



January 28, 2008

Director's Report to Wilton Library Trustees

Our vision: *The center for discovery in the heart of our community.*

Our mission: *Informed and inspired minds, enriched and connected lives.*

Staff

- We hired a new Head of Circulation, Karen Zeibak, a librarian originally from Ridgefield who had been working at the University of Kentucky Medical Center. We bid a very sad farewell to Karen Tatarka who had formerly held that position as she made her way to Georgia to join her husband at Fort Benning.
- Mary Anne Franco and I attended the Trendspotting conference at the University of Harford. This annual gathering concentrated on open source solutions this year and, among other things, confirmed our verdict that open source ILS (integrated library system) solutions are not ready for prime time yet. Our Technology Committee had come to this conclusion earlier in the year. Mary Anne is part of two Connecticut groups studying the potential for a statewide ILS.

Program & Service Highlights

- Our Holiday Party, the Holiday Walk, Kit Smith's talk on energy and the Healthcare Options Community Discussion drew the largest crowds of adults, the visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus (thanks to Lesley Keogh and her sainted husband!), holiday crafts, and vacation week movies were all big draws for the kids. Wreath making and Xbox were hits with teens.
- Following up on the Crosstown Express program, we met with representatives from Trackside, Wilton Family Y and Wilton Youth Services to discuss future collaborative events.
- Children's Library has a new policy of bringing books into all programs to encourage reading and checkouts prove this to be a great initiative.
- We have added new materials on Home Schooling to the Parent's Shelf and will be reaching out to families who home school to better serve this segment of the community.

Circulation and Usage Statistics

- Rentals were light in December, with fees collected by Wachovia Securities, the Dispute Settlement Center, the ACLU, Grumman Hill Homeowners, Wilton Public Schools Parents' Workshop, the Retiree Club of Wilton, and the Music Teachers Association. Holiday parties were held in the Brubeck Room by the Wilton Garden Club, the Encore Club, and the Wilton Moms Club.
- Circulation was up almost 9% for the first half of our fiscal year, with teen circs leading the way at a plus 15% over the same period last year, followed by adult circs up 8% and children's circs up 9%.
- We held a total of 54 programs with a total attendance of 1510. These numbers were up 32% and 19% respectively over December of last year.

Technology

- Upgrades to our print management (LPT1) and time management (PC Reservations) software were made successfully.
- Work continues on the migration of our website to Wordpress, a software solution that will allow for new functionality, ease of navigation, and interactivity. We anticipate the rollout of our new design by early February.

Construction, Building and Maintenance

- We began a massive cleanout of both basements, turning over virtually the entire "new" basement to the Booksale volunteers and removing unwanted furniture and equipment.
- Our wiring was connected for the front ramp heater coils to prevent icy conditions.

Development

- We participated in the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Walk and held the annual Holiday ("Glogg") Party for all Friends of the Library. Both were great successes – particularly the latter in spite of a power failure that made our candlelight the only light source in Wilton Center. We have vowed to turn down the lights every year from now on for this event, but maybe we will keep the heat on.
- A year-end evite went out, urging folks to make their annual donations and several sent them in or donated online (through January 5th, we have had 30 online donations for a total of \$9,500).
- As of January 5th, our Friends campaign had achieved 57% of goal, just about 12% off last year's mark. 600 gifts have been made for over \$125,000 so far.
- Our Giving Tree and Christmas Book sale were quite successful (record-breaking results for the latter!), bringing in funds to be used for operations (book sale) and specific collection, program and technology items (giving tree).