

Directors Report
October 26, 2016

I am pleased to report that our 14th Annual Jazz Festival was another resounding success. Attendance averaged 193 per set over the 4 day period with a total of 2670 music lovers in our auditorium. There was much praise for our new sound system from the audience and the musicians. Many thanks are due to our custodial staff, The Friends of the Library, Peter Kupferschmid, and producer Steve Adelson for an outstanding job of keeping a production of this magnitude running smoothly for 4 days.

Ms. Ashford and I represented the Library at the LB Police Department's 3rd annual Community BBQ on Saturday evening, Sept. 24, 2016. We hosted a table and offered Library information and talked about our many services.

Our Art Gallery is currently featuring a showing of artists of Hispanic heritage in honor of national Hispanic Heritage month. There was also a display of Hispanic Literature throughout the month of Sept. These exhibits were coordinated by two interns from the LCA – Papia Miah and Eric Melgar. The Board of Trustees awarded these talented youngsters Certificates of Achievement on Sun. 10/2.

I attended a Legislative Breakfast at the Farmingdale Library. It was sponsored by Long Island Libraries Resource Center (LILRC) with the intention of informing our legislators of the many services offered by public libraries and the tremendous value we present to the taxpayers.

Ms. DePietro and I met at NLS for an update on efforts to provide consortial pricing to the Digital Magazine Services. Some progress has been made but, unfortunately it looks better for Zinio than Flipster.

I met with Carol Meschkow of the Long Island Tobacco Action Coalition to discuss promotion of the Library as a smoke-free environment, and as resource for cessation programs. As a result of this meeting, I am recommending that the board amend its 33 year-old "Smoke-Free Buildings Policy," to include the outside area within 20 feet of the entranceway.

After speaking with HVAC specialists and one library that has an "air curtain" system, we determined that we should pursue a different direction. One library installed it about 6 years ago and, although somewhat effective at maintaining heat/cold, it has been very problematic. It is extremely "noisy" and subject to numerous service calls.

We are once again participating in the Long Beach HS Life Skills program. This involves having a group of students, accompanied by their vocational coaches, work in the library for an hour or

two a week. We have done this for the past 10 years. I had requested and was given a Certificate of Liability Insurance naming the Library as Certificate Holder.

We are in the process of writing “specs” for cleaning companies and will put together a request for proposals to get the bidding process rolling.

The deadline for applications to LB Civil Service for the tests that were requested has passed. Accepted applicants have until the end of October to submit their “exams.” Sometime in November lists will be generated.

The calendar year is in its final quarter and vacations have begun to impact scheduling of staff that is already quite short-handed.

I met with Johanna Mathieson of the LB Youth and Family Services Department to discuss some possible program collaboration.

We have received the “go-ahead” to use the grant monies from Denise Ford’s office.

Digital checkouts, despite a traditional downtick in September, continue to be among the county leaders. We are still number 1 in audiobooks and we have moved in to 6th place in e-book circs. Flipster, our digital magazine subscription is averaging 242 uses per month since it started in July.

As requested by the Board, the Restricted Access to the 3rd floor Policy has been distributed to Dep’t “Captains” and has been posted in the 2nd floor stairwell and outside the Business Office.

We received the summary of the second Strategic Planning meeting from facilitator Carolyn Ashby. I met with her her to discuss the findings. The next steps will include identifying general service areas and establishing goals within those areas. Staff will then be engaged in proposing activities aimed at reaching these goals and setting reasonable time horizons.

We are in the process of securing a dedicated fax line for the West End Branch.

Staff Reports:

Eileen Pollis has seen a steady uptick in the number of “one-on-one” sessions that she runs for job-seekers needing resume and application help.

She continues to work on updating our Historical Photos page on our website – <http://longbeachlibrary.org/gallery/>.

Lenora Ashford, who has developed one of the largest and best Graphic Novels collections on Long Island attended New York Comic Con. She attended a number of interesting panels that will be very helpful for her work in this area.

Ms. DiPietro has begun working on next year’s Adult Summer Reading Program. She completed weeding fiction audiobooks and has begun tackling the music CD’s. She is exploring a database platform that teaches users to play musical instruments.

Natasha Drax, our part-time librarian has assumed some of the media librarian’s responsibilities and has been handling much of the cataloging, processing, and statistics while also carrying out Reference Desk duties. She has also been involved with weeding our DVD’s.

Phil Boccia has been seeing an average of 3-6 people at his “Ask the Tech Guy” sessions. We are looking to have him expand this service to the branches in the near future. He has deployed older (8-10 year-old PC’s) to the Librarians’ Office so that there is a PC at each of the librarian’s desks.

Joan Yonish will be starting up her book discussion series in October. She attended an Inter Agency Council on Aging Meeting that featured a presentation on domestic violence.

Mary Aileen Buss is weeding paperback books and anticipates completion in early November.