



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

Annual Report 2012-2013

Ledyard Public Libraries
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.

Fiscal year 2012-2013 was another successful year for the libraries. Services continued to expand, improvements were made to technology, programs were offered and grants were acquired to provide funding for special projects.



Ledyard Libraries value to the community became evident during Hurricane Sandy last fall. Bill Library was one of the few locations in town with power and we have the staff, seating and space to accommodate a large group of people. The library opened extra hours and provided a place for patrons to come for recharging portable devices, for wireless access, or just a warm place to hang out. Additional tables were set up and plug strips added to accommodate the demand. People who work from home were happy to discover we had power and came in to work. High school students were able

to submit their projects that were due in spite of the school closure. Movies were available to watch in the meeting room for those who wanted them and with the library open until 9 pm it gave residents a place to come after dark. The library truly felt like a community living room.

Technology improvements were made to the LION system and through the town for disseminating agendas and minutes of Library Commission meetings. LION upgraded the software for the online system providing enhancements to the circulation system and the public access catalog (PAC). The library also began using the town's media portal, IQM2 to post the Library Commission meeting agendas and minutes on the web. Access the portal through the town page at www.ledyardct.org by clicking the link to Town Meetings and Documents in the left column. Choose Library Commission from the drop down list for Meeting Group. Use of this system by Library Commission members has also helped reduce the need for paper since members can bring a laptop or mobile device to a meeting and access the documents online during a meeting.



The library also responded to the demand for information about downloading ebooks to kindles and how to use tablets and other mobile devices. As more patrons have acquired kindles and tablets they have turned to the library for information on how to use them. During the year 10 classes were offered along with 360 one on one sessions.

Know Your Town, a 7 week program was offered in the fall of 2012 to give residents and businesses of Ledyard insight into the history and governmental processes of the town and introduce the employees and volunteers who make it work. Each session focused on a town department giving an overview of the department and the people who worked there. The sessions were held in different locations which gave participants a chance to see the various buildings in town such as the Senior Center, Board of Education building, Ledyard Center Fire station and the town owned, Nathan Lester House.

Grants from the Community Foundation and Dime Bank provided supplemental funding for projects and an application to the state for the Neighborhood Assistance program was accepted. The Community Foundation provided \$12,200 that will be used to design a web based website that can be updated remotely by library staff and create an outdoor patio with tables and chairs at Bill Library. Dime Bank provided funding of \$800 to support a

community shred-it day in the fall of 2013. The Neighborhood Assistance program allows corporations to make a tax deductible donation for a specific project or projects. We filed for 2 projects, an HVAC upgrade and conversion to gas at Gales Ferry Library and automatic door openers at Bill Library. The library will be notified in the fall of 2013 from corporations willing to donate.

Statistics

• Number of Libraries	2	• Videos	4,841
• Number of items checked out	156,586	• Recordings, spoken & music	5,016
• Items borrowed per capita	10.43	• Museum Passes	7
• Visits	83,664	• Children's Programs	331
• Registered borrowers	6,573	• Teen Programs	9
• Adult books & Magazines	42,571	• Adult Programs	127
• Children's books & magazines	21,693	• Staff – Full time	4
• Young adult books & magazines	4,660	• Part-time	22
• Newspapers	6		

It happens @ your library!

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

The **children's department** offered 331 programs to over 7,000 children. These included 10 story time sessions for ages 9 months to 6 years, 71 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 promoted a family literacy event that encouraged parents to include books and reading in their holiday celebrations with a book on every bed.

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	2 visits
Ledyard Center School	19 visits

From the Library

Gallup Hill School	48 visits
Kindergarten Orientation	5 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	17 visits
School Open Houses	4 visits

Summer Programs

Dream Big, Read	
Sidewalk art contest	
Flock Theater- "Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain"	
Lunch & a movie	6 sessions
Dream Kids Story time	6 sessions
*Playground movies	5 sessions
Special needs summer group	4 sessions
Dream Crafts	2 sessions
Star Lab	3 Programs
Dream Deserts	
Captain Papillion	
Steve Wronker Magic Show	

Other Programs

Writing Workshop – Grades 4-6
Letter Writing for 2 nd grade
Poetry Slam
Mr. Magic
Find Your Rhythm
Children's Day*
Bring Your Child to the Library Day with Creature Teachers Program
*Sponsored by Ledyard Parks and Recreation

For **teens** the library sponsored “Own the Night” a summer reading program enjoyed by 82 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 6 week program there were 69 volunteers and 45 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.

For **adults** the library offered book discussions, knitting groups, online genealogy, jewelry groups, cooking programs, and much more. Poetry month was celebrated in April and Ledyard joined other libraries in the area by encouraging patrons to read *Caleb’s Crossing* the One Book One Region choice for this year. Several activities and events relating to the theme were offered including movies, book discussions and author visits. For those who like to be outdoors 4 hikes at area trails were sponsored.

Community Connections

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. Last year we had 5 patrons who utilized the service. 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 children at Christmas. The Mad Hatters, an offshoot of the knitting group worked together on two community afghans that were donated to local organizations and they provided items for area shelters including, hats, scarves, mittens and socks. The annual artist and writers showcase and reception in May hosted 44 local artists and writers. There were 69 pieces on display. The event also featured the second “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 24 local writers and artists.

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 Book Cellar is permanently set up in the basement of Gales Ferry Library providing a continuous sale during library hours. The Friends also sponsored several programs for adults on a variety of topics including author Bob Walsh, environmental issues, history, travel and theater. 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 a little differently this year. Joseph Rosen, a graduating senior was awarded a \$200 scholarship for his creative writing skills. Two 8th grade students, Grace Ladoja and Sean Healey were each awarded a kindle e-reader.

The Historical Society The Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room is overseen by the Ledyard Historical Society’s Archive Committee, which consists of Sheila (Rusty) Godino, Louisa Watrous, Scott Buka and Chairman Andrea Buka. Good progress in the long-term project of digitizing and cataloging the contents of the archive has been made. New images are posted weekly at www.ledyardhistory.org in the Collections Online Exhibit, and several research inquiries are answered each week as well. The committee has begun a campaign to preserve current and recent history by conducting “Catch & Release” events over the last year. The public is encouraged to bring in 20 and 21st century pictures and documents for scanning and inclusion in the Society’s archive. The originals are then returned to the owners along with a digital copy if desired.

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

Katherine Williams
Dave Engelman
Garrett Donovan
Bill Fain
Joy Johnson
Peg Wells

Gifts in Memory of

Mary Sturgis Baudro
William C. Haase
Thomas M. Lees
Betty Maynard
Karen Nagel
Irene Nichols
Ernie Poirier
Lance Rockefeller

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
Brian Cronin, Treasurer
Carol Ganz

Rebecca Graebner
Laurie Hedman
Alvin Manter
Kathryn Spindler

Library Hours



Bill Library

Monday – Thursday 9-9
Friday – Saturday 9-5
Sunday 1-5*
*During the school year only

Gales Ferry Library

Monday – Thursday 9-8
Friday - Saturday 9-5
Sunday Closed