

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden/Public Services

April 2024 Monthly Report

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon, Branch Manager

05/01/2024

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Service Statistics | <p>New library cards: 157 TOTAL (148 A, 2 YA, 7 J)</p> <p>Questions answered: 1,968 (950 Ref, 617 Other, 401 Technical Assistant, 37 Notary)</p> <p>Number of visitors: 6623</p> <p>Number of interlibrary loans (in/out): 102/732</p> | |
| Collection Statistics | <p>Adult: 212,738</p> <p>Teen: 5,328</p> <p>Children: 59,160</p> <p>Hotspots: 47</p> | <p>A&V materials: 14,366</p> <p>Magazines & Newspapers: 3,736</p> <p>TOTAL: 295,018(395 added and 1472 withdrawn in January)</p> |
| Circulation Statistics | <p>Adult: 806</p> <p>Teen: 166</p> <p>Children: 1264</p> | <p>A&V materials: 573</p> <p>Magazines & Newspapers: 3</p> <p>Hot spots: 6</p> <p>Cultural passes: 6</p> <p>In-house: 498 Grand totals: 3322</p> |
| Public Internet Usage | <p>Users for the month: 1387</p> <p>WIFI use: 453</p> | |

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

ADULT SERVICES

Adult Services:

Professional development:

Adam Cleri:

- Recorded, and edited this month's library podcast Episode 3: "Ghosts on Lindley Street?: A Debate". He secured Marcia Biederman, author of *The Disquieting Death of Emma Gill*, to join him for the May podcast episode
- I secured that League of Women Voters will send brochures, to every branch, listing public officials serving Bridgeport residents
- Attended webinar on patron Fentanyl use (4/25) (submitted notes to Kate, Jeff, Tanarha);
- Met with Marketing Librarian Rebecca F. about Constant Contact, the library's website, and social media.
- Attended Web app meetings with Brian R., Rebecca F., Laura M., Robert J., & Kate MT.
- Answered online patron questions retrieve from: burroughsrooms@bridgeportpubliclibrary.org email address.
- Assisted patrons with the microfilm machine.
- Collaborated with Jeff C, and Kate planning a weekly chess tutoring and a few voter turnout promotion parties. The Turnout Promotion Parties consist of:
 - Every Tuesday, starting late June, from 4:30-5:30, Adam will host chess tutoring sessions. The first 15 minutes will be spent on a lesson already created on Chess.com, including a tutorial, and puzzles, which the group will solve collectively. For the rest of the hour, patrons will play chess, or join Adam to learn the basics enough so that they can play chess.
 - On Tuesday, September 17, National Voter Registration Day, the library will host a social event (with food, an entertainer, & voter registration forms/information about voting) that is fun, while also promoting voter registration.
 - On Thursday, October 24, the library will host another social event, again with food & entertainment, this time promoting both voter registration & voter turnout.
 - On Election Day & early voting dates (October 21-31, November 1, 2, 3, & 5), patrons will be able to come to any Bridgeport location, show their "I Voted Today" sticker or a selfie with them & their ballot, & receive some knick knack or other reward related to voting.

Jeffrey Coufts:

- Continued to administer programs, make carts of both DVDs and books and work on the weekly newsletter with Adam C.
- Administered the program "Fright Night" at Burroughs-Saden on the first-floor in the popular room. This event featured four local authors who read portions of their

books to the audience and administered a trivia event after the readings. There were 15 attendees.

- Organized a birdwatching program with Stefan Martin of the CT Audubon Society on April 28th. There were 10 attendees.
- Completed a survey for the databases with Laura M. and sent it to the librarians.

Katherine Mozier-Tichy:

- Joined the CLA (Connecticut Library Association) Legislative group.
- Started planning new adult programs with Librarians Jeff C. and Adam C.
- Assigned to work on the US Records project via Jeff C.
- Coordinated Mercy Learning Center field trips to library. She led tours for 8 class groups over 4 days.
- Continued communication with Paugussett Clan Mother to organize a summer program.
- Worked on Marketing for a Klein program: "A Journey" performed by Kimberly Wilson.

LAI John Tiberi:

- Started creating a resume outline for a resume writing class he will be hosting.
- Continued teaching the Computer Classes with David M. and Andre O. lessons taught to the students included; emails, spam emails, and library resources.
- Instructed his first resume writing class. It started by reviewing what a resume is, then moving on
- to creating the various parts of a resume: Education, Heading, Job History, Skills, and
- Professional Summary.
- Created 2 displays in the reference department: "Spring into Poetry" and
- "Astrology".
- Met with LAI Gerline P pertaining to programs, displays, and ideas for the adult services department.
- Some ideas include:
 - Redoing the DVD section to make it a kind of like a "Blockbuster/Movie" theme.
 - Incorporating a "Spooky Story Time" for adults during October.
 - Craft Event/Program, painting and decorating Mason Jars. These could be given as
 - Mothers' Day gifts.
 - Creating a survey to ask patrons what kinds of programs they would be interested in.

LAIII Andre O'Connor/Digital Navigator:

- 1 virtual one on one class
- 1 new device for participants (tablet)
- Computer Classes
- 11 in person one on one tech help sessions
 - 5 lessons
 - 6 tech/ fixing devices
- Notary
 - 9 Patrons

BHC:

Elizabeth Van Tuyl and Jaime Pettit attended the annual New England Archivists conference in Providence, Rhode Island, March 15th and 16th. They both attended very helpful sessions given by fellow colleagues from regional institutions. Some topics covered were *Managing Born Digital collections*, *Critical Historiography in the Classroom: Teaching Primary Sources with a Social Justice Lens*, *Challenging Content*, *Challenging Project: Divided America*, *Collecting LGBTQ+ History: Three Rhode Island Community-Based Projects*, *Artists' Use of Archives*, and several more. Both archivists found these sessions and making connections with other archivists very helpful. Speaking with some of the vendors proved fruitful as well.

Elizabeth VT. and Jaime P. hosted 13 advanced students from Fairchild-Wheeler High School. Students were given an opportunity to work with primary source materials from the 19th Century. The students conducted their work for about 3 ½ hours. One student might do an internship at the BHC this summer.

Programming

- Memoir Writing Workshop with instructor Michael Brelsford
- BHC hosted staff from Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury. Waterbury has a local history collection that has some similar components to the BHC's holdings. Silas Bronson staff sought advice on the housing and storage of selected materials and shared information on their library's activities.
- BHC hosted several groups from Mercy Learning Center as they toured the library.

Highlights

- LAI Michael Hawkins has finished the cataloging of the BHC's cabinet card collection. He has now created thousands of simple catalog records for this collection. All records contain an image matched with a name and will eventually be searchable on the CTDA by the public. Hawkins is now working on an index to the Corbit Studio portrait prints from the 1970s onward.
- BHC continues to receive positive responses to its Instagram posts and has dozens of followers.
- Librarian Jaime Pettit has crafted an exhibition planning and installation procedure manual. She will expand upon this by adding references to library policies and links to outside sources.
- Elizabeth Van Tuyl hosted two visitors from National Portrait Gallery (NPG) for 1½ days. An NPG curator and conservator examined the 11 presidential portrait "sketches" painted by well-known portraitist George Burroughs Torrey. The NPG will now consider whether or not it can accept these paintings into its permanent holdings. During her visit to the BPL, the NPG conservator stabilized several of the paintings with tears in order to make them sounder for storage and shipping.
- Curator Carey M. Weber, Director of the Fairfield Art Gallery, retrieved a Georges Innes painting of Durham, CT, that is part of the BPL's Klein Collection. Per an agreement with the BPL, Fairfield University Gallery will have the painting and frame professionally cleaned and repaired by Yost art conservation services. The painting will be included in the Gallery's 2025 exhibition on Tonalist artists. This will be the first time in decades that this painting will be on public view.

- Ted Bresky of Bresky and Sons donated some papers from his family's business, long located in Bridgeport.
- Van Tuyl and Pettit attended two more meetings for the "My Town, My Story" project. The History Center was selected as a participant in the MTMS project. The project is a joint effort between the CTDA and CT Humanities. The BHC is working with doctoral candidate Kenia Rodriguez and the CTDA staff to find innovative ways to collect materials from community groups and individuals for preservation and presentation.
- Continued corrections/additions to current online sources such as finding aids and collection guides.
- 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.
- Continued selected deaccession activities.
- Several projects remain on hold as the department waits to hear about funding.
- BHC fielded multiple reference requests based on the several of the department's archives and manuscripts collections as well as its photo collections.

Successes/Concerns:

- After several weeks experiencing problems with the air in BHC, there seems to be a normalization of the atmosphere. The temperature remains problematic.

YOUTH SERVICES

Programming:

- Henna Program for Eid-ul-fitr was on Saturday, April 6th (8 children, 3 adults attended)
- We Love Libraries! Storytime & Cookies was on Saturday, 13th (21 children and 12 adults attended)
- Spring Break in a Day was on Tuesday, April 16th (43 children and 22 adults attended various sessions throughout the day)
- We're Cracking Up: Humor Storytime & Craft was on Wednesday, April 24th (5 children & 3 adults attended)
- **Saturday Drop-In Crafts**
 - April 6th (12 children, 5 adults)
 - April 13th (11 children, 5 adults)
 - April 20th (19 children, 8 adults)
 - April 27th (10 children, 5 adults)
- **Little Learners**
 - April 2nd (7 children, 4 adults)
 - April 9th (8 children, 5 adults)
 - April 16th - no Little Learners due to day-long program
 - April 23rd (9 children, 5 adults)
 - April 30th (8 children, 5 adults)
- **Monday Crafternoons**
 - April 1st (4 children, 2 adults)
 - April 8th (4 children, 3 adults)
 - April 15th (7 children, 4 adults)
 - April 22nd (5 children, 2 adults)

- April 29th (4 children, 2 adults)
- **SlimeTime**
 - April 3rd (5 children, 3 adults)
 - April 10th (7 children, 5 adults)
 - April 17th (8 children, 5 adults)
 - April 24th (6 children, 4 adults)
- **Lego Club**
 - April 4th (15 children, 10 adults)
 - April 11th (3 children, 1 adults)
 - April 18th (5 children, 3 adults)
 - April 25th (7 children, 4 adults)

Outreach:

- On Saturday, April 20th Taslima attended a Healthy Kids event at the YMCA. She handed out flyers regarding our resources and spoke with about 35 people & did storytime for 15 children, showcasing books from our collection that highlight healthy eating, exercise, and mindfulness.

Professional Development:

- Kristin, Kate, and Jawon attended the Connecticut Library Association Annual Meeting. Each attended different sessions focusing on children, young adult, and general library services.

Displays:

- In April, we had book displays for National Library Week, Ramadan, Passover, Poetry Month, & Humor Month.
- The bulletin board theme is *Hello Spring!*

Collection Development:

- We ordered new summer reading titles, award winners, and Nutmeg nominees for 2025 on Overdrive.
- We eliminated several magazines from the YA & Children's collections, but added some new titles to draw renewed interest.

Passports:

- Taslima, Joy, and Andre completed 13 passport applications during the month of April.

April 2024, Adult Program/Meeting Room Information

| | Count | COMMUNITY PROGRAM | LIBRARY PROGRAMS | NOTES |
|---------|-------|--------------------------------------|--|-------|
| 4/3/24 | 2 | | 2 nd floor., Adult Game Night | |
| 4/3/24 | 5 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/4/24 | 6 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/4/24 | 50 | 100 Girls Leading | | |
| 4/10/24 | 1 | | 2 nd floor., Adult Game Night | |
| 4/10/24 | 8 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/11/24 | 9 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/13/24 | 1 | buildOn | | |
| 4/13/24 | 9 | Diamond in the Rough | | |
| 4/13/24 | 5 | Mommy & Daddy I want to be an artist | | |
| 4/17/24 | 6 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/17/24 | 2 | | 2 nd floor., Adult Game Night | |
| 4/18/24 | 7 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/23/24 | 4 | Northwestern's Mutual Insurance | | |
| 4/24/24 | 80 | God's Team | | |
| 4/24/24 | 29 | 100 Girls Leading | | |
| 4/24/24 | 19 | | Fright Night | |
| 4/24/24 | 2 | | 2 nd floor., Adult Game Night | |
| 4/24/24 | 7 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/25/24 | 8 | | 3rd. floor., Computer Class BPT Library | |
| 4/26/24 | 40 | New England Smart Energy | | |
| 4/26/24 | 5 | buildOn | | |
| Total | 305 | | | |