

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
October 2007

Festive Fridays

The Festive Fridays Committee has been meeting weekly and has completed their schedule of events for the remainder of 2007.

The theme for October was "Ode to Autumn" and included a square dancing demonstration, seasonal storytelling outdoors around a fire, children's games and crafts and plenty of cider and donuts for everyone.

The Committee is still working on a theme for November. There will be a holiday theme for December's Festive Friday, with the Hunterdon Harmonizers performing songs of the season. Refreshments, activities for children, and other events are in the planning stages.

The Festive Fridays Committee, consisting of Alison Naftal, Cheryl Grotrian, Elizabeth Erwin, Kristin Momberg and Terry Edwards, should be recognized for the hard work they do in organizing these wildly popular events. Also, thank you to the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library for financing and sponsoring Festive Fridays at HCL.

HCL Newsletter

Jennifer Winberry and Jim Thatch are in the process of creating a bi-monthly library newsletter that will feature current events at HCL as well as the branch and member libraries. Included will be new acquisitions to the library collection (books, DVDs, CDs. etc), youth and adult program information and schedules, member library upcoming events, exhibit information, Friends of HCL news, as well all other topical information.

The as-yet-unnamed newsletter will also include photographs of library happenings. The first edition is anticipated to be ready in a few weeks and will feature library information for the months of November and December, 2007

Update on Youth Services at North County Branch

On the teen front, NCB's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is ten strong this year with seven returning board members and three new members. In Teen Café, thirteen young people came to Game Night on September 12th, taking an hour away from homework to chat, munch, and play a variety of games chosen by the TAB. On Wednesday October 10th, the board and friends got together to prepare for the Day of the Dead program. Tombstones are being cut and painted and skeletons and flowers made to transform the meeting room for this "haunting" and festive night.

NCB Tweens (fourth, fifth, and sixth graders) participated in Make-a-Monster this September. They listened to a monster story, created a description of their own monster, and then built their monster from craft supplies. In October they will gather on the 18th for Movie Night to watch *The Iron Giant*.

Also in September, first, second, and third graders enjoyed Jungle Storytime. They listened to themed stories and made jungle masks. In October, they will hear ghost stories and paint pumpkins for Spooky Storytime.

Additionally, the staff of NCBYS offer regular storytimes to preschoolers and kindergarteners. There are nine storytimes each week, each with several stories, a craft, and, sometimes, a filmstrip.

Reference Department Update

With school back in session, we have seen an increase in reference business, especially on the evenings and weekends.

Reference Librarians Linda Reynolds and Terry Edwards met with Circulation Dept. Head, Lee Hughes to fine-tune a library displays project. The goal is to enable library staff from all departments to contribute and to provide some organization behind the many displays around the library.

Les Moore is weeding the video collection. Many patrons still have VCRs, but much of the collection, especially the "how-to" videos are dated and can be weeded.

Reference meetings were held at Headquarters and North County, to familiarize staff with new electronic resources and their accessibility on the PACs. Other topics were discussed also, such as patron-placed interlibrary loans, the updating of the library's union list of periodicals and roaming reference.

Technical Services Department Update

Technical Services is ordering, receiving, cataloging and processing at an almost hectic rate, trying to get our money encumbered by the November deadlines. It is currently extremely busy.

Alison Naftal is working on putting Overdrive bibliographic records into our catalog to popularize the program. This is currently involves a lot of trial and error, and looking at how other libraries use the bibliographic records, but should be operational soon.

Kristin Momberg and Pamela Munkel are working out the logistics of getting enhanced spine labels (full author last name) onto all HC, NC, and SC easy and easy reader books.

New Book Discussion Groups

The Hunterdon County Library is now sponsoring two book discussion groups. HQ is hosting one on the last Friday of each month at 10:00 am and NCB is holding their meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00 in the afternoon. The HQ group met for the first time on September 28th and discussed Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. This title was the New Jersey State Library's choice for the 2007 One Book NJ, aimed at bringing people together by encouraging them to read and discuss the same book. The NCB group will also read this title for their first meeting.

Seven people attended the first meeting and were very enthusiastic about the book and the discussion. The formal session lasted over an hour, but people stayed an additional half hour,

breaking up into smaller groups to continue their discussion. Everyone is planning to return in October, some promising to bring friends. Many participants were pleased that a group was being offered during daytime hours. The *Hunterdon County Democrat* came and took photos of the group for a feature story that is planned for the future about all the things the Hunterdon County Library has to offer readers. The next book the HQ group will be reading is Susan Vreeland's Luncheon of the Boating Party. The group will meet on October 26th at 10:00 am and light refreshments will be served.

Circulation Statistics

	Sept 07	Aug 07	% Change	Sept 06	% Change	FYTD 07	Last FYTD	% Change
Headquarters	38,410	46,714	-17.8%	36,582	5.0%	371,328	301,462	23.2%
North County	36,510	45,890	-20.4%	34,835	4.8%	361,521	345,934	4.5%
South County	7,655	9,739	-21.4%	7,011	9.2%	74,236	69,916	6.2%
Readington	5,270	7,227	-27.1%	6,027	-12.6%	57,624	55,323	4.2%
Tewksbury	3,707	4,667	-20.6%	3,385	9.5%	33,083	24,566	34.7%
Holland/Alexandria	3,128	3,984	-21.5%	3,183	-1.7%	32,249	31,218	3.3%
Bunnvale	3,011	3,814	-21.1%	2,642	14.0%	28,751	22,188	29.6%
Three Bridges	2,454	3,618	-32.2%	2,291	7.1%	24,132	22,540	7.1%
Bookmobile	1,264	937	34.9%	975	29.6%	9,441	8,775	7.6%
High Bridge	1,048	1,354	-22.6%	1,032	1.6%	9,392	8,676	8.3%
Frenchtown	501	615	-18.5%	615	-18.5%	4,949	5,030	-1.6%
Total	102,958	128,559	-19.9%	98,578	4.4%	1,006,706	895,628	12.4%



