Leonia Public Library

The library is a unique gateway to knowledge and information for the entire community... a crucial educational, recreational, cultural, and archival center.

2014 Annual Report

Leonia Library By the Numbers

James Leynse, Photography

Visits to the Library
136,335 people

Circulation
Adult Fic & Non-Fic
30,494 books

Young Adult
3,962 books

Adult Media
22,328 DVDs, CDs, Audiobooks and Playaways

(DVDs, CDs, Audiobooks, Playaways, MP3s)

Children’s books
36,280 books

Children’s Media
9,621

(DVDs, Wii games, Audiobooks, CDs)

Downloadable audio, e-books
1,844 downloads

Reciprocal Borrowing
Leonians borrowed
22,217 items from other BCCLS libraries

Leonia Library lent
30,631 items to other BCCLS libraries

Hits to Website 13,826

Notarizations over 150

Leonia Local History Photographs are Online!

Go to our website: http://leonia.bccls.org, and click on Local History, then collections.

Message from the Director

It’s been my privilege to serve the community in my tenure at the library for the past 18 years. Since 1996 we’ve renovated the library, created a reading garden, and offered hundreds of programs and thousands of new materials.

Above all, I’ve enjoyed working with a dedicated staff, board, and people in town who all care about the library and their community.

I have no doubt that the library will continue to be the town treasure and heart of the community.

Deborah Bigelow

Through your support, the Friends of Leonia Library earned $1,506 through their Annual Books Sale. $750 went to 1/2 membership MOMA, 750 sponsored the Summer Reading Program, and $500 went towards Large Print Books.

The Community Chest gave the library $500 for English as a Second Language materials.

Rachel Stern sponsored a new bench for the patio, and 1/2 membership to MOMA, in memory of her late husband, Fred Stern.

The library received $17,454 through our annual appeal and donations throughout the year. In 2014 we spent the money in these areas: 26% - books, audiobooks, and CDs, 27.5% - building and grounds, 19% - programs, 15% - technology, 4% copy costs, 5% - misc.

Leonia Library By the Numbers

John Kendrick, Board President
Arnold Trachtenberg, Treasurer
Phyllis Dain, Secretary
Susan Boyd
Elizabeth Carillo
Mary Ellen Tucker
Brad Wilds
John DeSimone, Mayor
Carmen Hillman, Mayor’s Alternate
Bernadette Flaim, Council Liaison
Joanne Megargee, Superintendent of Schools
Julie Diemer, Superintendent’s Alternate

Leonia Public Library

Morning Light by Nanda van Ginkel

2014 Board of Trustees

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Aquaman Shrine
By Richard Howell

Library Staff

Deborah Bigelow, Director
Elizabeth Bender, Assistant Director, Head of Youth Services
Jane Barnes, Manager of Daily Operations & Circulation
Shinae Hyun, Outreach, Technology, Young Adult Librarian
Madeline Carnatz, Administrative Assistant
Colleen Boaemer, Library Assistant
Lisa Higgins, Bookkeeper
Harriet Burdock, Archivist
Douglas Jeter, Custodian
**Music**

The library was pleased to offer performances by: the NJ Verismo Opera singing popular arias from La Traviata, La Bohème, Carmen and Aida with special Met Opera Star Lucine Amara.

The Still Standing Band played a noon time gig and kicked off our fall Sunday hours with a Sunday patio concert.

The library offers more than 1,600 music CDs for your listening pleasure.

**Dance**

The BALAM Dance Troupe presented Dancing Warriors on a wintry Saturday afternoon.

**Spoken Word**

Joan Comiskey read from her book, Ballylin, Life in a Small Irish Village, in the spring, and Steven Swank read from his new poetry collection, A Horse Knows, in the fall.

Carol Karels and Barry Sheinkopf presented their ever-popular program on self-publishing.

The library has more than 1,000 audiobooks available for loan including the downloadable books available on bccls.org.

**Visual Arts**

Leonia artists exhibiting their work include Bob Birmelin, Etta Ehrlich, Richard Howell and Nanda VanGinkel.

The Library, in tandem with Leonia Arts, sponsored Meet The Artists, an annual event showcasing the talent of our community.

Ordinary Lives—An Allegory by Bob Birmelin

**The Art of Community**

Many people in Leonia think of the library as the Center of the Community. Groups and Organizations who have met here this past year include: The Community Chest, 3 Girl Scout troops, Boy Scouts, the Leonia Police Department, The Annual Senior Luncheon, the Writers’ Group, Leonia Democratic Committee, League of Women Voters, Women’s Club award luncheon, Youth Football, baseball registration, and more. The Board of Health provided low cost flu shots.

Through a grant from the State, the Bergen County Technical Schools and our own tutors offered ESL classes to over 50 adults from a variety of countries.

The staff marched in the Memorial Day Parade with a float celebrating New Jersey’s 350th birthday.

**Exhibits**

The Local History Department hosted 2 major exhibits: When We Served: Selections from the Military Archives. Borough Scenes, 1859-1949

We became home to Cornfields, sculpted by Susan Buroker, courtesy Sculpture for Leonia.

**Learning Arts for Children**

Programs for children feature prominently in the library’s offerings to the community. Besides the four age levels of story times (one in Korean) offered, the children’s department offered a Lunar New Year Celebration, Dr. Seuss’s birthday party, the Harvest Festival, and the ever-popular Friday night Halloween party for families.

Our summer reading program titled Fizz-Boom-Read offered activities with a science theme, and offered opportunities to earn prizes. 260 children registered, and read over 60,000 minutes over the course of 8 weeks.

**Tweens/Teens**

Fifteen teens participate in the Teen Advisory Group, run by Shinae. TAG members help with children’s programs and other tasks in the library. Popular tween/teen programs this year have been Thanksgiving pie-making and the summer cooking series. Students learned about different cuisines and had a chance to make their own versions.

**Adult Services & Programs**

The library continued to offer friendly, personalized service, and through an upgrade in the BCCLS system, could obtain the books you requested faster than ever.

We offer 2 adult reading groups and a poetry forum every month. Special programs included a workshop on de-cluttering and another on Social Security. Armchair Travel led participants through the Grandeur that was Rome.

A highlight was A Day in the Life—Leonia, run by Paul Leibow, which featured storytelling, poetry, and music by Hector Morales, Matt Kuric, and Dimitri Ehrlich.

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