

June 15, 2016

Acting Director's Report

The Library, once again, is in a period of transition as Ms. Caputo's resignation became effective on May 20, 2016. I will be assuming the role of Library Director on July 1, 2016. Until that time, I will serve as the "Acting Director." I thank the Board of Trustees for their confidence in me and look forward to maintaining and improving library services that are recognized as being among the best on Long Island.

There are a few items of note to report.

1. The Adult Summer Reading Program – implemented by Reference Librarians Mary Aileen Buss and Camille DiPietro is based on a concept that has successfully operated in Children's Rooms in libraries all over the country for years. With this program, geared towards our adult reading community, we hope to encourage reading and promote our Readers Advisory services to all ages. The following appears in the June issue of Channels and information is available at the Reference Desk as well as the branches.

Adult Summer Reading Club Summer reading isn't just for kids! Starting June 6, add a Book Pass to your Beach Pass. Read a book, return a rating slip and you'll be entered for a weekly raffle. Read 5 books by August 5, get 5 stamps on your Long Beach Book Pass and be entered to win a Kindle Fire at the end of summer reception on Wednesday, August 10 at 7:00 p.m.

2. Flipster – is a digital magazine subscription product that we are very excited about because of its ease of use, its wide selection of content, the fact that there is no "platform" fee involved, and there are very few, if any, restrictions on simultaneous usage. Library patrons, using a valid library card will be able to access popular magazines on their digital devices. Staff is currently undergoing a "training trial" to familiarize themselves with the product. This service will launch on July 1. I expect that it will be met very favorably by the public. For your information, I am including a link to a Flipster tutorial to give you a bit more information about this service.

http://support.ebscohost.com/training/flash_videos/flipster_ios/flipster_ios.html

3. Tutor.com – is a popular database that provides live homework help among other services to our patrons. It is available both “in-house” and remotely. We have traditionally shared the expense of this database with the Long Beach School District. I contacted Supt. Weiss’ office and he agreed to continue this arrangement for this renewal period.
4. Database Renewal – several of our more popular databases are up for renewal on July 1, 2016. Ms. DiPietro and I have attended a Database RoundTable at Nassau Library System and strongly recommend that these databases be renewed. By committing to a 3-year subscription to Reference USA – an extremely powerful and useful tool for consumers and businesses alike we will be locking in a lower price through 2019.
5. Digital Statistics – The month of May saw a small increase in the total number of downloads. Despite a decrease in the number of audiobook downloads, we maintain our number 1 position in the county. Our increase from last year is significant. Growth in this area has been consistent and will continue to grow over the next few years. NDD will spend more than ½ million dollars on digital titles next year. This will help address the two major issues - selection and timely availability. Our commitment for 2016-17 is \$9067 which represents an increase of \$2763 over last year.
6. Hispanic Heritage Month – During one of the strategic planning sessions, Ms. Caputo had talked with the Director of the Latin Civic Association regarding some level of participation in their celebration of Heritage Month Sept 15 – Oct 15, 2016. When I did a budget presentation at this organization, we spoke briefly of doing a cultural program or an arts display and suggested that it would have to be coordinated through our program office. I received a call from their director, inquiring about the Library using two interns from their Youth Program to work towards implementing such cultural programs as well as promoting Library services to the Hispanic community. I expressed some concerns over liability issues and said that I would have to check with the Library Attorney.

Personnel – The Librarian Trainee position is a non-competitive, no-list position where work is performed while the trainee is attending an accredited library school, pursuing an MLS. A number of our librarians including Ms. Pollis, Mr. Boccia, Ms. Suarez and myself began our careers at Long Beach via this position.

Nicole Menzzasalma has applied, been accepted, and is enrolled at Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Services. As you know, she has worked here as a library page, a Librarian Assistant, and prior to her hiatus to give birth to her second child – managed the West End Branch from opening day. She is currently working again, as a Library Assistant in our Youth Services Dept. Ms. Firth and I strongly recommend that Ms. Menzzasalma be hired as Librarian Trainee. She will be filling a vacancy in that department left by the resignation of Ms. Pohl.

Friends of the Library – I was approached by Mr. Roca who asked to address the board regarding some fund-raising activities.

Staff Reports

Ms. Yonish led discussions of *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman and *Maine* by Courtney Sullivan with her Intergenerational Book Group. She attended an Assistive Technology and Resource Fair for the Visually Impaired. She was particularly impressed with electronic hand-held magnifiers.

Ms. Buss and Ms. DiPietro are to be commended for putting together the Adult Summer Reading Program, publicizing it, soliciting prizes, and distributing materials and explaining procedures to staff at the main bldg. and the branches. They are working on getting a speaker for the reception in August. Ms. Buss is using her “display area” to advertise the program.

Kudos to Ms. Pollis for her performance on the library stage on June 4. Her program, *Music for the Soul & Heart* is always well received.

Ms. Pollis' efforts have brought a wonderful addition to our website – *The New Gallery of Long Beach Historical Photos* is now available by clicking on the gallery tab on the website menu. Although this is a work-in-progress, it affords our patrons a glimpse of local history.

Mr. Boccia's "Ask the Tech Guy" program has proven to be very popular.

Ms. Ashford has been doing collection development work in the nonfiction areas. She has also begun to do some of the DVD and audiobook ordering and will assume responsibility for coordinating the popular Library Film Program.

Ms. DiPietro, in addition to her work on the Summer Reading Program, has worked closely with me in developing our Flipster subscription list and has worked on our database renewals. She has also been working with me to learn Music CD and audiobook collection development. She attended the Long Island Library Conference and has been participating in webinars on various library related topics.

Natasha Drax has been working on a very large donation of compact disks. This project involves selecting, cataloging, determining our need for the item, and comparing conditions if it is an item we own. Along with the cataloging of new materials, Ms. Drax has been an enormous help in the short time that she is here.

Correspondence

Attached are some thank you notes from some of the group of LB High School students and their coaches that have been volunteering their time to straighten shelves. Also included is an email that describes a very positive reaction to one of the shows at the Cabaret Festival.

Old Business

1. Skelos Grant – Suggested Projects

1. Sound System for our auditorium – We had asked Peter Kuperschmid, a local sound engineer, and musician to list and price the various components necessary to upgrade our performance space. He not only provided this list but was able to secure discount pricing for us from the company that he regularly deals with. I checked with two other major sound equipment supply houses and compared prices.

Company	Items	shipping	cost	install	TOTAL
Sweetwater	41	free	8202	1500	9702
ProAudio	41	free	9330	1500	10830
B&H	41	free	9207	1500	10707

Based on Peter’s recommendation of Sweetwater, and on the pricing advantage I would suggest that we select Sweetwater as our vendor for this project.

2. Phone System -