The mission of the Beardsley & Memorial Library is to promote literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural enrichment for all generations of the diverse community it serves.

This year brought some major changes and improvements to the building and grounds at the library. We were very pleased to complete our newly expanded parking lot and also our circulation area renovation project through the generosity of donors, such as the Friends of the Library, and grants from The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Draper Foundation Fund, and the CT State Library. We are now better able to serve the public with increased accessibility to the library building and its collections.

Our goal is quite simply to create a vibrant place in the community where all people are free to meet, access information, and be provided with the resources they need for literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural enrichment. With the help of our dedicated staff, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, and the numerous patrons who value and support our mission, we are able to reach our goal year after year! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karin Taylor
Library Services Director
BY THE NUMBERS

The Library continues to be a very popular destination for people in the community.

From July of 2017 through June of 2018, the library had over 21,000 visitors!

Nearly 6,000 people attended one of the adult, children, teen, and public programs at the library. Each year this number grows as Beardsley is established as a community center for education, culture, and recreation.

Community groups and organizations used library meeting rooms over 200 times for meetings, discussions, and public forums.

LIBRARY TO YOU

One of the newer services being offered by the library is home delivery for people unable to come to the building due to medical issues. The Library 2 You program has 25 patrons registered for service and uses a team of 11 volunteer delivery drivers. Since its launch date in November of 2016, the library has delivered over 830 items to people in need.

Beardsley has over 7,600 registered borrowers!

61,299 items circulated from the Library last year!
SUMMER READING
In July of 2017 the library was already into its second month of the Summer Reading Program, “Build a Better World!” The children (and parents) were entertained by animals, theatre, 4-H, fire trucks and ambulance programs and joined in with dancing, marching and Hula Hoops! Over 900 people attended our regular and special children’s summer programs and over 500 of our total attendance attended Story Time! Story Times encourage kids to enjoy reading at an early age, which leads to higher success in school.

Connecting With Schools
Carol Parent, Children's Librarian at Beardsley, joined the local Early Childhood Education Council and was able to make significant connections with other educators from the community. This opened doors for a series of outreach programs in the Winsted Schools which lasted throughout the school year, including story times at Batcheller, and several science classes for Pearson students as part of March’s Read Across America Program.

Last year, Mrs. Parent also pushed for a greater outreach program and collaboration with schools in Colebrook, Barkhamsted and Winsted regarding summer reading. It resulted in a considerable jump in attendance. For example, in 2014, 30 preschoolers registered and read 728 books and 26 children registered and read 22,093 pages. During the summer of 2017, 55 preschoolers registered and read 1,361 books and 117 children registered and read a total of 63,665 pages! Outreach works!

The library had 87 children's programs attended by 3,954 people!
Service dogs from ECAD (Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities) visited during National Library Week.

You never know who is going to show up for Read, Rattle and Roll!

Children enjoyed pre–New Year's Eve fun and created their own "Good Luck Fish"!

The Children's Room became a "Giant Jumparee" on Take Your Child to the Library Day.
Teens had fun at Beardsley this year participating in a variety of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) related crafts and projects. They used different building materials such as miniature foam building blocks, Popsicle sticks, batteries, and more. Teens got a kick out of engineering their own Bristlebots and then racing them to see who had the faster robot.

Beardsley teens also put their crafting skills to use as they built castles, fairy houses out of paper mache boxes, and mini spring topiaries made out of foam craft balls, moss, and paper butterflies. A total of 125 young people attended programs sponsored by the YA Department. A collection of "Makerspace" boxes are available to patrons in the teen room on a regular basis. Boxes contain all the materials needed to create a variety of crafts.

TOP TEEN TITLES
At Beardsley......

1. One of Us Is Lying by Karen McManus
2. Milk and Honey by Rupi Kaur
3. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by JK Rowling
4. The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
5. The Giver by Lois Lowry

TEENS READ!

2,916 books, DVDs, and magazines circulated in the YA Department in 2017–2018!
With the growing interest in DNA testing and reconnecting with family roots, genealogy requests have greatly increased. As a result, more researchers are taking advantage of the library's free in-house access to Ancestry.com and other genealogy databases. We recently installed a new patron computer in the Genealogy & Local History Room that is designated for accessing these sites, and we continue to maintain our microfilm reader/printer for viewing issues of the Winsted newspapers that date from 1856 to the present.

Research that is conducted on behalf of our patrons is often added to our local history archives, which are also growing. We have recently explored such topics as the Elizabeth Home at Highland Park, Winsted Monumental Works, the Laurel Festival, Hannon's Ice House, and the origin of Winsted’s street names. We regularly update our expanding scrapbook collection, which covers Winsted and surrounding towns, and our family history files now include over 300 surnames.

The Genealogy & Local History Room

Exploring Family Roots and Discovering Local History

Projects abound in the Genealogy Room and several long-term projects have involved transcribing historical documents and processing donations of local memorabilia. We are currently inserting our historical maps in protective, acid-free sleeves, for easy viewing and copying, and we have digitized more of our Winsted resources, which are available on the library’s web-site. All of these projects make our resources more easily accessible to researchers.

Beardsley Library was recently chosen to participate in the CT State Library’s Travelling Archivist Program. An archivist from the state library assessed the resources in the Genealogy Room and recommended that we feature our Winsted notebooks/scrapbooks, family and town history files, and ephemera collection on CTArchivesOnline.org. We have already received favorable responses from researchers who have accessed this database and are grateful for the opportunity to promote our impressive collection alongside many larger CT institutions, such as Litchfield Historical Society and Middletown’s Godfrey Library.

In 2017, Martin “Marty” Podskoch, author of the 2017 book, “The Civil Conservation Corps in CT,” invited the library to submit a profile on Winchester for his upcoming book, “Club 169,” a travel journal on the 169 towns in CT. Winchester’s article was one of those selected to be featured in the travel section of several CT newspapers. “Club 169” will be released in the fall, and we look forward to having Mr. Podskoch do a book-signing at the library.

The G&LH Room recently participated in a program at the Winsted Soldiers’ Monument and presented an exhibit on our WWII Oral History Project and Winsted on the home-front. In late September, we will again host a genealogy workshop with the Brooks-Green Woods Chapter of the D.A.R.

Volunteers greatly contribute to the library’s success, including, Martha Walsh, who spends countless hours assisting with projects and research requests in the Genealogy Room. We thank her for being such a faithful and dedicated volunteer!

CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

In 2017, Martin “Marty” Podskoch, author of the 2017 book, “The Civil Conservation Corps in CT,” invited the library to submit a profile on Winchester for his upcoming book, “Club 169,” a travel journal on the 169 towns in CT. Winchester’s article was one of those selected to be featured in the travel section of several CT newspapers. “Club 169” will be released in the fall, and we look forward to having Mr. Podskoch do a book-signing at the library.

The G&LH Room recently participated in a program at the Winsted Soldiers’ Monument and presented an exhibit on our WWII Oral History Project and Winsted on the home-front. In late September, we will again host a genealogy workshop with the Brooks-Green Woods Chapter of the D.A.R.

Volunteers greatly contribute to the library’s success, including, Martha Walsh, who spends countless hours assisting with projects and research requests in the Genealogy Room. We thank her for being such a faithful and dedicated volunteer!

Research requests answered: 1,051
Resources accessed: 2,211
This year the library was fortunate to gain support in the form of grants and contributions from The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, the Draper Foundation Fund, the Friends of the Library, the Valley Thrift Shop, and other private donors in order to complete the renovation of the entranceway and the stacks area to make the building and its collections more accessible to people with mobility challenges. Groups such as the Adult Daycare Center (photo on left) visit the library on a weekly basis and are now able to more easily access all the library has to offer thanks to the generosity of our supporters!

"Try It Thursdays" gave adults the opportunity to experiment with new and trending ideas and projects at the library this year. Among the workshops offered were paper marbling (photo above) chocolate and coffee pairing, and essential oils classes.

Library staff members Chris Moscarillo, Karin Taylor, and Shelby Goodell represented Beardsley as part of the community when WFSB featured Winsted in its "20 Towns in 20 Days" program.
The Friends of the Library helped support the library during the month of December with their "Brighten Beardsley" fundraiser. Patron donations added lights to the 14 foot evergreen tree adorning the bank near Main Street outside the building. Each year the Friends raise thousands of dollars to help the library achieve its goals for the community.

We value our dedicated volunteers, such as our Library To You delivery drivers, our youth volunteers, Jeff Crothers, who volunteers his career counseling services free of charge every week at the library, and many more! In November, our volunteers were treated to a celebratory luncheon as a way of showing our thanks.

Our staff regularly goes above and beyond to help make the library better and brighter!

Contributors:

Karin Taylor, Library Services Director
Carol Parent, Children's Services
Talisha Blackburn, Young Adult Services
Verna Gilson, Genealogy & Local History