

Executive Director's Report

April 2014

ADMINISTRATION

By Holly Carroll

Library Park Project – final steps

The punch list walk-through of Library Park improvements was conducted on April 30. Except for some spring landscape plantings and sod replacement, the project is complete and the final payment minus retaining fees has been made. Staff and administration met with Parks & Recreation to review our maintenance agreement. It was decided that the City will accept reservations for use of the stage and will charge fees for outside groups that are not partnering with the library for programming. Ken and I are meeting with Ditesco on May 9 to review the performance of the firm as a construction manager (at Ditesco's request).

Regional TIF Study

I continue to meet on a monthly basis with Executive Directors and County/City managers of Larimer County taxing entities to discuss a regional TIF agreement among the entities. I am part of the core group which includes city managers Darin Atteberry, Bill Cahill (Loveland), and April Getchius (Timnath), county manager Linda Hoffman, and executive director Tim O'Neill, Foothills Gateway. Our core group has drafted a purpose statement and goals that will be presented to the full study group and if approved, will be presented to each of our respective government bodies for approval. I should have something to present to the board for the June meeting.

In the meantime, legislation was recently introduced in the Colorado State Senate that provides some URA reforms advocated by CCI (Colorado Counties Inc.).

Council Tree Space Modifications

March of this year marked Council Tree Library's five-year anniversary. Most of the design elements of this very popular branch have stood the test of time and heavy and sustained use. However, as with most architectural projects, there are some areas which have proved less than optimal.

Currie Meyer, Council Tree Manager, and Ken Draves are working with architect Chris Freeland from the local firm of Aller-Lingle-Massey Architects to develop preliminary design drawings. Mr. Freeland worked on the initial design of Council Tree and coordinated the project's architectural elements through Council Tree's construction.

The current project, which is modest in scope and cost, is intended to address three areas. The first is the immobile circulation desk, which will be removed and replaced with mobile circulation units just like the units in the circulation areas of Old Town and Harmony libraries.

The second aspect of the project is addressing some of the physical, built-in elements in the children's area which impede free flow of library users and contribute to bottlenecks during busy times such as story times and programs. Third, the initial design of CT did not include a separate office for the manager of the library, which over time has proven less than optimal as there is no private space for the

manager to conduct business with customers and staff. Thus, plans call for one of CT's study rooms to be converted into a manager's office.

The capital projects budget approved by the board includes \$25,000 for these Council Tree modifications. The money for these improvements is from the annual allowable distribution from the Library District's Community Foundation Fund. Architect design fees were approved by the administration at a cost not to exceed \$2,300.

National Library Legislative Day

I attended this year's event and helped to coordinate the visits of the Colorado delegation. Twelve public library directors and trustees, our state librarian, DU library school director and a school librarian represented all of Colorado's seven congressional districts. We visited with all of the education aides of the seven representatives and our two senators. The Washington Office of the American Library Association provided a day of issue briefings prior to our visits. Of concerns to the national library community is continuation of federal funding to libraries at current levels, the expansion and simplification of e-Rate funding (reimbursement of telecommunications costs to qualifying public libraries and schools) and the inclusion of public libraries in several bills including the Workforce Investment Act, and the school readiness bill. I paid visits to Congressman Polis and Senator Bennett's offices.

These issues have local importance to us. The State Library is funded in part with federal funds that are matched by the state. E-rates funds would be an important source of funds for telecommunications if the library district would decide to build or provide kiosk service outside the city limits. The Workforce Investment Act could designate the library district as a one-stop location for job search services, supplementing the weekday services provided by the county Workforce Center.

256 W. Mountain Avenue Lease

The City of Fort Collins Real Estate office notified the Library District on May 6 that our lease for the above property will be terminated in six months, November 6, 2014, per our lease agreement. The Poudre River Friends of the Library currently subleased this space from the Library District as its used book sorting center. The separate storage unit on Mason Street will not be available for the Friends use either. The City has plans to build a medical clinic for employees on that block. I spoke with FOL President Robin Gard and she is in the process of notifying her board. Fortunately, the next two books sales are scheduled prior to the termination of the lease so most of the books can be sold or recycled in time for a move.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT

By Tova Aragon

Here and Now Collection update: New orange stickers that stated the Here & Now rules were not easy for staff to identify so an additional orange spine label has been added that will help staff to resolve the problem. Now, there will be two ways staff can recognize a Here and Now item – the sticker on the front with the rules and an orange spine label cover. The orange covers will replace the clear covers that we use now so there will not be any increase in processing costs.

Towards the end of March, the selectors started using our new collection evaluation tool *Decision Center*. “Decision Center is a comprehensive collection management solution that provides timely and focused action recommendations for budgeting, selection, weeding, floating, shelving allocation, and more. Decision Center helps libraries match supply and demand to deliver optimized service.” (From their website.) This product replaces *CollectionHQ*. *Decision Center* is not as robust as *CollectionHQ* but has one big advantage – it is an III product so the information is updated daily where *CollectionHQ* was monthly. With our collection floating, we found that monthly updates were not often enough.

Over the last few months, several things fell into place which led to rearranging some collections.

At Old Town:

1. Decision Center showed that we needed to expand our Adult Fiction collection in the district.
2. The teen paperbacks had been interfiled with the teen hardback fiction freeing up a shelving unit.
3. Reference had been weeded freeing up shelving.
4. Large seating units had been removed from the Adult fiction area.

We have reallocated the empty shelving to create more space in the Adult fiction area. By creating the space, we were able to avoid weeding items that are circulating, create more display space and relieve some of the crowding at Council Tree. It gave us the opportunity to create some visual breaks in the fiction area and to use the available space more efficiently. The large seating units were replaced with single, movable chairs so patrons can still take advantage of the view of the park and power for laptops. By removing the extra units in reference, we created space for more seating. In Teens, we opened up the view to the study rooms making it easier for staff to monitor study rooms A and B and letting more light into the area.



At Council Tree:

Oversize items have been redistributed to Old Town library. The items took up considerable space and had low turnover rates. By eliminating this collection type at Council Tree, we were able to move the juvenile Espanol collection to be shelved by the adult collection which mirrors the collection at Old Town. The move makes the juvenile Espanol collection more visible. With this change, we were able to meet the request by staff and patrons to add a Juvenile Book Club collection to Council Tree. It also sparked other changes in the juvenile area that relieved crowding and made collections flow for better access/visibility.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

By Paula Watson-Lakamp

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan.
- Organizing, managing and supervising all graphic design work for the District.
- Co-facilitator of the Programming Team
- Working with OrangeBoy on dashboard and new Savannah messaging system.
- Working on new social media promotions and platforms, “The River’s Mouth” , updating
- Worked with local media on various stories
- Finalizing 2014 Summer Reading information and Events
- Helping grant writer gather information for possible grants
- Working with other libraries on statewide “Outside the Lines” campaign for September 2014
- Attended Google + and Google Hangouts, Marketing Databases webinars
- Working with Web Team to develop new website
- Gather information and doing training to begin Library Aware email notifications
- Working with Morgan Library on new Ram Card promotions
- Finalized Broncos meet and greet
- Working with Library Trust PR committee and Donor Event
- Attended City of Fort Collins event with speaker Jim Collins
- Attended meeting with City Parks department to finalize procedures for use of the new stage area

OUTREACH SERVICES

By Johanna Ulloa

Outreach Core

Jaime Campbell Naidoo, PhD, wrote an article for the Association for Library Service to Children in April this year regarding the importance of diversity in library programming and collections. Doctor Campbell notes “When children never see their culture represented in a library storytime or in materials on the library shelves, they receive a resounding message that the librarian does not think their culture is important enough to feature in the library. This invisibility within the library’s programs and materials can equally be harmful to a child’s self-image.”

At our bi-weekly team meetings, the Outreach staff is always considering which titles, programs, and stories are the best to serve our diverse community. Currently we are researching materials that are appropriate for our Gay, Lesbian, Transsexual, Bisexual and Queer community members. We will continue to research titles and best practices to create programs that feel inclusive and culturally responsible to our constituents.

The highlight of the month was our Mobile Makerspace

We worked with Squishy Circuits for kids with special needs at Giant Friends Club, and at Aztlan Center for an afterschool program. The feedback received from these two programs was extraordinary.



On the Road

Rincón de Cuentos was presented as a special bilingual program at Traut Elementary School for the Spanish afterschool program. Approximately 85 kids attended. The feedback from parents, teachers and students was very positive.

Our department began the distribution of One Book 4 Colorado to outreach sites. We helped celebrate the kick-off at Old Town library using the green screen.

The theme of Storytime for some sites (Rincón de Cuentos, Noches en Familia, Irish Elementary School, Family Center and Salud Clinic) has been “Earth Day”. The theme was well received and it was good to hear the kids’ words on “Earth matters.” I was also extremely happy to see two of our teen volunteers at Rincón de Cuentos sharing stories for the kids.

At Global Village Museum, we continued our Indian story times with stories about crocodiles and monkeys. As a craft we made “Cheeky” crocodiles.

We visited many locations including Rincon de Cuentos Harmony Mobile Home Park, Bauder Elementary, University Village, Stove Prairie Elementary, Timnath Elementary, Northside Aztlan Community Center, Teaching Tree and Fort Collins Nursery.

On April 11th, Johanna and Kathie continued the Dr. Seuss theme from the previous month with an outdoor story time at the Giant Friends Spring Event with the City of Fort Collins. The event hosted special activities for children with disabilities.



Community Connections

We co-sponsored the program, Black Latin America, hosted by CSU LASSO. The presentation was inspiring with 300 people in attendance.

We met with GLBTQ Student Services Director, K. Faoula Dimopoulos and Joanne Vande Walle, Program Director at Center of Northern Colorado to discuss library services, possible partnerships, and needs assessment.

We also met with Larimer County Workforce Center Senior Employment Specialist, Linda Stovall. The Center wants to learn about the PRPLD's jobs and careers resources and to discuss a potential partnership. We also attended the Fort Collins Commission on Disability board meeting.

Sylvia Garcia attended and helped set up the Mental Health Forum series at Harmony Library. It's sponsored by the Fort Collins Human Relations Commission. She also attended the College Application Night at the Northside Community Aztlan Center.

International Outreach

El Programa Pelicano is ready to go! We had our first Skype meeting with our sister library in Nicaragua. The meeting was very successful and we were able to accomplish a lot. All the paperwork needed to register children from Harris Elementary was reviewed by their legal department and distributed it during April. We will start the program May 1, 2014.

Professional Development

As a team we continue reading articles and watching videos regarding provision of inclusive programming.

We attended Outreach Book Club webinar and Sensory Storytimes webinar. Sylvia Garcia attended LGBTQ Book Buzz webinar.

Johanna Ulloa attended the presentation by Jim Collins and Adelante Bibliotecas! Diversifying Services for Youth Latino Community by Reforma.

Computers

During this month we had a series of four classes at Community Life Center with Computer Basics in Spanish and it's truly wonderful to see the progress with each class. Our attendants were very excited to find out all the resources and opportunities they can share now with the usage and comfort of using technology.

We also started classes at The Family Center with Computer Basics where we are having two sessions in Spanish and two more in English. As always, people are very thankful for all the knowledge we share. There's also a demand for Microsoft Excel so we are planning some more dates in the near future for this course to take place at this same location.

We continue with our program at Crossroads Safehouse but because of time constraints, we have reduced our assistance from two hours to one hour a week. People continue to find jobs, houses, get in touch with loved ones and find resources the city has to offer. Our services have been paramount to the progress of many of their guests, especially immigrants and for those without transportation.

By the end of the month Karol Rueda will be going to Rigden Farm Senior Living for Computer Basics as well as iPad Basics. Last time we received full assistance from staff and the outcome was wonderful.

Since we had a successful trial, we have now set up more dates for the rest of the year.

Volunteers

Two new homebound customers have been added and at least eight Books-by-Mail packages will soon be sent to homebound customers by the end of April.

Old Town Library reference librarians and library assistants have been taking on book selection for the two bulk delivery sites and for Books-by-Mail homebound customers--primarily, and for the occasional in-person homebound customer when the book selection volunteer is absent.

Barbara Crandall was invited to speak at a P.E.O Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, and fielded a number of questions about homebound delivery, volunteer activities, and library programs and activities. These women have a very favorable impression of the workings of our Library District!

First Quarter Volunteer and Homebound Statistics were completed after Barbara Crandall implemented a new system to make the compilation and report of statistics easier and faster.

There were 151 library volunteers engaged in library activities and processes for a total of 1,738 hours; 191 Poudre River Friends of the Library volunteers engaged in donation sorting, transporting, and pricing, the Shop at HL, used book area at OTL, and the facility on West Mountain Avenue, for a total of 1,983 Friends hours. Grant totals for Quarter 1 is 342 volunteers, 3,721 hours.

Quarter 1 Homebound statistics: 121 deliveries + 7 BbM packages sent for 923 items delivered by volunteers and 39 items sent out by mail.

In preparation for SRP, Volunteer Coordinator notes were written and distributed to the new library coordinators for Summer Reading Program at each library so they can access and use our system to monitor SRP volunteers. A mockup schedules for volunteer was conducted to ensure volunteers can self-schedule during SRP.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION

By Carol Gyger

Harmony Wireless Upgrade

The wireless internet system at Harmony Library was upgraded thanks to a collaborative effort with FRCC, the Library District and City IT. Wireless usage is only going one way, UP, and the demand has been met with new, faster equipment. Students, faculty, the general public and all staff are thrilled with the consistent, speedy wireless connection.

Website Redesign, from Alpha to Beta

The Website Redesign Team is busily working on Phase 2 of the project - beta version. There is much evaluating and rewriting going on in various subgroups. Enthusiasm remains high and progress is swift. Updates will be provided each month.

Automating our Sister library

Victor Zuniga and Carol Gyger worked diligently through April to prepare a catalog server for SJDS Biblioteca, sister library of Poudre River Public Library District. This library in Nicaragua was using paper and pencil for library cards, and check-in and check-out, and an Excel spreadsheet as a catalog. Jane Mirandette, executive director of SJDS Biblioteca, was able to secure funding for Victor to spend a week at the library in Nicaragua training staff to make library cards, check items in and out, and catalog their items into the online system with barcodes. Victor returned with heartwarming stories of constantly smiling staff and customers of the library.



Cataloging Books into the Online System



Making the 1st New Library Card



Happy Customer

Sharing Rosie Stories

Kim Doran and Carol Gyger met with a team of staff members from Pueblo City-County Library District who are exploring Automated Materials Handlers. Kim and Carol are always happy to share their knowledge and experiences about Rosie (the District's 3M AMH machine). The team was very interested and impressed with what the District has done to maximize Rosie's use, change workflows to increase staff efficiency and reduce repetitive motion. Kim and Carol also took the opportunity to take the team on a tour of Old Town Library which generated much interest and questions.

HARMONY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Ken Draves

Collections and Physical Facilities

Jennifer Zachman, Annie Fox and Ken Draves talked with a representative from Arapaho Sign Arts to advance plans for 4-6 graphic, acrylic end panels similar to the ones at Old Town Library.

Children's chair order in process to go with the new custom tables being made by Azar's Woodcraft for the computers in the children's area.

Staffing

Kim Doran began as Harmony's Circulation Supervisor in mid-April. She has already evaluated work flows and helped to identify and implement efficiencies to workflows in circulation, based on her previous evaluation of workflows at Old Town library.

Teen Services (shared by Diane Tuccillo, Harmony's Teen Services Librarian):

April 5th: Sue-Ellen & Diane took 10 IRS teens to the Colorado Teen Literature Conference in Denver, all day.

April 12th: Interesting Reader Society Meeting, Harmony Library, 11 am-1 pm (18 teens attended).

April 25th: Battle of the Bards poetry reading program (Teen and Adult), Harmony Library, 6:30-8:30 pm. Diane and Melissa Beavers co-planned, co-organized, and co-led this program.

April 28th: Ann Brashares (*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, etc.) author visit, FRHS (9:30-11:00 am), RMHS (11:45 am-1:15 pm), Old Town Library (3:30-5:00 pm); Diane coordinated both school visits and program, Sue-Ellen assisted for RMHS and OTL.

May 2nd: Diane did a summer reading presentation and booktalk at the RMHS media center; 48 students present.

Programs

School's Out Movie, *Despicable Me 2*, hosted by Kathy Hutton.

Messy Hands Art series for preschoolers with FRCC Art Education Department held this month. Four fully attended sessions on Painting, Cardboard Art, Cut Paper Mosaics, and Puppets. Kids and parents love this series and want more in the future. We'll also look at ways we can try to add a series for grades k-4, an age range the current two art series do not reach.

Began ImagineArt series for grades 5-12 which continues through early May. All classes are full with waiting lists.

SRP preliminary work is in full swing as we approach May. Planning, practicing, printing and much more keeps SRP staff very busy even before it starts June 1.

Outreach, Continuing Education and Teams

Jennifer Zachman, Children's Services Librarian, held conversations with Fort Collins Museum of Discovery staff for partnership opportunities for summer.

Elaine Burrirt participated in the following events:

- Assisted City Safety & Wellness Team at City Supervisors' Safety Breakfast on April 1. Attended CSWT Meeting on April 10.
- Attended FRCC Campus Safety Committee on April 14.
- Participated in discussion with staff members who attended the PLA Conference or PLA Virtual Conference on April 15.
- Attended Colorado State Library in Session webinar on April 17 on Successful Meetings.

Jennifer Zachman reports the following April activities:

- April 2, Enriching Early Literacy Storytimes Webinar
- One Book 4 Colorado storytime outreach to:
TPAAK Preschool, April 9

Bacon Preschool, April 15 & 16

- Meeting with Bacon Elementary media specialist, April 16.

Business Services and Outreach

Anne Macdonald, our Business Services Librarian, reports the following:

SBDC—worked with five SBDC clients on their competition research and market analysis

SBDC -- SBDC is now sharing space with Rocky Mountain Innosphere on Vine St. 3rd Floor Open House is set for May 15 4pm, for any board member interested in seeing the space and getting to know some of the staff. Mike O’Connell – Director Terri Donovan – Administrator. I will keep my Tuesday morning appointments/office hours up there.

Rocky Mountain Innosphere – conducted competition research for two RMI businesses; the Library donated 4 Plunkett Industry Print Reports that we received free from Plunkett for renewing: Chemicals, Coatings & Plastics; InfoTech; Energy; Green Technology. These reports cover all aspects of these industries from statistics to top global and U.S. companies, trends, market and sales, etc.

Nonprofits – continue to work with drop-in nonprofits and referrals from SBDC, with information needs, from how to use the Foundation Directory Online to how to set up a conference and how to start a nonprofit.

Nonprofits – Northern Colorado Nonprofit Resource Center had an opening for April 29th workshop. We announced it by email on the Friday before – had 11 groups sign up to attend the Tuesday workshop. Continuing demand for these workshops shows the significant and ongoing resource and training needs of local nonprofits.

Nonprofits – Anne and Sarah attended “We’ve Seen Fire and We’ve Seen Rain” one-day nonprofit workshop in Estes Park—Stanley Hotel sponsored by Northern Colorado Nonprofit Resource Center; Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center and Community Resource Center in Denver. Panels included Bohemian Foundation, Community Foundation for Northern Colorado, El Pomar and Anschutz Family Foundation.

OLD TOWN LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jean Bosch

Programs and Events

A Little Birdie Told Me our One Book 4 Colorado program, was held on April 5. We started promoting the event by incubating twenty-four Library for three weeks using an Colorado Feeders Supply. Each egg member. Manager Jean Bosch even hatched; a photo of this activity engagement in three months. At the children and caregivers listen to *Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard in Swenson's Hawk and an owl from



chicken eggs at the Old Town incubator loaned by Northern was named after a library staff read to the eggs before they received the highest Facebook event, we had over 200 Senator John Kefalas read English and Spanish. A live Rocky Mountain Raptor

Program visited with the families and the kids were able to enjoy some makerspace activities including a visit to the incubating eggs and nine baby chicks and getting their pictures taken with a green-screen tree and nest. Percy the Owl, Harmony Library mascot flew over to visit with the kids. After the program, the chicks flew the coop and went to live on Paula Watson-Lakamp's farm. During the give-away period, library staff gave out over 600 copies of *Grumpy Bird* to four-



year-old kids in our district.

Denver Broncos Mile High Salute to Fans tour

Old Town Library turned orange and blue on April 14 as the Denver Broncos Mile High Salute to Fans tour arrived onsite for the morning. Over 550 fans waiting patiently for photo opportunities and autographs with current Broncos Malik Jackson, Virgil Green, and Mitch Unrein as well as Bronco alumni Ken Lanier and Dave Studdard. Two Broncos cheerleaders and Miles the mascot were also part of the festivities. Staff got into the spirit with Bronco clothing, decorations, and a book display. We feel very fortunate to have been the first stop on the 20-city tour and appreciate that the event brought many new faces into the library.



Author Visit

The library district partnered with Old Firehouse Bookstore to bring Ann Brashares for an afternoon author visit. She also visited two area high schools during the school day. We were very pleased to have a very engaged crowd of 62 people ranging from tweens to seniors.



Ann Brashares

Library Pals

Library Pal applications became available on April 1; all Pal shifts are now full at all three locations. Although a survey of parents revealed that they really like the Library Pals program and would like more Pal positions, we struggle with the fact that it is a very costly program in terms of staff time. We reduced the number of Library Pal positions from 61 to 45 this summer. It is unfortunate to have to turn down applicants, but it makes the program much more manageable and cost-effective.

Money Smart Week

Librarian Amy Holzworth coordinated activities for the district for Money Smart Week in early April. There were 31 kids at OTL who guessed at the 1,028 pennies, 61 kids at CT who guessed at 1,019 pennies, and 69 kids at Harmony who guessed at 1,001 pennies on display in piggy banks. It was interesting to see a pattern of guesses from CT in the 500 range and Harmony in the 1,000s and OTL in

between those. Displays were up in both Children's areas and Adult areas where customers could take free handouts regarding financial literacy and money management.

Outreach and Embedded Staff

The Library Liaisons continue to make connections with and provide outreach to their elementary schools including Cache La Poudre, Laurel, Putnam, O'Dea, Dunn, and Olander. Some staff scheduled visits to support and deliver books for the One Book 4 Colorado program; other staff are already in classrooms promoting the Summer Reading Program. Old Town Library hosted a display of Olander Elementary's inventions created by 3rd graders for a weekend; visitors were encouraged to leave feedback for the students. Laurel Elementary preschoolers visited the library for tours and stories; you see one of their four classes here enjoying the new landscaping in Library Park.

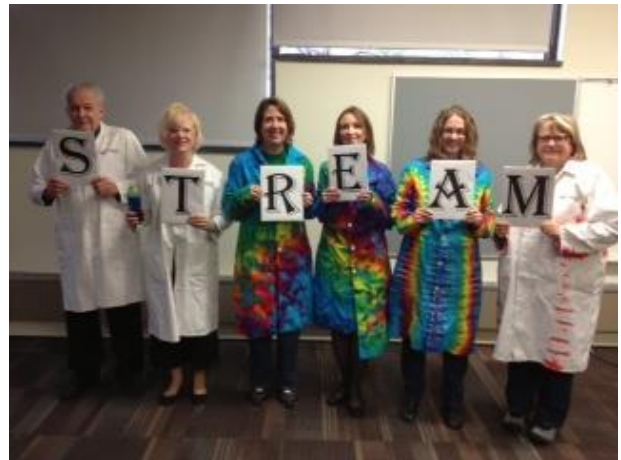
Old Town Library staff has also been saving Campbell's labels for education, Morning Fresh milk caps, and Box Tops for Education. We divided those up among three participating elementary schools so they could purchase more books and supplies for their educational programs.

Colorado Teen Literature Conference

Teen Services Librarians Sue-Ellen Jones and Diane Tuccillo took 10 teens to the 2014 Colorado Teen Literature Conference on the Metro State campus down in Denver on April 5. Among other activities, they set up and staffed a booth about the Teen IRS program and the Bookends program.

Summer Reading Program

Many staff have been planning and promoting the STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, & Math) Summer Reading Program already. The Programming Team members created and presented a skit at the all-staff meeting to get staff excited about our upcoming activities. All of the fun begins on June 1, so be prepared for the "Fizz, Boom, Read" (children's SRP), "Spark a Reaction" (teen SRP), and "Literary Elements" (adult SRP) coming your way!



Continuing Education and Learning Opportunities

Jean attended a webinar through Vital Smarts called "Joy, Inc.: How to Build a Workplace People Love."

COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer

Items from March that I forgot to mention last month:

Meg Schiel hired as Library Assistant

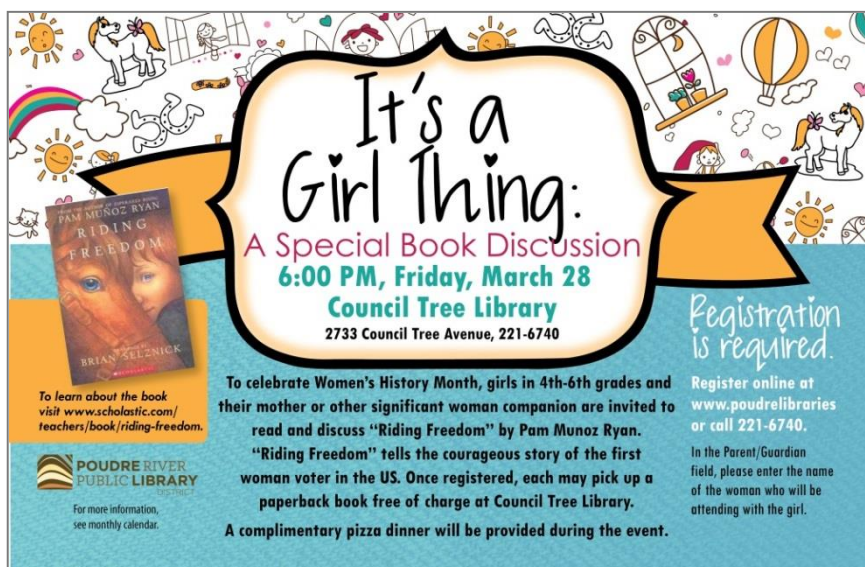
Council Tree Library staff welcomed Meg Schiel aboard as our newest half-time Library Assistant on March 18. Meg replaces half-time LA Kathie Young de Herrera, who was promoted to Outreach LA in

February. Meg was selected from an applicant pool of 199, and three finalists. She brings a combination of talents including customer service, knowledge of books and authors, merchandising, children’s programming and writing to the position. On April 27 and 28, Meg presented storytime for preschoolers for the first time. Millie Kridler, CTL Children’s Librarian, who had trained Meg, said she did a great job at engaging the children, monitoring time, and sharing age-appropriate books and activities.

Currie coordinated “It’s a Girl Thing” book discussion for girl/woman pairs

In celebration of Women’s History Month, and with support from Melissa Beavers and the Programming Team, I planned and presented a book discussion for girl/woman pairs on March 28. The book discussed was critically acclaimed children’s historical fiction *Riding Freedom* by Pam Munoz Ryan. The program was replicated from the series I initiated in my previous position as Head of Youth Services at Bud Werner

Memorial Library in Steamboat Springs. The discussion was limited to 10 pairs, and all pairs received a complimentary copy of the paperback book. The library also provided a pizza dinner at the event. Reactions to the program, which included a game and guided discussion, were highly positive.



Collections moved to accommodate Children’s Book Club Kits, April 18-23

Based on discussions with Tova Aragon, Collections Manager, Jean Bosch, OTL Manager, Marian Sawyer, Children’s Collections Coordinator, Mille and Chris Cortez, CTL Circulation Manager, I decided to initiate the move of eight distinct collections to new shelving locations in CTL. With the help of circulation staff, we moved CTL’s Oversize, Espanol, Juv Espanol, Juv World Languages, Juv Biography, Parenting, Juv Graphic novels and Juv Mystery collections to new shelving locations. In so doing, we created a column of four empty shelves in Juv, where we now offer Juv Book Club Kits for check out. So far, two kits have been checked out by CTL customers. Rob and Matt, Facilities Coordinators, emptied and moved two stacks approximately 8” in order to accommodate customer movement and browsing. A **remarkable** team effort to better serve our customers!

Bookdrop requested on Chase Bank property near CTL

I spoke with the manager of the Chase Bank branch near CTL on April 15 about placing a book drop on bank property. He is in favor of a book drop to provide some relief to current parking demands near CTL and the bank. He is checking with corporate leadership for approval.

School Liaisons Activity

Millie and Currie visited partner PSD elementary schools as District Library Liaisons in April. One or more times during the month, Millie visited Traut, Linton and Werner, and I visited Kruse, Shepardson

and Zach. Millie and I promoted summer reading programs, provided storytimes, met with school media personnel, and provided One Book for Colorado books to pre-K students.

Currie volunteered at Fossil Ridge High School, April 25

For the second year, I volunteered on behalf of the PRPLD as a community interviewer of FRHS graduating seniors. For two hours, in the gym, along with about 30 other community volunteers and parents, I interviewed five seniors one-on-one. FRHS counseling staff provided questions such as, “What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time at FRHS?” and “What advice would you give to incoming FRHS freshmen?” The 15-minute conversations were meant to prepare the students for job interviews and professional communication. The students are inspiring, and relish adult encouragement. I find the interviews to be very rewarding. I have invited my LLT colleagues to join me; Johanna Ulloa will be joining me May 2.

