

BEARDSLEY LIBRARY



ANNUAL REVIEW

2024-2025



P| 860.379.6043

F| 860.379.3621

<https://www.beardsleylibrary.org/>

Beardsley Library

40 Munro Place

Winsted, CT 06098



The Beardsley & Memorial Library has been part of the Winsted landscape since the nineteenth century. Because of a gift of \$10,000 from Mrs. Delia Rockwell Beardsley, residents were able to borrow from a small collection of books and read newspapers and magazines in a single room in the Beardsley Block on Main Street.

A bequest made by Jennison Whiting in 1898 made it possible to purchase land and erect a library building on the current site of the library. The original structure of the library building was completed by 1899 and it became a free public library for the community, one of the first libraries to do so.

The Beardsley Library and the Memorial Library operated under two separate Boards of Trustees for several years.

In 1939, by a Special Act of the General Assembly of Connecticut, the two boards consolidated and created the institution known today as the Beardsley & Memorial Library.

After the consolidation, services expanded significantly with the addition of a Children's Library and the Genealogy Library, as well as a growing collection of materials for all library patrons. Barkhamsted and Colebrook designated Beardsley & Memorial Library as their library of record, extending the library's service to patrons in a large area of northwest Connecticut.

The library is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, representing Winchester, Colebrook and Barkhamsted. The Board and the library staff are proud of the services it offers to patrons and gratefully acknowledge the support of the Friends of the Library and the generous donations of patrons to help the library grow and improve.

BEARDSLEY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Louise Van Alstyne - President
Winsted

Alan Colavecchio
Winsted

Karin Goodell
Winsted

Bob Geiger - Vice President
Barkhamsted

Richard Lavieri
Winsted

Kirsten Failing
Colebrook

Anne Dodge - Treasurer
Barkhamsted

Barbara McQueen
Barkhamsted

Don Stein
Barkhamsted

Deborah Kane - Assistant Treasurer
Winsted

Barbara Millar
Colebrook

Kimmie Killmer
Library Director

Jeannine Frink - Secretary
Barkhamsted

Jane Williams
Winsted



BEARDSLEY LIBRARY STATISTICS

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57,000+

PHYSICAL ITEMS WERE BORROWED

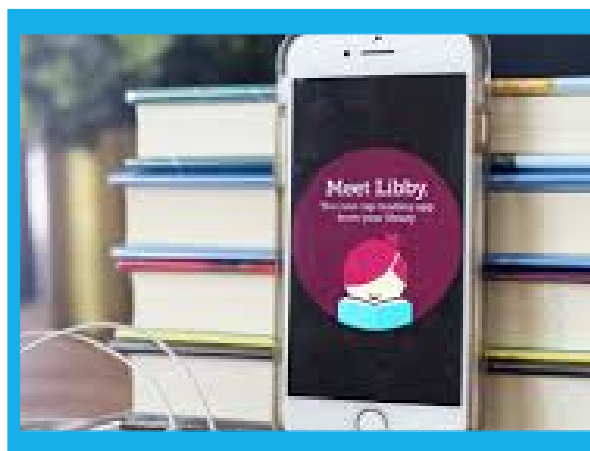
The library offers home delivery to patrons who are unable to visit in person.



9500+

VIRTUAL ITEMS WERE BORROWED

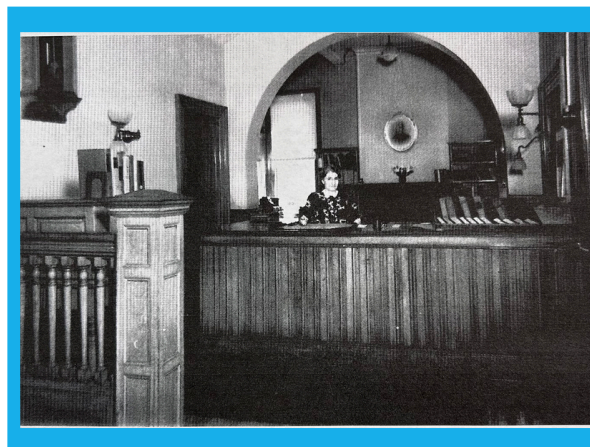
People were able to access e-books and audiobooks from wherever they were.



33,0000+

TOTAL MATERIALS IN OUR COLLECTION

Providing materials that support patron becoming lifelong learners is a goal we strive for. Even though this is the total of books we have, with the consortium we joined allows us to borrow endless amount of materials from other libraries.



110+

TOTAL MUSEUM PASSES WERE USED

160+

TOTAL USES ON MANGO LANGUAGE



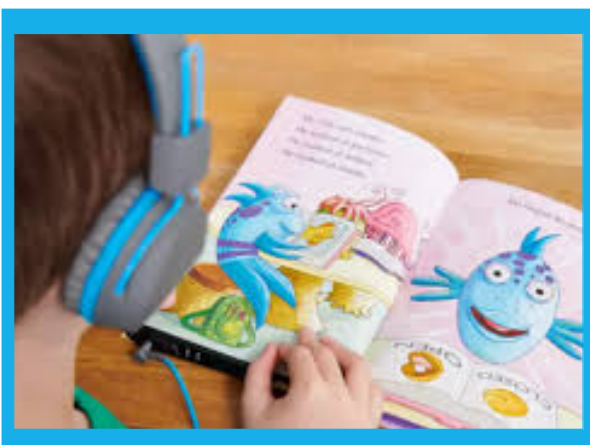
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

After the successful conclusion of our 150th celebration last year, Beardsley Library continues to thrive, keeping up with today's world and technology. We are not only a library but a community hub for Barkhamsted, Colebrook, and Winsted. Our library was able to obtain mobile hotspots to offer to our patrons for easy wifi access on the go. We also included other fun reading incentives, such as WonderBooks, which are books with audio built into them so kids can follow along with the book in hand. In addition, we added Tonie Boxes, which are a fun, screen-free way to promote reading and music.



Beardsley Library enjoys reaching out to the community by attending town events such as the touch-a-truck with our book mobile, the Colebrook fair, the fall festival, the Memorial Day parade, trunk or treat, and much more!

Beardsley also provided students from the Highlander Transition Academy with real-world job experience through an internship program year-round.



ADULT SERVICES

210

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

1,700+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



The library provides a variety of programs to serve all members of the community.

Our adult patrons got creative and learned new skills this year! Some highlights include a mini bookshelf craft, a 3D printing workshop, fantasy map making,

This year we collaborated with local restaurants to host a Historical Walk & Food Tour down Main Street. Our Genealogist Ben Cruson told stories of our historic towns and buildings, while we tasted some delicious food from our beloved restaurants!



ADULT SERVICES

The Beardsley Library, in addition, hosts a variety of weekly clubs, including a mahjong club, card playing club, and two crochet clubs. There are also multiple monthly programs for adult patrons, such as Zentangle and Bring Your Own Dinner movie nights. Additionally, we started an Adult Dungeons & Dragons Club, which is expected to grow in the coming future. Lastly, we included an Adult Fantasy Book Club, making this our third running book discussin group!



This year, we continued our partnership with the Northwest Conservation District to bring gardening and cooking programs to our adult patrons.

In addition, we hosted a successful Adult Summer Reading Program that had over 100 participants. Our summer reading programs included a foraging adventure, multiple crafting programs, and cooking classes! One highlight was our homemade pierogi making class, which had more than 20 participants!

115

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

5,100+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE

Summer was jammed packed with programs and entertainment!

Everyone enjoyed the llama,

Mother Goose, guinea pigs,

Medieval Knights demonstration, puppets and sign language, furry

and scaley friends, Story Time

with a Police Officer, 4th of July

Party and Blue Heeler Day!

We also continued with our 8

weeks of educational and popular

Kids Garden Club with

accompanying tasty treats! Thank

you Northwest Conservation

District!



Summer Reading is a highlight for all of us and we entered the month of July already four weeks into our "Adventure Begins at Your Library" theme. We either hosted or traveled to four schools with over 35 programs to encourage our young patrons to continue on towards their reading goals. Our 190 registered readers were able to tally over 1,700 books and 50,000 pages and were rewarded with three levels of prizes and free books!



PROMOTING EARLY LITERACY, ART APPRECIATION AND SCIENCE

Fall kicked off with a Back-to-School Party, a beautiful celebration of Beardsley's 150th anniversary, pumpkin painting and Trunk or Treat. We continued to collaborate with Hinsdale's Kindergarten classes hosting a tour, story time and craft including handing out applications for library cards. We also teamed up with Winsted's pre-school for monthly Story Time along with the Story Time at the American Mural Project, Curious Cat Bookshop and Colebrook School.

We want to highlight our effort to reach children in the 6-11 age bracket. We offered several art and science programs throughout the year: dragon scale slime, boba tea slime, fox art, snow dough, dragon eyes, Leprechaun Gold, paint a car and snow globes. This proved to be a very successful addition to our programming!



As the year progressed we shared several pup programs and invited Benji, Hootie, Daisy, Dewey and two special service dogs, Poppy and Joy. Our favorite programs continued with the Holiday Open House, New Year's Party, Take Your Child to the Library Day, Read Aloud Day, and the Pet Parade! All of which were extensively enjoyed by our Beardsley families!



TEEN SERVICES

108

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

950+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



This year was full of creativity and connection among the Beardsley Teens, with the number of programs nearly doubling from last year! We went on a Geocache adventure around town, visiting landmarks like the Soldiers Monument and finishing with ice cream at Railway Café! Teens also joined hands-on cooking classes where they learned to make pizza, tortilla chips with salsa, and festive holiday treats. One of the major highlights was visiting the American Museum of Tort Law for a private tour!



We grew our Dungeons & Dragons Club, starting with one group and expanding to four. We also continued our Anime Club and introduced a mini Geocache Club where teens designed their own cache and chose a hiding spot outside the library for community members to find!





Our Gardening Club, sponsored by the Northwest Conservation District, thrived once again this year! With the addition of a new pollinator garden outside the library, teens learned all about native plants and sustainability.

We also brought the farm-to-table idea to life through a homemade pasta cooking class led by chef Doreen Sudol.

Continuing our collaboration, we hosted yet another pumpkin painting program in the fall, where teens got to let their artistic talents shine.

Other Teen-Favorite Events:

- Medieval Knights Experience with Laurel City Historical Fencing
- Furry and Scaly Animal Visit
- Clay Dragon Eye craft and Hobbit House Wreaths with local artist Taylor Moro

Art and community were major highlights this year. Teens loved our “Paint Your Pet” program with artist Nancy Roman, where they created portraits of their furry friends, as well as our nature walk with a local forager who introduced them to edible plants found right here in town. We also gave back to the community by baking homemade dog treats to donate to Muddy Moose Mutts Rescue in Winsted, and the teens even made their own mini libraries from recycled Altoid tins—some of which won first place at the Riverton Fair art show!

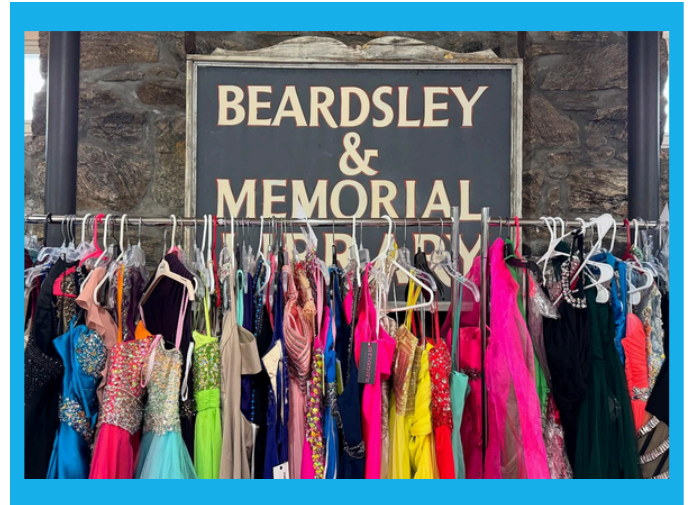


Our Summer Reading theme this year was “Adventure Begins at Your Library”, and we were lucky to have 49 teens (ages 12-17) take part in this challenge and collectively read over 48,800 pages!

TEEN SERVICES

Our annual *Once Upon a Prom* program returned for three weekends and was a huge success, with attendance more than doubling from last year! More than 140 teens came, and nearly everyone found a beautiful gown to take home for free, as well as shoes, a purse, and jewelry!

We were fortunate to have amazing volunteers dedicate their time and talent to teach Beardsley teens how to prepare for prom night: Alana and Ashley, self-employed makeup artists, and Emily owner of Sorella Hair Salon. This year, for the first time, we offered both a girls' and a boys' gift bag filled with items to help them prepare for prom, including hair elastics, cologne, hair gel, makeup wipes, and even coupons for tuxedos from Men's Warehouse!



Atiana's Boutique in Milford, CT generously donated over 60 new gowns, while community members contributed dozens more throughout the year, helping our collection grow with even more styles and sizes. We are so grateful to everyone who helped make the best prom experience possible for young women—and now for young men, too!



GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

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300+

TOTAL RESEARCH
REQUESTS AND
PROJECTS

1300+

RESOURCES USED



New Resources Acquired and Created

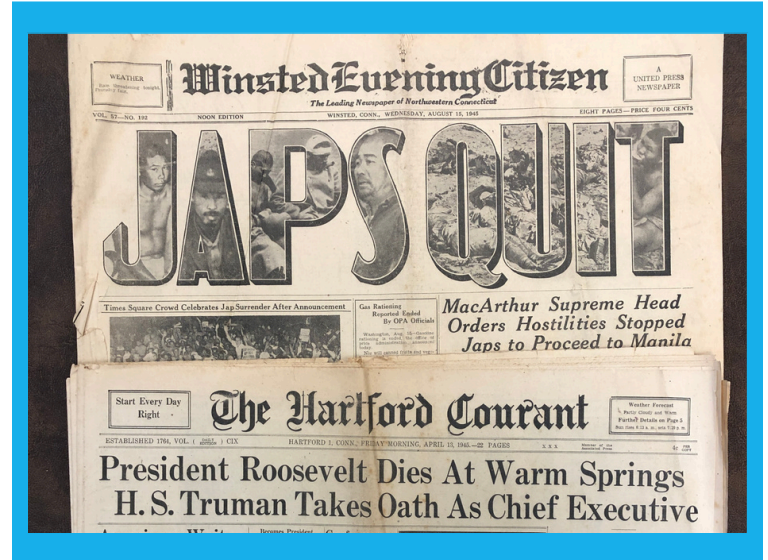
- New Digital Microfilm Scanner
- Oral Histories from witnesses of the 1955 flood
- Winsted Directories 1920 - 1924 digitized
- *The Barkhamsted Lighthouse: the Archaeology of the Lighthouse Family*



GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

Donations Received

- Gilbert School Catalogue from 1928/29
- Collection of historic newspapers
- Durant Family Slide collection
- Gilbert School Yearbooks, 2020 - Pres.



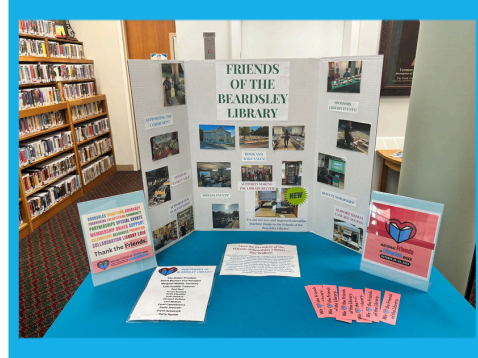
Programs and Community Involvement

Historical walking tour of Main Street, Program on the Winsted Post Office War, participation in the Soldiers' Monument military timeline, attendance and participation in meetings of the Winsted Historical Commission, Genealogy Workshops at the Library and NWR7



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Beardsley Library is a dedicated group of volunteers that provides supplemental funding to sponsor and support the library and its programs, furthering library objectives through fundraising events. Some fundraisers they have done are a Book and Bake Sale and our annual Holiday Basket Sale.



The Friends of the Library are expanding their fundraising opportunities and are offering, for the first time, a Trivia Night fundraiser at a local brewery in Winsted.



The Friends have sponsored many programs throughout the year and help support any additional items that we may need throughout the library. In addition, they support many resources we offer, such as the museum pass program and our Mango Language resources, which we provide to our community.





Annual Review Contributors

Benjamin Cruson - Genealogy & Local History

Carol Parent - Children's Services

Emily Young - Teen Services

Karley Padin - Adult Programs

Kimmie Killmer - Library Director