

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
March 2009

Festive Fridays Are Back!

The Hunterdon County Library is planning to begin the very popular *Festive Friday* series again with three programs at HQ in 2009. All three programs will be, once again, fully funded by our generous Friends of the Hunterdon County Library!

The first *Festive Friday* will be held during National Library Week on Friday, April 17th. It will feature plenty of crafts for children and adults as well as games throughout the library including the always popular scavenger hunt, Rock Band and Wii. Refreshments, generously provided by the Friends of HCL, will be served. Contact Jennifer Winberry at 788-1420 for more information.

Over the summer we will be holding our outdoor *Festive Friday Block Party* on Friday, July 17th. Still in the planning stages, scheduled events include music by *The Beth Coleman Band*, a moon bounce, temporary tattoos, refreshments, volleyball and many other outdoor games. Contact Dana Neubauer at 730-6135 for more details.

Finally, on Friday, October 30th, the last *Festive Friday* of the year will have an Octoberfest/barn dance/Halloween theme. Very few details have been planned so far but ideas have included square dancing, a polka band, a speaker that talks about old time radio with a Halloween theme, storytellers, and, of course, refreshments. Contact Jim Thatch at 788-1423 for any comments or questions about this program.

Youth Services

Our very popular *Library Babies* and *Preschool Storytimes* for children between the ages of 2 and 5 are going full swing. All locations are filled with waiting lists.

School tours also remain popular. At NCB, YS held tours for Tiger Cubs (1st grade). At HQ, YS gives tours every Friday for 1st graders from Three Bridges. A librarian was also sent to SCB to give a tour to preschoolers from Wellspring Academy.

Our Nights are Magic

Youth Services at HQ held a special evening program, a *Beginner Magic Workshop* for ages 6 and up, on February 17, 2009. Magician Brian Richards, a *Summer Reading Club* favorite, returned to give 100 children and adults some magic tips. After swearing everyone in as a magician, all participants took an oath not to reveal the magic secrets that he was about to share. The program was extremely popular and parents left asking for more like it.

North County Branch Teen Café

NCB *Teen Café* celebrated Chinese New Year with a lantern festival on February 11, 2009. Twenty-five teens and two *Teen Café* alumni turned out for the event, which included a sampling of Chinese New Year treats, making Chinese paper lanterns, solving Chinese "lantern" riddles, and the highlight—a traditional Lion Dance. (Members of the Teen Board had made a giant lion mask, attaching red fabric, and bamboo poles.) It was quite a sight to see all the teens

enthusiastically parade along side and under the dragon throughout the main floor of the library, playing instruments and singing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."

On Wednesday evening, March 11, 2009, Rutgers physics wizard, Dave Maiullo amazed, entertained, and informed teens and pre-teens with spectacular science experiments. Dave is well known throughout NJ and appeared at NCB last summer.

NCB is Going to the Dogs

NCB's *Read to the Dogs* program has really taken off. Thinking that they would start with two therapy dogs and hopefully get six to ten children, the first session in January brought in six dogs and thirty-two children. The second session again brought in six dogs and twenty-seven children. By the third program, staff had eight dogs and at least thirty-eight "readers." Children and parents love going around the room to read to each of the dogs, who are seated with their owners. Often many patrons drop in just to enjoy watching this cozy scene.

Due to the program's popularity, it has been renamed *Paws for Reading* and is scheduled for all but the last Saturday of each month through the end of June.

Busy Sundays

Sundays at the Headquarters Library have been extremely busy in the last few weeks. The number of items checked out in the four hours open has exceeded 1,000 for the last several weeks. There are always lots of people using the facility to read, as well, and the Reference librarians are kept very busy with many questions.

South County Branch

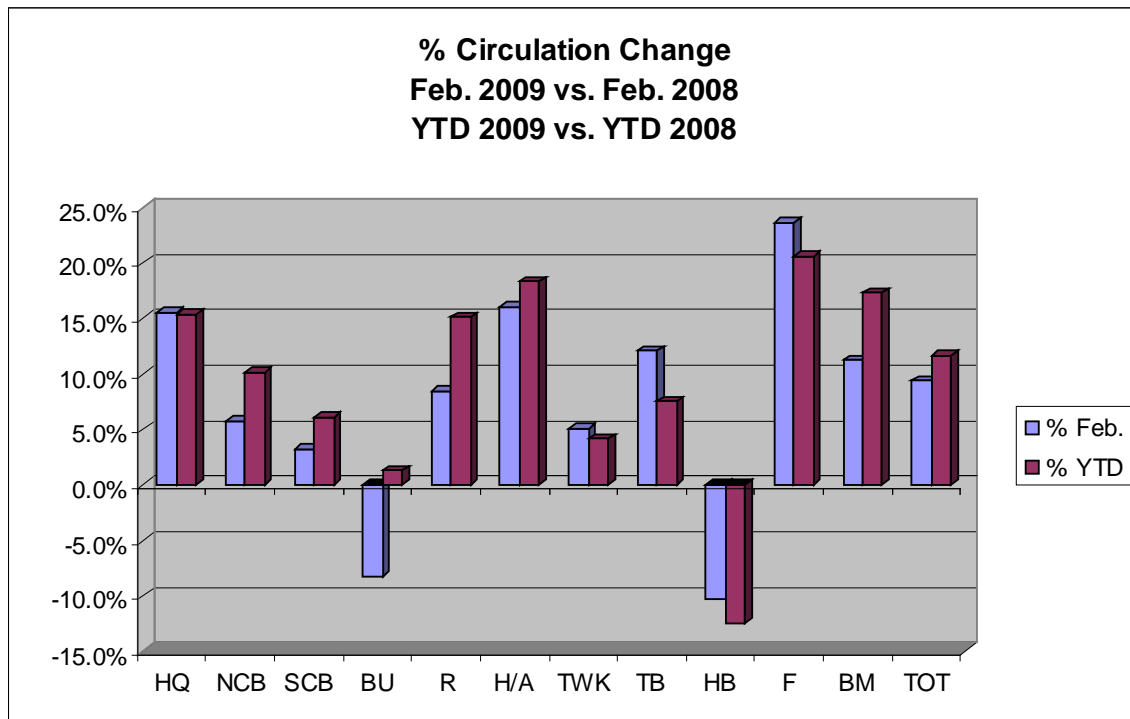
The South County Branch has been enjoying a very busy season too, and their *SCB Book Club* for adults is thriving. The most recent meeting brought out sixteen participants to discuss *The Good Earth* by Pearl Buck. Jennifer Heater and Joan Brelsford are the co-moderators of the group. Jennifer reported that the discussion was very lively, with many insightful comments. The group meets once a month, and participation is steadily growing.

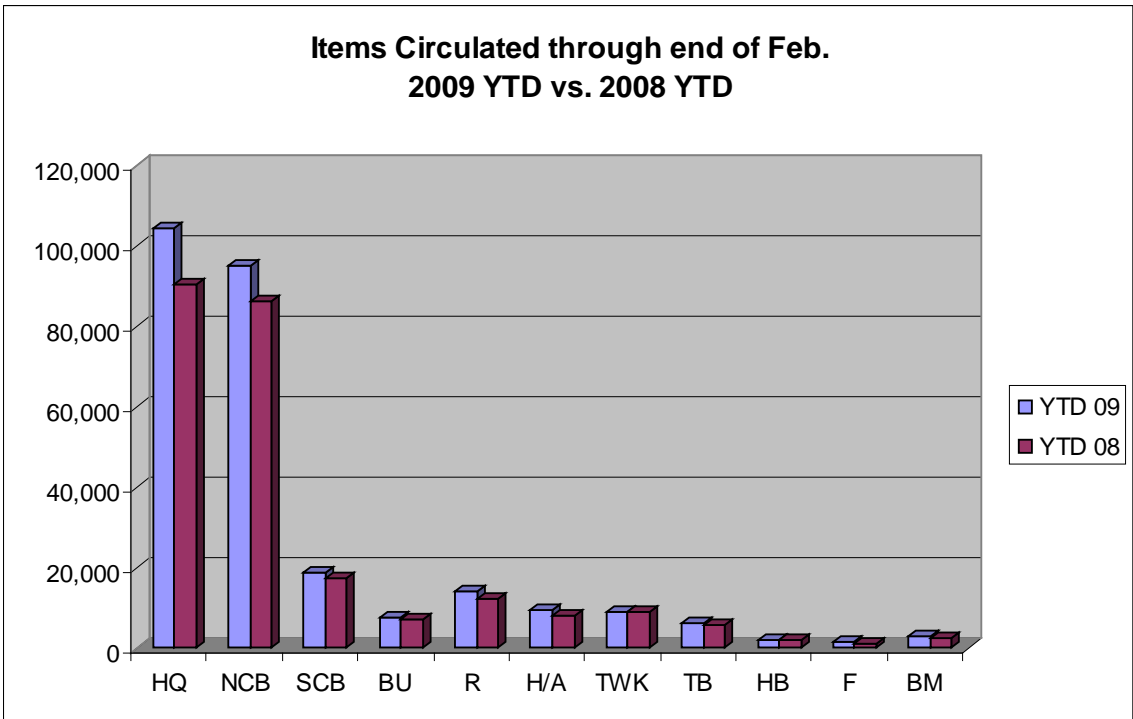
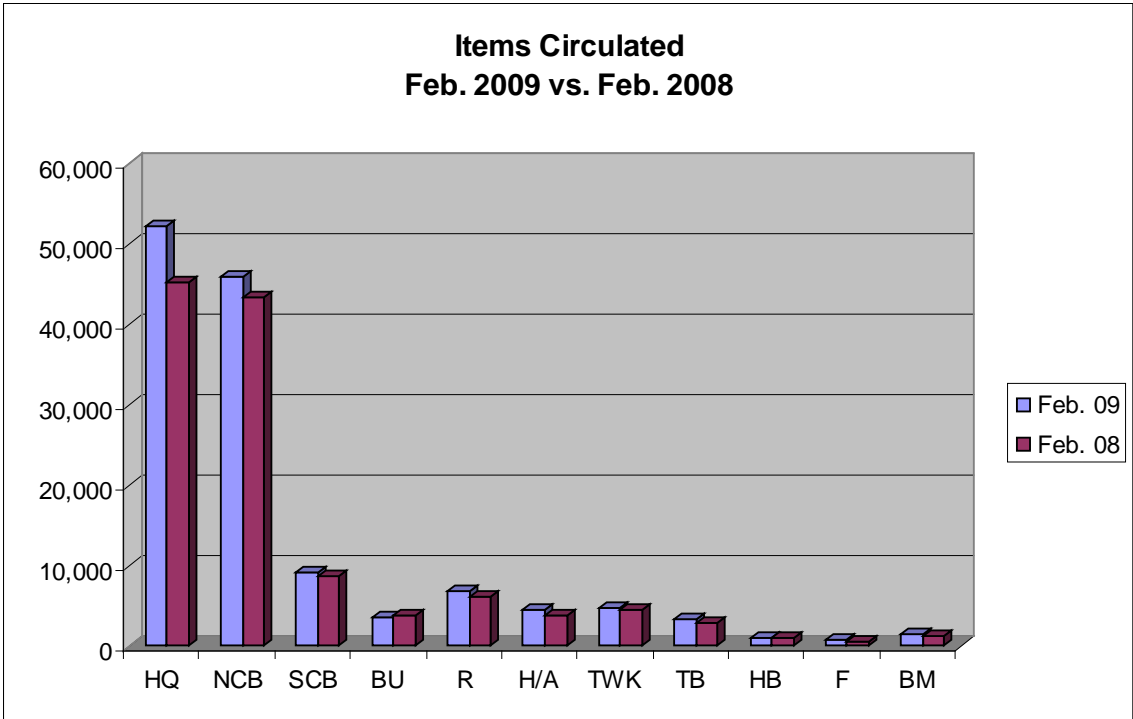
Bookmobile

The Bookmobile will be initiating a new stop at the *Independence Manor Assisted Living* residence beginning April 1, 2009, on an every other week schedule. The Activities Director has reported that a number of the residents are voracious readers with a strong interest in having the bookmobile stop there. A stop at the *Senior Center* is also in the planning stages, and would be scheduled on the same day as the *Independence Manor* service.

Circulation Statistics

	Feb. 09	Jan. 09	% Change	Feb. 08	% Feb.	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
Headquarters	52,299	52,314	0.0%	45,261	15.5%	104,613	90,703	15.3%
North County	45,864	49,390	-7.1%	43,354	5.8%	95,254	86,467	10.2%
South County	9,061	9,534	-5.0%	8,773	3.3%	18,595	17,525	6.1%
Bunnvale	3,545	3,812	-7.0%	3,862	-8.2%	7,357	7,262	1.3%
Readington	6,711	7,511	-10.7%	6,190	8.4%	14,222	12,355	15.1%
Holland/Alexandria	4,473	4,793	-6.7%	3,855	16.0%	9,266	7,832	18.3%
Tewksbury	4,627	4,560	1.5%	4,404	5.1%	9,187	8,820	4.2%
Three Bridges	3,213	3,095	3.8%	2,867	12.1%	6,308	5,866	7.5%
High Bridge	918	960	-4.4%	1,023	-10.3%	1,878	2,146	-12.5%
Frenchtown	711	634	12.1%	575	23.7%	1,345	1,115	20.6%
Bookmobile	1,486	1,564	-5.0%	1,336	11.2%	3,050	2,600	17.3%
Total	132,908	138,167	-3.8%	121,500	9.4%	271,075	242,691	11.7%





Snapshot Day

The New Jersey State Library and the New Jersey Library Association asked libraries across the state to participate in a survey to demonstrate some of the things that happen on a typical day in our libraries. On February 19, 2009 staff at HQ, NCB, SCB, and the Bookmobile collected information and distributed surveys to our patrons to help us with this task. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our entire staff we now have a very accurate picture of what happens at HCL on a typical day.

Our responses to the Snapshot Day Survey:

Snapshot Day - February 19, 2009

One Day in the Life of HQ, NCB, SCB and the Bookmobile

	Number
Customer Visits/Door Count	1,574
Adult Book Circulation	1,668
Teen/YA Book Circulation	75
Children's Book Circulation	888
A/V-Non Print Media Circulation	1,676
Library Cards Issued/Borrowers Registered	17
Newspaper & Magazine Use in Library	59
Reference, Research Requests, and Librarian Mediated Database Searches	367
Resume Help	2
Job Application Assistance	0
Unemployment Applications	2
Other Government Assistance/Applications/E-Government	3
Consumer Health Questions	3
Tax Forms Distributed	124
Tax Assistance (volunteer or other)	4
Computer Use Sessions (Internet/Word Processing)	217
Volunteer/Community Service Hours	6

Optional: Please share a few examples of reference questions here:

Is there train travel available from Paris to Lourdes? What does 'RWP' on metal mean? How do I publish a book? What is the anatomy of the honeybee?

Tell us about your programs and activities...

	Number	Total Persons Served/Attendance
Children's Programs (story times, crafts)	0	0
Teen Programs	0	0
Adult Programs	2	93
Computer/Technology Classes	0	0
Other Classes (homework/tutoring, ESL)	3	6
Bibliographic Instruction	0	0
Class Visits to the Library	2 Boy Scout troops	29
Tours of the Library	0	0
Outreach (visits to schools or other agencies)	0	0
Meeting Room Use by Community Groups	1	6

Anything else you would like to add: unique programs, comments about this process, etc.

On most Thursdays, we would be running 5 story hours, with a total attendance of 75. This week just happened to be the "sign up week" which is a one-week break in between sessions.

Interlibrary Loans Processed - 46
 Tech Services Items Processed - 744
 Program Signups - 124
 Items Pulled for Holds - 491
 Copier & Microfilm Users - 45

461 patrons returned survey forms. They came to the library that day for the following reasons (numbers = number of people for each reason):

Borrow/Return Items - 460
 Read Newspapers/Magazines - 51
 Get income tax forms/assistance - 51
 Use the Internet (public & wireless) - 64
 Do homework - 56
 Do research - 159
 Take a test - 3
 Volunteer - 3
 Attend a program - 40
 Sign up for storytime - 5
 Do work for my job in a quiet place - 5
 Tutoring - 3
 Use paperback exchange / Buy sale books - 4
 Socialization (children) - 3
 Socialization (adults) - 4
 Get info on upcoming library programs - 3
 View artwork - 3
 Read to my child - 7
 Read books - 1
 Browse new books - 1

Donate items - 1
Get homeschooling resources - 4
Peruse the bulletin board of community events - 3
To get away to a quiet place - 10
To play with trains - 5
To play with puzzles - 2
To use the copier - 2

Comments and quotes from your patrons:

"We spend more tax dollars on school administrators, programs and sports complexes that do very little to educate our children. We should allot more money for libraries where our culture and education can be preserved and enhanced."

"The Hunterdon County Library is the only government organization that I enjoy paying my taxes for!"

"This library means a lot to us; we use it for many, many things. We also take advantage of the remote access, like looking for Consumer Reports articles and renewing books online. One of the primary reasons we haven't moved is to stay close to this particular library."

"The library is one of the most important services a community can offer. If I need to find something, learn something, or just relax - the library has it."

"I often stop here on my way home to do some quiet computer work away from phones and other distractions and watch the sky change from the 2nd floor windows. I look for movies, check out the current art, and see what activities the library is hosting."

"I probably use the library 2 to 3 times per week for many of the activities listed above. I need a great library close by and it's one of the reasons I live where I do!"

"The library is a quiet place for me to go and concentrate on work - grading papers, writing lesson plans, researching projects. All the resources, the wireless Internet and especially the kind and familiar staff are an invaluable asset to me, my work and my success."

"Libraries are the lifeline of our communities, in that they provide us with valuable services. A library can be viewed as a heart, rip it out or shut it down and the community will suffer greatly. This is the information age and libraries should be supported and not shut down."