

Hunterdon County Library  
Director's Report  
November 2007

Extension Services

Staff members from the Extension Services department continue to work on the inventory project at Headquarters, using Polaris Inventory Manager software. The portions of the HCL collection that are completed include the Music CDs, the adult collections of Videos and DVDs, the 800s, and half of the 500s.

Extension Services has scheduled some special visits by the bookmobile to area nursery schools this month. These include a tour of the bookmobile and a story program by a Library Associate from the Youth Services department. Each of these visits involves a whole morning, as the tour and story program is repeated for each of the nursery school classes.

The bookmobile participated in the Parks Department Touch a Truck event on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two staff members staffed the vehicle and Assistant Director Floyd Saums also spent part of the day there. The bookmobile was packed to the gills with kids and parents, many of whom had never seen a bookmobile. The kids got to sit in the driver's seat and blow the horn, and we gave out paper bookmobiles to cut out and assemble. Staff checked out 30 books and replaced a number of old library cards with our new ones. This continues to be, along with the 4-H Fair, one of our best PR events.

2007 HCL Amateur Photography Show

The 2007 edition of the Hunterdon County Library Amateur Photography Show was a success. The show is open to amateur photographers of Hunterdon County. The show accepted the maximum number of participants and 138 photographs (the most entries ever) were hung in the Main Gallery and Lobby Display Cases for the entire month of October.

Library Patrons voted for their favorite entry for the first half of the month and a Public's Choice Award was given at the Photo Show Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in HCL's Meeting Room. The show was judged by a local professional photographer and 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and Honorable Mention Awards were also handed out in both Adult and Student categories at the ceremony. Refreshments were also enjoyed at the Awards Ceremony by the estimated 90-100 attendees.

With the exception of the two years during renovations at the Headquarters Library, the HCL Amateur Photography Show has been held annually since 1989. It has become very popular with local photographers and library patrons alike. The lack of an organized Camera Club in Hunterdon County has fueled suggestions for a library sponsored group, which will be explored by the PR Committee.

Holidays at HCL

During December of 2006, HCL Headquarters presented a series of programs, with refreshments, for the season as well as the popular (and award-winning) "gingerbread library" that was on display in the lobby for the entire month. For 2007, the PR Committee has scheduled a similar slate of programs and displays.

On Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am, the Hunterdon Central Regional High School Fiddle Club will perform an impromptu concert in the lobby for library patrons. That evening, The Beth Coleman Band will perform a concert of bluegrass music in HCL's Meeting Room. Singer/pianist/narrator Fred Miller will be returning with an afternoon concert on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> titled "An American Christmas," which will feature his trademark sing-alongs. The Friends of HCL sponsored Festive Friday, to be held on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, will feature a concert of seasonal favorites sung by the Hunterdon Harmonizers.

On display in the lobby of HCL Headquarters during the month of December will be a battery-operated train set, decorated with an HCL theme. Book and DVD displays will serve as the "landscape" the train will travel around. It is sure to be popular with our younger library patrons!

### New Library Cards

As of October 4<sup>th</sup>, HCL had issued 8,000 of our new library cards. One month later, that number has grown to 16,000! Patrons really like the key chain feature in addition to the traditional card for wallet or purse.

### North County Branch

October was a busy programming month at the North County Branch with a wide variety of offerings to appeal to a wide audience.

Singer/guitarist Jim Rowland entertained an enthusiastic audience with his renditions of rock 'n roll classics. Fred Miller sang and played songs by Burt Bacharach, Henry Mancini, and Billy Joel.

Of a more instructional nature were a seminar on *Living Wills* and a program on *Holistic Health*. The "fun" program on *Ghosts, Goblins and Spirits* was a big hit.

For the teen set, the Teen Café had its largest "school year" program on Wednesday night, October 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Day of the Dead. Twenty-four area teens attended the program, which was sponsored by the library's Teen Advisory Board. Participants sampled traditional Mexican foods in a cemetery setting constructed by board members to re-enact this Latino cultural tradition. Eleven young people met at the library on October 11th to prepare for this event by making tissue paper flowers, bendable skeletons and cut out and painted tombstones.

### New Features on our PAC (Public Access Catalog)

The Library's PAC now contains information on 780 audiobook titles that can be downloaded from our website! We are also working on adding pictures of our DVD and CD covers in addition to the book jackets that currently display for many of our titles.

Circulation Statistics

	Oct. 07	Sept 07	% Change	Oct 06	% Change	FYTD 07	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	41,797	38,410	8.8%	38,219	9.4%	413,125	339,681	21.6%
North County	40,103	36,510	9.8%	34,337	16.8%	401,624	380,271	5.6%
South County	8,431	7,655	10.1%	6,806	23.9%	82,667	76,722	7.7%
Bunnvale	3,133	3,011	4.1%	2,488	25.9%	31,884	24,676	29.2%
Readington	6,224	5,270	18.1%	5,709	9.0%	63,848	61,032	4.6%
Holland/Alexandria	3,663	3,128	17.1%	2,918	25.5%	35,912	34,136	5.2%
Tewksbury	3,846	3,707	3.7%	3,110	23.7%	36,929	27,676	33.4%
Three Bridges	2,698	2,454	9.9%	2,116	27.5%	26,830	24,656	8.8%
High Bridge	1,020	1,048	-2.7%	1,028	-0.8%	10,412	9,704	7.3%
Frenchtown	541	501	8.0%	517	4.6%	5,490	5,547	-1.0%
Bookmobile	1,477	1,264	16.9%	1,185	24.6%	10,918	9,960	9.6%
Total	112,933	102,958	9.7%	98,433	14.7%	1,119,639	994,061	12.6%



