

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Burroughs-Saden March 2025

Submitted by: Tanarha Smith-Dixon

April 3, 2025

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Service Statistics | Number of new library cards: 104 Number of visitors: 7,052 | Number of questions answered: (717 Reference, 321 Technical, 667 Other) |
| Collection Statistics | Collection Size: 285,149 Total Added: 171 | |
| Circulation Statistics | Total Circ: 3263 In-house: 890 | |
| Public Internet Usage]] | Users for the month: 1417 | |
| Room Usage | Room: 25 Bookings, Attendance: 273 Adults, 55 teens, 30 children, 0 virtual | |
| Programming | Adult Services February Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chess Club, 20 adults total• Computer Class, 68 adults• Crafty Corners, 9 adults• Book Club, 20 adults• Crafty Corner, 8 adults | |

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill the Tea, 5 adults |
| Other Services | Digital Navigator: 18 Notary: 65 Passport: 7 |
| Adult Services Staff Report | <p>Librarian Jeffrey Coutts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to make carts for Baker & Taylor, Overdrive and Midwest Tape. • Visited the Mozaic Senior Center to teach them about online resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Revisited the Mozaic Senior Center with LA3 Joyeisha Smoak to provide library cards to patrons. • Administered a virtual author talk with London author, Jenny Draper, about her new book, Mavericks, on March 1st, there were 20 attendees. • Administered the program Blues 101 with Ramblin' Dan Stevens on March 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Had 12 attendees. • Led Burroughs Adult Services programming meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Reviewed and planned programming for the rest of 2024-2025 fiscal year, and next year's 2025-2026 programming budget. • Planned for spring and summer programs including author talks and a birdwatching event. <p>Librarian Adam Cleri:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded podcast with Jaime Pettie, and Professor Cecelia Bucki. • Worked with Jaime to research Jasper McLevy & prepare questions • Went to James Curiale School to speak to 8th graders about what librarians do & how to become one • Printed and posted Domestic Violence hotline flyers • Attended Mike Allen's presentation on P.T. Barnum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Mike Allen is a local podcaster with whom I work. |

Burroughs-Saden/Bridgeport History Center Monthly

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Programming Milestones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic Genealogy with Kate Penney Howard: 5 attended; online only • Book and Genealogy Discussion: Ninzi's Secret with local author Margaret Williams Walker: 7 attended • Memoir Writing Workshop, Saturday, March 22, 6 attended live and 1 attended via ZOOM. 7 attended. • History Day: middle/high school competition taking place at Sacred Heart University. BHC staff was in attendance. • BHC hosting travelling art exhibit by Edith Reynolds on 3rd floor. • Monthly work with the Adult Services Department to coordinate programming and budgeting for programming continues |
| Staff Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pettit (along with Ref/YA librarian Kate Mozier-Tichy) served as judge at the Fairfield County level of the History Day competition. E. Van Tuyl staffed a BHC/BPL information table. Sacred Heart University hosted. • Van Tuyl attended the annual New England Archivists conference in Springfield, MA, where many sessions addressed pressing concerns such as funding for cultural institutions and Artificial Intelligence. |

Highlights

- Reference requests submitted by email, phone, and mail continue unabated. As often happens, more visitors came in once March began.
- 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 is the late 1960s-1980s. Davis visited the BHC from Seattle, WA, to review and explain all materials.
- Longtime patron and BHC supporter and volunteer Beth Lazar donated significant material from her work at the UCONN and Fairfield University (WVOF) radio stations, along with paper-based materials from her involvement in various community organizations.
- The Lazar and Davis donations highlight the need for funding for BHC to send a/v media to vendors for recovery and conversion.
- Continued selected deaccession activities. BHC eBay agent is in the process of selling various periodicals that came in with donations; Van Tuyl obtained agreements from several major repositories such as the CA State Library, Mass. Historical Society, Kansas

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Hist. Society, Missouri Hist. Society, and Library and Archives of Canada to take valuable, 19th Century newspaper titles not suitable for the BHC holdings.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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:

- Local entrepreneur & volunteer, Tamekia Lemus, offered another *Build a Miniature Room* program for us in March. 10 children and 8 adults attended the 4-week class.
- Saturday, March 1st, 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 10 children participating.
- Additionally, on Saturday, March 1st, Junior Librarian, Ana F, commenced a 3-part Introduction to Ping Pong! This program was very popular with patrons and staff alike! Over the three sessions (Saturdays, March 1st, 15th, and 29th), we had 35 people participate (13 adults, 22 children). We had multiple requests to have this as a staff activity, as well as requests from parents to offer it as a larger & more frequent family activity.
- Thursday, March 6th, we had a Women's History Month storytime and craft. 5 children and 3 adults attended.
- On Thursday, March 13th, our resident leprechaun (LA Theresa), ran a St. Patrick's Day Bingo. 4 parents and 9 children attended.
- Saturday, March 15th, we had a St. Patrick's Day Storytime & Craft. 2 children and 1 parent attended.

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

- Junior Librarian, Taslima S, conducted a Ramadan storytime & craft on Saturday, March 22nd. 3 children and 2 adults attended.
- Monday, March 24th, Junior Librarian, Ana F, started Making Cents, a 3-part monthly financial literacy series. 8 children and 3 adults attended the first session.
- Junior Librarian, Taslima S, offered a henna program on Wednesday, March 26th, celebrating Eid al-Fitr (March 30th), the end of Ramadan. 15 children signed up and received lovely and unique henna designs on their hands.
- **Weekly programs**
 - Saturday Drop-In Crafts
 - March 1st (16 children)
 - March 8th (23 children)
 - March 15th (4 children)
 - March 22nd (13 children)
 - March 29th (15 children)
 - Little Learners
 - March 4th (10 children, 6 adults)
 - March 11th (11 children, 7 adults)
 - March 18th (10 children, 6 adults)
 - March 25th (12 children, 8 adults)
 - I Survived Book Club
 - March 4th (2 children)
 - March 11th (2 children)
 - March 18th (2 children)
 - March 25th (2 children)
 - SlimeTime
 - March 5th (10 children)
 - March 12th (9 children)
 - March 19th (15 children)
 - March 26th (7 children)
 - Lego Club
 - March 6th - (13 children)
 - March 13th (10 children)
 - March 20th (7 children)
 - March 27th (5 children)

Displays:

- In March, we had book displays about: Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, Ramadan, & 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:

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

- 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.
- The Nutmeg Award nominees for 2026 have been released and ordered for our collection.

Continuing Education:

- Taslima attended the webinars, *Bringing Joy to the Art of Reading & Child-Led Play Leads to Early Literacy*.

Outreach:

- Wednesday, March 19th, 3rd graders from the Adam J Lewis Academy visited the library to research their current unit about Ancient China. We curated some great books from our collection and also shared how to access digital resources.
- Sunday, March 23rd, Elaine, Taslima, and Kristin attended an amazing & enlightening Iftar dinner at the Bridgeport Islamic Cultural Center. The interfaith dinner was preceded by a Q&A session with a panel of local religious and community leaders, regarding how we can promote peace, understanding, and coexistence during troubled, often violent, times.
- Friday, March 28th, Kristin visited a Pre-K class at Precious Memories daycare to celebrate Dr Seuss' belated birthday! She read *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*, as well as some other fun titles, and brought copies of our calendar of events and bookmarks.

Successes/Concerns:

- Letters Are Characters, an organization focused on early literacy education, worked with us last year to offer 100 educational kits to pre-K students in Bridgeport. This year, they got us 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.
- Success: We had a week in which a blown circuit breaker intermittently affected our staff and public service computers, lights, and water fountain in the Children's Department. It was frustrating, but we truly appreciate how responsive David Otero and the Maintenance staff were, and how quickly they had to get everything working again (multiple times!). Thanks also to Brian for getting our computers back up and running so quickly.
- Concern: despite the fix of the circuit breaker, one of the outlets in our department is still making sparking noises (no actual sparks flying...just the noise). All YS staff have heard it, but it hasn't happened with maintenance staff in the room, so we are trying to record the noise for them.

BRIDGEPORT 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 boy's room, and the doors are rather heavy for children.