

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
February 2009

PR & Programs

The Public Relations Committee has completed the programming schedule for the first half of 2009. Word of mouth has certainly spread and many performers and speakers from all over the county, state, and beyond have expressed interest in being a part of the Hunterdon County programming series. We are even featuring a band that will be traveling from Scotland to perform at HQ in May. Check out our web page to see the incredible variety of speakers and musical performers that will be coming to HQ and NCB in 2009.

NCB hit the big time with a smash January musical program. Over 120 attendees rocked and swayed during a *Joey Arminio and the Family* concert. The first half of their performance was devoted to the classics of Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra followed by a second act of doo-wop. They normally play venues in hotels, often in Atlantic City, and they did their full show for us. They dressed the parts and did mini-acts and could be heard all over the building. Everyone loved it. A memorable evening for all!

The New Jersey State Library has launched a program titled *Solving Life's Problems*, where libraries from around the state will be collecting stories from patrons and staff alike to tell a compelling story about their library." They are looking for real life experiences that reflect the way libraries are transforming the lives of people in their communities. For more information, visit www.solvinglifeproblems.org.

Hunterdon County Children's Writers Group

Sheri Oshins, the leader of the *Hunterdon County Children's Writers Group*, sponsored by the Hunterdon County Library, was featured with a cover story in the Hunterdon Observer this past week. The article related the history of the group and the great success it has achieved. The library is very proud to team up with Ms. Oshins and support this very well-respected group.

Extension Services

January was a busy month for the Extension Services staff. The bookmobile had a successful month, in spite of an abbreviated schedule due to inclement weather. Our patrons are very understanding if the bookmobile is not in service during bad storms and always reappear the following week to return their items and select new ones.

The staff has been spending a lot of time withdrawing books that are discarded by the member libraries. We have been encouraging the affiliated libraries to send more things back for this project. Removing the items from the system involves withdrawing them from the database and then disposing of the books, either by putting them out for sale or discarding those that are not saleable. We have also notified all of the school librarians that they may come to HQ to select any withdrawn children's books that they can use for their school libraries.

Jennifer and Floyd made one trip to Frenchtown, to make plans for the addition of some new shelving. Frenchtown has cleaned out and painted a small room to make it into a more

comfortable reading room for patrons. We are providing some shelving pieces for that space and some additional shelving to replace some old wooden ones in the main room. These items will be sent to Frenchtown as soon as some replacement pieces are received. The balance of the shelving is new shelving that was left over from our expansion project.

Youth Services

Our very popular Library Babies and Preschool Storytimes for children between the ages of 2 and 5 resumed in mid-January. All locations are filled and we have some waiting lists.

School tours resumed in January also. At NCB, we held tours for Califon students in grade 5-8 and for Preschoolers from Immaculate Conception School in Clinton. At HQ, we held our annual storytime/mini-tour for students with special needs from Copper Hill School. We all look forward to hosting these students every year.

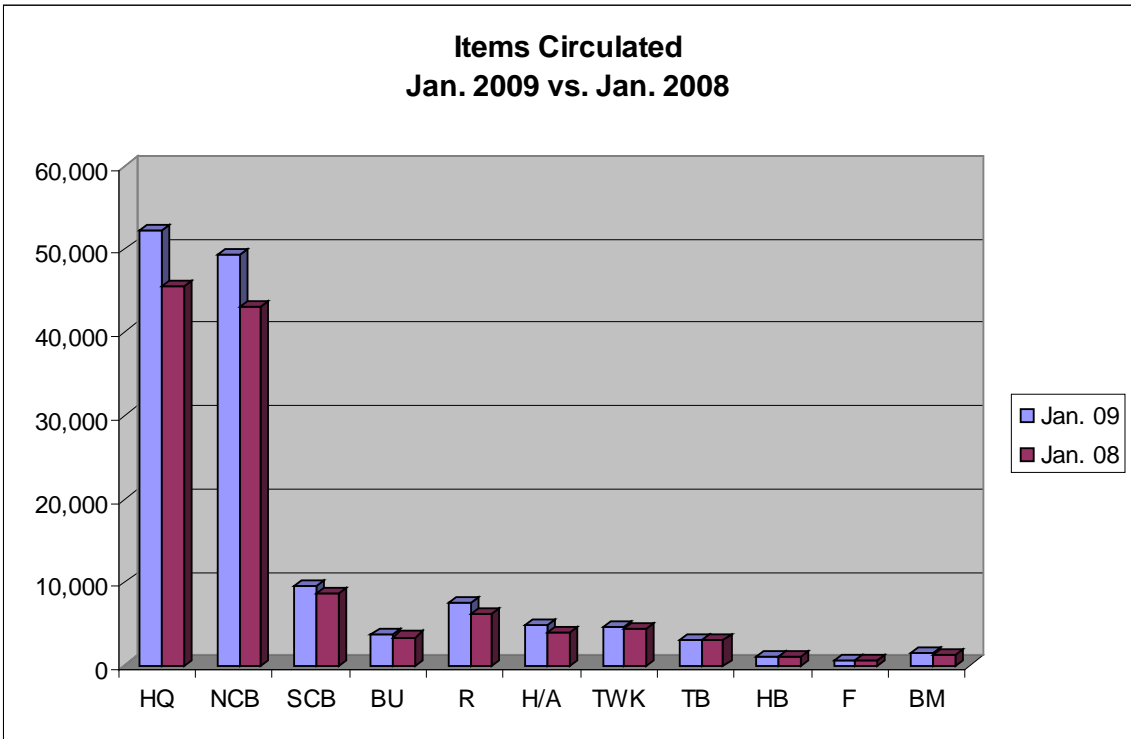
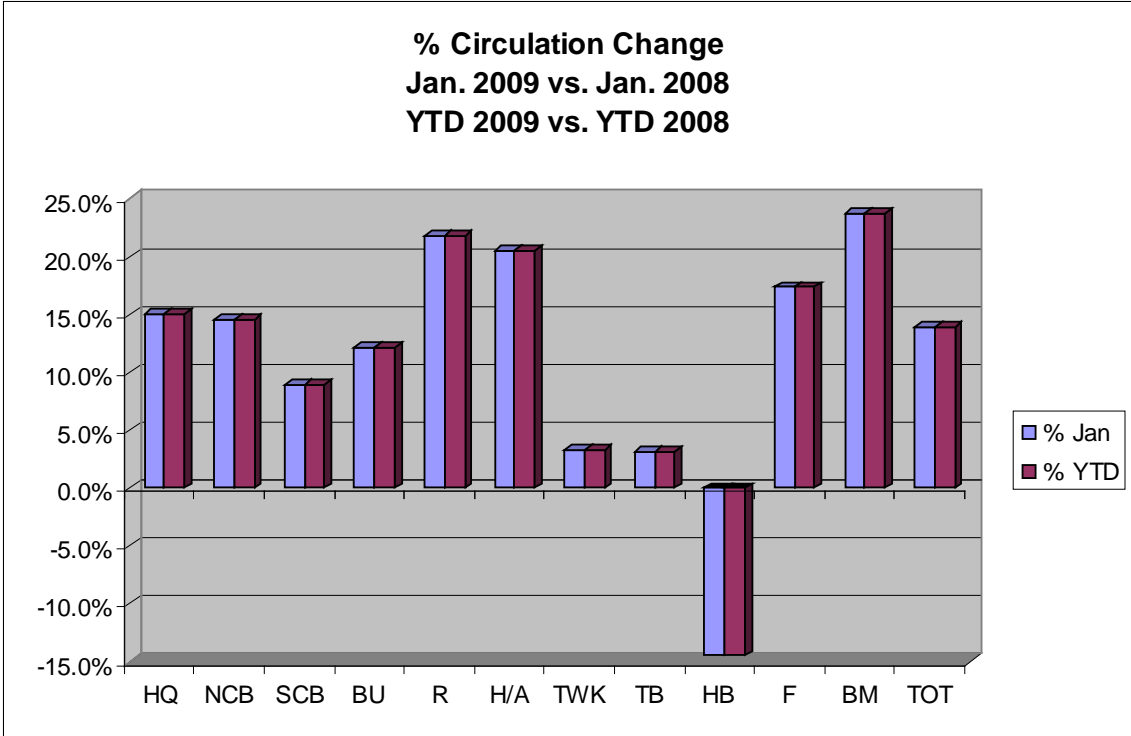
On Thursday, January 29th, bestselling youth author, Todd Strasser, came to NCB as a part of the *Tween Zine Writing Workshop Series*. This series is sponsored by a generous grant from the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library. Each month from January to May, NCB has a guest author lead a writing workshop for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. In May, these children are invited to bring in a piece of their writing to be published in the *Tween Zine*, NCB's homemade literary magazine. In June we will release the zine at the annual party where children may read their contribution to friends and family members.

Todd Strasser's January workshop, called *Show, Don't Tell*, tackled issues of imagery and the senses. He was a dynamic and engaging leader. We received many compliments from the children and parents that night and later via email. Our favorite compliment was, "This wasn't like school! This was fun!"

On Thursday, February 12th, NCB will host famous children's author, David Lubar, who will lead another fun workshop called *Ideas are Easy*.

Circulation Statistics

	Jan. 09	Dec 08	% Change	Jan. 08	% Jan	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
Headquarters	52,314	45,927	13.9%	45,442	15.1%	52,314	45,442	15.1%
North County	49,390	45,754	7.9%	43,113	14.6%	49,390	43,113	14.6%
South County	9,534	9,248	3.1%	8,752	8.9%	9,534	8,752	8.9%
Bunnvale	3,812	3,158	20.7%	3,400	12.1%	3,812	3,400	12.1%
Readington	7,511	6,692	12.2%	6,165	21.8%	7,511	6,165	21.8%
Holland/Alexandria	4,793	3,775	27.0%	3,977	20.5%	4,793	3,977	20.5%
Tewksbury	4,560	4,189	8.9%	4,416	3.3%	4,560	4,416	3.3%
Three Bridges	3,095	3,238	-4.4%	2,999	3.2%	3,095	2,999	3.2%
High Bridge	960	919	4.5%	1,123	-14.5%	960	1,123	-14.5%
Frenchtown	634	625	1.4%	540	17.4%	634	540	17.4%
Bookmobile	1,564	1,358	15.2%	1,264	23.7%	1,564	1,264	23.7%
Total	138,167	124,883	10.6%	121,191	14.0%	138,167	121,191	14.0%



Items Circulated through end of Jan.
2009 YTD vs. 2008 YTD

