



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 Suzanne Verrilli as a new Shelver to fill some hours that had been lost due to departures. Interviewing was underway in January to replace two part-time Circulation Assistants.
- The Library was closed for a day due to snow and either had delayed openings or early closings due to bad weather conditions.
- A peer recognition program (Hats Off) was initiated in the Circulation Department to build awareness of exceptional service among those on the front lines.
- Mary Anne Franco conducted a Twitter for Business class for the Fairfield Network of Executive Women. She presented an Internet training session for a Girl Scout troop (thanks to Trustee Diane Wilson). Lesley Keogh led a Cub Scout troop on a tour of the Library, and she and Andrea Falkner read stories to children at the Wilton Community Day School.
- We met with Wilton's Fire Inspector Rocco Grosso to review our emergency procedures.
- Carolyn Benjamin attended the CLA Executive Board meeting in Middletown and, with other reference staff members and Dave Palmieri, attended an Overdrive demonstration (downloadable e-books and audio books).
- Susan Lauricella coordinated and attended the CLC/YA Roundtable where Wilton's own Colleen Fawcett spoke about dealing with difficult teens.

Program & Service Highlights

- Our Notaries Public provided 43 notarizations in January – a record!
- All full-time staff members worked on a rotating schedule to monitor a study hall in the Brubeck Room just before mid-terms. This program worked increasingly well over the several days to relieve pressure on the other seating areas and study rooms, because we were packed to capacity with students during this period.
- The Fish Tank has several new invertebrate residents (urchins, snails and hermit crabs) – our large "bully" fish was returned to the fish store for bad behavior.
- Robert Rivest, a comedic mime, entertained 160 children and parents on a school vacation day. Other high-attendance programs for the month of January included the art reception for Mixed Talent (123), Reflections reception (93), Civil War seminar (235), Race to Nowhere screenings (300 in total), CT's Own concert with Kevin Briody (137).
- We've just begun another book club – this one for children in grades 1-2 ("Great Reads, Great Kids"). It was off to a good start in January. We served as the voting location for the 2010 Nutmeg Award and held a party for our WINRs Circle to celebrate the conclusion of the process.
- Our Book Nook painting was completed by Bonnie Sailer and Ed MacEwen and the furniture has begun to arrive (beanbags and pillows) to make this a cosy and delightfully welcoming spot.
- We introduced a non-fiction Blu-ray collection (with items purchased with Giving Tree donations).

Circulation and Usage Statistics

- Circulation for July through January continued down 9% from the same period last year. Our teen collection showed a 4% decrease, children's materials circulated 11% less and circulation of adult materials was down 9%.
- Our drive thru visits averaged 23 per day in December – down 8% from January 2010. Library visits as a whole were down 6% year-to-date compared to last year (for the month of January alone, visits were up significantly).
- Use of our Express Check stations has grown 30% since last year (July –January).
- Measures of activity year-to-date beyond circulation and visits were up almost across the board, with room rentals up 18%, computer use up 2%, and program attendance up 1%. We are experiencing a year-to-date 12% drop in reference questions and an 8% decrease in in-house use of materials.
- We tweeted 36 times in December and now have 251 followers. Our Facebook page statistics were temporarily unavailable. We use these two media primarily to promote programs and fundraisers.
- Rentals brought in just over \$1,245 in January. Those who used our spaces included the Perrin Family Foundation, Wilton Go Green, Hindi USA, Wilton Patch, Main Street Connect, and the Wilton Arts Council. 254 study room uses took place during the month – the vast majority at no charge.

Technology

- We implemented a Google Apps upgrade that now allows access to documents from home.
- Our Internet cable service line was replaced and another access point was added to eliminate dead areas in the building.

Construction, Building and Maintenance

- Our roof was shoveled on January 31st to prevent structural damage (this was repeated in February)
- We coped with more major snow storms and their aftermath, renting a bobcat to keep the drive-thru open and reclaim parking spaces.
- Dave Palmieri continued to work with our engineers and electricians on the basement flooding issue. Work is proceeding according to schedule. He also attended a meeting with CL&P to learn more about the future and how it may impact our rates.

Fund Raising & Miscellaneous

- We worked on assembling photos for the fund raising video planned for our benefit, "Beyond Words." Department heads brainstormed areas that should be covered by the video.
- We promoted the February 16th Gina Barreca luncheon. A total of 80 can be accommodated.
- The Beyond Words webpages were launched, with forms for participation of all kinds. Planning has been intense for the event with a large and energized group of committee members working on all aspects of the April 1st event.