

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden December 2024

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

January 3, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 67 Number of visitors: 5,959 Number of questions answered: (588 Reference, 297 Technical, 575 Other)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 287,870 Total Added: 158
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 3,199 In-house: 2164
Public Internet Usage]]	Users for the month: 1304
Room Usage	Room: 30 Bookings, Attendance: 201 Adults, 62 teens
Programming	Adult Services Chess Club, 19 adults & 2 children total <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12/3, Chess Club, 4 people• 12/10, Chess Club, 4 people• 12/17, Chess Club, 5 adults, 1 child Computer Class, 50 totals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12/4, Computer Class, 12 adults• 12/5, Computer Class, 8 adults• 12/11, Computer Class, 5 adults

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/12, Computer Class, 9 adults • 12/18, Computer Class, 10 adults • 12/19, Computer Class, 8 adults • 12/18, Computer Class, 10 adults • 12/19, Computer Class, 8 adults <p>12/07, Abudion Oyewole, 28 adults 12/11, Vampire Author Talk, 7 adults 12/12, Art Class, 8 adults 12/14, Bridgeport Boys' Choir, 30 people 12/20, Chellist, 17 adults 12/20, Bag Giveaway, 15 adults</p>
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 12 Notary: 40 Passport: 10
Adult Services Staff Report	Librarian Jeffrey Coutts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued making carts of books and DVDs and ordered eBooks, and e-audiobooks through Overdrive. • Conducted two successful virtual programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scary Christmas Lore with author Tim Rayborn on December 5 (25 attendees). ○ Christmas: A Biography with author Judith Flanders on December 19 (15 attendees). ○ Obtained copies of books to giveaway for each program. • Coordinated a holiday music concert with nonprofit, Dignity Music, who perform cello concerts for libraries and other nonprofits. They performed on December 20th. 15 people attended. • Planned programs for the winter including a partnership with the Palestine Museum in Woodbridge. • Planned Black History Month programs for February. • Continued to work with the 3D printer to print bookmarks to go with John's bag giveaway program, and plan for a monthly board game club. <p>Librarian Adam Cleri:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote for edited, and sent weekly newsletters • Made Facebook posts

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- Conducted microfilm search for patron
- Updated phone messages (new library hours; East Side closed; new holiday closings)
- Every week, ran the Burroughs-Saden Chess Club, including teaching with Chess.com lessons & hosting in person games

Librarian Katherine Mozier-Tichy:

- Worked on monthly flyer for January
- Rescheduled programs
- Continued developing SharePoint site
- Started planning for Black History Month
- Restarted discussion about revamping the newsletter, will pursue further with time

Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center Monthly

Programming
Milestones

- Memoir Writing Workshop, Saturday, December 21, 6 attended. BPL internet was down, so several ZOOM patrons were unable to attend.
- BHC helped organize and advertise a program with *The Last Poets* founding member Abiodun Oyewole. This was one of those programs that presented itself as an opportunity too good to pass up even though it was not directly related to the BHC. BHC, as part of Adult Services, regularly discusses programming with colleagues. One thing to note: despite heavy advertising in all manner of media and including at all area colleges, relatively few attendees were there (36) compared to numbers one might have hoped given the stature of the speaker and the topic at hand. Advertising BPL program continues to take a tremendous amount of staff time.
- On December 3rd, the MTMS team + the BHC staff held a meeting to instruct BPL staff and area organizations on the program and how the public can contribute to it. The History Center was selected as a participant in the "My Town, My Story" project. The project is a joint effort b/w the CTDA and CT Humanities.

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Staff Development

- Staff continue to coordinate activities and programs with staff from Adult Services Department, and Youth Services. Jaime Pettit is taking the lead as representing the BHC and planning and coordinating with other departments.
- Michael Hawkins is now tasked with photographing collection items for the BHC's collections management system to fill in gaps in catalog records.

Highlights

- BHC experienced a slowdown in visitors for the month of December as often happens, but there were still many requests submitted by email and phone. Many questions were multi-part, long term research questions.
- BHC received several small donations for the collection and several more offers that are pending.
- 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.
- BHC has coordinated with the other teams in the Adult Services Department, and has planned several programs for the Fall/Winter season. Micro departments are sharing financial resources.
- 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.
- Management and planning for the BHC's storage area continued. There is an ongoing need to buy and implement supplemental shelving as a work around to inadequate storage in the stacks and cages, but there are limitations.
- BHC is attempting to re-organize some items in the office and make sure that all items are accounted for in collection guides and/or the collections management system.
- Continued selected deaccession activities. BHC eBay agent was contacted and he will sell some deaccessioned periodicals that came in with donations in the New Year.

Burroughs-Saden Youth Services

Programming:

- We have a Winter I Spy board just outside the entrance to the department. It's a fun, creative, and popular passive program that has drawn approximately 35 kids to participate.
- Another passive program was decorating our gingerbread house. Over the course of the month, we had about 125 kids participate.
- On Thursday, December 5th, we had our It's A Gingerbread World! Storytime & Craft. It was attended by 8 children and 5 adults.
- Saturday, December 14th was our monthly Saturday Crafternoon & the craft was painting ornaments. 20 children attended.

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- On Wednesday, December 18th, Santa (librarian, Adam Cleri) visited the library! We read stories, did crafts, had some yummy snacks, gave away books (thanks to the generosity of the Friends of BPL) & gift bags. 83 children and 65 adults attended.
- Saturday, December 21st was our planned Hanukkah Storytime & Craft. Unfortunately, we had no attendees; however, that may have been due to the extreme cold and our lack of Internet.
- Saturday, December 28th was our Kwanzaa Storytime & Craft. 10 children and 3 adults attended.
- Tuesday, December 31st was our final program of the year! Our New Year's Rockin' Afternoon had crafts, cupcakes, noisemakers, and a sparkling grape juice toast (at 4pm). 10 children and 6 adults attended.
- **Weekly programs**
 - Saturday Drop-In Crafts
 - December 7th (13 children)
 - December 14th (16 children)
 - December 21st (0 children)
 - December 28th (15 children)
 - Little Learners
 - December 3rd (9 children, 5 adults)
 - December 10th (11 children, 7 adults)
 - December 17th (13 children, 8 adults)
 - December 24th - no program
 - December 31st - no program
 - SlimeTime
 - December 4th (9 children)
 - December 11th, aka Winter Wonderslime (15 children)
 - December 18th - no program/Santa visit
 - December 25th - Library closed/Christmas Day
 - Lego Club
 - December 5th (6 children)
 - December 12th (10 children)
 - December 19th (8 children)
 - December 26th (5 children)
 - Cool Jams (holiday karaoke)
 - December 6th (5 children, 2 adults)
 - December 13th (7 children, 4 adults)
 - December 20th (3 children, 2 adults)

Displays:

- In December, we had book displays about: winter, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's.
- Our seasonal bulletin board is themed *Reading Makes You Bright!*
- We had an incredible gingerbread house, large enough to fit 2-3 kids inside. We also put out decorations for kids to color and add to the house (see programming).

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Collection Development:

- In response to frequent requests from parents, we have been looking for math, language arts, and 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.

Outreach:

- On Monday, December 9th, Kristin and Taslima visited the two fourth grade classes (51 children, 2 teachers) at Columbus School. They gave the students library cards (applications were sent to parents and returned to the school), event calendars, bookmarks, and also gave a presentation on some of our new/popular books.

Successes/Concerns:

- Looking back on the last year, I am continually impressed by, and thankful for, the devotion to the kids in our community shown by members of our Youth Services staff. Looking forward to more fun, more kids, and more great programs in 2025!