



# Report to the Board of Trustees

September 6, 2017

## From the Director

The Building Committee met over the summer to refine the estimate for the building renovation. The cost for repairing the auditorium roof, and installing a new elevator was also added into the project, as both items will need to be addressed. The estimate was presented to the Board of Finance at their regular meeting on August 28. A project update will also be presented at the RTM regular meeting on September 13. Until the State of CT adopts a budget, both the RTM and Board of Finance have indicated that they will not take a vote on the project. We hope there may be a vote in October.

The Capital Campaign committee has been active; donations have exceeded the \$400k mark and there have been articles and Letters to the Editor in local media throughout the summer. Many thanks to Words by Jen and Reflected Image for donating the design and installation of the campaign thermometer on the library lawn.

The LION board met on August 22 and approved hiring a firm to provide supplemental delivery to members of our consortium. The service is expected to begin in



*We did not have glasses to distribute during the solar eclipse on August 21, but people made do and shared, making the experience a win for all.*

mid September, and the Blackstone Library will have 3 pickups/deliveries per week. LION expects the service to handle all of the backlog not addressed by the State's delivery system. What that means for patrons is no more holds restrictions, and much faster delivery service. LION will cover costs for the service in the first year, but members will have to include the fee in their budgets after that.

Katy Dillman has been promoted to Associate Librarian for Development and Outreach, in recognition for her outstanding work in this department. In the past few years, Katy has dramatically improved the annual appeals and marketing for the library; taken on leadership of our fundraisers, and earned awards from the CLA for her

annual report and fundraising publicity.

At the end of the month, we met with the First Selectman and Finance Manager to discuss options for handling the shortfall in the amount budgeted for employee health insurance. We hope to achieve a resolution in the next few weeks that will avoid any disruption in library services.

We received news from the State Library that they were successful in obtaining an IMLS grant to expand the EXCITE program throughout the state. EXCITE was the library pilot program that our staff participated in last year which resulted in Uncover Branford.

-Karen Jensen



## Campaign Update

Since its launch in April of this year, the Campaign has generated over \$400,000 in donations and pledges toward its \$800,000 goal. Nearly 500 members of the community have contributed and the Branford Community Foundation has pledged to match individual gifts in amounts up to \$1,000 for a total match of \$100,000. Donations toward the Branford Community Foundation match have topped \$61,000.

## June/July Highlights from the Youth Services Department

In June, we kicked off our Build a Better World Summer Reading program. Stephanie from the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library and I visited all three elementary schools to promote the program and perform our annual skit in which we included teachers and students in a presentation of what it means to build a better world.

Miss Mary and I attended the Branford Festival on Saturday, June 17th to promote our summer reading program with calendars, brochures and hang gliders, which were a big hit! We were also able to talk to locals about the services we provide as well as our most recent renovation plans.

On Monday, June 12th Miss Mary and I “officially” kicked off our summer reading program with a popsicle social. During the two hour event families could pop in at any-time to complete various crafts, Lego building projects and more. Families could also sign up for the summer reading program as well as various events happening throughout the summer months.

This year’s summer reading program has a new format which allows kids to see each other’s progress on a game board located on the bulletin boards around the rotunda. Kids participating in the program can roll a giant pair of dice to move their game piece around the “board” to land on a “build a better world” project to complete in the upcoming week. So far

the response has been positive and we have a good 80+ kids signed up and rolling each week.

One of our most exciting programs in June was provided with a kit purchased from the Eli Whitney Museum. The “Rube Goldberg” kit comes with tracks, dominos, push pins, straws, etc. and requires kids to work in groups to complete a marble run. In the process, kids learned about Rube Goldberg and the difference between complex and simple machines.

One of our most exciting programs in July was called Build a Better Gotham. We took the *Lego Batman Movie* to new heights by creating a variety of activities based around an overarching Lego theme. During the program participants could take on different building challenges, create digital masterpieces with various Lego apps and even play Lego Bingo. Jenn and I also created a “Pin the Head on the Lego Body” game.

Our hands-on program this month was provided by the Eli Whitney Museum, for our youngest makers. Participants created their own wooden race cars, painted to reflect their personal style! We installed different sized ramps and asked the kids to predict which ramps would take their cars the farthest and why. Everyone received a predicting and then actual measuring chart along with a yard stick so that they could see how far their cars could go!

Also in July, Miss Mary and I worked with the Parks and Recreation Department to provide storytime to their preschool campers. We had two sessions, one where we met the campers at Sliney school and the other where they walked over to the Library. The first session focused on gardening and we shared books and talked about the different types of gardens one could plant. We then provided a craft where they could create their own garden. When the crew came to the Library Miss Mary and I focused on insects, particularly butterflies. We got to talk a little about caterpillars, butterflies and metamorphosis. Campers then created their own butterflies and spent some time in our playroom. It was fun being able to see the kids in both environments and it turned out to be a great outing for everyone.

Our most popular program this month was our annual Tie Dye a T event on our “mini green”. Every year families are invited to tie dye an old shirt, pair of shorts or socks. We provide the water, dyes and various ways to tie dye but the families work together when it comes to folding their shirts and selecting colors.

Participants have started to complete the summer reading game. Some worked on the game board from home, which is more challenging because they have to complete a total of 25 tasks, similar to the ones featured in our rotunda.

Carly Lemire



Rube Goldberg  
Machine!

## HOOPLA & Kanopy—New Digital Services

We are excited to have two new digital products to offer to the public.

HOOPLA provides thousands of movies, audiobooks, music and ebooks that our patrons can borrow from home

through a dedicated app on a mobile device, or through a website. We have found that many of the selections are unique, and not available through other streaming services like Netflix or Hulu or Overdrive. The best part for

our patrons is that each service is free. On the library end, we pay only for the items that are accessed. As we determine demand and affordability, both services will be limited to 5 checkouts per month initially.

## Highlights from the Reference Department—June/July

We had a couple of very interesting interactions with patrons in June. One was an email from a forensic genealogist who was trying to identify the remains of a POW killed in World War II. The genealogist was trying to track down a relative and asked for our help in locating obituaries as well as current addresses. We were able to locate both and received confirmation that a woman living in Connecticut is a descendant of a niece of the soldier whose identity she was trying to confirm.

In another interaction, a love letter was turned into lost and found here at the library. All we had to work on was that it was for an anniversary gift in 2007 and the first names of the couple. Sarah was able to locate some local news stories about the two individuals, called a Stony Creek resident and asked if it might be hers. At first, she said that it couldn't be, but then said "Wait, is it written on pink stationery?" and then confirmed that the letter was one she had written to her husband. The husband had used the letter as a bookmark and inadvertently left it in a book he donated to the li-

brary. Needless to say, they were both delighted to get the letter back.

Our 3D printer has been working hard this month! Patrons love seeing the printer in action and we receive lots of requests for 3D prints. Some of our favorites with the kids are fidget spinners, various animals, Pokemon characters and flowers. We get quite a number of requests from adult patrons as well. Many patrons find a design they like and request it; others ask us to locate one online.

([www.thingiverse.com](http://www.thingiverse.com)) has thousands of free, downloadable 3D files). Our 3D printing classes remain popular and once the class is over and the attendees have created their 3D items, we print them. We offer prints in about a dozen different colors.

July was yet another very busy month in the library. The computers are always busy, more and more patrons are requesting help with resumes, job searching, Microsoft Word, downloadable books and more. Christina

has scheduled technology classes for the fall and we continue to offer one on one sessions with a librarian.

We have had a number of patrons visiting from out of town, working on their family history. Summer is generally our busiest time of year for genealogists.

Our interesting question of the month was from a patron who brought in a wooden sculpture of the Clark House, purchased at a flea market in Pennsylvania. Whitney was able to locate the house in the National Register of Historic Places and confirmed with town historian, Jane Bouley, that it was the correct house.

We are fortunate to have a substantial collection on local homes, from the inventory taken in the 1980's as well as information on houses, both still standing and no longer here, from Jane Bouley. We rely on Jane a great deal and are always grateful for her vast knowledge!

*Debby Trofatter*

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## September 2017 Program Highlights

### Intro to Classical Latin\*

9/ 6, 13, 20 @ 5 pm

Textbooks will be provided for each student. Taught by Susan Craig. For teens and adults.

### Intro to Word\*

9/7 @ 2 PM

Familiarity with using computers and mice is necessary. Bring your own laptop (with Word already installed) or use one of ours.

### Develop a Writer's Toolkit\*

9/9 & 9/16 @ 10 am

Beginning writers of poetry, fiction, and memoir welcome. Led by Sarah Bradley.

### Uncover Branford\*

9/9 @ 10:30 am

We're bringing you and your neighbors together to share your favorite Branford places and stories. See what's been uncovered already!

### Solitary Odyssey of a Female Kind\*

9/19 @ 6:30 pm

Author Isabella Green shares her experience backpacking around the world on a budget by herself after she returned from serving in the Persian Gulf War.

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

## June/July 2017 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

### Total Circulation

June: 13,850 July: 14,363

June 2016: 14,983

July 2016: 15,757

### borrowIT

June: 2,772 July: 3,164

June 2016: 3,121

July 2016: 3,357

### Renewals:

June: 2,664 July: 2,956

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks

June: 753/July: 819

Overdrive audiobooks

June: 317/July: 362

Zinio June: 136/ July: 127

### Interlibrary Loan

June:

Borrowed 6

Loaned 13

July:

Borrowed 2

Loaned 6

### June Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

11 programs/240 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

8 programs/165 attendance

School-age (6-11)

11 programs/162 attendance

**Total Children's Programs: 30**

**Total Attendance: 567**

### July Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

7 programs/161 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

10 programs/198 attendance

School-age (6-11)

14 programs/219 attendance

**Total Children's Programs: 38**

**Total Attendance: 578**

### Teen Programs (12+)

June:

2 programs/28 attendance

July:

7 programs/48 attendance

### Adult programs

June:

17 programs/159 attendance

July:

20 programs/284 attendance

### Lucy Hammer Room

June:

52 meetings/186 attendance

July:

53 meetings/104 attendance

### Computer Sessions

June: 2108/July: 2266

Facebook: 1437 Likes

MailChimp: 7783

### Average Daily Visitors

June: 605/July: 591

Days Open: June: 26/July: 26