

# BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

## Burroughs-Saden February 2025

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

March 6, 2025

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 65 Number of visitors: 5,634 Number of questions answered: (844 Reference, 300 Technical, 752 Other)
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 286,361 Total Added: 419
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 3096 In-house: 3700
Public Internet Usage]]	Users for the month: 1058
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance: 45 Adults, 81 teens, 0 virtual
Programming	<b>Adult Services February Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chess Club, 20 adults total</li><li>• Computer Class totals, 54 adults</li><li>• Crafty Corners totals, 9 adults</li><li>• Sewing Program totals, 2 adults, 4 teens</li><li>• Literacy Volunteer Tutor totals, 4 adults</li><li>• Douglass Day totals, 4 adults, 1 child</li><li>• Black History Month artifacts totals, 19 adults</li></ul>
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 13

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Notary: 44  
Passport: 8

Adult Services  
Staff Report

## **Librarian Jeffrey Coultts:**

- Created carts of DVDs, eBooks and physical books.
- Learned about using the 3D printer and administered a 3D printing workshop with John Ash of the Bridgeport Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship on February 26th.
  - There were 11 participants, and many signed up for information on future workshops.
- Planned for events in March and beyond;
  - Monthly board game club (it was originally scheduled for February but was postponed because of inclement weather)
  - Book talks,
  - Blues concert
  - Program with a forensic scientist
  - Bird watching program at Seaside Park.
- Learned how to use LibCal and put events on LibCal.
- Organized and visit the Mozaic Senior Center here in Bridgeport.
  - Educated them on our e-resources.
- Attended a virtual meeting about our new e-resource, Morningstar.

## **Librarian Adam Cleri:**

- Wrote various procedures for regular activities in the department
- 2/12, Read at Black History Month children's storytime
- 2/19, Attended ALA's Edi & Neal's Book Club, interviewing Amanda Folk & Tracey Overbey about their books on racial equity in the library field.
- Microfilm search for patrons
- Answered Burroughsroom reference questions
- Posted the weekly newsletter

## **Librarian Katherine Mozier-Tichy:**

Finalized March programming; Women's History Month:

- "Spill the Tea with Women's History" book discussion with Adam Cleri
- Crafty Corner: featuring more "feminine" crafts
- Created March Monthly flyer
- Starting to plan Spring programming with A.S. Team
- Received request from Mercy Learning Center for another set of tours in April & May, which will include more groups than last time with the same format
- Attended BCIE meeting

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## Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center Monthly

Programming Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Original Ancestors – African American history with Craig Kelly. 15 attended</li><li>• Memoir Writing Workshop, Saturday, February 22, 5 attended live and 2 attended via ZOOM. 7 attended.</li><li>• BHC co-sponsored a program on Venture Smith with the Reference Dept.</li></ul>
Staff Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pettit trained to be a judge in the CT History Fair program.</li><li>• Pettit started an online extension course on oral histories from the University of Wisconsin Information School</li><li>• Pettit and Kate Mozier-Tichy (AS) have been working together to recruit Bridgeport students for History Day projects, contacting Bridgeport school system teachers, and acting as judges for the History Fair taking place at Sacred Heart University on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The BHC will be represented at the fair with BHC staff presenting information on the department at a table.</li></ul>

## Highlights

- Reference requests submitted by email, phone, and mail continue unabated. A significant portion of requests come from business such as law offices.
- BHC continues to receive donations, small and larger. A significant addition has been from former Bridgeport resident Glenn Scott Davis who was very active in several political organizations in the late 1960s-1970s.
- Hawkins has been inventorying, re-housing, and labeled many of the BHC's significant number of original newspaper issues. Supplies have been ordered.
- 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.
- Pettit has now located and sent for cataloging all department owned publications issued during the CT Tercentenary celebration. She will create a guide to these items.
- 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.
- 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.

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- 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 March.
- Advertising BPL programs continues to take a tremendous amount of staff time. BHC staff will be working with LA Breta H. to post events and use expanded social media options.

## **Burroughs-Saden Youth Services**

### **Programming:**

- Take Your Child to the Library Day was on Saturday, February 1st. Our location featured make & take Lego creations; library due date bookmark crafts; build a yummy marshmallow snowman craft; guess the book title from the emoji game; and giveaway bags. We had 20 adults & 33 children stop in and participate in our activities
- Black History Month Storytime Series was on Thursdays, February 13th, 20th, & 27<sup>th</sup> (February 6<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to the Library closing for inclement weather). We asked for readers from a number of sources, both internal and external, and people did not disappoint! Library staff (Elaine, Adam, Joy, Rasean, Bina, Ana, Kristin) and special guests (5 members of the Bridgeport Fire Department and a representative of the Mayor's Office) read for us! In total, 18 children and 10 adults attended this series.
- Weird Science: Experiments @ the Library was on Monday, February 10th. We had 3 people attend (1 adult, 2 children).
- Black History Month Quilt ran all month long. Approximately 50 people colored hexagonal picture/biographies of notable African-Americans.
- Saturday Crafternoon: Valentine Binary Ornaments was on Saturday, February 8th. 13 children attended & completed the craft.
- Valentine Storytime & Cupcake Decorating was on Wednesday, February 12th. We had 15 children and 10 adults attend.
- Hershey Kiss Valentine Ring drop-in craft was on Friday, February 14th. Since this fell during a school break, we had quite a few people stop in and complete it, with 28 in all.
- Paper Doll-apalooza was on Saturday, February 15th. Despite the chilly weather, 11 people attended the program.
- Mai Malkawi from the Islamic Cultural Center conducted a Ramadan storytime & craft for us. 34 children and 20 adults attended.
- Black History Month at the Movies: The Princess & the Frog was on Wednesday, February 26th. 4 adults and 8 children attended.
- **Weekly programs**
  - Saturday Drop-In Crafts
    - February 1st (20 children)
    - February 8th (28 children)
    - February 15th (12 children)
    - February 22nd (8 children)
  - Little Learners
    - February 4th (9 children, 5 adults)
    - February 11th (9 children, 6 adults)
    - February 18th (10 children, 7 adults)
    - February 25th (12 children, 8 adults)
  - I Survived Book Club
    - February 4th (2 children)

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- February 11th (2 children)
- February 18th (4 children)
- February 25th (3 children)
- SlimeTime
  - February 5th (11 children)
  - February 12th (10 children)
  - February 19th (7 children)
  - February 26th (9 children)
- Lego Club
  - February 6th - Library closed at 5:00 pm due to inclement weather
  - February 13th (9 children)
  - February 20th (7 children)
  - February 27th (10 children)

## **Displays:**

- In February, we had book displays about: Black History Month, libraries, Valentine's Day, Ramadan, & winter.
- Our seasonal bulletin board is themed *Reading Makes You Bright!*

## **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.
- As part of his field work, John Tiberi is looking for new books about conflict resolution. He is also working on updating our readers' advisory picture book list.

## **Continuing Education:**

- Kristin attended the Best Picture Books of 2024 webinar which shared some great titles for a variety of occasions (storytime, bedtime, special topics, etc.) & the Building Great Teams webinar.
- Kristin attended the Summer Symposium in Hartford. A number of topics germane to our summer programming were discussed, i.e. creating an equitable summer reading program by examining the Whys behind it; sharing programming & marketing ideas; a presentation from End Hunger CT, an organization focused on anti-hunger & food security initiatives; and creating accessible summer programming for all ages. It was quite a valuable & eye-opening experience.
- Taslima attended the CT Ready to Read: Creating Empathetic Learning Experiences in Storytime webinar. CT Ready to Read is a series of webinars designed to enhance early childhood programs. In this specific session, participants learned best practices for presenting programming with a culturally aware inclusive lens, and how to respectfully use materials that are outside of their own lived experiences.
- Ana attended the Build an Amazing Virtual Library webinar offered by Demco. Participants learned how to: curate digital resources; incorporate digital tools and enhance patron engagement; build connections through virtual spaces with patrons, schools, & staff; and utilize technology and build a user-friendly, accessible space.

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## Outreach:

- On Wednesday, February 5th, Kristin visited New Beginnings Family Academy for World Read Aloud Day, & read to a Pre-K class - we also brought copies of our calendar of events & bookmarks.

## Successes/Concerns:

- 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.

## **Katherine Mozier-Tichy**

### Teen Services:

- History Day-Program: We have one student! I have been assisting her this past month with research and project creation
  - She was unable to compete in the Fairfield Regional Contest, but is being allowed to compete at the Mansfield contest at the end of the month (3/29)
  - Still available to assist students who moved up to the next level (the State contest)
- History Day/Outreach: Set up table at contest lobby, manned by Elizabeth; Jaime and I judged contests, as well stayed to judge for runoffs (finals)
  - Brought flyers, brochures, and other info. about the HC & library; Freebies
  - LAI Jawon helped up put together a History Day themed crossword & word search for the students
  - Planning on judging for State contest in a couple of months
- Continued working with the Bridgeport Libraries Programming Committee
- Worked on Summer Reading Program (SRP) 2025:
  - Teen Focus Group
  - Working with Bina on custom stickers
  - Collaborated with Andre M. using AI to design/edit SRP 2025 banner I made months ago