

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING: 2013 IN REVIEW

- * 210,142 items were checked out in 2013—the equivalent of 27 items per Bernardsville resident.
- * 183,536 visits to the Library were recorded—an average of 24 visits per Bernardsville resident.
- * 314,292 people used our website.
- * 76,032 people used our public access computers.
- * 52,287 reference questions were asked and answered.
- * 1,339 programs were attended by 14,377 children and 10,987 adults.
- * 2,012 items were borrowed through the Interlibrary Loan program.
- * 7,708 items, in a wide variety of formats were added to our collection, some of them from gifts and donations.

STAR LIBRARY RANKING

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

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 Met Museum lectures, author visits and book signings, documentary movies, and concerts. The Museum Pass program, funded by the Friends, also continued to be very popular.
- The Community Assistance Resource & Educational Services (CARES) program hosted seminars at the Library on a variety of topics including adoption, choosing a financial advisor, and health insurance.
- Our three book discussion groups continued to flourish.
- We ran four ESL classes per week in two long sessions. The program is coordinated by a volunteer, and materials and supplies are funded through grants and donations.
- Hundreds of children's activities were offered ranging from story times to science experiments, and seasonal craft programs. Pre-teens and teens continued to help develop programs for their age groups.

EXPANDED ACCESS & COLLECTIONS

- NextReads, an e-newsletter featuring reading recommendations based on favorite genres, was initiated.
- A MakerSpace was created with a Mac computer donated specifically for this purpose. Appropriate software was purchased and staff members were trained at Apple to use the machine.
- Six eReaders, most funded by the Friends of the Library, may be borrowed by patrons. E-Books continued to gain popularity.
- The Friends paid for a large number of new, popular movies on DVD which help keep the collection current.
- Interlibrary loans permitted library users to borrow books from other libraries. This helps expand the collection with little additional cost.
- The library website was continually up-dated with new programs and resources providing easy access to the online catalog, online resources, children's and adult events, and social media connections.
- The Library's Facebook page became a more active means of communicating with library users, and the Twitter feed to the home page kept online users informed with continuous updates on library happenings.
- The Collection Advisory Team (CAT), a group of active library users who will make recommendations for book purchases, was established.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & SUPPORT

- Borough and school officials were enlisted to appear in READ posters which were hung around the Library beginning in National Library Week that is celebrated in April.
- A new, modern logo to better reflect the broad array of library offerings—from books to DVDs, to electronic resources, to downloadable audiobooks and eReaders—began appearing as the Library's new "brand."
- A cultural exchange with members of the Japanese embassy and NJ state and county officials was hosted by the Library. A number of cherry trees were donated by citizens of Japan and planted in town and on library grounds.
- Program partnerships were successfully continued with local businesses, including members of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as with Bernardsville Recreation, Bernardsville Police, the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, the Bernardsville Green Team, and SCORE Central Jersey Small Business Mentors.
- The chair of the Local History Room was honored at our "Volunteer of the Year" reception.

- The Friends recognized adult volunteers with a festive luncheon held in May. Local students who together donated hundreds of hours of community service were recognized at the Friends' Youth Awards ceremony, also in May.
- In case of severe weather, the Library was prepared to shelter community residents, but happily this proved unnecessary in 2013.
- 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.
- The Bernardsville Library Foundation held its third "Homes of Distinction" event at two beautiful local homes. The Foundation contributed \$100,000 in 2013 to ensure that the Library continues to provide patrons with its current high level of quality services, even in lean budget years.
- The Friends of the Bernardsville Library hosted a special fundraising event with former Governor Christie Todd Whitman who spoke about environmental issues. Over the course of the year, the Friends made important gifts to underwrite special library programs, computer upgrades, and additions to 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 all 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 gifts to the Friends also enrich the Library's collection of books, audiobooks, 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 also aims to build 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 and click on *Support Our Library* on the left side of the home page.

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