

Library Committee 2023 Annual Report

The readership of Newtown Library continues to grow! We currently have **51 books** being borrowed as of today! This is our all-time high and is wonderful news! Every Sunday, someone can usually be seen standing in front of the bookshelves perusing all the books and topics. If you haven't taken a good look at our library, do so today. There is something for everyone. We have 672 wonderful titles waiting for you to discover! We recently moved most of the children's books upstairs because we needed the room!

In 2021, we reported 37 books were designated missing from our inventory, meaning they had not been checked out – they just disappeared. This year 28 have been identified as missing. We still do not have a defined period for how long a book should be borrowed. We trust that the books will be returned. There are, however, more than a handful of people who have forgotten to return their books, holding on to them for years....therefore, the month of March will now be known as **Return Your Library Books Month**! Hopefully by March 31st (Easter Sunday) more books will be back on the shelves and available for others to borrow.

Last Spring, we hosted a pop-up used book sale on the same weekend as the Lasagna Supper. We added the proceeds to our budget allowing us to buy more books. We purchased 17 books: 14 for adults and 3 for children. We participated in donating over a hundred books to the libraries at Historic Fair Hill. We also donated what was not sold at the used book sale to Wrightstown Public Library.

Over the summer, we promoted our books that corresponded with the SPICES acronym by displaying them on a table in the lobby, rotating them out every two weeks beginning with all the books we had on Simplicity, then Peace, then Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship. When the movie ***Rustin*** came out in November, all the books we had on Bayard Rustin were on display. Birthdays are another good way to promote books. Gathering all the books by or about George Fox in July (the month of his birthday) was another fun way to display what we have.

Every year, we are fortunate to have Friends donate used or new books to the library. If we already have the donated book, we donate it to Wendy Kane to distribute to the other meetings in Bucks Quarter. Of the 14 meetings that make up Bucks Quarter, Newtown Meeting is just one of five Meetings that have a library. Some meetings may have a book area, but it is not an organized, dedicated library.

The bulk of the work of the Library Committee takes place in the spring, with hosting the annual used book sale, choosing and ordering new books, processing the books for borrowing and reviewing the shelves for outdated books. For this reason, in 2022, we suggested this work could be accomplished by one or two people. Once the staggering work of reviewing, cleaning, purging the old, virtually unused library and purchasing new books to replace the hundreds of outdated old books, the needs of the library were no longer pressing or enough to occupy many people.

The list of books purchased in 2023 are attached. Suggestions for additions to the library are always welcome!

Submitted by Sharon Hulihan