

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

January 25, 2021

Raechel Guest, Director

Everybody Learns Initiative

We have completed the expenditure of the grant funds. Special thanks are due to Mary Jane Boucher and Chantal Johnson for managing the project while I was out of the office. We received the following comment from the State Library regarding our final report: "Thank you for sending me such detailed and well-organized documentation. That was a lot of spending to manage and track in a short period of time, and your team did it wonderfully."

We have begun setting up all of the supplies that have arrived, with more supplies still on the way. The Main Reading Room is now available for use by people who need a quiet study area. After additional supplies arrive, we will reopen the building for people who want to browse the shelves. We are waiting for additional supplies for the new mobile branch library. Wifi hotspots and other technology will be available for patrons to borrow very soon.

Library Vehicle

As stated in my last report, we are in need of a new library vehicle. I believe the purchase of a vehicle that could be used for the new mobile branch library would be an appropriate use of the Warshasky bequest.

Many years ago, we were issued a four-door passenger vehicle for library use. The car is used almost exclusively by the Maintainers when they go to the Bunker Hill Branch. While the car is able to transport four people, it is unable to transport any of our equipment. The Head Maintainer uses his personal vehicle, a pickup truck, to transport the lawn mower, snow blower, snow shovels, and other equipment to the branch. The Maintainers have found that the library car is not suited for travel between the two libraries during or immediately after a snowstorm.

The addition of a popup library to our services increases the need to replace the library car with a more practical vehicle for transporting equipment.

Former Director Stanford Warshasky frequently urged me to add a bookmobile to the library's services. I believe that he would be pleased if we used a portion of his bequest to purchase a van for the popup library, and the van could also be used for transporting the lawn mower, etc. to the Bunker Hill Branch. I respectfully request that the Board consider making this purchase.

Staffing Changes

Michael Tierney has been promoted to Librarian 3 in charge of the new Mobile Branch Library. Christine Rinaldi has been promoted to Librarian 3 in charge of Tech Services.

Tanya Jackson-Smith, Librarian 4, retired at the end of December. Clivel Charlton and Gary Bach, our other Librarian 4s, have been sharing all supervisory activities since our return to the building. Instead of following our traditional divisions of AIS, Youth Services, and Circulation, we restructured our divisions based on current operations – Gary oversees all circulation processes, while Clivel oversees patron assistance and general librarianship.

VITA Tax Prep

We will be participating in the VITA Free Tax Prep program this year, starting in February. Our Computer Classroom will be used by VITA volunteers on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. All COVID protocols will be followed, with clients dropping off and picking up paperwork, instead of waiting inside the building.

Circulation Division

November Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 257,579
Total Items Added to Collection: 769
Total Items Circulated: 2,463
Total Circulation In-House: 1
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 1,323
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 465

Total Active Patrons: 41,336
Total Expired Patrons: 2
Total Patrons Added: 55

December Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 253,461
Total Items Added to Collection: 797
Total Items Circulated: 2,453
Total Circulation In-House: 8
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 1,719
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 411

Total Active Patrons: 41,396
Total Expired Patrons: 2
Total Patrons Added: 62

November Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 15,095
Total Items Added to Collection: 47
Total Items Circulated: 271
Total Circulation In-House: 0
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 110
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 196

Total Active Patrons: 1,337
Total Expired Patrons: 0
Total Patrons Added: 0

December Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 11,229
Total Items Added to Collection: 31
Total Items Circulated: 310
Total Circulation In-House: 0
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 103
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 231

Total Active Patrons: 1,336
Total Expired Patrons: 0
Total Patrons Added: 0

OverDrive Circulation: November

Audiobooks: 124

Adult: 317

Ebooks: 370

Teen/YA: 48

Total Checkouts: 494

Children: 129

OverDrive Circulation: December

Audiobooks: 137

Adult: 326

Ebooks: 321

Teen/YA: 33

Total Checkouts: 458

Children: 99

Museum Pass Usage, November & December 2020

American Clock & Watch Museum: 0

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk: 0

Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 0

Mattatuck Museum: 0

Beardsley Zoo: 0

Mystic Aquarium: 0

Children’s Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 2

Mystic Seaport: 0

Connecticut Forests & Parks: 0

New Britain Museum of American Art: 0

Connecticut Science Center: 0

New England Air Museum: 0

EverWonder Children’s Museum: 0

New Haven Museum: 0

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0

Old Sturbridge Village: 0

Imagine Nation: 0

Peabody Museum of Natural History: 0

Institute for American Indian Studies: 0

Wadsworth Atheneum: 0

KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 1

White Memorial Conservation Center: 0

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 1/22/2021: 2,298

Facebook Reach December 25 – January 21: 9,583

Facebook Post Engagements December 25 – January 21: 901

Instagram Followers as of 1/22/2021: 829
 Bronson Teens Instagram Followers as of 1/22/2021: 241
 Twitter Followers as of 1/22/2021: 441

Wowbrary Active Subscriptions as of 1/20/2021: 87
 Wowbrary Customized Newsletters as of 1/20/2021: 6
 Wowbrary Webpages Viewed November 1 – November 30: 920
 Wowbrary Webpages Viewed December 1 – December 31: 992
 Wowbrary Clickthroughs to Catalog November 1 – November 30: 118
 Wowbrary Clickthroughs to Catalog December 1 – December 31: 189

Website Visitors November 1 – November 30: 1,501
 Website Visitors December 1 – December 31: 1,464

Website Sessions November 1 – November 30: 2,507
 Website Sessions December 1 – December 31: 2,415

Website Pageviews November 1 – November 30: 5,863
 Website Pageviews December 1 – December 31: 5,452

Most Visited Website Pages (November 1 – November 30):

Home Page: 2,248	Bunker Hill Branch: 83	News:
Programs: 528	How to Get a Card: 45	New Movies: 32
Program Registration: 513	Research: 108	Friends: 19
Take Out: 178	Borrowing Questions: 44	Hall of Fame: 20
Genealogy/Local Hist.: 186	Museum Passes: 31	Business Resources:
Digital: 151	Library History: 105	Directions: 17
How to Find Books: 117	Book Sale: 29	Computer Classes: 18
Ask A Librarian: 156	Newsletters: 27	Board of Agents: 9
eBooks: 123	Teen/YA: 74	Requests: 14
Children's Division: 103	Calendar: 47	Wowbrary: 39
About Us: 131	Geekdom: 43	

Most Visited Website Pages (December 1 – December 31):

Home Page: 2,006	Newsletters: 68	Wowbrary: 21
Program Registration: 554	About Us: 61	Requests: 20
Programs: 458	Geekdom: 56	Museum Passes: 18
Digital: 221	How to Get a Card: 54	New Movies: 14
How to Find Books: 206	Borrowing Questions: 46	Computer Classes: 13
Genealogy/Local Hist.: 177	Bunker Hill Branch: 42	Board of Agents: 12
Ask A Librarian: 163	Hall of Fame: 39	Friends: 8
Children's Division: 162	Calendar: 37	Email Signup: 8
Research: 145	Library History: 37	Business Resources: 7
eBooks: 140	Book Sale: 31	
Take Out: 83	Teen/YA: 28	