Our Town for Our Town
Saturday, November 16th at 1pm,
All are invited to join Legacy
Theater and community partners
(including Branford Cares,
Friends of the Blackstone
Library, The Blackstone Library,
Branford Early Childhood
Collaborative, Read to Grow, Inc.,
Branford Community Gardens,
Branford Public Schools, Wil-
loughby Wallace Memorial Li-
brary, United Way, Branford
Rotary, and the Branford Histori-
cal Society) for a town-wide
staged reading of Our Town at
Branford’s Blackstone Memorial
Library! Admission is a donation
to benefit the Branford Food
Pantry. To learn how you or your
organization may become
involved in this exciting commu-
nity-wide event, email
info@LegacyTheatreCT.org.

We started off the month
with a mini-makeover in our
lower rotunda. The dark teal
columns were painted a
lighter, sage green and the
feedback from the public and
staff has been overwhelm-
ingly positive.

The Friends slatwall also got a
makeover with a new sign
and redesigned posters for
the variety of events they
sponsor. The Friends are
planning their budget for the
upcoming year and I am pre-
paring a “wishlist” for the
library.

Improving marketing is one of
our strategic goals, and we
chose a web designer this
month. Fredi B. has designed
websites for many libraries,
including The Public Library of
New London plnl.org, and the
Bridgeport Library
bportlibrary.org, winners of
the 2013 and 2012 CLA best
Connecticut library websites
respectively. We look forward
to the new design, which
should be ready to launch at
the beginning of 2014.

We had a great turnout for
our featured events in Octo-
ber: Two programs with the
chefs of G-Zen and La Cuisine
restaurants were filled to
capacity, Poe Times Two
sponsored by the Friends had
40 in the audience and Tech
Tuesdays continued to be
popular.

We launched Zinio and Axis
360 this month. With over
100 free magazine titles avail-
able on tablets and mobile
devices, Zinio is an excellent
value. We are adding popular
titles to Axis 360 every month
as a supplement to titles with
longer hold lists on Overdrive.

We will have a new first
selectmen by the time our
board meets on November 6.
I am preparing a binder with
information about the library
to help with the transition.

We are excited to offer a
community-wide reading of
Our Town on November 16,
organized by Keely Knudsen
of Legacy Theater and Kate
Marsland. A planning com-
mittee comprised of Branford
residents has been meeting
to organize a community
event hosted by the library
called Strengthening the
Bonds of Our Community. The
primary goal of the event will
be to explore, discuss and
celebrate the diversity of
Branford.

The library will have a pres-
ence at the 12th District Sen-
ior Fair to be held at the Fire
Department on November 14.
We plan to offer a drawing
for a free bookbag, collect
e-mail addresses and offer
library card signups.

I made a presentation about
library resources to the Sound
Network Group in October
and I am scheduled to speak
to Exchange Club members
on November 12.

Karen Jensen
Library Director
This Month in the Youth Services Department—September

Staff members have been working hard to ensure that all of our collections are shelved in proper order and place. It takes a lot of time and effort to shelf read, check on item statuses, and as a result reshelve - especially after a busy summer! So, I want to thank everyone for taking their time and working hard to bring a sense of order back to our department.

This month the local Music Together provided a baby through age five music class. The program is a curriculum based hands-on music and movement class that uses developmentally age appropriate songs, instruments and actions to elicit a love for music and learning. The class promotes the importance of parental interaction and shows participants how to bring music and movement back to their homes. Twenty-five families attended and we are looking forward to having them back in the winter.

At the beginning of the month we hosted a back to school puppet show provided by Laurie Murphy and inspired by Todd Parr’s book *It’s Okay to be Different*. During the show participants listened to the book describing a colorful cast of characters and showing ways in which they are different but still the same. The group was then presented a humorous puppet show embracing diversity and encouraging listeners to be accepting and kind. The show was interactive—the audience was asked whether or not the puppets were making the right decisions when faced with difficult situations based on acceptance. Afterwards, children were invited to meet all of their brand new puppet friends! A total of 33 families attended the show and thought that sharing diversity and kindness was a terrific way to start off the new school year.

We closed out the month with a Forensics program provided by the Children’s Museum of West Hartford. Since Dr. Lee was scheduled to present a program for adults, we thought it would be fun for younger patrons to learn about forensics with a fingerprinting and chromatography workshop. Children tested various forensic activities, identified certain characteristics and put what they learned to the test by solving a “crime” that took place at the Children’s Museum of West Hartford. A total of 14 children in 3rd grade and up attended. A photo of the group wrapped around a high resolution microscope can be found on our Facebook page.

This month I attended the Branford Early Childhood Collaborative’s fundraiser *Are You Smarter Than a 3rd Grader?* Adult teams and 4th grade “experts” competed against teams made up of 3rd graders. The kids who participated had the BEST time beating adults on various questions.

This month Christina took over my PJ storytime duties while I was away. I have heard nothing but fantastic comments about her book choices, abilities and singing voice! A huge thank you to Christina and the rest of our youth services staff for taking over the department while I was away. Your commitment made it possible for the department to run business as usual and it was great to come back to a desk free from a long list of “to dos.” So, thank you for being so unbelievably sensational and know that I may just have to go away again really soon!

—Carly Lemire
September Highlights from the Reference Department

Technology

We started Tech Tuesdays in September which are scheduled opportunities for patrons to have one-on-one sessions with a librarian to get help with technology-related questions. This month, we helped 14 patrons with Nook Tablet, Mac & Overdrive & more. Patrons were thrilled to have this personalized help!

Katy used a feature available with our Constant Contact (monthly online calendar) service to allow online registration for selected library events. Patrons like this new option for program registration!

Deb made improvements and changes to our website pages to include the addition of help sheets, links and information about our new (and slightly complicated) Axis 360 service. Use of this service requires a bit of patience and handholding which we will happily provide. We try to anticipate our patron’s needs.

Community Outreach

We post almost daily to Facebook & Twitter promoting the library and featuring interesting bookish articles. At press time, 782 people “like us” on Facebook.

We strive to reach out to our community with programming choices which appeal to the range of interests our patrons have: Local History: Branford Historical Society lecture on the 1938 Hurricane; True Crime: Lessons Learned from Famous Cases with Dr. Henry Lee (sponsored by the Friends); Music: Opera Lecture with Charlotte D’Aniello, Meet a local celebrity: ‘Unk’ DaRos: The Stony Creek Quarry and the Age of Granite; monthly CT Works Job Networking Group; Blood Pressure Screening; Second Tuesday Book Group, M.S. Support Group, Mystery Book Club and Knitting Group and Yoga. The library is hopping with programs!

Whitney provided Branford visitors with information on bike trails and restaurants in town. We are the unofficial Welcome Wagon for Branford!

Katy and Whitney created a great Banned Books display for Banned Books Week called ‘Discover What You’re Missing’ which was very well received. Celebrate the right to read!

Reference & Research

We received a phone message asking for the daily rainfall amounts in July & August. Did some searching and found a website (www.stillweather.com) with a lot of weather info. We can often find a needle in a haystack!

We helped college, elementary, and high school students with research projects on a wide variety of interesting topics such as medicine in colonial America, causes and treatment of agoraphobia, sailboat construction, and diseases of the respiratory system. The library is still a great place to go for personalized homework and research assistance.

We assisted an adult returning to school after many years with database and journal research tips and techniques. You are never too old to learn about how to use the library’s resources.

Since the Branford Review is no longer being published, we needed a way to research Branford obituaries. Our local Branford resident obituary index, collected from the New Haven Register obituaries is a valuable research tool. Deb set up this very important local history index.

We have a new in-library use only database CGO (Connecticut Grantmakers Online) provided by the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy. A database of more than 1,500 Connecticut foundations and corporate grantmakers, it is a useful resource for nonprofit grant seekers, grant makers or donors. A great database for local funding sources.

We continued work on our collection maintenance project (shelf reading, deleting non-fiction books that have not circulated). We work hard every day to keep the book collection up-to-date.

Barb attended a workshop on the Affordable Care Act designed for Connecticut librarians to help assist and guide and refer library patrons properly. We can be a source of information, leads and referrals during this transition period.

—Barbara Cangiano
November 2013 Program Highlights

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

Knitting: Wednesdays 6:00 PM

Mystery Book Club 11/6 3pm
Buried in a Bag by Sheila Connolly

App/Tablet Tips 11/6 @ 6 PM

VNA Blood Pressure Clinic
11/7 @ 12noon

Closed for Veteran’s Day:
November 10 & 11

Community Discussion
Sunday, 11/3 @ 2:00 PM

Yoga: Mondays @ 5:00 PM
November 4, 18, 25

2nd Tuesday Book Club
11/12 @ 6:45 PM
What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty

Women in Wyeth’s World
11/12 @ 7—8 PM
Lecture by Fred Biamonte. Sponsored by the Friends.

Menunkatuck Audubon Society: 11/13 @ 7pm
Under South African Skies

Our Town-Staged Reading
11/16 @ 1-3 PM

Holiday Letter Writing Workshop
11/17 @ 1:30-3:30 PM

MS Support Group
11/20 @ 5:30 PM

Ask A Lawyer 11/21 @ 6pm

Tildé Café
11/2 & 23 @ 3-4 PM
Face-to-face conversations with a scientist about current science topics.

Rave On!
11/24 @ 2-4 PM
Music of early Rock n’ Roll-back by popular demand! Sponsored by the Friends.

Opera Appreciation
11/25 @ 7:00 PM

CT Works Networking Group
11/26 @ 10:00 AM

Closed for Thanksgiving:
Wednesday 11/27-close at 5
Thursday, 11/28-closed
Friday, 11/29-open

---more than books

...more than books

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September 2013 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 13,985
(September 2012: 16,122)

ConnectiCard: 2,645
(September 2012: 3,349)

Downloadable Circulation:
Overdrive ebooks: 533
Overdrive audiobooks: 101
Axis360: launching in October

IndieFlix: 100 total patrons registered; 57 films viewed

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed 46/Loaned 76

Average Daily Visitors: 654
Days Open: 30

Facebook: 782 Likes

Constant Contact: 2946

Children’s Programs:
Babies (0-2)
8 programs/495 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
16 programs/262 attendance

School-age (6-11)
10 programs/255 attendance

Total Children’s Programs: 34
Total Attendance: 1012

Teen Programs (12+)
Beginning in October

Adult programs
9 programs/495 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room
99 meetings/189 attendance

Books about Andrew Wyeth are available through the LION system.
Or visit andrewwyeth.com to view images and bibliography.