



Report to the Board of Trustees

November 7, 2018

From the Director

Last month we learned that the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven has awarded \$75,000 to the project. This grant will be disbursed over a three-year period and brings our campaign total to \$804,700.00. We are deeply grateful to the hundreds of individuals, businesses and organizations that made it possible to reach our goal.

Also last month, three areas of the project (Sitework, Dry-wall/Plaster, Architectural Woodwork) were re-bid with proposals due on October 16. The new bids were sufficiently under budget, and combined with cost savings through value-engineered items, resulted in the overall project budget coming within the \$5,245,000 appropriated by the RTM. This allows the project to move forward once contracts are signed by the Town and Library. Once that process is complete, Downes Construction estimates 2-3 weeks to begin the mobilization process and we will plan for groundbreaking.

Once the project begins, the Youth Services department will move to the auditorium for the duration of construction (approximately one year). The library will remain open throughout the process, and the full collection will be



Win Naming Rights In the Renovated Library

Raffle tickets are currently on sale in support of the library renovation. The tickets cost \$20 each—the grand prize is naming rights to the Upper Rotunda art gallery.

Tickets are available at blackstonelibrary.org and at the library Reference Desk.



Halloween Fun! We're dying to answer your questions today "Bubble, Bubble, Toil & Trouble" and "Salt & Pepper!"

available. The project will be completed in phases—the most up to date information will be posted on our website and in the library.

We began the new 3-week loan period last month; so far all is running smoothly.

The library participated in Light the Night, a celebration of Halloween held in the Town Center, organized by the Shoreline Community Church. Thanks to the Friends for handing out candy and staffing a spooky table in front of the library. They did a great job representing the library.

Congratulations to Sarah Malory, part-time reference librarian, for being recognized with a *Shoreline Chamber of Commerce Women of Excellence Award* for her work with teens in her full-time position at Hagan Library.

The Friends are holding their annual Holiday Basket Sale beginning December 6 from 5-8pm. The event will be part of the Branford Town Center Merchants Sip, Shop & Stroll. Prosecco and cookies will be served; shop at the library then make your way down Main Street for unique gifting opportunities!

Karen Jensen

Highlights from the Youth Services Department—September



Allison's Crafts
for Family Day

Since September means the start of a new school year we thought it was important to offer small afterschool activities for various ages. For the elementary school students we put together a combination of half day, hands-on events that they can do with their parents and/or siblings. Our first program was based around circuitry and asked participants to create a fully functioning circuit with a motor, small voltage battery and toothbrush. Once the circuit was complete, the motor vibrated causing the brush to move and make a mini-robot! The 10 kids that participated were in second grade or younger and there was a real “aha moment” when they realized that THEY had created a fully functioning circuit. Allowing kids to supply the power and make the connection gives them a hands-on introduction of positive and negative charges; something that is difficult to explain through diagrams or flipping a light switch. We are lucky to be able to provide these opportunities allowing kids of all ages to see science in action.

Once the group created their circuits and attached their motors to their brushes the real fun began! Tooth brushes were flying every which way along our auditorium tables. The kids were amazed by how quickly they took off and an organic discussion formed on how to make their brushes start and stop. Supply power and the brushes move; take that away and they stop. Many started talking about switches and how

circuits use different mechanisms - buttons, switches and levers to turn various mechanicals on and off.

Realizing that our robots were small and our battery life was short we decided to control our creations and their trajectory by making mazes or passageways with Legos. Building walls allowed everyone to keep their robots contained and even battle or race against one another. The kids had a blast creating different avenues and challenged each other to try their creations. The best part was that many parents stayed for the program so they were able to help their children with the process and got to see them complete their robots from start to finish!

We also resumed Maker Monday and Teen Café this month. Maker Monday is meant for middle school students while Teen Café is geared more towards the high school population. We have incorporated a volunteer component for the high school students, allowing them to help plan and present Maker Monday activities to our middle school students. A freshman by the name of Victoria is currently assisting the class and uses her Teen Café time to attempt different projects so that she is fresh and ready to present to our middle school crew the following Monday. This past month Victoria demoed the button maker, which was a huge hit with our middle school boys and she also showed a select few how

to make personalized magnets. After creating and talking about what they want to do next the boys decided on making their own “hologram projectors” with recycled DVDs, hot glue and box cutters. The instructions seem simple enough, but YouTube videos can be deceiving and working with someone else on this project may lead to different ways of completion that could make the program a success. We are also hoping to transition the Teen Café into a Teen Advisory Board, so that we can gain input on programming, set up of the new young adult area and even larger community projects.

Near the end of the month the James Blackstone Memorial Library participated in the town’s annual Family Day on the Branford Green. Once a year the town recognizes families by putting on a series of activities, live performances and an array of food. This year the Library participated by creating an under the sea table that was filled with different ocean animal crafts. We were located near the face painting station so our tables saw a lot of action! It was nice seeing some familiar faces as well as meeting new families. One of the nicest things about this event was that Alison, one of our circulation co-workers, prepped for the day so she was excited to see the pictures we posted on social media and felt great knowing that every single one of her crafts got used the day of!

An Evening with the Spirits

The Blackstone Library's fall fundraiser took place on Saturday, October 13, with over 160 tickets sold and over 50 silent auction and prize drawing items available. The event generated net proceeds of over \$8,500 dollars — exceeding our fall fundraiser goal — which will support the programs and services offered to the community by the Blackstone Library.

We owe many, many thanks to our event sponsors. Alison Dziejdzic of Branford Wine & Liquor is incredibly knowledgeable about spirits, and she was instrumental in selecting the range of distillers that were present that evening.

Thanks to James Kaiser of Kaiser Whitney staffing, we had plenty of volunteer support and a special raffle featuring gift certificates to 20 local restaurants.

We are grateful to the local businesses and friends who donated items for the silent auction—too numerous to mention here, but listed on our website. To the businesses who allowed us to post our flyer in their windows—we also thank you.

And the event was a success thanks to the dedicated volunteers who donated their time to make this a fun evening:

Sandra Baldwin
Keira Cervoni
Pilar Ciravolo
Jan Day
Michelle Denisoff
Cindy Dorwin
Heather Falzano
Polly Fitz
James & Laura Kaiser
Anne Killheffer
Beth & Mark Law
Rick Mahoney
Emily McDowell
Jonathan McNicol
Erin Nichols
Pat Sanders
Amy Tisdale

Nice work Beth Law and Katy McNicol for chairing and organizing this event!



An Evening with the Spirits featured whiskey tastings and sessions with mediums.

Highlights from the Reference Department-September

As we approach the start of the library renovation, which means no access to the auditorium for programming, the Reference Department has been working on programs that can be held in the Lucy Hammer Room or outside of the library. We are working with ERACE, Branford's Adult Education Department and the Senior Center as well as with some of our current instructors.

Whitney has set up a couple of informational sessions with ERACE to be held in the Hammer Room in October and

November and will plan to have tech classes at their location over the winter.

Debby will host a genealogy group from the Senior Center with Jane Bouley in October, Christina will hold two tech drop-ins at the library in October that the Senior Center has advertised to its members, and she has one planned in November to be held at the Senior Center itself.

We still have our library tours, Uncover Branford

meetings, Friday night game night, book groups and 3D printing classes. In addition, we will have a two-part sewing class in November.

Debby Trofatter



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facebook.com/blackstonelibrary
twitter.com/blackstonlib
www.blackstonelibrary.org

...more than books

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

November 2018 Program Highlights

Drop-in Tech Help

November 8 @ 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Having trouble downloading books through OverDrive? Need help on a Microsoft Word document? Can't figure out how to email a picture from your iPhone? Swing on by for some drop-in tech help! Visit the Lucy Hammer Room any time between 1:30 - 3 PM to get a tech question answered. No registration required.

Sew Along**

November 11 & 18

@ 1:30-3:30 pm

Join us for a two part "open sew class". You bring in the sewing projects you want to work on and professional costume designer & sewing instructor Sara Normand will be on hand to help you with them. For the first class, we will cover a bit of the more technical aspects of sewing

such as how to pin and cut a pattern. The second class will be the actual sewing. If needed, we could extend to three sessions to complete your projects.

ERACE Information Session

November 13 @ 10—11 am

Join a representative of ERACE for this informational meeting with a focus on their free courses leading to a high school diploma, GED, NEDP and ESL programs.

Ask A Lawyer**

November 15 @ 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.

Uncover Branford**

November 17 @ 10:30am-12

Share your favorite Branford

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

Books & Brews**

November 28 @ 6—8 pm

Each month, Books & Brews offers 2 titles to choose from, each with its own discussion group to take part in.

We bring the following month's books to each meeting. Come out and grab one for next month's group.

You can also borrow one from the library (place a hold on our online catalog), or purchase your own copy. New members welcome. Read one of the titles and come out and join the fun!

Find us on meetup.com to connect with the group and RSVP to the meeting. Books 'n' Brews meets at Thimble Island Brewery.

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

September 2018 Statistics—Deirdre Santora

Total Circulation: 11,663

September 2017: 11,496

borrowIT: 2,488

September 2017: 2,559

Renewals: 2,704

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 933

Overdrive audiobooks: 353

RB Digital: 111

Hoopla: 412 plays

Kanopy: 86 plays

Pronunciator: 389 users

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

11 programs/175 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

6 programs/108 attendance

School-age (6-11)

6 programs/41 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 23

Total Attendance: 324

Teen Programs (12+)

3 programs/10 attendance

Adult programs

22 programs/211 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

50 meetings/198 attendance

Computer Sessions: 1,910

Facebook: 1,574 Likes

MailChimp: 7,396 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 438

Days Open: 28