



Bill Library  
718 Col. Ledyard Hwy.  
Ledyard, Ct. 06339  
(860) 464-9912

## Annual Report 2011-2012

Ledyard Public Libraries  
[www.ledyard.lioninc.org](http://www.ledyard.lioninc.org)



Gales Ferry Library  
18 Hurlbutt Rd.  
Gales Ferry, Ct. 06335  
(860) 464-6943

**Mission:** The Ledyard Libraries serve as a center of information for the community. They support and encourage the freedom to read, learn and discover in a welcoming environment. They provide friendly, knowledgeable service and free access to a diversity of ideas, resources and experiences. They strive to enhance the quality of life in our community, encourage lifelong learning and the love of reading.



Janet Coe studies a bird feeder at the Artist & Writers Reception

Ledyard Libraries continue to evolve and be responsive to the community's needs. Improvements were made to the buildings, resources were enhanced and programs were offered. Gales Ferry Library saw some repairs to the exterior of the building and new shelving was installed on the first floor. At Bill Library a new floor was installed in the front hall and both bathrooms were renovated. The Library Friends provided funding for several E-readers and tablets and Consumer Reports online was upgraded to include information on Cars and Health. Several programs were offered to adults including a creative writing/art project that required participation from multiple people and an online genealogy group was started.

Gales Ferry Library had some repairs and upgrades done to the building. The chimney was re-pointed, some of the wood trim and siding in the back was replaced and new gable vents were installed. A grant from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut allowed us to replace the old style shelving on the first

floor. The shelves fit into slots that had become worn and were beginning to fail which was a hazard to the public. The new shelving makes more efficient use of the area and actually provides more space for books. Slatwall end panels on some of the stacks provide an option for displaying featured books.

At Bill Library the tile floor in the front hall was replaced and the bathrooms were renovated from top to bottom with a new floor, a fresh coat of paint, new fixtures and better handicap railings. The Solar panels on the roof were connected and have saved \$1,667 from November 2011-October 2012. The library webpage has a link to the monitor which tracks this savings.

The library offers a wide selection of downloadable E-Books and has become a resource for patrons wanting to know how to download to their devices. With funding from the Friends of Ledyard Libraries the library purchased several Kindles, Nooks and Ipads which have been used to train the public. Three Open House events were held featuring all the devices including the Kindle Fire and allowed 56 patrons to try them out before making a purchase. Classes were also held for patrons to learn how to use their own device. In addition the library works one on one with patrons who come in with questions.

The library webpage features links to many online databases which are available to residents at home with a valid library card. The online version of *Consumer Reports* was enhanced this year with *Best Car Deals* and *Health*. Other databases available are *Chilton's Auto Repair Manual*, *Education and Testing*, *Legal Forms*, and *Price It Guide to Antiques and Collectibles*. In addition the IConn suite of databases provided to all Connecticut residents can be accessed from the webpage. These include magazine indexes and newspapers as well as Science, health, history, biographical and genealogical sources. Over 15,000 searches were made in these resources by Ledyard residents last year. The library also offers *JobNow* a database that provides live resume and job interview help. This was used almost 400 times in FY 2012.



Local authors chat with visitors at the Artist and Writer's reception

## Statistics

• Number of Libraries	2	• Videos	4,614
• Number of items checked out	164,629	• Recordings, spoken & music	5,068
• Items borrowed per capita	10.98	• Museum Passes	7
• Visits	83,576	• Children's Programs	301
• Registered borrowers	6,851	• Teen Programs	10
• Adult books & Magazines	41,588	• Adult Programs	97
• Children's books & magazines	22,233	• Staff – Full time	4
• Young adult books & magazines	3,781	• Part-time	22
• Newspapers	6		

## It happens @ your library!



Noah dressed as a penguin for Penguin Day @ the Library

The library sponsored several programs for children, teens and adults last year.

The **children's department** offered 301 programs to over 6,200 children. These included 10 story time sessions for ages 9 months to 6 years, 82 visits from nursery and elementary schools, and several vacation programs. Studies have shown that children who participate in reading programs during the summer maintain or improve their reading skills when they return to school in September. Story time programs for preschoolers also offer many benefits including the development of listening skills, and helping children become better readers and learners.

The Children's Librarian, Nancy Brewer or her Assistant, Jackie Bacon made regular visits to day cares and nursery schools and visited classes in all the elementary schools to do book talks and promote summer reading. The library also participated in the region wide "One Book, Every Young Child" event which featured the book "*If you were a Penguin*" by Florence and Wendell Minor. In conjunction with the event the library held 'Penguin Day' at the library with

penguin crafts, movies and stories. In addition a program with the Children's Museum of Southeastern CT on Animals of Antarctica featured more penguin activities and participants were encouraged to bring in penguins from home.

## Children's Programs

### Story Times

Age 9-24 months	2 sessions	5 weeks
Age 2 years	2 sessions	8 weeks
Age 3-5 years	4 sessions	12 weeks
Age 4-6 years	2 sessions	12 weeks

### School Visits – To the Library

Ledyard Center Nursery School	50 visits
Gallup Hill School	16 visits
Ledyard Center School	16 visits

### From the Library

Gallup Hill School	40 visits
Kindergarten Orientation	8 visits
Child's Play	16 visits
LLLC	10 visits
Ivy Cottage	10 visits
United Methodist Nursery School	27 visits
Juliet Long, Gallup Hill, Gales Ferry	18 visits

### Summer Programs

One World, Many Stories	
Sidewalk art contest	
Lunch & a movie	7 sessions
World Wide Kids Story time	5 sessions
*Playground movies	4 sessions
Special needs summer group	4 sessions
International Crafts	2 sessions
International Music Show	
Les Julian Show	
Kids Cook International	
DB Magic Show	
Zumba Dance for Kids	

### Other Programs

Mr. Magic Show
Children's Museum Penguin Program
Bring Your Child to the Library Day

\*Sponsored by Ledyard Parks and Recreation

For **teens** the library sponsored “You are Here” a summer reading program enjoyed by 86 students in grades 7-12. In addition to encouraging reading over the summer, the program offered teens a chance to volunteer in the library helping with programs for the younger children. During the 7 week program there were 77 volunteers and 59 teens read at least one book to qualify for the weekly raffle at each library. Studies have shown a link between summer reading and high school achievement. Not only does reading build comprehension skills and vocabulary but it helps students become better writers.



Teens work on their “ductigami” creations

For **adults** the library offered book discussions, knitting groups, scrapbooking nights, jewelry groups, cooking programs, and much more. An online genealogy group began in the fall and featured Carol Ganz a local resident and staff member in the Genealogy Department of the CT State Library. Carol provided the group with information about the resources available at the State Library as well as information on finding your German ancestors. In the spring the group took a field trip to the Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, a Library of Genealogy, History and Biography with an emphasis on New England families and histories. Bill Library participated in the Connecticut Author Trail and hosted local author Todd Gipstein talking about his book *Legacy of the Light*. Monthly hikes offered in the winter continue to be very popular and included a successional wildlife area, a woodlands and meadow area, and a historic sheep farm.

## Community Connections



An entry in the Edible Books Contest

The libraries strive to be active in community events, partnering with the schools, the senior center or other organizations in town. The library provides a rotating collection of books, videos and audio books at the senior center. In addition, volunteers will deliver books and other items to Ledyard residents who are homebound. A book discussion or book talk is also facilitated monthly at the Senior Center by a library staff member. The library took part in several events at the schools including open houses, kindergarten orientations and class visits. In the fall we sponsored the annual Giving Tree and provided new books to over 100 needy



Library staff and patrons promote the summer reading program in the Memorial Day Parade.

children at Christmas. The Mad Hatters, an offshoot of the knitting group worked together to provide items for area shelters including, hats, scarves, mittens and socks. We also held an artist and writers showcase in April with 37 local artists and writers on hand to discuss their works. There were 69 visual pieces and 8 books on display. The event featured the “Exquisite Project” a unique exhibit of written and visual pieces which build off each other in an independent way. Four separate series were created by 23 local writers and artists. Staff members and patrons performed a “precision march” in the Memorial Day Parade to promote the summer reading program.

## Nature in Our Back Yard

A family of cardinals nested in the Azalea bush outside of Bill Library. We watched the dad guard the nest from predators while mom searched for food. It seemed to be no time before the babies grew up and fledged from the nest.



## Support Groups



The **Friends of the Ledyard Libraries** continue to support programs and purchase equipment for the library through their fund raising efforts. This small but active group held two successful book sales as their major fundraisers. The Friends also sponsored several programs for adults on a variety of topics including Ledyard’s Historic Cemeteries, Maritime History of New London, Battle of Groton Heights, Alaska fishing, Science behind the Paranormal, CT Birds, and Thinking Globally, Eating Locally. A group of **Teen Friends** support the work of the friends and help with children’s programs.



**The Bill Library Association, Inc.** presented its annual book awards to four freshman English students from Ledyard High School and two 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Ledyard Middle School. The high school students were Michael Larmann, Brittany Marra, Zachary Timmerman and Nicholas Monroe. Xavier Edwards and David Tomko were the 8<sup>th</sup> grade recipients of the award.

**The Historical Society** under the direction of Janice Bell, oversees the Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room at Bill Library and volunteers will assist patrons as needed.

**Gifts** The libraries continue to receive gifts from the community in support of our resources. Gifts are given to support a collection, honor an occasion or remember a loved one who has passed away.

#### **Civic Groups**

Glenwood's Book Club  
Ledyard Garden Club

#### **Gifts in Honor of**

Sheila Briggs  
Dave Engelman  
Carl Nelson

#### **Gifts in Memory of**

Barbara Chapman  
Donald Seaton  
Gordon Jackson  
Helen C. Hall  
Robert A. Hall  
William C. Haase  
Mary Sturgis Baudro  
Irene Nichols

### **Library Commission**

The Bill and Gales Ferry Libraries are governed by the Ledyard Library Commission, which meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. at alternating libraries. Members of the Commission are:

John Phetteplace, Chairman  
Lee Moore, Vice-Chairman  
Rebecca Nash, Secretary  
Rebecca Graebner, Treasurer  
Brian Cronin

Carol Ganz  
Laurie Hedman  
Alvin Manter  
Kathryn Spindler

### **Library Hours**

#### **Bill Library**

Monday – Thursday 10-9  
Friday – Saturday 10-5  
Sunday 1-5\*

\*During the school year only

(Note: As of July 2012 both libraries open at 9 am Mon – Sat.)

#### **Gales Ferry Library**

Monday – Thursday 10-8  
Friday - Saturday 10-5  
Sunday Closed

