



Report to the Board of Trustees

March 5, 2014

From the Director

After several months involving planning, training, and careful consideration of all the information we present digitally, I'm so pleased to announce that our new website will be ready to launch this month. The URL will be the same as the current one for a seamless transition.

Check out our new Website!

The new site is launching in early March with the same address as the current site. The new design incorporates all our new logos, has a distinct look for adults, kids and teens, and is more streamlined. It also incorporates features to keep our programs and digital collections always visible on the home page.

We met with the First Selectman on February 27 to discuss our budget request. We are asking for a 3.5% overall increase which includes increases in insurance rates and staff raises. The budget also incorporates the new development plan adopted by the board.

AKV has completed the renderings for the building project. We held a building committee meeting to discuss approaching the press for coverage of the project. We anticipated that coverage would happen in the next few months. Steve Mazzacane from the Branford Seven was very interested in the project and he posted an article describing it on February 20. While an article in the press is usually a good thing, online comments from readers was not what we had hoped.

I nominated the Diversity program held on January 25 for inclusion in the CLA's



Karen Jensen, Alice Pentz and Donna Gibson promoting Shakespeare

"Libraries Change Lives" showcase at the State Capital on April 16. Twenty libraries will be chosen.

Shakespeare's 450th birthday in April is getting close. Publicity has gone out and a group of English teachers from BHS have registered to read Macbeth as a group during the 24-hour marathon reading on April 25 & 26.

We have some new staff members in the circulation department. Christina Kondziela was promoted to fill an open full-time position; Jenna Anthony and Kristen Smith were hired to fill part-time openings.

Congratulations to Emily Carruthers and Chris Hein who were married at the library on February 8.

I met with our development consultant, Ron Katz on February 28 to begin implementing aspects of our new plan.

The CLA conference is scheduled for April 28 & 29; I will participate in a panel discussion with other library directors entitled "The Secret Life of a Library Director" designed to give participants an honest look at what it is like to hold the position.

In the community, I attended rotary meetings, read stories to a class at the Sliney School in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, attended toastmasters meetings.

The library will be closed on the morning of Friday, March 21 for staff inservice training. We will open at 1:30 that day.

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*

This Month in the Youth Services Department—January

This month we were very pleased to welcome Ariel Wander, our first intern from Southern Connecticut State University! Ariel is in her final semester of obtaining her MLS and is interested in becoming a children's librarian. She is getting hands-on experience in the department's daily operations, updating the parent collection to include materials on foster care and adoption, children's programming and sharing new ideas. Ariel worked very closely with foster youth when she lived in CA; she is working on developing a connection between the library and foster homes/group homes in our community as part of a school project.



Don't miss the newly decorated book carts in the teen room!

This month we also celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by inviting CT author Josh Chalmers to read his book *How to Change the World before Bedtime*. The shows how kids of all ages can make a difference in their community and we then paired this with a short biography about Martin Luther King Jr. and the ways in which he planted seeds of change for the entire country. We closed out the program by asking our participants to illustrate ways in which they can promote change in their schools and homes. Many of them drew pictures of them helping their neighbors or planting trees. It was a great way for them to see that change is not only achievable but also that the smallest acts can mean just as much. Our participants' work can be found on display in the Youth Services Department.

Please feel free to stop by and enjoy.

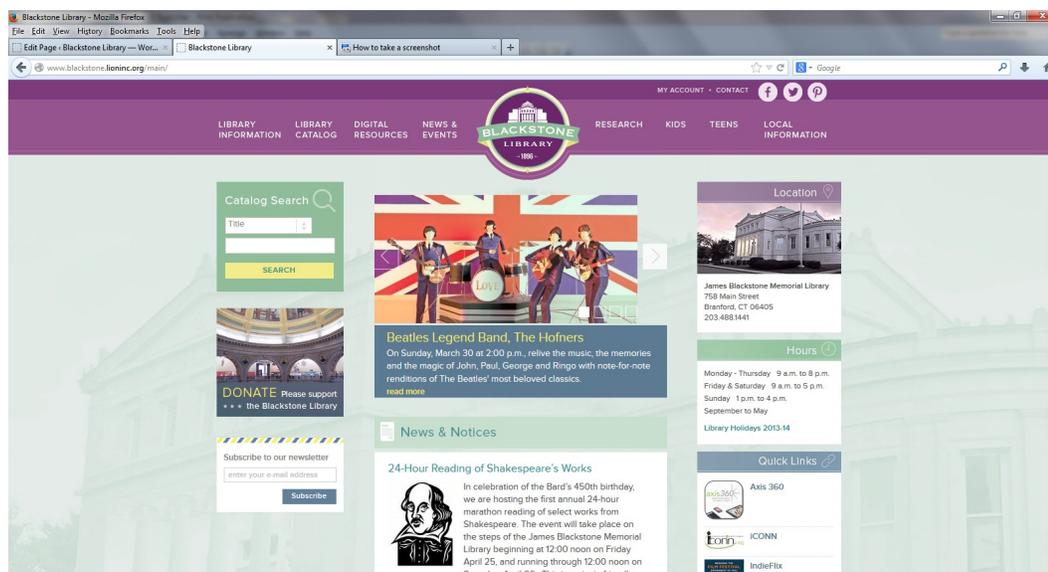
Our Teen Advisory Board meeting was a working session where we planned new programming for the coming spring: a tech-take-apart session and an improv class with a Shakespearean theme! We also spent a good half hour composing teen book reviews, the link can be found on our website so that anyone can participate from home. The reviews are essentially book slips that are printed, placed in the corresponding book and put on display in the teen area in order to give guidance when looking for new authors or genres. The display looks amazing and Katy has been doing her best to keep up with the coming and going of these titles. We also invited the TAB to take part in Take Your Child to the Library Day. This year's theme is – Winter Olympics, so we will need lots of help manning different events in the auditorium. They seemed excited about the event and we look forward to working with them next month.

Participants in *Tech this Out* are creating stop-motion videos for the kids webpage. One of the first ideas they came up with was creating videos that ask children to sequence events! We are starting with commonly known stories like: The Little Red Hen, Goldie Locks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood. Creation of these videos will be our project for the spring.

We worked with the school district this month to host an English Language Learners breakfast for parents who have children in all three elementary schools. The breakfast provided parents with Common Core information, reading strategies and a library tour. We also talked a little about our iPad loaning program where families can check them out for in-house use with their library card. We were able to download a couple of ELL appropriate apps ahead of time including: sight word Bingo, games that identify idioms as well as a "sentence builder" that allows users to create grammatically correct sentences based on different activities. We also do our best to purchase apps that provide language support – meaning that the story can be read aloud in different languages or the directions can be translated in hope that everyone will be able to take advantage of the iPads.

Miss Mary and I were treated to a Monday morning surprise by students from Saint Mary's School during Catholic Schools Week. The children came to the library bearing baked goods and thank you cards—now on display throughout the department. The morning was simply delightful and a huge testament to the time and effort Miss Mary puts into visiting the school. Thank you Saint Mary's for thinking of us!

—Carly Lemire



January Highlights from the Reference Department

Neither rain, nor snow nor sleet nor gloom.....

The reference department spread a lot of warmth and cheer to our library community in simple and personal ways that really mattered despite the relentless snow and cold that January 2014 brought to Branford and beyond.

Our homebound patrons did not lose out on their weekly deliveries because of the snow. When S.A.R.A.H was unable to get here because of the difficult driving conditions, the reference department staff (Barb, Deb, and Whitney) stepped up and delivered books and DVDs to these deserving patrons.

Katy began "Teen Time" aka "Teen Space" in the auditorium for middle and high school students: a safe and welcoming place to study, to play a game, to chat.

On January 15th, Blackstone Library hosted our first Game

Night for Adults. The feedback from the group that attended was very, very positive and we will be scheduling another Game Night soon. Whitney organized the event and we had a hunch that people would enjoy playing games and connecting with new people at the library.

On January 25th, Barbara (along with Carly and Karen) participated in a Diversity Forum which was held at the Blackstone Library. The workshop strengthened my commitment as a department head to stay fully engaged and continue to reach out to everyone in our community.

On January 28th, Deb and Barb held an iPad "show and tell" at the Canoe Brook Senior Center which was full of information and laughs. About 20 seniors attended; most of them brought their own iPads. All left with a tip, and a trick (or two). They were also reminded of our

monthly App Tips n Tricks – another chance to share what they know or learn with others.

When the weather forecast mentions snow, patrons dash into the library to gather books and DVDs. They love asking us for our reading and viewing suggestions and we LOVE helping them find the perfect book or movie to help them relax!

Peter F. loves 70's soul music. Each day, we help him find three songs of his choosing on YouTube - ideally featuring Soul Train dancers.

Reference department staff helped out in Circulation and Youth Services Department all month because of ongoing staff injuries and absences. They know that the greater good of the library - serving our library patrons efficiently and happily - is one of the most important things they can do each day.

Thanks to Carly, Debby, Katy, and Whitney for a great job on the new website.

—Barbara Cangiano



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March 2014 Program Highlights

Tech Tuesdays by appointment
one-on-one sessions with a
librarian for tech help.

Knitting: Wednesdays 6:00 PM

App/Tablet Tips 3/5 @ 6 PM

Yoga: Mondays @ 5:00 PM
March 3, 10, 17, 24

Musical Arts Society Presents:
Debra Cowan
3/7 @ 7:30 PM
A capella and guitar.

2nd Tuesday Book Club
3/11 @ 6:15 PM
Invisible Bridge by Julie
Orringer

Ask A Lawyer 3/20
@ 3:30-5:30 PM

Audubon Society:
David Sibley 3/12 @ 7 PM
Introducing the newest edi-
tion of the *Sibley Guide to*
Birds—talk and book signing.

Softer Side of Celtic: Jeff Snow
3/15 @ 2-7:30 PM

Eating Disorders & Body Image
3/17 @ 6-7 PM
With Margo Main.

Teen Advisory Board
3/17 @ 6-7 PM
For all teens who want a voice
in the library.

Game Night
3/19 @ 5:30-7:30 PM

Off the Beaten Path CT
3/25 @ 6-8 PM
Join the author, Cindi Pietrzyk,
and learn about the hidden
gems of our state.

Branford Land Trust: Bees
3/26 @ 7 PM

Beatles Legend Band—
The Hofners
3/30 @ 2 PM
Sponsored by the Friends.

Opera Appreciation
3/31 @ 7:00 PM
Lost Art of Letter Writing

January 2014 Statistics—Deirdre Santora & Gennett Grinnell

Total Circulation: 15,146
(January 2013: 16,602)

ConnectiCard: 2,772
(January 2013: 2,776)

Downloadable Circulation:
Overdrive ebooks: **490**
Overdrive audiobooks: **118**
Axis360: **15**
Zinio: **208**

IndieFlix: 114 total patrons
registered; **12** films viewed

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **55**/Loaned **86**

Average Daily Visitors: 525
Days Open: 28

Facebook: 826 Likes

Constant Contact: 3317

Children's Programs:

Babies (0-2)
13 programs/392 attendance

Preschool (3-5)
11 programs/197 attendance

School-age (6-11)
10 programs/371 attendance

Total Children's Programs: 35
Total Attendance: 726

Teen Programs (12+)

3 programs/9 attendance

Adult programs

20 programs/290 attendance

Lucy Hammer Room

75 meetings/178 attendance

Computer Sessions: 2254



Don't miss the Hofners on March 30 as they recreate the Ed Sullivan era with music of the earliest Beatles classics.