

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden April 2025

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

May 6, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 135 Number of visitors: 7,238	Number of questions answered: (786 Reference, 236 Technical, 580 Other)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 285,160 Total Added: 426	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 3054 In-house: 1010	
Public Internet Usage]]	Users for the month: 1348	
Room Usage	Room: 25 Bookings, Attendance: 157 Adults, 20 teens, 14 children, 0 virtual	
Programming	Adult Services February Programs • Chess Club, 19 adults total • Computer Class, 69 adults • Crafty Corners, 15 adults	
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 13 Notary: 46	

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	Passport: 4
Adult Services Staff Report	Librarian Jeffrey Coutts: • Continued to make carts for Baker and Taylor, Overdrive and Midwest Tape. • Led meetings regarding programming and next year's programming budget. • Planned for spring and summer programs including author talks and a birdwatching event. • Planned to bring books to the Mozaic Senior Center for the residents to check out. • Completed the "Staff Picks" and "Bridgeport Yesterday" portions of the weekly newsletter. • Administered a live interview with author Cory O'Brien about his new book, Two Truths and a Lie on April 5th. There were 5 people in attendance. The interview was subsequently uploaded to Youtube. • Advertised for the BCIE entrepreneurship center on Facebook. Librarian Adam Cleri: • Conducted Mercy Learn Center Tour • Assisted Laura M. in interviewing for a Library Assistant position • Posted BCIE event promotions on Facebook • Worked with Jaime P. to promote the Palestinian Museum program and display • Recorded a podcast along with Jaime P., and Professor Bucki. • Attended Narcan training given through the City of Bridgeport • Prepared for summer chess tournament program • Weekly, wrote for, edited, and sent newsletters, and posted them on Facebook Librarian Katherine Mozier-Tichy: • Attended CLA 2025 conference • Finalized May programming ◦ Crafty Corner: looking at doing something with fabric & mod podge ◦ True Crime Uncovered: Digging up the Details • Created May Monthly flyer

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- Continued working on Quarter-Acre of Heart Ache book release with team
 - There will be 2 events:
 - Tour & book event at the paugu reservation
- Hosted Mercy Learning Center for multiple tours
- Discovered "New Books Network" - a podcast network of all author/book talks
 - Registered for the Webinar
- Met with Director of Institute for American Indian Studies regarding possible partnership for Mukurtu project
 - Mukurtu is a digital archival database that is highly customizable and was created to serve Indigenous communities, giving options to suit their information privacy needs through adaptable hierarchical organization

Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center Monthly

Programming Milestones

- Tracing Your Irish Ancestry with Nora Galvin, Saturday, April 26: 9 attended
- Memoir Writing Workshop, Saturday, April, 26: 8, 6 on site and 2 via ZOOM
- CT Innovation and Industry: Sikorsky Aircraft with Art Gottlieb: 6 attended
- BHC hosting travelling art exhibit by Edith Reynolds on 3rd floor.
- Monthly work with Reference Dept. to coordinate programming and budgeting for programming continues.

Staff Development

- Pettit completed her online course on Oral History
- Van Tuyl completed an online course on Records Management

Highlights

- Van Tuyl attended a vital, state-wide meeting run by CT Humanities with 180 participants. The topic: the complete de-funding of the NEH, IMLS, NEA, and therefore the cessation of all grants issued by those bodies and the effect that is having at the state level.

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- Many participants work for organizations that had their funding for major projects cancelled mid-project and many organizations and repositories may not survive until next year.
- This is the gravest situation cultural institutions have faced in the last twenty years.
- It is vital that all residents of CT contact both their federal and state representatives to state their support for funding for the CT Humanities, the State Library and Archives, and cultural organizations and activities in the State in general.
- Reference requests submitted by email, phone, and mail continue unabated.
 - April saw a continued uptick in visitors.
- BHC hosted dozens and dozens of visitors from the Mercy Learning Center. BHC Staff explained the department's offerings and the *My Town, My Story* project so that these newer residents of Bridgeport can contribute to the digital archive.
- After experiencing some technical difficulties, *My Town, My Story* is up and running and receiving contributions.
 - BHC staff have already received and approved entries that are now online.
- Continuing project: Pettit and Van Tuyl together with the assistance of Librarian Vivian Bordeaux have made progress with their inventorying and removal or cataloging of books on the 7th floor. Many items have been either deaccessioned, added to the collection, or have replaced current, identical publications in poor condition. Dozens of works on local history and genealogy have been added to the special collections. CT River Book Auction rep. Tom Gullotta will be coming in May to pick up at least 20 boxes.
- Librarian Assistant Michael Hawkins completed a long-time project for scanning and cataloging the BHC's carte-de-viste and cabinet cards collection.
- BHC was able to send copies of operator's manuals for the A.H. Nilson company's Fourslide machine to a manufacturer in Colorado.
 - Requests for information on industrial equipment occur each year.
- BHC hosted two Barnum scholars this month and one oral history candidate from the Central H.S. class of 1966.
- The BHC donated some 19th Century newspaper issues from California, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Maine, South Dakota, and Louisiana to high level repositories such as state library and archives or state historical societies.
 - All repositories indicated that they did not own the issues donated and they were very pleased to receive them.
 - BHC is still waiting to hear from Vermont, Kentucky, and Georgia to send additional issues.
- Continuing project: Continued corrections/additions to current online sources such as finding aids and collection guides. This is a work-intensive project and takes time. CTDA has eliminated finding aids on its site, therefore the BHC archivists will have to update finding aid records on the CAO and BHC websites. Discoverability of BHC collections is the ultimate goal.
- Continued cataloging work in BHC's collections management software.

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- Maintenance Crew staff B. Cannone and A. Dionisio moved a cabinet and cleaned the floor in the supply's storage aisle on the 7th floor. This is one step in an on-going effort to clean and re-organize the first quarter of the 7th floor stacks and their efforts were much appreciated. A. Dionisio also hung some BHC art on the hallway's plaster wall.
- BHC receives multiple requests, sometimes in one day, for directions to the Literacy Volunteers office. This is a great example of why the Burroughs-Saden building would benefit greatly from professionally produced signage.

Burroughs-Saden Youth Services

Programming:

- Saturday, April 5th, Jordan Alexander returned to offer another session of Inspire Innovation, his engineering program for ages 8-14. We had a good turnout for it, with 9 children participating.
- Additionally, on Saturday, April 5th, we had a We Love Libraries storytime to kick off National Library Week (April 6th - 12th). 12 children and 7 adults attended.
- Saturday, April 12th, we had a Glitter Storytime & Craft. 12 children and 5 adults attended.
- We had several special programs throughout Bridgeport Public Schools' Spring Break, starting with Tin Can Transformers program on Monday, April 14th. 13 children attended and created robots from tin cans as well as other assorted recycled materials.
- Tuesday, April 15th, we planted flowers for our Green Thumbs: Plant for the Planet program. It was a fun program for the 18 children & 9 parents who attended.
- Pixel Pioneers, a mini-course on coding, met on Wednesday, April 16th & Thursday, April 17th. 6 children came for each session and completed the coding class, receiving a certificate.
- On each weekday during Spring Break, we put out drop-in crafts and activity pages. We had a steady stream of visitors, with participation at:
 - Monday, April 14th - 23 children
 - Tuesday, April 15th - 18 children
 - Wednesday, April 16th - 17 children
 - Thursday, April 17th - 20 children
- Monday, April 21st, we had our second session of Making Cents, a 3-part monthly financial literacy series. 9 children and 4 adults attended.
- Earth Day (Tuesday, April 22nd), we made yummy bird feeders to keep some of our fellow feathered citizens of Earth happy & fed! 8 children and 5 adults attended.

Weekly programs

- Saturday Drop-In Crafts
 - April 5th (19 children)
 - April 12th (15 children)

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- April 19th - Library Closed/Easter weekend
- April 26th (12 children)
- Little Learners
 - April 1st (10 children, 6 adults)
 - April 8th (11 children, 7 adults)
 - April 15th (10 children, 6 adults)
 - April 22nd (12 children, 8 adults)
 - April 29th (14 children, 9 adults)
- SlimeTime
 - April 2nd (4 children)
 - April 9th (10 children)
 - April 16th (12 children)
 - April 23rd (8 children)
 - April 30th (12 children)
- Lego Club
 - April 3rd (9 children)
 - April 10th (7 children)
 - April 17th (12 children)
 - April 24th (5 children)

Displays:

- In April, we had book displays about: National Poetry Month, humorous books, Passover, Easter, mindfulness, & spring.
- Our seasonal bulletin board is themed "*I'd Rather Bee Reading*," a colorful celebration of reading, springtime, and our friends, the bees!

Collection Development:

- In response to frequent requests from parents, we have been looking for math, language arts, & science book that focus on homework help.
- We would also like to add a small parenting section to our department, so we are looking for some general titles for our collection.

Continuing Education/Trainings:

- Taslima attended the webinars, *Let's Play! Making and Tinkering with Loose Parts* and *All Things Tonies*, a webinar presented by the Connecticut sales rep for Tonies, a great tech alternative for screen time which have been added to a growing number of library systems throughout Connecticut, as well as many more nationally.
- Ana attended several seminars in April: *Let's Play! Making and Tinkering with Loose Parts*; *Healing Preschool Children After Natural Disasters with Play and Optimism*; *Imagining Our Future: The Essential Role of Climate Fiction and Nonfiction in Shaping Middle Grade Minds*; and *A Strengths-Based Approach to Transforming Your Programs Classroom by Classroom*.

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- Jawon attended several webinars in April: *Libraries and Student Success*; *Elaina Norlin's Constant Burnout in the Workplace*; and a book club discussion on *School Libraries and Youth Services*.
- Kristin attended the Narcan training offered by the City of Bridgeport's Department of Health & Social Services, and a RedSquared training to assist with creating our summer reading site. Kristin also attended the *All Things Tonies* (and won a Tonies kit in a random drawing!) & found it very informative - we would like to discuss adding Tonies to our collection.
- Theresa & Kristin attended an acquisitions training regarding how to add magazines to our collection.
- Jawon & Kate attended the Connecticut Library Association's annual meeting.

Outreach:

- On Friday, April 25th, 16 fifth graders from the Adam J Lewis Academy visited the library to research their projects on individual states. We curated some great books from our collection & also shared how to access digital resources. The teachers asked if they could return on Wednesday, April 30th because the kids were so engaged and focused while working in the library - we were happy to welcome them back.

Katherine Mozier-Tichy

Teen Service:

Finalized May programming

- SRP 2025: continued planning/prepping
 - Working with Kristin & Margaret on the ReadSquared app for teens
- Attended History Day State Contest

Successes/Concerns:

- Letters Are Characters, an organization focused on early literacy education, procured a grant which will allow us to offer 150 *Letters Are Characters* kits to Pre-K students and 100 kits of *Letters Are Builders* to kindergarteners. The founder of the program, Dr. Caroline Wilcox-Ugurlu, has begun delivery of the kits to the library.
- We would very much like to have updated bathrooms in our department. There is an ongoing issue with the faucets, there needs to be a changing table installed in the boys' room, and the doors are rather heavy for children.
- We would also like to add railings to both sets of steps in the Children's Department.