



# Report to the Board of Trustees

April 1, 2014

## From the Director

The library was more colorful than ever with the annual Branford Public Schools Art Show. Each year we are treated to a month-long inspiring display by amazing young artists and teachers.

Rick Mahoney, Kathy Oxsalida and I presented the library's budget request to the Board of Finance on March 19 and they requested a presentation of our proposed renovation plan, which we will schedule.

We launched our appeal to the first Business Circle prospects, and we are excited to announce that Total Electric, owned by Jerry Nicoletti, is our first member. Katy and I will deliver his certificate in person.

Thank you to Gene Hayes for donating the library's American flag in honor of his father, Edward J. Hayes.

The Spring appeal is scheduled to be mailed the first week of April. Invitations to the April 19th donor reception will be included with the Leadership Circle letters.

We are making progress on the Murder Mystery planning. Katy and I have posted flyers and solicited sponsorships and door prizes.



*The Book to Art Club discussed Anita Diamant's The Boston Girl in February.*

We are very pleased to launch Mango Languages, an online resource for learning foreign languages. The program also includes an ESL component, and we will work with ERACE to schedule a presentation to their classes.

A rep from A-Z databases was here in March to give a presentation to members of the public and staff. The database is very powerful—even providing lists of people with particular hobbies and interests, and new residents to Branford. It is also a great source of company information and resume templates.

Carly and Katy have submitted the library's application for an LSTA grant requesting funding to expand the Maker Mondays program to include more sessions.

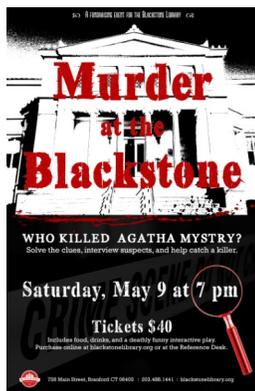
In state library news, the Governor's proposed budget

eliminates funding for CLC units, Connecticut card, and state grants to libraries. CLA has provided libraries with talking points and has organized rally at the capital on April 15.

I was invited to make a presentation of library resources to the Shoreline Men Over Sixty in March, and will also be making the same presentation to the Chamber of Commerce Nonprofits Council on April 9, and the Rotary Club on May 20. We are on a waiting list to host a Chamber Business After Hours at the library in 2016.

Library staff will be attending the annual CLA conference in Mystic on April 27-28.

*Karen Jensen  
Library Director*



## ***Murder at Blackstone***

Tickets are selling fast for our fundraiser planned for Saturday, May 9 from 7–10pm.

Solve the clues, interview suspects, and help catch a killer.

Tickets are \$40 and include food, drinks and a deathly funny interactive play.

## This Month in the Youth Services Department - February

We spent a very snowy month hosting some pretty exciting events. Our annual Take Your Child to the Library Day with the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library is in its 4th year and we welcome the opportunity to celebrate our town's two amazing libraries!

This year we celebrated local authors and illustrators. At the WWML, Cathrene Youngquist read and shared her experience writing *Three Billygoats Gruff and Mean Calypso Joe*. The book is based on the original tale but has a Caribbean flare since the book is set in the islands. Cathrene came fully equipped with puppets for the reading as well as steel drums for the kids to try and Caribbean music. Families had a blast running a conga line and swaying to the drums throughout the building.

In the afternoon, author Jason Marchi and illustrator Ben Quesnel of *The Growing Sweater* came to share their story as well as the illustrative process and how artists use different media to create picture books. An art activity was included.

Both libraries featured creative writing opportunities for participants by inviting them to make a physical flipbook, comic strip and/or logging into [mystorybook.com](http://mystorybook.com) where they could create and publish their own picture books through the web. We had a total of 60 families take part in the day—some old friends

and some new library members.

Our department also worked with the entire Blackstone staff to prepare our second Blind Date Book Display in time for Valentine's Day. The concept encourages patrons to take a chance on disguised recommended reads in hopes of discovering new authors or genres they may have never read before. Staff recommended their favorite titles, and we then disguised the books with decorative paper and encouraged patrons to take a chance on a blind book! The response was amazing. We wrapped 30-40 books and they were all checked out within a couple of weeks. Patrons couldn't wait to tell our staff members which books they enjoyed and why, so we are thinking about expanding the display by including blank book reviews so that the public can recommend their favorite reads throughout the month as well.

Our friends at the Connecticut Experiential Learning Center also spent an afternoon here to get started on their year-end projects and learn a little about our databases and how they can do research from home. This year's final project is based around different countries and their U.S. immigration experience. Students are expected to complete a research paper as well as an interactive display. The department was able to get each student's country ahead of time, which made it

possible for us to put together a cart full of books about immigration as well as certain countries and their travels to the U.S. We also took the class step by step through each of the historical databases and ways that they can refine their search to find exactly what they are looking for. One of the nicest attributes to our databases is the fact that students can zero in on their reading level. This way, their search results are not above or below their reading ability making it easier for them to zero in on material that they can comprehend. One of the best parts of sharing these research skills is that we get to see the classes completed projects on Friday June 5th when our auditorium will be transformed into an immigration display. This gives the kids a chance to not only show their families what they created but also converse with library patrons and staff members. I believe this is one of the best ways for children to build their socialization skills seeing as they will have to talk to people that they have never met before. Allowing them to build confidence through sharing their accomplishments is delightful and something we always like to see.

*Carly Lemire*



Cathrene and the kids taking a photo with Mean Calypso Joe!

### Highlights from the annual BPS Art Show

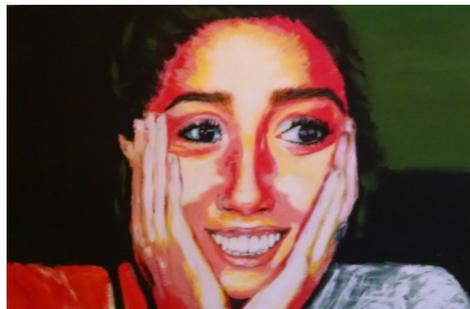
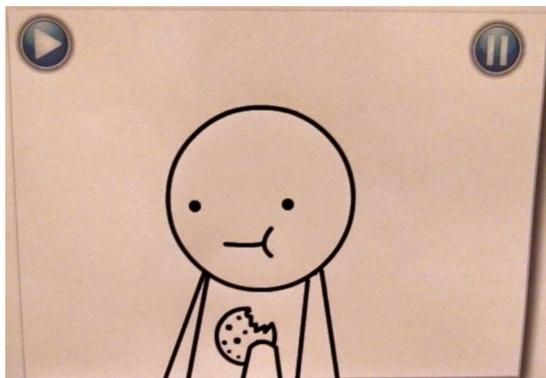


Photo: Mike Yamin

Congratulations to Jackie and Ben who were married at the library on Pi Day!

### Highlights from the Reference Department

The Reference Department was extremely busy in February with everyday tasks, re-viewing new products and planning new programs and services.

We are delighted to welcome Christina Kondziela to the Reference staff. Christina joins us from the circulation department and is working toward her Masters in Library Science.

Whitney attended a Reader’s Advisory Webinar titled “Take Your Readers from Drab to

Fab”, created a “What’s for Dinner” cookbook display, complete with tablecloth and recipes from local restaurants, and led the second Book to Art Club with Karen, featuring Anita Diamant’s new book “The Boston Girl.”

We had an incredible attendance of 100 to our showing of the academy award winning film “Boyhood.”

Our computer classes (Microsoft Word and Excel, with more to come) are much appreciated by our patrons.

Whitney and Debby attended an online demo of the language program “Mango Languages” which the library has decided to subscribe to. We hope to launch on April 1.

*Deborah Trofatter*



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## April 2015 Program Highlights

### Living with Dementia: Middle Stages

Thursdays @ 10 AM

April 2, 16 & 23

For caregivers of people with any type of dementia. Presented by Maria Tomasetti, South Central Regional Director of the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter. Please register by calling 203-230-1777, ext. 14.

### Steppe Eagles & Other Raptors of Nepal

Wednesday, April 8 @ 7 PM

Dr. Robert DeCandido will discuss the 10,000 to 40,000 Steppe Eagles that migrate each autumn along the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains. *Menunkatuck Audubon Society*.

### Spring & Summer Gardens

Saturday, April 11 @ 11 AM

Learn how to create beautiful spring & summer gardens with experts from the Branford Garden Club. Registration a must.

### The Music of the Beach Boys

Sunday, April 19 @ 2—3 PM

The Beach Meanies are one of the most popular and versatile tribute bands on the East Coast. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library*.

### Writing Mystery Novels

Saturday, April 25 @ 10:30 AM

Join Michael Draper for a discussion of writing mysteries and his latest novel *Three Strikes and You're Dead*. Michael will discuss his research process, and as a cancer survivor, the therapeutic value of writing.

### Shakespeare and Star Trek

Tuesday, April 28 @ 7—8 PM

Explore Shakespeare's cosmic connections in this lively and entertaining talk. Presented by Rob Nelson, Asst. Professor of Developmental English at Housatonic CC.

### Poetry Reading by Connecticut Poets Laureate

Tuesday, April 14 @ 7—8 PM

Open mic from 7 -7:30, refreshments & book signing.

### Become an Ingredient Detective

Tuesday, April 21 @ 6—7 PM

Unlock the mystery of ingredients known as fragrance, PEGs, GMOs, SLS, DMDM, CEA, DEA, and phthalates. Learn how to choose the safest sunscreen, cleaning products, and cosmetics. With Mary Cavaliere, Wellness & Green Living Coach.

### Sea Level Rise:

#### Coastal Wetlands

Wednesday, April 22 @ 7 PM

The history and future of sea-level rise. With Shimon Anisfeld of the Yale School of Forestry. *Presented by Branford Land Trust*.

### Book to Art Club

Saturdays @ 3:00 PM

April 25, May 30

April's selection is *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins, and in May we'll read *Dead Wake* by Erik Larsen.

## February 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

### Total Circulation: 12,734

February 2014: 13,653

### ConnectiCard: 2,770

February 2014: 2,820

### Renewals: 3,839

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 529

Overdrive audiobooks: 163

Axis360: 24

Zinio: 171

IndieFlix: 166

### Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 29 Loaned 68

### Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

12 programs/213 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

5 programs/94 attendance

School-age (6-11)

8 programs/160 attendance

All Ages: 1 program/65 attendance

### Total Children's Programs: 26

Total Attendance: 561

### Teen Programs (12+)

6 programs/34 attendance

### Adult programs

7 programs/58 attendance

### Lucy Hammer Room

59 meetings/142 attendance

### Computer Sessions: 1816

### Facebook: 1103 Likes

### Constant Contact: 4515

### Average Daily Visitors: 472

Days Open: 26