

HARWINTON PUBLIC LIBRARY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 2018

Mission Statement

The mission of the Harwinton Public Library is to provide for the informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the citizens of Harwinton through the provision of an organized collection of print, multimedia, and electronic resources, within a facility that allows these goals to be accomplished. This mission will be met by trained professional and staff support personnel.

Special emphasis will be placed on encouraging children to develop an interest in reading and learning by offering appropriate materials and programs and collaborating with the Region 10 school district educational programs. In addition, the Library will work to provide people of all ages with high-demand, high-interest resources in a variety of formats. In summary, the Library will actively encourage the use of its materials, seek to keep residents informed of valuable resources available, and foster the intellectual growth, character and cohesiveness of the community.

Hours

Monday & Wednesday: 12:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Saturday: 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM (winter), 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM (summer)

Personnel

The paid professional and support staff of the Harwinton Public Library is here to provide excellent service and help our patrons take advantage of everything the library has to offer.

Library Director – Alice Freiler, M.L.S.

Assistant to Librarian – Joann Hohensee

Children's Programmer – Amanda Urcinas

Library Staff – Lee Morris

 Lydia Smith, M.L.S.

Library Page – Emily Hunt

As a small library, we rely on the dedication of our volunteers; we could not do without them. We are grateful to the Harwinton Garden Club for maintaining our lovely flower beds and to the Harwinton Library Friends for their hard work year-round in support of our library. We wish to thank volunteers Kate Boland, David Chmielewski, Reed Freiler, Cameron Couch, Stephen Davey, Joanne Hogan, Stephanie King, Morgan Mattera, Justin McHale, Regan Mills, Linda Moore, Rohan Ramesh, Eleonor Spring and our YAC members for their hard work in keeping our library running smoothly. We were heartbroken to say goodbye this year to our friend and volunteer Carol Bauby, who gave so generously of her time and expertise teaching our patrons how to research their ancestry. Her joyous presence in our library will be dearly missed.

Library Board

The Harwinton Public Library Board of Directors is the governing body of the library. Composed of nine publicly elected members, the Board determines policy and is actively involved in all phases of library operations.

Leslie Flowers, Co-Chair

Arthur Potwin, Co-Chair

Richard Agoston, Treasurer

Jamie O'Meara-Cartwright, Secretary

Malcolm Beatty

Elizabeth Booth

Debbie Janssens

Patti Sederquist

Naomi Toftness

Materials

Books remain the core of library service, but today books come in many forms. The library offers our patrons books in regular and large print, on CD, as eBooks, and as downloadable audios. We work hard to obtain the titles selected by our patrons and to keep our collection up-to-date. Participation in the statewide Interlibrary Loan program allows us to fill many more requests than we could if we had to purchase each title. Last year our patrons borrowed 383 items from other libraries and lent 341 items. By participating in a statewide DVD Circuit and Foreign & Independent Film Circuit, and borrowing Large Print and audiobooks in bulk from the State Library Service Center, we are able to rotate new materials into our collection without purchasing them. The library's participation in the Connect Downloadable Catalog and OverDrive electronic cooperative allows us to share resources with other Connecticut libraries and gives our patrons access to thousands of eBooks, downloadable audiobooks, videos and periodicals.

Circulation

The annual circulation is the total circulation of all library materials, both physical and electronic. A circulation transaction is the act of lending an item from the library's collection for use outside the library. What is not measured by circulation figures is the in-house use of library materials: people who come in to read our daily newspapers, use our Reference and Local History collections, read aloud to their children, or access one of our many electronic database. For 2017/2018, circulation totaled 36,295 items. Some circulation highlights include:

Adult Books: 11,992

Children's Books: 10,838

Young Adult Books: 1,753

DVDs: 4,559

Downloadable Books & Audiobooks: 3,026

Use of Public Computers: 2,308

Programs

As part of our mission to meet the cultural and recreational needs of our patrons, the library offers a full calendar of programs for all ages. Our programs include weekly Story Times for preschoolers, Book Discussion programs for adults and children, craft programs for all ages and our annual Summer Reading program. We also present special performers, speakers, author visits and workshops throughout the year. Last year the library provided 229 programs attended by 3,472 people. Support for our programming was provided by the Harwinton Library Friends, the 4H, AARP, the Harwinton Lions Club, Civic Family Services, and individual donations, as well as generous individuals who donated their time and expertise. We are especially grateful to the Harwinton Library Friends for sponsoring our 2017 Summer Reading Program.

Other News

It's been a busy year at the library with changes inside and out. This year we said goodbye to our retiring Children's Programmer, Mary Bulat, and welcomed our new Children's Programmer, Amanda Urcinas. We upgraded to LED lighting, replaced our roof and added insulation for a brighter and more comfortable library year-round. We added a third children's computer and purchased new computer tables for all of our children's computers that can be adjusted up or down for full accessibility. And thanks to the fundraising efforts of our Harwinton Library Friends we now have 5 mobile Wi-Fi hotspots so our patrons can take the Internet with them wherever they go.

The generosity of our donors and supporters allows the library to provide many services, materials, and programs that are beyond the reach of our operating budget. Civic Family Services awarded the library a grant of \$400 to establish a Youth Advisory Council at our library. The Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation gave us a grant of \$2,050 to expand our collection of PlayAway Launchpad tablets, including SAT Prep tablets for teens and Brain Games for adults. The Lions Club of Harwinton gave the library a gift of \$500 to purchase new toys and furnishings for our children's area. And the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation awarded us a grant of \$2,600 to purchase an AWE AfterSchool Edge computer for ages 6 – 12.

We are grateful to the Harwinton Library Friends, Harwinton Garden Club, Harwinton Women's Club, the Bronc Callahan Community Fund, the Harwinton Historical Society, the Northwest Connecticut A's, Oak Meadow Estates, the Litchfield Hills Camera Club, the Friends of Elizabeth Goodwin and the many individual donors who have contributed to our library this year. Thank you also to those who donated to the library in memoriam. This year the library received generous gifts in honor of Joanne Seger, Michael Madonna, Charles Hartwell, Lawrence Adkins, Alfred Alexander, Frederick Gagnon, Mary Ann Schneider, Raymond Evon, Holly Hassett, and Dorothy May Rinehart Schoenbrunn.

We appreciate your support and welcome your feedback and suggestions. The library is here to serve every member of our community. Let us hear from you so that we can provide the materials and programs that meet your needs.

