

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
October 2014

Youth Services

Youth Services Summer Reading Club 2014 numbers are in. 668 children read nearly 21,000 books this summer! Countywide, the Youth Services department had 85 programs in six weeks with 2562 children and 1098 adults attending.

North County Branch Teen Cafe had a Tai Chi presentation in September. The instructor was AMAZING and the teens loved him.



A message from North County Branch Teen Café end of summer party, August 2014.

Headquarters Tweens started the back-to-school season with a Poetry Workshop, presented by local author Felicia Chernesky.

Reference

Reference has been busy this past month. “Distance learners” continue to take college exams at Headquarters and North County Branch, allowing them to pursue their education while continuing to work without interruption. Colleges send either paper or online exams – we accommodate both.

During both August and September, all Internet PCs were frequently occupied, with other patrons on the waiting list.

Weeding of the Reference collection continues, with many former reference books joining the circulating collection to better meet the needs of today’s busy researchers.

Tricentennial programs at North County Branch

A very successful joint program of Hunterdon County Library and the Tricentennial Committee, "Barns of Hunterdon County," was held recently at North County Branch. Anne Freeman displayed 72 photographs of barns in every township in our county, and invited visitors to vote for their favorites via a handy ballot box. The Committee also sponsored a well-attended lecture by Jeffrey Marshall, a Building Historian of the Heritage Conservancy. At the end of September, Ms. Freeman hosted an open house and one lucky visitor won the barn photo for which they voted.

North County Branch Volunteers

Most of the 50+ summer Junior Volunteers at North County Branch returned to educational pursuits in September. This gave the adults who gave up their timeslots to the students all summer the opportunity to once again fill our need for excellent Volunteer assistance.

North County Branch Book Discussion Group

A spirited discussion at the North County Branch Book Group revolved around "Books by or about Hillary Clinton". The group enjoyed learning how different authors, including Ms. Clinton herself, presented the many facets of this important and influential figure.

National Library Card Month Promotion

September was National Library Card Month, and for the past several years we have partnered with local businesses to promote the value of having a library card. Thanks to increased exposure from the Radio Show and the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, we had many business owners contacting us for details. In 2014, we had a record high of 40 businesses participating, 19 which were new this year! Patrons were very pleased with the discounts and flyers had to be constantly replenished. This was our most successful year to date, and we are confident the promotion will continue to grow in the future.

Fall Programs at North County Branch

North County Branch kicked off the fall programs in September with several "instructional" events. We have a 4-part retirement series that continues into October; a "Fall Prevention/Balance" program by Kessler; the Workforce Wednesdays continue with September's topic being "Mastering the Interview". A more "fun" program was "How to Read a Dog's Body Language" with return speaker Molly Sumner. As people left the program, comments were overheard such as "I didn't know that!" and "Here I thought I knew my dog!" The Homeschoolers' Board Game Day is also back in full swing, with an average of 30-40 people showing up each time.

South County Branch

The South County Branch Library added two new bulletin boards to highlight Young Adult books and Youth Services Programs held at South County Branch and at Headquarters.



Program on Naturalization and Citizenship

On September 25, the library hosted a program providing information on Naturalization and Citizenship coordinated by the YMCA of Hunterdon County. Two representatives from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provided information to almost two dozen attendees. Materials and information was provided; additional copies of the materials were provided and will be available to library patrons.

Headquarters Volunteers

Linda Zdepski has been working with several Hunterdon County organizations to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to their clients; clients from the ARC of Hunterdon, the Center for Educational Advancement/Spring Run School, Hunterdon Central Regional High School Workplace Readiness Program, NORWESCAP of Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren Counties Family Support Group, Progressive Center for Independent Living and the Hunterdon County Probation Department have provided hundreds of hours of shelving books, cleaning tables and computers, looking for missing books and assisting Linda in readying materials for display. Some groups volunteer on a weekly or monthly basis, others as needed.

Halloween Displays at Headquarters

Headquarters is ready for fall and Halloween. Displays featuring scary books can be found on the main floor; a colorful display highlighting Dia de Muertos can be found on the Upper Level. Linda Zdepski found directions to make pumpkins out of books that were damaged or missing the cover or pages. Staff members and volunteers helped her create over a dozen of these colorful pumpkins to display throughout the library; patrons have been admiring them and asking for instructions which can be found near the display across from the Circulation Desk. Girl Scout Troops 80914 and 80653 used the meeting room on September 27, and as part of their meeting they decorated pumpkins which they then donated to the library to add to our fall decorations. Three weekends of scary (and some not so scary) movies were planned during October as well.



One of the book pumpkins on display at Headquarters

Emergency Preparedness

We are planning for emergencies here at the Hunterdon County Library. We have updated our staff procedures for situations such as fires, power outages, bomb threats and severe storms. As part of our focus on emergency preparedness, we took part in OPAL (One Page All Libraries) training earlier this year, which was sponsored by the New Jersey State Library. OPAL is a service continuity plan that will aid us in getting our services up and running as quickly as possible after a disaster. The training resulted in the formation of a library disaster team and a plan documenting important information such as agency contacts, telephone numbers and emergency procedures.