Library Mission:
- Inform, enrich, and empower the public;
- Support intellectual freedom;
- Encourage lifelong learning; and
- Strengthen community engagement in a welcoming environment.

Strategic Plan:

Goal 1. To provide a state of the art community library experience

Goal 2. To increase information and technology literacy through staff and patron education

Goal 3. To develop and execute a comprehensive communications program to help all residents of Metuchen become aware of the vast variety of services offered by the Library

Goal 4. To provide both physical and digital library collections that are well-selected, up-to-date, and reflect our community needs

Goal 5. To serve as a community resource for lifelong education, civic engagement and cultural activities

Library BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Waldron, President
Samina Ali, Vice-President
John Koskoski, Treasurer
Kellie Davideit, Secretary
Maureen Cozine, Trustee
Spencer Dreher, Trustee
Caitlin Mollison, Trustee
Maryrose Little, Superintendent's Representative
Linda Koskoski, Mayor's Representative

Library STAFF

Hsihsi Chung, Director
Deborah Zupan, Principal Librarian
John McBride, Senior Librarian
Glynis Brookens, Youth Services Librarian
Mary Beth Mulligan, Principal Library Assistant
Moira Whittington, Youth Services Sr. Assistant
Gretta Boardley, Library Assistant
Lorraine Doyle, Library Assistant
Kathy Gorman, Library Assistant
Joanne Jacobson, Library Assistant
Vivian Lanciotti, Library Assistant
*Heather Metz, Library Assistant
*Shizuka Mori, Library Technology Assistant
*Samantha Rice, Library Assistant
Raymond Shirley, Library Assistant
Casey Williams, Library Assistant
*Jeffrey Chiang, Library Page
*New Staff

**Staff Left in 2019:
Tianjiao Yun-Demato (Jan-Feb.)
Ryan Norman (Jan-June)
Ryan Miller (Jan.-Nov.)

Metuchen Public Library
480 Middlesex Ave.
Metuchen, NJ 08840
P: 732-632-8526
www.metuchenlibrary.org

Hours of Services:
Monday-Thursday 10-9 PM
Friday-Saturday 10-5 PM
Sunday (Sept.-May) 1-5 PM
Welcome to the Metuchen Public Library 2019 Annual Report.

In 2019, the Metuchen Public Library completed several capital improvements in the areas of building and grounds, including installing security cameras, upgrading the library LED lighting, repairing and replacing uneven and broken walkways and sidewalks, and repairing the partial slate roof. The Library created a couple of new positions. The Library also offered many new programs and services to maintain steady growth and engage with the community.

The Library was excited to apply for the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act which is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The Bond Act includes 125 million in state funding, approved by a majority of voters on Nov. 7, 2017, and is dedicated to library construction and improvements. A 1:1 matching fund was required as part of the application submission. With support from the Borough of Metuchen, the Library worked diligently with the library board and the architect to propose three construction projects. These projects include rehabilitation and restoration of the lower level and main floors, as well as expansion of the two-building corners.

The ultimate goal of this extensive and ambitious construction proposal is to maximize library space functionality, modernize library technology and infrastructure, and expand library parking space. The Library board made a PowerPoint presentation to the Borough Council on June 10 and held a public meeting on July 23 to seek support and input from the community. The rules and regulations of the Bond Act were finally introduced on October 10, 2019.

The library had over 120,000 visitors in 2019. There were 137,418 items borrowed, a 17% increase from 117,359 (2018), including an 18% increase in circulation of juvenile materials, and an 8.6% increase in circulation of the adult collection. There was a 23% increase in electronic materials from 13,222 (2018) to 16,980 (2019), including OverDrive, Hoopla, and Rbdigital magazines. Library and community program attendance increased by 3.5% with over 12,000 people attended the library programs. There were over 21,600 sessions of public internet computer use, 12,491 sessions of wireless usage, and 80,013 website visits.

The library is a part of the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (LMxAC) of 32 member libraries, which facilitates resource sharing and interlibrary loans. The library’s reciprocal borrowing circulation was up from 22,025 to 25,822, a 17% increase. The Library loaned out 10,624 items to LMxAC libraries using the delivery service 4 times per week and borrowed 16,833 items from LMxAC libraries.

What’s your library worth? Based on the 2019 budget of $780,766, the library’s services and materials used by library users were valued at over $3.7 million. In other words, every $1 spent from the library budget generated $4.75 value from the library materials and services provided to the community.

Metuchen Library has strong community partners, always offering wide ranges of programs, resources, and services to meet the interests and demands of the community! We are fully committed to engage, empower, and enrich our vibrant and growing community, bringing people together, fostering creativity and encouraging lifelong learning.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Library Board of Trustees, Friends of the Metuchen Library, local organizations, and businesses that partnered with the Library, library volunteers, and library staff who have worked to make the Library a welcoming, fun and resourceful community center.

Thank you for the generous support and donation. We will look forward to another bright and productive year in 2020.

Hsihsi Chung, Library Director
CIRCULATION STATISTICS

2019 Annual Circulation
137,418

- In-house: 65,591 (45%)
- Adult: 54,847 (38%)
- Juvenile: 16,980 (12%)
- Electronic: 7,630 (5%)

Electronic Resources

- Rbdigital: 2018 - 3,698, 2019 - 1,953
- hoopla: 2018 - 3,615, 2019 - 3,318

2019 LMXAC Annual Circulation By Types

- Print: 100,838 (65%)
- Non-print: 36,580 (24%)
- Electronic: 16,980 (11%)
- hoopla: 3,615 (2%)
- eLibraryNJ: 9,667 (6%)
- Rbdigital: 3,698 (3%)

Colors: Print - Blue, Non-print - Green, hoopla - Purple, eLibraryNJ - Cyan, Rbdigital - Pink
### Fun Facts of Usages

- **Website Visits**: 80,013
- **Digital Archives**: 1,679
- **Reference Questions**: 19,655
- **Public Computer Usages (1/2 hr per sesh.)**: 21,608
- **WIFI Sessions**: 12,491
## WHAT’S OUR LIBRARY ADDING VALUE?

**Over 3 Million Dollars in 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Materials &amp; Services</th>
<th>Value of Service*</th>
<th>Number of Uses</th>
<th>Total Value of Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult/YA/Children’s Print Books Borrowed</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>100,838</td>
<td>$1,714,246.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eBooks/eMagazines Downloaded</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>16,980</td>
<td>$198,330.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiobooks/Movies/CD Borrowed</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>16,900</td>
<td>$168,155.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loan Requests</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>27,457</td>
<td>$686,425.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines/Newspapers Borrowed and Read</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>$47,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Assistance</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>19,655</td>
<td>$137,585.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database Searches</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
<td>12,633</td>
<td>$252,028.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Program Attended</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>6,929</td>
<td>$103,935.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Program Attended</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>1,935</td>
<td>$23,220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Program Attended</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>3,463</td>
<td>$24,241.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Use (per hour)</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>10,304</td>
<td>$138,030.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wireless Sessions</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>12,491</td>
<td>$149,892.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Room Use (per hour)</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>1,054</td>
<td>$26,350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Passes Borrowed</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>$2,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Value of Your Library Use in Return of Investment (ROI)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$3,710,795.30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The cost figures for library services were derived by the [Massachusetts Library Association](https://www.masslibrary.org), based on average prices from companies providing similar services including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, iTunes, Netflix, FedEx/Kiosks, and more.*
Library Return on Investment to Community

Library Return on Investment (ROI)

Economic Value of Library Services
ROI = ________________________________

Library Budget

- 2019 Appropriation Cost Per Capita: $54.28
- 2019 Library Cost per Resident per Day: $14.87
- Estimated Yearly Economic Value of Library Services = $3,710,795.30
- 2019 Library Municipal Budget = $780,766.00
- Return on Investment (ROI) = $4.75
- For every $1.00 invested in Metuchen Public Library, $4.75 of value is returned to the community
- Based on the estimated population of 14,382 (2019)

2019 Library Budget

- $780,766.00, 98%
- $5,947.00, 1%
- $8,633.76, 1%

1/3 Mill Funding: New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 40:54-8) sets the minimum funding for municipal public libraries at “1/3 mill,” or $0.33 on each $1,000 of equalized value of all assessable property in the Town. By State law, the municipality must allocate this money to the library in its annual budget.
BUILDING AND GROUNDS

- Installed security cameras on the library premises to keep the public and staff safe.
- Proposed 3 construction projects including the Lower Level Rehabilitation and Renovation, Main Floor Space Redesign and Additions, and Public Parking Lot Expansion. The total cost for the proposed projects is estimated at $2,408,125 with 1:1 matching fund from the Borough. The New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act of 2017 makes 125 million dollars available to public libraries for construction projects. A presentation was made at the Council meeting in June and a public meeting was held in July regarding the library’s renovation, redesign, and expansion plans.
- Lighting was upgraded to LED lighting through a PSEG energy upgrade efficiency plan, and two small AC units were replaced.
- Uneven and broken walkways and sidewalks were finally repaired by the Borough through the Community Development Block Grant. Approximately 400 square feet of the Library Roof was repaired through the Borough budget. The repair project began in late December 2019 and was completed in early January 2020.

COLLECTION AND SERVICES

- The Library was honored by the Metuchen Accessibility Committee and presented with the 2019 SOFI Award for inclusiveness.
- Subscribed to the NewYorkTimes.com, providing free digital access to Library cardholders.
- Free access to the Omnigraphics Teen Resource Center online database was added courtesy of the Metuchen Municipal Alliance.
- Received a $6,000 history grant from Middlesex County Office of Arts and History to continue digitizing the local Metuchen-Edison The Review, July 1989-1994.
- Offered wireless printing and Notary Public service.
- Participated in the LMXAC summer Library Trading Card activity. “The first Metuchen Library was founded in 1870 by the Order of the Sons of Temperance to "promote mental culture and good morals". In 1928, it became a municipal library. The Library is on the National Register of Historic Places—Middlesex Avenue – Woodwild Park Historic District.”
- Added a value statement to the checkout receipt. Patrons now see the message “Congratulations! By borrowing from your library, you saved: $$$”.
- Promoted the library branding through our logo, newsletter, brochures, library events, and services; the library started a Twitter account.
- Several new computers and large print keyboards were added to all departments.
Staff Development Day on 12/13 was chosen, and was entitled “We’re All Biased: Here Is How Can Manage It”. It was presented by Lourdes Tango.

PERSONNEL

The Library welcomed new staff members: Samantha Rice and Heather Metz, Library Assistants, in August; Shizuka Mori, Library Technology Assistant, in October.

TianJiao Yun-Demato, Ryan Norman, and Ryan Miller left in February, June, and November, respectively, with new job offers.

PROGRAMS

The Friends of Metuchen Library generously provided funding of $17,500 for library programming and resources. The Library applied for an art grant from Middlesex County Office of Arts and History and received $3,000 with $750 (25%) of library matching to offer 13 art classes to all ages of children and adults.

The Library offered 971 library programs to 12,327 attendees, as well as 282 community programs with 2,945 attendees. There were a total of 1,253 library and community programs with a total attendance of 15,272.

Adult and General Program Highlights

- International Films and the Movie Social program offered 54 movie showings to over 1,400 attendees.
- Lunar New Year Celebration in February attracted over 350 adults and children, who enjoyed the fantastic performances and arts and crafts.
- For the 4th annual Library Card Sign-up Month Campaign in September, the Library partnered with 30 participating local businesses to offer discounts or special offers to Metuchen Library cardholders, resulting in a boost of over 100 library card signups.
- Author talks, health screenings, financial and legal seminars, and craft programs such as holiday card making, and jewelry making classes were well attended.
- The 4th year of the Spanish Book Discussion Club enjoyed great participation at their monthly meetings.
- Human Relation Committee offered Drag Queen Story Time in the community, as well as the Human Relation Book Discussion Group.
- One-on-One Tech Help and the e-Resources Help Sessions offered assistance to tablet and smartphone users.
- New programs were offered in 2019 including weekly Line Dance, monthly Board Games, and two knitting nights each month.
Children Programs Highlights

- The 2019 Summer Reading theme was “A Universe of Stories”; a total of 279 registrations and over 6,474 hours of reading were reported; over 50 programs offered with more than 800 people attending; over 130 children attended the ice cream social.
- Weekly programs, such as “Little Listeners”, “Babies, Books & Blocks”, “Rhythm & Rhyme Storytime”, “Tiny Tots Mini”, “Bookworms” and “Movin’ to the Music” had regular attendance.
- Bruiser, the therapy dog, passed away in August; there were books purchased in memory of Bruiser and his 5 years of service to community kids and families; a special Bruiser label and bookplates were made.
- Monthly “Library Labs” offered cool experiments and creative activities.
- “Raising Readers” and “Saturday Specials” were two new weekend programs.
- In 2019 the Library again received an art grant of $3,000 from the Middlesex County Office of Arts and History. The Library partnered several local artists, including Kim Adlerman, Kataryna Celinska, Sondra Flite, Edward Wetzel, and Little Fish Art Studio, and offered 13 art classes such as watercolor, drawing, mixed-media, and abstract painting. Over 170 students participated. The Art show was held in August and the reception was held on August 1st to invite participants and their families.

Young Adult Programs Highlights

- The Coat Drive, run by TAB members, collected more than 100 coats, some blankets and clothes, donating them to the Society of St. Vincent De Paul in Perth Amboy.
- Acting and Improv classes were offered to teens through funding provided by the Margaret Beals Foundation for sociodrama to promote self-esteem and confidence.
- Offered a wide variety of programming, including a series of college prep tests and talks on SAT and ACT, “Art with Perspective”, “Astronomy Solar”, “Chalk the Walk”, Entrepreneurship, “Fall into Watercolors”, “Garden State Equality”, “Graphic Novels”, “Dungeon and Dragons”, as well as chocolate dipping, bread, pizza and soap makings, and our first “Costume Swap” event, etc.
- Received a mini-grant from ALA to facilitate two Google CS First for Hour of Code, Code Your Hero programs to celebrate Computer Science Education Week.
- TAB members had a successful bake sale fundraising.
- TAB members offered “Homework Buddies” to K-8+ students.
Makery Programs Highlights

- Metuchen Makers Day on March 23 was well attended with over 250 adults and children. We partnered with Metuchen High School Robotics Team, Coderdojo, and WeMake 4-H. The Library offered activities including make-your-own flashlight, Homemade Play Dough, Tie-Dye Bandana, and Origami.
- WeMake 4-H offered a monthly inclusive STEM maker space program for special needs children.
- Makery programs offered such as Egg Drop Challenge, Fun with Circuits, and Edible DNA were presented, in addition to coding, JAVA, Python, robotics, 3D printing, web design, and circuitry classes.
- Leap into Science has partnered with the library for more innovative library STEM programs
- Harry Potter and Girl-centered STEM programs were also offered.
- Many truly dedicated partnerships, such as CoderDojo, WeMake4H, and CompDojo continued to contribute to the success of the Metuchen Makery
- The number of committed volunteers grew to assist the Library in offering Makery programming in coding, robotics, 3D printing, web design, circuitry classes, and many more.
- Makery volunteers also offered a variety of activities at the Metuchen Country Fair.

Outreach Programs Highlights

- Memorial Day Parade
- DIY giant bubble making at the National Night Out
- Library Card Sign-up Month
- Tri-County History Fair
- Metuchen Country Fair: October Country Fair with the theme of “Broadway”. The Library presented the Broadway theme decoration of “Music Man” and activities of “From Books to Broadway”, Broadway on Wheel, and a green screen for video recording. The Library won the 1st prize for the Most Interactive Award.
- Soles4Souls Shoe Drive and Coat Drive.
Literacy ESL Programs

- In 2019, the Library joined Literacy New Jersey and continued to provide essential ESL classes on Monday nights and several small groups of tutoring services through the Friends-funded membership.

GALLERY

The dedicated Gallery Coordinators, Kathy Glaser, and Cathy Tardosky “retired” and were thanked for their excellent contribution and service since 2015. The Library welcomed Margaret Cohen to lead and coordinate more exhibits and activities for the library gallery.

- A Chinese painting exhibit presented by Teacher Yu-Chen Chen in the front lobby.
- Middlesex County Arts and Education traveling exhibits are shown in February.
- Kim Adlerman’s “Cats and Critters” exhibition from March through May.
- “Curator’s Corner” Art Exhibit was scheduled for June and July.
- August Art exhibit included the artwork presented by the children who participated in the grant-funded art classes from May through July.
- Ray Skibinsky’s Edison Oak Tree Group exhibited in September.
- Gallery Walk and Ray Skibinsky, Faces and Places were held in October.
- Pauline Perlman had a special Faceless doll display.
- A special exhibit of Mary Wilkins Freeman who was an American writer and local author was displayed in the front lobby during November and December. It was presented by Becky Seely.
Volunteers

Once again the Library would like to sincerely thank our dedicated volunteers! Over 280 library volunteers were contributing over 2,500 hours of services in 2019. In addition, the Friends of the Metuchen Library and Garden Club of Metuchen offered countless hours of services. There are many individuals and local groups offering helping hands to make the Library and our community better. Our volunteers are true “rock stars”!
FRIENDS OF THE METUCHEN LIBRARY

Friends of the Metuchen Library generously presented an annual gift of $17,500 to the Library for supporting library programming, special services, and resources.

- A new slat-displayed bulletin board for library programs and events funded by the Friends
- A library throw with a library logo.
- Literacy ESL program through Literacy New Jersey for 2018-2019, offered free ESL classes as well as one-on-one and small group tutoring services.
- Grounds for Sculpture stopped the library museum pass membership in October but the Friends picked up new memberships from the Frick Collection, New York Historical Society, Newark Museum and Brooklyn Botanical Garden, all available to the Friends members that are LMXAC library cardholders; usage of museum passes increased by 15%, from 142 to 164 times.
- The Friends raised funds through their membership drive, daily/annual book sales, and special events. The Friends had many members who came to volunteer on a daily/weekly basis and many members from the community to show support of the library services.
- The Friends raised over $5,000 in a one-day annual book sale event.
2019 SNAPSHOTs