

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
January 2017

Reference

At Headquarters Library services, new and familiar, were the topic of a December presentation by reference librarian Jane Ricketts at the Hunterdon County Senior Center. Even the most experienced library users were interested in and surprised by the large array of services provided by the Hunterdon County Library; including notary, museum passes, interlibrary loan, Bookmobile, book groups, readers' advisory, electronic resources, as well as the variety of digital services we offer and the myriad of programs available. Reading lists for every genre and format, as well as flyers featuring all we have to offer were snapped up by the seniors. The great work of the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library was highlighted and the seniors were encouraged to visit one of our branches and the library's webpage to discover further reading, learning and cultural opportunities we provide. After the talk, the Coordinator of the Senior Center's Computer Lab was enlisted to help seniors to discover and navigate our website during open sessions.

At North County Branch we added 10 new volunteers, including 4 clients and their 2 coaches from Allegro, a group home for adults with autism, just in the past two months. Volunteers donated over 211 hours in November and December; helping with shelving, weeding, meeting room set-up and many other projects.

Proctoring college exams for "distant learners" continues to be a popular, valuable and free service. While it costs the library nothing but a few minutes of staff time, the value for adults learning new skills while working full time is priceless. We helped at least 6 students, several with multiple exams, to advance in their professions, or qualify for new jobs.

Our book discussion group was delighted with the plethora of new book kits made available by a donation in the name of a deceased member. Attendance remains consistent at about 12 every month.

Displays

We have many media displays from talented local residents including Dan and Marty Campanelli's reproductions of girls' samplers, Sandy Watts' miniature paintings, papier mache by the Lebanon Museum art class, "Tiny Clinton" buildings crafted by the first graders of Clinton Public School, an extensive show and open house by Hunterdon Camera Club, and "Be Kind to the Environment During the Holidays" - an imaginative display by Voorhees High School Environmental Club showcasing charming recycled ornaments and suggestions.

Youth Services

In November we had a Mad Science program for Tweens entitled The Science of Toys. The program used toys to discover the science of motion through fun hands-on activities.

Also in November, The Delaware Valley Beading Society did a program for Grades 5 and up. It was a big hit! Everyone loved making a bracelet or two.

On December 7 we had a walk in craft night in the Headquarters Youth Services department. It was held in conjunction with the Gingerbread Open House and it was well attended.

Hunterdon County Library Gingerbread Competition

Over 30 gingerbread creations graced the gallery and lobby of Headquarters during the month of December in the 6th Annual Gingerbread Competition sponsored by the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library. Almost 100 people attended the reception and the Best in Show winners were a depiction of the Frenchtown Barn Theatre and "Alice in Wonderland."

Holiday Programs

Headquarters hosted a full slate of holiday programs again in 2016, kicked off by the Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet on November 30. Other performers included the Hunterdon Central High School Fiddle Club, Fred Miller, The Hunterdon Harmonizers, and Folk Singer Caroline Doctorow, who is the daughter of the famous author E.L. Doctorow.

North County Branch helped patrons celebrate the holidays with four seasonal concerts. Perennial favorites Eric Mintel Jazz Quartet, City Winds Trio, and Fred Miller performed their ever popular music. Ridley and Anne Enslow celebrated the launch of their new Christmas CD, "To Hear the Angels Sing -- Christmas Songs Through the Ages", by having refreshments available, as well as all their CDs discounted to \$10. The audience took advantage of this promotion as they sold 31 CDs!

South County Branch Book Discussion Group Celebrates Milestone 100th Book

The Book Discussion Group of the South County Branch of the Hunterdon County Library will be celebrating a reading milestone this January. The group will be discussing the 100th book of its history, *What Was Mine* by Helen Klein Ross, at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. The group started in September 2008 with a handful of attendees and has been sustained by many dedicated readers over the years. The third Tuesday of every month is the scheduled meeting day. The book of the month can be borrowed from the library, located at 1432 Route 179, Unit B-1, West Amwell Township, and is also listed at <http://www.hclibrary.us/branches/southcounty.htm>.

The South County Branch hosted Bricks for Kidz during November. Below are some of the creations:



Knitters Unite!

This year Knitters Unite!, which is coordinated by Cheryl Grotrian, collected a grand total of 474 handmade hats, scarves, mittens, socks and slippers, which were donated to the Flemington Food Pantry and Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton. The collection began on October 27 and ended December 19, 2016. Donations were collected at the Headquarters circulation desk and then displayed on a clothesline along the upper level staircase. The positive impact was threefold: people were happy to find use for the yarn they could no longer use; knitters and crocheters found joy from donating their handiwork to those in need; and the recipients at the food pantries found a wonderful surprise along with their groceries during the holiday season.



Knitters Unite!

*Cheryl Grotrian
delivers donated
hand-knit hats,
scarves and socks
to the Flemington
Food Pantry.*

*Pictured are Lew
Pinsker and Ram
Ramachandran,
who also volunteers
his time at HCL!*

Headquarters Displays

