

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
June 2008

Happy Anniversary HCL!

Sunday, June 1, 2008 was the Hunterdon County Library System's 80th anniversary. From its humble beginnings as a book car delivering books to a system of about 160 "library stations", HCL has grown into a system of ten libraries and thriving bookmobile, circulating over a million books annually. To celebrate this milestone, small displays were set up at the HQ, NCB and SCB featuring photos of the library through the years and some artifacts, including a book card from a book that Bruno Richard Hauptmann checked out while he was housed in the Hunterdon County Jail during the Lindbergh Kidnapping trial. Books from each decade of the past century were also displayed and there were trivia questions for our patrons to test their knowledge of library history. Patrons going to the NCB or SCB on Saturday or HQ on Sunday were also invited to have a piece of anniversary cake and some juice while they looked through the displays.

On Saturday, May 31, patrons at NCB were entertained by the wonderful sounds of piano music, played by Marilyn Goktuna. Her tunes included such favorites as "Ain't Misbehavin," "When You Wish Upon a Star," and "Until the Real Thing Comes Along." They also loved the cake and meeting room displays of library memorabilia and children's books written in the 1920's through the 1960's. Patrons were pleasantly surprised to walk in to the library and to the celebration. As one patron said, he enjoyed this low-key, informal celebration and felt very glad to be a member of the Hunterdon County Library System.

North County Branch

Everyone's love of animals and nature is reflected in many of NCB's spring and summer programs. NCB had Elwood, the Ugly Dog, "Bees: Benefits & Crisis," "Wild Mushrooming in New Jersey," and Master Gardner, Hank Snyder, discussing gardening. Author Jean Boggios told her story of how the family farm was lost to Eminent Domain. Manny Luftglass will be giving a program on fishing in New Jersey. This summer there will be programs on Reptiles and on Owls and the book club is reading "The Secret Life of Bees."

Youth Services

Summer is a busy and fun-filled time in Youth Services with something for all ages. Children love to sign up for Summer Reading, "Catch the Reading Bug," and collect their prizes. They also enjoy the Summer Bedtime stories, the Preschool storytimes, and the weekly Wednesday performers. For NCB Tweens, there will be a Babysitting workshop, an exciting physics demonstration, and the publication of the Tween zine. NCB's Teen Cafe theme this summer is Metamorphosis with programs from the Bear Mountain Butterfly Sanctuary, the Pearl Observatory looking at prehistoric insects, and one on Vampires & Werewolves.

The Youth Services Depart. opened up Public Internet stations at HQ and NCB in mid-May. Usage has increased steadily since opening day.

YS continued to do special Bookmobile tours at St Paul's Christian school, High Bridge Christian school, Lebanon Boro school, Stanton Learning Center, Jugtown Nursery school, and Robert Hunter school. They also conducted school tours of the library with White House Station 1st grade and West Amwell Kindergarten.

Summer Reading Club officially began on Monday, June 2nd and registrations are already up from same time last year! Our first SRC performer will begin on June 24th and programs and performers will continue through mid-August.

Reference Dept.

Reference staff were involved in a number of areas, some of which included:

Planning and hosting the Friends reception for book sale volunteers, which was very well attended.

Ordering the library's first batch of Blu-ray movies and preparing a Blu-ray FAQ for distribution.

Preparing, repairing, organizing our map collection for placement in the new map case. Weeding videos from the circuit collection and placing music orders.

Preparing for this year's Adult Summer Reading Club. The registration packets are going like hotcakes!

Working closely with the volunteers, continuing the spine re-labeling project, and preparing book displays.

Extension Services

The activities in the Extension Services department this month mirror those that were reported for May, with a set of revised plans to review from the bookmobile vendor, site visits to member libraries, and special bookmobile stops at nursery and elementary schools.

In addition, we are winding up our service to the public schools for the school year, as they return all of the items they have borrowed from us this term before summer vacation.

A lot of books have been weeded out and withdrawn from the various libraries this month, and the removal of the records from the computer and the actual discarding of the items is handled by Extension Services staff.

We also assembled and delivered a fresh collection of books for the Hunterdon County Jail. These books are withdrawn copies of recent popular works that we no longer need so many copies of. The inmates appreciate the new selections, and we plan to give them more books on a regular basis.

Circulation Statistics

	May 08	April 08	% Change	May 07	% May	FYTD 08	FYTD 07	% YTD
Headquarters	45,198	45,232	-0.1%	35,161	28.5%	232,939	199,550	16.7%
North County	44,743	44,368	0.8%	36,124	23.9%	223,011	190,339	17.2%
South County	9,178	9,409	-2.5%	7,633	20.2%	45,289	38,994	16.1%
Bunnvale	3,901	3,021	29.1%	3,086	26.4%	18,110	14,950	21.1%
Readington	7,054	6,215	13.5%	6,150	14.7%	32,651	30,715	6.3%
Holland/Alexandria	4,393	3,909	12.4%	3,360	30.7%	20,518	17,111	19.9%
Tewksbury	4,748	4,700	1.0%	3,573	32.9%	22,977	16,852	36.3%
Three Bridges	3,362	3,023	11.2%	2,286	47.1%	15,194	11,940	27.3%
High Bridge	958	1,056	-9.3%	956	0.2%	5,148	4,501	14.4%
Frenchtown	490	624	-21.5%	469	4.5%	2,962	2,425	22.1%
Bookmobile	1,897	1,751	8.3%	1,151	64.8%	7,586	5,179	46.5%
Total	125,922	123,308	2.1%	99,949	26.0%	626,385	532,556	17.6%



