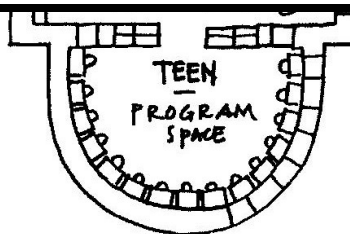


SCHEME 9.2



Director's Report to the Board of Trustees July/August 2013

Building: The Board and members of the staff and community met with Sandra Vlock and Peter Jelley of AKV at the library on August 15 to approve the final concept for a building renovation. A revised budget, narrative and conceptual design will be submitted to the State library on August 30 for approval by the State Librarian. If the modification is approved, the library maintains its eligibility for the \$1,000,000 grant received in 2008.

The rest of the round tables and 3 leather chairs are back from the DOC and they look great!

LION: LION voted to subscribe to Zinio, using consortium reserves to fund it. Bethany Library will be joining the consortium.

E-resources: We subscribed to IndieFlix and the feedback from patrons has been positive. We are still working with Baker and Taylor to develop an "opening day" collection for Axis 360. The process has been more involved than we originally thought. We are almost there.

Development: The development committee interviewed two development consultants and the board voted via email to hire Ron Katz. We met on August 26 to begin planning.

Outreach and Partnerships: I attended the usual Chamber Nonprofits Council meeting, Rotary meetings, and Toastmasters meetings.

Programs and events: Our program planning committee met on July 10 and our calendar is booked for the fall. Shannon Beth Engravale is working with us to enhance the design of our constant contact newsletter.

The children's summer reading program had over 320 children participate and attend a variety of interesting programs.

The reference department held the adult summer reading program for the 3rd year to the delight of those who participated.

Friends of the Library: Held a leadership lunch for book sale volunteers; the annual sale is planned for September 19-22 on the green.

Professional & Staff Development: I attended the NELLs symposium in North Andover, MA from July 29 –August 2.

Reference staff attended workshops on Word-press and community engagement.

Staff completed the process of goal setting for the upcoming year. We agreed that this was a more empowering exercise for identifying our individual strengths and challenges. The process was also an effective way to create department goals that relate to the overall strategic plan.

Finance: Auditors were here in August and are preparing the FY 2012/2013 audit.

Technology: ipads were available to children to use with Branford Schools myOn summer reading program. Carly and her staff are getting the ipads loaded with apps, syncing them

and preparing to incorporate them into children's programs. Staff borrowed ipads this summer to gain better familiarity.

Other:

The summer reading program had over 320 children participate, and excellent attendance at special programs. The grand prize was a Kindle Fire, funded with grant \$. The winner was thrilled!

Rob Kuhne completed a successful summer helping in the children's department. He came to us through a town grant-he was a delight to have around and we would look forward to having him again.

The reference department is starting Tech Tuesdays,-one on one sessions with a librarian to get help with your tech questions.

ESL Conversation group was a hit: we received thank you notes from five of the regular participants.

Meetings Planned for September:

Board of Trustees 9/3
Friends of the Library Meeting 9/3
Branford Rotary 9/4, 11, 18, 25
New Director's Round Table 9/10
Toastmasters 9/11, 25
Staff Meetings 9/25 & 26

September Program Highlights:

- 9/7 Sydney Sherman, Medium
"You are Not Alone"
- 9/10 Dr. Henry Lee
Lessons Learned from Famous Cases
- 9/11 Menunkatuck Audubon-Snakes of CT
- 9/12 '38 Hurricane Revisited with Jane Bouley

*Karen Jensen
Library Director*



Statistics for June 2013

Circulation Statistics

Circulation June 2013	15,659
Circulation June 2012	19,158
CT Car June 2013	3,112
CT Car June 2012	3,543
Books added	385
Audio Visual added	143
Deleted items	402
Overdrive Circulation	553
E-Reader Circulation	0
Average Daily Visitors	633

Youth Services Statistics

Miss Mary's class for Babies - 4 classes, 302 attendants
Miss Mary's class for 2's - 4 classes, 117 attendants
Miss Mary's class for Pre-K - 4 classes, 95 attendants
Miss Mary's outreach classes - 7 classes, 210 attendants
Miss Mary's Stay & Play—4 classes, 45 attendants
Miss Carly's PJ stories - 3 classes, 26 attendants
Miss Carly's School Aged classes - 3 classes, 15 attendants
Saturday Craft - 5 classes, 102 attendants
Russian Puppet Show—20
Popsicle Social—45

Grand Total: 977 attendants

June Circulation and Technical Services—Deirdre Santora and Gennett Grinnell

- Facebook— 712 “Likes”
- Constant Contact—2580
- Downloadable Audiobooks-115
- Downloadable E-books— 438

Circulation staff: Checked out/
Checked in, renewals and holds =
36,717 items in June.

Technical Services staff:

- Cataloging—632 total
 - Processing—601 total
 - Orders received—246 total
 - Mending—96 total
-

Statistics for July 2013

Circulation Statistics

Circulation July 2013	20,194
Circulation July 2012	21,661
CT Car July 2013	3,323
CT Car July 2012	3,702
Books added	505
Audio Visual added	9
Deleted items	174
Overdrive Circulation	604
E-Reader Circulation	3
Average Daily Visitors	642

Youth Services Statistics

Miss Mary's class for Babies - 5 classes, 371 attendants
Miss Mary's class for 2's - 5 classes, 184 attendants
Miss Mary's class for Pre-K - 4 classes, 197 attendants
Miss Mary's outreach classes - 4 classes, 67 attendants
Miss Mary's Stay & Play—2 classes, 42 attendants
Miss Carly's PJ stories - 3 classes, 24 attendants
Saturday Craft - 4 classes, 121 attendants
Special programs—12 classes, 140 attendants
Hobbit Party—25
Arming a Knight—50

Grand Total: 977 attendants

July Circulation and Technical Services—Deirdre Santora and Gennett Grinnell

- Facebook— 737 “Likes”
- Constant Contact—2692
- Downloadable Audiobooks-91
- Downloadable E-books— 513

Circulation staff: Checked out/
Checked in, renewals and holds =
46,035 items in July.

Technical Services staff:

- Cataloging—548 total
- Processing—525 total
- Orders received—424 total
- Mending—183 total

Highlights from Reference June/July—Barbara Cangiano

It's summer again and for public libraries, that means Summer Reading programs and events! Deb worked diligently to get the website updated with information about Summer Reading at the Blackstone Library which includes the programs and reading lists for K-4 "Dig into Reading", for grades 5-8 "Beneath the Surface" and for adults "Groundbreaking Reads".

Barbara worked with Jessica Lynch from the ERACE program to organize a weekly ESL conversation class which began on June 5th and runs through July 31st.

Barbara was Blackstone Library's hostess (and room setup designee) for a Business Development Workshop which was held in the auditorium on June 6th. The workshop sponsored by Branford Economic Development and CTWorks was an opportunity for Branford businesses to learn how to access various state sponsored employer programs and services to help build or increase the skills of their workforce. Unk DaRos and several other town employees as well as Ed Lazarus from the Chamber of Commerce attended as did representatives from

10-12 local businesses. Another workshop is being considered for the fall.

We set up a table in the rotunda for the East Shore Health District so that they could conduct a community dental survey. It was a success and they came back again in July.

We inventoried and boxed 56 reels of microfilm to be digitized by Advantage Companies in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The microfilm contains clippings about Branford from various newspapers between 1896-1956 (scattered years.) When these reels are digitized, the articles will be available to the public through a link on our website. This project is possible by a generous gift from the Friends of the Library.

A sampling of some fun reference questions: I need Stephen King books written in Polish; where can I buy L'Occitane en Provence products near Branford; What's a chiweenie?

June/July News from Youth Services—Carly Rencsko

This year's summer reading theme is "Dig into Reading," which we are promoting in a variety of ways: Carol has created a underground bulletin board showing children what can be found above and below ground. Children will "pepper" the board with personal book recommendations that look like flowers.

Our "Dig into Reading" theme also expands into programming. Some of our digging programs include: Exploring the Titanic, Arming a Knight, and Science of Soil, where participants will be exposed to composting and the importance of dirt! All of these programs have been made possible by grants we have received from the Guilford Savings Bank, Linda Loeb Foundation and the generosity of the Friends of the Library.

On Saturday June 15th Miss Mary and I kicked off the summer reading program at the Branford Festival, signing up over 80 children. Our sign up numbers increased throughout the month as Stephanie and I traveled to the local elementary schools to talk about the program. We also put together a little fossil puzzle where

teams had to work together to dig for fossils/puzzle pieces and assemble them into their original forms so that they could identify the dinosaur! By July we had well over 300 children sign up by the end of the month and still have children coming into sign up throughout August.

We also started a brand new summer reading outreach component, with the YMCA enrichment camp. Each week a Blackstone Library representative visited the camp to track reading, discuss books and offer prizes and books as rewards. The program helps us to stay in contact with children that may not be able to visit the library throughout the summer because their parents work. The YMCA camp also puts together a quiet reading corner with the help of Read to Grow so that they are taking a break throughout their camp stay to read. Children are asked to bring a book from home OR they can choose something from the library that Read to Grow has provided.

Some of our most well attended programs this summer included our Hobbit Party, for children entering 5th

grade and up. Participants were assigned Elf names and wrote in Elf script to answer trivia questions and solve riddles. We created a Hobbit scavenger hunt throughout the building that got everyone hunting for Hobbits. We then closed the evening by watching the movie and eating pizza!

Arming a Knight program, was provided by the Higgins Armory Museum in MA. A historian talked about the Medieval age and what it takes to become a proper Knight. The historian suited up in knight's armor and showed participants various types of weapons that were used throughout history. Pictures of the event and the historian in full Knight gear can be found on our Facebook page.

Miss Mary and I started our Friday afternoon "Can You Dig It" story-times for babies through age five. Each week Miss Mary and I focus on a different underground topic like: bugs, buried treasure, plants. exc. Children and their caregivers participate by taking part in music and movement, rhymes and a craft.
