

Salem Free Public Library Annual Report

Mission Statement:

“The Salem Free Public Library improves the quality of life for the public by providing resources that build a sense of community and contribute to individual knowledge, enlightenment, and enjoyment.”

The Salem Free Public Library is a library that was actually built by the community it serves. We receive our community’s continued support, through their consistent usage, their tax dollars that pay for a dedicated and experienced staff, a large quantity of hours donated by an enthusiast team of volunteers and generous contributions to the Friends of Salem Library. Salem Free Public Library continues to be awed by the faithful support of our community. We thank you.

In addition to Town of Salem funding, the Salem Library receives financial support and countless man hours from The Friends of Salem Library. In 2013-14, The Friends of Salem Library gave \$13,000 to the library for the support of programs, summer reading, the collection, museum passes, story hour and the teen advisory group. Thanks are also due to the following donors:

- The Moms Club – to add to the Children’s’ Collection
- The Propbusters – for the Collection in general
- Shirley Diamond – for the Poetry Collection
- The Salem Library Knitters – the proceeds from their annual knitting sale will be used for the Collection in General
- The Clamshell Quilters – proceeds from their winter sale will be used for the Collection in General
- Gerald Daigle – for the Collection in general
- Karen Jensen
- Venky Iyer – to add to the Children’s & YA Nonfiction Collection
- Holly Alligood – for the Summer Reading Program
- Chelsea Groton Bank – for the Summer Reading Program
- Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream – for the Summer Reading Program
- R & W Heating – for the Summer Reading Program
- C.G. Real Estate – for the Summer Reading Program

During the year, the library provided 345 programs with a total attendance of 4,621. Presenters taught our patrons to make Indian cuisine, how to “plant up,” design an intention doll, create herbal gifts, and make a fairy houses. Our audiences attended concerts – The Eight Mile River Band, the Hungrytown Folk Duo and Rick Spencer’s Irish/American musical experience. Attendees created all kinds of art – henna, watercolors, embossed cards, braided bracelets, and paper blooms.

The library owns over 34,000 items, comprised of books, magazines, movies, and audio books, and also, e-books, science kits, a kindle, and downloadable audio books. In addition, through our consortium, we have nearly 2000 e-books and 1500 downloadable audio books available.

Salem Free Public Library is large but not exhaustive. If a patron requests an item we do not currently hold in our collection we will borrow that item from other lending institutions. In the 2013/2014 year we borrowed 4,110 items from other institutions and they in turn borrowed 4,715 items from Salem Free Public Library.

The Salem Free Public Library has seen an increased number of patrons this year. As of June 2014, there were 4,864 registered. Salem patrons comprise 63% of the patron base; Bozrah patrons account for 15%; the remaining 22% of patrons come from other towns.

We have several databases for our patrons. Our partnership with the Connecticut State Library allows us access to the high power research databases included in iConn – such as Academic Search Premier, Biography Reference Bank, History Reference Center, and Heritage Quest. In addition, we also offer JobNow – a one-on-one interviewing and resume help aid.

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