

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
November 2009

Extension Services

Assistant Library Director Floyd Saums and Supervising Librarian Jennifer Winberry attended the Lebanon Township (Bunnvale) Library's 30th anniversary on Saturday, October 17th. A number of residents attended, there was a very exuberant professional storyteller to entertain the young children, and the assembled guests were honored to have Congressman Leonard Lance offer his congratulations.

On Saturday, October 24th, Floyd Saums attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Holland Alexandria Library for the new outdoor garden and story area that the Girl Scouts had created for the library. Although it was a rainy day, they had a good attendance, and the work the Girl Scouts did, including a charming mural painted on the side of the library, was admired by all.

On Saturday, November 7th, the HCL Bookmobile participated in the County Park System's annual *Touch A Truck* event. Thousands of people attended this event, where children are welcome to climb on and in a number of different vehicles, including many fire trucks, bucket trucks, flat beds, garbage trucks, etc. The bookmobile was a major hit again this year, and was, at times, full of children and their parents. Four people signed up for library cards, and a number of people even checked out books and DVDs, with 65 items checked out in the 3 ½ hour period!

Festive Friday: Halloween!

The last Festive Friday of 2009 took place at HQ on Friday, October 30th. Over 300 library patrons, young and old and mostly dressed in costumes, came to the library to enjoy a night of games, crafts and refreshments. The night was highlighted by the kids trick-or-treating throughout the library followed by a massive costume parade.

The Public Relations Committee will be considering the fate of Festive Fridays for 2010 now that the library may be closed on Friday evenings. We will explore other options for continuing this very popular series.

HCL Amateur Photography Show

The annual photography show at HCL Headquarters was a great success. The show had so many entrants this year that it overflowed from the gallery into the lobby where pictures had to be displayed on tables. New Jersey author and photographer Walter Choroszewski generously donated his time and judged the show, and also gave a lecture, *Getting to Know your Digital Camera*, after the awards ceremony on Wednesday, October 14th. He also offered guidance and suggestions on running such a

large show and committed to helping out again next year. We are very lucky to have such a well-known and well-respected photographer associated with our show!

Hunterdon County Camera Club

Inspired by Walter Choroszewski, a participant in this year's photography show asked if there was a possibility of starting a camera club for Hunterdon County residents. After contacting a number of other show participants and seeing that there is indeed an interest, the Hunterdon County Camera Club was born. The first organizational meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 30th at 7:00 pm in HQ's Meeting Room. The library will lend support in the hopes that it will become as popular as another group sponsored by the Hunterdon County Library, The Hunterdon County Children's Writers and Illustrators Group. Check out their web page at <http://hunterdoncountychildrenswritersgroup.blogspot.com/>

Circulation Dept.

Holds at HQ are still averaging 150 - 200 per day. The adult page spends 1^{1/2} - 2 hours each day retrieving items from our shelves to fill these requests. Staff averages about the same amount of time checking the items in and routing them. Another 45 minutes is spent looking in the shelving area for items not yet returned to the shelves.

In order to keep up with increasing demand, the loan period for CDs has been reduced from two weeks to one.

Youth Services Dept.

Storytimes are continuing in October/November with full registration. Time slots for all ages at all locations are full.

Tours have resumed again. Lebanon Borough 6th graders and Bethlehem Twp Kindergarteners visited NCB, the Bookmobile visited Holland Twp School, and Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts visited HQ.

Teen Café at NCB had a Halloween party and the NCB Tweens learned all about Bats!

On Nov 6th, at NCB, the YS Dept. partnered with the Community Diversity Council of Hunterdon County to host a program about the Lenape people. Over 100 children and adults came to celebrate *Native American Heritage Month* at NCB!

Reference Dept.

Staff have been communicating with school librarians about the impending elimination of many of HCL's databases. Many students currently rely on these databases for research.

There were nine new book displays in October. Themes included *October is Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog-Month*, *Hispanic Heritage Month*, Rita Dove's poetry, and Walter Choroszewski's photography books.

The music CDs have been extensively rearranged and continue to be weeded. The new arrangement allows for easier browsing with an open display of CDs on regular shelving rather than in cabinets.

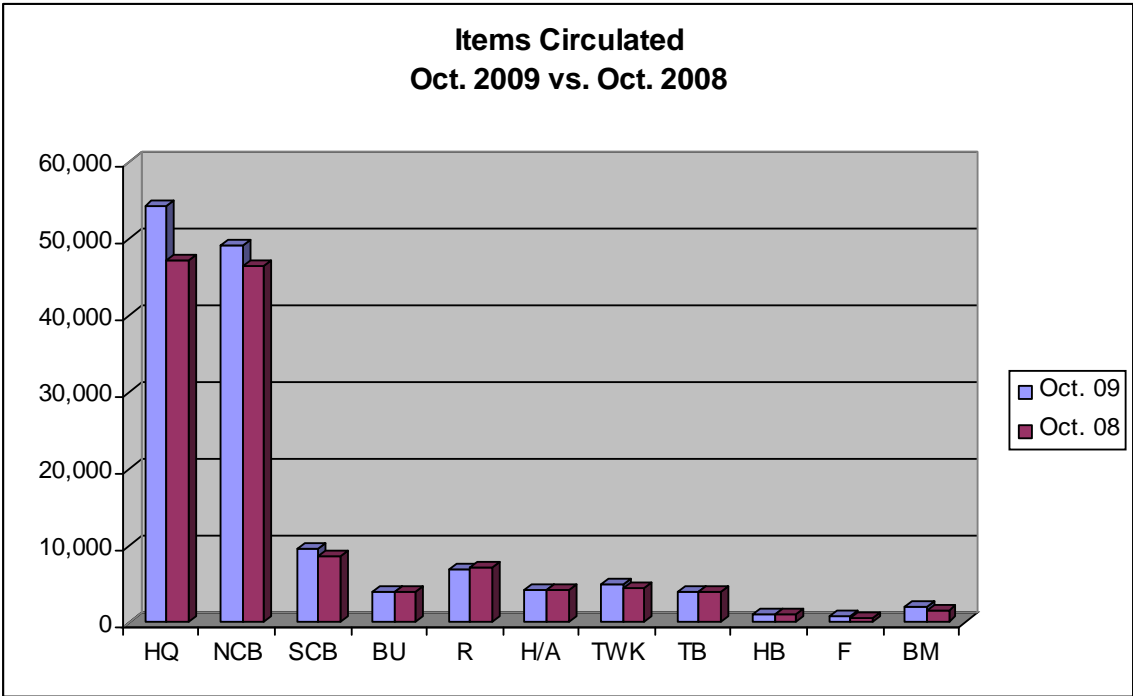
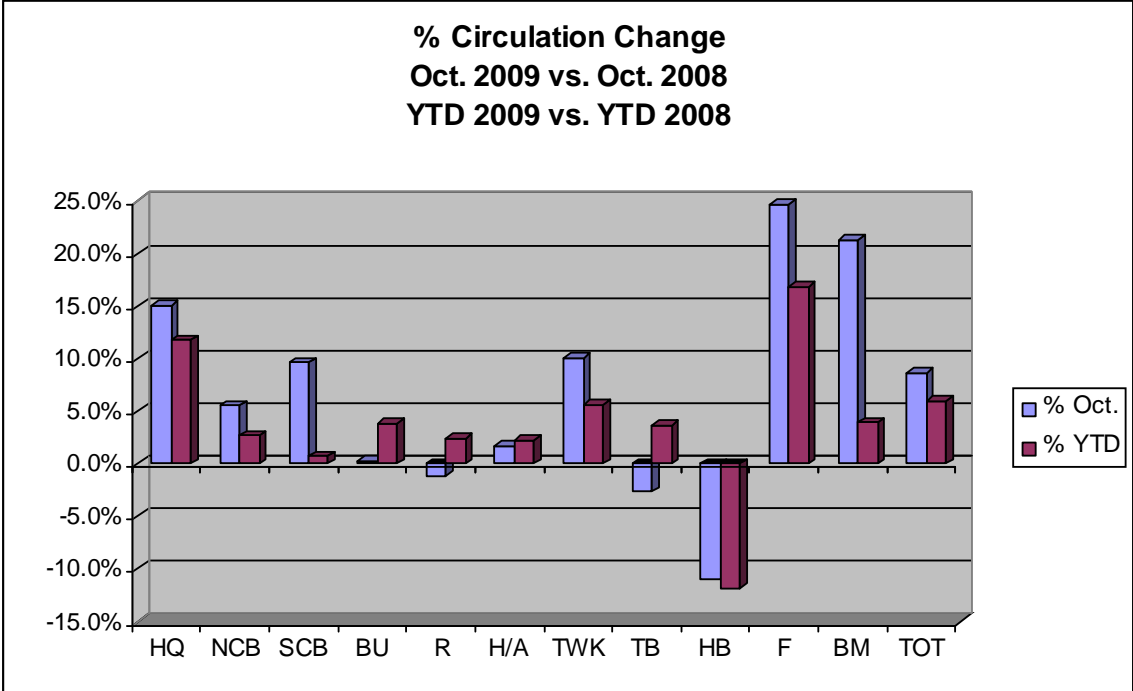
North County Branch

NCB is especially proud to present their fourth World War II *Veterans Roundtable* program on Saturday, November 14th at 2 pm. This year they are honoring nine women veterans who will talk about their war experiences and answer questions. Hearing these women's stories provides us with a unique opportunity. NCB has contacted the History Departments of Hunterdon, North Hunterdon, and Voorhees high schools to invite them to this event.

NCB will also be hosting a talk and book signing by two local authors, Alice Oldford and Sue Dziemara on Saturday, November 21st at 2 pm. They have written *You Can Get There from Here: Hiking Hunterdon County Trails*. Their recently published work describes many of the beautiful trails and treasures hidden throughout the county.

Circulation Statistics

	Oct. 09	Sept. 09	% Change	Oct. 08	% Oct.	YTD 09	YTD 08	% YTD
Headquarters	54,287	53,257	1.9%	47,198	15.0%	555,001	496,450	11.8%
North County	49,130	48,265	1.8%	46,557	5.5%	500,049	486,882	2.7%
South County	9,556	9,580	-0.3%	8,715	9.7%	97,990	97,287	0.7%
Bunnvale	4,074	3,521	15.7%	4,062	0.3%	39,428	37,965	3.9%
Readington	6,951	7,106	-2.2%	7,033	-1.2%	75,067	73,313	2.4%
Holland/Alexandria	4,330	4,440	-2.5%	4,259	1.7%	46,661	45,663	2.2%
Tewksbury	5,016	5,130	-2.2%	4,558	10.0%	51,071	48,369	5.6%
Three Bridges	3,969	3,605	10.1%	4,078	-2.7%	36,896	35,595	3.7%
High Bridge	1,025	966	6.1%	1,152	-11.0%	9,983	11,318	-11.8%
Frenchtown	732	779	-6.0%	587	24.7%	7,763	6,644	16.8%
Bookmobile	1,997	1,851	7.9%	1,646	21.3%	16,492	15,872	3.9%
Total	141,067	138,500	1.9%	129,845	8.6%	1,436,401	1,355,358	6.0%



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

