

BEARDSLEY LIBRARY



ANNUAL REVIEW

2022-2023



P | 860.379.6043

F | 860.379.3621

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

Beardsley Library

40 Munro Place

Winsted, CT 06098

HISTORY OF BEARDSLEY LIBRARY

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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

Bob Geiger - Vice President

Barkhamsted

Anne Dodge - Treasurer

Barkhamsted

Deborah Kane - Assistant Treasurer

Winsted

Jeannine Frink - Secretary

Barkhamsted

Alan Colavecchio

Winsted

Richard Lavieri

Winsted

Barbara McQueen

Barkhamsted

Barbara Millar

Colebrook

Jane Williams

Winsted

Karin Goodell

Winsted

Kimmie Killmer

Library Director



BEARDSLEY LIBRARY STATISTICS

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After moving over to a new circulation system called Bibliomation this year, our library were able to fulfill much more patrons request and were able to receive them much quicker.

41,300

PHYSICAL ITEMS WERE BORROWED

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

4,600+

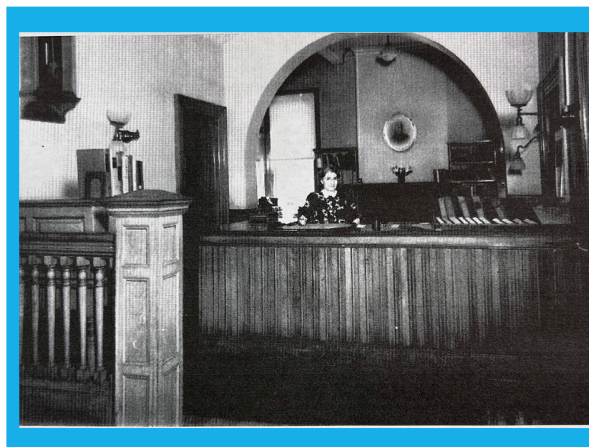
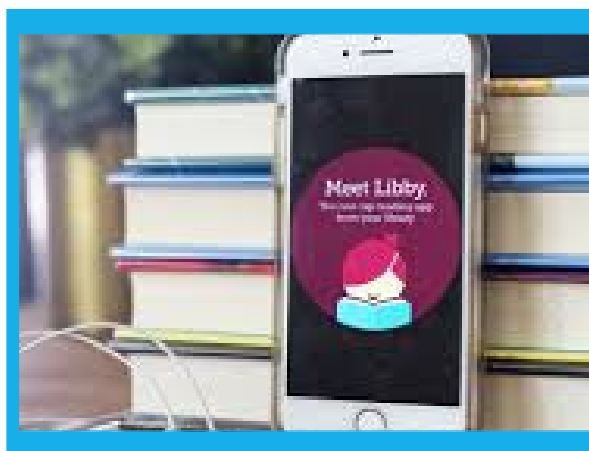
VIRTUAL ITEMS WERE BORROWED

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

35,000+

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.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

The library has many partners within the community, including our collaboration with the Northwest Conservation District on a grant-funded program to teach young children how to grow and harvest their own food.



Beardsley Library enjoys reaching out to the community by attending to town events such as the touch-a-truck with our book mobile, 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.



This year the library received support from donors such as the Barden Foundation, the Draper Foundation Fund, the Friends of the Library, and Northwest Community Bank, to improve our services for our community.



ADULT SERVICES

213

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

1,500+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



The library provides a variety of programs to serve all members of the community. Some highlights from the last year included, talks about wildlife, bingo nights, comedian, cooking classes, Medicare information sessions, yoga classes, zentangle, free Christmas photo sessions, adult summer reading, many crafting programs and much more!

ADULT SERVICES

The Beardsley Library in addition host a variety of monthly and weekly clubs such as mahjong, knitting club, crochet club, and multiple book clubs.



We also love hosting programs that highlight local business. Some local businesses we worked with was Cura Di Se who did macramé and shared their boosted teas, Spice 320 who came and did a wonderful demonstration and talk about spices and the Bowens Agency to learn about insurance and retirement.



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

117

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

5500+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



Through the summer of 2022 we launched into a variety of educational and fun programs involving pet care with the Humane Society, guinea pig races, kids gardening club, farm to table tasting, Cookies with a Cop, puppets, popsicles, raptors and magic!



Beardsley Library's staff was awarded the 2022 Conservation Education Award from the NWCD for our Kids and Teens Gardening Club outreach program!



PROMOTING EARLY LITERACY, ART APPRECIATION AND SCIENCE

With "Oceans of Possibilities" heading our Summer Reading theme, we learned about and created sea creatures including scallops, turtles, crabs, sharks and jellyfish.

We had 164 young readers registered who consumed 3,100 books and read more than 64,000 pages!

During the fall we collaborated with the Barkhamsted School librarian and were able to register every child for a library card! Along with the Rec. Dept, we participated in Winsted's Trunk or Treat and connected with over 500 area children. Exciting programs continued including a visit with kid loving pup, Remy and pumpkin painting with the Northwest Conservation District.



During winter and spring, we enjoyed our Holiday Open House, New Years Party and another kids' favorite, "Take Your Child to the Library Day," Dr. Seuss Celebration, a visit from Curious Creatures, the fantastic Pet Parade and Make Music Day with AMP!



41

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

600+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



We had many great teen programs offered throughout the year. We had programs such as pumpkin carving, learning how to do magic, book club, Grinch brunch, candy cane taste testing, Mario kart racing, escape room, and much more!

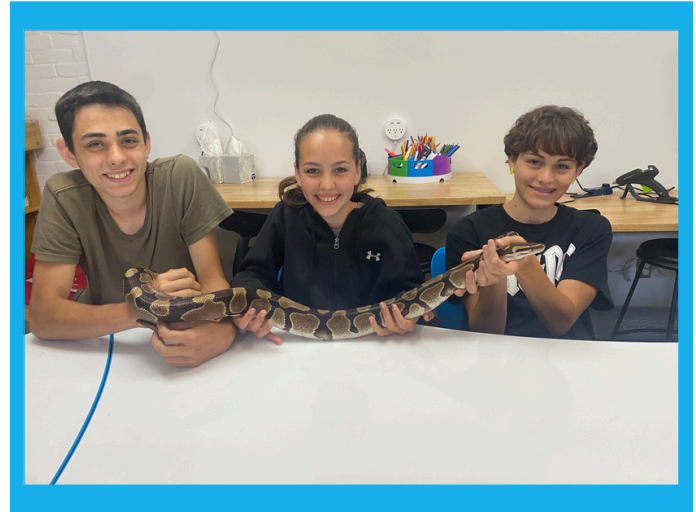
We also welcome the Gilbert School Librarian and some of her student each quarter to take a tour of the library and do an activity together. We did cookie decorating, potato chip taste test, and other activities!



TEEN SERVICES

Our 2022 Summer Reading Challenge had some exciting events to keep teen busy all summer long! We had programs like animal visits from the Sharon Audubon Center, Oreo taste testing, making ice cream and book club!

Our summer reading theme was "Oceans of Possibilities" and we had 30 teen participate in this challenge. Our teens read over 28,000 pages!



We held our annual Once Upon a Prom program for two weekends. 61 young women left with a beautiful...and free...gown!



During this program, we also had Illustra Hair Salon and Wild One Salon volunteer their time to do hair and All That Glitter and Wildly Lush volunteer their time to do makeup for the day.



We are grateful for the community that donate dresses to this event. We also had a company called Birdie Grey send us over 50 brand new dresses for our prom event!



GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

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419

TOTAL RESEARCH
REQUEST AND
PROJECTS

1300+

RESOURCES USED



New Resources Acquired and Created

- Resources about DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy
- Winsted Directories 1911 - 1915 digitized
- Complete archive of *The Winsted Citizen*
- A Research Index for *Connecticut Genealogy News*



GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

Donations Received

- Collection of Moore Family documents and photos
- Collection of *The Sandisfield Times*
- Copy of *The History of Litchfield County*
- Photograph portraits of Emery and Lillian Bierce, residents of Winchester ca. 1900



Programs and Community

Involvement

Research and participation in the Soldiers' Monument Cemetery Walk, Talking with the Scouting Heritage Merit Badge classes at Camp Sequassen, Genealogy workshops at NWR7, Monthly Genealogy Workshops at the Library



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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



The Friends have sponsored many adult and children's programs throughout the year and also helped us purchase additional shelving in our reading room for even more books for our patrons!





Annual Review Contributors

Benjamin Cruson - Genealogy & Local History

Carol Parent - Children's Services

Kimmie Killmer - Library Director

This report reflects the library's activities from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

