

Director's Report, March 2015

| | March 2014 | March 2015 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Children's books and magazines | 4624 | 4269 |
| Children's media | 376 | 379 |
| Adult books and periodicals | 4557 | 4278 |
| Adult media (DVDs, video games, MP3 and CD books, Music CD's) | 4127 | 3666 |
| Downloadable/Database Usage Ebooks/music/audiobook/movies/mags | 795 | 836 |
| Young adult books | 491 | 488 |
| Periodicals in-house usage | 709 | 296 |
| Microfilm use | 107 | 146 |
| Reference Questions | 2302 | 1753 |
| Computer Assistance at Reference Desk | 436 | 401 |
| Adult Internet Usage | 3732 | 2892 |
| Children's Internet, iPad, Game Computers, Word Processing Usage | n.a. | 644 |
| JPL's wireless usage (counting hand- held devices also) | n.a. | 2293 |
| Children's program attendance, includes class visits, guitar classes, outreach visits | 664 | 120 |
| YA and Adult Program attendance (Library & Community) | 643 | 592 |
| Adult Program Attendance (Library only) | 564 | 341 |
| Young Adult Programs and Outreach | 83 | 28 |
| Electronic Door Counter | n.a. | n.a. |

Note: March Wireless statistics available through new Meraki Router. State requires us to count this.

Adult Program Highlights

Living with Alzheimer's Disease for the Caregiver: Middle Stage, 2-part Series

Thursdays, March 19 and 26, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: Michelle Foster-Carter from the Alzheimer's Association, Greater NJ Chapter.

Attendance: 86

This program was about the symptoms and care needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease in the middle stages. It outlines techniques for managing difficult behaviors and maximizing safety. It also provides information on the supportive services available to help with caregiving responsibilities.. The program was a great success not only because of the number of people in attendance but from the comments that were made verbally and on the written evaluations. The attendees had many questions

related to their personal situations - questions related to driving, bathing, getting a diagnosis, communication, long term care, financial resources etc.

Improve Your Life by Improving Your Health

Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop

Wednesdays in February and March, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Presenter: Dawn Wilkes, MPH, Bergen County Health Services

Attendance: 66

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program is a workshop given two and a half hours, once a week, for six weeks, in community settings such as senior centers, churches, libraries and hospitals. People with different chronic health problems attend together. Workshops was facilitated by two trained Bergen County Health Services leaders. Subjects covered during the six weeks included: 1) techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation, 2) appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance, 3) appropriate use of medications, 4) communicating effectively with family, friends, and health professionals, 5) nutrition, 6) decision making, and, 7) how to evaluate new treatments.

Each participant in the workshop receives a copy of the companion book, living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions, 4th Edition, and an audio relaxation CD, Relaxation for Mind and Body.

"Black History is Every Day"

Thursday, March 5, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Presenter: Tom Puryear, NAACP

Attendance: 31

The NAACP set up a very nice display of items of interest, such as posters and quilts (that have some of



the "slave freedom "maps" stitched into them). The program's framework was the organization's components for all of their meetings, such as the Pledge of Allegiance and the Black National Anthem. Three

students (various grade levels, elementary to high school) read reports they had researched on prominent, though not necessarily well-known, influential African Americans from history. There was a special speaker who outlined various historical, global influences that Africans have had on world history since ancient times. There were refreshments and good conversation after the program.



Informed Investing

March 26, 2015, 7 p.m.

Presenters-Katerina Mantell and David Marella (students from the Seton Hall U. School of Law Investor Advocacy Project)

Attendance: 13

The Investor Advocacy Project is a free clinic started a few years ago at Seton Hall and funded by FINRA, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Katerina and David are two of Seton Hall's star students who were selected to participate in the Project. They began the presentation with a brief introduction and overview of what they do and don't do at the clinic. Then their talk was broken down into sections: how to pick an investment advisor, selecting the best investments for you, how to stay up to date with what's going on in your profile, investment/investment advisor red flags, and what to do if you think something is wrong with your profile.

Though I did not receive many written comments on the evaluation forms I heard from many people that night that they were happy the library had this seminar and that the information they received was appreciated. (Catherine Folk-Pushee)

Book Clubs and Movies:

Book Clubs: 25 Movies: 34

Book Club Highlight:

At our mostly-fiction Book Group on Saturday, March 14. We discussed "A Novel Bookstore" by Laurence Cosse, a story about a handful of people in Paris who decided to open "The Good Bookstore," and carry only the top 600 selections from each of a handful of prominent literary authors (to be expanded as more great novels were written or others suggested). It was an interesting study of human nature, that there were those from different quarters who wanted to denigrate and destroy this bookstore, and the authors chosen to make selections (anonymously!) were attacked physically with intent to harm. The novel was a big hit with the group, and we had a very nice discussion. (Barb Schuit)

Computer Skills, Job Search, and Inspect Your Gadget: Kathryn Cannarozzi, Genesis Jais and Catherine Folk-Pushee, Total Attendance: 37

Individual Computer Assistance is limited to Hackensack residents. Topics this month included: word, PowerPoint, Resumes and Cover Letters, Job Search, Basic Internet Searching, Email. Also 9 individual students for smartphones, interviews, computer virus protection, file management, scanning, apple vs. pc, changing email providers.

Highlight from Catherine Folk-Pushee:

I had a very interesting discussion with a student this month on the qualities of apple products versus pcs. The patron has an iphone and is looking into buying a laptop or tablet and wondering which he should purchase. In my classes I do not recommend one specific type of device over another. Instead, I explain the differences between the two operating systems and have students look up reviews on reputable websites. We found one great article in particular that pitted the iphone head to head with an android phone on 10 different features. The student found the class very informative as well as entertaining which is always a nice result to achieve.

Inspect Your Gadget Report - March

- 5 people attended this month – possibly down due to the severe weather early in the month.
- There are some regular attendees now. They come to Gadget knowing that we can help them, ready with specific questions about the device and issues they are having. This month we had questions about the settings or functions of apps, like getting Zinio magazines and finding directions on Google Maps. (Genesis Jais)

ESL and Spanish Computer Classes, ESL Volunteer Tutor Training, English Conversation, and Bilingual Outreach. Suspended due to Family Leave of staff member.

Young Adult Programs

**Viktor Villanueva (Security Guard) filling in for Teen Tuesdays,
Kate Cannarozzi filling in for YA book club.**

Total Attendance: 28 Teen Tuesdays (Internet, Online Gaming, Board Games)

7 YA Books for Adult Readers (Lips Touch Three Times, by Laini Taylor)

Children's Program Highlights

Huge changes in our department with the retirement of Children's Room icon, Miss Marilyn. We are currently weeding all collections for books which are no longer relevant as well as books which have not circulated for ages, and those that look like yellowed papyrus from Ancient Egypt. We also got rid of all the very old and allergy-producing stuffed animals, which has opened up a skyline of light about the stacks and really freshened up the room. More changes are in the planning stages and we are looking forward to an organized, on point, user-friendly collection as well as a clean and inviting look for the department.

As programming goes, with the weather getting somewhat better, Mother Goose Time and Preschool Story Hour programs are full. Here again, we are in the process of revamping both programs, phasing out certain traditional (archaic?) aspects and adding new audience participation and crafts, with very positive and complimentary feedback from our patrons!

Lego Day is off the hook! Our aspiring architects and designers each week ascend to new heights of amazingdom. We have buildings, vehicles and machines of every variety. We can't wait to see what these kids do as adults.(I will hire one in particular to design my beach retirement home on an isolated island somewhere and library staff and board can be on the guest list.)

Chess Club is also in full swing. I have just ordered some new, weighted chess sets (got 'em for a song) to finish out the session before Summer Reading programming.

Because of another sudden snowstorm, Reading With Rodney was cancelled. He will be visiting us in April and May, barring more snow...

Our craft programs have been in a lull, partially due to the inclement weather. We expect a surge once the weather is warmer and less likely to snow. I have mentioned snow twice now and that will be it.

Video Games on Wednesdays is also a tried and true crowd pleaser. We have no problems getting an excellent group for this program. That's all for this month! (Babette Smith)

Outreach and Publicity

Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center

Tuesday, March 12, 11:00 a.m.

Hackensack Outreach Collaboration Meeting

Library Representative: Sharon Castanteen

Staff changes at the center were announced, as well as a review of winter services and statistics. The statistics were impressive. They placed 751 people in housing since 2009, fed 158,000 meals, and placed 227 chronically homeless in housing. This was the most difficult task and their highest achievement.

Director Mordaga spoke about “troublemakers” who often lied about having a shelter address. These are people who left the shelter because “they didn’t want to follow the rules”. Director Mordaga stated that he attempts to communicate with them that: those are society’s rules also, so you have to follow them in Hackensack as well.

We learned about Zero 2016, which is a nationwide program to end veteran’s homelessness. We were call the Director of the Center if we could identify any veterans who were homeless and spending time in the library so they can get the services they need through the Center.

Hackensack Chronicle

March 20, 2015

Front Page

Photo and caption on “Working Minds at the library”.

Hackensack Chronicle

March 27, 2015

Front Page

Photo and caption on program: “Alzheimer’s and the Caregiver”.

Professional Development

Friends Talk: Booksales

BCCLS, March 18, 2015

Trustee: Kristi Izzo

Time: Two hours

The Friends of the Library usually runs the book sale as part of their fundraising activity. This workshop examined the many ways the book sales are conducted and the ways that used books are part of a revenue for the Friends of the Library.

Here are some of the highlights that were reported by Kristi Izzo:

- *Some libraries hold other events in conjunction with a book sale – bake sale, costume jewelry, at the time of the town-wide garage sale*

- *Publicity is important – press releases, local paper (buying ad is inexpensive), flyers placed at local businesses, social media. National websites – www.booksalefinder.com www.booksalepirate.com listing on these sites generally attracts dealers, discussed pluses and minuses of dealers*
- *Need to organize materials so they can be found easily, but doesn't take an inordinate amount of work.*
- *Can do preview dates as a benefits/perk for "friends" members.*
- *Partner with high school for community service volunteers.*
- *Getting rid of unsold or unwanted books is challenging; some libraries have been stiffed by folks who took the books and promised payment but never got a check. Some options: Better World Books, Books for Taiwan, the jail, Veterans groups www.bookforward.net is another option*
- *Understanding your community and its needs is important – the types of books donated could be a good reflection*

Mental Health First Aid

Presented By: NJ State Library

Date: March 24 and March 31

- 5-Step action plan to identify and assist individuals in a mental health crisis, acronym ALGEE
 - A = Assess for risk of suicide or harm
 - L = Listen Nonjudgmentally
 - G = Give reassurance and information
 - E = Encourage appropriate professional help
 - E = Encourage self-help and other support strategies
- Their instructions for assessment is useful when dealing with patrons to help determine if they are stable or if we need to call 9-1-1 or a mental health crisis hotline.
- They provided phone numbers and Internet based resources for locating mental health assistance and support groups.
- This is helpful for patrons asking for assistance or patrons who show signs of distress.
- Information was geared toward library workers in particular so they would feel more confident in approaching and helping someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

Building and Grounds

Camden Street Security Camera Repaired

We also had some signal and software glitches which Dynamic Security had to repair on site.

Lighting Fixtures

We are still having some ballasts problems, but down 85% from before our lighting upgrade. There were a few fixtures that were not part of the upgrade. Three ballasts were repaired this month.

Short in the wiring of the fire alarm

Triad Security Systems spent most of one morning finding the problem and repairing it.

*Respectfully Yours,
Sharon Castanteen*