



## 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

- G Marissa Antosh, our shelving manager who works on both the circulation desk and the Children's Library, has won a scholarship from a regional library organization to help with her graduate school tuition. We currently have three staff members pursuing MLS degrees.
- G Mary Anne Franco and I attended the Public Library Association symposium and devoted two days to learning about social networking tools – how they can be integrated into our efforts and used to promote library programs and collections.
- G Karen Ziebak, our new Head of Circulation, has begun to work as part of the reference team as well. All of our reference librarians have assignments beyond the reference desk – most serve as department heads in addition to their reference duties.

### Program & Service Highlights

- G Our concerts continue to draw big numbers – during March, the Rex Cadwallader Trio (Connecticut's Own) and The Virginia Mahew Quartet (Hot & Cool Jazz) packed the Brubeck Room.
- G A three-part scholarly 3-part series on Genesis done in collaboration with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church drew lively and appreciative crowds to each session.
- G We had a capacity crowd for authors Adriana Trigiani and Todd Johnson.
- G The Lincoln series produced with the Wilton Historical Society drew just over 100 each for Harold Holzer and Paul Finkleman at its conclusion in March. I am hopeful that we can begin planning for the third series of this kind for 2010.
- G An adoption workshop drew more than 100 to the Brubeck Room and a visit from our new US Congressman, Jim Himes, had 71 in attendance.
- G Kids enjoyed a broad pallet of programs in March, with Tales to Tales and the Fancy Nancy Soiree (both terrific photo ops in addition to great fun) leading attendance chart.
- G *Poetry in Motion* played to capacity crowds – this third year of the program for teens was tremendously successful. I was privileged to attend an encore production at the Clune center just a couple of weeks ago where more than 500 students watched their peers perform the show. It was thrilling – beyond thrilling – to see the culmination of all our efforts in this impressive venue. The response of the audience was exhilarating to the performers – many of whom were performing their own material on very personal challenges they have faced. Kudos to Susan Lauricella for all her hard work!

### Circulation and Usage Statistics

- G Circulation for July through March was up 9.5% over last year for the same period. Our teen collection led the way with a 17% increase, children's materials circulated 8% more, and adult materials went out 10% more.
- G Our website visits (502,584 year-to-date) are above last year's total, up 5% from July-March this year over last. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the much anticipated rollout of our new design should boost usage.
- G Library visits totaled 203,617 for July through March, up 10% over the same period last year.
- G March statistics for the drive-thru included a 14% increase over March last year, the highest total visits for a month (567) and for a day (40 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>).
- G Other indications of increased year to date usage include in-house use of books/magazines - up 21%, computer use – up 19%, room rentals up 32%, inter library loan up 19%, reference questions up 31% when compared to last year – wow! These are unprecedented gains in service provided to the community
- G We began in January to keep track of study room usage and have recorded 331 such uses through March – note that these numbers don't include "walk-in" uses that don't go through the reservation system.
- G During March we had 49 adult programs (1,682 attendees), 10 teen programs (582 attendees), and 36

- children's programs (602 attendees), for a total of 95 programs with 3,105 attending.
- G Room rental income in March totaled \$1,640. The biggest money makers were rentals by Canine Fence Company, Wilton Garden Club, Wilton Newcomers Club (their annual fundraiser), and a private Bat Mitzvah ceremony and reception. We provided free space for the following town agencies: Wilton Police Department (awards and exams), CERT, Wilton Energy Commission, Wilton Fire Department (Fire Academy training), and the Wilton Public Schools.
  - G Because of the increase in circulation in general and particularly of DVDs that require cleaning before they are reshelfed, our Tech Services staff and those in the Administrative area came to the rescue, helping the Circulation Department cope with the demand without adding hours to the schedule. An additional benefit was the boost in morale for our hard working front desk staff.
  - G During March the entire adult computer book section was reclassified as was the section on architects – both projects will improve access and boost usage of those collections. The subject authorities project has been completed by our Tech Services staff as well, with more than 20,000 duplicate subject headings were eliminated from the catalog. This, too, will aid in customer (and staff) locate items on the shelves.

### **Technology**

- G We have begun to circulate our Kindle – the book, magazine and newspaper reader. Because of the way in which items are selected and purchased for the Kindle, we needed to take special care in writing the policy for its loan and use. We look forward to providing the device to customers to try!
- G A second Self-Check station has been ordered for the Children's Library with the proceeds from last year's Ladies' Night. This station promises to be very popular with both children and their caretakers – and will significantly cut down the noise and lines we currently experience in the Gallery.
- G Upgrades have been installed for both PC Reservations (governs our wired computer usage throughout the building) and LPT I (governs the printing and payment from wired networks in our Adult, Teen, Children's and Lab areas). Hats off to Dave who worked with the vendor tirelessly to make the conversion work properly for LPT I.

### **Building & Grounds**

- G Bulbs emerged in the Northeast Courtyard and our furniture (including newly cleaned umbrellas) has been deployed. The fountain will be turned on when the weather warms.
- G A solar station (with two panels) has been installed on the roof and is connected to the kiosk in the Gallery that educates folks with facts about solar energy and shows how much our panels are producing with a live display.
- G All beds have been cleaned and remulched and we are working on sand removal so that we can restripe the parking lot.
- G Lydia Wallis, one of our gardening volunteers, has obtained a promise of free work on curbing to protect the south gardens from mason extraordinaire, Nick Vona.