



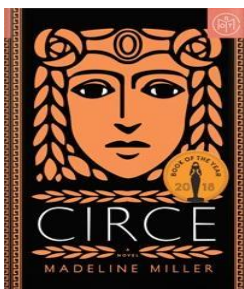
## Annual Report 2019

### OUR MISSION

More than a place for books, Library of the Chathams provides resources that support valuable opportunities to build knowledge, culture and social experiences that enrich lives.

### Fulfilling our Mission: What did the library do in 2019?

- Completed planning of the space renovation plan called Bridging Space to Place and prepared to apply for the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act grant.
- Created a Grants Team including both staff members and community volunteers to apply for grant funding to affordably expand library activities and resources.
- Expanded notary services to be available at our Information Desk, with three full-time librarians commissioned for your convenience.

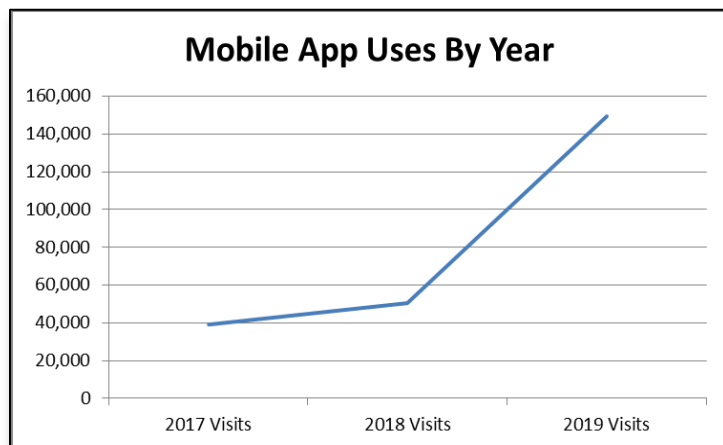


- Completed the library Strategic Plan for the next three years. The plan may be viewed at [chatlib.org/sp.pdf](http://chatlib.org/sp.pdf)
- Expanded our book discussion group to full capacity. Full information is available at <https://chathamlibrary.org/book-group/>
- Improved the library catalog search function to list items by popularity. Search results were previously listed by date with the oldest date first.
- Installed security cameras in key locations throughout the library to ensure the safety of our patrons.
- Conducted staff training to promote creative thinking and out of the box solutions for patron needs.

### 2019 LIBRARY USAGE SNAPSHOT

Residents' use of library services is evaluated constantly to ensure that services meet needs and expectations. Library use continued strong through 2019 with consistently 80% of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township residents holding a current library card.

- 247,631 Visits to the library
- 248,219 Items checked out
- 34,497 Reference questions answered
- 192,713 Visits to the library website and 149,437 visits to the library mobile app



Use of electronic materials increased by more than 5% from 2018 through 2019.

One objective of our vision is to provide the physical and virtual space that will enable the library to serve as a community learning center for the exchange of ideas by offering a diverse selection of programs and services for children, teens, and

adults. For 2019:

- 303 adult programs = 4,944 adult participants
- 404 community group programs = 4,251 attendees
- 474 youth programs = 13,236 attendees
- 87 teen events = 687 teen participants
- 490 children signed up for Summer Reading Club = they read 7,415 books!
- All programs in total attracted 23,118 visitors!

## THE LIBRARY BUILDING

Our Bridging Space to Place plan will provide more meeting room and programming space for all, from small study rooms to lecture space to STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Math) space, a Business Center, and more. We heard you and hope to offer more meeting space for the groups that used the library in 2019, including:

55+ Tri-Town Coalition  
 American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
 Chatham Antiques Club  
 Chatham Boy Scouts  
 Chatham Brass Band  
 Chatham Chinese Association  
 Chatham Community Band  
 Chatham Court Condo Association  
 Chatham Cub Scouts  
 Chatham Democrats  
 Chatham Education Foundation  
 Chatham Girl Scout Brownies  
 Chatham Girl Scout Daisies  
 Chatham Girl Scouts  
 Chatham Green Fair  
 Chatham High School Great Reunion Committee  
 Chatham High School Key Club

Chatham High School PTO  
 Chatham Historical Society  
 Chatham Moms for Change  
 Chatham PTO  
 Chatham Republicans  
 Chatham SEPAG Parents of Children with Special Needs  
 Chatham STEM  
 Chatham Township Environmental Commission  
 Chatham United Soccer  
 Chatham Youth Football  
 Chicken Coop Group  
 Citizens' Climate Lobby  
 Community Garden of the Chathams  
 Cornell Club of Northern New Jersey  
 Creative Writing Group  
 Cultural Committee of Chatham  
 Garden State Quilters Guild  
 Gen Y Job Search & Networking Group

Independence 360  
John Taylor Babbitt Foundation  
Kiwanis Club of Madison and Chatham  
League of Women Voters  
Metropolitan Orchestra of NJ  
Minisink Swim Club  
Morris County Embroiderer's Guild  
Morris County Republican Committee  
Morris Tech Meetup  
NJ Association of Railroad Passengers  
NJ MHIP - Mental Health Integration Program

PEO International  
Sierra Club  
Society of Children's Book Authors  
State Health Insurance Assistance Program  
Toastmasters  
Top Soccer  
Vernon Grove Condo Association  
Willows at Chatham Condo Association  
Women Operating in Opulence  
Women Who Write  
Women's Center for Entrepreneurship

We received numerous additional requests for space from people in our community and hope to offer more meeting space for the fifty-seven+ groups that used the library in 2019. The library applied for and is waiting for the outcome of our New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act application to begin this work.

Starting in June, the library experienced unusually high humidity levels and installed dehumidifiers throughout the building. The Board is still working on a solution to keep humidity levels under control including plans for rebalancing the heating/air conditioning system.

The library performed an independent Solar Feasibility Assessment in 2019. The library building was found to have insufficient exposure to sunlight to make solar equipment feasible. The Board of Trustees will reevaluate this as technology evolves and continue to institute sustainable options in every possible area.

## **YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMMING**

2019 was an exciting year for the Youth Services Department as we added new events to our regular programming. Jumpin' Jamie Entertainment joined our Thursday morning program lineup. Both children and caregivers enjoy dancing and singing to Jamie's guitar playing during his themed program.

Two Chatham High School juniors, Lea and Jack Casano-Boris, planned and taught a series of science classes for elementary school children. Each *Super Science for Kids* lesson began with a PowerPoint presentation and ended with a hands-on science experiment. Lea and Jack put a lot of time and effort into this endeavor, and their students were eager to attend every session.





The Cultural Committee of the Chathams led a new initiative called *Culinary Adventure Around the World*. Each event focuses on a different region of the world and the foods they are most known for.

The Paper Mill Playhouse Children’s Theater on Tour is one of our most popular programs. In 2019, they performed three shows at the library with about 100 people attending each performance.

This year, our Summer Reading Program theme was **A Universe of Stories**. A total of 490 children joined the club reporting on 7,415 books. Many teens including our teen volunteers joined the Teen Reading Club and reviewed 532 books this year – almost double the number as were read last year! We are grateful to the Woman’s Club of Chatham and Madison who generously sponsored the prizes for both the children’s and teen reading programs for many years.

In total, 111 volunteers dedicated 1,265.5 hours of their time throughout the year, helping with the Summer Reading Club, Legopalooza, storytime, and other programs. 571 children’s and young adult programs brought in 13,923 visitors to the library.

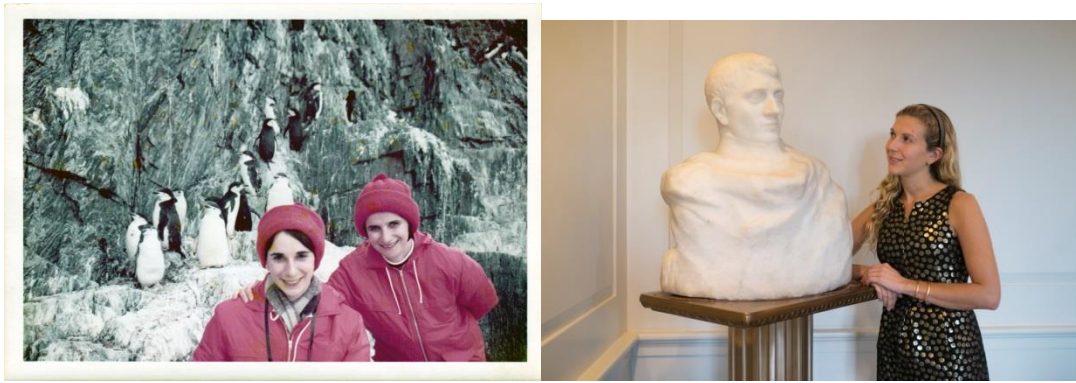
## Thank You

Thank you to these local groups for supporting our 2019 programming!  
The Woman’s Club of Chatham and Madison, Friends of the Library, Chatham Jaycees, Kiwanis Club of The Chathams, the Ann L. Buesing Children’s Fund, the Marlee and Carl Frahn Fund for the Library of the Chathams of the Community Foundation of New Jersey, and the MOMS Club of Berkeley Heights/Summit.

### **ADULT, SENIOR AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING**

2019 was a busy year for adult programming. The library sponsored 337 adult programs with 4,312 people in attendance during the year. There were 431 community meetings held with 4,251 people in attendance.

The Friends of the Library hosted their very successful Annual Book Sale. They also sponsored eight art shows in 2019 with approximately 295 people in attendance and 39 paintings sold. The Friends received a 20% commission on all sales.



Highlighted programs from 2019 included our Notable Women of NJ panel discussion featuring Bonnie Guerin, MD, an oncologist and Director of the Breast Cancer Center Treatment and Prevention at the Carol Simon Cancer Center at Overlook Hospital; Mila Jasey, representative for the 27th Legislative District in the NJ Assembly; Ingrid Steffensen, former college professor of art and architecture at Princeton, Rutgers, NJIT and Bryn Mawr who became a race car driver; and Kate Tomlinson, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of *New Jersey Monthly*.

Chatham resident Fran Drew shared her experience traveling to Antarctica on the *Lindblad Explorer* in 1973.

Christine Todd Whitman, 50th Governor of New Jersey from 1994 to 2011, spoke about the state of the world and our country.

Nancy Kislin, a psychotherapist and licensed social worker, discussed her book *Lockdown: Talking to Your Kids About School Violence*.

Mallory Mortillaro, art curator at the Hartley Dodge Foundation in Madison, NJ, spoke about her discovery of an Auguste Rodin bust of Napoleon Bonaparte in one of the rooms at the Foundation.

Two concerts, featuring the rock band Rewind and popular local music group The Living Room Trio entertained the community on the library's lawn in July and August.

A well-adapted performance of the play *Doctor Faustus* was presented by the Hudson Shakespeare Company.

Robin Gaby Fisher, Pulitzer Prize winner at *The Star Ledger*, spoke about her book *After the Fire: A True Story of Friendship and Survival*, a book about the Seton Hall fire in 2000.



Bonni Guerin



Mila Jasey



Ingrid Steffensen



Kate Tomlinson

*Speakers: Notable Women of New Jersey*

## LIBRARY SUPPORTERS

### Friends of the Library



The Friends of the Library of the Chathams manages the Annual Book Sale and leads members to support the library with their time, gifts, and talents. Their generosity allows us to fulfill our mission to provide valuable opportunities to build knowledge, cultural and social experiences that enrich lives. We could not do what we do without their help.

### Woman's Club of Chatham

The Woman's Club of Chatham disbanded this year and donated all their equipment to the library along with use of their meeting room space. Their support of the library over the years has been invaluable and their impact on the library will be felt for generations to come.

### Bridging Space to Place Donors

Generous donors continue to support our Bridging Space to Place Campaign to help us renovate, modernize and repurpose the library space.

### In Honor of Peggy Nelson

As 2019 came to a close, we lost our Vice President, Peggy Nelson. The Board of Trustees created the *Peggy Nelson Memorial Fund* to honor her memory, and we gratefully thank each donor for honoring Peggy's life and memory.

We thank the members of both our 2019 Board of Trustees and our 2020 Board members currently serving.

### 2019 Board of Trustees

Andy Hollander, President	Thomas E. Browne, Trustee
Peggy Nelson, Vice President	Bill Holmes, Trustee
Susan Allen, Secretary	Bruce Harris, Borough Mayor
Barb Montague, Treasurer	Tayfun Selen, Township Mayor
Danielle Dagounis, Superintendent's Alternate	

## **2020 Board of Trustees**

Andy Hollander, President	Thomas E. Browne, Trustee
Kevin Sullivan, Vice President	Bill Holmes, Trustee
Susan Allen, Secretary	Thaddeus J. Kobylarz, Borough Mayor
Barb Montague, Treasurer	Michael Kelly, Township Mayor
Danielle Dagounis, Superintendent's Alternate	