

# **Director's Report to the Board of Agents**

## **Silas Bronson Library**

**September 19, 2017**

**Raechel Guest, Director**

### **Front Plaza Project**

The project has been delayed due to a design issue. The plan to run the utilities for the fountain through the staff breakroom to the boiler room did not take into account the electrical conduits running along the hallway. After reviewing four possible options, we agreed to use the janitor's closet in the hallway next to the breakroom for the fountain's utilities. We are now waiting for the final plans to be submitted.

### **Children's Room Renovation**

The Children's Room renovation project will begin on Monday, October 30 and should be finished the week before Thanksgiving (on or about November 18). We are working on the logistics for encouraging patrons to check out as many of the books as possible for the duration of the project, which will reduce the number of books we need to set up in the Main Reading Room.

### **Martland Donation**

Dr. Theodore H. Martland has announced his intention to establish a fund in memory of his wife, Ingrid J. Martland, at the Connecticut Community Foundation. The fund will disburse approximately \$3,000 to the Silas Bronson Library each year, to be used for the purchase of books for children in first grade and younger.

The first disbursement of funds is anticipated for this fiscal year. Ingrid Martland taught at Mitchell Elementary School in Woodbury for 22 years and left a bequest for the Woodbury Public Library to donate one book per year to every kindergarten student in Region 14. Theodore Martland is the artist who created the colorful mobile which hangs in our front lobby, and he is the owner of The Elton Residential Care Home in Waterbury.

## **Circulation Division**

### **August Statistical Reports: Main Library**

Total Collection Size: 256,073  
Total Items Added to Collection: 647  
Total Items Circulated: 12,248  
Total Circulation In-House: 12,100  
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 1,080  
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 365  
  
Total Active Patrons: 12,496  
Total Expired Patrons: 14,665  
Total Patrons Added: 221

### **August Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill**

Total Collection Size: 16,936  
Total Items Added to Collection: 19  
Total Items Circulated: 1,098  
Total Circulation In-House: 0  
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 79  
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 403  
  
Total Active Patrons: 432  
Total Expired Patrons: 485  
Total Patrons Added: 16

## **Museum Pass Usage, August 2017**

American Clock & Watch Museum: 0  
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 0  
Barnum Museum: 0  
Beardsley Zoo: 11  
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0  
Connecticut Science Center: 4  
Connecticut's Old State House: 0  
CT State Parks & Forest Recreation: 6  
EverWonder Children's Museum: 3  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0  
Imagine Nation: 4  
Institute for American Indian Studies: 1  
KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 10

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk: 2  
Mark Twain House: 0  
Mattatuck Museum: 2  
Mystic Aquarium: 1  
Mystic Seaport: 3  
New Britain Museum of American Art: 1  
New England Air Museum: 1  
New Haven Museum: 0  
Old Sturbridge Village: 6  
Peabody Museum of Natural History: 4  
Wadsworth Atheneum: 0  
White Memorial Conservation Center: 1

## Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 9/15/2017: 748  
Facebook Reach Aug. 18 – Sep. 14: 2,859  
Facebook Post Engagements Aug. 18 – Sep. 14: 4,412

Website Visitors July 29 – Aug. 31: 4,193  
Website Pageviews July 29 – Aug. 31: 8,284

### Most Visited Website Pages (July 29 – Aug. 31):

Home Page: 4084	Genealogy/Local Hist.: 242	How to Find Books: 158
Museum Passes: 462	Calendar: 238	eBooks: 122
Programs: 413	How to Get a Card: 209	Hall of Fame: 79
Bunker Hill Branch: 369	About Us: 205	Computer Classes: 69
Ask A Librarian: 278	Research: 185	Book Sale: 41

## State Budget Cuts

The deliverIT program continues to pick up only 3 bins per day. Our current backlog is about four weeks' worth of deliveries. I have instructed our staff to scale back on filling open requests for ILLs – these requests normally are highly desirable, as our ConnectiCard/borrowIT payments are based on how many orders we fill. However, we received only \$964 from this program last year, and we are overwhelmed by the backlog of books.

The State Budget is still undecided. Both the Democrat and Republican proposed budgets protected funding for public libraries, whereas the Governor's proposed budget eliminated funding (which would have left us with a nearly \$64,000 loss in next year's budget). What happens next is anyone's guess. If the City of Waterbury sees a reduction in state funds for general operating support, we may see budget reductions for the library for this fiscal year.

## Special Programs

We have a number of big programs scheduled for next month. I hope that the Board of Agents will be able to attend the programs.

Waterbury native Nancy Palmento Schuler will present her one-woman play, *Three Women, Three Roads*, inspired by actual Waterbury area women, on Saturday, October 7, at 2 p.m. This is our second Benevento Fund program.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pavarotti Concert is Saturday, October 14, at 4 p.m. We have received a grant of \$1,000 from the Arts & Tourism Commission to help support this program. The concert is the same day as the United Way Bed Race on Grand Street; our tenor, Chris Macchio, will perform a preview during the bed race prior to the concert.

The Waterbury Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at the Mattatuck Museum on Saturday, October 21, at 2 p.m. at the Mattatuck Museum. This year's inductees are Judge Robert D. Glass, Philip V. Benevento, and Ryan Gomes.

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Mardi Gross and 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Halloween ComicFest will be held on Saturday, October 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with this. Donations of candy are needed as well.

Last but not least, we are collaborating with UConn-Waterbury's Urban & Community Studies Program and Connecticut Humanities for a two-part community conversation funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The first part, on Thursday, October 26, starting at 5:30, will discuss the history of downtown Waterbury. The second part, on Thursday, November 2, also at 5:30, will be an open dialogue about the potential future of downtown. Both sessions will be moderated by Larry Rifkin.

## **Bunker Hill Branch**

Following the retirement of Hugh Curran, I have asked Margaret Keating, who is a Librarian III, to take the lead on the oversight of the branch library. Margaret is working with some of our other librarians to do an assessment of branch operations and is making recommendations for improvements.

## **Employee Updates**

Hugh Curran, Librarian II, retired at the end of August. We are now short two Librarian IIs. I am waiting for the City's Cost Containment Oversight Committee to approve my request to fill those vacancies.