Every year hundreds of members of the community volunteer at Library of The Chathams. In 2014, 19 adult volunteers completed nearly 600 hours of service and 201 teen volunteers completed more than 3,000 hours of service. The teen volunteers are an integral part of the Summer Reading Club—they help to organize events, log the children’s books, listen to reports, and give out prizes to children who have earned them. Volunteers also helped us to reorganize the young adult book collection, shelve books, prepare for children’s craft programs, and host science and nutrition classes.

Friends of the Library

Sometimes people who are interested in joining The Friends ask: What is it that Friends of The Library do?

A better question would be what is it that Friends of The Library don’t do?

At our library, The Friends raise funds through membership drives and a massive annual book sale, they help organize, promote, and run events and programs at the library, sponsor art shows, provide funding that supports the majority of our children’s, teen, and adult programming as well as supplements our budget for books and other materials, help us keep our shelves organized, clean, and well-stocked, and they reach out to the community through book stands, participation in local events, and outreach to the schools, local businesses, and civic organizations.

2014 was another great year for the Friends, who boosted their membership and provided a ground-breaking subscription to Lynda.com, an educational resource now available to the public at our library, museum passes to the Frick and Intrepid Museums, new end-of-range signs to help library users better browse our collections, and more non-fiction audiobook titles for our collections. Thank you Friends of The Library!

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By The Numbers

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Community Partnership

The Library Board of Trustees voted unanimously to form a partnership with ECLC of New Jersey’s P.R.I.D.E. program for adults with special needs located in Florham Park. Clients are making bi-weekly pickups at the offline book drops to free up custodian time and save funds spent on vendor repair work. This helps the ECLC P.R.I.D.E. clients accclimate to a professional work environment. Library Board President Fred Pocci confirmed, “The library saves tax dollars in the process but, more importantly, honors our mission to promote a broader understanding of the world and enrich lives.”

For Your Convenience

Residents don’t need to come to the library to borrow paperbacks from our book stalls at Chatham Post Office, Green Village Post Office, Chatham Train Station, Chatham Township Municipal Building, Peapack-Gladstone Bank, and Hudson City Bank thanks to Friends of The Library. Residents may also reserve items from our website at www.chathamlibrary.org and choose to pick up at either the library or at the Chatham Township Municipal Building. Books may be returned to alternate locations, including Hickory Tree Mall and Fairmount Country Store.
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Some highlights from 2014 include Chatham author and gardener Marta McDowell discussing her new book, Beatrix Potter’s Gardening Life, concerts sponsored by the Wharton Center of Music in Berkeley Heights which featured David Schumacher and His Jazz Cats and Joel Perry, a panel of well-known authors from the Mystery Writers of America, and an exploration of the arctic with Chatham residents Carl and Kathy Woodward.

And as our program offerings continue to change, our collections are also growing and changing. In 2014, we started offering iPads that can be borrowed for a two-week period, new eBooks and downloadable audiobooks through Overdrive and One Click Digital, additional museum passes for destinations throughout New Jersey and New York City, language-learning software through our new Pronouncer subscription, and, of course, hundreds of new books, CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks for children and adults of all ages.

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These increases are due to increased levels of support for children’s and teen services thanks to the library’s Board of Trustees and administration, community groups such as Friends of The Library, the Woman’s Club of Chatham, Chatham STEM, the Chatham Kiwanis, the Chatham Jaycees, and hundreds of parents and caregivers, as well as the inclusion of new staff members who offered an increased number of classes for children in 2014.

As has been the case in previous years, the busiest months of the year for the department were June, July and August during the Summer Reading Club. This year, 543 children participated to read a total of 11,646 books and 134 teen volunteers worked for 3,027 hours during the eight weeks of the club.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOCUS ON FACILITIES

In an effort to bolster the upkeep of our building, the Library Board of Trustees retained an engineering firm to do an analysis, which identified key items that will maximize the safety, security, and functionality of our building.

A report was made to both Chatham Borough and Township officials, and all are working to determine priorities as we work to keep the building safe and inviting.

YOUTH SERVICES CONTINUES TO EXPAND

With increases in program attendance, staffing, and programs offered, 2014 was a year of expansion for Youth Services at Library of The Chathsams.

As the Youth Services department continues to increase its offerings to children and teens in Chatham, it has branched out into different types of programs and events, from Lego robotics to open mic nights to computer programming classes, all while continuing to offer early literacy and child development mainstays such as story times, music and dance programs, and craft projects. We will continue to explore new avenues of learning as we look forward to 2015.

WELL-LVED LIBRARIAN TO RETIRE AFTER DECADES OF SERVICE

Jay Chatterjee, who first began working at Library of The Chathsams in 1991, announced her retirement in 2014. Mrs. Chatterjee worked in a vast array of roles during her time at the library—she started as a library page, shelving books, and worked later as a Circulating Library Assistant in the children’s room, then as the Head of Children’s Services, Head of Reference Services, and Interim Library Co-Director. In each of her roles she worked to expand services to the community, to engage with the public, and to champion library services and resources.

In 1997, Ms. Chatterjee was selected by the American Library Association as one of 25 librarians nationwide for the National Emerging Leaders Institute. In 2001 she participated in Robert Pinsky’s Favorite Poem Project, and she is the author of a chapter of a book, “Investigating Grief With Dignity,” from Dr. Kay Vandergrift’s Ways of Knowing (1996). She officially leaves her post in February of 2015.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2014

Appointed
President
FREDRICK POCI
Vice President
BERNADETTE JUSINSKI
Secretary
ANDREW HOLLANDER
Treasurer
BRIDGET POLANN
Trustee
PEGGY NELSON
Trustee
JANE REISS
Elected
Borough Mayor
BRUCE HARRIS
Township Deputy Mayor
CURT RITTER
Joint
MARY QUIGLEY
Principal, Washington Avenue School
Trustees Emeritus
MARLEÉ FRANH
ALICE B. LUND
EMERY WESTFALL
MARY T. BENTON

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Plans for a new Teen Room progressed in 2014, thanks to community members and civic organizations who have pledged their support. The Woman’s Club of Chatham generously pledged $150,000 toward the project, which was planned in part by members of the library’s Teen Advisory Group (TAG). TAG consists of middle-school and high-school students in Chatham who meet monthly to discuss how the library can best serve teens. The plan calls for increased quiet study areas as well as a room for browsing books, learning games, socializing, and computers. The architect’s plan incorporated TAG ideas and can be seen on the library’s website.

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Library of The Chathsams

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Donna Pesci Landrigan
Jaime Sabonya

Inquire/Register with the 3rd & 4th Grade Book Club -
* Sundays 4/27; 6/25
* Wednesdays 4/16; 5/21; 6/18

We are excited about...

Choose from great books, listen to reports, and give out prizes to children who have earned them.

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Community Values Its Library

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