



August 2019 Branch Manager's Report

Facilities

The Open House on Thursday, July 25 to celebrate the completion of our mini-renovation was a great success, with about 30 attendees enjoying the excellent food and excellent company. Among those present were most of the Trustees and previous TTL directors Marian Stevens and Joe Sherwood. Chris Kibler and the former directors gave brief speeches outlining the library's history and their connection with its evolution. Board president John C.T. Alexander affirmed the board's support for Paoli Library. Pat Sobota, who funded the refurbishment of the circulation desk, spoke about her family's love of the library and her decision to memorialize her late husband, Frank, with her contribution. Pat then unveiled a plaque acknowledging the major donors to the project.

Library Statistics

Paoli's statistics continued their upward climb with significant increases over last July in both circulation (up 6.6%) and door count (up 9.4%). These increases can be attributed at least in part to the facilities upgrades and increased programming.

Volunteers

One of our van bag volunteers, Nadine Glasgow, suffered a stroke and will not be returning to the library. Another current volunteer has offered to take over her position.

Personnel

We are currently conducting interviews for two open circulation/shelver positions.

Adult Programs

Taylor Baugher has started a new book club, "The Next Big Thing," which will meet at the library on the third Thursday of each month. Titles will be debut novels that have been praised by reviewers and/or nominated for awards. Six people attended the first meeting, and all plan to return in September.

Children's Programs

The Harry Potter Escape Room featured challenging puzzles and amazing props, all created by Stephanie with the help of Kate Boyle from Tredyffrin. Stephanie and Kate hope to adapt the escape room into a program package for use by other libraries.

Paoli and Tredyffrin teens are working together on an entry for the ninth annual 90-Second Newbery film competition, a national contest for "weird short movies that tell the entire stories of Newbery-winning books in about a minute and a half."

The Summer Quest and GO WilMa! programs officially ended on August 20. Prize drawings were delayed when the Willistown Country Fair was postponed due to an excessive heat warning.

Meeting Room

[This issue will be on the meeting agenda.]

I have temporarily revoked meeting room privileges for the bridge club facilitator, John Pino. John's use of the room was based on a grandfathered agreement with TPL, which involved waiving the rental charge in return for "donations" from him. The usual rate for his weekend rentals would be \$120; he would just send a check every month or so \$12 or \$16. His visits

entailed ongoing problems for weekend staff: Members of his group were known to pick through the donated books, move things around on the staff desks, use the staff rest room, and go through the staff refrigerator. John often tried to come in before the library opened, didn't check in with the staff when he arrived, and propped open the back door (a security concern with no staff downstairs). We recently informed him that he needed to at least obey the stated meeting room policies to (1) check in with the circ desk staff and (2) pay (in his case, \$2/participant) each time he used the room.

Unfortunately staff members who tried to enforce these requests were met with rudeness and shouting. Abuse of the staff definitely crossed the line for me, and I told him he was no longer welcome. However, I do not in fact have the authority to ban him. The meeting room policy states: "***17. The Trustees reserve the right to revoke permission to use the meeting rooms.***"

Amendments to the library meeting room policy will be proposed to address these issues.

Beverly Michaels, Branch Manager
August 20, 2019