



## 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

- During April, ten of our staff members attended the Connecticut Library Association Conference in New Haven. We listened to authors, publisher, and bookstore owners. We learned about green technology, integrated library systems, open source solutions, children's and teen programming, trends in cataloging and reference, met a past poet laureate and a John Adams impersonator, talked about dealing with difficult people, branding, and managing employees in an effective and risk-free way...the list goes on and on. Everyone came away with new energy, inspiration, and tools to use.
- Carolyn Benjamin, Mary Anne Franco, David Palmieri and I attended an AutoGraphics product demonstration. This marked the beginning of our research into a new ILS (integrated library system).
- Our new Head of Children's Services, Andrea Falkner, trained throughout the month in preparation for her full-time employment in that position starting mid-May. We are most grateful to Eileen Caulfield, former Head of the Children's Library, for her oversight of the transition process.

### Program & Service Highlights

- We ceased the mailing of overdue notices and will save a significant amount of money on postage, printing, and labor. Staff members have stepped up their continual efforts to get folks to sign up for email notification of reserves and due dates with Library ELF.
- A scavenger hunt, discussion of databases and services, and a book talk were held at the Library for almost 30 Ridgefield Academy 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, thanks to Teen Librarian Susan Lauricella.
- We began circulating two Kill-A-Watt meters so customers can test their own appliances for energy efficiency at home.
- Reference staff members answered more than 60 questions about tax forms during the season – many more customers came in or consulted our website to download or copy forms and instructions on their own.
- Several environmental programs were held during Earth Week – including a huge multi part offering on Sunday. This continues to be a celebration that the community embraces and attends in robust numbers to learn and participate.
- *Poetry in Motion* included the creation of a book and all three performances (one at the Clune center) were smash hits! 89 Teens participated and hundreds attended. We have had two offers to fund the program for next year.

### Circulation and Usage Statistics

- Circulation for July through April 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.
- Our website visits (557,421 year-to-date) are above last year's total, up 3% from July-April this year over last. We expect that the revamped website will boost usage.
- Library visits totaled 234,974 for July through April, up 10% over the same period last year.
- We had 514 drive-thru visits during April, up 21% from April last year.
- Other indications of increased year to date usage include in-house use of books/magazines – up 18%, computer use – up 22%, room rentals up 32%, inter library loan up 17%, reference questions up 26% when compared to last year – wow!
- We began in January to keep track of study room usage and have recorded 467 such uses through April – note that these numbers don't include "walk-in" uses that don't go through the reservation system.
- During April we had 51 adult programs (6,622 attendees), 2 teen programs (427 attendees), and 36 children's programs (812 attendees), for a total of 89 programs with 7,861 attending. Highest attendance figures were tallied for the Wilton Arts Council reception, a Hot & Cool Jazz performance by Jay and Micheal Leonhardt, talks by authors Sue Miller and Charles Grodin, Earth Day at the Library, two programs on teen issues, Poetry

in Motion, a visit from Dora & Diego, and our Annual Booksale.

- Room rental income in April totaled \$400. Most uses were by town departments, study groups from the High School, Census 2010 and the like and performed a community service but brought in no income. Use of space was constrained to some extent by the Booksale.

### **Technology**

- The new website came up at the end of April. We continue to review and refine it. Initial response is quite positive – people generally love the new look and functionality.
- We are now able to monitor bandwidth usage throughout our networks – this will aid in troubleshooting and maintaining security.

### **Building & Grounds**

- We installed river rocks in the Brubeck Courtyard at the suggestion of landscaping and architecture consultants to cut down on maintenance and beautify the area.
- Mason Nick Vona added Belgian block curbing to the south gardens to protect them from vehicles and sand buildup. He donated both time and materials to the project and we are grateful to Lydia Wallis for arranging this work!
- Seasonal exterior cleanup, weeding and mulching has been completed. We can look forward to parking lot striping and the installation of two major pieces of sculpture in coming weeks. New site and building signage will be delayed until our funding arrives.

### **Development**

- Our Annual Booksale was a success. Although silent and live auctions didn't bring in as much as last year, lower expenses and higher sales made our net close to last year's record.
- We have three fundraising efforts remaining after the booksale – the Annual Appeal's final mailing, Champagne & Caprices, and Beatlemania.