



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

CONTENTS

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR _____ 3

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 30th YEAR _____ 4

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

Youth Services _____ 5

Circulation _____ 7

Outreach _____ 8

STAFF RECOGNITION _____ 10

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This past year the Library celebrated its 30th Anniversary. Irene Goldberg and several long-time staff retired. As we all prepared to celebrate this milestone, we began looking at old photos and telling stories from our time working at the Library. These conversations, filled with laughter, reminded me how very far the Monroe Township Library has come since 1989.

On April 1, 1989 the Library opened in 4000 square feet in the basement of the current Municipal Building with a staff of about 10 serving a population of 14,500. Today, when you visit the Library you will find a vibrant, state-of-the-art community center buzzing with activity.

The staff and I are very proud of the services we can provide to the residents of Monroe Township and are always looking for something new, whether it is the addition of a new museum pass, wifi hotspots, help with tech devices or a children's storytime. As you read through this report you will see the varied resources and services available at the Monroe Township Library and maybe discover something new!

I look forward to 2020, the new people I will meet and continuing to make the Monroe Township Library a wonderful place for Township residents to visit and explore.



Leah Wagner
Library Director
February 2020

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 30TH YEAR

The Monroe Township Library celebrated 30 years of service to our community on April 1, 2019. The Library hosted monthly events for 6 months before and 6 months after the official anniversary date. In January, Library staff compiled photographs, documents and other ephemera to plant in a time capsule.



A birthday party was held on April 1 and many Township dignitaries were in attendance to help celebrate!



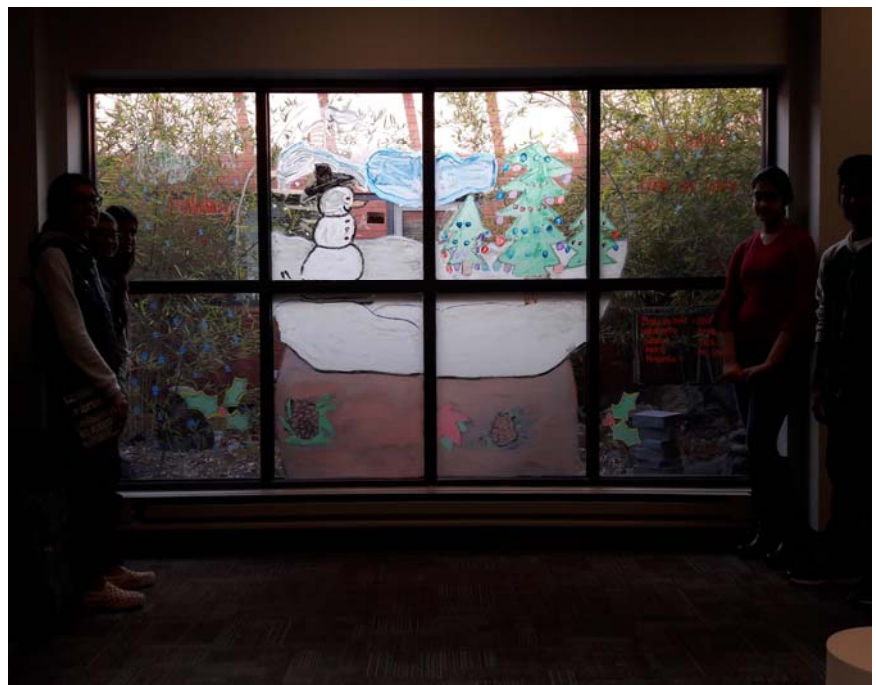
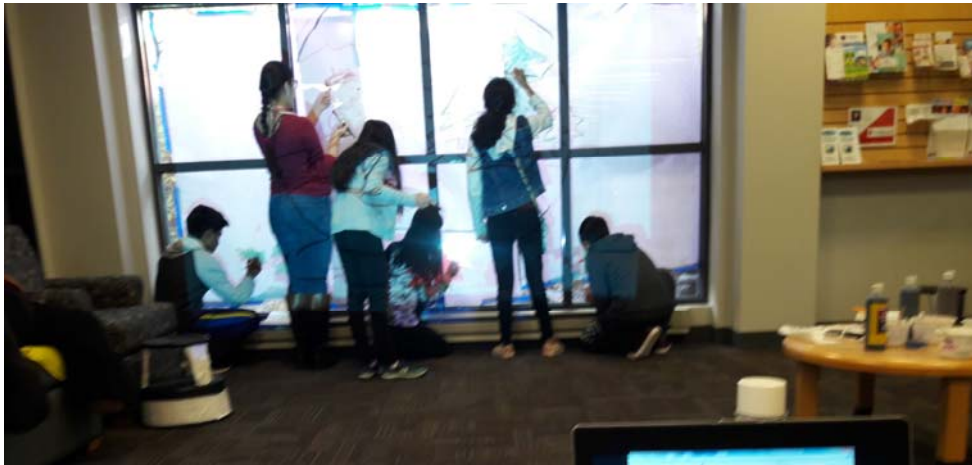
YOUTH SERVICES

2019 in the Monroe Township Library's Youth Services Department was a successful one. Our Early Literacy Center was completed with the addition of new Launchpad Tablets and Wonderbooks to circulate to the community. The Youth Services Department once again provided fantastic programming to our young patrons, including a Creative Writing Workshop, a successful summer reading program and participating in the annual Green Fair. Juvenile books went fine free and we welcomed a new Teen Services Librarian.



Young Adult (Teen) Statistics

Since the addition of a full-time Teen Services Librarian in May, 110 volunteers have been added to the 34 teens who were already volunteering for a total of 1,242.5 hours of volunteer service since May!



CIRCULATION

The Circulation staff receives praise about the Library, its services, and its growing collection. The Library saw a lot of growth and policy change to reflect the needs of the community in 2019. For example:

- Going fine free on children's books.
- Changing requirements to make it easier for students to get a library card.
- Implementing the automatic renewal system which reduces the amount of late fees that accumulate for the patrons.

The Circulation staff participated in the 30th anniversary celebration by putting together goodie bags for adults and children. The goodie bags were so well received; roughly 300 of each were distributed.

Over 150 new library cards were opened every month in 2019. During the busiest summer months, July and August, the Library had 506 new registrations!

Sunday hours were extended permanently in 2019. The community has been appreciative of the new hours which is reflected in our statistics: the yearly Sunday circulation total increased by over 2,000 items.

2019 compared to 2018:

- Circulated 27,000 more items
- Drive-thru usage increased by 100 patron visits
- Steady increase each month of Museum Pass usage



OUTREACH

Bookmobile

The Bookmobile had another wonderful year. Residents rely on the service to bring books and media and cannot imagine the Library without it. Staff cannot imagine their work without this service. It is a win-win situation for all!

The juvenile circulation has increased tremendously this year for a total of 22,653 books, up from 13,451 that circulated last year. We provide service to all of the after school programs, the 3 day care facilities, Oak Tree ESY program in the summer and most residential communities in Monroe.

We also service all of the adult communities but have had a recent decline in attendance. We have referred many of our patrons to the At Home Services program as their health has declined. Once our patrons can no longer use the Bookmobile, we have the At Home Services so there is no lapse in time for them to continue receiving their books.

The Bookmobile got a new step and the awning was replaced in November.



At Home Services

We continue to advertise in the communities to reach the patrons who would not otherwise have access to the available services within the Library. We've recently begun delivering to the Waterside Villas, Village Point, Monroe Village Assisted Living, and Genesis Healthcare.

The bulletin board and Large Print collection of books at the Senior Center are updated on a weekly basis. The Little Libraries are maintained by Donna once a month while delivering.

All adult community clubhouses are supplied with *Library Happenings* to keep residents informed of Library programming.

Audio books are downloaded to flashdrives through the NJ State Library and are delivered to the seeing impaired residents so they may listen to books they enjoy. Demonstrations are also given to help them learn the machines provided by the State Library. Spark Kits are delivered to patrons with Alzheimer's Disease.

Programs Outside the Library

A number of Library programs have been taken outside of the building and into the community. Great Courses, as well as other programs, have enjoyed great success in Monroe Village. In 2019, 53 programs were held with over 1,200 people in attendance.

Fidget Quilt Project

Fidget quilts, twiddle muffs and comfort mitts are designed to give the wearer something with which to fidget. Quilts that keep idle, often lonely hands busy are popular among patients with Alzheimer's. The quilts typically feature items such as zippers, buttons, bows, jewelry and elastic, which are meant to provide tactile stimulation. Between Saturday, October 5 and Monday, December 16, the Monroe Township Public Library collected completed fidget quilts and twiddle muffs to donate to Parker Adult Day Center in Monroe Township. Forty (40) total items were collected:

- 21 Fidget Quilts
- 2 Crochet Mats
- 17 Comfort Cuffs/Twiddle Muffs

The items were delivered to Parker Adult Day Center in Monroe Township early in January, 2020.



STAFF RECOGNITION

Retirements

In 2019, the Monroe Township Library said farewell to several long tenured staff members. Irene Goldberg retired as Library Director, after over 30 years of service to the Monroe Township community. As the first Director of the Library, Ms. Goldberg has been a guiding force in the development of the Library, leading building projects and implementing new and unique services. She has had an unmeasurable impact on both staff and residents.

Library staff and residents also said goodbye to Susan Grotyohann, Reference and Young Adult Librarian, who retired after 19 years of service. She will be remembered for organizing the Summer Reading program and supplying many prizes for the teen volunteers/readers and her dedication to helping the Friends of the Library with their book sales.

Bookmobile driver Tammy Aarseth also retired at the end of 2019. She brought library materials and smiles to many patrons and residents for over 16 years.



We returned a value of
over 6 million dollars for registered
borrowers in 2019!

SERVICE USED	QTY	RETAIL	VALUE
Adult Books	204,067	\$17.00	\$3,469,139
Teen Books	20,056	\$12.00	\$240,672
Children's Books	119,485	\$17.00	\$2,031,245
Audiobooks	13,259	\$10.00	\$132,590
eBooks	17,294	\$15.00	\$259,410
Magazines	5,833	\$5.00	\$29,165
Movies	64,053	\$4.00	\$256,212
Music CDs	4,856	\$10.00	\$48,560
Museum Passes	1,971	\$20.00	\$39,420
TOTAL			\$6,506,413



The Library is proud to partner with many community organizations, including:

- Monroe Township Cultural Arts Commission
- Monroe Township Environmental Commission
- Monroe Township Historical Commission
- Monroe Township School Board
- M.T.S.E.P.A.
- Local Scout Troops
- The League of Women Voters#
- Literacy NJ#

26,734 library
cardholders

402,087 materials
borrowed

83,700 digital items
borrowed

58,059 questions
answered

30,164 attendance
at programs

25,139 computer
sessions

