director

We have a new first selectman! Jamie Cosgrove was sworn in as Branford's first selectman in a beautiful ceremony at the library on November 19. Marcia Chambers of the Branford Eagle covered the event:

<http://bit.ly/17IUHqu>

I was interviewed for the Branford Seven's Person of the Week which ran on November 7:

<http://bit.ly/1cY8iOb>

Friends were busy preparing baskets for the upcoming holiday sale-come early for the best selection!

We saw a draft of our new website this month. We are working on organizing the content and adding pages. The site launch is on target for early 2014.

Our events are planned for the upcoming three months, and almost set for the three months after that. We designed and distributed a new quarterly calendar to be available within the library. It was also sent to town departments and is included in our "new resident" mailing.

Congratulations to Erika and Joshua DiMauro who were married at the Blackstone with a library-themed wedding on November 10.



Barbara Cangiano and I attended the 12th District Senior Fair

Strengthening the Bonds of Our Community is planned for January 18 at the library from 1-4pm to engage members of our community in an exploration of Branford's diversity. Parents, business owners, local government, seniors, students, the minority community, and the faith community will be invited to participate. The afternoon will begin with an interactive presentation by Marji Lipshez Shapero from the Anti Defamation Leagues' The World of Difference Institute. Marji will help participants to find commonality among our differences, create a greater understanding of the value of diversity and the lessons it holds for us.

The Community Reading of

Our Town went well with about 50 in the audience. We filmed the play on an iPad and delivered it to BCTV. We hope to see it aired soon.

I made a presentation about library resources to the Exchange Club members on November 12. It was great to meet another service group doing great work for the community.

Otty Norwood invited me to tape a show at BCTV about all the resources offered at Blackstone for seniors. It will be a challenge to cover it all in the half-hour allotted!

Karen Jensen
Library Director

Friends of the Library Holiday Basket Sale

Thursday, December 5
from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, December 6
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 7
from 9 a.m. to noon

This Month in the Youth Services Department—October



Happy Halloween
from our sharp
and colorful
children's staff!

Miss Mary and I put on our annual preschool Halloween parade! During the event 80 plus participants attended and had an absolute blast. We led a traditional storytime filled with spooky books and songs and ended with a parade from one department to the next with staff giving out small prizes. Miss Mary and I dressed up like Crayola Crayons and brought the entire staff into the mix by sharing costumes from years past! Pictures of the event can be found on our facebook page and I have to say bringing the staff together with funny costumes made the event that much more special, so thank you! Your preschool patrons appreciated it and we cannot wait to go bigger and better next year.

We also held our annual pumpkin painting program at the beginning of the month, which brought families together to create an array of pumpkins for their front stoop! During the program families were asked to bring their own pumpkins to paint, any shape or size. The library then provided ideas, stencils, paint, stickers and allowed everyone to create! We had a total of 35 attendants, which was excellent since we were able to keep up with their paint requests and clean at the same time. Everyone left smiling with their freshly painted pumpkins and fun size pieces of candy. Photos of the event can also be found on our facebook page.

The youth services depart-

ment invited local teen author Evan DeCarlo to discuss the publishing process of his first young adult novel. Evan is currently in his sophomore year at the School of Visual Arts in NYC and has always had a love for reading and writing. His book *Children of the Noah* is a planned trilogy and the storyline was something that he had created back in high school but found himself inspired to revisit. Evan started out the program by talking about the book and how the storyline came to life. He then read a few excerpts and got into the nitty-gritty of his creative process, how he got published as well as his inspirations. Evan also reinforced the fact that he does not want to be known for being “young and published” rather he wants his work to speak for itself and touch readers the way that the process has touched him. Evan is truly one of a kind and inspiring to all that have dreams – whatever they may be. We cannot wait for book two to be published so that we can start circulating it at the library.

Katy from the Reference Department, Christina from the Circulation Department and I held our first Teen Advisory Board Program on Wednesday October 23rd. We had a total of five participants and were pretty excited with the turnout and talked a lot about the community and what teens like to do. The kids were really excited about reorganizing the teen space,

creating book reviews for other teens and even came up with a programming idea that they think their friends will enjoy. We felt that reaching out and making a connection was a start to spreading the word and creating an atmosphere that teens will enjoy. We are already excited about our next meeting and have challenged everyone to bring a friend in hope of increasing the group!

We also discovered that the brand new East Haven ShopRite has a full time dietitian who is interested in spreading nutritional information to children, families and adults. Miss Mary and I thought that October would be the perfect time to introduce good eating habits since a night of candy was just around the corner, so we invited the dietitian to put together a storyhour filled with good eating habit books, MyPlate information and crafts! The turnout for the event ended up being on the small side, probably because Halloween was just a couple of days away but the kids really enjoyed hearing the stories and taking part in various MyPlate activities. The dietitian also brought in a combination of healthy goodies, which allowed the kids to create their very own trail mix, something that they can easily do at home. Everyone left with smiles on their face and we are looking forward to reaching out to ShopRite and their services in the future.

—Carly Lemire

October Highlights from the Reference Department

Technology

Tech Tuesday Highlights: Katy helped an 80 year-old learn email basics—he was so pleased that he signed up for subsequent sessions to continue his education with TextEdit on his Mac! She helped another gentleman with his new Microsoft Surface - his grandkids just didn't have time for him, so he came to us and left with some new and helpful tips! Barb helped a woman resolve some basic but annoying problems she was having with her iPad. She left happy, too!

Library website: Deb and Katy met with Karen and web developer Fredi B to discuss a new website design for the Blackstone Library.

“App/Tablet Tips ‘n’ Tricks”: Six people attended this forum in October which Katy is facilitating. The attendees expressed interest in continuing this on a monthly basis.

Community Outreach

Each week, the entire reference staff gathers books and other materials for our homebound patrons. Special thanks go to Deb for her work with our “super reader” who reads 10-14 new titles each week from specific authors and genres.

Personal Touch: Kudos to Whitney who regularly orders mystery books on cassette for our 90+ year old reader!

Teen Services

Katy and Carly held the first Teen Advisory Board meeting which is designed to get ideas from teens about programs and materials that would like the library to offer. A second meeting is scheduled for November.

Reference and Research

Consumer Information: Documents and links to information about the new Affordable Care Act were created by a collaboration of reference library staff.

Book displays: To get in the Halloween holiday spirit, we created a “Get spooked” book display which featured books about Connecticut and New England ghosts - always a crowd pleaser! October 24th was “Food Day”. We created a book display in conjunction with several food related programs offered this month at the library to remind people about the benefits of good nutrition and good food choices.

Antiques Road show at the Blackstone: Using Lyle Price Guide to American Furniture, Whitney helped a patron identify the value of an old church pew. The pew, which was purchased for \$50, was valued at over \$1,000!

Collection inventory: We continue to review our non-fiction collection for outdated and damaged materials to make the collection more relevant and appealing.

Professional Development

Workshop: Katy and Barbara attended “Managing Mobile Devices and Apps in your Library” which was held at the Henry Carter Hull Library in Clinton on October 4th. Many library patrons are interested in using mobile devices to read e-books and perform research and more. This workshop was a great opportunity to share ideas and suggestions to better serve our library patrons.

—Barbara Cangiano



The new TAB met
in October.



James Blackstone Memorial Library
 758 Main Street
 Branford, CT 06405
 203.488.1441
 reference@blackstonelibrary.org
 facebook.com/blackstonelibrary
 twitter.com/blackstonlib
 www.blackstonelibrary.org

...more than books

Join our email list for more information about programs
www.blackstonelibrary.org

December 2013 Program Highlights

Tech Tuesdays @ 10am
 one-on-one sessions with a librarian for tech help.

Knitting: Wednesdays 6:00 PM

Mystery Book Club 12/4 3pm
Midnight at Marble Arch by Anne Perry

App/Tablet Tips 12/11 @ 6 PM

Community Discussion
 Sunday, 12/1, 1/5 @ 2:00 PM

Yoga: Mondays @ 5:00 PM
 December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

2nd Tuesday Book Club
 12/10 @ 6:45 PM
The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman

Menunkatuck Audubon Society: 12/11 @ 7pm
Archaeology on the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut.

Classical Music in Cartoons 12/3 @ 7—8 PM
 Lecture by Nicole Biamonte, Asst. Professor of Music Theory at McGill University.
Sponsored by the Friends.

Branford Town Band Concert 12/4 @ 7-8 PM

Music Makers Holiday Concert 12/8 @ 2-4 PM

CT Accordion Assoc. Concert 12/14 @ 2-4 PM

Opera Appreciation 12/30 @ 7:00 PM
 Operatic Gastronomy

National Letter Writing Week 1/6 @ 7-8 PM
 An informative workshop on the art of handwritten letters.

Ask A Lawyer 11/21 @ 6pm 12/19 @ 6-7:45 PM

Closed for Christmas:
 Tuesday, December 24
 Wednesday, December 25

New Year's:
 December 31-close at 5pm
 January 1-closed

October 2013 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 13,944
(October 2012: 15,290)

ConnectiCard: 2,270
(October 2012: 3,033)

Downloadable Circulation:
 Overdrive ebooks: **422**
 Overdrive audiobooks: **95**
 Axis360: launching in October
 Zinio: launching in October

IndieFlix: 114 total patrons registered; **22** films viewed

Interlibrary Loan
 Borrowed **29**/Loaned **73**

Average Daily Visitors: 613
Days Open: 29

Facebook: 791 Likes

Constant Contact: 2983

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
 12 programs/486 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
 14 programs/241 attendance

School-age (6-11)
 11 programs/306 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 36
Total Attendance: 953

Teen Programs (12+)

2 programs/39 attendance

Adult programs

30 programs/507 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

68 meetings/165 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2628

