

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING: 2015 IN REVIEW

- 216,567 items and 5,700 downloadable e-books, audio-books and movies were checked out.
- 172,549 visits to the Library were recorded—an average of 22 visits per Bernardsville resident.
- 90,248 views of our website were recorded.
- 64,370 people used our public access computers and there were another 85,944 wireless sessions.
- 47,857 reference questions were asked and answered.
- 1,198 programs (559 for adults; 22 for young adults; and 617 for children) were attended by 10,418 children, 263 young adults, and 10,544 adults for a total of 21,225.
- 2,271 items were borrowed through the Interlibrary Loan program.
- 4,625 items were added to our collection: 3,321 books, 286 e-books, 313 music and sound recordings, 444 DVDs and 261 print and downloadable magazines.

STAR LIBRARY RANKING

For the seventh consecutive year, Bernardsville Public Library was ranked as a Five-Star Library by Library Journal! It's one of only three five-star libraries in New Jersey and ranks fourth nationwide in its 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** ranging from *The History of Diners in America* to an Antiques Road-show-style appraisal event, health programs including T'ai Chi and *How to Get a Good Night's Sleep*, and even a lesson on wine and cheese pairings were some of the varied (and always free!) programs available in 2015. For patrons who wanted to take their learning on the road, museum passes funded by a generous donation from the Library Friends were available to the Intrepid Museum, the Morris Museum, and the American Museum of Natural History.
- The Library continued to host the **VITA program**, a free, IRS-sponsored program to help low and middle-income filers have their Federal and State personal income taxes prepared and filed electronically at no cost.
- Ambitious readers participated in the Library's **50 Book Challenge**, one of the Library's three ongoing reading groups, with the goal of reading 50 books in 2015.
- Other popular, on-going book discussion groups were **Memoirs and Coffee**, which examines the lives of the rich and famous (and interesting and not so famous), and **Saturday Samplers**, with an eclectic reading selection sure to introduce you to the new and interesting!
- This year's **One Book Bernardsville** was *The Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken*. Residents read together, met the book's author Laura Schenone, and shared family memories at a program about Bernardsville's Little Italy, the community of skilled artisans who helped construct the Mountain Colony Estates at the turn of the 20th century.
- We joined with other libraries across New Jersey in March to hold our second annual **Makers Day**. A celebration of DIY art and technology projects for both children and adults, our Makers Day featured squishy circuits, a sneaker artist, Teen Tech and flower arranging.
- Over 1,200 people attended classes in our **ESL program**. The program is made possible through the dedication of the program coordinator, the enthusiasm of over 30 volunteers, and the commitment of local organizations to help fund supplies and materials for our students.
- The theme for **Summer Reading** 2015 was "heroes" and featured weekday and weekend programs about animal heroes, sports heroes, local heroes, and super heroes. The 393 participants represented a 25% increase over 2014 readers, and the number of hours logged rose 87% over hours logged in 2014!

NEW MATERIALS, EXPANDED COLLECTIONS & SERVICES

- The Library continued to add to its “technology petting zoo” with a **Roku streaming device** and subscriptions to Hulu+, Acorn, Netflix and Amazon Prime.
- We also added a subscription to **IndieFlix**. Patrons have free access to thousands of feature films, foreign language films, and documentaries and can stream to computers, smartphones, tablets, or Roku, xBox and AppleTV devices.
- Get downloadable magazines like Bloomberg Business, Consumer Reports and Food Network Magazine anywhere, anytime using the Library’s **Flipster** and **Zinio downloadable magazine services**. Magazines can be downloaded in your browser or by using an app on your portable device.
- If your smartphone seems smarter than you are, you could “**book a librarian**” to give free individual instruction on podcasting, streaming, downloadable books, and other electronic devices.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & SUPPORT

- The **Bernardsville Library Foundation** held its **2015 Homes of Distinction** event at the historic Little Brook Farm. The Foundation contributed \$70,000 to the 2015 operating budget. This support is vital to insuring that the Library can continue to operate as usual, and that the level of quality programs and services we have traditionally provided will continue.
- Whether it’s Bingo, author luncheons, or other exciting fundraising activities, the **Friends of the Bernardsville Library** work tirelessly to enhance and extend the Library’s programs. Among the many programs and services the Friends provide are the *Sundays at Three* concerts, our Playaway collection, and the Library newsletter. The Friends also provide support for the Library’s Summer Reading program.
- The Library continued to be the hub of the community by providing **meeting space** for a variety of groups: local businesses and condo associations, the Bernardsville Chamber of Commerce, and the Morristown Festival of Books.
- **Bernardsville** residents used the library to share their skills during *Monthly Meditations* and *Live Your Most Fulfilling Life*, an inspirational program designed to help you live the life you want to lead.

Do you have talent or knowledge you would be willing to donate to our community?
Contact our program manager to discuss your idea!

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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