



Report to the Board of Trustees

November 1, 2017

From the Director

The highlight this month was the library's fourth, semi-annual, *A Hogwarts Halloween*. The incredibly talented team of volunteers led by Beth Law and Katy Dillman worked for months to plan an event that was enjoyed by almost 400 children and earned \$15,000 for the library. A new feature this year was an escape room, *Escape from the Forbidden Forest*, designed by our own Jenna Anthony, and modified to work as an adult event on Saturday evening. It received rave reviews, as did the entire weekend.

Silver Petrucelli & Associates has been engaged to work on the final phase of the renovation the construction documents. Our next meeting with the design team is scheduled for November 10. The State of CT delivered some good news with a budget proposal approved by the House and Senate and currently being considered by the governor. Elections for Town leadership take place on November 7 and we will plan to introduce our renovation plan to new RTM members. The campaign has received \$455,180 to date, including \$70,400 matched by the Branford Community Foundation. American Polyfilm and Guilford Savings



The Harry Potter LEGO display. Photo Credit: Kelly Fryer. More images on zip06.com

Bank have each made generous donations this month.

Rick Mahoney, Andy McKirdy and I attended two RTM meetings to request town funding for the shortfall in our health insurance line. We are very pleased and grateful that the RTM voted in favor of this request, granting the library \$36,234 to fund the health insurance increase. Without these funds, the library would have been forced to reduce operating hours and materials for the collection.

The EXCITE team of Katy Dillman, Whitney Gayle and Carly Lemire completed the grant process and submitted their report on *Uncover Branford* to the State Library. The program was very successful in achieving its stated purpose to bring community members together to form

new relationships, while learning more about their town. Through the process of running the program, the team was able to make adjustments based on needs and interests of the participants, and they have shaped this into a sustainable program that we plan to continue as long as there is interest.

The library's finance committee met to review the annual audit and all is in order.

Christina Kondziela and Sarah Mallory introduced ERACE students to JobNow and Pronunciator resources this month.

As the holidays approach, we have agreed to host a tree for the Community Dining Room's *Be a Santa to a Senior to a Senior* program.

Karen Jensen



Thank You to our Hogwarts Sponsors, ad sponsors and in-kind donors:

*Bailey Scarano CPAs
Connex Credit Union
Guilford Savings Bank
Towne Pharmacy
Community Foundation
for Greater New Haven
Branford Building Supplies
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Andy McKirdy
Polly & Alan Fitz
Shoreline Cafe
Jersey Mike's
Asti
Van Wilgen's Garden Center
Taylor Rental
Planet Fitness
Shoreline Ballet
Jordan's Furniture
R.J. Julia
Rockin' Jump*

And all the amazing volunteers who made Hogwarts a success!

September Highlights from the Youth Services Department

The Youth Services Department took the entire month of September to get our collection back in working order. The start of the school year brings a slower pace to the department as families are getting back into the swing of things. Every year we take advantage of this downtime to shelf read our collection and look for missing materials. For the most part our shelves were in pretty good shape, partly due to our awesome teen volunteers who took their time to be sure that everything was put back right.

We also took part in a couple of special events. Every year we participate in Pat Andriole's Family Day on the Branford green. During the day different Branford agencies come together to provide music, food and entertainment for families at no cost. The event is always well attended and is a great way to meet up with families outside of the library. During the event I was able to talk-up our upcoming events like: Hogwarts and the Book Sale, which are drawing a lot of attention and are going to be fantastic events.

Karen and I also visited an East Shore Regional and Continuing Education (ERACE) classroom to talk about Uncover Branford and ways that they can participate. ERACE provides an English as a second language program for those that are new to the area. Uncover Branford will give these classes the opportunity to not only learn about

Branford and its sites but also build their confidence by speaking and writing in English. Classes will be required to complete an Uncover Branford assignment, which includes visiting and writing about a particular site. Our hope is that these students will want to continue being a part of our Uncover Branford community so that they can meet new people and discover interesting tidbits about their hometown with our group at the Library.

Miss Mary started her outreach classes this month by traveling to Saint Mary's School and the Family Resource Center. The Child Development Center also made their way to the library twice this month in order to play and hear stories. When Miss Mary meets with different preschools she sings songs, brings a variety of books as well as stickers. The kids really enjoy her time spent in the classroom and look forward to seeing her every month.

Music Together was scheduled for a music and movement program at the beginning of the month but had to change dates due to an unexpected emergency. Miss Mary and I knew that we could not leave the families hanging, so we put on our own impromptu storytime - complete with stories, songs and instruments! The group was really understanding about the schedule change and were happy to partake in the storytime that we created. It was a lot of fun working with such a large and respon-

sive group. Some families were new to the library, so it was nice to be able to give them a taste of how our storytimes are formatted. At the end of the class many of the families thanked us for our time and wanted to know when our regularly scheduled storytimes are held, so I think we held our own as "stand-ins". Music Together was able to reschedule later in the month. We reached out to the previously signed up families, so that we had a total of 24 in attendance.

Katy and I held our first Maker Monday of the 2017 - 2018 school year. This first class was especially well attended because Branford's after school program was bussed over for the class. We decided to showcase our 3D printers for the first session, allowing kids to see it in action and then walked them through the design program called Tinkercad to create their own prints. Three participants were able to complete their designs and one actually made a replica of the sun and the moon for her upcoming science project. Everyone was really engaged throughout the hour and a half class and enjoyed being able to mess around with the design software. Participants worked together seamlessly and it was nice to see their teachers also taking an interest in the process. We are anticipating that they will be back in two weeks to continue working on 3D design, especially since everyone did not complete their projects.



One of our youngest patrons

Branford Carnival Photographs

The Library has four albums of photographs taken during the Branford Carnivals of the early 20th century. The Branford Agricultural Fair was started in 1895 and included a parade and displays held on the Branford Green. Later the fair moved to the Driving Park, also known as Hippodrome Park, and bicycle and trotting races were added. The event was reorganized by the Branford Businessmen Association in 1905 and became known as the Branford Carnival. The fair was abandoned in 1907 and 1908 but resumed in 1909. The last record I have for the carnival is 1910, however, newspapers should be consulted for later dates.

John H. Morton of Branford was a pharmacist and manager of the Peckham Drug Store across from the Branford Green. He was also a professional photographer and took

the photographs for three of the four carnival albums. Many of the views were made into photo postcards and sold to the public. The Branford Historical Society has over one hundred proofs of Branford neighborhoods photographed by Morton that were made into postcards.

One of the 1905 albums is clearly by a different photographer. The initials L. H. T. can be found in the lower right corner of the photographs. This is without question Laura Hammer Tenney. The members of the Hammer family were avid photographers and supporters of the library.

The albums are in good condition, however, suffer from warping, and have been scanned to better view the images. Many of the views are labeled in pencil which

has grown faint over the years. All the photographs have been labeled below since much of the pencil is barely legible. The photographs have been given a year and photograph number.

Other Branford Carnival photographs have been added. Seventeen scans of photo postcards taken by John H. Morton were scanned from my private postcard collection. These are identified and numbered as Bouley. Additionally, the Branford Historical Society has a large collection of carnival photographs in their collection.

Jane Peterson Bouley
May 2006



Short Beach School Float
ca. 1905

Highlights from the Reference Department-September

Debby has been working on uploading collections of historical photographs to the website. Our previous host, Photobucket, has become very commercial with excessive numbers of ads and popups so we will no longer host our photographs on this website. Under the *Library Information* dropdown menu is a link to our photograph collection. Right now library construction photographs and Branford Carnival photographs are available with

many more collections to come. As always, a big thank you to Jane Bouley who provided us with descriptions and information on each photograph.

Events in September included our monthly library tour, book groups, Saturday cinema, a new Latin class, Uncover Branford, writers workshops, a Menunkatuck Audubon lecture, a book talk and signing, a lock picking class and an Opera lecture.

Whitney helped a patron locate an old photo of his neighbor's house. They were just moving in and he wanted to give them a gift of a framed photograph of what their house looked like when it was built. She was successful in finding one for the patron.

Debby Trofatter



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...more than books

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November 2017 Program Highlights

Hatha Yoga

Mondays @ 5:15 - 6:30 pm

Yoga teacher Helen Lespier leads an ongoing hatha yoga class every Monday evening. Free and open to all ages.

Uncover Branford**

November 11 @ 10:30 am

Get up, get out and uncover Branford! We're bringing you and your neighbors together to share your favorite Branford places and stories. Then, plan a group outing to a special spot! As you go out into the community to explore and uncover new places, you'll make new friends, have lots of fun, and discover the hidden gems of Branford.

Vegan for the Holidays

November 11 @ 2pm

Be the life of the party with these delectable gourmet vegan treats that make enter-

taining easy. Chef Mary Lawrence, owner of Well on Wheels, will prepare appetizers that pop with color, sizzle with spices, and taste as good as they look. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.*

3D Printing/Modeling**

November 14 @ 6—8 pm

For all ages—with Jim Davis.

Annual Loeb Lecture: Protecting Plum Island**

November 19 @ 2:00 pm

Chris Cryder, Special Projects Coordinator for Save the Sound, will speak and show new imagery of Plum Island. Chris has been working for Save the Sound for the past 9 years and is currently the outreach coordinator for the Preserve Plum Island Coalition. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Connecticut Rock 'n' Roll w/ Author Tony Renzoni**

December 2 @ 2:00 pm

Branford author Tony Renzoni will be here to discuss his new book Connecticut Rock 'n' Roll.

Music Makers Holiday Concert

December 10 @ 2 - 3:15 pm

Join the Music Makers for a celebration of the holiday season with a short sing-along to follow! *Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.*

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

September 2017 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 11,496

September 2016: 12,482

borrowIT: 2,559

September 2016: 3,035

Renewals: 2,858

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 804

Overdrive audiobooks: 305

Zinio: 145

Hoopla: 179 users

Kanopy: 87 plays

Pronunciator: 169 users

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 3 Loaned 17

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

16 programs/318 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

7 programs/158 attendance

School-age (6-11)

10 programs/100 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 33

Total Attendance: 576

Teen Programs (12+)

3 programs/24 attendance

Adult programs

21 programs/410 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

58 meetings/249 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2,165

Facebook: 1470 Likes

MailChimp: 7,121 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 524

Days Open: 27