

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Washington Township Public Library's mission statement serves as a guiding principal for our library. It reflects the commitment we are making to the community.

The Library is a point of pride for the community. Our usage has not only grown, but has evolved over the years from a "traditional library" to a bustling community center.

Last year there were 69,700 visitors checking out more than 168,800 items. Those items included books for adults, kids and teens, in many formats including Wonderbooks, Playaways, eBooks, eAudiobooks, among others. They also checked out mobile hotspots, museum passes, Launchpads, Tonies and Yoto Cards, seeds from our Seed Library, puzzles from our puzzle-swap area, and so much more.

We held more than 900 events ranging from book talks and classes to concerts and storytimes. We're proud that 19,535 people participated in these events with the enthusiasm, questioning, and wisdom we've come to expect from our patrons.

We are a member of the Main Library Alliance, who moved to a new integrated library system (ILS) this year. Koha, is an open source software, which means that our dollars will go toward a product that Main libraries own and operate, making it more adaptable to meet our needs. Main also expanded its membership this year, adding Warren County Library System, Somerset County Library System, and the Berkeley Heights Public Library. The cooperative now includes more than 60 libraries spanning 7 counties and more than 3,000,000 items.





Washington Township Public Library

# 2025

## YEAR IN REVIEW



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We welcomed new patrons, connected with returning users, and saw thousands of materials move through our shelves and into people's homes.



**69,693**

In-Person Visits



**56,894**

Visits to the Website



**122,113**

Physical Items Checked Out



**195,350**

Attended Programs



**46,728**

Digital Items Checked Out

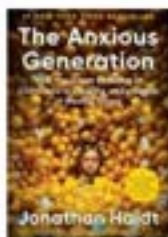


### TOP TITLES

Our community made their favorites loud and clear. These titles led the way!



**ADULT**  
Fiction & Nonfiction



**YOUNG ADULT**  
Fiction & Nonfiction



**JUVENILE**  
Fiction & Nonfiction



# MISSION & VISION @ WTPL

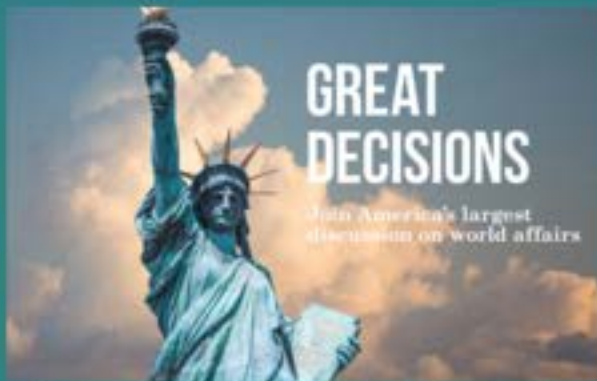
The Washington Township Public Library's mission is to enrich the lives of our residents by encouraging them to connect, discover, learn and create.

## INFORMATION LITERACY



- Access to high speed Wi-Fi, mobile hotspots for loan and public PCs
- Mobile printing, scanning, faxing
- Free, curated reputable databases
- Lectures on Cyber Security and AI

## BE AN INFORMED CITIZEN



- Great Decisions discussion group
- Non Fiction Book Club
- Black History display and programs
- Human Trafficking lecture
- Post Election presentation
- World of Plastics Kiosk
- Navigating Hope, NORWESCAP, Morris/Sussex Ombudsman visits

# CREATE YOUNG READERS



- Pajama Storytimes
- Pre-School Visits
- Annual Summer Reading Club
- Dav Pilkey, Goosebumps & Dirty Mushrooms Book Clubs
- Fish Tales
- Passport Pals
- Themed Reading Lists
- 1000 Books Before
- Kindergarten



# KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

- Beginner ELL Classes
- Repair Cafe
- Morning and Evening Book Clubs
- Mah Jongg and Scrabble Meet-ups
- Genealogy Working Group
- Gardening programs, Seed Library
- Adult Summer Reading Program
- Puzzle Swap
- Knitting Meet-ups
- Card making for Veterans



# SATISFY CURIOSITY



- Travel programs - Cuba: Our Colorful World
- Art Workshops - Bottle Painting, Needle Felting, Origami, Watercolor, Zentangle, Moss Art, Creating with Clay, Festive Terrarium, Holiday Plate Painting
- Floral Workshops: Spring Flower Arranging, Autumnal Centerpieces
- Cookbook Club
- Zoom Art Series



16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BOOKS  
& their owners

Weds. Nov 5<sup>th</sup>  
6:00PM



# MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS

- Lectures on retirement, medical and financial decisions
- Quarterly SRC Munch n' Learn
- Summer Do's and Don't' for Healthy Skin
- Healthy Meal Prep presentation



WTPL has...  
Something for Everyone



# BEHIND THE SCENES

## STAFF

Thank you to the library board, staff, and volunteers for all that you do! We welcome our new Library Assistant Patrice Schaffer

Sadly, we lost four Board of Trustee members this year; Janet Ark, Eileen Jankunis, Kathie Uber and Edward Carpenito

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- President - Kathleen McGroarty
- Vice President - Carolyn Krickus
- Secretary - Sarah Tang
- Treasurer - Mary Grant
- Edward Carpenito
- Superintendent of Schools Alt - Kerry Conklin
- Andrea Huber
- Mayor's Alternate - Heather Kourpas
- Neil Szigethy

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President - Ginger Nathanson
- Vice President - Barbara Turci
- Secretary - Marlene Franey
- Treasurer - Bob Falcone
- Membership - Susan Burgess
- Museum Passes - Cathy Bayman
- Hospitality - Barbara Burke, Trudy Zielenski, Barbara Rossetti
- Member at Large - Sharon Donovan

Thank you to the community groups, organizations, local businesses, and individuals who have worked together with the library to provide programming and enrich the library's offerings to the community.

