

Library of The Chathams Annual Report 2015



The mission of Library of The Chathams is to offer free access to ideas and services through a diverse and abundant selection of resources that will promote a broader understanding of the work and enrich lives by serving as the community's learning and entertainment destination.

In support of that mission and in answer to community input, the library provided a wealth of enrichment, educational and entertainment programs and resources in 2015.

Board of Trustees 2015

Appointed

Fredric Pocci, President
Peggy Nelson, Vice President
Andrew Hollander, Secretary
Bridget Polanin, Treasurer
Susan Allen, Trustee
Bernadette Jusinski, Trustee
Barb Montague, Trustee

Elected

Bruce Harris, Borough Mayor
Kevin Sullivan, Township Mayor

Joint

Mary Quigley, Principal,
Washington Avenue School
Danielle Dagounis,
Supervisor of Instructional & Design
Technology (K-12)

Trustees Emeritus

Marlee Frahn
Alice B. Lundt
Emery Westfall
Mary T. Benton

By The Numbers

- Visits to the library: 237,855
- Website visits: 196,603
- Items checked out: 238,320
- Reference questions answered: 35,973
- Collection additions: 4,499 adult books; 1,338 audiovisual materials; 626 young adult books; 2,076 children's books
- 620 youth programs brought 16,366 visitors to the library
- 4,589 adults attended one of the 548 adult library programs
- 2,889 people attended one of the 305 community group programs at the library

Special Programs and Services for Adults and Family

Programs in 2015 ran the gamut from literature to leisure, including book discussion sessions that included *The Boys in the Boat*, *Little Women*, *The Circle* by Dave Eggers, and *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. Library staff added a mother-daughter and father-son book discussion session.

In observance of the 70th anniversary of World War II, three veterans, who were previously interviewed for a project for the Library of Congress, spoke about their experiences during war. Veterans from organizations in surrounding towns were invited to attend, and many community members participated in the poignant discussion.

Armchair travel programs, weekend-long drop-in Video Arcades, extraordinary speakers such as film critic Steven Whitty, Rutgers University Professor of American Studies Michael Aaron Rockland and local author and journalist Walter Newkirk provided many highlights during the year. Movie showings included *Unbroken*, *Jaws* and *The Wrecking Crew*.

Enhanced financial research capabilities were provided to the public with the introduction of the online ValueLine product. Other new resources included eSequels database (to figure out which book to read when), ABMS Directory of medical specialists, and Proquest Research Library, a wonderful general resource with authoritative articles on almost any topic.

Our PrePub Club launch in December was a huge hit, allowing library users to place holds for titles by their favorite authors prior to publication. When the book is published, the user is notified that they may pick up their book at the library.

Museum Passes Program Expanded

Passes available for loan now include:

- American Museum of Natural History
- Frick Collection
- Grounds for Sculpture
- Imagine That
- International Center of Photography
- Intrepid Air, Sea & Space Museum
- Montclair Art Museum
- Morris Museum
- Museum of the City of New York



Art Exhibits

The Friends of the Library sponsored six art receptions in 2015. Exhibits included the works of: Homer Hill, Debbie Tintle, Pam Gosner, Susan Dreifuss and many more talented local artists.

Technology Training

One-on-one technology training on iPads, Kindles and other devices continued successfully through 2015. But feedback from the public alerted staff that session times were not working for

all. In response, reorganization of staff schedules is in process to offer more evening and weekend sessions to meet demand.

Services for Youth

Our Children's Programming is a mainstay of library service and this year was no exception with more programs than ever offered before. Community funding was essential to this effort: Woman's Club of Chatham provided funds for prizes, Chatham Jaycees funded a six-week series of art classes, and the Friends of the Library sponsored dozens of events throughout the year.

Our *Step Into A Story* program for children was a county-wide event that was enjoyed by all, as were the crafts sessions orchestrated by our popular Miss Polly.



Summer Reading Club

ADULTS: This past summer we held our first reading club for adults. Participants were asked to read books of their choice and write reviews on their selections. There were 43 participants in the club who reviewed 226 books. At the end of the summer a drawing was held for a \$150 gift card to D'Oro Restaurante, and a gift certificate for lunch for two at Scalini Fedeli Restaurant, both in Chatham.

CHILDREN: 737 children signed up for the Summer Reading Club this year and reported on 15,228 books.

This was highest level of engagement we have seen with the children's Summer Reading Club at Library of The Chathams. Last year in 2014, 543 children participated to read 11,646 books—nearly 200 more children signed up this year and reported on 3,500 more books. The highest numbers we have on record were from 2012, when 644 children reported on 13,589 books.

The Summer Reading Program concluded with the Kiwanis Club of Madison & Chatham Annual Picnic.

TEENS: Teens enjoyed their Summer Reading Contest and prizes funded by the Woman's Club of Chatham, including an iPad mini.



Library Staff Working for You

In addition to the required professional continuing education, the library staff trained with Chatham Borough Fire Official Walter Nugent and Chatham Township Police Department Patrolman Anthony Loporto for hands-on fire safety and general public safety respectively.



The Building

With the assistance of capital funding from Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, the library performed the bulk of major repair work needed, including roof work, heating and air conditioning repairs and replacement, and sealing the building against water damage.

New Space Plan

In the course of designing a Teen Room inside the library, the Board of Trustees determined to examine the whole building space plan and to reorganize it to improve community services, make the building easier to navigate, and put items people want in more logical locations. Input was solicited from many community groups, including ChathamSTEM, Chatham Senior Center Board, Chatham Seniors Group, Kiwanis Club of Chatham and Madison, Woman's Club of Chatham, and Council of PTOs. The Board has distributed information to the public including the proposed plans and an invitation to provide feedback. Feedback to date has been positive and the Board will embark on the next phases of plan development in 2016.

Collection Highlights

Very Short Introductions set by Oxford University Press

Thanks to our membership in the Morris-Union Federation, the library was able to purchase this set of more than 400 titles featuring expert analysis on a wide variety of topics from philosophy and psychoanalysis to ancient warfare, chaos, astrobiology and mythology.

EBooks

Library of The Chathams was the only library in Morris County that chose to retain the downloadable eBooks product that works with the Kindle device. Our staff knew that roughly 40% of our users prefer the Kindle and, thanks to funding from Friends of the Library, we were able to continue that service independently of the M.A.I.N. consortium.

Musical Instruments Loaning Program

In mid-2015, the library began loaning musical instruments, thanks to funding provided by Friends of the Library. Instruments currently available include: Acoustic guitar, ukulele, flute, trumpet and keyboard (88-key).

A Thank You to Library Volunteers

As always, the library could not function as well as it does without the help of dedicated volunteers. In addition to our regular wonderful volunteers, National Honor Society and Boy Scout volunteers performed many useful hours of work at the library. Girl Scouts partnered with the library on outreach initiatives. Teen volunteers also provided assistance, especially during the Summer Reading Club. In 2015, more than 100 teen volunteers completed a total of 2804.5 hours of service.

Friends of the Library



Friends of the Library of The Chathams worked like crazy this year. They participated in practically every community event possible, including the July 4th parade and the Fishawack Festival, provided Home Reader services for the visually impaired to members of the Borough and Township, and ran the annual Book Sale as a wonderful and profitable community event.

Each member of the Friends Board dedicates 3-4 hours weekly to sorting donated books in the months prior to the sale, and 8-10 hours per week the week of the sale MINIMUM to ensure that the book selection at the book sale is of the highest quality.