

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
December 2009

Holiday Snowy Forest

During the month of December, the Public Relations Committee has set up a special display in the lobby of the Headquarters Library.

A "snowy forest" complete with trees, falling snow, and even a gingerbread house grace the lobby. Holiday music and the smell of cinnamon add to the magical scene. The forest is home to donated teddy bears that the library is collecting to give to the sick and under-privileged children of Hunterdon County. The Hunterdon Medical Center and local rescue squads are working with the library in this endeavor.

Need a Little Holiday Spirit? December 17th and 18th at HQ and NCB Should Do It!

Join us at HQ and NCB as we celebrate the holidays. Starting on Thursday, December 17th at 2:00 pm, Fred Miller will be at the Main Library in Flemington with his annual *An American Christmas* show and sing-along. That evening, NCB will present *The Eric Mintel Quartet's* wildly popular *A Charlie Brown Christmas* show.

Still haven't had enough? Be at HQ on Friday, December 18th at 11:30 am to hear the very talented *Hunterdon Central High School Fiddle Club* play a selection of holiday classics. Finally, come back to the HQ that evening to "sing in the holidays" with the *Hunterdon Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus*.

Extension Services

On Sunday, December 6th, our bookmobile participated in the *Flemington Holiday Parade*. Hundreds of people lined the streets and staff members on the bookmobile, Glen Spinks and Kerri Messinger, heard many cheers and other positive comments that parade-watchers shouted to them. Kerri reported that several people asked if they could go onboard (as the parade was passing) and one person asked if they could get some books as he needed something for school the next day! The staff could not help with that, but the reception they received throughout the parade was tremendous.

Book selection and ordering are wrapping up for the year, with funds left only for a few more requested items. We look forward to resuming regular ordering in January.

Circulation Dept.

Staff is continuing to shelf read and check on DVD's and audio books for missing items.

The Blu-ray disks are still being kept at the circulation desk. This seems to be working out well. Dept. Head Lee Comella has ordered more notebooks to store the disks.

Youth Services Dept.

Storytimes continued in November and December. All time slots for all ages at all our locations are full.

Recent tours included visits from Kinder Cap Preschool and a local homeschool group at NCB.

Teen Cafe at NCB had a Diversity party and NCB Tweens had a program, *Sing a Song in Sign*, which combined guitar music with sign language.

Reference Dept.

Preparations for the end of 2009 have begun. We are renewing some of our remaining databases, including *Biography Resource Center*, which will make us, our patrons, and the Hunterdon County school librarians very happy! We are also giving a quick trial to a language learning database that may prove to be better (and less expensive) than *Mango Languages*, which expires at the end of December.

North County Branch

November saw the final appearance of the therapy dogs for 2009 as they are taking a holiday break from *Paws to Read*. This program that started in January, 2009, became much bigger than anyone anticipated. What was scheduled to be a six week program ended up being 28 programs with a total attendance of 830. Everyone loves to read to the dogs and the dogs love to listen! *Paws to Read* will resume in January for a three-month stint and again in the summer.

Alexander Tchobonov returned to perform classical piano music. One patron commented that, "He is as good as any that I have seen at Carnegie Hall." An exciting surprise was the attendance of over 100 to see Jackie Kashmer of *Bat World New Jersey* present her bats. NCB also had an SRO crowd on December 3rd to hear the *Langman Family* concert. A 17 year old girl and her brothers, ages 11 and 13, thrilled the audience with classical music on piano, violin and cello. At such young ages, they're a very professional trio and they live in Hunterdon County!

Teen Cafe at North County Branch

North County Teen Café had a busy fall as the 13 member Teen Advisory Board began planning the monthly school year programs.

September 9th was what has become the annual *Game Night* event with 18 young people playing everything from board games and twister to charades.

On October 27th, the Teen Board held a *Halloween Party*, where they put on the play, *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*, complete with props, music, and a pumpkin patch. The evening started out with a Skeleton Treasure Hunt, which called upon the Teens' literary knowledge as they scoured the stacks for skeleton bones. The pumpkin theme

was reflected in the décor in the meeting room, pumpkin carols were sung by the 19 partygoers, and the breaking of the pumpkin piñata ended the evening.

On November 4th, the Hunterdon Radio Theatre performed a full-cast production of original works by its founder and director, William Spear. This program was given by HRT as a thank you for Teen Café's support of radio theatre.

November 18th was Teen Café's *Diversity Night*. Despite having three programs within three weeks, eight enthusiastic teens attended and displayed tables of food and family treasures as they talked about the customs and traditions of their country of origin. The countries represented were as diverse as Poland, Iran, and Greece. Everyone learned much and ate much.

On December 9th, the Teen Advisory Board will end the year of programming with a *Book Swap*, where Teens will talk about favorite books. They will also share their favorite treats as they make a team craft showing imagination and creativity and take a quiz, testing their knowledge of holiday traditions from around the world.

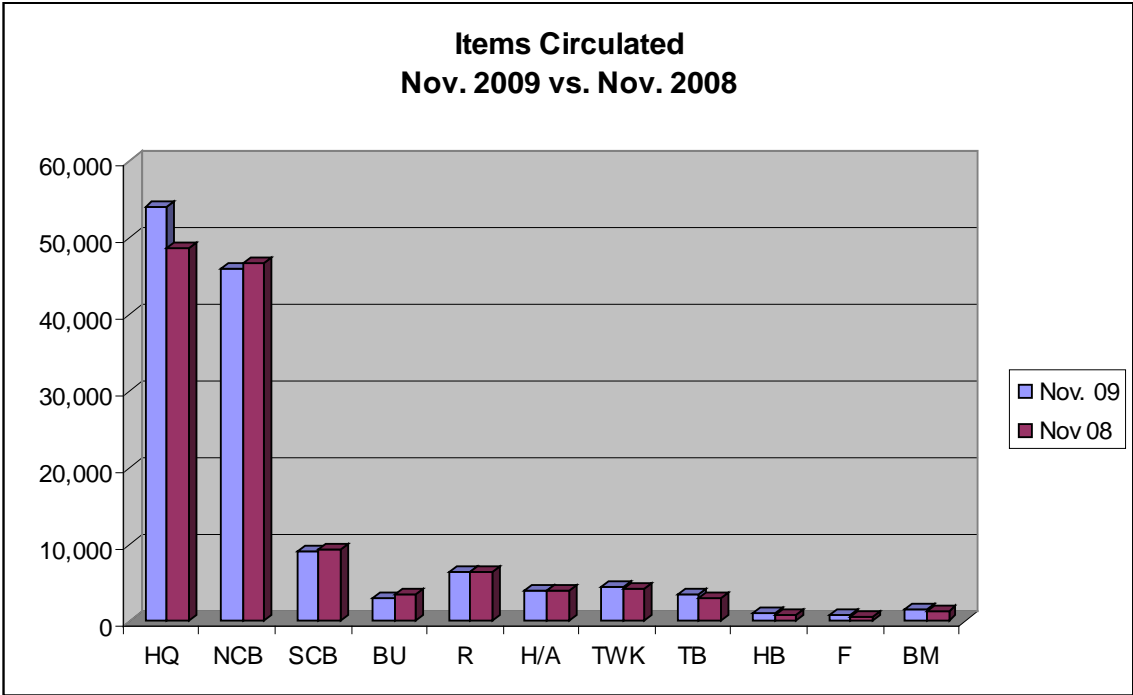
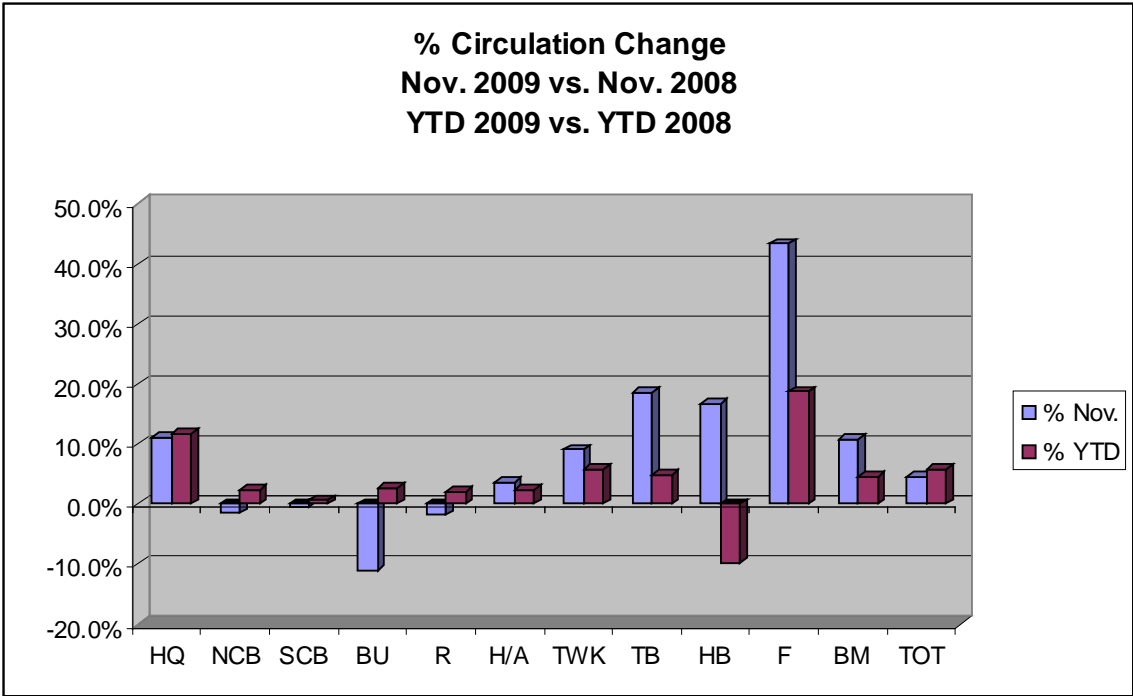
Teen Café will be sponsoring a monthly four-part *Writers Workshop*, from January through April, on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The workshops will explore short stories, novels, screenwriting, playwriting, and poetry and will be conducted by published author and Hunterdon County resident William Spear.

Transition

We have been preparing for the change in public services hours at HQ, staff reassignments, and the transfer of Amanda Philipp to NCB to replace Barbara Riesenfeld who will be retiring at the end of December.

Circulation Statistics

	Nov. 09	Oct. 09	% Change	Nov 08	% Nov.	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
HQ	54,115	54,287	-0.3%	48,668	11.2%	609,116	545,118	11.7%
NCB	45,948	49,130	-6.5%	46,682	-1.6%	545,997	533,564	2.3%
SCB	9,205	9,556	-3.7%	9,257	-0.6%	107,195	106,544	0.6%
BU	3,096	4,074	-24.0%	3,482	-11.1%	42,524	41,447	2.6%
R	6,315	6,951	-9.1%	6,436	-1.9%	81,382	79,749	2.0%
H/A	4,079	4,330	-5.8%	3,940	3.5%	50,740	49,603	2.3%
TWK	4,522	5,016	-9.8%	4,147	9.0%	55,593	52,516	5.9%
TB	3,429	3,969	-13.6%	2,891	18.6%	40,325	38,486	4.8%
HB	1,025	1,025	0.0%	878	16.7%	11,008	12,196	-9.7%
F	753	732	2.9%	525	43.4%	8,516	7,169	18.8%
BM	1,534	1,997	-23.2%	1,385	10.8%	18,026	17,257	4.5%
TOT	134,021	141,067	-5.0%	128,291	4.5%	1,570,422	1,483,649	5.8%



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

