

Library of The Chathams Annual Report 2013

Meeting Changing Community Needs

Library of The Chathams experienced an organizational tsunami with the retirement of longtime director Diane O'Brien in May. Ms. O'Brien led the library for 32 successful years. The library also suffered the loss of Children's Department Head Laura Weinbrom, as well as the impending retirement of 40-year veteran Administrative Assistant Kathleen Rex slated for early 2014.

Despite these challenges, the staff delivered consistently excellent service to the community and the community responded, continuing to use existing library services and encourage the staff to develop new services and resources to support educational, professional and recreational endeavors.

The Library Strategic Plan was finalized in 2013 and is available on the library website (chathamlibrary.org). Key initiatives include development of a Teen Program, a new website and other communications initiatives, and expanded adult programming.

The new website was developed in the last quarter of the year. The updated technology includes a mobile website for handheld devices to promote ease of use for the growing technology-savvy segment of the community.

The library has taken some steps in 2013 to support the efforts of partners that also serve the community, including providing hands-on computer training classes to municipal staff members, and Google Apps support for The School District of The Chathams.

Looking Forward

The Library was pleased to add John Arthur to the staff as Head, Youth Services since December. He heads the library Teen Team, which has already begun working on an engaging Teen Program. The library mobile app will be available through your app store shortly — download it today.

Vital Statistics

Visits To The Library: 262,437

Virtual Web Visits: 168,780

Items Checked Out: 235,634

Uses of Library Computers: 39,028

Reference Questions Answered: 17,319

Collection Additions:

- 6,450 books
- 115 music CDs
- 795 movies
- 117 audiobooks
- 4,834 eBooks (system-wide)

539 Children's Programs brought 2,456 attendees to the library

3,250 adults attended one of the 220 Adult Library Programs

3,189 people attended the 230 Community Group Programs held at the library

Research Resources Available From Home or Work

Reference librarians selected research databases to add to the collection and provided public training in the use of existing tools. Some of the library offerings available for community members' use both in the library and from home or work include:

- Mango Languages – practice 50 languages from your smartphone or computer.
- Learning Express - tutorials and practice tests for school, jobs and computer skills.
- A to Z World Travel includes 150 World City Guides.
- Corfacts Business to Business for business research.
- Oxford Art Online (formerly Grove Art Online)
- Oxford Dictionary of Art With Updates and Image Links
- World Geography & Culture Online with maps, facts, and more
- Zinio Magazines – an instant selection of magazines on your computer or mobile device.

And more business and research resources as well as a wide selection of tools to help find something good to read.

Library Service Highlights 2013

New or expanded services available through the library during the year included:

Request Items

Library cardholders may request books, movies and music online through the library catalog as well as place holds for items that are out.

Reference Services

Trained Reference Librarians provide information and research services on any topic.

Computers and Training

Computers are available for patron use for email, Internet searching, Microsoft Office 2007 suite. Wi-Fi access is available throughout the library. Computer training is available individually by appointment or periodically through group workshops. Check the events calendar on the website for upcoming workshop dates or contact the library for an individual appointment.

Museum Passes

Free museum passes are available to selected area museums such as Grounds for Sculpture and the Morris Museum.

Meeting Rooms

Based on availability, the library may provide space for community meetings. Application forms are available at the library or online.

Talking Book Program

The Friends of the Library of The Chathams offer services to the visually impaired, and people with a physical impairment or a reading disability through the State Library's Talking Book & Braille Center. Enjoy audio books delivered to your door. Audio book players may be provided on loan as well.

iPad Loans

Take home a library iPad or other available mobile device with your Chatham library card. Funding was provided by donations to Friends of The Library.

Notary Service

The library strives to be your destination for convenience and provides free walk-in notary services during regular business hours.

Privileges at Other Libraries

Chatham residents are entitled to use other libraries in the Morris Union Federation and Morris Automated Information Network (MAIN).

Board of Trustees 2013

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 Mayor Nicole Hagner

School District

Mary Quigley, Principal,
Washington Avenue School

Trustees Emeritus

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

Very Special Friends

The Friends of The Library of The Chathams have worked to provide exceptional gifts that enhance library service. In addition to many of the books in our collection, 2013 donations to the Friends were used for:

- Children's Programs
- Young Adult Programs
- Adult Education
- Reading Program for the Visually or Physically Impaired
- HP Design Jet Large Format Printer
- Zinio Digital Magazine Service
- Pre-loaded iPads for patrons to check out
- Downloadable eBooks for your own device
- Art Shows and Exhibitions
- Funding that helped win The Library a grant for a Mobile App
- Local Museum Passes
- Home Reader Delivery Service

Funding for all these initiatives was provided solely through community donations to the Friends Annual Appeal and proceeds from the Friends Annual Book sale.

Children's Programs and Events

In 2013, 539 programs, classes, and school visits brought in 12,456 visitors to the library. These programs consisted of regular story times, "Thursday is Library Day" programs for preschool-aged children, crafts, and special events, such as a performance by Monkey Monkey Music and Lou Gallo and the Very Hungry Band, two musical groups who have been featured at the library before and who attract large, enthusiastic crowds.

As has been the tradition at the Library of The Chathams, the Summer Reading Club was popular,

with 613 children enrolling in the program to read a total of 11,946 books. 84 summer programs were held to attract 2,942 visitors to the library. The theme for 2013 was “Dig Into Reading.” The Summer Reading Club also created a unique opportunity to engage teens with the library in a constructive manner: 142 teen volunteers completed 1,117 volunteer hours as a part of the Summer Reading Club.

As has been the case in past years, the vast majority of children’s programs have been funded through donations received from the Friends of the Library of the Chathams, from small craft projects to large concerts that have filled the Lundt Meeting Room, as well as summer programs. Some selected examples of programs funded through donations from the Friends include:

- Peace Sign crafts on Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- All “Thursday is Library Day” events, which include Music with Wompy’s, Yoga Story Time, Miss Carol Dance, and Kid Crafts
- Music with Guitar Bob
- “Dress for Mess” craft events
- A Halloween Parade that attracted more than 200 visitors to the library
- Music with Lou Gallo
- Dozens of other events throughout 2013

The Children’s Program is a rich community resource that will be expanded to meet needs. Parents registering for story time sessions and Summer Reading Program this year sometimes found the sessions full. Library staff members are working to streamline the registration process and ensure that Chatham residents are able to register.

Programs and Events for Adults

Library sponsored programs during 2013 included lectures, art shows, photography demonstrations, book discussion groups, book talks, travel documentaries, income tax assistance, film showings, music concerts, and computer and eReader device demonstrations.

Author talks and concerts were among the best-attended programs.

The Wharton Music Center in Berkeley Heights held several grant-supported concerts at the Library including a jazz performance, *An Afternoon of Broadway’s Best*, featuring the songs of Stephen Sondheim and other great theater composers, and a classical harp concert. A local rock band, The Kootz, performed 60’s and 70’s music on the Library lawn this fall.

Thanks to Library Volunteers

We are grateful for the volunteers who have given their time and talents to the Library over the past year. Some of the projects in which they have been involved were repairing damaged materials, organizing the Library’s book collections, searching for missing materials, locating materials to be considered for discard, filing catalog cards for the media collections, and blood pressure screenings. We had a total of 156 volunteers helping the staff this year giving 4,814 hours of service. More than 100 of our volunteers were teens.

Focus on Chatham History

During 2013, library staff began evaluating the library's New Jersey Room. Working with dedicated members of the Chatham Historical Society and Chatham Township Historical Society, library staff focused on much-needed preservation and conservation efforts for the wonderful books, maps, manuscripts and other items available in the room and helped create a permanent display outside the room highlighting some of the items available for examination on request. Access to the New Jersey Room is available on request.

Library Mission and Vision

Mission

The mission of The 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 world and enrich lives by serving as the community's learning and entertainment destination.

Vision

The Library of The Chathams will be the intellectual and social center of the community and continually adapt its collections, services and facility to respond to the changes in the cultural, educational and entertainment needs of our patrons.

To support our vision, the Library will provide the leadership in order to:

- Become a portal to the world of information to patrons of all ages and cultural backgrounds by offering library collections in a variety of formats and educational levels that will satisfy broad informational needs;
- Strike a balance between print and electronic resources in order to meet the needs of all library patrons;
- Provide library patrons with a welcoming and comfortable facility;
- Provide a vibrant and dynamic website for use of library resources;
- Provide the physical and virtual space that will enable the library to serve as a community center for the exchange of ideas by offering a diverse selection of programs and services for children, teens, and adults;
- Provide training opportunities to patrons who wish to learn new and emerging technologies;
- Respond promptly to the changing nature of library services through its knowledgeable staff, dedicated volunteers, and active community partnerships.