



# Greenburgh Public Library

## Annual

### Report to the Community

#### 2016

**The Greenburgh Public Library welcomed 255,000 visitors in 2016.** Attracted by our beautiful facility and the nearly 1,500 programs organized by librarians, residents of all ages came to the library to discover, learn and grow. Reading is still our business and literacy our priority, but it is easy to recognize that the library has become a place where even the silence within our glass-walled reading room is dynamic. Library staff is dedicated to matching that feeling of aspiration by presenting cultural, educational and entertaining opportunities that will enrich and strengthen our community.

**The highlight of 2016 was the introduction of our Strategic Plan** - a document that will help us shape library service through 2018. The foundation of our plan is the articulation of our core values (Welcoming, Diversity, Opportunity, Relationships and Accountability) and the adoption of a new mission statement: *The Greenburgh Public Library is a source for learning, literacy, discovery and delight that enriches lives and strengthens our community.* The plan provides five key areas where staff will focus our efforts during the next three years: Promote Learning, Engage Our Community, Cultivate Curiosity and Delight, Provide a Welcoming Environment, Support Organizational Health. Within each of these areas priorities are identified from which we will establish our annual goals. You can read the entire Strategic Plan on our website.

**The total circulation of library materials increased** by 4% in 2016, due largely to the continuing growth in demand for electronic media (eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, streaming and downloadable music, and streaming video). When combined with the check-outs of physical materials, the number of items borrowed by library users totalled 471,024.

**In 2016, thanks to a grant** from the office of Assemblyman Tom Abinanti and with additional support from The Friends of the Greenburgh Library, the library offered museum passes that provide Greenburgh Library card holders with free access to the *Frick Collection*, *The Guggenheim Museum*, *The Children's Museum of Manhattan*, and *The Intrepid Air, Sea & Space Museum* in New York City. The library also continued our partnership with Stone Barns to offer daily passes to the popular weekend workshops and displays at their Pocantico model farm.

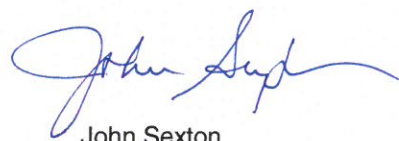
**Librarians had great success with one-on-one** assistance for adults wanting to improve specific computer skills and continued to provide basic computer use classes to older adults. We also offered guidelines and recommendations to parents wanting educational apps for their children.

**With the aid of a New York State Construction grant** the library installed an interior glass partition and sliding door that will help with noise abatement from our well-used teen area, Teenburgh. Often after school, noise from the teen and children's room was problematic for those utilizing the adult reading area. The partition seems to have resolved that issue.

**The Greenburgh Library Guild partnered** with the *Spoken Interludes* for three literary salons which featured authors such as Francine Prose, Amor Towles, and Jane Alexander. The events offered dinner and readings in our Adult Reading area. A portion of proceeds raised will go toward the enhancement of the Children's room scheduled to be completed in 2017.

**With funds from their ongoing book store** in our lobby and the special annual book sale held in October, the Friends of the Greenburgh Library ensured that we had the means to provide the very best library programs imaginable. The library could not offer such an array of programs without their support.

**These library programs** - from toddler story time to creative aging activities; from information for small business to knitting instruction; from Spanish conversation group to movies and concerts; from Philosophy discussion to cookbook clubs - are all designed to ensure that opportunities for learning and discovery are available to every Greenburgh resident. It is my belief that curiosity is an integral part of being human. When we are curious, we explore. When we explore, we discover. When we discover, we learn something new. It is the delight in the process of learning, particularly when experienced together, that establishes the library as such a very special place in the community we are so privileged to serve.



John Sexton  
Library Director

