



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

Annual Report 2018-2019

Ledyard Public Library
www.ledyard.lioninc.org



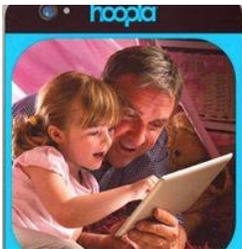
Gales Ferry Library
18 Hurlbutt Rd.
Gales Ferry, Ct. 06335
(860) 464-6943

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 2019 saw many changes at the libraries. Retirements of two long time employees brought in new staff, electronic resources were added, adult program offerings increased, a seed library was initiated in collaboration with other departments, a promotional video about the library was created and building improvements were made.



Marty Hubbard retired from Bill Library at the end of FY 2018 after a long library career that included 18 years at Ledyard Libraries. Mary Ellen Osborne retired from Gales Ferry Library on December 1 after a long association with the library as an employee for over 18 years and a volunteer for many years before that. In August we welcomed Lisa Murno to the staff as Assistant Librarian at Bill Library and in December Elaine Steele became the new Assistant Librarian at Gales Ferry Library. They brought a wealth of experience in programming and technology which has greatly benefitted the community.



Electronic resources were added for digital downloads, language learning and maker activities. Hoopla provides residents with online or mobile access to thousands of movies, television shows, music albums, audio and Ebooks and more. Items from Hoopla are instantly available with no waiting. All that is needed is a valid library card. Mango is an online language learning tool offering self-paced lessons for over 70 languages. Travelers are able to download lessons to a mobile device for on the go learning. Makers and crafters now have Creativebug, an online tool that provides unlimited



access to thousands of award-winning art & craft video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists.

The Library Commission contracted with local resident Bruce Edwards to create a promotional video about the library. A seven minute video was created about both libraries demonstrating the many services the library provides and its value to the community. The video may be seen from the library webpage at www.ledyard.lioninc.org or by going directly to youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O515OTNh36M>.

Bill Library received a much needed facelift with a new coat of paint improving the look of the building. The Garden Club continues to maintain and improve the rain garden at Bill Library. This provides patrons a pleasant and colorful outdoor space at the library during the warmer months.

Statistics

• Number of items checked out	103,751	• Videos	6,428
• Items borrowed per capita	6.9	• Recordings, spoken & music	5,042
• Visits	48,784	• Museum Passes	7
• Registered borrowers	5,343	• Children's Programs	365
• Adult books & Magazines	39,820	• Teen Programs	17
• Children's books & magazines	21,655	• Adult Programs	143
• Young adult books & magazines	3,255	• Staff – Full time	4
• Newspapers	6	• Part-time	12

It happens @ your library!



The library sponsored several programs for children, teens and adults last year. The **children's department** offered 382 programs to over 8,300 people. These included 8 storytime sessions for ages 6 months to 5 years, visits from elementary school classes, 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 184 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 promotes family literacy by encouraging parents to read with their children. The library participated in the statewide "Take Your Child to the Library Day" in February offering programs at both libraries.



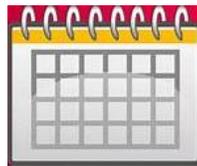
The Library creates young reader's and foster's success in school

- Storytime sessions for ages 6 months to 5 years
- Outreach visits to daycares and preschools
- Class visits to and from the library
- Kindergarten orientations
- Provide resources for homeschooled youth
- Summer reading programs and activities
- Vacation programs throughout the year

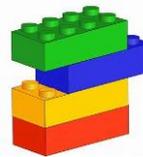
Children's & Teen programs by the numbers



8 - 12 week story time Sessions



7 weeks of Summer reading



382 programs



8,311 attendees



For **teens** the Library sponsored “Libraries Rock” a summer reading program enjoyed by fifty-one 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 195 books and volunteered over 400 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 craft programs, computer games with Guitar hero and Mine craft, healthy cooking, and movie nights.

For **adults** the Library continues to offer book discussions at the senior center and in the library,



an investment discussion group, a cookbook club and an online genealogy group. Crafting programs including metal stamping, crocheting, adult coloring, card-making, painting and paint pouring proved to be very popular. We initiated Tech Tuesdays at Bill and Tech Thursdays at Gales Ferry which allows patrons to reserve 45 minutes with a librarian for help using their phone, tablet or other electronic device. Monthly movie matinees were offered during the winter months and informational programs included narcan training, night sky, civil discourse and job searching.



Community Connections



The Library strives to be active in community events, partnering with the schools, the senior center and other organizations in town. Library volunteers will deliver books and other items to Ledyard residents who are homebound. Elaine Steele facilitates a monthly book discussion at the Senior Center. The library took part in several events in the community and at the schools including Children’s Day, Trunk or Treat, school open houses, kindergarten orientations and class visits and the Farmer’s Market. A Seed Library was initiated in the spring with help from the Garden Club and Ledyard High School. Grants and donations were received that allowed the library



to establish a seed library, providing patrons with free vegetable and flower seeds, along with a series of educational gardening programs. The library had close to 2500 vegetable, herb and flower seed packets and 82% of those were taken. Programming started in the spring with planting workshops for both children and adults and Basics of Community Gardening.

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 events including the Bill Book Sale in September and the holiday Books and More Sale in November. The Book Cellar is permanently set up in the basement of Gales Ferry Library providing a continuous book sale during library hours. The Friends sponsored several programs for adults including author Nick Bellantoni discussing his book *The Long Journey Home*, Connecticut Wildlife, Famous Women in History with Patty Carver, Nature Photography, and Kit Foster talking about Rivers, Roads and Rails: How



Transportation Shaped the Development of Ledyard. Other items funded by the Friends include museum passes, online databases such as Ancestry, Mango, and Creativebug, an online Event calendar and an email newsletter. The Friends also supported coffee and muffins at both libraries.

The **Bill Library Association, Inc.** presented its annual awards in June. Sarah Moynihan, a graduating senior was awarded a \$200 scholarship. Two 8th grade students, Emily Dunsmore and Isabella Rowan were awarded a gift card from Bank Square Books.



The Ledyard Historical Society The Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room at Bill Library is overseen and staffed by the Ledyard Historical Society’s Archive Committee, which consists of Louisa Watrous, Scott Buka, and Chair Andrea Buka, with research assistance from Sheila Godino. They provide local history and genealogical information to local, national, and international inquirers. This year they answered 37 research requests, including help in locating a person’s birth family. Approximately 85% of the archive’s book collection may be accessed through the LION catalog. The long-term project of digitizing the room’s contents to make them available online is progressing with the expert help of archive assistant Jocelyn Weaver, a part-time paid employee of the Society. Their “Catch & Release” program continues to attract loans and donations, enabling local history to be preserved and made widely available on their website’s digital archives. Currently, the record book of the Ledyard Cemetery Association, dating back to 1850, is on loan and being digitized. An exciting addition to the archive is the Ernie Mortensen Collection, a donation consisting of photos, letters, documents, textiles, and personal belongings of the local Gray, Peckham, Reynolds, and Sawyer families and their relations. There were 132 uses of the Bell Room this year.



Gifts The Library often receives gifts from the community in support of our mission. 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

Gifts in Honor of

- Mary Phillips
- Marty Hubbard

General Gifts

- Barbara Shea*
- Durret Bortner Trust*

*For Gales Ferry Library

Gifts in Memory of

- Thomas Lee
- Lance Rockefeller
- William Jennings
- Nancy Roberts
- Judy Dolphin

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 webpage at www.ledyardct.org under “Agendas and Minutes.” Members of the Commission are:



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

- Brian Cronin
- Ralph Hightower
- Elizabeth Rumery
- Cheryl Schulman

Library Hours

Bill Library

- Monday – Wednesday 9-8
- Thursday Closed
- Friday – Saturday 9-5
- Sunday 1-5*

Gales Ferry Library

- Monday – Tuesday 9-8
- Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9-5
- Friday & Sunday Closed



*During the school year only