

October 2015 Narrative - All Departments

Administration – Marcia Lewis

Read Aloud Loveland's Pajama Night October 13 brought at least 120 young families to the library for stories and a free book. Marcia has been a Read Aloud board member for more than 20 years.

The Community Marketplace in the library on October 24 was organized by Loveland Center for Business Development and Loveland Youth Gardeners. Over 35 vendors, mostly local small businesses, participated. This was another new collaboration that organizers and vendors thought was successful.

After receiving a complaint about the dearth of resources for children with visual handicaps, staff worked with the City's Risk Manager and ADA consultant, the Colorado Talking Book Library and local parents to order books in braille. The Anchor Center for Blind Children in Denver met with NoCo families in the library which was an excellent way to share information and resources.

At the City Awards and Recognition event seven library employees were recognized for years of service including Lori Gentrup and Caroline Hilligoss for 25 years and Kris Zimmerman for 30 years. Beth Gudmestad, Teen and now Children's Division Manager, was the Employee of the Year in Customer Service and Librarian II Amber Holmes was named Employee of the Year for Innovation.

Marcia met with city representatives from Parks and Facilities to discuss ways to mitigate behavior issues at the picnic tables outside the library. We are getting pricing for better lighting and installation of a security camera. There needs to be additional discussions about rules for the entire civic center and security.

The Friends of the Library had the most successful book sale where many new members registered. Even with more books than ever, the volunteers did an amazing job of setting up at the McKee 4-H Building at the Ranch.

Adult Programming & Volunteer Coordination – Bobbi Benesh

We had great attendance during the month of October with all of our adult programs. Our Wednesday Tatting Group continues to expand and sponsored their own beginning Tatting class Saturday mornings in October. Intermediate Genealogy had a room full with those eager to continue beyond the basics. The oldest Western we have shown yet brought in a decent crowd with no popcorn leftovers. The movie theme next year will be classic comedies.

Adult Services – Caroline Hilligoss

LPL Business Librarian Amanda Armstrong attended the October STIR event on 10/15 at the Budweiser Event Center, where she connected with a marketing specialist at Madwire Media, as well as with a local realtor who offered to share/promote library events on his well-followed business Facebook page. Additionally, Amanda was selected to be a member of the STIR Executive Committee. (STIR is a

young professional networking organization which is sponsored by the Loveland Chamber of Commerce.) Amanda has started an initiative that entails sending welcome letters to new businesses in Loveland with information about LPL business services. During October, she sent letters to four new businesses that had ribbon cuttings with the Loveland Chamber in the last two months. The presentation that she hosted at the library on 10/12 about Medicare drew 23 attendees.

Robert Ayala partnered with program directors Duncan and Laney Howard to bring on-site Spanish language computer classes to residents of Lago Vista Mobile Home Park. The classes, taught by instructor Karol de Rueda, were held weekly throughout October, and drew a total of 23 people. The feedback from the community was very positive regarding the quality and value of this outreach service.

On October 3rd, the library presented *Tales on Tap*, continuing a partnership begun last year with Grimm Brothers Brewhouse and Artworks Loveland. Last year's "maiden" event (which centered on the story of *The Maiden's Kiss*) was held at Artworks, and had a capacity crowd of 50 people. This year, organizer Robert Ayala moved the event to the Library Galleria and more than doubled the attendance, with 110 people. Rose Schlosser of Grimm Brothers talked with the audience about the history of brewing and beer styles, artist Dion Weichers created real-time artwork to auction off, and storyteller Ron Elms kept the audience spellbound with the Grimm Brothers' tale "The Wise Peasant's Daughter." A good time was had by all! Robert was also "instrumental" in bringing live music to the innovative "OH HECK YEAH!" event that took place in the library parking lot on October 9th, discovering the band *The Aristocats*, negotiating the contract, and helping with set-up and breakdown.

Robert and Amanda were presenters at this year's Colorado Association of Libraries Convention (CALCon), with *Brewing Up Strong Relationships*, a presentation focusing on the processes and payoffs of developing partnerships with organizations in our community. After the conference, Robert met with and had dinner with *Reforma Colorado* member, author, and fellow CALCon guest presenter Salvador Avila. (Perhaps another partnership is brewing?)

Amy Philips, with sponsorship from the FOL, brought Jack Maness to the library for an author talk on October 29th. Jack is the author of the 2015 Colorado Book Award for Historical Fiction for his novel *Song of the Jayhawk: or The Squatter Sovereign*. The book, which is the first in a trilogy, centers on the events in Bleeding Kansas during the 1840s when the issue of whether Kansas would be admitted as a free or slave state ignited the territory. Ten very enthusiastic people attended the excellent program. Amy and Caroline also co-hosted a book discussion the week before. While only two people attended (plus Amy and Caroline!), library copies of Mr. Maness' book have circulated well.

The Library Adult Book Discussion Group met the first week of October, and discussed *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. A total of 36 people attended the 3 sessions. Caroline Hilligoss' Shelf Life article entitled "Reading Groups Share Adventures," appeared in the *Reporter-Herald* on October 23rd, coordinating with National Book Discussion Month. The article discussed the value of reading groups, and publicized both the Library Adult Book Discussion Group and the Priscilla's Shelf Book Bags available at the library.

Next month: November brings two ground-breaking programs to LPL – Dia de los Muertos, and Loveland Library’s Super-Successful First-Ever Local Author Showcase!

Children’s Department – Beth Gudmestad

The Children’s Department had several firsts this month. Kris held her first Saturday storytime, “More than a Storytime”. Rather than a traditional storytime, participants move around the room interacting with different centers focused on the October theme, Colors. Lots of regular storytime attendees came with new families mixed in to the crowd. Cindi hosted her first Robo Kids. This is a monthly technology program designed for families to experience and engage with some of the library’s new technology. Sabrina presented Library 101 to the public for the first time. She quickly altered the presentation to fit the audience needs instead of relying solely on what she had planned.

We had several outreach opportunities in October. Jane provided handouts and a presentation on fun literacy interactions to do at home for parents of preschoolers from Sarah Milner Elementary School. After the presentation, Jane provided a tour of the library to students and parents. Haley went to Big Thompson Elementary School’s Harvest Festival and presented 8 fifteen minute storytimes. Phew! In October, we had a departmental meeting where staff provided feedback on the collection and alternatives to how materials are currently being shelved. The staff decided to move the Fairy Tale collection back into the non-fiction and organize picture books so they are easier to find on the shelf for staff and customers. An additional change was suggested for the department’s “New” items making them easier to find. Also, staff suggested purchasing or finding additional shelving as a way of bringing collections together like the JE and JE paperbacks.

Lots of collaboration went on within the department. Lolly and Haley continued to prepare with other library staff for the huge November Author Showcase. Cynthia assisted Cindi with the Robo Kids program. Jane tackled organizing the picture book collection with help from other staff including receiving feedback from library Pages.

Preparation for iMake @ Break has begun. Cindi and Kris are making plans on the activities that will be included during Thanksgiving break. We’ve begun prepping for the Winter Reading Program that begins on December 1. Amber is updating the digital platform to include graphics from our partners, the Colorado Eagles. Participants will be able to register on-line and earn badges much like they did during the summer.

Amber has stepped in to supervise the Teen Department. So her on-desk hours in Children’s have been covered by other staff so that she can be freed up to work in Teens. Amber and I went to Colorado Springs for the 2016 training on the Summer Reading Program. The theme for this year’s SRP is: On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!

Dobby was dressed for a creepy Halloween with a polka dotted witch’s hat perched just over his head!

Customer Service – Joanna McNeal

The Customer Service Division had some staffing changes in the month of October. Darlene Oliver became a full-time Librarian I (from 25 hours/week Librarian I) and Kathleen Dowd was promoted to Librarian I (from Aide) and she will be working 25 hours/week, which is 5 more hours per week than as an Aide. We are still one staff member short, but will be advertising and hiring someone new in November. We will all be very happy to close 2015 fully staffed.

Also in October, the Colorado Libraries Circulation Network met here for its quarterly meeting. Darlene gave the group a tour of the library after their morning meeting finished.

Additionally, the Colorado Association of Libraries held its annual conference in Loveland again this year. It was held at the Embassy Suites hotel on October 22nd through October 24th. Jo and Darlene from the Customer Service department attended the conference and were very pleased with the workshops that were offered. The conference also provided plenty of opportunity to re-connect with other Colorado librarians as well as meet new people. Jo was a member of the Conference Planning Committee and will be again for the 2016 conference, which will be held jointly with the Mountain Plains Library Association, again in Loveland at the Embassy Suites.

Darlene and Jo trained library staff on ways to deal with difficult patrons. This is something that will be ongoing with library staff so that we are all well versed in what to do when faced with difficult situations.

Displays - The Wood Carvers Club of Northern Colorado displayed a variety of pieces in the display case in the Galleria.

Library Subs – Beth Gudmestad

In October the Subs showed great initiative on different projects within the library. Maribeth dressed up as a scarecrow and joined me at Loveland's Family Fun Fest where she drove the library LIMO and assisted children in creating skeletons out of Q-tips. Kathryn donated pumpkins for a fun Pumpkin Contest. Library staff decorated the pumpkins to look like popular book characters. The public tried to identify the characters using clues that were provided. Kathryn also assisted in prepping materials for the Day of the Dead program held at the library. Once again, Sue created a staff newsletter that keeps us informed of personal accomplishments, family fun, and departmental projects/business. The staff looks forward to seeing the family photos and staying in touch with staff who they don't regularly interact with at the library. The Sub's assistance with special projects and programming is a valuable asset to the success of the library.

LTI – Shane Adamson

We continue to stretch the boundaries in LTI. We held the Oh Heck Yeah! Event in October. We were pleased with the turnout for the event. The Digital games on a large projector screen was a big hit, as well as art project stations for the kids. We were asked if we were coming back next week! Clearly

they had no idea what it took to make this event happen. Congratulations and a job well done to Tyera Eulberg for this event. We look forward to doing it again next year!

Kevin and Shane were nominated for a few City of Loveland employee of the year awards, but did not win. We are super excited for Amber and Beth on their wins. They were well deserved.

Nikole has started and as predicted became the most popular person in LTI as she requested to work every weekend. Thank you Nikole!

Technical Services – Shane Adamson

Tech Services just keeps chugging along. Most of the backlog has been reduced to less than 6 months. Naturally it is a moving target that relies on a lot of factors including how much is ordered, received, back ordered and Library budget. Monthly stats do not project an accurate accounting of how many items are cataloged. We get e-books in batches. Maybe 50-100 at a time. In the past when the batched was processed each individual item was counted, even though it processes them all at one time automatically. Since it really takes about the same amount of time to process one item, we count the entire batch as one cataloged item. That accounts for the disparity and drop off in monthly stats. We have arranged for Lynn Parks and Seth Perkins to get an extra shift a week until the end of the year to help with the Media backlog. It is very large and we need to put more resources on addressing it. That work will continue until the end of the year. In addition we are working with Teen, Children's and Adult to get their Audio CD inventory moved into a genre based shelving plan. Youth and Teen have a small collection, but Adult's CD collection is very large. We are working with them to establish a work flow to get this project done. We appreciate their willingness to help in the process.

Teenseen – Beth Gudmestad

The teen department offered 12 programs in the library this month, with a total of 101 participants, as well as outreach to 120 students at Walt Clark Middle School and 49 students at Thompson Valley High School. Teens also attended Oh Heck Yeah where they were able to take part in interactive video gaming and visited the library's booth at the Northern Colorado Mini Maker Faire where they had the opportunity to build robots. These events centered on innovative technology and gave teens the chance to develop 21st century skills while redefining traditional views of what libraries offer youth.

Teens were able to celebrate the fall season with Leaf Art, Duct Tape Pumpkins and a book display featuring “spooky” reads. Becca ran a “Weirdest Reading Location” contest that challenged teens to pick an unusual place to read and upload a photo onto the teen Facebook page. (See the winning photo below!) Summer added materials to the teen collection based on feedback from the Teen Advisory Board and began planning for next month’s Gingerbread Challenge.

Beth partnered with TVHS’s Common Read program again this fall. This school wide program encourages staff and students to read a nonfiction book. This fall’s book was *The Other Wes Moore* written by Wes Moore. On October 29th former Nuggets Player, Mark Randall, spoke with the students

and staff about making choices. The book focuses on the two Wes Moores who had similar upbringings, but along the way made different choices that impacted their lives dramatically.

October was a great month for professional development. Summer attended the Colorado Association of Libraries annual conference and brought back information on youth in poverty, YA programming, diverse stories, STEM, safety, and more. Amber also attended the conference as an exhibitor for Colorado State Library's Maker Interest Group. Becca and Amber participated in a tour of SparkFun Electronics where they were able to learn about the educational applications of circuitry.

October was also a great month for Employee Recognition with the city's annual awards ceremony. Summer represented the library on the city's planning committee for this event and spent many hours making sure that it ran smoothly. Beth and Amber were both honored as Employees of the Year, Beth for Customer Service and Amber for Innovation.

Beth has successfully transitioned to managing the Children's Department and the search for a Librarian III replacement continues. In the meantime, Amber has been appointed Interim Head of Teen Services and Becca and Summer have taken on additional hours to staff the public desk and manage work flow.

