



# Report to the Board of Trustees

January 6, 2016

## From the Director

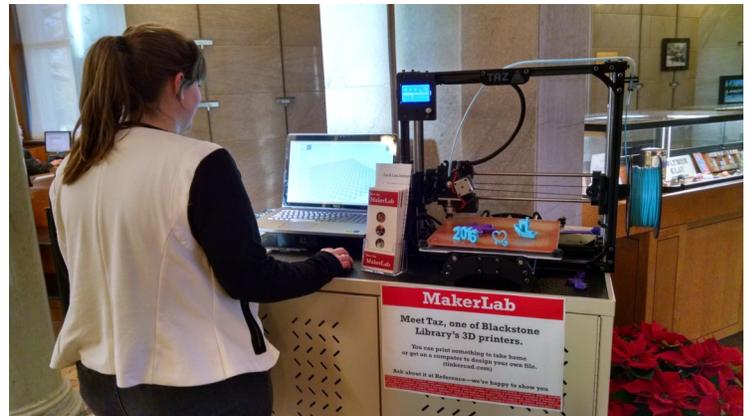
Our mini-maker table continued in the adult department on Fridays and Saturdays this month—this month we showed off our sewing machines (and skills!) to patrons young and old. We heard stories about people's experience sewing their own clothes, and one patron who worked for Singer sewing machines told us of the days when technicians would make home visits to repair machines, which gives an idea of how important sewing was in the not so distant past.



One of the most exciting accomplishments this month was the refinishing of the Cedar Street doors. The doors had deteriorated severely over the years. A local craftsman, Tim Munson, took them to his workshop, worked his magic, and returned them in beautiful shape—hopefully to last at least several more decades. A huge thank you goes to Kathy Q. for her expert management of the project.

I attended several CLA meetings this month. The association hired a new lobbying firm—Gallo & Robinson will begin working with CLA in January 2016.

Staff are planning for our inservice day on February 26, 2016. The library will open at 1:30 that day. The theme for the morning is to share our collective knowledge gained from workshops we have attended during the past year. We will focus on searching techniques, maker ideas, customer service, readers advisory and building safety. Staff across all departments will participate in the presentations.



*January's mini-maker experience is the Lulzbot Taz 3-D printer. Staff will be available on Fridays and Saturdays for demos this month.*

Our year end appeal was one of our most successful ever, receiving \$21,000 in donations to date, which is 130% of our goal of \$16,000.

I coordinated Secret Santa donations from the Rotary Club to a family in need, through the Branford Counseling Center.

During Library Amnesty week, 99 billed items were recovered, and 429 overdue items were returned. Many patrons were able to clear their accounts and appreciated the opportunity to start again with a clean slate.

The wifi hotspots have been very popular and we are investigating a way to allow patrons to put them on hold.

The LION consortium will hold a meeting on January 14 to discuss best circulation practices, with the objective of encouraging member libraries to adopt consistent lending practices.

With help from board member Ed Kirk, we set up a bitcoin account for the library, and processed our first donation on December 31.

Finally, we are very grateful to Branford's Garden Club for making our library look very festive, as they do every year.

*Karen Jensen  
Library Director*

## November Highlights from the Youth Services Department



Our Stars War display included origami created by Miss Carly, Miss Mary and Jenna!

This month we worked with the Reference Department to launch our Mini-Maker Tables! We hope the Mini-Maker Tables will draw attention to our Maker equipment, recruit volunteers, and create opportunities to make quick and easy projects. The tables are held on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 4 PM. Projects can range from items you can physically take like: mini flashlights, buttons and/or sewing squares plus hands-on experience with our iPads, green screen and/or Snap Circuits. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved with some of these projects do not hesitate to ask any of the circulation desks. We have volunteer forms and information about the MakerLab on each level.

In the spirit of promoting the MakerLab and expanding its accessibility to children and adults, we have been offering child/caregiver classes where younger children can experience MakerLab elements with an adult's guidance. Many have been taking advantage of our 3-D printer and we will be working on stop-motion videos next month. Our first 3-D printer, the MakerBot Replicator 2, is also on the Youth Services floor and pulls in quite an audience when it is in action. Staff can explain the process, complete prints and encourage patrons of all ages to join our 3-D printing courses. In order to keep this discussion going and creating awareness on other library levels the

Teen Room has also undergone some changes. This past month the adult audiobooks were moved to the ground floor creating an open space outside of the teen room for additional materials, including: books, furniture and Maker equipment. Having an extra teen shelf made it possible for us to bring up the YA Non-Fiction and Biographies that were originally interfiled with the adult collections. This move has brought the entire YA collection together, making it easy for teens to locate books on their reading level with ease. This additional space also made it possible for us to pull in a table and some chairs; providing teens with working/meeting space that was lacking from the original Teen Room. We are also in the process of bringing our second 3-D printer, the Taz, to the middle floor along with laptops, various maker projects and materials. We hope that this will make a constructive area for teens and adults to create and also draw attention to our MakerLab. A big thank you to the Youth Services staff for weeding and deleting missing materials and to Patricia for helping us through the transitional process of bringing our YA informational books upstairs.

At the beginning of the month Miss Mary and I hosted a series of 2nd and 3rd grade tours in conjunction with Mary T. Murphy School. After working with the reading specialists to get

the Nutmeg Nominees in their classrooms we continued connecting and thought it would be great to do a library card drive and tour while focusing on informational reading. Both grades were working on pulling out facts from informational texts and composing mini-reports, so every student was able to check out their own "just right" Non-Fiction book before heading back to school. Everyone really enjoyed the tour and we made sure to demo the 3-D printer and talk about our winter programming to encourage them to come back to the library with their families.

Working with the Mary T. Murphy reading specialists has also opened our eyes to ways that we can help children find their "just right" book. A just right book should challenge the reader without being too hard. At times, finding the perfect fit can be frustrating, especially when caregivers are looking for books without their kids. To ease the process we acquired a FREE book leveling app called Book Wizard that allows us to search book titles based on grade, interest or reading level. One of the best parts about the app is its "book-alike" component that shows readers similar titles. The app is downloaded on all of our iPads and we have one by the circ desk for quick use. Staff are already finding it helpful when for pointing caregivers in the right direction.

## Blackstone Library's Most Popular Books of 2015

During the last week of December, reference staff member Kirsty Smith created a display of the most circulated books at JBML in 2015.

They are:

### Fiction:

1. *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah
2. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
3. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
4. *The Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant
5. *Hope To Die* by James Patterson
6. *Gray Mountain* by John Grisham
7. *The Stranger* by Harlan Coben

8. *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler
9. *Deadline* by John Sandford
10. *14th Deadly Sin* by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro

### Non-Fiction:

1. *Being Mortal: Medicine and what Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande
2. *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* by Marie Kondo
3. *Yes Please* by Amy Poehler
4. *Elephant Company: the Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him*

5. *The Science of Skinny Cookbook: 175 Healthy Recipes to Help You Stop Dieting—and Eat for Life!* By Dee McCaffrey, CDC
6. *Dead Wake: the Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Eric Larson
7. *Leaving Before the Rains Come* by Alexandra Fuller
8. *Master Thieves: the Boston Gangsters who Pulled off the World's Greatest Art Heist* by Stephen Kurkjian
9. *Not My Father's Son: A Memoir* by Alan Cumming
10. *H is for Hawk* by Helen McDonald



Book Club in a Bag now available at the ground level reference desk.

## Highlights from the Reference Department-November

November was our month of moves. We moved the entire nonfiction DVD collection downstairs, interfiling by call number in the nonfiction stacks. We moved the nonfiction (and helped to move the fiction) books on CD downstairs to their own shelves, in the nonfiction and fiction rooms. We worked with Carly on her project to move all of the Young Adult nonfiction and biographies upstairs to the Young Adult Room.

In addition, we launched our "Book Club in a Bag" program. We have created a collection that includes 8 regular

print and 2 large print copies of a book, an author biography and discussion questions, all housed in a canvas bag and available for checkout to individuals or book groups.

The library has purchased new barcode scanners that will scan library barcodes on smart phones.

Our T-Mobile Hotspots are now available for checkout. The hotspots are very easy to use and allow our patrons to connect up to 10 devices. They circulate for a week at a time and are a great option for patrons who might be

traveling and don't want to pay for Internet access and for patrons who do not have Internet access available to them at home.

We helped a patron find information about the Plant family and their property in town. Another patron was preparing a slide show for her father's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and was looking for pictures. We found her parent's wedding photo in the Branford Review and she found pictures of her father, who worked at MIF.

*Deborah Trofatter*



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## January 2016 Program Highlights

### Healthy Living and Beyond

1/7 @ 6:30-7:45 PM

This presentation will focus on clean eating and whole food consumption, how to rid the body of harmful toxins, and the importance of a healthy gut to overall health.

### Argyle Sax Concert

1/9 @ 2—3:30 PM

Selections in classical styles, jazz styles, pop and novelty themes with works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Glenn Miller, The Beatles and more; an eclectic mix with something for all!

### Elegant Primates Concert

1/10 @ 2 PM

Elegant Primates is an eclectic quartet playing original world-beat pop music. Their sound is sure to touch audiences from the very young to the extremely experienced. Come ready to dance!

### Second Tuesday Book Club

Tuesdays @ 6:15 PM

January 12, February 9

In January we'll read *The*

*Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. February: *King Peggy* by Peggienelene Bartels.

### Island Life: Ecology of Our Barrier Islands

1/13 @ 7—8 PM

Connecticut's shoreline is one of the most developed places on the East Coast, but there are still a few natural areas that remain where specific wildlife thrive. Q & A with Kris Vagos, wildlife biologist with the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, and Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, coordinator of Audubon Connecticut's Important Bird Area Program. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by Menunkatuck Audubon Society. For details, contact program@menunkatuck.org.

### Money Matters\*

1/14 @ 12—1 PM

This workshop will help you set financial goals, prepare a budget and identify tools to help manage your bills. Pre-

sented by People's United Bank in partnership with Women & Family Life Center.

### Coloring & Conversation\*

Thursdays, @ 6:30—7:45 PM

January 28, February 25

Coloring is a great stress buster and a way to tap into your inner artist! Join instructor Sally E. Bahner for a night of coloring and conversation.

### Saturday Cinema

Saturdays @ 1—3 PM

January 30, February 27

Come see a hot new release that you've been dying to get your hands on. Refreshments provided.

### Bestseller Book Club

Saturdays @ 3—4 PM

1/30, 2/27

January's title is *Ashley Bell* by Dean Koontz. February's title is *The Swans of Fifth Avenue* by Melanie Benjamin. Books are available at the library.

Registration is requested for programs with an \*.

## November 2015 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

### Total Circulation: 12,797

November 2014: 13,910

### ConnectiCard: 2,707

November 2014: 2,774

### Renewals: 3,268

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 445

Overdrive audiobooks: 159

Zinio: 267

### Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 18 Loaned 19

### Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)

10 programs/189 attendance

Preschool (3-5)

10 programs/217 attendance

School-age (6-11)

12 programs/275 attendance

All Ages

0 programs/0 attendance

### Total Children's Programs: 32

Total Attendance: 681

### Teen Programs (12+)

6 programs/41 attendance

### Adult programs

22 programs/400 attendance

### Lucy Hammer Room

45 meetings/198 attendance

### Computer Sessions: 2349

### Facebook: 1230 Likes

### Constant Contact: 4986

### Average Daily Visitors: 508

Days Open: 29