

CYRENIUS H. BOOTH LIBRARY

25 Main Street, Newtown CT 06470 • 203-426-4533 • www.chboothlibrary.org

2014



Welcome! There are many reasons why I feel fortunate to live and work in Newtown. The Cyrenius H. Booth Library is a central reason. I am grateful to have worked here since 1995 and am honored to have been named the Library Director in July of 2014.

Our greatest asset is our friendly, knowledgeable staff who always puts you, our patron, first. They represent the best of what makes our library such a special place. Our collections and online resources include DVDs and music CDs,

downloadable eBooks and audio books (both on CD and downloadable), databases and of course plenty of books, both new discoveries and old favorites. We are open seven days a week for most of the year and online resources are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In these pages you will find a snapshot of the library as well as a big thank

you to our donors and supporters. We are thankful for the generous financial support we receive from our town's taxpayers; this represents a tangible commitment of our community to the importance of a free public library. We are fortunate to live in such a community. This town financial support, even with the additional support of our stellar and tireless Friends group, doesn't stretch far enough to bring all the programs, materials and technology needed to serve our community. Our Board of Trustees works to supplement our budget through fundraising efforts such as our annual appeal mailing and the Turkey Trot 5K road race. Something new to look for will be a fun Fashion Show coming in April 2015. My sincere thanks to all of you who are able to support these additional fundraising efforts. We all benefit from your generosity.

In 2015, we are embarking on a community needs based strategic planning process which will include a community survey and focus groups. Your input and opinions are important to us! I look forward to hearing what you want to see here at your library.

- Brenda McKinley
Library Director

"It Was the Best of Times, It Was the Worst of Times..."

And in 2014 the library agreed with Dickens. In the midst of severe cold weather January 4, a frozen sprinkler pipe burst, sending torrents of water through the ceilings of the Director's office, Technical Services and Circulation Desk, then cascading through the first floor Children's Department. Many elegantly dressed women attending the Downton Abbey Tea in our Genealogy Room were sent into the frigid temperatures while the staff and Newtown emergency services, in the British tradition of "keep calm and carry



on," moved swiftly to contain the damages and ensure the safety of patrons. It would be two months before the library could reopen.

We then experienced the best of times - a renewed and revitalized library

building, a staff eager to return to the jobs they love, a patient public appreciative of our efforts, many new and exciting programs and initiatives, and best of all, the appointment of a new Director!

On behalf of our excellent staff, I thank the people of Newtown for your support in good times and bad. We look forward to many more good times in the coming year!

- Beryl Harrison, Assistant Library Director

It was an exciting and productive year for your Board of Trustees!

We relentlessly focused on our charge to provide oversight and direction for your library to ensure that it remains relevant and achieves excellence in a changing and competitive world.

During the year, every Board member devoted his or her time, talent and energy on several important initiatives, including a search for our new director, enhanced fund raising programs, policy reviews and new talent additions to the Board. In addition, work was begun on a complete review of our by-laws and, most importantly, the development of a multi-year strategic plan for your library.

We were especially excited to welcome Brenda McKinley as our new Director. Brenda brings over twenty years of professional library experience to the position, as well as an intimate knowledge of our operations and the community.

As you read about our year, you will learn how your giving sustains the role of our library as a transformative force for Newtown residents of all ages...an educational partner, a source of discovery, a personal refuge, and a place to connect with friends and neighbors.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the Friends of the Library, the Town of Newtown, and especially our over 750 individual donors. Thank you!

- Robert Geckle
President of the Board of Trustees



Library Staff



**Andy Forsyth,
Head of Reference**

On the third floor, we provide access to information in all its forms and we serve our patrons in many ways – in person, by phone, and email. We now offer hands-on computer instruction, we've enhanced and

expanded our collections, and we're developing new partnerships with local organizations to better serve all of the Newtown community.

**Julie Hunter,
Circulation Supervisor**

The Circulation Department works to provide a positive experience for patrons who come to borrow library materials. We work hard to stay current on the latest and most interesting books so as to provide the best Reader's Advisory possible. Every day we look forward to seeing our patrons and developing lasting relationships.



**Kate Sheehan,
Systems and Technical
Services Librarian**

Libraries stand at the intersection of culture and community and we're excited to be a part of a library rich in both. The Tech Services department is looking forward to continuing to improve

library technology for this very tech-savvy town and to growing an already rich collection of literature for Newtown.



**Alana Bennison,
Children's Librarian**

It's never too early to introduce the child in your life to the joy of books and reading. The Children's Department is brimming with a wide variety of titles in print, audio, online and ebook formats. Our staff is

happy to help you find that perfect book to match every child's interests and reading ability. We also offer fun educational programs beginning with Mother Goose for infants and toddlers, story times for pre-school age children, plus hands-on science, art, music and technology workshops for all ages.

**Kim Weber,
Young Adult Librarian**

In the YA Department you'll find a great book collection, internet computers, lots of board games, plus comfy chairs perfect for studying or hanging out with friends. Our Young Adult Council (YAC) meets twice a month to help plan programs, make book recommendations, create displays and work on special projects. In addition to multiple creative writing classes, an annual Battle of the Books competition, numerous craft classes and fandom parties we are excited to offer teens an introduction to new technologies through chbMakers, Arduino, coding classes and hands-on workshops. Stop by the YA Department next time you're at the library to see the 3D printer in action and to meet some of our wonderful teens.



**Lucy Handley,
Adult Programming**

We're looking forward to new programs: Bee Keeping, Impressionism, Drumming Away the Blues, Yoga and Journaling, Crafts, and the erudite lectures of Yale's Dr. Mark Schenker are only some

of free programs open to the community. There will be monthly art and photography shows. In the spring of 2015 we'll be bringing back "Newtown Reads," a town-wide event where everyone is encouraged to read the same book and participate in the accompanying programs.

**Beryl Harrison,
Assistant Director**

The library is a tribute to the many people – staff, Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, Curator and patrons – who work tirelessly to keep the building and our wonderful collections in peak condition. Come see our displays, artwork and antiques. Have coffee or tea in the Friends' Café then browse through our large collection of DVDs, CDs, and books. Use our computer workstations or bring your laptop to a cozy corner. We invite you to enjoy your library!



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Library Services

Programs and Events

- Author talks
- Book discussion groups
- Craft workshops
- Art appreciation talks
- Writing groups
- Music programs
- Poetry readings
- Theater and play events

Plus!

- Art exhibits
- Cabaret Night
- Chess
- Edible Book Contest
- Lectures with Dr. Mark Schenker
- Scrabble
- Summer Reading for kids, teens & adults
- Downton Abbey Tea

The C.H. Booth Library also offers:

- **chbMAKERS** – a creative, collaborative space with 3-D printing and much more...
- Books on Wheels service to the homebound
- Large Print materials
- Movies and music to take home

Children's Department

- Traditional story times for ages three to five
- Mother Goose programs for ages birth to three
- Sensory story time

- Art, music, and science workshops for ages five to nine
- Summer reading program for ages four to eleven
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Juvenile Print and Electronic Materials

- More than 40,000 books for all ages and interests
- eBooks, audio books, music CDs, and DVDs
- Muzzy Language learning online
- World Book Web
- Tumblebooks
- TrueFlix

Museum Passes

Check out a museum pass with a valid library card and enjoy free or reduced admission to the Beardsley Zoo, Mystic Aquarium, the Children's Museum and more local nature, art, and science museums.

Young Adult Department

Serving Grades Six - High School with Fiction, Nonfiction, Biographies, Graphic Novels, Periodicals, Audiobooks, Listening Station, plus four Internet Computers

Programming

- Creative Writing workshops
- Battle of the Books Trivia Competition
- Minecraft Club
- Crafts and STEM Workshops
- Literature inspired parties and events!

- Game Nights and volunteer opportunities

Young Adult Council

- Newtown students in grades six and up
- Talk about books we've read
- Plan library programs
- Create library displays

Reference & Information Services

Computers for public use, scanner, fax, wired and wireless printing

eBooks and downloadable audiobooks

Hands-on, drop-in tech classes

Virtual Small Business Development Center

Online Resources: Free access from home through chboothlibrary.org

- **Atoz Databases** – business information
- **Consumer Reports Online**
- **Learning Express** – practice tests and computer skills tutorials
- **Transparent Language Online** – learn any of 100 languages
- **Valueline Investment Survey**
- **Universal Class** – hundreds of online classes in a range of subjects

Special Collections

- Antiques and Collectibles
- Art
- Genealogy
- Newtown Authors and Illustrators
- Autism Resource Center

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Almeida, Victor & Isabel
Alte, Elizabeth
Ammett, Skip & Peggy
Ando, Ronald & Carole
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Arfaras, George
Armstrong, Thomas & Maureen
Armstrong, William & Patricia
Arsenault, John F. & Pamela A.
Assner, Susan M.
Atkinson, Ed & Marilyn
Auerbach, Richard & Julia
Baade, David & Renee
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