

Executive Director's Report

May 2016

ADMINISTRATION

By Ken Draves

May is a month of transitions. School ends, students graduate, and summer break begins. This May marked an additional and significant transition for the Library District, as Executive Director Holly Carroll retired following a long and successful career. At the same time, the District entered an interim period as the search for a permanent Executive Director proceeds.

While the search process is underway, the work of the District is proceeding without pause. 2016 marks the first year of the District's current three-year strategic plan, and as we near the mid-year mark of year one, we are making progress on four overarching goals identified by the Board of Trustees in 2015 and the strategies and activities established by the District's Strategic Planning Team in pursuit of the Board's identified goals.

Below are some Year One activities completed or in progress.

Completed:

- Expand public open hours to better serve the community (January)
- Include a diversity awareness training component into Staff Day (May)
- Increase extended use fee threshold to reduce barriers to checking out materials (January)
- Create District Impact Team and communicate what the team does to all staff (January)
- Restructure Programming Team to facilitate effective operations (January)
- Increase Communications Department staffing (Katie Auman, Communications Assistant, began in May)

In Progress:

- Hire consultant to produce new Facilities Master Plan
- Offer six World Language storytimes per year (we've offered four since the plan's adoption)
- Develop a working, shared definition of Core Services
- Develop new program evaluation tool to evaluate current and potential library programs, based on mission, vision and values, current plan goals and target audiences, and our core services
- Identify desired outcomes for marketing campaign base of current plan goals and target audiences
- Develop partnership evaluation tool and establish clear processes for identifying, engaging in, and evaluating current and potential partnerships

Staff Day

On Friday, May 13, the District held its 4th annual Staff Day. The day was a wonderful success in terms of the learning, sharing, and camaraderie and team building that happened there. Attendance was high as 145-150 staff members from across the District participated. Suzi Q. Smith, a Denver area poet, speaker, activist, musician and performer, provided an inspirational, challenging, and thought provoking keynote address. Staff members and invited guest experts and authors taught breakout learning sessions on a variety of topics, including 3-D printing, the life cycle of a book, team infrastructure, stress reduction, providing reader's advisory assistance, digital literacy, writing teen fiction, and more. Thanks to the Trustees who attended and participated with staff. Thanks to Linda Gabel for helping to recognize staff members for their many years of service. The entire staff extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire Board of Trustees for supporting this valuable day of learning. I also want to thank the members of the Learning Organization Team for planning the day and making it happen. Special thanks go to LO Team members Holly Fritz, Molly Thompson, Cynthia Langren, Brenda Blake, and to Thuan Nguyen and Jeff Barnes for their skillful Master of Ceremonies skills and District Top Ten list, respectively.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

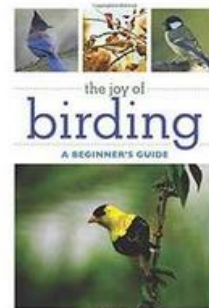
By Tova Aragon

The ‘sharing economy’ is growing as people are more concerned with the environment, waste, and limited living space. There is also a changing view about owning things. When thinking about the sharing economy, most people think of Uber or AirBnB but libraries have always been part of the sharing economy. For years, libraries have been loaning books and other things such as, DVDs, CDs, paintings, tools, cake pans and sporting equipment.

For more information on libraries and the sharing economy:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/library-of-things-sustainability_us_57237259e4b01a5ebde55e76

This summer we will be reorganizing a few existing items and adding new items into a collection called ‘*Gadgets and Things*’. This collection will have items that are a little expensive for impulse buys; have community interest; people don’t need to use them too often or want to try them out before buying. The Nooks and energy meters will move into this collection code. We will be adding items as we can starting with Fitbits, solar lightbulbs, and a backpack with binoculars and a birding book. Each item will have a different loan period based on the type of use. Some will be available for holds.



The Colorado State Library and Colorado Parks and Wildlife have partnered with the “Check Out Colorado State Parks” program. Each library building will receive two State Park passes and education materials in a backpack for circulation. These backpacks will be going into our *Gadgets and Things* collection. You won’t see any library marketing or publicity of these backpacks until after June 20th. The state will be doing a publicity launch at that time.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

By Paula Watson-Lakamp

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan
- Organizing, managing and supervising all graphic design work for the District.
- Working with OrangeBoy on dashboard and Savannah messaging system.
- Working on new social media promotions and platforms, “The River’s Mouth” updating
- Worked with local media on various stories
- Working with Library Trust PR committee and Board
- Finalizing a Crisis Communication Plan document
- Beginning work on new Strategic Plan Marketing strategies plan
- Finalizing work on Summer Reading “Game On!” print/web
- Beginning work on 2016 Comic Con (August 26, 27 & 28)
- Hired new Communications Assistant employee – Katie Auman

- Organized the “Kessel Run Family Fun Run/Walk 5K” on May 4 with Comic Con committee – 179 participants
- Working on FoCo Book Fest committee for October Book/Lit Festival
- Attended and presented at Staff Day, May 13
- Attended Crucial Conversations Training

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

By Sabrina Stromnes

- Worked with consultant to finish draft Library District Pay Plan and supporting information for presentation at June Board Meeting
- Recruitment
 - One new hire, Katie Auman, joined us as Communications Assistant on May 9th
 - Posted Circulation Assistant position internally and hired Xochil Arellano who started her new position on May 23rd
 - Posted Adult Services Librarian position with target hire/start date in June
- Sent district-wide communication reminding employees of our current time reporting policy and provided detailed procedures to ensure accurate time keeping
- Compiled agenda items for June meeting with City HR regarding review and renewal of contracted services
- Completed Crucial Conversations training along with all Library District managers and supervisors
- Attended Mountain States Employers Council Library HR Roundtable
- Attended 2016 Employment Law Update
- Attended Outreach Fort Collins Kick-off event
- Participated in Staff Day
- Ongoing:
 - Employee relations issues
 - Performance management
 - Employee questions and support
 - Manager/Supervisor questions and support
 - Manage Workers’ Compensation claims
 - Assist employees with FML, STD, Non-FML medical leave
 - Manage/support Volunteer Program Manager

Volunteer Program Manager:

By Serena Robb

- Interviewed 17 volunteer candidates, mostly for SRC; placed 16
- Worked on training schedule and material for SRC; help run 2 trainings
- Have filled about 75 of the 100 weekly shifts for SRC at the 3 libraries
- Have filled 8 of 11 Library Pal Boss shifts
- Attended the United Way’s Volunteer Appreciation event, as well as VITA’s and DOVIA’s
- Attended 5 trainings: Offering Service and Support to the LGBTQIA Community and Allies; Social Media and Volunteer Engagement; Staff Day; Successful Volunteer Interview Strategies; Outreach Fort Collins kick-off.
- Was on vacation for 3 days, plus Memorial Day

OUTREACH SERVICES

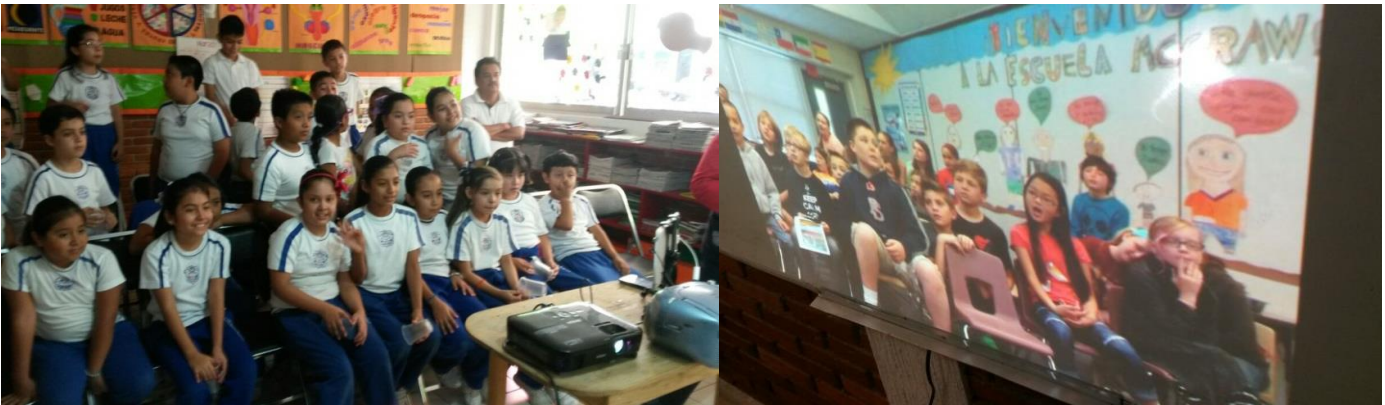
By Johanna Ulloa

The new strategic plan calls us to provide socially and culturally diverse programs that promote inclusion and respect for diversity. The outreach team presents different programs through the year to ensure that marginalized communities are reach out by our library.

In May the Pelicano program shined abroad. With our two partner schools, one in Mexico and one in Nicaragua, we are fulfilling our mission of providing universal access to ideas and information to enrich our communities.

We continued to provide a safe space for children from Harris Elementary and McGraw Elementary with their penpals in Nicaragua and Mexico to build on friendships while they gained insight of different cultures, values, and lifestyles. This month the kids Skype and thanked each other for all the letters, emails, and souvenirs they have exchanged through the year.

They enjoyed reading the book “Duck Rabbit” in English and Spanish, the video has been posted it at <https://www.facebook.com/190396970982524/videos/1151746231514255/>
Both schools are hoping to continue the Pelicano Program next year.



Johanna Ulloa Girón and Victor Zuñiga visited our sister library in Nicaragua San Juan del Sur Biblioteca. They presented to 70 librarians at Managua, 58 librarians at Granada, and 50 librarians and teachers in San Juan del Sur about programming to promote early literacy and Koha. Some attendees traveled eight hours in bus to attend the presentations. Johanna Ulloa also visited several schools in villages around Nicaragua and preformed storytimes. It was an amazing experience where the love for literacy and early alphabetization transcended boundaries.

Johanna also visited Escuela Adelante where she met with the pen pals of Harris Elementary’s kids; there she performed a bilingual storytime and took videos for the kids in Fort Collins. The outreach team will implement some lessons learned from peers in Nicaragua to continued providing and promoting socially and culturally diverse programs.



Here is the bookmobile taking books to children in distant villages in San Juan del Sur. San Juan del Sur Biblioteca was the first library in Nicaragua to loan books to children. Their expressions of happiness when they see the bookmobile arriving is impossible to describe. Our pride and gratitude to be part of a library district that promotes early literacy to diverse, underserve, and marginalized communities is immense.

Continuing presenting programs that promoted diversity and inclusion, in May, our storytime in Mandarin and American Sign Language were highly successful. In collaboration with the Collections Department we are increasing and promoting our collection related to Non-English languages. During our Mandarin storytime patrons expressed their gratitude for having a great children collection in Mandarin.



Imaginates will take place early June hosting the incredible and talented painter Armando Silva.

The teens will have the opportunity to explore their identity, heritage and culture through painting and art. They will get inspire by a visit to Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch and Denver Museum of Art in Denver to create a colorful piece in wood that will be feature during our closing ceremony.

In preparation to Summer Reading Challenge, during which we take more than 150 storytimes to the community, we are pausing some storytime at different location like Community Life Center. Karol de Rueda stated “We ended the season at this location very successfully. The kids were more open to diversity than when we began the program, expressing a deeper love for

books. The cultural element is always present during this hour, using different topics and including different languages during every visit. I even asked for a translation of our Hello/Goodbye song in Arabic so we can learn it and sing it as well”.

We presented storytimes and promoted Summer Reading Challenge at many locations including but not limited to like Cache la Poudre Elementary School, Harmony Mobile Homes, Family Nights at Linton Elementary and Lincoln Middle School.

Presentations

Karol de Rueda and Johanna Ulloa Girón presented at Denver Public Library during the Reforma Mini Conference on the importance of providing outreach programs, their impact and details of the department. Attendees expressed seemed impressed with all we do and had many questions and business cards’ requests. We also attended other presentations and will be implementing new ideas to our programming.

The Impact Team presented at Denver Public Library during the Reforma Mini Conference on Data Driven Library Programs. We presented our work related to supporting and increasing staff capacity to conceptualize their programs, collaborate, evaluate and demonstrate impact and excellence from data. We also provided different examples on how to use data to create and evaluate library programs. The presentation was well received and we got many questions related to evaluating early literacy programs.

The team also presented during All Staff Day on the programs the Outreach department provides within our district. Karol de Rueda also worked with Carol Gyger on the 3D Printer Presentation and with Media Mentors during Digital Footprint presentation.

Sylvia Garcia brought a presenter to all staff meeting at Old Town branch from the Northern Colorado Equality team. Harmony and Council Tree are also interested in hosting the speaker.

Maria Cloud-Jaques from the Denver Center for Disabilities invited Sylvia Garcia to observe ‘AnyAbility’ at Anythink Library Wright Farms. It was wonderful and packed! They have developed a very popular program with groups from local facilities that provide services to people with cognitive challenges. A local, community storyteller presented a story and the library staff followed up with a related craft.

At Old Town the Free Virtual Legal Clinic had all spots filled. Each participant thanked the library for providing this important service. Sylvia Garcia created a procedures list for running the clinic with passwords, instructions, etc. so it could be replicate by other staff member if needed.

Sylvia Garcia arranged and attended ‘Offering Service and Support to the LGBTQIA Community and Allies’ webinar. Serena Robb also attended. Sylvia is also partnering with Kim Chambers from Northern Colorado Equality to discuss the possibility of starting a LGBTQ book club.

Johanna Ulloa Girón as co-chair for Educational Outreach for the Human Relations Commission continues to help with the coordination of the Teen Forum Series host at Harmony Branch. The next series will be about Gender Identity and Rebecca Strein has been doing a fabulous job at coordinating the IRS kids in preparation to this forum.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION

By Carol Gyger

REFORMA Mini Conference

The District's Impact Team (Carol Gyger, Library IT Manager; Tova Aragon, Collections Manager; and Johanna Ulloa, Outreach Manager) attended and presented at the REFORMA Mini Conference in Denver on May 6th. The presentation, "Data Driven Library Programs", described how and why the Impact Team was formed, how the team helps District staff use research and data to evaluate programs and how other libraries could get started with some simple evaluation tools. REFORMA is the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish speaking.

Help Desk System Replacement

The replacement system for the District's internal help desk system was launched on May 4th (appropriately as it is also geeky day – Star Wars Day – "May the Fourth be with you"). Redmine, an open source ticketing and project management system, has everything the old system had, but better! Redmine gives us the ability to:

- 1) Browse, search, and filter issues (tickets) WITHOUT logging in.
- 2) Quickly fill out "new issue" forms that are simpler to understand and use.
- 3) Utilize spellcheck.
- 4) Drag and drop attachments.
- 5) Easily crop and add screenshots as attachments.
- 6) Search by attachment filename and/or label.
- 7) Search for staff to add to an issue for email notifications (watchers).
- 8) Easily read cleaner and better organized email notifications.
- 9) Take advantage of new features: Knowledge Base Articles and News (Tech Tips).

A big thanks go to the Implementation Team (Tova Aragon, Kristen Draper, Holly Bucks, Gabe Johnson, Peggy Shaughnessy, Carol Gyger and Victor Zuniga).

3-D Printing Training at Staff (In-service) Day

Carol Gyger, with help from Kendra Chester and Karol de Rueda, taught 3-D printing to an excited group of staff members at the Staff Day on May 13th. All attendees were able to find, analyze and send a 3-D print job in under an hour! Mission accomplished. ☺

Sister Library in San Jan del Sur, Nicaragua

Victor Zuniga and Johanna Ulloa spent a week in May learning, sharing and working with libraries and librarians in Nicaragua. "We had the opportunity to attend and present at a series of conferences in different cities of

Nicaragua (Managua, Granada and San Juan del Sur). We learned a lot from libraries and similar projects in Nicaragua and an NGO visiting all the way from Honduras, The Chispa Project. A lot of people were impressed with our sister library partnership and had a lot of questions about the logistics, both technical and circulation wise. We were also able to complete the third phase of the project, setting up 4 satellite libraries within selected schools. The training of teachers and SJDS staff during this process ensured a successful implementation by the end of the week." – Victor Zuniga





COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer



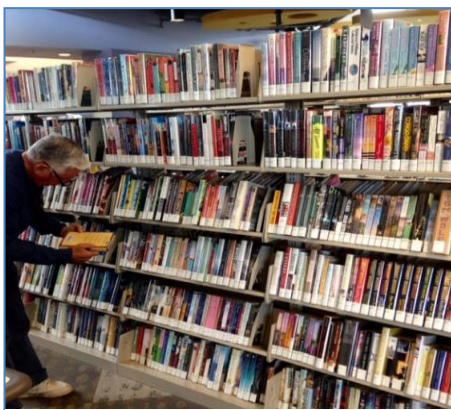
Summer Reading Challenge Promotions at Area Schools

CTL children's and teen services librarian Jenny Thurman and I visited eight SE-area elementary and middle schools during May to promote our Game On! Summer Reading Challenge (SRC). We distributed just under 2,000 SRC calendars/newsletters, provided engaging presentations to groups of students and hosted information tables at schools including

Kruse, Zach, Shepardson and Preston Middle Schools. Jenny hosted 75 second graders from Linton Elementary school at CTL on May 20. She provided the students and their teachers a tour of CTL, a scavenger hunt, and a SRC promotion.

Collections Management

CTL circulation supervisor Chris Cortez, collections librarian Becky Sheller, collections services manager Tova Aragon and I met on May 12 to discuss collections crowding at CTL. Several of CTL's adult print shelves are full



A customer browses full shelves in fiction at CTL May 27.

from end to end and top to bottom. Crowding makes browsing difficult and in-shelf, face-out displays impossible. As agreed, Chris and staff are pulling 4-6 crates of adult print fiction per week to alleviate crowding. One crate holds about 40 adult hardcover books. The items pulled have not circulated for at least one year; they will be evaluated for weeding by collections staff. The meeting resulted in several other small changes to help



A section of fiction featuring in-shelf displays.

CTL's adult collections remain eye-catching and inviting to customers.

Book Clubs Concluding 2015-16 Season

Library assistant Karen Cagle hosted the final CTL Book Club discussion of 2015-16 on May 23, and I will host the final OTL Book Club discussion on June 6 and 8. The CTL group discussed *The Island of Doctor Moreau* and the OTL Book Club will discuss *I am Malala*. The new Rekindle the Classics book partnered book discussion program concluded its pilot season (Jan – May) on May 18 with a discussion of Steinbeck’s *East of Eden*, led by a recent graduate of CSU’s graduate school of English Literature, and held at Wolverine Farm Publick House. Sixteen people attended.

Poudre School District Media Specialists’ End of Year Meeting

CTL hosted more than 50 elementary, middle and high school media specialists and District staff for their end-of-year meeting on May 31. Jenny, digital literacy librarian Kristen Draper and I provided brief break out presentations for small groups. We shared information on STEM programming at PRPLD including Minecraft and Sphero programs, as well as information about the summer reading challenge, and “hot new reads” for all ages. In addition, I surveyed the group about their interest in a teacher library card, a project I am currently researching for administration.

HARMONY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Anne Macdonald

Goal 1 – Take Proactive and sustain steps to brand the library as a platform of continuous learning

To continue steps toward this goal, staff at Harmony Library work with both the community and our colleagues to make sure the library is a natural site for people to continue life-long learning.

Digital Learning: During May, Harmony staff offered classes to the public on eBooks and use of tablets (Tablets and Ebooks and iPad 101). These classes are geared toward our older populations making sure they have a comfortable atmosphere in which they can learn to use the tablets and iPads their kids insist on buying for them. As many of our older patrons are lost in the digital world, the most requested need is to learn free downloads of library books. These classes are offered on a year-round basis by library staff led by Kristen Draper. These classes also fit into **Goal 2 – communicate value of the public library to the community.**

Financial Literacy: The library also provides a comfortable space for financial literacy. Financial literacy is a goal set down by the Federal Reserve Board to make sure that the American public understands smart financial decision-making. To this end, financial institutions have partnered with local libraries to offer classes on estate planning, budgeting, saving, smart car and home buying. At the end of April the library took part in Money Smart Week, a national program to focus one week on personal financial education. Harmony Library offered classes on budgeting apps, college funding, savings and budgeting for teens and families; a documentary and discussion on how to think differently about spending and saving and a discussion on tips to find a job. Anne Macdonald and Amy Holzworth (OTL) worked together to offer this range of classes, including a Saturday afternoon story time on personal finance for children. This program also fits into **Goal 2 – Communicate the value of the public library to the community** and **Goal 4 – Evaluate partnerships in order to maximize stakeholders access to all services.**

The Harmony Library also offers monthly financial literacy programs in partnership with Rocky Mountain Consortium of Credit Unions, Public Service Credit Union, CSU Extension. Estate Planning 101 was offered in May with 30 attendees of all ages.

Staff Day

The Learning Organization team (Molly Thompson, Brenda Blake, Holly Bucks, and Cynthia Langren) planned a Staff Day for 145 people at the Old Town Library on May 13. Suzie Q, a well-known poet from Denver, was the keynote speaker. Staff had a chance to learn more about different departments, and they were able to choose from eight breakout sessions, including research on how teams work effectively, digital learning, collection development, and writing a novel. Below are some thoughtful comments from the surveys from the day.



Staff Day Opening Session

- *As a new employee, I really enjoyed meeting more of my co-workers and spending more time with the ones I already knew. I feel more at home here now.*
- *I had so much fun! I love working for this Library District and want to stay here forever. Everyone is so amazing.*
- *What a wonderful way to show how valuable employees are. I feel honored to work here.*

Goal 2 – Clarify, enhance and communicate the value of the library to the community

Battle of the Bards

The 2016 Battle of the Bards, an annual poetry contest for community teens (a target demographic in the Strategic Plan 2016-2018) was held on April 29th from 6:30-8:30 pm had 130 people in attendance. This year, the contest was also opened to adults. There were 145 poems submitted for the contest, 3 winners, 7 finalists, and 5 honorable mentions for the Adult level, and 3 winners, 7 finalists, and 5 honorable mentions for the Teen level. A chapbook of the winning poems was published and available in print and is also available on the library website in eBook format. One of the adult winners had his teen son read his winning poem. This program is led by Teen Librarian, Diane Tuccillo working with Molly Thompson (Harmony Library), Melissa Beavers (Adult Services Librarian), Meg Schiel (Council Tree) and Ken Draves (Interim Director).



Battle of the Bards Finalists



Battle of the Bards winners

Business Community

Another target demographic for the Strategic Plan is the business community. Anne Macdonald, business librarian continues her work with the Small Business Development Center, offering SBDC clients one-on-one research services. During the month of May, Anne worked directly with 12 startups, ranging from niche spas, grant writing business and an Native American art business. The research ranges from providing demographics for target markets to industry market trends and competitive analysis.

Children’s

Poudre Library booth at the Children's Water Festival at CSU saw an estimated 1,300 grade 3 students in attendance. Approximately 800 students visited the Poudre Libraries’ booth. We also had help from three community volunteers at the event. Our booth included activities about hydration, bubbles, and snow.



CSU Children’s Water Festival

Goal 3 – Refine the scope of the library’s programs and collections around the community priorities to develop the most effective response to community needs

Diversity Forum

During May, several meeting have been held with librarians, adults, and teens from the IRS (teen group) to plan the June 8th Diversity Forum program at Harmony Library on gender identity. Jenny Thurman will host, representing the library district, and is working closely with Harmony teen librarian, Diane Tuccillo, digital librarian, Kristen Draper, and library intern Rebecca Stein, plus coordinating with Kimberly Chambers from Northern Colorado PRIDE and CSU librarian, Jimena Sagas. The Diversity Forum also fits into the partnership focus of **Goal 4**.

Teen IRS

Teen IRS met on Saturday, May 21st, at Harmony Library from 11 am-1 pm. Ten teens were in attendance. It was a lively meeting with lots of great book discussion.

Jobs and Careers



Jobs and Career Librarian Molly Thompson presents monthly programs targeting community members who are either looking for jobs or looking for a career change. During May, Molly presented a program on using creativity in the workplace, as well as hosting a Larimer County Workforce Center class on interviewing. Molly also works one-on-one with job seekers to help build prospect lists of employers to investigate during their job search. This work also fits into **Goal 4 – Effective Partnerships** for its partnership with Larimer County Workforce Center.

*Nurturing Your Creativity in the Workplace
held at OTL*

Focusing on the goal to make sure the scope of the library’s collections center around community priorities, teen librarian Diane Tuccillo attended an all-day Collection Development for Children's and Teens' Collections workshop on May 4th at the Estes Valley Library, along with Marian Sawyer. Adult services librarian Elaine Burritt edited Thriller/Suspense and Romance newsletters on LibraryAware for ReAd Team and continued her selection project for romance paperbacks, including customer suggestions for purchase.

Goal 4: Evaluate space and partnerships in order to maximize stakeholders access to all services

Front Range Community College Music Dept. (partnership)

To focus on partnerships, adult services librarian Elaine Burritt continued to coordinate “Harmony on the Green” concert programs with Front Range Community College Music Department for the popular 2016 summer concerts. June 24—Hot Tomatoes (Swing) Dance Orchestra; July 22—Pocheen. These summer concerts also fit into **Goal 2 – Clarify, enhance and communicate the value of the library to the community.**

Facility Planning

Harmony Circulation Supervisor Kim Doran worked with FRCC Librarian Annie Fox to reconfigure the circulation staff work area to refresh the area and make it a more efficient and effective work zone.

FoCo Book Festival

The library continues its planning the October 22, 2016 *FoCo Book Festival: Brewing up Books*, a one-day literary festival for the Fort Collins community. FoCo Book Festival is a partnership led by the Poudre Libraries. Partnerships include CSU Morgan Library, CSU Department of Fermentation Science, CSU Department of English, Creative Writing, New Belgium Brewing Company, Wolverine Farm Publishing, Old Firehouse Books and Downtown Artery. The festival includes workshops, demonstrations, panel discussions, book talks and book signings, readings and a keynote panel on *Books that have Made Me*. Participants include top international and national authors in the craft beer and sustainable coffee and tea world, as well as award-winning poets and literary writers who have in some matter or form a relationship to the beer, coffee and/or tea world. The festival is funded by the Friends of Poudre Libraries, Friends of Morgan Library, private donations, grants and sponsorships. Library staff working on the festival include Anne Macdonald, Business Librarian; Paula Watson-Lakamp and Katie Auman, Library District Communication Department; Sarah Scobey, Nonprofit Librarian; Melissa Beavers, Adult Services Librarian, and Meg Schiel, Council Tree Library Assistant (Also **Goals 2 and 3**).

Summer Reading Challenge

Final preparations have been happening District-wide for the launch of Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) on June 1. This includes last updates in the online system, volunteer trainings, decorations, computer setup, and more. SRC visits for school children occurred both on-site and off-site at schools and presented by staff at all libraries. Thousands of children in grades K-5 were informed and entertained by staff.



Introducing the Summer Reading Challenge to PSD 3rd graders.

OLD TOWN LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Jean Bosch

Programs and Events

Old Town Library briefly became the Fort Collins branch of Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft in conjunction with Polaris Expeditionary School. Polaris staff had asked Old Town staff to collaborate and be the host site for their final week of school's fun learning activities. Teen Services Librarian Nicole Burchfield coordinated several classes onsite for the four Polariswarts house students. Hourly Librarian Miranda West assisted as professor of Care of Magical Creatures; Nicole taught Defense Against the Dark Arts; and a volunteer professor taught Divination here with an Herbology/Potions class being taught offsite. Approximately 30 teens participated and several staff got into the spirit of the theme to make the students feel more engaged with the library.



Outreach and Embedded Staff

Several Library Liaisons took the Game On! Summer Reading Challenge skit and information to their schools to promote the program and encourage reading this summer.

Continuing Education and Learning Opportunities

Many staff actively participated in PRPLD Staff Day whether as an attendee, session instructor, or set-up/reset helper. Old Town Library staff were energized to help host this valuable day of learning and camaraderie and the location worked out really well thanks to the Learning Organization Team's hard work, creativity, and planning.

Old Town Library Manager Jean Bosch, Circulation Supervisor Holly Bucks, and Nonprofit Services Librarian Sarah Scobey attended the first three sessions of Crucial Conversations coaching/supervisory training.

Sarah attended the Estes Park Nonprofit Resource Center Conference: Making Magic Happen.

Miscellaneous

Sarah was interviewed on May 15 for the KRFC radio program “Between the Pages,” along with former Library Board of Trustees member and FoCo Book Fest committee member Mike Liggett about the “Brewing up Books” Festival.