

## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

### *STATISTICALLY SPEAKING: 2014 IN REVIEW*

- \* 214,246 items were checked out in 2014—the equivalent of 29 items per Bernardsville resident.
- \* 177,403 visits to the Library were recorded—an average of 23 visits per Bernardsville resident.
- \* 97,100 views of our website were recorded.
- \* 89,737 people used our public access computers.
- \* 46,069 reference questions were asked and answered.
- \* 1,094 programs were attended by 11,972 children and 11,385 adults.
- \* 2,158 items were borrowed through the Interlibrary Loan program.
- \* 6,863 items in a wide variety of formats were added to our collection, some of them from gifts and donations.

*Once again, Library Journal presented the Bernardsville Public Library with an impressive Five Star Rating in the budget category of \$1,000,000-\$4,999,999.*

### STAR LIBRARY RANKING

*Libraries across the country are ranked on statistics including circulation per capita, program attendance, number of library visits, public internet computer use, library homepage visits and Wi-Fi access.*

*The Library Staff, Board of Trustees, Foundation and Friends are once again extremely pleased that the Library received this prestigious Five Star Rating.*

## INFORMATION & PROGRAMS

- Cultural programs, always free at the Library, included concerts, poetry readings, author visits and book signings, and lectures on a wide variety of topics. Because the Museum Pass program, funded by the Friends of the Library, continued to be very popular, a pass to the **Intrepid** will be added to the 2015 offerings of free passes for the public.
- VITA volunteers again assisted over one hundred people in preparing their tax forms.
- The **50 Book Challenge**, now in its sixth year, was again a great success with about half the members of the group attaining their goal to read 50 books in 2014!
- Four ESL classes per week in two long sessions were held attracting an average of 87 students/week at each session. The program is coordinated by a longtime volunteer, and materials and supplies are funded through grants and donations.
- Hundreds of children's activities were offered ranging from story times to dramatic presentations to science programs and a well-attended Summer Reading Program. Pre-teens and teens continued to help develop programs for their peers and helped do the behind the scenes work for children's programs.
- Our first **One Book Bernardsville**, featuring Bill Bryson's **A Walk in the Woods**, was a hit with the patrons who joined staff at many theme-related programs including several hikes in local settings.
- The library offered its first **Maker Day** program which attracted a large number of visitors who participated in hands-on activities ranging from jewelry-making to weaving to 3D printing.

## EXPANDED ACCESS & COLLECTIONS

- Google Chrome Books, funded by the Friends of the Library, may be borrowed for in-house use by patrons. E-Books continued to gain popularity. The Friends also paid for a trial subscription to 25 digital magazines.
- Playaways, another source of audio books, gained considerable popularity with children as well as adults.
- The library website was continually updated with new programs and resources, providing easy access to the online catalog, online resources, children's and adult events, and social media connections.

## **EXPANDED ACCESS & COLLECTIONS** *continued*

- The library's Facebook page continued to be a more active means of communicating with library users, and Twitter, Instagram and Pinerest provided continued visibility in the social media arena.
- The Collection Advisory Team (CAT), a group of active library users and readers, made excellent recommendations for book purchases, which enriched the overall appeal of the collection.
- The AAUW presented a generous gift to the library which was used to purchase materials all about women and the many roles they have played in history.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & SUPPORT**

- Program partnerships were successfully continued with local businesses, including members of The Bernardsville Chamber of Commerce, as well as with Bernardsville Recreation, Bernardsville Police, the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, the Bernardsville Green Team, Bernardsville Environmental Commission, and SCORE Central Jersey Small Business Mentors.
- Four VITA volunteers were recognized for all their efforts in the tax assistance program at the library's annual Volunteer Recognition event.
- The Friends of the Library and the Bernardsville Foundation continued their fundraising endeavors and gave substantial funding to augment the generous budget given to the library by the Borough.
- Community groups including bridge players, condo associations, seniors' groups, the Bernardsville Garden Club, and The Chamber of Commerce met regularly in the library meeting room.
- Members of the Jay Parsons Family gave a substantial donation to create a quiet outdoor sitting area and beautiful garden that adorns the street entrance to the parking lot. The Garden Club also made a donation to extend this beautiful setting.
- The Friends recognized adult volunteers with a delicious luncheon held in May. Local students who together donated hundreds of hours of community service to the library were recognized at the Friends' Youth Awards ceremony, also held in May.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & SUPPORT *continued*

- The Bernardsville Library Foundation held its fourth “Homes of Distinction” event at Peachcroft. The Foundation contributed \$70,000 in 2014 to ensure that the library continues to provide patrons with its current high level of quality services.
- The Friends of the Bernardsville Library hosted several special fundraising events, one featuring author, Ilene Beckerman, and a delectable High Tea complete with scones and cucumber sandwiches! Over the course of the year, the Friends made impressive gifts of over \$38,000 to underwrite special library programs, the purchase of three Early Literacy computers for pre-schoolers, and additions to many library collections.

## SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

Your gifts and donations to either the Friends of the Library or the Bernardsville Library Foundation enhance the resources, programming endeavors and other quality services that the library provides for all the residents of the community. Because of your generosity, the Library continues to be the hub of Bernardsville.

### **Support the Friends of the Library**

Gifts to the Friends are used for programs including those presented by the Youth Services Department for children and teens including the annual Summer Reading Club, the Sundays at Three concerts and the museum pass program. Your gift to the Friends also enriches the library’s collection of books, audiobooks, playaways, online resources, music CDs and DVDs for all ages as well as providing technology support.

### **Support the Bernardsville Foundation**

Gifts to the Foundation strengthen the library’s ability to continue to operate at or above the current level of excellence that is provided to the community. Your gifts help maintain the facility, the services that are offered and the print, non-print and online resources that are available to all library visitors. The Foundation is in the process of building an endowment fund to help maintain the current hours of operation and staffing levels.

**To Donate:** Go to the library’s website, [www.bernardsvillelibrary.org](http://www.bernardsvillelibrary.org) and click on ***Support Our Library*** on the left side of the home page.

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