

Hunterdon County Library
Director's Report
March 2018

Tech Services

Funds were added to Edmunds on February 12th and ordering began the next day. Our patrons (and staff) were very glad to see new books and DVDs arriving. Tech Services, with the assistance of Extension Services, has been busy ordering, receiving, and processing the materials to get them out to patrons as quickly as possible.

HCL Outdoor Summer Concerts Set

Dates for the HCL Outdoor Summer Concert Series, sponsored by the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library, have been set for 2018 at the Headquarters Library. On Wednesday, July 18, the schedule kicks off with the classic rock/country band Due South. Two weeks later on Wednesday, August 1, The Blawenburg Band returns with their show of patriotic favorites. Wrapping it up on Wednesday, August 15 will be Rave On!, the music of Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison and others. There will also be two shows, bands to be determined, at the North County Branch Library on July 25 and August 8.

Youth Services

In February, the North County Branch Library initiated a 6 week Reading Buddies Program. Children in grades 5 -12 read with or to children in grades 1-4. The children also play a literacy- based game as a group, or work on a craft with their buddies. At the end of each session, the children share a snack and have time to get to know each other. Reading Buddies will return in the summer as part of the Youth Services Summer Reading Club program.

Also at the North County Branch Library, Mad Science presented "The Science of Magic" to a group of 25 Tweenz. This active crowd learned the secrets of making water disappear, how a toy bunny disappears in a seemingly empty box, and many other magician's secrets. Mad Science will return to present the program again to young patrons at Headquarters Library.

The North County Branch Library hosted the first Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Friday, February 9th to Saturday, February 10th. Twelve stuffed animals spent the night at the library after being dropped off Friday, and were photographed by staff in various activities, such as sleeping in the Grandin Room, riding Thomas the Tank Engine, and having their own storytime. The children were reunited with their stuffed animals at storytime the next morning.



On February 8th at the Headquarters Library, a great workshop on maple syrup, how it is made and its history was held. The County Parks department brought their mobile "maple syrup to go" van to help the participants to have a true hand's-on experience.

Reference

The county-wide Adult Winter Reading Club has 93 members.

Art instructor Lena Shiffman hosted an open house for 20 of her students whose paintings of all media were at the NCB art show. The reception attracted over 50 family and friends, who enjoyed snacks and toured the display.

Partnering with the Red Mill Museum Village, NCB enjoyed a historical exhibit of antique radios, speakers, tubes, military communications equipment and even a 1931 television; all from the extensive collection of Michael Molnar, who will put on an even larger display at the Red Mill in May.

In honor of African American History Month, a one-of-a-kind quilt was displayed in the NCB center stairwell. "Reflections of Slavery and the Underground Railroad" was designed and hand-stitched by local needlewoman Nancy Roche. This 10'x10' masterpiece includes 25 different blocks, both traditional & modern.

Makers Day

The North County Branch began reaching out to the community looking for enthusiastic volunteers for their 4th Annual Makers Day to be held on March 24th. They found it in the North Hunterdon High School Science Honors Club. Students practiced making a balloon race car, tweaking the steps in the design to make it a fun experience for Makers Day participants. Twelve students and two teachers have volunteered to help at Makers Day.



The South County Branch of Hunterdon County Library Makers Day will hold their Makers Day on March 10, 2018. Community members of all ages are invited to join us for an exciting day filled with activities focusing on maker culture.

Opportunities will be available to observe a demonstration of a variety of hand tools and try using the tools to build a simple trivet or a string-art base; a birdhouse project will be available, while supplies last, to take home and continue practicing the newly learned skills; make a no-sew pouch that's great for holding Pokémon cards, fidget spinners, or whatever you would like!

The Holcombe Jimison Farmstead Museum will be demonstrating technological innovations of the past, including their very popular rope-making machine. The Red Mill Museum Village will show how manufacturing was done on a large scale prior to the availability of electricity to power machinery.

Other activities will include flower arranging, jewelry making, fiber crafting, and more. A toddler table will be available with activities suitable for younger patrons.

Looking for something a bit more "technical"? How about electricity? See if you can figure out how our automated bubble blower works to learn about circuits, and then construct a paper circuit that will illuminate LEDs.

Thanks to Shop-Rite of Flemington and Chris Ondrak at the Gilded Lily Florist for their donations and support, and as always to the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library for making this day possible.

On Wednesday, February 28, 2018, Kathy Monti and Joan Sabo attended the 2018 Community Stakeholders Resource Fair. NORWESCAP Child and Family Resource Services sponsors this yearly event which is held at the Hunterdon Medical Center. They met with several local childcare providers, including Magnolia Montessori School in Whitehouse Station, N.J. During the event, handouts and flyers were distributed and the many valuable services the Hunterdon County Library has to offer younger patrons were explained. Several schools were especially interested in scheduling visits with the Bookmobile. This is the 7th year HCL has attended; the Fair continues to be important for community outreach.

