



**Thank You to Stephanie Farber  
and the Branford Community Foundation**

*Board of Trustees Vice President Robin Sandler and Library Director Karen Jensen were interviewed on People to People in September about the library renovation. You can view the show online at branfordtv.org. Click on the "watch" tab, go to "online", then "Blackstone" to find the show, along with many other programs BCTV has filmed at the library recently.*

# Report to the Board of Trustees

October 4, 2017

## From the Director

A budget for the State of Connecticut still has not been approved. Nevertheless, our generous and forward-thinking community continues to support our renovation plans and capital campaign. The campaign has generated over \$430,000 from over 500 donors. \$67,500 of that amount will be matched by the Branford Community Foundation. You may have heard that the BCF is matching individual gifts in amounts up to \$1,000 for a total match of \$100,000. We are getting much closer to this match, and we can still use help!

Our presentation to the RTM on September 13 was a great opportunity to answer a number of thoughtful questions from RTM members about the renovation plan. A subsequent posting on the Branford Seven gave us another opportunity to set the record straight and correct some misconceptions about the project. My deepest gratitude goes out to all the Trustees, Friends and community members who attended public meetings and offered support. We welcome any and all questions about the project. An informational table was present throughout the Friends of the Library book sale September 27-October 1.

We have participated in the



*There are only two weeks left before Hogwarts-be sure to get your potions at Towne Pharmacy.*

first two sessions of Branford Cares Connect Day, which aims to serve as a one-stop opportunity to learn about the multitude of social services available throughout the town. This has been an excellent opportunity to learn more about the needs of people in our town and also to learn about and make connections with the service agencies in town.

ERACE has learned about Uncover Branford, and is planning to incorporate the program into their Fall ESL classes. We are nearing the end of the grant period for this project, and we have allocated some funds to produce a booklet documenting the student's experiences at the end of the semester.

The LION delivery service has begun, and is wonderful. Items that were taking weeks are now arriving in days.

We presented our request for additional funds to cover the increase in health insurance to the Town Board of Finance. They unanimously approved the request, and it will be heard by the RTM Education Committee on October 2, and the full RTM on October 11.

Whitney Gayle led a group of staff who read and discussed books in the Fantasy genre. This has been a fun way for staff to interact and discover new genres-we are grateful to her for organizing these occasional events.

Finally, the Friends book sale was a huge success, earning over \$60,000 in gross receipts. Thank you to all the volunteers, including Trustees, who contributed to its success.

*Karen Jensen*

## August Highlights from the Youth Services Department



Viewing the Solar Eclipse on August 21

The Youth Services Department closed their summer reading program on Friday August 18th. We handed out a total of 80 “take home” game boards and we had just under 100 kids take part in our interactive summer reading game. It has been a blast looking at summer reading in a “new” way and encouraging readers to go out of their comfort zones by researching new topics, taking a pictures or even checking out a magazines. One of our 2nd grade participants landed on the biography square and learned that she enjoyed reading about people and their accomplishments. Her mother told us that she had never read a biography before but was now committed to reading our collection of *Ordinary People Change the World* series that uses a combination of facts and humor to bring famous people like Rosa Parks, George Washington and Jim Henson to life! Allowing children to expand their minds and try new things is what learning is all about and we believe that our summer reading game encouraged them to do just that, but in a fun and accessible way. We are going to keep our game board up throughout the month of September so that those who went on vacation at the end of August can still pop in and complete their game.

The Youth Services Department would also like to take a moment and thank our middle and high school volunteers that helped us these past three months. We truly had a dynamic team that was

always ready and willing to shelve, cut crafts, search for missing puzzle pieces and direct patrons to certain sections of the library. Their help was truly invaluable and made it possible for us to keep the shelves and playroom in good shape. A few of our summer volunteers have decided to continue working with us once school begins, so we won’t be saying goodbye just yet.

We closed our summer reading program with two heavily attended programs and the coolest part was that the Family Resource Center’s (FRC) summer camp - “Camp Adventure” was able to participate. The kids were actually bussed from FRC to the library for both programs and then hung out on our lawn to enjoy a bag lunch.

The two well-attended programs were a live production of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” presented by Shakesperience and a science program entitled “Pressure Power” presented by Mad Science. The science program was especially neat because we had to meet outside in order to participate. The program was all about pressure and the different types that are produced when water, air and heat are built up. The program instructor was extremely interactive and had an excellent way of keeping 30+ kids engaged. Some of her experiments caused rockets to pop, liquids to explode and even used blow torches to build up heat! The kids were amazed by the results and kept inching forward

with each new experiment. I was most impressed by her bed of nails “routine” that asked one brave sole to come up front and have a seat - AFTER witnessing a balloon pop! The group was amazed.

Since our summer reading connection was so successful FRC has already reached out to take part in our Maker Monday program, which meets during the school year. FRC will bus the kids to the library every other Monday afternoon to participate in a series of maker activities provided by our Mobile Makerlab. Miss Katy and I have already met to compile a series of hands-on activities that will hopefully keep this group of twelve fully engaged.

We closed out the month with a family party in celebration of the solar eclipse! The idea came from one of our volunteers who is a member of the Astronomical Society of New Haven, which is the organization that provided our telescope. Laurie knew that the solar eclipse was going to be a big deal and sent us some resources on ways that we could celebrate. Miss Mary, Jenn and I worked together to create 3D printed giveaways, crafts, wearable buttons and paper plate view finders. I also found a comic short on YouTube that explained to the kids how the solar eclipse works. The most exciting part of the event was viewing the eclipse—it was really cool to see everyone enjoy this rare experience plus the moon pies we provided did not hurt!

## Did You Know...

The Blackstone Library has partnered with the Astronomical Society of New Haven to offer an Orion Star-Blast 4.5" Astro Reflector Telescope for patrons of all ages to borrow from the Blackstone and use at home. The telescope circulates for one week, and comes with a pad and carrying case, plus instruction booklet and map of the night sky. You will receive a brief orientation to the telescope at checkout. Telescope must be picked up from and returned to the Youth Services desk at Black-

stone Library. Call Youth Services at 203-488-1441, ext. 323 and ask about borrowing it today!

Did you know that the library offers streaming movies to view through HOOPLA and Kanopy? Download each app and set up your free account using your library barcode number. HOOPLA also offers ebooks and audiobooks for download.

Did you know that new books that are over 500 pages in length may be borrowed for 4

weeks instead of the usual two weeks? We want to make sure you have enough time to finish your favorite author's magnum opus!

Finally, have you tried Shoutbomb? This texting service helps you keep track by sending texts when items are due for renewal, or when holds are ready. To sign up, text the word SIGNUP to the email address: [lion@shoutbomb.com](mailto:lion@shoutbomb.com), then reply to the message with your library card number.



Need a 3D printed car part? We can help!

## Highlights from the Reference Department-August

We were very pleased to introduce a new streaming service to our patrons this month. Kanopy is a streaming movie service that includes the Criterion Collection, PBS, Great Courses and various independent and documentary films. We feel that Kanopy is a nice complement to Hoopla.

This month, we had three young men come in to the Reference Department to inquire about creating a 3D print. The power window in their car had a broken part. They designed and printed a new one, then refined it, reprinted it and installed it in their car in our parking lot. While we all enjoy printing a variety of items for our patrons, it is always rewarding to see someone use the 3D printer for a very practical reason.

One of the highlights of last month was our Eclipse viewing party. Miss Carly and Miss Mary had a group of children and their parents who created their own eclipse viewers. We were also fortunate to have a few eclipse glasses to share as well as some viewers that patrons had made with welding lenses in a variety of colors. It made for a very nice way to see the eclipse.

Also during the viewing party, Barbara Carlson, who was writing an article on the eclipse, asked if there was any way to find out if the mention Mark Twain made of an eclipse in his work "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" was the result of his having actually viewed an eclipse in 1869. Debby was able to locate a digital copy of Twain's lesser known writings where he wrote about actually having viewed the eclipse.

Whitney helped a patron with a tricky question involving a photograph of the patron's grandmother. In the photograph, the grandmother is standing on the steps of a building that appears to be a church. The patron thought the photograph might have been taken in New Haven. Whitney looked through many pictures of Catholic churches online and was able to identify it as St. Rose of Lima in New Haven.

*Debby Trofatter*



James Blackstone Memorial Library  
758 Main Street  
Branford, CT 06405

203.488.1441  
[reference@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:reference@blackstonelibrary.org)  
[facebook.com/blackstonelibrary](http://facebook.com/blackstonelibrary)  
[twitter.com/blackstonelib](http://twitter.com/blackstonelib)  
[www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org)

**...more than books**

Join our email list for more information about programs  
[www.blackstonelibrary.org](http://www.blackstonelibrary.org)

## October 2016 Program Highlights

### Hatha Yoga

**Mondays @ 5:15 - 6:30 pm**  
Join yoga teacher Helen Lespier every Monday evening. Free and open to all ages.

### Menunkatuck Audubon: The Vanishing Honeybee

**October 11 @ 7-8 pm**  
For a long time, agriculture has recognized the value of pollination by bees. In fact, without the bees' help, one third of everything we eat would suffer dire consequences. Honey bees are remarkable and critically important creatures. But in the last several years, millions of colonies of honey bees have been wiped out by something called "Colony Collapse Disorder." Presented by Howland Blackiston.

### Uncover Branford\*\*

**October 21 @ 10:30 am**  
Planning session and meet & greet. Share your favorite spots and plan an outing as a group to visit and uncover new place in town.

### Opera 101\*\*:

**The Men of Opera**  
**October 22 @ 2 pm**  
Covering tenors, who frequently take the leading male role and are said to always get the girl, to bass, the lowest voice of all who often takes a villainous or comedic role.

### The UFO Experience\*\*

**October 24 @ 6—7:30 pm**  
Stephen Spignesi looks at the continuing mystery of UFOs, alien abductions, Project Blue Book, what happened at Roswell, celebrity and astronaut UFO sightings, and much more!

### Books 'n' Brews\*\*

**October 25 @ 6 pm**  
(Held at Thimble Islands Brewery) Titles TBD.

### Bestsellers Book Club\*\*

**October 28 @ 3 - 4 pm**  
*Sleeping Beauties* by Stephen King

### TECH CLASSES

**Intro to Excel\*\***  
**October 5 @ 2 - 3:30 pm**

**Intro to 3D Printing/  
Modeling\*\***  
**October 17 @ 6 - 8 pm**

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

## August 2017 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

### Total Circulation: 15,099

*August 2016: 16,412*

### ConnectiCard: 3,196

*August 2016: 3,850*

### Renewals: 2,801

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 848  
Overdrive audiobooks: 329  
Zinio: 122

### Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 7 Loaned 19

### Children's Programs:

*Babies (0-2)*

*10 programs/223 attendance*

*Preschool (3-5)*

*7 programs/83 attendance*

*School-age (6-11)*

*8 programs/112 attendance*

*All Ages*

*2 programs/116 attendance*

**Total Children's Programs: 27**

**Total Attendance: 534**

### Teen Programs (12+)

*4 programs/43 attendance*

### Adult programs

*16 programs/266 attendance*

### Lucy Hammer Room

*59 meetings/182 attendance*

### Computer Sessions: 2,605

**Facebook: 1459 Likes**

**MailChimp: 7047 subscribers**

**Average Daily Visitors: 626**

**Days Open: 27**