

Hunterdon County Library  
Director's Report  
April 2009

HCL Website

The Hunterdon County Library website has been updated with a new look! The colors of our web pages now mimic the colors used for the HCL library card and the HCL bookmobile. The clean look of deep blue, gold and white has received many favorable comments from library patrons. The website font and overall page size was also enlarged to enhance readability.

HCL Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2008 is at the printers and should be ready for distribution by the middle of April. The report is expanded from past years to include more information and photographs.

National Library Week

HCL will be celebrating *National Library Week* (April 12 - 18, 2009) with a variety of programs. Concerts that week include singer/pianist/narrator Fred Miller and Country Musician Ron Crites. There will also be a speaker on the topic of protecting your retirement assets and *Festive Friday* returns with crafts and games for the whole family! There will be weeklong drawings for Books, CDs and DVDs and the new HCL Bookmobile will be visiting HCL Headquarters, NCB and SCB, as well as its normal stops, during the week.

Summer Outdoor Concerts

The outdoor stage at HCL Headquarters will host a series of rock concerts in July and August, 2009. Already committed to perform are the rock band ensemble for the *Hunterdon Academy of the Arts* on Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> and *The Bassboards Blues Band* on Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Two other bands are under consideration to fill out the schedule. In addition, the popular *Beth Coleman Bluegrass Band* will be performing on the outdoor stage at HCL's *Festive Friday Block Party* on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our Bookmobile is Branching Out!

The Bookmobile will be doing some PR work as part of National Library Week activities during the week of April 12 – 18. It's scheduled to park at the front of HQ on Tuesday morning, at NCB on Wednesday afternoon, and at SCB on Saturday afternoon for anyone who hasn't had a chance to visit it yet. It is a great PR opportunity for the library. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> it will be at HCRHS with a couple of our Spanish-speaking staff members to participate in the *Latino Community Day*. We're looking forward to this unique outreach opportunity with our Latino community!

The bookmobile made its first stop at the *Independence Manor Assisted Living* residence on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Although it was a rainy, cold morning, and there was another planned activity for the residents going on at the same time, several residents visited the bookmobile. Four new library cards were issued, and the reception was very positive. The bookmobile will be visiting there on an every other week schedule.

## Youth Services

This is the last month for our spring preschool storytimes. All of the available times at all locations are full. The remainder of our FY2008 programming money was used to bring back *Mr. Dave and His Reptiles* to HQ and NCB. As always, his shows were extremely popular with standing room only! YS staff conducted a number of tours at HQ and NCB. Three Bridges 1<sup>st</sup> graders have been coming to HQ every Friday, Saint Paul's PreK, Clinton Public's 6<sup>th</sup> graders came twice to NCB, and Tewksbury kindergarteners.

The YS Department has been busier than ever. Unfortunately, we lost another YS position (12 hours/week) with the resignation of Fran Daley. Until the hiring freeze is lifted, we will be cancelling more programs. After this spring session, we will be canceling a 3 - 5 yr old storytime and two Tweens programs which were being held monthly. Fran has generously offered to finish the spring Tweens programs as a volunteer. The programs will run through the beginning of June.

## Creativity On Display: Art and Artifacts at North County Branch

The formal displays at North County Branch are designed to reflect the incredible variety of talent quietly tucked away in every corner of the county. Occasionally, two exhibitors share a month, splitting either wall space or the four display cases. NCB also features "Banister Shows" with fabric creations hung from the stair railings. Exhibits change monthly, and with these added features, the branch hosted 29 displays in 2008.

The most unusual proposals often turn out to be the most interesting displays. "Crunchy Granola" featured handmade, all-natural soaps and lip balms. "Tiny Cupcakes" was a little girl's treasure trove of felt hair ornaments and play food. Two brothers shared their collections of Pez dispensers and Star Wars memorabilia. Even some Pez dispensers of Star Wars figures! "Pepper Tienda" showcased products from Third World countries, crafted from recycled materials, such as bowls made from tightly-rolled coils of old newspapers.

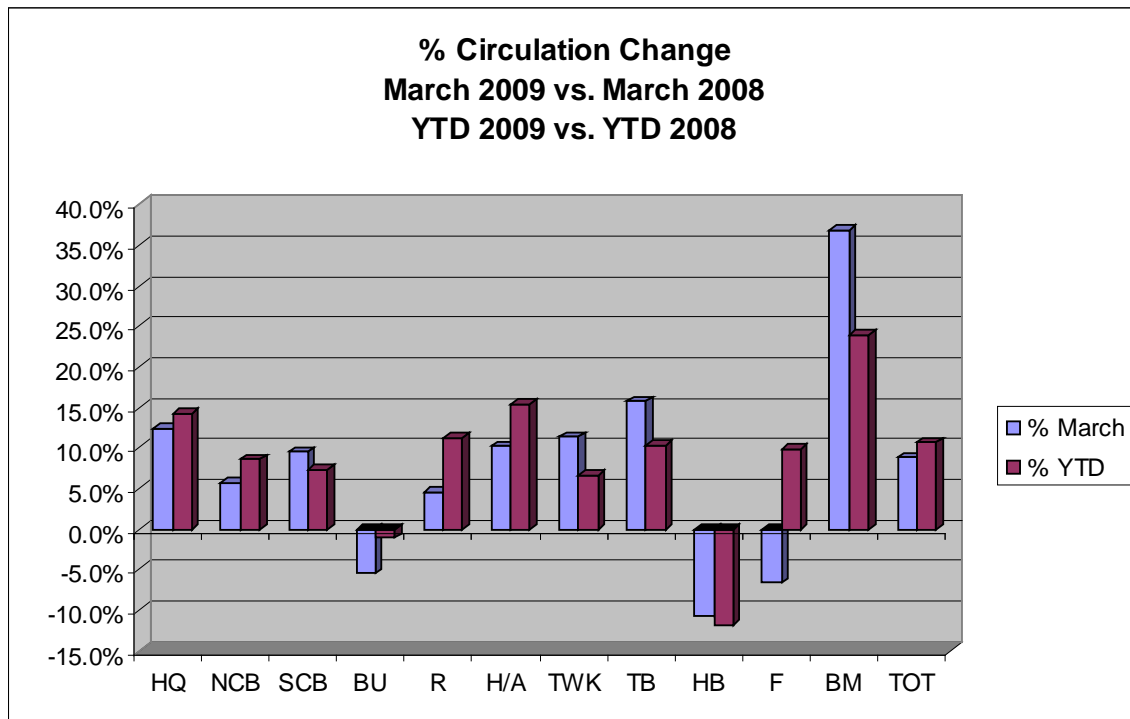
Occasionally, a display can be scheduled to help advertise a library program. Nelson Jecas displayed treasures he found diving off the New Jersey coast, in conjunction with his July talk. Hank Snyder's collection of antique garden seed packs and catalogs enhanced his June discussion of *Gardening Around the World*. Michael Cook hosted *Meet & Greet the Artist*, coinciding with his "Art In Sight" exhibit.

It's always a pleasure to cooperate with local organizations and other county agencies, to help raise awareness about their missions and achievements. The Hunterdon Sailing Club kicked off their membership drive with cases full of sailing equipment, photos and awards. Liz Fulmer, who teaches basketry and other crafts at the Arboretum, created a wonderful "Basket Styles and Basket Weaving Processes" exhibit just before her classes began. Maggie Conroy used her photographic talents to recreate the many beautiful parks in Hunterdon County and events they hosted throughout the summer. Several local schools demonstrated the imaginative creations of our high school students. Vitally important was the annual Banister Display by Safe In Hunterdon, a not-for-profit agency serving victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. T-shirts created by staff and clients raised awareness for Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

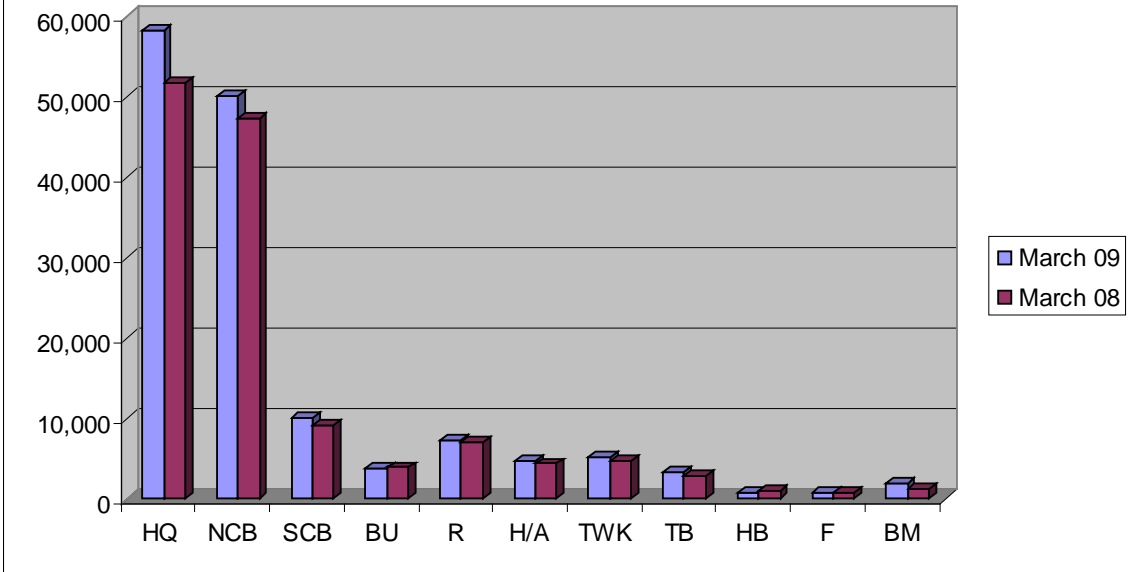
Whether your interest is Keith Dinsen's local night scenes with accurate constellations for special historic events; Guatemalan Memories of our own staff member Enrique Coronado; the limitless talent of the Hunterdon Watercolor Society; or archaeological treasures unearthed while renovating Throckmorton Tavern in Ringoes, you're bound to be delighted by the never-ending kaleidoscope of NCB displays.

Circulation Statistics

	March 09	Feb. 09	% Change	March 08	% March	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
HQ	58,192	52,299	11.3%	51,806	12.3%	162,805	142,509	14.2%
NCB	50,106	45,864	9.2%	47,433	5.6%	145,360	133,900	8.6%
SCB	10,047	9,061	10.9%	9,177	9.5%	28,642	26,702	7.3%
BU	3,709	3,545	4.6%	3,926	-5.5%	11,066	11,188	-1.1%
R	7,345	6,711	9.4%	7,027	4.5%	21,567	19,382	11.3%
H/A	4,830	4,473	8.0%	4,384	10.2%	14,096	12,216	15.4%
TWK	5,242	4,627	13.3%	4,709	11.3%	14,429	13,529	6.7%
TB	3,407	3,213	6.0%	2,943	15.8%	9,715	8,809	10.3%
HB	883	918	-3.8%	988	-10.6%	2,761	3,134	-11.9%
F	684	711	-3.8%	733	-6.7%	2,029	1,848	9.8%
BM	1,831	1,486	23.2%	1,338	36.8%	4,881	3,938	23.9%
TOT	146,276	132,908	10.1%	134,464	8.8%	417,351	377,155	10.7%



**Items Circulated  
March 2009 vs. March 2008**



**Items Circulated through end of March  
2009 YTD vs. 2008 YTD**

