



Report to the Board of Trustees

July 18, 2018

From the Director

The Spring appeal continues to receive donations and has earned a total of \$22,830. The Capital Campaign is at \$704,023 of our \$800,000 goal. The library applied for a grant from the Greater New Haven Community Foundation to support the renovation, and members of the Capital Campaign Committee met with a representative from the foundation on June 28 as part of a site visit for the second round of the review process. We will learn if the request is granted by October of this year.

All staff participated in the annual review process in June. We also held our annual inservice day on June 22. David Heer from Downes Construction gave staff a detailed presentation about the renovation process and staff had an opportunity to ask questions. Jane Bouley gave a talk about her new book, *The Streets of Branford*, and we discussed customer service strategies to use as we go through the renovation project this year.

Rachel Wells has returned to continue volunteering to organize the library archives this summer. We will also have two summer workers sponsored by the Workforce Alliance and Branford Counseling Center this summer.



Stop by and take a minute to tap out some tunes on this #rescuepiano - it'll be here all summer long! Thanks to Free Keys CT!

Win Naming Rights In the Renovated Library

Raffle tickets are currently on sale in support of the library renovation. The tickets cost \$20 each—the grand prize is naming rights to the Upper Rotunda art gallery.

Tickets are available at blackstonelibrary.org and at the library Reference Desk.

The Storywalk® on Main Street was installed and was an instant hit. Patrons can pick up a map in the Youth Services Department, or at any participating merchant. This is one of several programs in support of the Summer Reading theme, *Libraries Rock*. Carly did a great job thinking outside of the box (and library walls) to plan programs that did not need to take place in the auditorium. Jenn Aldieri's daughter, Maddie, created a photo prop that children can take a picture with when they finish the walk.

We worked with Pro Bono Partnership to draft a Section 125 plan, which will allow staff to make pre-tax contributions to the library's health insurance plan. As a non-

profit organization, the library qualifies for legal assistance from Pro Bono at no charge.

This month we interviewed candidates for a part-time reference position. Branford resident Anne Killheffer will start work in August, and Jenna Anthony, a full-time circulation assistant, will begin working one shift per week in the reference department.

Local radio personality and library patron, Vinnie Penn launched his new book *Route One Food Run*, at Home Restaurant. He collaborated with owner Jared Schulefand to raffle a copy of the book and a gift certificate, which earned over \$300 for the Campaign for the Blackstone.

continued

Highlights from the Youth Services Department—May

The Youth Services Department worked with the Branford school district in a couple of different ways this past month, all of which were exciting and tons of fun!

Every year we are part of Branford High School's internship program and work with 1-2 seniors that are interested in reading, writing or working in a library. This year we worked with Will from BHS, and Joey, who attends Notre Dame High School in West Haven. Both students worked in the Youth Services Department —helping patrons locate items, checking materials in and out, setting up for programs, and helping prepare for summer reading. Will has a background in 3D design so he helped bring our LulzBot 3D printer back to life and completed a series of projects for patrons. Joey worked closely with Debby and Karen on an archiving project scanning photos from the 1996 renovation, and converting VHS tapes to DVD. His assistance was greatly appreciated and is currently missed! Both students also played an active role in putting our summer reading StoryWalk® together and were able to see the completed product before its unveiling in June!

Both students agreed that there is a lot happening at the library behind the scenes than they originally anticipated. They essentially worked 40-hour weeks the entire month of May and were able to experience the ins and outs of having a full-time job.

The entire library staff always enjoys their time with the interns and we know that we will support this program in the future.

The Youth Services Department also participated in Mary T. Murphy's ARTrageous fundraiser in the middle of the month. The program was meant for MTM families and featured different art industries and activities such as broadcasting, fashion, drumming and more. The Blackstone Library shared a MakerBot demo with the kids so that they could see the 3D printer in action. Since our timeframe to share was short (an hour and a half) Will and I decided to feature a longer print so that everyone could see a larger print once the demo time was complete. Children were a little disappointed about not having anything to take home but the event was drop-in based so the school could not predict how many kids were coming and we would have felt awful not having enough to hand out. We did create "how to" TinkerCad sheets so that children could use 3D printing design software and create something on their own. Parents were impressed with the machine's capabilities and couldn't wait to drop by in the summer to print, especially since it is free!

Will and I also hosted a 5th grade library tour with 15 or so students. Participants wanted to learn a little about the history of the building and see all of the depart-

ments. They also brought their library cards so that they could explore and check out items at the end of the tour. Will introduced them to the 3D printer and gave them a little demo on how it operates. Once again, everyone was really impressed and since we knew how many children were coming we printed musical notes as a summer reading reminder since this year's theme is *Libraries Rock*.

Katy's final Teen Café was well attended with 15 teens spending the afternoon in the auditorium. Since she is on hiatus for the summer we decided to give kids access to our closet full of games by creating a display board in the Youth Services Department. Jenn took a photo of every game in the closet so that kids can see what we have to offer as they make their way around the rotunda. Katy also told the Teen Café attendees that we were opening up our game closet in hopes that they will continue to drop in throughout the summer. This is also another great way families and friends can socialize at the library!

Finally, the Library staff has formed an Instagram committee, which I am spearheading. We are hoping to "up" our social media game by providing behind the scenes content, programming videos and little challenges in hopes of interacting with the public in a graphic way. Follow us at **blackstone_library** to join in the fun.



An ARTrageous Shout Out

From the Director, continued

I also had an opportunity to talk about the renovation on Vinnie's radio show. The local support for the project is fantastic, and I appreciate the board members who came to the event.

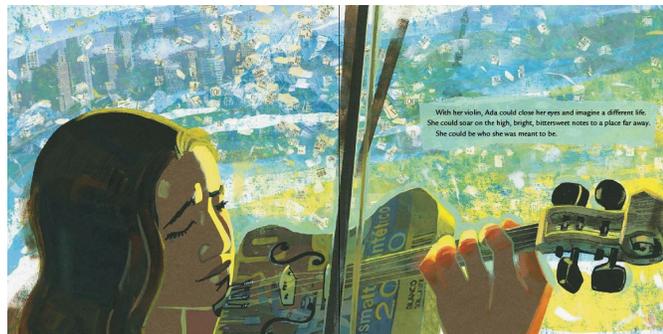
Downes Construction held a walkthrough for prospective bidders at the library on June 26. The project has gone out to bid, and the bid opening is scheduled for July 24 at 2pm at the Fire Station. We are all ready to get the project started and looking forward to a ground breaking that will take place in late August/September.

Finally, I attended a Friends of CT Libraries annual meeting, my final CLA meeting as Past

President, and a focus group for LION's strategic planning process. I volunteered for the Rotary Club's book sale tent at the Branford Festival, and attended the New Haven Free Public Library's grand opening of Ives Squared, a new collaborative space at the main library.

Many thanks to the trustees and campaign committee members who volunteered to sell raffle tickets at the Branford Festival. Eunice Lasala, Susan Barnes, Sandy Baldwin, Maryann Amore and Robin Sandler sold 11 tickets and helped raise awareness for the project.

Karen Jensen



Ada's Violin by Susan Hood is featured in a Storywalk® in windows of Branford Town Center Merchants this summer.

the
GREAT
American
READ

Stop in for a ballot, mark your favorites, and enter to win a prize!

Highlights from the Reference Department-May

May saw the rollout of our new catalog overlay, PIKA. Deirdre and Debby have been attending meetings to learn about the new catalog, so that we could prepare the staff for patron questions. Response has been positive for the most part; there is a bit of learning required to utilize the new catalog completely. The biggest change is the ability to view all formats for a title on a single page. When a search is made, every format including book, large print, audiobook, DVD or ebook appears immediately in the search results. Blackstone patrons are also able to see if a title is available in our

Hoopla or Kanopy collections.

There are a number of customizations that are possible with the new catalog; Debby will be working on those, to provide a number of new lists that patrons can browse. We hope to include new items, reading lists for the schools, our ever growing collection of reader's advisory book lists including mystery, historical, romance, humor, staff picks, war stories and much more.

During the month of May, the library was fortunate to have two interns working with us. Joey Pekar worked primarily

with Karen and the Reference Department on several archiving projects. He scanned and organized a large collection of photographs taken during our last renovation. He copied a number of library related VHS tapes to DVD format so that we have easier access to them and a second more durable format.

Deb Trofatter



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

...more than books

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

July/August 2018 Program Highlights

Programs with ** require registration. Call the library at 203.488.1441 ext 318, or visit the website: www.blackstonelibrary.org

Drop In Tech Help**
August 1 @ 6:15—7:30 pm
Having trouble downloading ebooks through OverDrive? Need help on a Microsoft Word document? Can't figure out how to email a picture from your iPhone? Drop in to the Lucy Hammer Room for some tech help! No registration required. Help available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ask a Lawyer**
July 19, August 16 @ 6 pm
A free consultation with a lawyer, brought to you by the New Haven County Bar Association.

First-come, first-served. Signup available in the Reference Department 30 minutes before program.

Uncover Branford**
July 21, August 11 @ 10:30 am—12pm
Share your favorite Branford spots and plan an outing as a group to visit and uncover new places in town.

Books & Brews
July 25, August 29 @ 6-8 pm
Each month, there are 2 titles to choose from, each with its own discussion group to take part in. Meets at Thimble Island Brewery.

Bestsellers Book Club**
July 28, August 25 @ 3:30 pm
We'll discuss *Love and Ruin*

by Paula McLain in July and *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai in August. Copies available at the library—all are welcome! *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Sewing 101: 2-Part Series**
Part I: Patterns**
July 24 @ 6 pm
In this first class of the series, you'll learn how to take proper measurements, choose a pattern and interpret all its components.

Part II: Zippers, Buttons, Snaps & Hems**
July 28 @ 10 am
In this second part of the series, you'll learn a variety of useful finishing skills.

You may register for one, or both classes in the series.

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

May 2018 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 11,541
May 2017: 12,265

borrowIT: 2,443
May 2017: 2,918

Renewals: 2,920

Downloadable Circulation:
Overdrive ebooks: 869
Overdrive audiobooks: 313
RB Digital (Zinio): 99
Hoopla: 258 plays
Kanopy: 69 plays
Pronunciator: 357 users

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed 5 Loaned 7

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
17 programs/252 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
6 programs/79 attendance

School-age (6-11)
1 programs/3 attendance

All Ages
0 programs/0 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 29
Total Attendance: 602

Teen Programs (12+)
4 programs/11 attendance

Adult programs

13 programs/128 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room
62 meetings/211 attendance

Computer Sessions: 1954

Facebook: 1,531 Likes

MailChimp: 7,214 subscribers

Average Daily Visitors: 453
Days Open: 30