



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

Annual Report 2016-2017

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.

Ledyard Public Libraries continue to serve Ledyard residents with a variety of services and programs for all. Once again the libraries saw enhancements to their service, upgrades to technology and building improvements. Grants and donations were used to fund some of the improvements while our membership in LION provides benefits at little or no additional cost.

Bill Library received a grant from the State Library that funded the installation of fiber through the Connecticut Education Network (CEN). In addition the library received funds through the Universal Service Fund (USF) to cover 50% of the ongoing maintenance cost for the year. USF funds must be applied for each year and the rate of funding may vary from year to year. Funding has also been approved for FY 2018 and an application is pending for FY 2019. The fiber network has greatly increased the speed for internet access allowing staff and patrons to work more efficiently.



The libraries' membership in the LION Consortia provides exceptional value to the library community and represents regionalization at its best. The libraries can provide state of the art technology at a reasonable cost which is shared among 27 plus libraries. In addition to a fully integrated circulation system that tracks circulation functions the online catalog provides access to the community of all the holdings in those libraries and allows for easier resource sharing. Our libraries receive full IT support for our networks and our PCs are replaced on a regular schedule. LION is able to negotiate for better pricing of products on our behalf because of the multiple libraries. New titles of downloadable audio and e-books, have been added monthly along with downloadable magazines with the cost shared between the libraries. Other enhancements such as text messaging which alerts patrons when their books are due or something they requested has come in have also been added at affordable pricing.

Building improvements included new windows at Gales Ferry Library and a new chimney for one of the furnaces at Bill Library. In addition the Friends of Ledyard Libraries purchased new chairs for the meeting room at Bill Library. The Gales Ferry Library gained some additional space when the town signed an amended lease for the Community Center and classroom next door to the library. Plans are underway to renovate the classroom and office space into Children and Teen rooms for the library. The renovations will be completed with grants and donated funds.

New programs were added this year that have proved to be very popular. An Investment Discussion group meets monthly at Gales Ferry Library under the leadership of Harry Pearson. Mary Ellen Osborne started a Cookbook club which encourages participants to try recipes in a selected cookbook and bring a sample of something from the cookbook to share at the monthly meeting.



Statistics

• Number of branches	2	• Videos	6,034
• Number of items checked out	108,637	• Recordings, spoken & music	4,828
• Items borrowed per capita	7.3	• Museum Passes	7
• Visits	63,245	• Children's Programs	360
• Registered borrowers	5,518	• Teen Programs	27
• Adult books & Magazines	42,326	• Adult Programs	61
• Children's books & magazines	22,068	• Staff – Full time	4
• Young adult books & magazines	3,395	• Part-time	21
• Newspapers	6		

It happens @ your library!



The libraries sponsored several programs for children, teens and adults last year. The **children's department** offered over 400 programs to over 9,000 people. These included 8 story time sessions for ages 9 months to 6 years, 14 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 libraries also promote family literacy by encouraging parents to read with their children.

Children's Programs

Story Times

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

School Visits – To the Library

Ledyard Center School	14 class visits
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From the Library

Gallup Hill School Preschool	40 class visits
Kindergarten Orientation	4 class visits
Child's Play	16 visits
LLLC	19 visits
Ivy Cottage	9 visits
United Methodist Child Care Center	18 visits
Juliet Long, Gallup Hill, Gales Ferry	11 visits
School Open Houses	4 visits
Gales Ferry School Stars Program	10 visits
Grins and Giggles	9 visits

Summer Programs

On your Mark, Get set, Go	
Sidewalk art contest	
Drop in Crafts	
Lunch & a movie	7 sessions
Sporty Kids Story time	5 sessions
*Playground movies	10 sessions
Special needs group movies	3sessions

Dancing Hoops
 Kids Cook Healthy
 Storywalk & Picnic
 Touch a Truck
 Les Julian
 Bicycle Safety

Other Programs

Children's Day*	
Take Your Child to the Library Day	
Junior Maker Lego	4 Sessions
Eric Herman Musician	
Trunk or Treat*	

*Sponsored by Ledyard Parks and Recreation



For **teens** the libraries sponsored “Get in the Game, Read” a summer reading program enjoyed by forty-four 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 teens read a total of 108 books and volunteered 480 hours. 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. Programs for teens included ductigame, healthy cooking, a scavenger hunt, artworks, movie

marathons and more.



For **adults** the libraries continue to offer book discussions, knitting groups, and an online genealogy group. Several “Maker” activities were held including studio lighting, robotics, getting more out of your camera, chain mail, metal stamping and blacksmithing. Ledyard joined other libraries in the area in promoting local author Wally Lamb and his new book *I’ll Take you There*.



Community Connections



The libraries strive to be active in community events, partnering with the schools, the senior center or other organizations in town. Library volunteers will deliver books and other items to Ledyard residents who are homebound. Mary Ellen Osborne facilitates a book discussion or book talk monthly at the Senior Center. The library took part in several events at the schools including open houses, kindergarten orientations and class visits. In the fall the libraries 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 celebrated

International Yarn Bombing Day decorating areas around town with knit or crocheted decorations. In the spring Chelsea Groton Bank co-sponsored a community Shred-it Day at Bill Library for residents to safely dispose of personal documents. The annual artist and writers showcase and reception in April hosted 37 local artists and writers. There were 52 pieces on display. The event also 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 24 local writers and artists.

Support Groups



The **Friends of the Ledyard Libraries** continue to support programs and purchase equipment for the libraries 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 sponsored several programs for adults including a virtual walk in The Last Green Valley, local light houses, Jennifer

Emerson’s performance of “A Christmas Carol”, winter gardening, Patty Carver with the Music of Irving Berlin and more. Other items funded by the Friends include museum passes, online databases such as Ancestry, Chiltons, Education and Testing, an online Event calendar and an email newsletter. The Friends also supported the holiday Giving Tree, coffee and muffins at both libraries, and purchased printers and Ipads for the libraries.



The Bill Library Association, Inc. presented its annual awards in June. Katlynn Godwin, a graduating senior was awarded a \$200 scholarship. Two 8th grade students, Genesis Gilbert and Blake McLeod were awarded a gift card from Bank Square Books.

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. This past year they continued to work with residents to document the history of local homesteads and other sites of interest. In addition they provide answers and help to patrons from throughout the country researching local history and genealogy. Approximately 85% of the book collection in the room may be accessed through the LION catalog. Progress continues in the long-term project of digitizing and cataloging the other resources in the archive. Their “Catch & Release” program has resulted in numerous historical, documents, photos and objects being scanned or donated to the room.

Gifts The libraries often receive gifts from the community in support of our libraries. 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 Lion’s Club
- Ledyard Garden Club

General Gifts

- Stonington Veterinary Hospital
- William F. Holton

Gifts in Memory of

- William Hartling
- Thomas Lees
- Dolores K. Lattanzio
- George Husky
- Anthony DiMella
- Kathy Drury

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. The public is welcome at all meetings. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the town’s media portal “OPEN LEDYARD Town of Ledyard” accessed through the town webpage at www.ledyardct.org. Members of the Commission are:

- John Bolduc, Chairman
- Rebecca Nash, Vice Chairman
- Ellin Grenger, Secretary
- Carol Ganz, Treasurer
- Barbara Candler

- Brian Cronin
- John Phetteplace
- Cheryl Schulman
- Susan Warren

Library Hours for FY 2017



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