

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
January 2015

North County Branch programs

December saw the introduction of two new programs at North County Branch: "Spanish for Kids" and "Tai Chi". The Spanish class series, taught by former staff member Paola Sahulka, was originally scheduled as a 5-week session for two age groups. Due to the interest and high attendance, this series has been extended into January 2015. The Tai Chi class, led by local business owner Tom Teague of Skylands Qigong, was also filled to capacity, and will be repeated in January. To help celebrate the holidays, three concerts were held, and the North County Branch Garden Club had a party complete with gifts.

North County Branch presented a total of 133 adult programs in 2014, an increase of 17 programs over 2013.

Happy Holidays at the Hunterdon County Library

The holiday season has become a very special time at the Hunterdon County Library in recent years. We hosted a number of successful holiday programs again including The City Winds Trio at North County Branch, The Eric Mintel Jazz Holiday Concert at both North County Branch and Headquarters, Fred Miller's annual Holiday Sing-Along at both North County Branch and Headquarters, The Hunterdon Central High School Fiddlers, and of course the Hunterdon Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus Holiday Concert, which is always our most popular show of the year. We would like to offer a special thank you to the Friends of Hunterdon County Library for sponsoring many of the shows and providing refreshments as well.

The annual Gingerbread Competition, sponsored by the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of Hunterdon County Library, had its biggest turnout ever. Thirty-six different entries graced the lobby and gallery of Headquarters during the month of December, much to the delight of our library patrons. We had a special reception for all those who entered in the Bookmark Café and prizes were awarded.

Speaking of the Bookmark Café, as an added holiday treat, the large screen TV was moved there and holiday movies were shown daily. Refreshments, provided by the Friends of Hunterdon County Library, were made available.

Tricentennial Mural

The 300th Anniversary Tricentennial Mural, painted by local artist Paul Jennis, has been installed in its new home, behind the Circulation Desk at Headquarters. Be sure to stop by and get a glimpse of this truly magnificent work of art.

Technical Services

Once again, Technical Services did an outstanding job of keeping up with the end of the year ordering, eking out every last penny from the materials budget.

Bookmobile

Karen Case and Karen Lewis brought the bookmobile to the Lebanon Borough School for a tour in December. Mrs. Julian and the students enjoyed learning about the bookmobile and about county library services.

Youth Services

Youth Services held a well-attended "walk-in winter craft / open house" during the Library Gingerbread Reception Night at Headquarters on December 3. There were a number of crafts to choose from in the children's room and tables were set up for the children to work on.

On December 11, Lindsay Blanton, a Hunterdon Central Regional High School art teacher, presented a winter-themed craft for the Tweens group in the meeting room.

Karen Lewis traveled to Lebanon Borough School on the Bookmobile to present a bookmobile tour and overview to students in grades 1-6. Over 90 students attended.

Three NORWESCAP preschool groups visited the Headquarters library to see the Gingerbread houses and tour the YS room.

Reference

This winter the North County Branch Reference staff enjoyed helping students doing research, travelers making maps, job searchers composing resumes, new eBook owners downloading novels, and distance learners completing classes with at least 14 final and midterm exams. All the study tables and all the PCs were frequently filled afternoons, evenings and Saturdays.

Book discussions ranged from biographies of Maya Angelou, to the phantasmagorical "Night Circus" to that favorite classic "Emma".

Visitors enjoyed art shows by Broads With Brushes and abstracts of Clinton artist John Madden. Lori Young's Masterful Mosaics filled the display cases and inspired many patrons to investigate the many aspects of stained glass crafts.

