

Hunterdon County Library  
Director's Report  
August 2017

**Adult Summer Reading Club**

Two-thirds through this year's Adult Summer Reading Club, 157 adult readers have finished 901 books. The celebration will be held at Headquarters on Thursday September 7 at 7 pm.

**English Conversation Group**

The English Conversation Group at the North County Branch continues to meet, bringing together a group of people with varying native languages all eager to practice their English speaking and listening skills.

**Affiliate Libraries**

Grace Mandato has been the Holland Free Public Library Supervisor temporarily and will be leaving at the end of the summer. Matilda Montanez will be taking her place beginning August 26.

**Authors at Headquarters**

Several authors have given talks at the Headquarters Library this summer with several more scheduled for the fall. Authors included: Michelle Stevens, John Markowski, Kara Richardson Whitely, Judy Glattstein, Laurie Wallmark, and Marta McDowell.

**North County Branch Programs**

Typically, July is a quiet month for adult programming, but this year saw a full schedule of filled programs including two Saturday sessions of Jin Shin Jyutso, and a program on the Great American Eclipse which was repeated several days later due to the popularity of the program. The second North County Branch Garden Expo, held in July, had many interesting exhibits, and gardeners eager to learn new information. The Seed Exchange, started at Headquarters in 2016, recently relocated to the North County Branch, was formally introduced at this event.



### **Outdoor Summer Concerts**

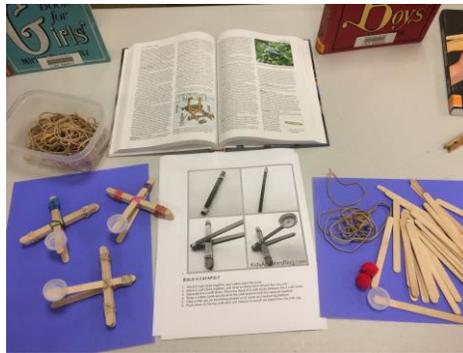
The Outdoor Summer Concerts have been very well attended this year. The first one at Headquarters, the Dan Buttera Band featured a Dixieland and Swing music; the first outdoor concert held at the North County Branch Library, featuring the Long Hill String Band, drew over one hundred people, a rousing success. The Blawenburg Band concert was cancelled due to rain and was not able to be brought indoors due to the size of the band. The Summerswing Orchestra at the North County Branch and The British Invasion Years at Headquarters rounded out this year's schedule. Fall programs have been booked; a schedule of the concerts will be available shortly.



### **South County Branch STEM Activities**

In conjunction with one of the summer Youth Services Librarians, the South County Branch Library planned a series of STEM activities. These activities are available on a walk-in basis every other Wednesday, repeated on the following Saturday:

Children have built boats out of foil wrap to see how much weight they can float, and have made catapults; upcoming activities include sound spinners, and ribbon rockets.



### HQ Exhibits



**Main Gallery *Watercolors and Acrylics* by Ed Baumlin**



**Display Cases *Embroidery is Fun!* Flemington Stitches' Circle**

The local chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America dabbles in many embroidery techniques such as Assisi, pattern darning, pulled thread and cross stitch. After you enjoy this display, you may be inspired to "Come have fun with us!" at the Arboretum on Route 31, 7 pm to 9 pm every first Wednesday, September through June.

### NCB Exhibits

The North County Branch hosted two exhibits in July. The featured artist, Terri Fraser, uses creative techniques and recycled materials such as screening to achieve a three-dimensional look for her juniper forests and berries. Her show "Look Deep Into Nature" was highlighted by a reception where Terri met visitors perusing her paintings.

The Red Mill Museum in Clinton displayed local historical artifacts in an exhibit titled "Over Here: the

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New Jersey Home Front in the Great War". Library visitors recognized many familiar names and places, and shared family stories about life at that time, handed down from their grandparents.

### Youth Services

The Youth Services departments at all locations were busy celebrating Summer Reading Club 2017 – “Build a Better World”. HQ and NCB welcomed special performers including a magician, a reptile expert, actors, scientists, storyteller, and a farmer with his animals. All programs filled, and many parents expressed their thanks to the library offering fun, free programs the whole family can enjoy.

### **Headquarters:**

Tweens at HQ had a wide variety of programs for school-age children including – Bricks for Kidz, miniature therapy horses (wearing sneakers!) from Hope’s Promise, a visit from Mad Science, and Bracelet Weaving. A big hit of the summer at HQ was a Pokemon Trading Night.



**North County Branch:** Between 19 and 29 children visited the library each Friday afternoon in July for Walk-in Afternoon Crafts: themed crafts were available each week for children ages 3 and up. Tween programs at NCB included Basket Making for grades 3-6, Bricks for Kidz, and a visit from Woodlands Wildlife Refuge. The first Teen event for the summer was also well attended; sixteen teenagers came to the library for a Bath and Body Products program where each person made a bath bomb and a sugar scrub to take home.

Story times and school age programs were provided at the Affiliate Libraries by part-time summer librarians.



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## **Reference**

The Grandin Room at the North County Branch is increasingly popular for small local groups such as the library's new English Conversation Group, Hunterdon Helpline, Literacy Volunteers, North County Fiber Artists, and Book Bites, the library sponsored book discussion group, which recently enjoyed Fishbowl, the observations of Ian the Goldfish as he falls 28 stories down his apartment building.

All the public PCs at both locations are in constant demand by library patrons including job applicants, students taking exams, researchers, consumers replacing cars and refrigerators, and trip planners. Reference staff enjoy introducing novices to the cyber-world and the library's online resources and databases.

## **Staff parking area**

County Roads and Bridges fixed a sunken drain in the back parking lot of the library where some of the staff park; the bookmobile and vans also drive over this area each day.