



# Report to the Board of Trustees

January 5, 2014

## From the Director

The end of year appeal mailed in mid-November continues to receive donations—By December 30, the total was \$13,480.

Ticket sales for the Friends' Downton Abbey Tea Party are going well—over half of the tickets are sold so far.

Two new library assistants, Barbara Barrett and Angela Meikle, began work on 12/2. Barbara had already been a volunteer at the library, and Angela heard about the position during a regular library visit. We are thrilled to have them both.

We bid farewell to Barbara Cangiano, longtime reference supervisor, on December 12. Barbara will begin work at the Wallingford library as its new circulation supervisor in January.

Debby Trofatter has been promoted to Associate Librarian for Reference and Technology Services effective December 22. We will be working together in the coming months to evaluate reference service, including collection development, staffing and training.

Staff began using a new electronic time recording system on 12/14. The transition was



*One of our patrons displayed her collection of Santas and Christmas Books.*

seamless and we anticipate that the new system will streamline the payroll entry process.

Alarm Systems Inc., a company based in Clinton and the Town of Branford's preferred vendor, installed a new alarm system on 12/8 and the process went smoothly. We cancelled our contract with TYCO security on the same day.

The library will hold a Maker-Lab Open House on Friday, January 9 from 5-7pm. We'll demonstrate the 3D printer and other components of the Lab, including soldering, Arduino, sewing and video production.

Co-communications has completed their work on the video for the Bookmark Bran-

ford campaign. They will attend the January meeting to report on the campaign. Drawing for the iPad mini was conducted by the agency; Karen Kolb was the winner.

Thanks to the Branford Garden Club for decorating the library for the holidays. They do a superb job of highlighting the building's architecture and creating a festive atmosphere every year—we appreciate their creativity.

I attended regular meetings including FLAG, Rotary, Rotary Interact at the high school, Friends meeting, CLA meeting and Chamber non-profit council. I also took a week's vacation at the end of December.

*Karen Jensen  
Library Director*



### *Artist Juliana Roy*

Portrait artist, illustrator and set designer,

Juliana graduated summa cum laude from Paier College of Art, then completed two years of graduate study at the St. Petersburg Academy of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture in Russia. Her work was on display in the rotunda during December.

## This Month in the Youth Services Department - November

For the past couple of months Christina has been helping out in the Youth Services Department by taking on our 2-year-old storytime. It has been a pleasure showing her all of our storytime themes, crafts, songs and rhymes and she has had the best time creating her own projects, interacting with our families and getting to know some of our smallest patrons! I cannot tell you how many families have enjoyed getting to know her, it has been a blast. Having Christina take on storytimes and other programming responsibilities not only broadens her abilities but also gets her to see how different departments operate; all of which will help her as she continues her Masters of Library Science degree.

This month Katy and I launched our first MakerLab half day program for students in middle school and up. Realizing that we only have access to 10 to 12 laptops at once we decided to create two sessions or back to back workshops so that all of our participants could get hands on experience with the computer software we were demonstrating. The first half of the workshop focused on the 3D printer and its functions since a lot of children have shown interest in printing materials from last month's 3D printing session. It is amazing to see their faces when they experience an item being printed for the first time; and then giving them the tools to create something on their own is

truly remarkable. Once the initial demonstration was through we took the class a step further by introducing them to TinkerCad, our open source 3D printing software. We found the software to be user friendly, allowing participants to complete little projects and follow various tutorials. The software also allows users to pull in shapes, create text and work off of other projects so that they are not starting from scratch; something that can be daunting for those that do not like working from a blank canvas.

Since the event we have had multiple participants from the program have already come back with their families and friends to share what they learned and complete projects that they started from home. Using open source software makes it easy for participants to continue working on their projects seeing as it is free to download and easy to access through a simple Google search!

Katy and I are planning to expand on the program by launching Maker Mondays in December for those in middle school and up. We'll take the MakerLab to its full potential with hands-on opportunities for participants to use different technologies, experiment and most importantly get their hands dirty! Some class ideas include: 3D printing, web design, video production, circuitry and more. Katy is working with the middle school's media center in hope

of setting up mini-presentations about the MakerLab to the entire school so that word can spread about what we have to offer. To learn more about Maker Mondays, see the teen page on our website.

The Youth Services Department also hosted two well-attended events. The first, Family Zumba, which was hosted by local instructor Tracy Brody. Zumba is a high energy workout that uses popular music and Latin steps to make exercising fun. One of the best parts about this program was that the entire family participated, so it was nice to see caregivers taking action and moving alongside their kids. See our Facebook page for a video of the class.

We closed out the month with our annual Thanksgiving craft creations! We had a wonderful turnout despite the frosty weather and the families really appreciated having a free activity that would keep the kids out of the house while they were preparing for Thursdays big meal. Participants made colorful turkeys, paper plate pilgrims, tipis, and thankful wheels.

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we have added two new passes to attractions in NYC! The Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Natural History. Both passes are just a train ride away!

*Carly Lemire*



Spreading Thanks!

## Highlights from the Reference Department

This is my last monthly report as Reference Department Supervisor.

Did you know?

Reference department handled all the prep work for Y2K transition (remember Y2K?), created the library's first homegrown website (*right after Al Gore invented the internet!*), sold countless tickets for library fundraisers including *Lights of Branford/Pine Orchard*, *The Pontiac and BMW Car Raffle*, *American Girls Party*, *Kentucky Derby Evening*, *Hogwarts Halloween*, *Books, Barbeque and Blues*, and more. We were responsible for all pc and other tech support for the library before LION came to our rescue. We delivered books in inclement weather to homebound patrons. We answered thousands of questions each week. We happily set up the auditorium for programs and events including the years when the auditorium was referred to as the "Cultural Center". The materials in the Branford History collection are now accessible to the public thanks to hard work by reference staff and we have acquired through e-bay and the internet- (thanks, Debby) - many Blackstone Library commemorative items which we often display. We had a Branford author's reception, collaborated with WWML to present a One Book, One Town opportunity, moved from VHS to DVD and had a celebratory gala in the

library to mark its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the completion of the library renovation. Authors Regina Barreca and Calvin Trillin spoke at the library, and the big band Eight to the Bar performed in the library rotunda. The library card catalog was closed for business in 1996 and in August 1996, free public access to the internet was offered at Blackstone for the first time.

During my tenure, I have worked under four library directors and Frank, Gennett, Sandy, Deb and Deirdre have been there through all those changes with me. We had a fantastic time at Blackstone West (Mitsubishi Car Dealership decorated with a trompe-l'oeil marble columns entrance!) during the library's renovation in the 1990s. Incredibly capable and smart people have worked in the reference department including: All have brought a special talent to the department which made coming to work each day a joy.

I have no doubt that the reference department will flourish under the capable hands of Deb who has an awesome depth and wealth of knowledge about how the reference department runs, institutional knowledge about the library and Branford's history and extensive research skills; Whitney who is intent on providing great readers advisory service and programming for our library patrons;

Shauna who is indispensable when it comes to keeping our collection up to date; and Kirsty who is just beginning her library career and is fortunate to have such great role models nearby. The department, as always, will do important community outreach, provide excellent research assistance, build our non-fiction collection, set up regular book displays, keep up with current technology, develop professionally, and support new programs and initiatives. I know they will serve our deserving patrons well.

In addition to experiencing the intrinsic rewards of my work at Blackstone Library, I was honored to have been recognized as the New York Times Librarian of the Year in 2004 for my enthusiastic and positive public service orientation and in 2012, awarded a place in the Branford Education Hall of fame as a community educator. This recognition is lovely, but the greatest prize I have received has been my collaboration with and alongside generous, warm, clever and talented coworkers committed to doing great things, working really hard, and making the library experience memorable and fun for our patrons each and every day. They are true treasures and I will miss them dearly.

*Barbara Cangiano*



Christina reading to some of our two-year olds at storytime.



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...more than books

Join our email list for more information about programs  
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## January 2015 Program Highlights

### Intro to Microsoft Word

*Tuesdays, January 6 & 13  
@ 10 AM—11:30 AM*

Learn the basics of Microsoft Word 2013. In this introductory class, you'll learn how to compose a new document, edit text, change fonts, and insert pictures. Basic familiarity with using computers and a mouse is necessary. Class takes place over two sessions. Registration required.

### Book to Art Club

*Saturdays @ 2:00 PM  
January 10, February 28*

Join us for a hands-on, creative way to engage with literature – where the process of art-making is more important than the product! We'll discuss John Grisham's newest novel *Gray Mountain*, as we work on an art project related to the book. Books are available at the library, and art materials will be provided. If you prefer, please

bring your own project inspired by the book to the meeting. Registration required.

### Menunkatuck Audubon Society Presents:

#### Seals of Long Island Sound

*Wednesday, January 14  
@ 7:00 PM*

Join us to learn about the biology of local seals and their role in the coastal ecosystem. Presenter Nicki Rosenfeld is Senior Educator at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk. Program is free and open to the public. Refreshments served. Information: 203-457-1699 or [program@menunkatuck.org](mailto:program@menunkatuck.org)

#### Job Search Boot Camp

*Last Thursday of the month  
10:00 am - 11:00 am  
January 29, February 26*

This networking group led by CT Works is an opportunity to make connections, talk about what's worked for you and

what hasn't, and workshop ideas for moving forward. Please register for this program. Call 203.488.1441 x 318 or email us: [reference@blackstonelibrary.org](mailto:reference@blackstonelibrary.org). See our flyer for more info.

### They Called Me Lizzy...from Slavery to the White House

*Sunday, February 1 @ 2 PM*

Madame Keckly was born into slavery, but through her tenacity and skills as dressmaker, purchased her freedom and launched her own business. She came to the attention of Mary Todd Lincoln, became her dressmaker, confidante and friend. East Haddam Stage Company's one-woman drama features Bristol CT actress Stephanie Jackson as Elizabeth Keckly. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

## November 2014 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

### Total Circulation: 13,910

*November 2013: 13,907*

### ConnectiCard: 2,774

*November 2013: 2,426*

### Renewals: 3,523

### Downloadable Circulation:

Overdrive ebooks: 530

Overdrive audiobooks: 119

Axis360: 18

Zinio: 293

IndieFlix: 3

### Interlibrary Loan

Borrowed 22 Loaned 63

### Children's Programs:

*Babies (0-2)*

*12 programs/199 attendance*

*Preschool (3-5)*

*9 programs/235 attendance*

*School-age (6-11)*

*13 programs/250 attendance*

### Total Children's Programs: 34

Total Attendance: 684

### Teen Programs (12+)

*3 programs/20 attendance*

### Adult programs

*21 programs/380 attendance*

### Lucy Hammer Room

*53 meetings/140 attendance*

### Computer Sessions: 2231

### Facebook: 1069 Likes

### Constant Contact: 4301

### Average Daily Visitors: 519

Days Open: 29