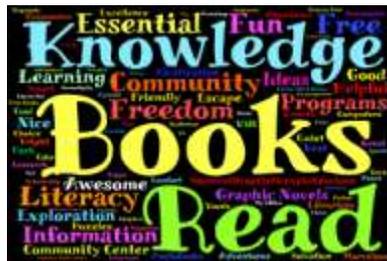


Community Values Its Library

Library of The Chatham is a busy place, and it shows in the numbers—in 2014 the library circulated more materials than it ever has, with 238,595 items checked out during the year (the second highest year was 2012, and the amount has been steadily increasing for decades). Large increases were seen especially in young adult book circulation (+26%), magazines (+34%), eBook downloads (+40%), and audiobook downloads (+75%). More than 20,000 people attended events at the library in 2014 as well, from children’s story times to community group meetings, lectures on topics as varied as gardening to the science behind heart monitors, musical performances, craft projects, and much more.



Word cloud created with patron comments from 2014.

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 offsite 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 acclimate 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.

County Consortium Changes

MAIN (Morris Automated Information Network), the county-wide library consortium to which Chatham belongs, is undergoing major organizational changes which may cause interruptions in some services for our patrons. The goal is improved library services—but as the changes are being made, libraries in the county, including Library of The Chathams, will have to adapt to best suit the needs of the community.

Board of Trustees 2014

Appointed

President – Fredric Pocci
Vice President – Bernadette Jusinski
Secretary – Andrew Hollander
Treasurer – Bridget Polanin
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

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

By The Numbers

Visits to the library: 248,298

Website visits: 196,255

Items checked out: 238,595

Reference questions answered: 39,086

Collection additions: 5,456 adult books;
1,520 audiovisual materials; 625 young
adult books; 1,816 children's books

609 youth programs brought 16,663
visitors to the library

2,716 adults attended one of the 253
adult library programs

2,905 people attended one of the 260
community group programs at the
library

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 Chathams.

In total, 609 programs were offered to children and teens during the year, bringing in a total of 16,663 visitors to the library. Of these programs, 527 were children's programs (birth through grade 5) and 82 were teen programs (grade 6 to 12). 802 visitors came to teen programs and 15,861 to children's programs in 2014. Both of these are marked increases over previous years. For example, in 2013, 12,456 visitors came to children's programs and in 2012, 13,261 patrons attended 460 events and classes for children.



These increases are due to increased levels of support for children's and a teen services thanks to the Library Board of Trustees and administration, community groups such as the 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.



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.

Teen Room Garners Local Support

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.

A Place to Meet and Learn: Adult Services Offers Variety

Gardening. Foreign Languages. Film. Puppetry. Books. Philanthropy. Recreation. Economics.

What do they have in common?

They are among the topics explored at hundreds of events, classes, and programs that are offered to our adult population.

More than 5,000 people visited the library for both community group and library-sponsored events in 2014, and the list is long and varied: One day you may see an artist sharing their life's work, the next a group of dedicated volunteers preparing for a charity event. You may hear music, the voices of authors telling the stories behind their stories, or a discussion about healthcare law.

Some highlights from 2014 include Chatham author and gardener Marta McDowell speaking about 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 Pronunciator subscription, and, of course, hundreds of new books, CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks for children and adults of all ages.



*Bulletin board by Friends of The Library
September 2014.*

Well-Loved Librarian to Retire After Decades of Service

Jay Chatterjee, who first began working at Library of The Chathams 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 Coordinating

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.

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!

A Thank You to Library Volunteers

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.