



214 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928 | 973-635-0603 | [www.chathamlibrary.org](http://www.chathamlibrary.org)

## LIBRARY USAGE SNAPSHOT 2017

As of January 1, 2018, 76% of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township residents have a library card and used library services extensively throughout 2017.

- 251,799 Visits to the library (a 5.6% increase from 2016)
- 226,006 Items checked out (0.5% decrease from 2016)
- 35,649 Reference questions answered (3.3% increase from 2016)
- 156,390 Visits to the library website and 39,091 visits to the library mobile app
- 286 adult programs = 5,699 adult participants (14.8% more people served)
- 353 community group programs = 3,948 attendees (a 66.8% increase in attendance)
- 504 youth programs = 16,735 visitors
- 82 teen events = 739 teen participants
- 634 children signed up for Summer Reading Club = they read 11,281 books!
- All programs in total attracted 27,121 visitors! (An 8.9% increase!) We had fewer programs overall but higher attendance.



*Teen Henna Workshop*

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## FACILITY REPORT

Thanks to funding provided by the New Jersey Direct Install Grant, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, the library converted to LED lighting, for more cost-effective, earth-friendly lighting that is also brighter than our old lighting.

Through this grant, the ancient boiler was replaced along with five other rooftop air conditioning/heating units. Energy savings is expected here as well.

Constant repairs continue as needed. The library project described below will include resolutions to many of the ongoing maintenance problems.

## LIBRARY RMR PROJECT TRANSFORMATION

A continuing focus of the library Board of Trustees during 2017 was development of the RMR Project, a plan to **Renovate, Modernize and Reorganize** the library's existing space to meet the evolving needs of our community. The plan reshapes six additions constructed over the last century into relevant, cohesive spaces within the building's existing footprint.

Working with a fundraising consultant, the Strategic Planning Committee rebranded the project.

The Strategic Planning Committee is reevaluating the architectural concept plan in preparation for production of construction documents -- to be timed for submission for the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act. It is the intention of the Board to apply for this funding to help offset local costs.

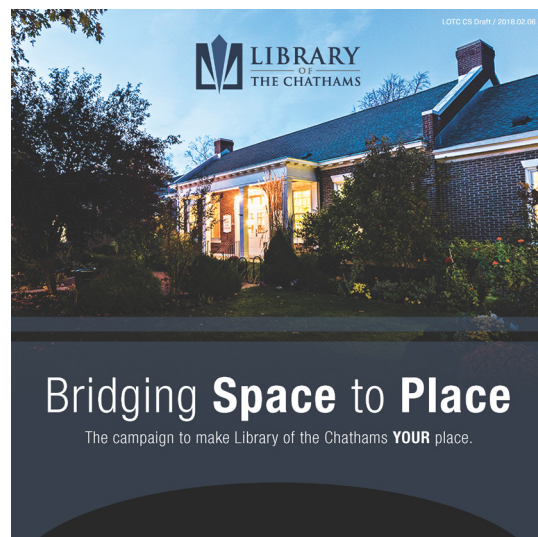


## BRIDGING SPACE TO PLACE

### THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS YOUR PLACE

Renovations and upgrades include:

- New Teen Center
- STEM/Meeting Room
- Expanded Local History Facilities
- Renovated Children's Center
- New Children's Activity Room
- Business Center
- Additional Study Rooms
- Flexible Meeting Spaces
- More Programming Space
- Infrastructure Upgrades



## LIBRARY COLLECTION

The heart of the library is the collection of materials that are available to use in the library or borrow for use at home, work or school. The library's permanent collection of traditional and non-traditional materials continues to evolve to meet changing needs. While the eBooks and eAudiobooks collections have grown, the demand for print books, newspapers, magazines and movies continues to grow as well.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The fundraising effort is being handled through a volunteer Steering Committee thanks to the people who are donating their time and talent this year and last.

Andy Hollander	Campaign Chair and President, Board of Trustees
Diane O'Brien	Honorary Chair, Past Library Director
Susan Allen	Secretary, Board of Trustees
Barbara Butta	Member, Campaign Steering Committee
Theresa Kandalaft	Member, Campaign Steering Committee
Michelle and Reed Kean	Member, Campaign Steering Committee
Bill Lum	Member, Campaign Steering Committee
Lynn Magrane	Member, Campaign Steering Committee
Jean McFadden	Member, Campaign Steering Committee
Peggy Nelson	Vice President, Board of Trustees
Fredric Pucci	Trustee Emeritus, Board of Trustees
Emery Westfall	Trustee Emeritus, Board of Trustees
Karen Brodsky	Library Director

## FUNDING GOALS AND PROGRESS TO DATE

In November 2017, the Board of Trustees initiated a formal capital campaign to raise funds for the project. As of February 21, 2018:

- \$307,196 has been raised from seven donors
- \$150,000 in pledges from two individuals over five years
- An additional \$75,000 is committed from the Woman's Club of Chatham (total gift \$150,000)

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library sponsored seven art shows this year, ran the Annual Book Sale and provided funding for all children's programming, 120 new chairs for the meeting rooms, new meeting tables for the Benigno Room, museum passes, adult and young adult programming ... the list is exhaustive.

The 2017 Annual Book Sale raised more than \$26,000 thanks to community donations and an enormous effort by the Friends.



*Friends of the Library Board members (left to right) Debbie Fabian, Betsy Maltby and TeeDee Carroll.*

## ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING

The library strives to offer programming spanning a variety of interests and needs. The list for 2017 is long: College examination proctoring, income tax assistance, history and travel lectures, film showings, book discussion groups, author talks, poetry readings, art shows, music concerts, play performances, retirement and financial planning seminars, college testing classes, health seminars, yoga, meditation, and tai chi classes, writer's workshops, employment networking groups, home improvement and organizing workshops, pet care seminars, food preparation classes, jewelry making workshops, Italian and Spanish conversation groups, library research data base workshops, a solar eclipse viewing event, a beekeeping workshop, American Red Cross blood drives, blood pressure screenings, The Friends of the Library book sale, and several arcade weekends featuring new and old computer game systems for all ages.

### Some special highlights included:

- Robi Ludwig, nationally known psychotherapist, award-winning reporter and former Chatham resident spoke about her book *Your Best Age is Now*.
- In honor of National Women's History Month, the 2017 Notable Women of New Jersey panel discussion featured Myriam Alvarez, a journalist and writer with 15 years of work experience at the United Nations and author of the historical novel, *Flowers in the Dust*; Anna Maria Chavez, attorney and former CEO of the Girls Scouts of the USA.; Mary Ann LoFrumento, MD, FAAP, medical director of the Newborn Nursery at Morristown Medical Center and co-founder of Hands Up for Haiti; and Kelly J. Watson, National Service Group Leader of KPMG's Risk Consulting Practice leading a team of more than 4,700 partners and professionals.
- In conjunction with Chatham Township Historical Society and Kiwanis Club of Chatham and Madison, William Styple, author and editor of many American history books and resident of Chatham, presented a lecture on the aftermath of the Revolutionary War Battles of Trenton and Princeton when General George Washington's army marched into Morris County and camped from January to May 1777 in what is now Giralda Farms Preserve.
- Astronomer Bob Reichman spoke about the total solar eclipse taking place on August 21 and lectured about the seasons, moon tides, and how and where to observe the solar eclipse safely. All of the participants received approved eclipse viewing glasses funded by the Friends book sale. The afternoon of the eclipse, the Library's parking lot was full of spectators. It was an exciting and memorable event for all who participated.
- Artistic Director for the Hudson Shakespeare Company Jon Cicarelli presented a production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* featuring eight actors in multiple roles.
- Wheeler Antabanez read from his book *The Old Asylum and Other Stories* inspired by his exploration of the abandoned Overbrook Asylum in Cedar Grove, New Jersey. The author is best known for the *Weird NJ* magazine special issue *Nightshade on the Passaic* featuring his travels by canoe on the Passaic River.
- A December holiday concert gifted to us by the Concord Singers, a woman's community chorus dedicated to quality performances.



Chatham Adult Lifeworks Learning series (CALL) continues to offer multi-week courses in art, music, history and current events. All courses are taught by subject specialists and local college faculty.



## YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Throughout 2017, the Youth Services Department offered a little something for everyone. From story times to chess classes, animal visits to art instruction, the library continued to be *the place to be* for children, teens and caregivers alike.

In total, 504 children's programs brought in 16,735 visitors to the library and 82 young adult programs were attended by 739 middle and high school students, almost double the number of teens who participated in 2016.



*Children's Program*

September saw the start of *Trip Around the World*, a year-long program facilitated by Chatham parents and educators to teach children about the diversity of our world. Through art, food and song, participants learned about the daily life and traditions of people from all over the globe.

The Summer Reading Club saw more participants this year due in part to a 50% increase in early registration at the Fishawack Festival. The children's reading program saw 634 participants report on 11,281 books. The 111 teen volunteers served a total of 1,204.5 hours throughout the summer.

Instead of requiring a written summary about each book read, this year teens could create a photo essay, drawing or painting, video book trailer, compare a book to its movie version or give a verbal report to the librarian. Some of the most creative submissions were shared on the library's Facebook page. The Woman's Club of Chatham sponsored the prizes for both reading programs which included an iPad Mini as the grand prize for the teens.



*Chess Program*

In 2017, we continued our ever-popular chess lessons. Because chess continues to be in such high demand, we began a new weekend program taught by two members of the Chatham High School Chess Club.

Our teens saw a boost in the number of programs scheduled with their specific interests in mind including a 3-week college essay seminar, a hugely popular henna art workshop, cupcake decorating, weekly video games, and volunteer opportunities such as our Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and Legopalooza. We have expanded the shelving in the Young Adult area to accommodate the increased number of books being added to this ever popular genre.

## A PLACE FOR COMMUNITY

The library makes meeting space available to other groups in our community. Organizations using the facility space and services this year included:

- Relay for Life
- American Red Cross
- Alzheimer's Association
- Chatham United Soccer
- Chatham Boy Scouts
- Chatham Girl Scouts
- Chatham Community Band
- Chatham Community Players
- Morris County Embroiderers' Guild
- Sierra Club
- League of Women Voters
- Chatham Democrats
- Chatham Republicans
- Chatham Woman's Club
- Chatham Antiques Club
- The Chatham Township Environmental Commission
- Chatham Borough Historical Society
- The Historical Society of Chatham Township
- Garden State Quilters
- Chatham Court Condo Association
- PEO
- Toastmasters
- Rotary Club
- Minisink Club
- N.J. Association of Railroad Passengers
- Chatham High School Key Club
- STEM Groups
- Knitting Groups
- Garden Clubs
- Writers' Groups

## LEADERSHIP

The ongoing growth and security of Library of The Chathams would not be possible without the dedication and visionary leadership of our esteemed Board of Trustees. Thank you to our 2017 and 2018 Board of Trustees.

### 2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Left to right:** Susan Allen, Thomas E. Browne, Bruce Harris, Bill Holmes, Peggy Nelson, Kevin Sullivan, Danielle Dagounis, Andy Hollander, Barb Montague

### 2017 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fredric Pocci, President  
Peggy Nelson, Vice President  
Andy Hollander, Secretary  
Barb Montague, Treasurer

Susan Allen, Trustee  
Bruce Harris, Borough Mayor  
Kevin Sullivan, Township Representative  
Danielle Dagounis, Superintendent's Alternate