From the Director

The Strength of Paper Chains….

2018 will be remembered sadly for the tragic loss of the life of Deane Kenny Stryker in February. Deane was a Winchester resident and medical school student that came to the library to study on a Saturday morning. Her violent death deeply affected the kind bystanders who tried in vain to help, as well as countless others. The year will also be remembered for the incredible outpouring of support by the Winchester community.

Paper chains were the idea of Kathleen Zagata of the First Congregational Church. She envisioned the Winchester community showing their love and support to the Library through an installation of paper chains in the Children’s Room. Kathleen brought together the interfaith communities, nursery schools, town businesses, Winchester School of Chinese Culture, Winchester for Peace, Winchester Coalition for a Safer Community, the Jenks, and various neighborhoods. The messages written on each link of the chains were wonderful, but they were only one small sign of the strong support we received from so many. One sad event revealed how much support we had from not only Winchester communities and fellow workers, but from other libraries and patrons in our network and even outside of Massachusetts. There were so many letters and so much food for so long it was almost overwhelming. We were not only grateful but surprised by the quantity and the depth of the support. It reflects the health of the community that patrons, staff and programs returned to our library so quickly.

It is truly our privilege to serve the residents of Winchester and all our library patrons that use our facility as their library of choice. We are grateful to our donors, volunteers and the members of our Friends of the Library who are so generous to us. We look forward to 2019 when a new heating and air conditioning system is installed and two additional study rooms are added to the main floor.

Ann Wirtanen

Connect with Us

80 Washington Street
Winchester, MA 01890
781-721-7171

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HOURS
Monday - Thursday: 9:30 AM - 9:00 PM *
Friday - Saturday: 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Sunday: (Oct--May) 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

* Children's Room closes at 8:00 PM
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We love spending time as a family at the library. Thank you for making us feel welcomed!

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Stephanie Wolflink
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Year in Review

This library is the best of the many I’ve used in the US. I never stop learning - I’m 92!

- **83,759** wi-fi logins (up 13.7%)
- **325** Library of Things items borrowed such as hotspots, projectors, and film converters
- **1,201** laptops & chargers borrowed
- **56,637*** digital items borrowed (up 181.5%)
- **430** free public programs offered
- **58,044** reference database searches (up 1.4%)
- **460,991*** items borrowed
- **40,097** questions answered
- **4,351** read to during R.O.A.R (up 6.2%)
- **45** school visits (up 21.6%)
- **4,857** study room users
- **16,127**† public computer sessions
- **1,245** new library cards issued (up 12.7%)
- **13,826**** attended programs
- **70** one-on-one instruction appointments
- **4,857** study room users
- **236,982** visited the library
- **897** books delivered to homebound patrons
- **181,570** study room users
- **25,000** new library cards issued

Increases are from 2017 numbers

* includes Hoopla circulation
** now includes outreach visits except ROAR attendance
† does not include borrowed laptops