

City of Tonawanda
Public Library



Community Report

2014

333 Main Street
Tonawanda NY
14150

Director
GlennLuba
Phone: 716-693-5043

2014 At a Glance

Collection size

- 31,112

Computer Use Sessions

- 15,069

Circulation

- 119,025

Library Visits

- 94,860

Children's and YA

Programs

- 147 with an attendance of 2,414

Adult Programs

- 79 with an attendance of 973

Popular Local Author Visits Tonawanda



Lauren Belfer wowed the crowd with her discussion of City of Light and the history of Buffalo.

Her *New York Times* best seller and her everlasting devotion to Buffalo have made her enormously popular since 1999. The library system ordered loads of extra copies before her October 11th arrival.

This was necessary to keep up with the high demand for her two books once the word was out that she would visit our library for “A Conversation with Lauren Belfer”. Circulation for City of Light (959) and A Fierce Radiance (1,450) in print, large print, audio book, Book Club in a Bag and eBook rose dramatically af-

An enthusiastic crowd welcomed Lauren Belfer to the Tonawanda Library in October.

ter Ms. Belfer's appearance. City of Light was downloaded 251 times and A Fierce Radiance, 195 times.

We await Ms. Belfer's third book and appreciate her ongoing support of our libraries!

For Children

Children's programming continues to attract many young patrons to the library the whole year through. In addition to the longtime favorite Preschool and Toddler story times, a new program called Book Babies was added this fall. This offers early literacy readiness (and fun) to children ages 3-23 months old, and was a hit from the word GO!

In February, our library held a Take Your Child to the Library Day event, with drop-in crafts and a scavenger hunt. Moving into April, we once again welcomed the Magic of Mr. J and his Beach Party Bash, with a full house dressed for the beach and ready for snow cones. Alvin, the Easter bunny visited in April as well, much to the delight of the children who stopped in to make an Easter craft.

Less furry, but no less welcome, were the Cold Blooded Critters brought by Beaver Meadows for an informative program in May, and then the summer fun began! The 2014 NYS summer reading theme was *Fizz, Boom, Read!*, and children from ages 2-9 enjoyed weekly programs around this science theme. We enjoyed the Wondermakers, Nature Ed-Ventures, a wildlife program from the SPCA, the Tonawanda firefighters, as well as 2 offerings from our Central Library children's department. We wrapped up our summer fun with the annual picnic, featuring a Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas Hot Dog Cook-out, face painting by Tonawanda YES and physical fitness fun by JumpBunch.

In addition to Annemarie Jason and her Not-So-Spooky stories, the Central staff brought us

two programs in October, and the holiday season saw a terrific turnout for Santa and Mrs. Claus and the graham cracker house programs, brought to us by Explore & More.

Some numbers:

Beach Party Bash

- 34 children, 20 adults

The Wondermakers

- 24 children, 17 adults

Nature Ed-Ventures

- 40 children

End of Summer Picnic

- 95 attendees

Not-So-Spooky Stories

- 17 children, 18 adults

Santa's Visit

- 54 children

Graham Cracker Houses

- 71 children, 52 adults

Battle of the Books



The 16th annual Battle of the Books was held at ECC in August, and Tonawanda sent a team of 5 teens to the competition. They were feeling the absence of some team veterans who had aged out of the competition, and finished low in the standings. All are looking ahead to 2015 after this 'rebuilding year'. They hope to improve their showing with the help of new assistant coaches (and Battle veterans) Stacy and Alyssa.

Team members Amber, Chelsea, Brian, Jessica and Aaliyah

The Wondermakers used folktales to show a rapt audience that 'Science is a Blast'!



Alvin joined us in April for a drop-in Easter craft Saturday.



Critters both feathered and scaled were part of our children's programming in 2014.



Dozens of children and families enjoyed building graham cracker houses and talking with Santa when Explore & More Children's Museum, and Santa & Mrs. Claus visited in December.



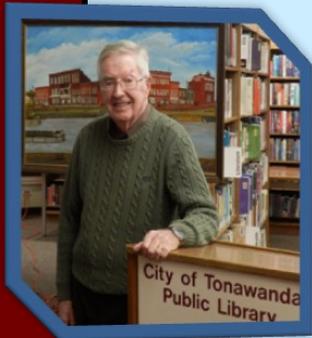
The new bubble machine is a favorite at Book Babies Story Time.



Beach Party fun in April with the Magic of Mr. J.



Historical Society of the Tonawandas' Partnership



Hugh Neeson (left) former Vice President of Bell Aircraft, later Bell Aerospace, spoke at the library about the significant role Bell played in the local, national, and international economy.

The Historical Society of the Tonawandas has ongoing exhibits and speakers at the library throughout the year. This year was a continuation of the Edward G Mayes original oil paintings of the Erie Canal in Tonawanda. We also had two display case exhibits: the first one had items from the Spaulding Fibre Company and the second focused on Crystal Beach. The speaker series featured Hugh Neeson from Bell Aerospace and Native American Al Parker, a Haudenosaunee Cultural Resource Specialist.



Al Parker (above) is an educator from the Seneca, Heron Clan. Pat Barnard (Society President) introducing Al Parker (right)



The Society brought in two exhibits for their display case in the library. The first one contained products and components from the Spaulding Fibre Company. The second display (left) showcased memorabilia from the Crystal Beach days.

The Library continued its partnership with the Art Department of the Tonawanda City Schools in 2014, and more wonderful student art work was chosen for display in our library. A Library Art Award certificate was presented to each artist, and their work is now on display at the Library. Staff and patrons alike enjoy these beautiful pieces which add so much to our building. The pieces will be returned to the artists in June 2015, when new selections will be made.

Children's Librarian Michelle Hurley participated in the Tonawanda Schools' Literacy Night at Fletcher School in March, as well as June's Pink Warrior Wellness Night on the new field at the high school. These events gave her the opportunity to meet and talk to many families, and to 'spread the word' about the library.



Another area of collaboration between the library and the Tonawanda School District comes in the form of Gineen Frenning and her Tonawanda Service Club. The group donated many hours of time to us. Some of the jobs they performed were outdoor tasks like raking, mulching, bulb planting and general clean up. They also assisted inside with book sale preparation and setup.

Gineen Frenning and her Tonawanda Service Club ready to work!



Three of the student art pieces that bring color and fun to the Library.



Community Collaborations

In addition to our partnership with the Tonawanda Schools, the Library also teams up with other community organizations. In May, the Northtowns Boys & Girls Club held a Read to Succeed Literacy Fair at the Library, with our own Glenn Luba acting as one of the judges, along with City of Tonawanda Councilwoman Jenna Koch and Mayor Rick Davis.

Our local Daisy Scout troop helped beautify the gardens around the library.



Some members of the Boys and Girls Club of the Tonawandas, along with samples of the stations on display.



For Adults

While children's programs are a mainstay of our patron offerings, the Library doesn't want to leave the adults out. We offered a wide array of programs last year, including *Why Compost?* and a *Home Energy Workshop* in February, local author Isaiah Rashad in March and an informative lecture on the *Emerald Ash Borer* in May.

The holistic health educational seminar, *Nourish the Whole You*, ran for 3 weeks in June, and was aimed at helping participants make better food and life choices for improved health.

Davis Financial presented a 4 part *Retirement Series*,

covering such topics as the fundamentals of Social Security, planning for long term care, and Investing 101. Local artist Ray Lockhart also joined us in June for a terrific painting demonstration.

BECPL's own TechKnow Lab brought us computer classes on topics such as *Computer Basics*, *eBooks & eReaders* and *Family History-Ancestry Library Edition*. Patrons appreciate this free instruction and the fact that the lab comes right to us!

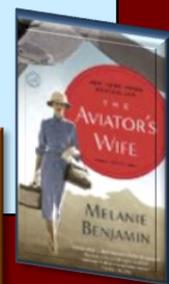
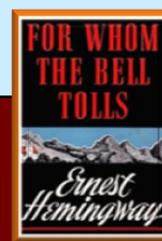
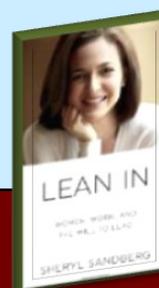
The Swiftwater Reading Club continued their monthly meetings in 2014



Patrons had the opportunity to learn about the Emerald Ash Borer during a presentation by the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

and discussed a variety of titles. Selections include fiction and nonfiction, and newer books as well as classics. Participants continue to welcome this chance to dig deeper into books and to listen to various thoughts and opinions from other readers.

Some of the varied selections from 2014's Swiftwater Reading Club.



The TechKnow Lab team of specialists brings many computer training classes to our location throughout the year.



Local artist Ray Lockhart demonstrates some painting techniques.



Patron Updates

As part of our continued effort to improve the visual appeal of the library, we added some new features in 2014. A beautiful new freestanding sign greets patrons as they enter the library. This sleek, two-sided display has a small footprint, but can hold numerous flyers advertising all of our upcoming programs. It serves as a one-stop infor-

mation point for visitors. The display can easily be updated to keep things current, and seasonal touches can be added as desired.

As a purely decorative addition, some painted flowers were added to the front foyer and to the wall behind the circulation desk. You may also spot the occasional cardinal, hummingbird or inch worm. These 'gardens' add color and whimsy to the library.

The main hallway bene-

fitted from having the doors and trim painted brown to lend uniformity, and the restroom doors and Meeting Room all have new signage. Using word-play, we added images of well-known titles to help label the restroom doors in a more visual way.

Our knitting group, The Ravel Rousers, continues to meet weekly to knit and visit. We have officially designated some shelf space for our yarn-loving patrons, and the area is marked by a 3-D knitted figure hanging there for all to see.



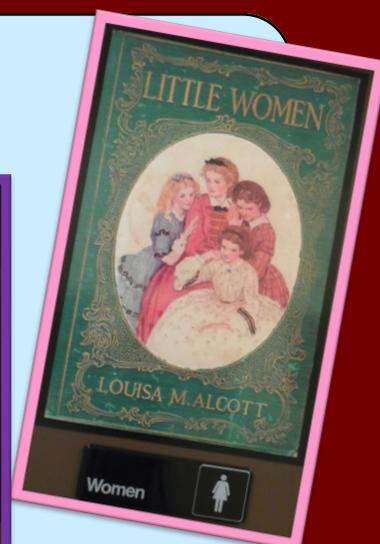
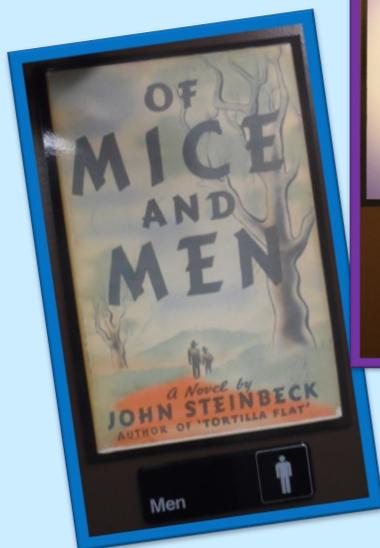
Above, a wonderful new "one stop information point" greets patrons at the door of the library.

Below, the newly designated Knitting collection, and detail, right, of the knitted figure who shows patrons the way.



Patron Updates

The hallway is also a display point for some of our new photos, the rest of which can be seen in other areas of the building. The photos are various nature scenes that were taken by staff members, and they add a lovely touch of the outdoors to the inside of our building. In addition to the hallway, more photos can be found in all the restrooms and the front Reference Room.



The new restroom signage, above, uses wordplay and cover art to add color and design to the back corridor.



Above, a view of the entrance hallway and some of the new photos; right a close-up of two of the selections.

Building Improvements

Some of graphic enhancements added to the Library's public spaces in 2014 .



Examples of the displays that enhanced our library in 2014, courtesy of our talented team of Chelsea and Alyssa: clockwise from the top: The Wizard of Oz, Lights, Camera, Read!, Get a Clue:Read a Mystery, and Once Upon a Time.



Painted gardens in the front foyer and behind the circulation desk.

The newly painted and lettered door to the Meeting Room.



Right, a photo grouping in the Reference Room.

Friends of the Library

Our Friends of the City of Tonawanda Library Group remained supportive in 2014. An ongoing effort which they coordinate is the display of artwork by local artists. Each month, 2 different artists lend us two works each. These pieces hang behind the circulation desk or on the walls adjacent to the front windows. They created a varied exhibit which both staff and patrons enjoy.

Our annual Book Sale took place at the end of January, accompanied by a Bake Sale and jewelry table. The work that goes into running this event is greatly appreciated by the library staff, and the fundraiser was a success.

The newly framed Library Charter below.

The Friends contributed a generous gift when they had the Library Charter framed, and it now hangs outside the Meeting Room. It is fitting that this document is properly displayed for patrons to see. Thank you Friends!

In April, local author Simply Sue came to the library to speak to the Friends about her book, A Girl Like Me.

The Election Day Bake Sale was held in November and was once again a great event, as lots of goodies were bought and enjoyed.

Harpist Beth Anne Breneman joined us again in December, bringing relaxing music to a busy holiday season.

Some numbers:

Simply Sue booktalk,

- 30 patrons

Harpist Beth Anne Breneman,

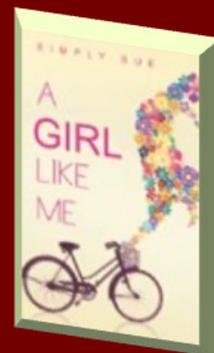
- 55 patrons



Two example of the local artwork that graced the Library in 2014.



Local author Simply Sue addresses the Friends of the Library group.



Our annual End of Summer picnic was an enjoyable event, with face painting by Tonawanda Y.E.S., grilled hot dogs courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of The Tonawandas, and chips, cookies and drinks provided by the Friends of the Library. JumpBunch brought some physical fitness activities for summer day fun!



Face painting and balloon animals from Tonawanda Y.E.S. are always popular.



Families enjoy tug-of-war courtesy of JumpBunch.



The David Fenske Family were the recipients of a veterans food drive in the fall at the library. Pictured above from L to R, David Fenske, General John Dlugosz, Col Simeon Ferraro, Chief Warrant Officer Dawn Kyzer, and First Sergeant David Kyzer.



Three members of the Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas hard at work preparing our picnic lunch. L to R, Dave Bernosky, John Crainer and Tom Smyers.

Staff

Glenn Luba	Director
Betsey Higgins	Librarian
Michelle Hurley	Children's Librarian
Sue Schmitz	Librarian
Marsha Wacker	Senior Clerk
Karen Tauriello	Clerk
John Marcaccio	Caretaker
Clem Froelich	Cleaner
Lisa Ermer	Senior Page
Chelsea Kerwin	Senior Page
Alyssa Murcin	Senior Page
Chantal Sukel	Senior Page
Ryan Waite	Senior Page
John Lordi	Page
James Siepel	Page
Mary Smith	Volunteer
Bethany Howell	Volunteer



LIBRARY HOURS

(Year Round)

Monday 9:30a-8p

Tuesday 9:30a-8p

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday 9:30a-8p

Friday 9:30a-4p

Saturday 9:30a-2p

Sunday CLOSED

Library Board

Bonnie Bugbee, President

Sylvia Barry

Jay Holler

Kathy Reitz

Susan Tirone

Thank You!

A library becomes a community asset only through the generosity of time and funds via a team effort. In 2014, we would like to thank many who have contributed to making the library a value to this community.

Local Representatives (2014) (funding):

- NYS Senator Mark Grisanti
- NYS Assemblyman Robin Schimminger
- County Legislator Kevin Hardwick

City of Tonawanda Staff:

- Mayor Rick Davis
- Council President Carleton Zeisz
- Councilmembers: Charles M. Gilbert, Jackie A. Smilinich, John J. Hall, Jenna N. Koch
- Treasurer Joe Hogenkamp
- City Parks Department, Director Amanda Lofft, Chris Foels and crew (snowplowing, plumbing, tree trimming, equipment maintenance)
- Signal Department, Supervisor Aaron Kisloski (electrical), John Moderacki (floors)

Community Connections:

- Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System
- Friends of the City of Tonawanda Library (fundraising)
- City of Tonawanda School District
- Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas
- Historical Society of the Tonawandas
- Garden Club of the Tonawandas
- Tonawanda Y.E.S. [Youth Engaged in Service]