The Stonington Free Library was awarded $1000 from a Pfizer Community Vibrancy Grant toward the purchase of a new AWE Early Literacy Station in July. The goal of this grant is to improve school readiness in our community.

The AWE family of self-contained, turn-key computer systems offers a complete digital learning experience with over 60 program options. The programs are correlated with all State Education Standard requirements. The Early Literacy Station is designed for use by children ages 2 – 9 with over 1,000 different activities designed to instantly engage children. The Station covers the seven curriculum areas of reading, writing, phonics, math and problem solving, science, social studies and the arts. The Early Literacy Station provides a safe and fun learning environment for young children who may or may not have access to a home computer. The Library was an early adopter of this technology and is proud to introduce the latest addition to the AWE family. We already have 2 Early Literacy stations in the Children’s Room, in addition to an After School Edge computer from the AWE line. The new station, with enhanced programs, will help to eliminate waiting times and allow more children access to these very popular learning tools. The Stonington Free Library is most grateful to Pfizer, Inc. and Groton Laboratories for their generous donation and their leadership role in forging corporate and community collaboration.

Gift to Purchase New Playaway View Technology for Children’s Room

The Leslie Family has generously contributed money for the purchase of a very popular technology for the Children’s Room, Playaway Views. In honor of Archie Leslie’s birthday, his wife and children donated funds allowing the Library to buy 18 Playaway Views containing 96 different stories in video. The Playaway View is a portable, self-contained video player which is only available in public libraries. It can be used as a stepping stone in early literacy development, exposing children to various books, rhymes and music. Some are available in both English and Spanish.

Each Playaway View is about the size of a GPS navigation device and weighs less than 6 ounces. When parents check one out of the Library, they will receive the device along with a charger in a case. There is an external speaker in the View and a universal headphone jack for private use, if desired. Each View contains multiple videos, with a total running time of approximately an hour. There are stories for all tastes, both classics, fairy tales and newer titles. This new vehicle for delivering stories is proving to be immensely popular. Our 18 Views have circulated over 75 times since we purchased them! The Stonington Free Library is thankful to the Leslie family for their very generous and thoughtful donation.

Chelsea Groton Foundation Awards $500 Grant for Teen Room Furnishing

A grant from the Chelsea Groton Bank will allow the Library to make some much-needed updates to the Teen Room. This $500 award will be applied toward the purchase of a rug and new furniture. Thank you to the Chelsea Groton Foundation for your generous donation – our young adults will be so happy!

Technology Grants from the Rotary of the Stoningtons

There will be a new all-in-one PC in the Teen Room, thanks to a grant from the Rotary of the Stoningtons to upgrade our older computer. This new hardware will be utilizing newer software and will have improved speed and memory. In addition, as an all-in-one, it will take up less space in our small Teen Room. The Rotary also awarded a grant to purchase an iPod Touch and wireless speaker system for the Children’s Room. We will be able to consolidate our music, photography and social media needs in one device. Dance parties for story time! We are very thankful to the Rotary of the Stoningtons for awarding the Library such wonderful grants.
November

1 10:30 am-3 pm Lego Saturday
4 10:30 am Drop In Story Time ( Babies – 2)
11 10:30 am Drop In Story Time
5 10:30 am Drop In Story Time ( Ages 2 – 6)
8 10 am-12 pm Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan Revision Workshop - free, open, participation encouraged
19 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Painting Day
20 10:30 am Drop In Story Time ( Babies – 2)
21 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Make a Plate
22 10:30 am Saturday in Stonington – Lego Bingo
27 5:00 pm Sunday Evening Lecture Series @ The La Grua Center Allegra di Bonaventura discusses her book For Adam’s Sake

December

1 First day to sign up for our Winter Reading Challenge
6 11 am-1 pm Read with Santa and Mrs. Claus ( Ages 8 and under) Registration opens November 18
7 5:00 pm Sunday Evening Lecture Series @ The La Grua Center Vanessa Gezari speaking about her book The Tender Soldier
10 5-7:30 pm NEW Get Fired Up Make a Holiday Ornament - sign up for ½ hour time slots, costs varies with ornament chosen Registration opens December 1
13 10:30 am-1 pm NEW Saturday in Stonington – Get Fired Up Make a Holiday Ornament - sign up for ½ hour time slots, costs varies with ornament chosen. Registration opens December 1
20 10:30 am NEW Saturday in Stonington – Reindeer Story Time and make Magic Reindeer Food!
24 Christmas Eve – Library Closes @ 1 PM
25 Christmas Day – Library Closed
26 New Year’s Day – Library Closed
31 New Year’s Eve – Library Closes @ 1 PM

January

1 New Year’s Day – Library Closed
3 10:30 am-3 pm Lego Saturday
6 10 am Drop In Story Time ( Babies – 2)
11 10 am Drop In Story Time ( Ages 3 – 6)
19 Martin Luther King, Jr Day - Library Closed
20 10 am Drop In Story Time ( Babies – 2)
21 10 am Drop In Story Time ( Ages 2 – 6)
24 10 am Saturday in Stonington – Painting Day
11 am Annual Children’s Opera, The Three Little Pigs at the Mystic Stage. Registration opens January 2
12-4 pm Annual Children’s Opera, The Three Little Pigs at the Mystic Stage. Registration opens January 2
27 10 am Drop In Story Time ( Babies – 2)
11 am Drop In Story Time ( Ages 3 – 6)
28 10 am Drop In Story Time ( Ages 2 – 6)
31 10 am NEW Sharpie Tie Dye Tee Shirts – Bring a white tee shirt and make your own design statement (wear old clothes) ( Ages 8 and older) Registration opens January 19
We have a day for giving thanks. We have two for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. #GivingTuesday™ is a campaign to create a national day of giving at the start of the annual holiday season. It celebrates and encourages charitable activities that support nonprofit organizations.

This year, a very generous Library supporter has offered up a matching gift challenge for GivingTuesday. The way it works: On Tuesday December 2, 2014, either donate online or send a donation by check with the phrase “Giving Tuesday” in the memo line, and your gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to $1500 dollars for that day! Our goal is to raise a total of $3000 to support Library programs and services.

We will be posting Giving Tuesday reminders on our website and facebook page periodically prior to the event. Visit us at www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org or www.facebook.com/StoningtonFreeLibrary

When

Some thing Delicious Is Coming

Be on the lookout in the coming months for our first ever Mystery Dinner Cookbook!! We are compiling pictures, memories, and recipes from the first six years of our popular annual event. It will make a wonderful holiday gift for fans of the Mystery Dinner. We anticipate it will be available for sale near the end of November. Stay tuned!!

Stay posted! Visit us at www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org or www.facebook.com/StoningtonFreeLibrary

An Apology

Our deep appreciation for everyone who contributed to last year's Annual Appeal was our most successful to date! We raised over $182,000 to support Library operations. Take a look at our Annual Report for details and a list of all our dedicated supporters throughout the year.

Our sincere apologies for a number of omissions in the Report: The Pediment Society should have included Charles and Janet Hatton who contributed at the $1000-$2,499 level. Sibbly Lynch and Michael Schefers were omitted from the list of Mystery Dinner attendees. Annual Appeal donors in the $250-$400 category: Richard and Kathleen Daniele.

Annual Appeal donors in the $100-$249 category: Elizabeth Tobin Brown, Meredith and Sylvia Brown, Joan Burchenal, James and Jacqueline Burgess, Robert and Carole Callahan, Lori Calabrisi, Austin and Susan Chambers, Sylvia Christansen, Coastal Dermatology, Frank and Virginia Colassano, Anne C. Connerton, Frank and Virginia Colassano, Rich and Dee Constantine, Kurt Cramer and Lynne Lawrence, Anna T. Crandall, Deborah Dear, Cornelia Dickenson, David and Sherry Dreshback, Judith duPont, David and Donna Elks, G.W. Elks.

Our thanks to them for their support!!

A New Speaker Series: Thoughtful Thursdays

On Thursday, October 9th, the Library launched a new speaker series, “Thoughtful Thursdays.” The topic was Managing Your Digital Life—Using Social Media for Life, Family, and Career Success, and the speaker was Josh Jensen, Director of Marketing Communications at Connecticut College. It was an absolutely fascinating hour.

Mr. Jensen took his audience through 25 different social media from the well-known Facebook, Twitter, and You Tube to little-known Vine, Yo, and Yik Yak. In each case he explained who uses the medium, what its uses are, its defining features and what to beware of when using it.

He had some stunning statistics: nearly 2/3 of American adults use social media; 40% of cell phone owners use social networking on their phones; Facebook has 829 million daily active users compared to The Wall Street Journal’s 2.4 million daily readers and the New York Times’s 1.9 million.

One favorite social network was Flickr with its defining feature being “Lots of storage space for high quality photos.” For his presentation, Mr. Jensen had gone into Flickr and searched for photos of Stonington, showing the audience a collection of lovely graphics.

Mr. Jensen emphasized the public nature of social networks and urged circumspection in what a user says and presents. “Make sure what you put on the network is something you’d be proud to show your boss, your spouse, your child,” he said. He also advised parents to “Keep tabs” on their children’s use of social networks:

- 70% of students see frequent bullying online, only 1 in 10 victims will inform a parent or adult, victims are 2-9 times more likely to consider suicide
- Ask questions, follow and friend, ask for passwords, encourage them to speak up, try out social networks
- Set guidelines: what sites they can visit, who they can friend, what they can say
- Understand school rules

The next in the “Thoughtful Thursdays” series will be Thursday, November 13, at 5:30, at the Library. The topic will be How to Protect Your Personal Information in The Digital Age, and the speaker will be Bruce Carpenter, Director of Technical Support And Information Security Officer at Connecticut College.

Managing Your Digital Life—Using Social Media for Life, Family, and Career Success

Annual Appeal donors in the $100-$249 category: Elizabeth Tobin Brown, Meredith and Sylvia Brown, Janet Hatton who contributed at the $1000-$2,499 level. Sibbly Lynch and Michael Schefers were omitted from the list of Mystery Dinner attendees. Annual Appeal donors in the $250-$400 category: Richard and Kathleen Daniele.
Summer Reading

Our BEST Year for Participation
Pfizer Grant, Leslie Family, Chelsea Groton Foundation, Rotary of The Stoningtons
October through January Calendar of Library Activities
Giving Tuesday, Apology, Lecture, Cookbook

BOOKworms

Et Cetera

Inside:
FALL/WINTER 2014-2015

Summer Reading

Thanks

Bookmark

Bookworms

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Et Cetera

Our best year ever!

Summer Reading Program

Our best year ever!

Summer Reading 2014 was our BEST year for participation. We had 681 children and teens register for our Summer Reading Program.

IN all, the group read up for ice cream.

Natalie Perkins has it all: Guardian Crossbow Set and ice cream all over the place.

Connor Hultgren topped off Summer Reading by winning a Lego set. 681 children and teens registered for our Summer Reading Program.