



Inaugural Medal Display

In recognition of the inauguration of a new president of the United States this month, the library hosted a collection of presidential inaugural medals dating back over two centuries.

While the first Official Presidential Inaugural Medal did not make its appearance until 1901, less formal mementos of presidential inaugurations were produced beginning with the first inauguration of George Washington in 1789.

In the century that followed, inaugural mementoes were made on a haphazard basis, usually produced privately and done with commercial motives. 1901, for the first time, the Inaugural Committee decided to designate a medal as the "official medal" of the inauguration and that practice has continued.

Report to the Board of Trustees

February 1, 2017

From the Director



Karen Jensen, Katy Dillman, Carly Lemire and Whitney Gayle with librarians from Danbury Library at the EXCITE Transformation for Libraries Workshop.

While January may be cold and snowy; the work of the library continues!

Our building committee met with Silver, Petrucci and Associates to finalize the design for the new entryway. The design that was selected meets the library's operational and space needs with minimal impact on the exterior structure of the existing building. The design was presented to staff, First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove and Finance Director Jim Finch, the Branford Rotary Club, members of the Capital Campaign Committee, and the Branford Board of Finance. A bro-

chure and website are almost ready to be printed and posted.

Katy, Carly, Whitney and I attended the final days of the EXCITE workshop. Throughout the month, we held additional focus groups and refined our plan for a program which we are calling *Uncover Branford*. The program is designed to give our target audience an opportunity to connect with others and learn more about local landmarks and fun places.

Trustee Sandy Baldwin nominated Miss Carly and Miss Mary to the Education Hall of Fame and we are encouraging

everyone to vote at the election meeting on February 9 at the Community House.

DeliverIT service has been better, and the State Library's consultant delivered his report this month. A task force has been organized to implement some of the consultant's suggestions. The bottom line of the report is that there most likely will be a cost to individual libraries in the future for any enhancements to the service.

A reminder that the library will open at 1:30 pm on February 24th so that staff may attend inservice training.

Karen Jensen

December Highlights from the Youth Services Department

This month we held a library card drive at Walsh Intermediate School. Miss Katy and I spent a good two days meeting lots of students and creating cards for those that never had one or lost theirs over the years. The intake was surprising - we registered well over a 150 students!

This drive was made possible by the middle school's brand new media specialist Nicole Herget. Her desire for every student to have a card stems from her use of our library and the wealth of free information we provide. She wants every student to have access to our physical collection and our databases so that they are better prepared when it comes to finding reliable information. Having a card also makes it possible for students to download free e-books and audiobooks to their smartphones and tablets. Using these resources in her media classes will familiarize students with our services and hopefully encourage them to visit the library and continue to use their cards on their own.

Katy, Nicole and I have expanded our partnership by taking student and teacher requests. Teachers now have the ability to put multiple copies of the same book on hold so that they can use them in their reading groups. Nicole has been promoting the Nutmegs to all of her students and by using our interlibrary loan service she has been able to acquire titles for multiple language arts classes. We have also been fulfilling student's personal

holds. Those that cannot make it to the library are now able to access our collection and have the books brought to them, taking getting to the library out of the equation. Nicole could not be happier with results and explained that building a school collection for 5th—8th graders is challenging since the reading and maturity levels are such a wide range.

Since the library card drive, new teens have been coming to the Library! Parents have also expressed the level of excitement their children felt when they realized that they would be able to checkout materials in their name. Teachers and media specialists have also conveyed the cost savings these lending services provide since they do not have to use a large chunk of their budget to purchase 20 copies of a certain title or the Nutmegs that change every year. Either way, we are finding better and more efficient ways to get books into the hands that need them and we cannot wait for this newly founded partnership to continue to grow.

The Youth Services Department also collaborated with Chabad on the Shoreline to be a part of their Chanukah Village project. Chabad on the Shoreline is a Jewish centered group that wants to share their heritage and spread positivity throughout the community. The group put together their first town wide Chanukah celebration on December 28th, which culminated with a menorah lighting on the green but also

brought in local businesses and points of interest to provide Chanukah themed activities. By providing these sites the group hoped to bring all kinds of families together so that they could highlight Chanukah and share what makes the celebration so special. The Library worked with Rachel Yaffe to provide a Chanukah book display along with a book reading and craft. Rachel's friend recently published an oversized Chanukah book that includes reusable stickers that ask listeners to participate while the story is read. The illustrations were delightful and the interactive component kept everyone captivated. Chabad on the Shoreline felt that the celebration was a success and they are hoping to make it an annual event in Branford.

This month the Youth Services Department was also busy providing an array of programming for winter break. Some of the highlights included: cookie decorating, hand sewing your own ornaments and a hands-on water science program provided by New Haven Regional Water Authority. We also held our second Noon Years Eve storytime, which was a huge success. There had to have been 50 plus families to celebrate and everyone left with a balloon drop experience and a Happy 2017 headband! Parents were really happy with the event and thanked us for creating something fun for our younger participants.

Carly Lemire



Walsh Intermediate
School Library Card
Drive
with Willoughby Wallace
Memorial Library

Shoutbomb-Text Message Notifications

Available through our membership in LION, Shoutbomb lets you keep up-to-date with your library account on your mobile phone.

Using Shoutbomb, you can receive text notices about items available to pick up, items due soon, overdue items and fines. You can also send a text to request a renewal and receive a text back with the result of your request, send a text to see your account's expiration date, and even set up multiple library accounts (barcodes) on the same phone.

There is no fee for this service, but your cell phone plan's regular text-messaging rates apply. Also, you will continue to receive the email and/or postal notices that are

always sent from the LION system.

To sign up, simply text the word SIGNUP to the email address:

lion@shoutbomb.com

then reply to the message you will receive from Shoutbomb with your library card number.

Once your Shoutbomb registration has been completed, you will automatically get text notices about items available to pick up, items that are due soon, overdue items and fines. A text will be sent when activity on your account triggers a message or when you text a command.

According to the Pew Research Center, 95% of Americans now own a cell phone of some kind. 77% of Americans own smartphones.

As the adoption of traditional broadband service has slowed in recent years, a growing share of Americans now use smartphones as their primary means of online access at home. Today just over one-in-ten American adults are "smartphone-only" internet users – meaning they own a smartphone, but do not have traditional home broadband service.

For more statistics, see www.pewinternet.org



Shoutbomb texting service helps you keep track of your library account.

Highlights from the Reference Department-December

The library had a busy month with a number of holiday programs, including the CT Accordion Concert and the BHS Music Makers (standing room only!), as well as classes and lectures and our new and quite popular Blackstone Library Tour, led by Katy on the first Saturday of the month.

We had a request from a patron in Detroit for information on his grandfather, John Carr, about whom he knew virtually nothing. We were able to send him a number of articles as well as a picture; his grandfather was the principal of the high school in 1928 as well as the author of

a book on early Branford.

Another patron was looking for information on a day camp in Pawson Park. She was able to tell us the name, but we didn't have a spelling. We succeeded in finding a number of articles on the Norske Hytte (hence the difficulty in figuring out the spelling!) day camp in our Branford History Digital Scrapbooks database, including one with a photograph:

(http://branford.advantage-preservation.com/Viewer/?key=hytte&fn=branford_scrapbooks_-new_haven_evening_register

[r_usa_connecticut_branford
19360608_english_189&page
=1](#).

Thanks to Lisa Kereszi for her donation of a school photo and autograph book from 1920.

Deb Trofatter



James Blackstone Memorial Library
758 Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

203.488.1441
reference@blackstonelibrary.org
facebook.com/blackstonelibrary
twitter.com/blackstonelib
www.blackstonelibrary.org

...more than books

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

February 2017 Program Highlights

Hatha Yoga

Mondays @ 5:15—6:30 pm

Join yoga teacher Helen Lespier every Monday evening. Free and open to all ages.

and countless other artists.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Blackstone Library.

Intro to Excel

February 2, 2016 @ 2-3:30 pm

Learn the basics of Microsoft's spreadsheet program, including creating and working with spreadsheets and the construction of formulas for math calculations. Familiarity with using computers and mice is necessary. You may bring your own laptop (with Excel already installed) or use one of ours.

3D Design: Designing 3D Creatures**

February 15 @ 6-8 pm

In this class, we'll use the iPad to create creatures using a free 3D modeling program, 123D Sculpt. Join us if you want to try your hand at modelling from easy to use templates or from scratch. The final models are 3D printer ready!

Ask A Lawyer

February 16 @ 6 - 8 pm

Have a legal question? Get a free consultation with a lawyer, brought to you by the New Haven County Bar Association. Each month, lawyers visit area libraries to provide free consultations. Consultations are first-come, first-served. Sign up at Reference up to 30 minutes before program begins. Free and open to all.

Mystery Book Club

February 1 @ 3 - 4 pm

The Black Widow by Dan Silva

2nd Tuesday Book Group

February 14 @ 6:15 – 7:30 pm

Title TBA

Bestsellers Book Club**

February 25 @ 3 - 4 pm

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

RAVE ON! Concert

February 12 @ 2 - 3:15 pm

RAVE ON! is a band that features the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, and other legends of early rock-n-roll. This is the music that paved the way for rock-n-roll and influenced The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen

Rusalka: Opera Preview & Performance

February 21 @ 6:30 - 8 pm

Join us for a Metropolitan Opera Preview of Dvorak's Rusalka, with Marc Verzatt, recently retired from the faculty of the Yale School of Music. Followed by three live musicians—a pianist plus a female and male vocalist. Sponsored by Shoreline Village Connecticut.

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

December 2016 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 11,026

December 2015: 11,658

borrowIT: 2,571

December 2015: 2360

Renewals: 2,902

Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 677

Overdrive audiobooks: 288

Zinio: 198

Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 5 Loaned 26

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

14 programs/262 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

10 programs/228 attendance

School-age (6-11)

11 programs/110 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 35

Total Attendance: 600

Teen Programs (12+)

2 programs/11 attendance

Adult programs

23 programs/432 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

59 meetings/191 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2473

Facebook: 1393 Likes

MailChimp: 5699 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 501

Days Open: 29