Friends of the Swarthmore Public Library

The Friends of the SwPL are integral to our ability to provide great services and programs to the community. Each year the hard work of the members of the Friends group in organizing book and bake sales and fundraising appeals helps the Library meet its goals. In 2019 alone the Friends has provided nearly 20% of our budget, in addition to sponsoring awesome services, such as the Museum and Parks Pass Program.

The Friends’ Board (from left to right)
Betty Dowling, Vice President
Carol Kennedy, President
Anne Papa, Treasurer
Virginia Williams Joyce, Secretary

Library Volunteers

Our volunteers have spent 3,278 hours helping the Library provide excellent service to our patrons. We cannot do what we do without you. Thank you!

Jeannine Anckaitis  Kate Francis  Bern Rehberg
Marnie Berkowitz  Kathy Gerner  Sarah Rehberg
Nancy Carroll  Moira Hahn  Carol Savery
Sam Charney  Virginia Williams Joyce  Diane Scott
Patti Clymer  Carol Kennedy  Jenny Shulbank
Louise Coffin  Alison Manaker  Beth Soch
Lois DeLapp  Bob Mayer  Marty Spiegel
Betty Dowling  Maria Mooney  Helene Van Hoeven
Sue Dyson  Eve Mountford  Sally Wadleigh
Beth Fitzsimons  Mimi Nenno  Betty Wallace
Meredith Flower  Anne Papa
Sally Fullam  Dorothy Philipson
Amber Osborne, Library Director

It is hard for me to pinpoint my favorite part about our library. It could be the collection— I love walking down the aisles in search of something to occupy my mind. Will it be poetry, history, mystery, biography, or something entirely different? Unbelievably, there are over 56,000 titles in our collection and I always seem to find the perfect thing!

My favorite thing could be our many events and program offerings. We have art, language, music, lectures, movies, flower arranging, stories, and more happening all the time. In 2019, we shared these events with nearly 12,000 people and loved every minute.

Maybe my favorite things are all the extras we offer— eReaders, ancestry, magazines, Museum & Park Passes, newspapers, the Storybook Walk, Hoopla, movies, music, Book It! 5k run/walk— there are so many it’s exhausting just making this list!

All those things are great and make our library one of the busiest in Delaware County, but what I really love about our library are the people. Each one of you who walks through our doors to work your shift, borrow a book, attend a program, volunteer your time, ask a question, or take advantage of all the extras breathes, life into our library. You are the reason the library is here and I appreciate your help in making us the bustling heart of the town.

James Banko, President of the Swarthmore Public Library Board of Trustees

Two thousand nineteen was the ninetieth year of the Swarthmore Public Library’s existence. To celebrate, last May we held something of a birthday party in the amphitheater adjacent to the library with children’s stories read out loud, speeches delivered, dances for kids organized, and the setting up of an “escape the room” game. Also in 2019, the library debuted a new logo and increased the library’s “Aging in Place” program by providing additional services for older adults and related training to the staff and volunteers of the library.

The library provides great services to so much of the Swarthmore community where 66% of the population is registered with a library card (excluding the college student population). Now in 2020, the Library has two needs. First, the library desperately needs to expand its physical premises. Second, within the next few years, the library’s annual expenditures will exceed the library’s present operating income. Thus, funding continues to be a major concern for the library.

The library Board will continue in its efforts to ensure the Library continues its tradition of excellence in the community. Fundraising is becoming an ever more important part of that goal, as well as ensuring the library reaches its 100th birthday at the end of this decade.
Programs & Events

For children & families

- 489 programs attended by 9,407 people
- Highlights include Day of Service Project, Community Art Project, Mask Making at the Farmer’s Market, One Book One Swarthmore Story Time, and Outreach Visits to Cades.
- 150 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math (STEAM) programs

For adults

- 265 programs attended by 2,450 people
- Highlights include Flower Arranging Workshop, Anna Crusis Choir, Chinese New Year, Spring Yoga, Video Lecture Series, and Tai Chi Chih.
- 52 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math (STEAM) programs
Circulation

Total Circulation: 104,704

- Adult: 32,490
- Periodicals: 2,121
- Audiobooks: 2,878
- Music: 2,319
- Video: 7,050
- Museum & Parks Passes: 774
- eReaders: 201
- Picture Books: 18,444
- Juvenile: 22,074
- Young Adult: 3,765
- eBooks (Overdrive): 10,180
- Streaming (Hoopla): 2,408

Inter Library Loan (not counted in total circulation)

- In County Materials Sent: 8,378
- In County Materials Received: 11,698
- Out of County Materials Sent: 115
- Out of County Materials Received: 133

Membership, Computer Use, & Collection

Registered patrons: 3,024

66% of Swarthmore’s population (excluding Swarthmore College)

Computer Usage: 5,700 hours (does not include untracked Wi-Fi usage)

Total Collection: 56,092

Volumes added: 2,515
Volumes withdrawn: 2,362
New and Improved SwPL Logo

As part of our 90th anniversary celebration, we unveiled a new logo for our library. We were lucky enough to work with local graphic designer, Amy Pollack, owner of Twist’n’Shout on the new design. After some in depth discussions about the library, its mission, programs, and services, Amy came up with the concept of the library as a bustling hub of the community. This hub, visualized in the logo through the circular shapes, then connects to the Swarthmore community through the 4 colorful leaves. The leaves also connect back to our mission of empowering our community to Read, Meet, Discover, and Grow. The circle of books adds to the depth of the image and acknowledges the discovery and informational aspect of our work. We’re so pleased with our lively, colorful logo!

Staff and Volunteer Development

On March 7, thirty staff and volunteers participated in training sessions featuring speakers from Crozer-Keystone Hospital discussing service for patrons with dementia and/or Alzheimer’s, training on customer service including our Service Philosophy, and certification for staff on AED/CPR. The cost for the training was covered by a grant for Aging in Place services from Swarthmore Borough.

Day of Service Project

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, the Library partnered with the MOM’s Club of the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District for a day of service. The community was invited to donate items and/or volunteer to help us put together breakfast bags for local homebound seniors. We had numerous individuals donate items and 80 children and adults join us on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to organize the bags. By the end of the project, over 200 bags were prepared for delivery.
2019 HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

New Team Member

In May, Kerry Doyle joined the Library team as a Library and Public Relations Assistant. Kerry’s previous work as an adjunct college professor has given her broad ability to help people navigate available resources, find new books, and adapt to new technologies. Public relations is an important aspect of getting the word out about all we do but is a large job for a small staff. Kerry has significantly helped our little library to focus and increase our publicity efforts. Welcome, Kerry!

One Book, One Swarthmore

*One Book, One Swarthmore (OBOS)* was an inaugural community-wide reading program where we endeavored to bring together our community to have thoughtful discussion around important issues through the reading, discussion, and celebration of a common book. Modeled after *One Book, One Philadelphia*, the idea for OBOS was brought to us by community leader, Satya Nelms. We began with a community wide vote on the featured book for each age group; each book was within the 2019 theme, “I, Too, Am America,” taken from the Langston Hughes poem, “I, Too”. After the vote, we held an all community potluck to discuss the book choice then followed up with a community art project, poetry workshop, and a fun filled story time. We look forward to more civic dialogue and comradery as we make OBOS a tradition for our library.

Aging in Place Initiatives

Thanks to a grant from Swarthmore Borough for services for older adults, we have been able to continue our work in serving the aging in place population. In 2019, we continued offering our popular Video Lecture Series and Teen Tech Tutor sessions. We also introduced a new series that allows our patrons to create, featuring workshops teaching techniques such as watercolor, marker art, and flower arranging. In May, sixteen participants took the train into Philadelphia to visit the Penn Museum of Anthropology and Archeology where they took a guided tour, and had a catered lunch in the museum.
90th Anniversary

On May 17, 2019, the Library celebrated 90 years of serving the Swarthmore community with books, camaraderie, information, and inspiration. We celebrated with a balloon fundraiser plus a kick-off party with live music and a birthday party featuring special guest readers and performances, costumed characters, Story Time with Judy Schachner, cupcakes, piñata, and an Escape the Room game. Not only did we have a wonderful participant turn out for our events, but we had dozens of volunteers and organizations offer their time, goods, and services in support of our library. We are very grateful to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community!
$1,955,018
$315 per Swarthmorean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Books Borrowed</td>
<td>$649,800</td>
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<td>Young Adult Books Borrowed</td>
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<td>Children’s Books Borrowed</td>
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<td>Audiobooks Borrowed</td>
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<td>Interlibrary Loan Requests</td>
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<td>Magazines Read</td>
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<td>Newspapers Read</td>
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<td>CDs Borrowed</td>
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<td>Music Downloaded</td>
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<td>Adult Program Attendance</td>
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<td>Computer Use (excluding wifi)</td>
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<td>Reference Assistance</td>
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American Library Association, Library Value Calculator
http://www.ala.org/advocacy/library-value-calculator
Operating Income: $315,263
- Government Sources: $204,099
- Fundraising & Grants: $22,663
- Friends of the SwPL Donation: $64,741
- Library Generated Revenue: $21,261
- Other: $2,500

Operating Expenses: $311,077
- Salaries & Benefits: $250,173
- Collection & Services: $43,395
- General & Administrative: $11,414
- Programming: $6,095