

BEARDSLEY LIBRARY



ANNUAL REVIEW

2023-2024



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

ANNUAL REVIEW | 04

47,309

PHYSICAL ITEMS WERE BORROWED

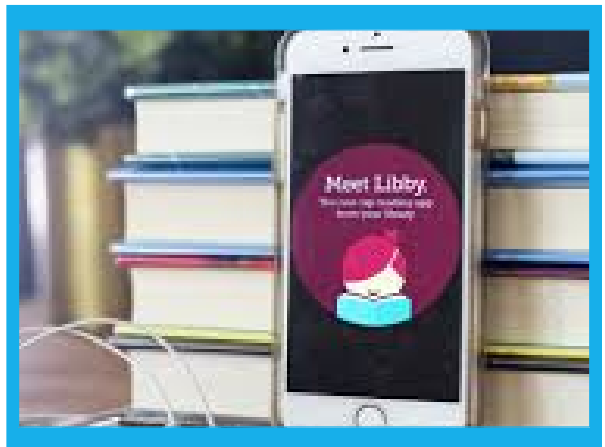
The library offers home delivery to patrons who were unable to visit in person



4,600+

VIRTUAL ITEMS WERE BORROWED

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



46,000+

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.



110+

TOTAL MUSEUM
PASSES WERE
USED

110+

TOTAL USES ON
MANGO
LANGUAGE



COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

This year, the Beardsley Library celebrated 150 years of serving our community. We hosted a 150th celebration with three events for the community about the history of the Beardsley Library, the history of Barkhamsted, Colebrook, and Winsted, and a local author talk about Litchfield County. To end our celebrations, we organized a memorable Beardsley Library birthday party for community members to attend.



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



ADULT SERVICES

240

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

1,700+

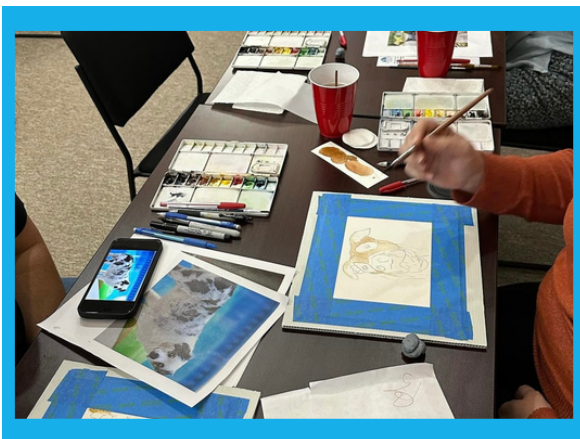
TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



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

Some highlights from the last year included a paint your pet class, Cricut class, charcuterie board class, holiday family photo sessions, recycling old books to make Christmas trees, diamond painting coasters, yarn art canvases, and much more!

During the holiday season, we offer a free Holiday Family Photos program that provides families with 5-7 portraits to use for Christmas cards or other holiday greetings. Our own employee, Jess Tessman, is generous enough to take these photos for 12 families each year.



ADULT SERVICES

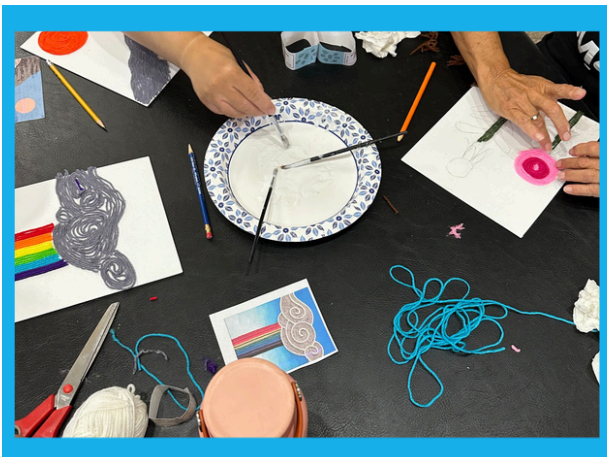
The Beardsley Library, in addition, hosts a variety of weekly clubs. These include a mahjong club, two knitting clubs, and crochet clubs. There are also multiple monthly programs for adult patrons, such as Zentangle, card making classes, and Bring Your Own Dinner movie nights.



This year, we connected with the Northwest Conservation District the Light Source Center for various adult programs.



In addition, we hosted a successful Adult Summer Reading Program that had nearly 100 participants. We offered many monthly programs, such as garden containers and cooking classes and various craft programs. We connected with local businesses to supply the gift card prizes, including Spice320, Little Red Barn Brewers, The Curious Cat Bookshop, and more!



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ANNUAL REVIEW | 08

120

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

5,500+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE

Throughout the summer the entertainment included a Puppet Story Time, Cooking with Ms. Winn, visiting with opossums, eagles and hawks and then a special hour for cookies with our new Chief of Police! Our Kids Gardening Club is still a highly popular program that ran for eight weeks covering topics such as propagation, water cycle, pollination, soil testing and taste testing farm to table recipes prepared by a talented chef, Doreen Sudol.



We entered the month of July already two weeks into our Australian Summer Reading Adventures. In preparation for this theme, we purchased four new Reading Buddy backpacks featuring a Kookaburra, Kangaroo, Crocodile and a Wombat. To enhance our knowledge of the "Land Down Under, we studied and created coral reefs, kangaroos and ocean fish. 120 registered summer readers were able to tally over 2,000 books and 80,000 pages and were rewarded with fun prizes and free books!



PROMOTING EARLY LITERACY, ART APPRECIATION AND SCIENCE

During the fall, collaboration continued with the Northwest Conservation District "Paint a Pumpkin Day." We also hosted Hinsdale School's Kindergarten classes for story time and crafts, a library tour and they received their first Library card! Beardsley teamed up with AMP exchanging mutual story times throughout the winter and beyond. More fun was held at Winsted's Trunk or Treat where 650 kids received candy and bookmarks!

We want to highlight two new popular programs that popped up this year, The Beanie Boo Club and The Little Knitwits! Also, Litchfield Hills Audubon gifted us with a beautiful birding backpack and then arranged for an outing at a birding hot spot in Winsted!



The seasons flew by consisting of favorite programs like the Holiday Open House, New Year's Party with puppets and pup Hootie, Dr. Seuss Day, Take Your Child to the Library Day, Read Aloud Day, the Pet Parade and Make Music Day with AMP! All of which were happily attended by our Beardsley families!



TEEN SERVICES

58

TOTAL NUMBER OF
PROGRAMS

745+

TOTAL PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



We had a wonderful year with the teens, filled with exciting programs including: a Halloween Party, food taste tests, movie nights, art projects such as pumpkin painting with the Northwestern Conservation District, mini light-up mushrooms, painting the bookends we use on the shelves in the Teen Room, along with many other memorable activities!



New teen clubs were launched including Book Club, Anime Club, and Dungeons and Dragons Club - all of which were a major success among the Beardsley Teens!

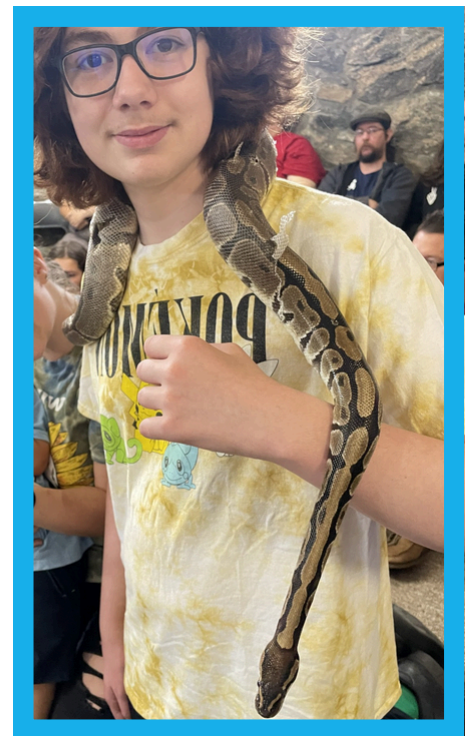


TEEN SERVICES



Our 2023 Summer Reading Challenge was filled with engaging events that kept the teens busy and entertained all summer long! Highlights included a soft-pretzel cooking class with Ms. Winn, koala inspired slime-making, a Nintendo Switch tournament, candy sushi-making, visits from animals like raptors and opossums, and so much more!

The Teen Gardening Club, sponsored by The Northwest Conservation District, was a great success as always! The teens explored an array of topics like agriculture, aquaculture, soil layers, pollinators, and farm-to-table recipes thanks to chef Doreen Sudol! One of the major highlights within this eight-week program was the hands-on experience using microscopes, where they got to see and learn about various soil samples. With their newfound knowledge and experience, the Beardsley Garden flourished all Summer!



This year's summer reading theme was "Australia", and we were thrilled to have 71 teens take part in this challenge and collectively read over 47,000 pages!

Other Teen-Favorite Events:

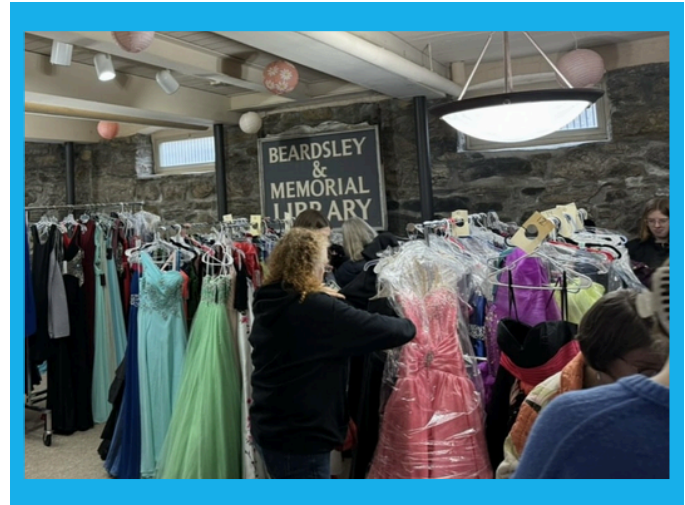
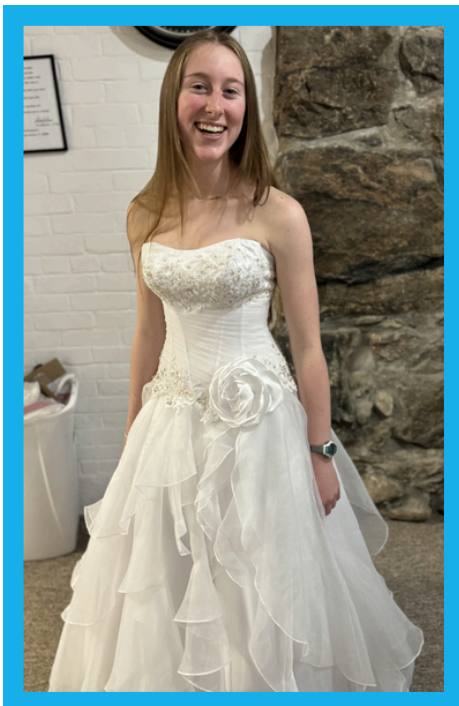
- Winsted Annual Pet Parade
- Holiday Open House
- Take Your Child to the Library Day
- Trunk or Treat in Winsted



TEEN SERVICES

We held our annual *Once Upon a Prom* program for three weekends, and had a great turnout! 70 young women attended and most left with a beautiful (and free) gown!

We were lucky enough to have amazing volunteers that dedicated their time and talent to help the teens at Beardsley prepare for their prom night: Julianna Garcia from Skinfusion Beauty Studios (makeup), Maggie St. Pierre (makeup), Victoria Richards from Wild One Salon (hair), Amy Hoerle from All That Glitters Makeup Artistry (hair), Vicki Pac (dress alterations).



Not only did our generous patrons donate beautiful dresses for this event, but Atiana's Boutique in Milford, CT gifted us over 100 brand new gowns, along with shoes and purses. Additionally, we still had many dresses from the online Boutique Birdy Grey donation from the year prior that we were able to put to good use.

We are beyond grateful for all of the thoughtful individuals and communities that supported us to provide the best possible prom experience for young women!



GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

ANNUAL REVIEW | 13

265+

TOTAL RESEARCH
REQUESTS AND
PROJECTS

1300+

RESOURCES USED



New Resources Acquired and Created

- Booklets and other resources about the history of the Beardsley Library
- Winsted Directories 1915 - 1919 digitized
- Resources about American Migration Routes
- A Research Index for *Squire's Tavern Quarterly*



GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROOM

Donations Received

- Winsted Directories covering the '50s through the '70s
- Two class photos from the Gilbert School ca. 1920s
- Early copies of the *Winsted Evening Citizen*
- Assorted Historical materials from the Town Clerk's Office



Programs and Community Involvement

Research and participation in the Beardsley 150 Celebration and the Soldiers' Monument Cemetery Walk, attendance and participation in meetings of the Winsted Historical Commission, 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, Trivia Night, and our annual Holiday Basket Sale. In addition, the Friends took on attending the Colebrook Fair and had a mini book sale available.

The Friends have sponsored many adult and children's programs throughout the year and helped us purchase a new microfilm machine for our genealogy department. They also fund our museum pass program and our Mango Language resources that we offer 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