



**Bernardsville Public Library**

## **2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

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### ***THE YEAR IN REVIEW:***

- \* *211,976 items were checked out in 2012—the equivalent of 27 items per Bernardsville resident.*
- \* *191,261 visits to the library were recorded—an average of 25 visits per Bernardsville resident.*
- \* *274,452 people used our website.*
- \* *75,840 people used our public access computers.*
- \* *54,194 reference questions were asked and answered.*
- \* *1,170 programs were attended by 9,449 adults and 14,362 children.*
- \* *1,550 items were borrowed through Interlibrary Loans.*
- \* *3,917 items were added to our collection, many thanks to gifts and donations.*

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### **STAR LIBRARY RANKING**



*The Library Journal's 2012 Star Libraries Survey ranked Bernardsville Library as the second highest ranked New Jersey library in our budget category of \$1,000,000 to \$4,999,999.*

*We're ranked the #4 public library nationwide in our budget category. Ratings are based on 15 service indicators including library visits, circulation per capita, program attendance, reference questions and public Internet computer uses.*

*It is impressive to note that the library scored so well, despite being at the bottom edge of the budget category.*

## **COMPUTER ACCESS**

- The library provided 41 public access computers—all donated by the Friends of the Library.
- We offered a series of “Tech Update” classes including topics like working in the “cloud,” online storage, online photo sharing and smart phones.
- One-on-one computer training by volunteers assisted individuals with their specific computer needs.

## **CAREER / BUSINESS ASSISTANCE**

- A seminar on e-commerce and a series of lectures on understanding the impact of technology on the future of employment helped small business owners and job seekers.

## **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 educated investment and caregiver resources.
- 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. We taught 150 students from 26 countries.
- Hundreds of children’s activities were offered ranging from story times to science experiments, and seasonal craft programs. Pre-Teen and Teen Advisory Councils were very popular.

## **EXPANDED ACCESS & COLLECTIONS**

- We now have six eReaders, most funded by the Friends of the Library, to lend to patrons; e-Books continued to gain in popularity.
- The Friends also paid for a large number of new, popular movies on DVD which help keep our collection current.
- The VFW Post 7858 donated an iPad which can be checked out by library card holders for a period of two weeks.
- Interlibrary loans permitted library users to borrow books from other libraries. This has the effect of greatly expanding our collection with little additional cost.
- We introduced a brand new website with an updated look and easier access to the online catalog, online resources, children’s and adult programming, and social media connections.
- Our Facebook page became a more active means of communicating with library users, and our Twitter feed to the home page keeps online users informed with continuous updates.
- Email program alerts and new book alerts also facilitate communication between the library and its users.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & SUPPORT**

- We continued to partner with local businesses, including members of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as with Bernardsville Recreation, the Bernardsville Green Team, the Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, and SCORE, for programming efforts.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & SUPPORT CONTINUED

- We hosted a moving ceremony commemorating the eleventh anniversary of 9/11.
- We honored two long-time volunteers at our “Volunteer of the Year” reception.
- The Friends recognized the many adult volunteers who serve the library with a festive luncheon in May.
- Local students donated hundreds of hours of community service, showing a dedicated involvement in the success of library programs.
- We served as a meeting place for all kinds of community groups including bridge players, condo associations, seniors’ groups, writers’ groups, the Bernardsville Garden Club and the Chamber of Commerce.
- The Bernardsville Library Foundation held the second “Homes of Distinction” to raise funds to ensure that the library can continue to function at its current high level, even if there are leaner budget years ahead. Over the course of the year, the Foundation contributed significantly to library operating expenses.
- The Friends of the Bernardsville Library hosted a special fundraising event with well-known journalist Bill Moyers. 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!

There are two ways you can support the library.

### Support the Friends of the Library

Gifts to the **Friends** are used for special programs including all children’s programming, children’s Summer Reading Program, Sundays @ Three concerts and museum passes. Your gifts also enrich our collection of books, audiobooks, online resources, music and DVDs for all ages as well as providing technology support.

### Support the Foundation

Gifts to the **Bernardsville Library Foundation** strengthen the library’s ability to continue to operate at or above its current level of excellence. These gifts maintain the library, and its services and resources, as the cornerstone of our community. The Foundation also aims to build an endowment fund to help meet public needs by maintaining hours and staffing.

### 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, or go to <http://www.bernardsvillelibrary.org/support>.

Bernardsville Public Library  
1 Anderson Hill Road  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Phone: 908-766-0118  
Fax: 908-766-2464  
[www.bernardsvillelibrary.org](http://www.bernardsvillelibrary.org)