



**WE WOULDN'T  
BE US WITHOUT YOU**

# Annual Report 2023



UPPER HUDSON  
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.





## The Upper Hudson Library System

# Annual Report 2023

We wouldn't  
be us without YOU

WELCOME FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023 Leadership  
Member Libraries  
Adult, Outreach & Digital Services  
Automation Services  
Youth & Family Services  
2023 Library Expedition  
Member Library Reports  
Annual Awards

### BY THE NUMBERS

2023 Local Support  
2023 Operating Expenses  
2023 Circulation  
2023 Holdings  
2023 Library Use  
2023 Programs  
2023 Resource Sharing

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# WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In order to better understand UHLS and its role, here are five interesting facts about UHLS...

## 1. UHLS has only 29 customers

There are almost 458,000 people in our designated service area of Albany and Rensselaer Counties and we have nearly 245,000 library card holders in our system, BUT... our customers are the 29 member libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Yes, we absolutely provide services and connections that positively impact the lives of all of the residents of our two county service area, but it's important for the member libraries and the UHLS staff to understand that our job at UHLS is to meet each library where it is and help, support, and encourage them to be the best library they can be for their community. That's what we do for our 29 customers.

## 2. UHLS is blessed with exceptionally strong leadership

It is no secret that a strong and stable leadership group is a key ingredient of any successful organization. UHLS is fortunate to have a 14-member board of trustees that provides the leadership and guidance that is essential for a cooperative public library system to succeed. The UHLS board is made up of many seasoned and experienced individuals who have served, or are currently serving, as trustees for their own local library. The board also includes a member library director who serves as a critical leadership link to the UHLS Director's Association and the member libraries. This smart and savvy group approaches their leadership responsibilities with dedication and commitment and sets the tone from the top that service to the member libraries is the priority.

## 3. UHLS staff contribute to every member library's success

The staff at UHLS work hard every day, for every member library. Whether it's changing a loan rule, helping to plan summer reading, tracking digital materials usage and spending, rolling out a new story walk, assisting a library with wireless printing, consulting with a library board on a director search, helping a director with their library's state annual report, creating a new custom circulation report, training staff on the latest version of Sierra, ordering an obscure title on interlibrary loan, facilitating a community focus group for a library's strategic planning process, etc., the UHLS staff are always focused on that singular goal of helping each member library be the best library it can be.

## 4. UHLS is NOT a resource sharing organization

It is true that through the catalog's shared access to both physical and digital materials and the quick and responsive intralibrary delivery service, UHLS makes it possible for our member libraries and the people they serve to have access to almost 1.5 million items...BUT I don't consider UHLS to be a resource sharing organization. Our primary purpose is to be a "library empowerment organization". We strive to give each library the tools, the support, and the confidence they need to be a "community empowerment organization", which should be the goal of every member library.

## 5. UHLS Wouldn't Be Us Without You

The theme of this year's annual report is "We wouldn't be us without you." This phrase aptly describes the mutually sustaining relationship between UHLS and the member libraries. UHLS needs every member library for UHLS to be "Us", a successful cooperative public library system and the libraries depend on UHLS and each other to be their best. As you read this report with stories and pictures from all of the UHLS member libraries, I invite you to take some time to reflect on this theme and see how easily and naturally it applies to the relationship between UHLS and the member libraries.



Tim Bruke, UHLS Executive Director

## UHLS Team

### Timothy Burke

*Executive Director*

### Jona Favreau

*Manager, Administration & Finance*

### Mary Fellows

*Manager, Youth & Family Services*

### Joe Thornton

*Manager, Automation Services*

### Judith Wines

*Manager, Adult, Outreach & Digital Services*

**Robert Carle**, *Training Specialist*

**Rawdon Cheng**, *Systems Administrator*

**Amy DuBrey**, *System Support Associate*

**Alexandra Ostwald**, *Finance Specialist*

**Anne Myers**, *System Support Associate*

## STAFF on the MOVE

### Anne Pitlyk

*City of Albany, Office of the Mayor*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Susan Keitel, *President*

Jackie Marino, *Vice-President*

Fred Wobrock, Jr., *Treasurer*

Yvette Terplack, *Secretary*

## TRUSTEES

Joe Burke

Debbie Carr

Corie Dugas

Camille Engel

Evelyn Greenstein

Tara Ricard

Marcy Savage

Lisa Scoons

Arlene Way

Scott Wyner

# Upper Hudson Library System Board of Trustees

AS OF DECEMBER 21, 2023

## 2023 DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Sarah Clark, *Chair*

Mindy Fowler, *Vice-Chair*

Sara Hopkins, *Secretary*

## DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES to the UHLS BOARD

Joe Burke

*Board and Finance Committee*

Geoff Kirkpatrick

*Administration Committee*

Sarah Clark

*Services Committee*

# UHLS Member Libraries

## **Albany Public Library**

Brigitte Pryor, Board President  
Andrea Nicolay, Director

## **Altamont Free Library**

Deborah Marion-Katz, Board President  
Joe Burke, Director

## **A. E. Diver Memorial Library**

Angela Ross-Hixson, Board President  
Nicholas Matulis, Director

## **Berlin Free Town Library**

Doug North, Board President  
Sara Rogers, Director

## **Berne Public Library**

Lisa Raymond, Board President  
Kathy Stempel, Director

## **Bethlehem Public Library**

Mark Kissinger, Board President  
Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director

## **Brunswick Community Library**

Alix Duggan, Board President  
Sara Hopkins, Director

## **Castleton Public Library**

Shane Mitchum, Board President  
Melissa Tacke, Director

## **Cheney Library**

Kay Powers, Board President  
Danny Yetto, Director

## **Cohoes Public Library**

Barbara Hildreth, Board President  
Ray LeMay III, Interim Director

## **East Greenbush Community Library**

Marianne Harris, Board President  
Jill Dugas Hughes, Director

## **Grafton Community Library**

Susan Brown, Board President  
Leanna Sweet, Director

## **Guilderland Public Library**

Catherine Barber, Board President  
Nate Hayer, Interim Director

## **Menands Public Library**

Diana Praus, Board President  
Laura Cernik, Director

## **Nassau Free Library**

Athena Batsios, Board President  
Tracey Clague, Director

## **North Greenbush Public Library**

Kenneth Bogdan, Board President  
Mary Klimack, Director

## **Petersburgh Public Library**

Christina Hibbs, Board President  
Anita Wilson, Director

## **Poestenkill Library**

Margaret McClellan, Board President  
Donna Reily, Director

## **RCS Community Library**

Laurel Dickerson, Board President  
Lisa Neuman, Director

## **Rensselaer Public Library**

Mary Lou Knox, Board President  
Jane Chirgwin, Director

## **Rensselaerville Library**

Robert Pondiscio, Board President  
Patrick Wynne, Director

## **Sand Lake Town Library**

Nancy Patton, Board President  
Melinda Fowler, Director

## **Stephentown Memorial Library**

Jennifer Peabody, Board President  
Kim Roppolo, Director

## **Town of Westerlo Public Library**

Maureen Sikule, Board President  
Amy Powarzynski, Director

## **Troy Public Library**

Evelyn Greenstein, Board President  
Paul Hicok, Director

## **Valley Falls Free Library**

Jeanette Sassatelli, Board President  
Kelly Akin, Director

## **Voorheesville Public Library**

Belinda Heckler, Board President  
Sarah Clark, Director

## **Watervliet Public Library**

Tracy Wheatley, Board President  
Whitney Gitman, Director

## **William K. Sanford Town Library**

Donna Cramer-Sharer, Board President  
Evelyn Neale, Director

## ADULT, OUTREACH & DIGITAL SERVICES

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In **Outreach** work, we strive to ensure that our libraries serve the whole community. We had a banner turnout (and a banner, and a float!) for the UHLS contingent at the Capital District Pride Parade. It was incredibly rewarding to see how much love and support libraries received along the parade route.

We were pleased to be able to provide services to both county jails this year. We worked closely with Rensselaer County Jail to help respond to reader interest in the Overdrive collection and to support their programming with materials on mindfulness, as well as provided Albany County Jail requested books.

The Equity Committee has developed and released the UHLS Equity Challenge, which outlines an eight-pronged approach to fostering a more inclusive library environment. The committee eagerly anticipates observing the progress and outcomes as libraries embark on this initiative between 2024 and 2026.

In **Adult Services** we balanced supporting the work that our libraries do, such as hosting multi-system program swaps and providing notary public training, with programs that were designed to be attended by patrons across the system, such as the Great UHLS Spell-off and the field trip to the Alcove Reservoir and Albany water treatment plant.

We helped libraries connect their patrons with information by providing Chromebooks as part of a CDLC Health Literacy initiative, and created and are maintaining a regional literary events calendar.

In **Digital Services**, we expanded our Reciprocal Lending Agreements (RLAs) to include Southern Adirondack Library System and Mohawk Valley Library System, enhancing access to our Overdrive collection across partner libraries. Additionally, through a partnership with Questar BOCES, we increased access to age-appropriate content for students in more school districts in Rensselaer County.

In **other work**, we developed training focused on the financial security of libraries. “Show Me the Money” is a primer on best practices for boards to execute their fiduciary responsibility. Sustainable Funding for Every Library, developed with Tim Burke, helps boards explore options for increasing their local funding via a public budget vote. We also sought to support the work of finance staff at libraries, as well as HR and public information staff with our series “I Work in a Library But...” We worked on making information derived from annual reports and public votes more accessible, enabling libraries to better measure their progress and compare with peers.

The department was sad to lose Anne Pitlyk, who left for a new opportunity, but happy to welcome Anne Myers who has quickly and adeptly become part of the team.



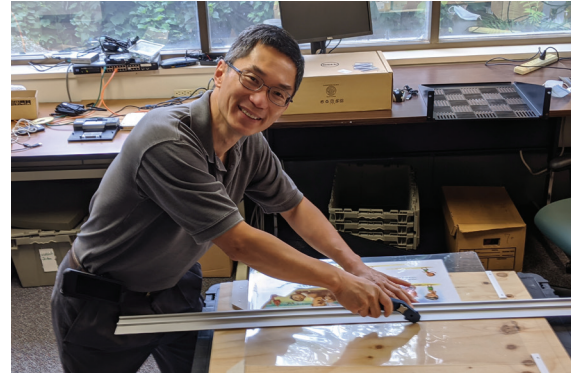
## AUTOMATION SERVICES

Do you like libraries? Of course you do. Why else would you be reading this? Quiet spaces with hundreds or thousands of books, magazines, and DVDs for you to use there or to take home with you for a while to read or watch at your leisure. Friendly, helpful people. Free wifi and public computers. What's not to like?

Well, what our department does is mostly invisible to you, directly anyway, but essential for most of the services you enjoy. And a coworker who did more than anyone else for the past 25+ years to make it all work retired in early 2024, so this report is largely about Rawdon Cheng, the contributions (extremely briefly) he made, and the gratitude we owe him. In what follows, any use of "our department" or "us" implies a major contribution from Rawdon. And a large part of our work in 2023 was preparing for the enormous gap in effort and knowledge created by his departure.

For small libraries, the computers you use in your libraries were probably purchased, staged, and installed by our department. The catalog you search for books and DVDs is supported by us, as is the system your library uses to add books, check them out to you, and remind you when they're due back. The wifi you use for your phones, tablets, and laptops was probably configured and installed by us. Your library's website is probably hosted by us, and secured with regular updates and continual monitoring.

Would you like to hear about the hardware we bought or replaced, the software we installed or updated, the malware we stopped, reports we wrote, or the helpdesk tickets we answered? I didn't think so. Just know that our department is working every day to remain invisible while your library services continue uninterrupted, your data is secured, and your libraries are supported.



### 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

**3,501,169**

Items Checked Out  
965,764 DIGITAL +  
2,535,405 PHYSICAL

**15,284** NEW  
CARDHOLDERS

**1,241,426**

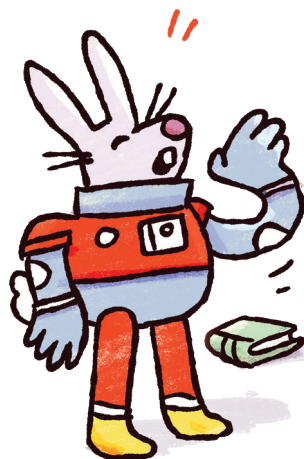
TOTAL ITEMS  
available for circulation

## YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

The Youth and Family Services Department supports our libraries through services, targeted and broad, that create a better world for youth through UHLS libraries. Member library staff knowledge- and skill-building is deliberately woven throughout all of our work.

### Training

- Early literacy training included our Storytime Bootcamp for new presenter recruits and storytime repertoire classes taught by expert member staff.
- Three live goats and teen services staff from five states learned together at our tri-system G.O.A.T. Teen Services Meetup. (Just don't quiz the goats on what they learned.)
- UHLS and 13 other systems held two virtual Summer Reading Program trainings – one children-focused and one teen-focused - reaching hundreds of staff.
- A new collaboration – The Youth Network of Two States (Y.N.O.T.S.) – connects library staff from UHLS and a sister system in Wisconsin to share youth programming ideas.
- In broader focus, creating, delivering and/or coordinating trustee training, equity training, and our Challenges training series ensure that youth are considered in larger arenas.



### Programming Support

- The Read It Forward (RIF) project underscores the relationship-building that is at the heart of teen services. RIF motivates teens to read a featured high-interest title and pass the book to their peers who continue the cycle of reading and sharing.
- Supporting Summer Reading Program includes training (see above), purchase of marketing materials and supplies for libraries, digital registration program setup aid, volunteer help, and ready consultation.
- Our 30 loanable programming supports – from early literacy coding kits to PA systems to a giant parachute – help libraries offer accessible, creative programs for all ages.
- Twenty-five StoryWalks®, picture-books-on-a-stick for libraries to post in green spaces, were created this year. This project, which also includes refurbishing of previously used titles for borrowing, fosters partnerships and is a popular library outreach effort.
- The UHLS Library Expedition, detailed elsewhere in this report, was a huge part of the Youth and Family Services department's work this year.

### Collection

- In support of children having more of the mirrors and windows that books provide, we purchased for member libraries 800+ picture books depicting characters with diverse families, backgrounds, and experiences.
- Our four "Welcoming Library" units - 30 picture books on new arrival and new American families - continue to rotate among libraries.
- Through our relationships with youth publishers, we procured 400 review books for staff to examine, discuss, and ultimately receive.

# 2023 LIBRARY EXPEDITION

Library users were encouraged to explore UHLS libraries, with an ultimate challenge of visiting all 36 locations. The purpose of this adventurous activity was to reinforce in individuals and families the value of building and maintaining the library habit, build support for libraries in our society, educate users on the connections and benefits of the UHLS network, give each library an opportunity to showcase its uniqueness, strengthen connections among UHLS libraries, and demonstrate community and societal support of libraries to funders and decision makers. **We are confident that we succeeded in reaching those goals!**

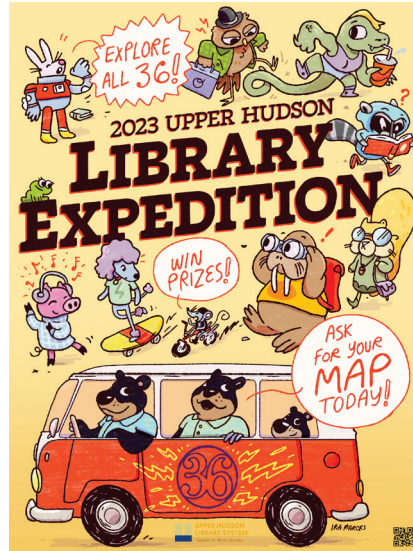
*"I think we will continue to visit the other branches throughout the year and will definitely continue the 36er tradition in years to come."*

- Expeditioner

*"I enjoy feeling more connected to the community and the amazing resources available to us."*

- Expeditioner

*"We had a huge boost in visitors (and statistics) -- many folks pleasantly surprised at our wonderful space. The comments and publicity also improved the opinions of town officials and gave more credence to the importance and viability of having a library." - Staff member*



*"It was really nice having UHLS staff stop in and introduce themselves. Not having opportunity to meet them as an employee with multiple jobs, it was nice putting faces to names." - Staff member*

## BY THE NUMBERS

**918**

36ers earned a VIP library card

**137** of those were platinum cards!

**40,099**

total library visits!



Local Troy illustrator, Ira Marcks, updated member library icons that were displayed on the map & brochure and can be used for years to come!



## And then there were the Expedition Mega Fans!

*"When I reached my 36er final library at the Poestenkill Library I was having a medical emergency. The staff called 911 and I was transported to Albany Med. I made sure I got my stamp before they made the call. :)" - Expeditioner*

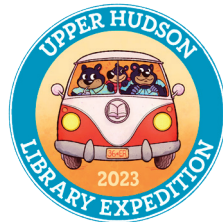
*"Pretty cool having an Expedition family in their limo pull up to our small town library in the sticks." - Staff member*

*"Participants reveled in the differences between the libraries and enjoyed visiting parts of our service area that they had never seen before. There were some remarkably generous visitors who not only donated money, but in one instance, returned with a donation of sewing machines and supplies because they liked what they saw when they observed our children's programming and summer food program." - Staff*



*"I love being able to do it with my son and this is something that we will treasure forever and I can't wait to laminate his map when we are all done!" - Expeditioner*

*"I loved the variety of different libraries and discovering all of the nooks and crannies of each. And mostly the warmth and excitement from the librarians." - Expeditioner*



*"I had two groups of women checking in at the same time. The second group to walk up started eyeing the other group and asked them, 'How many have you done?' It was funny to see the competitive spirit emerge." - Staff member*



## The Expedition Planning Team:

Beth Bomba, COLN  
Colene Phoenix, NASS  
Chloe Whittaker, TROY

Amy DuBrey, UHLS  
Michele Reilly, VOOR  
Judith Wines, UHLS

Ann-Marie Helldorfer, COLN  
Donna Riley, POES  
Mary Fellows, UHLS

# Albany Public Library

The year 2023 marked a milestone for Albany Public Library as we celebrated our 100th Anniversary. The City of Albany commemorated the occasion by declaring May 21 “Albany Public Library Day” during a Centennial Celebration Block Party at our historic Howe Branch, and the festivities didn’t end there. In June we held a Centennial-themed kick-off to our Summer Reading program, inviting patrons to visit all seven APL branches and participate in “Centennial Challenge” activities. The festivities wrapped up in October, with an elegant Centennial Celebration thrown by the Friends and Foundation of Albany Public Library at the newly-renovated and expanded Cafe Madison.

In November 2023, we modified our service hours, expanding Saturday hours at our three largest branches: Howe, Pine Hills, and Washington Ave. This enabled us to begin offering consistent weekend storytimes and programs for working families on Saturdays. Concurrently, we established Arbor Hill/West Hill, Bach, and Delaware as our Sunday hours branches.



Finally, we made strides toward our sustainability strategic plan goal in 2023 by replacing all of our branch lighting with LEDs. This was made possible with a Division of Library Development construction grant. In addition to helping us save on electric bills, our new LED lighting creates more accessible, safer spaces for all to enjoy.



Library use increased in key areas in 2023: we saw a 47% increase in program attendance, and a 69% increase in meeting and study room bookings. Our Albany Made Creative Lab makerspace held weekly hours and connected makers of all ages to crafts and equipment like sewing machines and 3-D printers. We hosted over 90 programs in our makerspace, attracting over 1,000 creators.



# Altamont Free Library

Since the last UHLS Annual Celebration, Altamont Free Library has had an exciting year on many fronts. We've seen excellent circulation, fantastic and innovative programs and some of the highest attended events that we've ever put on, but we've also made great strides on the organizational and governance level that is rarely glimpsed by the public.

In 2023 we circulated more items than in any other year in our history. While this boost in circulation has been driven by increasing digital circulation, we have also seen our highest over-the-counter circulation in a number of categories, most especially and pleasingly in children's books. In 2023, we checked out over 29% more children's print materials than in 2022, which was itself near our previous record high. We think that's pretty fantastic.

Even more fantastic, over the past year, we have also seen programs that originated at our small village library be reproduced at libraries across the country, as our ground-breaking Summer Reading Buddies (SRB) Program has been picked up in libraries as far away as Henderson, NC and Centerville, IN. (There may be others further away, those are just the ones who have reached out to us.) In three years, we have expanded SRB from a single Elementary School to every Elementary School in the Guilderland School district, training Guilderland High School students to provide literacy coaching to rising first graders in need of a little extra support over the summer. The excellent results of pre- and post-summer reading tests demonstrate that participants in SRB experience dramatically less of a summer slide than their peers. We would be very happy to talk to anyone about how your library can implement a similar program!

But behind the scenes (or at least less in front of the scenes) the AFL leadership team has also been busy over the past year. Last April, we inaugurated our new Long Range Plan of Service after an intensive campaign of feedback collecting that drew far more community participation than we received for any prior LRP. We begun implementing many of the goals and objectives enshrined in it so that we can be sure that the Altamont community can continue to enjoy the library materials, programs and services they need into the distant future. Most recently, our Board of Trustees crafted our brand new Mission Statement: *Altamont Free Library, housed in the historic Altamont Train Station, serves as a hub of our community: Enriching lives, creating connections, fostering literacy and inquiry, and welcoming all.*



# Arvilla E. Diver Memorial Library

Diver Library is a special place within a special community of people. At the library there is no end to evaluating how best to serve our patrons, what we can do to make them feel seen and heard, how to support and inspire them in good times and bad. But that focus on service can sometimes obscure what's really taking place at 136 Main St, Schaghticoke. The library and the community have a relationship. A mutual relationship. A really strong one. It's impossible to acknowledge all the ways in which our patrons, our friends and neighbors support and care for us. First off, there are the snacks! Chocolates, coffee—chicken fingers and fries from Chrissy's Cravings. The people of Schaghticoke clearly don't like to see a hungry librarian. Next there are the invitations to kids' concerts, birthday parties and graduations. There are donations and gifts. There are thoughtful reminders that we are valued and appreciated in much the same way that we value and appreciate all of the members of our community.



The strength of the library lies in this relationship. We can give our all knowing that those we serve give us what they can. They respond when we are in need. And they cheer for our achievements. And they remind us constantly that we are a treasured fixture in their home. And we remind them through our work that there is no place we'd rather be.

Thank you Schaghticoke and beyond! To all of our people out there—we couldn't do it without you. And we love being your library.



## Berlin Free Town Library

During the spring and summer of 2023, our library was filled with visitors like never before. We had 1,080 people visit our library for the Library Expedition! Being part of an event where people shared their love for libraries was a wonderful experience for our small, rural library. We met so many kind-hearted people and got to hear so many wonderful stories about their adventures visiting libraries. We also got a sense of how important libraries are to them and to their communities. Being a part of this unique and fun experience as well as many other programs at our library throughout this past year has brought the people in our community together. Even if you didn't participate in the Library Expedition, it was something that sparked an interest in people and it stands as a lasting reminder of the importance of what we do every day.

“Before I moved to Berlin, I was used to visiting the much larger, impersonal libraries of the Capital District, but from the very moment I walked through the door into the Berlin Free Town Library, I fell in love with its bright and airy, yet cozy atmosphere, where Sara, the librarian, was quick to welcome me and show me around. Now I'm a regular at the Friday afternoon Stitch Club (never miss it), where I've met some wonderful friends and do more chatting and laughing than crochet. I love watching how patrons are greeted by their first names when they come into the library and almost always stay for a chat before they leave. I've attended a few activities at the library with my grandkids and husband and enjoy browsing the bookshelves where all my favorite authors can be found. For me, Berlin Free Town Library is a true gem on Main Street.”

# Berne Public Library

The Berne Public Library had a remarkable year in 2023.

One of the highlights was the commitment to mental health programs, offering a variety of resources and support for the community. Throughout the year, the library organized several mental health programs aimed at educating, inspiring and empowering individuals. We had programs on “Strengthen Your Mental Health”, “What To Do When A Loved One Dies”, “Pedro”, presented for young children by the Red Cross, “Emergency Preparedness”, and “Crisis Resolution”.



The library made sure to create a fun and engaging environment for children. The “Worm Races” (no worms were harmed) became a favorite activity among the kids. Participants learned about nature and biology while having a great time. They took home their worms to be put into a worm habitat.

Another thrilling event that took place was the “Rockets in the Park” program. People of all ages gathered in the park to build and launch their own handmade rockets which ignited their curiosity for science. With the guidance of John Freer, participants learned about aerodynamics and the principles of flight which sparked their interest in STEM.



In addition to the regular programs, the library hosted, and the Friends of the Library organized a monthly art exhibit, where local artists and students showcased their work. The library also provided art classes for participants to take home their creations.

Furthermore, the library provides traditional activities like weekly story times, book clubs, summer reading, and the use of computers. We also host a bimonthly Homeschool Hangout to support our local homeschool families with activities and community socialization. Digital content at the library has increased. We also provide hot spots and tablets with Wi-Fi available for patrons without service.

By addressing mental health and providing engaging activities for children, the library created a welcoming space where individuals of all ages could learn, grow, and connect with one another, adhering to the library’s mission statement.

# Bethlehem Public Library

In 2023, Bethlehem Public Library came face-to-face with the kind of First Amendment challenges that are becoming an increasingly common part of the library landscape. In response, the library, with the support of our board of trustees, demonstrated its commitment to upholding the principles of free speech.

In July, the library hosted a drag story hour for all ages. This event did not come without controversy, as vocal protests and a request for reconsideration made their way to library administration and trustees. The board responded by calling a public hearing so people could share their concerns. Many people both for and against the story hour attended, and the board respectfully listened to everyone for more than three hours. While their later decision to let the story hour move ahead as planned did not please all who were there, the library's transparency and willingness to listen to criticism defused what could have been a volatile clash of values. In the end, the drag story hour was filled to capacity and joyful supporters lined the plaza entrance.

In December, a community group was scheduled to host a pro-Palestinian speaker at the library. While not a library program, local members of the Jewish community urged the library to stop it from taking place saying that the speaker's past comments constituted hate speech. Once again, the board convened a special meeting to hear both sides. The exchange that night was thoughtful and heartfelt. After reviewing the library's meeting room policies, the board agreed to let the presentation proceed, even with the difficult knowledge that this talk had the potential to further inflame deeply held beliefs.

These tough decisions put Bethlehem Public Library in the spotlight in a way that libraries typically prefer to avoid. But with calls for book bans and these types of challenges on the rise, our library feels stronger for having defended intellectual freedom while remaining steadfast in providing a high level of service and programming for our patrons.

Also in 2023:

- The library solicited public input for a proposed project to update the 50-year-old library building. Architects completed a schematic design based on the feedback.
- A partnership with Bethlehem Historical Association brought in well-attended programs each month about local history.
- Outreach and community partnerships made the library a visible presence at the farmers market and other townwide events.
- The addition of the Library Speakers Consortium allowed cardholders to attend virtual talks with bestselling authors.
- We made custom-printed library cards available to our patrons featuring reading genres and other colorful designs.
- Patrons visited the library 212,189 times in 2023. We held 940 programs with a total attendance of 36,936, and our total circulation (physical and digital) grew to 642,466 items.



# Brunswick Community Library

2023 was an exciting year for the Brunswick Community Library. We were visited by artists, musicians, live birds, reptiles, knights, and even some forest trolls!

## Arts Grants:

2023 was a lucky year for our library in terms of arts grants and we were visited by multiple local talents.

Hindustani Classical Musicians Veena and Devesh Chandra received an Arts Center grant to perform sitar and tabla at our library's fall fest and to teach a series of Indian music workshops at the library.

Chinese Brush Painter Zhong-hua Lu taught a hands-on art class to very rapt students. He shared stories about growing up in China as he demonstrated beautiful painting techniques for us.

Artist and author Ellen Graf graced us with two grant-funded programs this year. She read from her essay series Neighbor, I Need You, and led discussions about the importance of community. Ellen also visited us with her "forest friends", inspired by the Scandinavian troll mythology from her youth. She taught children how to make "forest houses", helping them feel connected to nature, all while listening to live bassoon music from Chris Keyser.

## Community Service:

We continued our very popular clothing swap series in 2023, hosting warm weather and cold weather clothing swaps for both children and adults. These swaps have provided clothes to hundreds of people in our area for free & helped keep clothing out of landfills!

Our small community garden produced basket upon basket of food for us to share with patrons at our front desk. Our growing garden has been so popular that a monthly herb group has formed at our library, composed of both master gardeners and budding plant enthusiasts. We can't wait to see how everyone grows and learns together.

## Special Events:

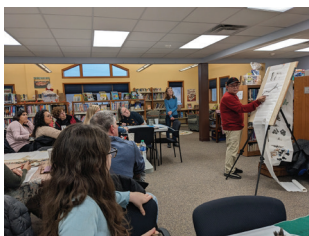
Everyone knows we love to throw a party and 2023 was no exception!

In the springtime, we were able to host a live bird visit from Silent Wings Raptor Rescue & Rehab as well as a live reptile visit from Uncharted Wild. We helped our children stay connected to nature with outdoor Tinkergarten classes with Miss Heather.

Over the summer, our friends from the Society of Creative Anachronism recreated the medieval world for our patrons, showing them real helmets and armor. A local Civil War reenactment group spent a full day teaching about history and letting people try on clothing from the time period.

In the fall, we hosted our annual Fall Fest, a Halloween Vintage Painting Party, and a spooky scavenger hunt.

In the winter, we had a special Celtic Music performance by Jeff Snow. We made Upcycled Book Wreaths with our adults, and recreated the world of the Polar Express for our children.



# Castleton Public Library

2023 was an exciting and busy year for Castleton Public Library! We strive to be a dynamic gathering place for people in our community, and we provide a wide variety of classes and events for youth and adults to help us meet this goal. In 2023, attendance at our classes and events increased 25% from last year. We started a monthly Open Mic Night, adding to our other programs for adults such as yoga, book clubs, and crafts. Our offerings for children and teens were particularly robust in 2023. Popular class series such as Cool Science, Kids Cook, and our two weekly storytimes continued to grow, along with our arts and crafts classes and game-based programs.



We expanded our collaborations with many of our community partners in 2023. We established a monthly storytime focused on environmental education, as part of our weekly Learn & Play Storytime series, in cooperation with staff from Schodack Island State Park. At these special storytimes, an environmental educator offers hands-on experiences for young children to learn about the life cycles of plants and animals and basic ecology concepts. CPL also worked with the Town of Schodack to create a new StoryWalk at Schodack Town Park. Like our StoryWalk at Schodack Island State Park, the book for the StoryWalk at the Town Park changes each month and runs seasonally from May through October. Our Special Visitor Storytime series during summer 2023 also brought many local organizations to the library, including Bee Hollow Farm, Isabelle School of Dance, and the Schodack Police Department.

2023 also brought changes to the way that CPL is funded. In May 2023, CPL placed our first funding proposition on the Schodack Central School District's ballot. This proposition passed, with voters in the district approving a tax levy of \$159,000 to partially fund the library in 2024. This new revenue source allows us to reduce our budget requests to the Town of Schodack and Village of Castleton, and begins our shift to a more sustainable funding model. Along with continued municipal support, this new tax levy increased our overall operating budget by \$70,000, allowing us to grow our staff and increase our hours in 2024. We also received \$25,000 in Special Legislative Aid from NYS Assemblymember Jake Ashby in 2023, which we have earmarked for future improvements to the library building.

We thank all of our staff, trustees, friends, and volunteers for providing the enthusiasm, dedication, and care that makes CPL such a special place. In the coming year, we look forward to continuing to improve service at the library and to strengthening our connections with people and organizations in our community.

# Cheney Library

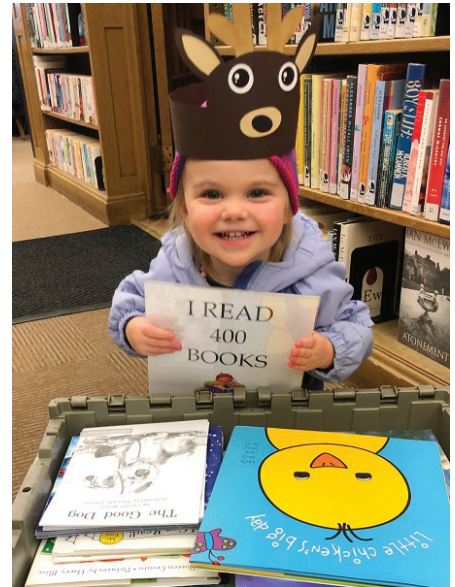
2023 was a huge year for Cheney Library. Some of our most notable, rewarding work was done through our revamped Storytime program. This program has led to substantial growth for our library. Through our Storytime community, we have increased connection to our user base through social media, built new local partnerships, and addressed the previously unmet needs of Hoosick Falls parents and caregivers.

Using Storytime as a springboard, our library also began the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Every time a participant reaches a reading benchmark, they receive a prize book to encourage further reading. They also get featured on our library Facebook page! It has been absolutely heartwarming to observe our community's response to readers' achievements. Every reader receives a shower of encouragement from our online followers. 33 children are currently participating in this program, but we expect this number will continue to grow as more and more families join our Storytime crew.

Apart from programming, the library also celebrated its 100th birthday in 2023. On October 21, 81 patrons and supporters of Cheney Library gathered at BYTE Lounge on John Street in Hoosick Falls to commemorate the occasion. Sponsored by the Friends of Cheney Library, the event featured live music, history, raffles, and a wide variety of delicious foods including wood-fired pizza, smoked salmon, cheeses, and baklava. Music was provided by Connecticut-based indie rock group Basement Apartment. The musicians entertained guests with guitar, keyboard, banjo, and mandolin in classic tunes which got the whole room dancing.

Later in the evening, Tom Madison, a member of the Friends of the Library, spoke about Cheney's history. Raffle tickets were drawn for a centennial quilt created by the Cheney Library Quilting Club. In addition to the quilt, local businesses helped organize 3 prize baskets. Brown's Brewing, Hoosac Package Store, Hoosick Provisions, Iron Coffee, and SmallSong generously contributed gift cards and merchandise in support of the library. Local artist and retired Cheney librarian Silvia Plasse donated two photographs, which were raffled, as well.

The library shares its deep thanks to all of those who made this event, and this incredible year possible: the Friends of Cheney Library, our local business partners, library staff, trustees, and patrons. We at Cheney Library are grateful to serve such a vibrant community of people, and look forward to the next century of Cheney Library excitement! We wouldn't be us without you!



# Cohoes Public Library

The Cohoes Public Library had a busy and exciting year!

In April 2023, we developed a comprehensive long range plan to 2026 laying out our goals and action steps to guide us through the many upcoming changes of our library. While we are still currently located in a temporary location at 10 Cayuga Plaza, the City of Cohoes has acquired for us a building at 75 Remsen Street, the former home of the Cohoes Savings Bank. This location is conveniently located in the bustling downtown area. After renovations are complete we will be moving there permanently.

In honor of the summer reading theme, “All together now”, we partnered with LEGO to provide free LEGO sets as summer reading prizes for our patrons. After a bricktastic summer reading kickoff party, we held a variety of summer reading programs for all ages, including a life size “Nile the Whale” in which you could walk inside, Family Games Day, balloon decorating workshop, and more. Throughout the year, kids enjoyed our ongoing Saturday programs including Crafternoon, Clixo & More Club, Lego Club, and STEM.

In February 2023, we obtained a new STEM Connect mobile Maker Space cart and Craft cart courtesy of Senator Breslin and his push for a legislative grant. With this, patrons of all ages can use their creativity and problem solving skills to invent solutions to fun unique problems.

Sharing our library with all the guests doing the Library Expedition was such fun! It was great to see all the new faces and hear about their library travels.

For adults this year, we enjoyed the Mystery book Club, Literature Discussion Series, Beau Knitters Club, Film Movie Night Series, Crafting series, Horticulture 101 Gardening Class, Make Your Own Travel Journals, and more!

So many of our programs and services are sponsored by The Friends of Cohoes Public Library. We cannot express how much we appreciate all their dedication to supporting our missions.

We look forward to a busy 2024 serving our community.



# East Greenbush Community Library

The East Greenbush Community Library is vital hub for learning, connection, and inspiration. In 2023, we adopted a community-driven 5-year strategic plan titled “You Belong Here,” guiding our future while staying true to our values. This plan envisions the library as a welcoming, supportive hub for learning and community connection.

## Priorities

- 1. Build Community Connections:** We will address the increasing linguistic and ethnic diversity within our community, ensuring all users feel welcome and a sense of belonging through diverse programs and opportunities.
- 2. Engage with Your Community:** We aim to enhance communication between town government, local groups, and residents, facilitating new connections, especially for newcomers to East Greenbush and the United States.
- 3. Satisfy Curiosity & Stimulate Imagination:** The library will be a place where people reconnect with familiar interests and explore new topics, making resources relevant and accessible to all.
- 4. Promote Literacies:** We will deepen our collaboration with the East Greenbush Central School District, offering programs that complement their curriculum with intergenerational and flexible learning methods.
- 5. Advance Local Economic Vitality:** By supporting local businesses, the library aims to create new connections and enhance the town’s economic vitality, offering technology, spaces, and resources to help local entrepreneurs succeed.



## Key Achievements in 2023:

- Policy Updates:** Updated loan periods, went fine-free, reopened meeting rooms, revised open hours, and introduced Chromebooks for lending. Created new policies and revised existing ones.
- Facility Improvements:** Completed projects, including additional art gallery space, office renovations, updated meeting rooms with digital capabilities, installed a backflow preventer, and completed a building conditions survey.
- Development & Recognition:** Held equity training for board and staff, staff development days, and a volunteer reception recognizing Syma Lapidés and Lynne Oudekerk. Voted 2nd Best Library in the Capital Region by the Times Union and was the most visited location in the UHLS Library Expeditions. Michael Poost was named Trustee of the Year, and Jody Squadere received the Rensselaer County Cooperative Extension Golden Shovel Award.
- Community Clue Hunt:** Partnered with the Friends of the Library, EG Police Department, Kiwanis, YMCA, Town of East Greenbush, East Greenbush and Schodack School Districts, and local businesses to host the all-ages Great Greenbush Quest. This month-long treasure hunt began at the library with clues hidden throughout East Greenbush and Schodack.
- Popular Programs:** Hosted Taylor Swift and Bluey Programs, Seasonal Reading Programs, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, 500 Books Before Middle School, English classes, crafts, K-2 Crew, Anime Club, historical society and garden club programs, concerts, and an after-hours Teen Game Night.
- Library of Things:** New additions included a Nintendo Super Entertainment System, portable document scanner, Nintendo Switches, and a Clear Click Video Digital Converter.

Together, we’re shaping our future for learning, connection, and promoting our sense of community.

# Grafton Community Library

The year 2023 marked a banner year for Grafton Community Library with the addition of several community programs. The year started with our new Songs and Storytime program on Wednesday mornings with Miss Sarah on books and Miss Mary on guitar. The library also became a drop off point for Grafton Area Food Pantry at Our Lady of the Snow, making it more convenient for community members to drop off donations. In conjunction with the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office, our library also hosted a Drug Take-Back Day to assist in the safe disposal of unused and expired medications.

Our Zumba Gold program also began in the spring, helping members of our community stay active while having fun dancing at their own pace to the latest hits with our wonderful teacher Michelle Mickiewicz. Community volunteers taught low-cost crafting classes throughout the year as well, teaching residents how to make everything from wool dryer balls and soap to natural bug repellent and mesh wreaths. As part of our Summer Reading Program, the library partnered with the Petersburg Public Library to bring Doctor Dolittle's World to the Grafton Village Green. The end of Summer Reading was celebrated with an ice cream social and a meet and greet with the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department K-9s Halli and Delta. In August, the Grafton Community Library partnered with Grafton Lakes State Park to host the 37th Annual Run for the Roses fundraiser to support library programs and infrastructure.

With the start of the 2023 school year, Grafton Community Library started our Lego Club after school program on Mondays for our local elementary school children. The Lego Club is about more than just Legos - students make crafts, learn about the world from qualified guest presenters, and of course, run around outside when the weather is nice. As the holidays rolled around, the library led an effort to bring joy to local service members who were overseas by collecting items for care packages, and our community contributed enough for several special deliveries.

The Grafton Community Library deeply appreciates all the hard work of our dedicated staff throughout the year. Their commitment to serving their community makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our patrons. In addition to our staff, our volunteers, donors, and residents of Grafton do so much to create the wonderful, cozy, and safe space that is our library, and we are eternally grateful for their efforts.



# Guilderland Public Library

2023 was a vibrant year of exploration and creativity for GPL! Our intrepid staff journeyed to other local libraries in our own miniature Library Expedition for staff development day, picking up great ideas and inspiration from colleagues across the region. In addition to in-person events and concerts for all ages, we continued to experiment this year with virtual programs for adults, garnering a large following to our slate of online educational lectures and arts programs. Our youth services staff also put together a wildly successful “Dinoverse” program series complete with a Dinosaur Bash and special T-Rex guest appearance at story time, plus a memorable month-long display that filled our front cases to bursting with colorful saurian decor. Workers in our collections and circulation department continued to push the boundaries of traditional library services, providing passport appointments, hunting and fishing licenses, and notary public services, and our library of things expanded to include life jackets and more board games than ever!



# Menands Public Library

2023 was a very special year for the Menands Public Library. We are deeply thankful for all of our patrons and supporters who participated in our Centennial Celebration as well as the dedicated volunteers who made this event a success. While we are always happy to see you across the circulation desk, it was special for all of the staff and volunteers to see just how much the library means to each and every one of our friends, especially all of those we met through the Library Expedition.

We also completed our ADA ramp and renovation project this year. We are so thankful that all of our patrons now are better able to enter, exit, and move around our library. It is deeply special to see our little library grow and change to support our community and its needs. Such large renovations would not have been possible without the support and understanding of our patrons. We look forward to sharing other exciting, upcoming improvements with you.



We are thrilled to offer new library programs to the community such as our wildly popular children's cooking classes and adult crafting meet-ups. Our staff is constantly developing new programming, so swing by each month to see our newest events. This year, with the generous support from Assemblymember Phil Steck, we established a children's literacy initiative which includes outreach programs, free books, and digital literacy programs for our youngest members.

All of what we do—from programming to improvements and from book circulation to computer access—is driven by, supported by, and dedicated to our community and our friends and colleagues in the Upper Hudson Library System.

# 2023 UHLS ANNUAL AWARDS



## ADULT LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: PRACTICE CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH, WK Sanford Town Library

Showing that a public library can make a difference for everyone in the community, this weekly program was created in 2023 to assist English language learners in the community to build their conversational skills. In response to a significant increase in the local population of immigrants and asylum seekers, the program pairs “volunteers and learners” to learn and practice their communications skills. The program continues to grow and marks its success with stories like a young woman from the Congo now enrolled in HVCC’s nursing program; asylum seeking families from Ukraine and Afghanistan whose parents found employment and whose children are thriving in school; and a young mother who learned to advocate for herself to earn a promotion to a full-time job with health benefits for her family.



## YOUTH AND FAMILY LIBRARY PROGRAM OF THE YEAR: PERIOD PARTY, Albany Public Library

Partnering with two local health organizations, the library created an interactive and informative presentation on a topic of critical importance to the target audience of community members aged 8-17 and their families. The program was designed to be a gender-inclusive celebration of menstruation with information provided to help break down some of the myths about menstruation. But they also made it a party...with fun snacks, crafts, and giveaways!!



### **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: TOM MADISON, Cheney Library**

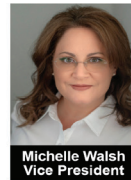
A volunteer at the library for over 30 years, Tom is an essential part of the Cheney team. From facilities maintenance to patron service, shelving books to playing ukulele for story times, Tom's day-to-day contributions to the library cannot be quantified. In 2023 when the library celebrated its 100th birthday, Tom organized Cheney Library's centennial event, designed the commemorative coffee mugs, and even served as the celebration's keynote speaker. From the nomination letter, "His respect and care for Cheney Library are truly exceptional. Whether he's diagnosing a broken furnace, making music, or helping a new patron feel at home, he is always involved in making our library a better place."

### **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: JULIE ANN PRICE, East Greenbush Community Library**

As President of the Friends of the Library and the Book Sale Chair, Julie Ann has transformed the Friends book sale activities with creative new ideas and activities. She has also spearheaded several advocacy efforts for the library during its board and budget elections. But always seeking to do more, in 2023 she created the "Great Greenbush Quest", a community based scavenger hunt game, to strengthen the library's connections within the community. Successful beyond expectations, with almost 300 participants and a significant community economic impact, they are already planning for the 2024 Quest!



Mark Kissinger  
President



Michelle Walsh  
Vice President



Charmaine  
Wijeyesinghe  
Vice President



Caroline Brancatella  
Secretary



Laura  
DiBetta



Sarah  
Patterson



Lisa Scoons  
UHLS Liaison

### **LIBRARY TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR: THE BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

When the library was faced with not one, but two significant community controversies involving library programs and services, the Library Board and each individual trustee stepped up to meet the challenge. From the nomination letter submitted by the Library Director, "Throughout 2023 the Board publicly expressed their opinions, discussed differences, and at all times acted respectfully to the public, the staff, and most importantly to one another. I am honored to work for the Board. . .their actions throughout both crises demonstrated the best examples of library governance."

# Nassau Free Library

The Nassau Free Library has been serving our community for 132 years. Our annual library report indicates 2023 was a wonderful year for the library with increases in visits to the library, in program attendance, materials loaned, and new additional borrowers.

- In 2023 the library continued to host a weekly Storytime program for babies to preschool aged children, monthly teen and children's programs, a Volunteer program, youth literacy programs, collaborated with our local Elementary School through school field trips to the library, and Summer Reading Program promotion visits to the school by our youth services team.
- The Nassau Free Library hosted a successful Summer Reading Program with 94 art kits distributed, 30 children and teen programs, 522 children in attendance, and 22,500 minutes read by local children and teens.
- The library hosts monthly programs such as Master Gardener Talks, Book Club, Open Mic Night, Gentle and Chair Yoga, International Potluck Club, naturalist programs, digital literacy programs, history programs, author visits, adult reading challenges, and offers space for community meetings.
- In the spring of 2023, the library opened our doors to 1125 UHLS Library Expeditioners who participated in a library tour program of 36 libraries in the Upper Hudson System.
- The Nassau Free Library maintains and supplies books for two little free libraries in Nassau.
- 900+ new books, DVDs, audiobooks, and e-content were purchased in 2023.
- Through our Seed Library, over 120 seed packets were distributed to participating patrons. And our recycling bottle cap program kept over 100lbs of plastic bottle caps out of the landfill.
- Secured sustainable library funding through the municipal ballot funding referendum was achieved.

Our library continues to be enjoyed and appreciated by our community. We take pride in serving our patrons through high quality customer service, offer high demand materials, provide space to learn, and host educational programs of interest.





## North Greenbush Public Library

North Greenbush Public Library was a busy and bustling place in 2023! We welcomed over 21,000 patrons through our door including 1,200 patrons visiting during the popular Upper Hudson Library Expedition. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and inviting community space, so we really enjoyed getting to visit with all the “Expeditioners” from other UHLS libraries. The Expedition was a big hit among library patrons and we’re so thankful for everything the staff at UHLS did to organize it.



Patrons enjoyed our large collection of books, audiobooks, magazines and DVDs, as well as a variety of museum passes and wifi hotspots. NGPL’s annual circulation was up almost 15% from 2022. We also saw an increase in circulation for our collection of eBooks, downloadable audiobooks and electronic magazines via Libby and hoopla.



Our weekly storytime continued to flourish and included fun themes like narwhals, ice cream and the five senses. Ms Donna and her storytime friends also enjoyed visits from our local fire department to discuss fire safety and a K9 officer from the Rensselaer County Sheriff’s Department. In addition to storytime, NGPL patrons enjoyed weekly Crafternoon projects, our annual Summer Reading challenge, our monthly virtual book club and our annual Halloween Hullabaloo!

At the center of all of this activity is our fantastic library staff. Our staff is dedicated, resourceful and welcoming to all our patrons. We wouldn’t be us without them!

# Petersburgh Public Library

## HOW TWEET IT IS!

Another great shout out to libraries was tweeted by a local newscaster when we welcomed her and her crew into the library before our regular opening time. They had been interviewing for a rescue story (happy ending) in Massachusetts and their car broke down in Petersburg on their way back to the newsroom. We were able to provide them a space to work, power, and internet so they could meet their broadcast deadline.

In the ever-present challenge of offering services, programs, and support to patrons and families we have happily been able to increase our Storytime sessions and attendance. Homeschooling families especially benefit from utilizing the library and we have a wonderful, dedicated, young volunteer who has built a cohesive, friendly, and loving rapport with the families and children (even some new ones!) who gather for this important literacy program. The timeframe also now includes a “Creative Writing and Art” component for the older children who come with their little siblings.

Additionally, all of our other regular programs have revitalized their enthusiasm with increased participants and scheduling.



# Poestenkill Library

2023 was a year of many great successes at Poestenkill Library. In addition to increasing our number of registered borrowers by over 17%, circulating close to 16,000 physical items, and welcoming over 1,100 Expedition Visitors to the library we did so much more! We established new community partners, aided in advocacy efforts, updated and broadened our parenting collection and still did more. Our biggest success was in expanding and diversifying our recurring program offerings.

We introduced our monthly Mini Musicians program in which infants, toddlers and preschool-aged children use their voices, bodies, and instruments to sing, play, and explore the world of music. For school aged children and teens we developed our Teen Reading Buddies Program designed to help prevent summer backslide, promote higher interest and engagement in reading, improvement in social and communication skills, and cultivate positive reading experiences. In this program, teen volunteers were paired with a younger Reading Buddy for weekly read aloud practice in the library throughout the summer months.

Our Teen Books and Treats Box Subscription Service, BAT Box for short, was also new in 2023. This monthly subscription box has not only increased teen usership and engagement in the library, it's also helped to spark, or rekindle, an interest in reading for entertainment in several participants. One parent let us know that her daughter was "actually reading the book that was in her BAT box today & said it was good. I haven't seen her read a book that wasn't required for school in a really, really long time!" That teen has now become a regular in the library and is routinely among the first to request a BAT Box each month. And, for adults and teens, we began a monthly diamond art program. The projects that are completed each month are cute, but participants say it's the mindfulness based relaxation the art form provides and the social aspect of the program that keeps bringing them back.

Our successes are not ours alone though. To the member libraries who share their resources and help promote Poestenkill Library in daily conversation with patrons or by liking and sharing our social media posts; to the staff at UHLS who so willingly lend their expertise and wisdom, offering feedback and guidance; to our dedicated Friends of the Library whose continuous fundraising efforts provide more than 10% of our annual budget; to our warm and friendly staff who make every patron feel at home in our library; to our volunteers who give and give and never ask for anything in return; and to our patrons who make our work feel more like play – we wouldn't be us without you! Thank YOU for all that you do, so that we can continue to have success in what we do.



## RCS Community Library

As we enter the library's 30th year, we're deeply grateful for our community's continued support. Over the past year, we've seen significant growth in all the metrics we count. Our program offerings and community partnerships have increased. We are hosting an average of nine weekly events, and our staff is visiting multiple outreach locations. Attendance at our 2023 events increased by 40% over 2022! Community collaborations included hosting a weekly yoga program at Ravena Senior Projects, visiting local daycares, and attending multiple Village, Town, and School events.

Our Summer and Winter Reading Challenges saw extraordinary growth last year. This year, we aim to surpass the 33% program growth of 2022. We're committed to sustainability and have resumed our efforts to become a Sustainable Library. This involves evaluating our energy consumption, materials management, land and water use, collection use, collective impact, and financial sustainability. We're excited to share our journey with our patrons through our Sustainable at the Library event series. Beyond our regular events and projects, we have two additional things to look forward to in 2024. We're excited to let everyone know our parking lot will be sealed and restriped within the next two months! We will also seek community input in the fall as we start our 2025 - 2028 Strategic Planning process.





## Rensselaer Public Library

Rensselaer Public Library continued to be our city's community hub in 2023. We helped people find jobs, print/copy/fax important documents, and find what they were looking for (most of the time), whether it was a book, information or directions. Our community relies on us to bridge both digital and economic divides.

Our circulation of items is continuing to improve from the dip during 2020. We have increased our number of events as well. We focused on fun science for kids, which this summer involved a lot of chickens for some reason- both live hens and dropping eggs from a drone.

Our library is nothing without our staff. Our Trustees will keep striving to get support and better funding for our employees, so that they can continue helping our community.

# Rensselaerville Library

The Rensselaerville Library is an essential hub of our rural community. Besides providing traditional library services, the library is a catalyst of other activities, workshops, lectures and events that foster the spirit of volunteerism and community involvement within the Town of Rensselaerville. In 2023, through the leadership of Town Supervisor John Dolce and the commitment of our Town Board, we opened a new branch library. The new branch has provided the opportunity to expand our services and programs to more fully connect with the five hamlets of our town: Cooksburg, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Preston Hollow, and Rensselaerville.



Our new Fox Creek Branch has improved access to services and provided opportunities for more community programs. Some highlights at the branch have been talks by children's author Rick Bobrick, local historian Linda Mormile, local author John Gordon, and ethnoecologist Justine Wexler of Wild Hudson Valley; cooking classes with local chef Paul Ventura; a greenmarket with Sky Ridge Farm and Kitchen, and Potter Hollow Garden and Kitchen; a Craft and Coloring Circle, and a Game Group for Adults; movie nights for children and adults; art classes with local artist Natalie Boburka; financial workshops with Cornell Cooperative Extension; and Chair Yoga with Suzanne Wall.



Our library could not have expanded, couldn't do what we do, without our extraordinary staff, but also the generosity of our Board of Trustees. The trustees are generous with their time, their energy, their problem-solving, and their guidance. Our library has an abundance of community support that is exemplified in the commitment of the library's trustees. The Rensselaerville Library has a rich history, and with the extraordinary support of our community, local leaders, trustees and staff, the library will continue to adapt, improve and fulfill our mission to enrich the Town of Rensselaerville.



# Sand Lake Town Library

2023 was an exciting year for Sand Lake Town Library. We started the year by making our building more energy efficient, installing motion-sensitive LED lights under a grant written by the Town of Sand Lake. We began work on a new strategic plan to guide our decisions over the next few years. Throughout the year we hosted art exhibits and a variety of programs. In the spring we hosted our first spelling bee as part of the Upper Hudson Library System Spelling Bee. People enjoyed it enough to ask for another one the next year! In the fall we started a Mah Jongg group, a Knitting/Crocheting group, and Kids Yoga.

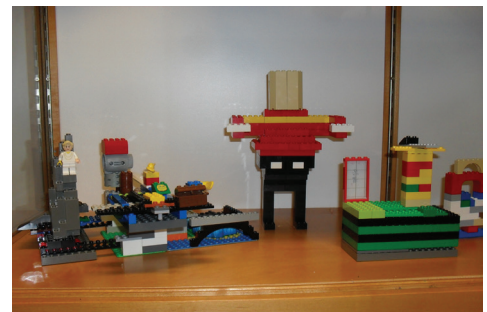
The main event of our year was the Upper Hudson 2023 Expedition which brought an additional 1,190 people to our library. It was great to talk to all these people from around our library system and see how much they were enjoying this adventure!

Our statistics for the year were up. Library visits increased by another 1,772 above the increase due to Expeditioners. Circulation was up by over 3,000. Programming and program attendance also increased.

Sand Lake Town Library formed a number of new partnerships this year. We partnered with the Capital District Modern Quilt Guild for “Pachwork and Prose,” a display of mini-quilts based on book covers. It was popular with both patrons and staff and included a mini-quilt scavenger hunt throughout the library. We also partnered with Vanguard-ASO to collect used instruments to donate to children who can’t afford them. As part of an existing partnership, some of our staff helped gather and type writings for the Sand Lake Historical Society’s book *The Town of Sand Lake Remembers the Covid Pandemic of 2020*, which was published in the fall of 2023.

Looking ahead, we laid the groundwork for updating our bathrooms and making the handicap accessible bathroom fully ADA compliant by June 2024. We also started working with the Community Mural Team to develop an outside mural, designed and painted by the community, to be completed in June 2024.

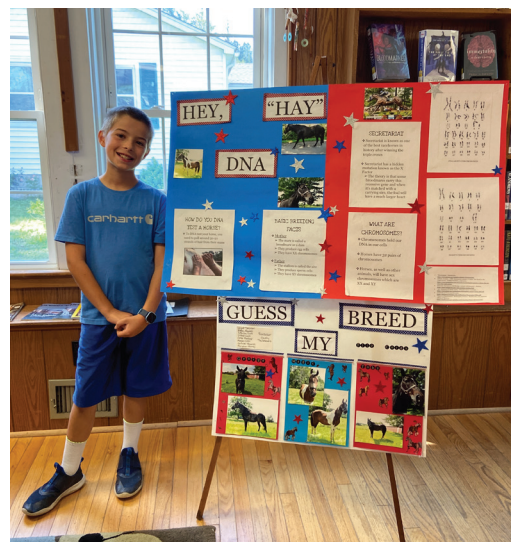
We have a lot to be thankful for, our trustees, our staff, and our library friends. And we are looking forward to an even better year in 2024.



# Stephentown Memorial Library

Time flies when you are having fun and boy, have we had fun in Stephentown this year! Not only did we see an increase in visits to our library (thank you, thank you UHLS Expedition!!), we also saw an increase in programming, participation in programming, circulation and most importantly, the noise level in the building which seems like good proof of a robust library community. The large number of people going “old school” by using our famous 1928 Underwood No. 3 typewriter was also fun to see.

2023 was a year of welcoming lots of new patrons to SML (27 children and 59 adults), seeing all of our statistics inch ever closer to prepandemic levels, and trying new programs such as Baby Café, Mandala Painting, Honey Harvesting, Wreaths Across America Veterans Program, Fire Fighter Story Time, Common Medicinal Herbs and New York Photosongs to name a few. We are so grateful to be able to serve the Stephentown community and look forward to many more years of service.





## Town of Westerlo Public Library

2023 was a big rebuilding year post-pandemic. Attendance and circulation were finally back to pre-pandemic levels, thanks in no small part to the 2023 Library Expedition. Regular adult programming expanded.

Youth after-school programming continued through June and again resumed in September to consistent attendance. Storytime continued all year round with small but consistent participation.

Summer programming was a hit with Messy Play for Littles on our outdoor patio space followed by Coffee Connect for Caregivers.

Over the Summer of 2023 the library was a distribution point for backpack meals that provided food for families without access to school lunches due to the Summer break.

In the realm of adult programming, there was a lot of trial and error, but gardening seems to be a particularly popular topic and the library availed itself of the wonderful Master Gardener program from the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Board of Trustees had a great year. They produced a signed MOU with the Town of Westerlo, that was 2 years in the making, saw a completed 5-year plan, and most of the library policies updated.

Every accomplishment was due to the teamwork of the staff of Westerlo Public Library, the Board of Trustees, the staff of UHLS and the Westerlo community.



# Troy Public Library

2023 saw an increase of six times our usual attendance at both adult and children's programs at the library. The most successful was our 1st Annual Fall Fest in October. Despite the rainy weather, visitors participated in scarecrow making, gourd and pumpkin painting, tarot card readings, a spooky Storywalk™, and live music. Over 100 people were able to participate in each activity.

With less than two months of planning, the library was able to leverage the assistance of the Friends of the Troy Public Library for volunteers, the Troy Farmers Market for volunteers and publicity assistance, and the Business Improvement District (BID) for publicity, networking with local businesses around Monument Square, and the acquisition of 10 additional scarecrows for display. Our goal was to create buzz surrounding the event and to bring awareness about the library and its many programs. We were able to register people from the community for new cards, as well as reinstate those that had expired. In addition, 30 families admitted to not using the library in the past, yet were excited to come back for more programs throughout the year.

With this event we provided, to a larger swath of the community, a perception that a library is made up of more than books and research materials. We are a community centric entity that offers programs and services for everyone, whether creative, musical, informational, or simply entertaining. Our goal is connection, and this was a great beginning.



Last summer to help Troy families with the climbing cost of back to school items, we held our first annual school supply drive. For this community project we reached out to local businesses and organizations asking them to partner with us. We were able to team up with the City Fire Department, Polish Community Center, Hannaford's Markets and more. During July and August donations were collected at 7 sites. What began as a trickle grew to a steady stream of provisions for students. Beautiful new backpacks, lunch boxes, notebooks, binders, and more piled up in our storage area. Backpacks were filled with all that a child would need to get them through the year. These would be distributed at a giveaway event. On that day nearly 100 students were served. Volunteers passed out snacks and signed families up for library cards. Children made sidewalk art in front of the library. Fifty-five children and teens received new backpacks and an additional 29 received assorted supplies. While the drive was halfway through, a local law firm and Troy's nearest shelter, Joseph's House, asked to join our partnership. Going forward we have an opportunity to build on this momentum by growing additional community support. There is no better feeling than helping a family in need. The simple act of handing a child a new backpack has had a large impact. We saw it in their smiles and surely in how they now perceive the library. We are more than a place to find books and entertainment. We are a place to find what you need whatever that may be.

# Valley Falls Free Library

Welcome to the Valley Falls Free Library! In our cozy nooks and crannies, we celebrate the theme that binds us all: “We Wouldn’t Be Us Without You.” Every whispered conversation, rustle of pages, and thread of connection contributes to the rich tapestry of our shared existence. Let’s take a peek at the past year’s woven moments:

- Storytime: Preschoolers gather for delightful stories, sing-along songs, and crafts. It’s a magical space where little ones explore the wonders of words and imagination.
- Lego Time: Families spreading out in the library, constructing castles, spaceships, and secret lairs. Their Legos click together, forming bridges across galaxies.
- Dungeons and Dragons: The library transforms into a dragon’s lair. Teens roll dice, their characters battling mythical beasts. Friendships forged here echo through the ages.
- Adult Book Club: Like a patchwork quilt, this club celebrates diversity. Each month, they delve into novels from different cultures, genres, and perspectives. Their discussions weave threads of understanding, empathy, and shared humanity. It’s more than a book club; it’s a journey of discovery.
- Third Grade Visits: Wide-eyed students explore the stacks, their fingers brushing spines, backpacks sagging with borrowed worlds.
- Beading: The library transforms into a kaleidoscope of colors. Patrons hunch over bead trays, threading intricate patterns, each bead a memory.
- Driver Safety Course: Adults gather, their licenses worn like badges of honor.
- Puzzle Day: Tables groan under jigsaw puzzles. Families huddle, eyes scanning for elusive edges. The library buzzes with determination.
- Valentine Pillow Craft: The library hums with creativity. Teens stitch heart-shaped pillows, filling them with love and lavender.
- Bird Feeder Workshop: The library twitters with activity as children assemble wooden bird feeders. Their laughter draws curious sparrows, creating a delightful symphony.
- Bingo Bonanza: Bingo cards fill up, and families dab markers with banter louder than the caller’s voice.
- Memorial Day Observance: The library lawn hosts a solemn flag ceremony. Veterans salute, and families remember.
- Painting Class: Canvases lean against easels. Beginners blend hues— and whispered dreams come alive.
- Pumpkin Craft: As fall arrives, the library smells of cinnamon. Children craft pumpkins, their faces glowing with delight.
- Book Buddies Fire Prevention: Firefighters visit, their helmets gleaming. Children listen to safety tales, clutching shiny red helmets.
- Halloween Activities: The library morphs into a haunted house. Children craft and snack, their imaginations running wild.
- Beaded Bookmark Workshop: Beads slide onto wire, forming bookmarks. Each one whispers stories—of dragons, detectives, and distant galaxies.
- Holiday Crafts: The library transforms into a winter wonderland. Families gather around tables, cutting snowflakes, painting ornaments, and crafting menorahs.
- Felting Workshop: Wool fibers twist and tangle. Patrons learn the ancient art of felting, creating holiday ornaments.
- Simmer Pot Workshop: The library fills with fragrant spices. Patrons gather dried oranges, toss cinnamon sticks, and simmer pots of nostalgia.
- Winter Break Activities: A week of creativity unfolds. Families design thank-you cards, watch fun movies, and sip cocoa together.

Our community, whether unraveling mysteries, threading beads, or chasing fireflies in the pages of a book, is the warp and weft of our library’s existence. Without them—and you—our shelves would be mere wood, our stories mere ink. So, let’s continue weaving our narrative—one thread at a time.

# Voorheesville Public Library

Over the last few years, Voorheesville Library started a much-needed facilities upgrade.

In 2023, our new study room was completed and has hosted over 300 meetings and tutoring sessions since. Our brand-new front entry vestibule is soon to be furnished with benches, display cabinets, and space for a year-round selection of gently used books for sale, curated from the Friends of the Library's Encore collection. Not only does the new vestibule increase the size of our building, it also improves its energy efficiency with a layout that cuts down on heating and cooling loss.

The new, much larger windows on the west side of the building bring natural light to two new reading areas. We can't wait to see our patrons enjoying a book or crossword puzzle in the new comfortable furniture we've ordered to complete these nooks.

These projects were funded by DLD Construction Aid, except for the new windows and reading areas, which were funded by a SAM grant made possible by Assemblymember Patricia Fahy.

Next on our facilities improvement plan are new circulation and reference desks, a renovated children's area with a new play feature and new carpet throughout the building. A thoughtful layout of our shelving will keep collections together and linear, without having to reduce the number of books available.

After we complete these projects, we are fortifying our mezzanine space above the staff room to safely hold our entire Voorheesville History Collection on new high density shelving units. Guided by a grant-funded assessment from the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York, we'll be making this collection more accessible, both at the library and online.

As part of our strategic plan, we will be engaging with patrons and staff to help guide our next steps toward a whole building upgrade. We are striving to provide the library that Voorheesville wants and deserves, while anticipating the future needs of our growing community. We could not fund these improvements without the encouragement and guidance UHLS provides in navigating the DLD Construction Aid process. In addition, the system-led yearly advocacy efforts help to ensure there's funding for these much-needed building improvements throughout UHLS and greater New York.



# Watervliet Public Library

2023 was another exciting year for the Watervliet Public Library! We had a massively successful book sale, started regular adult programming, and had the highest Summer Reading Program participation we've seen in years. We say this every year but it's true: we couldn't do what we do without our amazing staff, volunteers, community, and the Upper Hudson Library System.

In the summer, we collectively had hundreds of patrons come to our programs (which is more than we could have ever hoped for)! We were lucky enough to partner with the Watervliet Arsenal Summer Camp in order to bring children of military families in to enjoy all that the Summer Reading Program has to offer. Before summer started, the Watervliet Schools also worked with us to do 3rd Grade field trips to the library where 100 children got their first library cards. Community outreach was a huge part of our success in 2023!



The start of consistent, monthly adult programming began in 2023 as well. Between grappling with post-pandemic weirdness and changes in leadership, the Watervliet Library hadn't been providing nearly as many adult programs as we once had. The Fall of 2023 changed that when we introduced monthly craft nights along with author visits, and other informational events where we invited various other agencies into the library. There were so many new faces in and out of the library. We've formed great relationships with people throughout the community with these programs. Our staff worked hard to do an even better job of serving our community.

This was a pivotal year for the culture of the Watervliet Public Library and we are grateful to everyone who was a part of it. We are nothing without our support system! 2023 set us on a path that we are excited to continue on in 2024.

# William K. Sanford Town Library

2023 was a busy year full of accomplishments and change at the William K Sanford Town Library. The library set out to meet the goals of the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan, which initially focused on Programming. Surveys revealed that our community wanted more offerings for all ages! As a result, our total program sessions went from 751 in 2022 to 956 in 2023, increasing by 27%, and our attendance at programs went from 15,814 in 2022 to 21,830 in 2023, a 38% increase!

The library was also tasked with integrating two town departments. The Town of Colonie Historian's office, including the Town of Colonie Historical Society, were physically moved to the library. This has provided the library an opportunity to increase coordinated programming, while also providing access to the town's historical collection. Additionally, the library absorbed the Town of Colonie Youth Services programming, which included the High School Youth Advisory Board, Middle School Youth Advisory Board, Student's in Local Government Day, Global Youth Services Day, and a Town-Wide Halloween event. The High School Youth Advisory Board consists of students in 9-12th grade from North Colonie, South Colonie, and CBA who learn about local government and advocacy. As a part of the program, they meet with legislators to advocate for local teens. The Youth Board includes school administrators, teachers, community leaders, and town employees. The partnerships that have developed as a result have greatly benefited the library. Our programming numbers were impacted by these mergers, as well as more community members, creating more library users!

The library also had a large influx of migrants during 2023, as well as a growing population who would benefit from ENL programming. To meet this need, the library partnered with Literacy NY for ENL classes and began a "Practice Conversational English" program, with much success!

The Library Board was instrumental in increasing operating hours, by remaining open on Sundays through the month of June, to meet the request for more hours from our patrons. Lastly, the board appointed Elissa Valente, a long time Colonie Library employee, as the new Director in December.

We wouldn't be US without our patrons, Library Board, Friends, Town of Colonie, Legislators, UHLS, partners, schools and community groups!!



# BY THE NUMBERS

## LOCAL SUPPORT

Library	Population	2022 Local Support	2023 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	99,224	\$8,805,916	\$9,026,064	3%	\$90.97	7
Altamont	1,675	\$128,000	\$138,000	8%	\$82.39	8
Arvilla E. Diver	527	\$48,645	\$49,515	2%	\$93.96	6
Berlin	1,808	\$12,850	\$14,850	16%	\$8.21	27
Berne	2,689	\$63,477	\$66,721	5%	\$24.81	20
Bethlehem	28,631	\$4,391,827	\$4,542,435	3%	\$158.65	2
Brunswick	12,581	\$166,958	\$170,708	2%	\$13.57	25
Castleton	1,477	\$176,585	\$352,325	100%	\$238.54	1
Cheney	6,711	\$99,940	\$99,940	0%	\$14.89	23
Cohoes	18,147	\$198,355	\$143,023	-28%	\$7.88	28
East Greenbush	16,748	\$2,092,525	\$2,216,657	6%	\$132.35	4
Grafton	2,051	\$49,350	\$55,850	13%	\$27.23	17
Guilderland	37,989	\$3,964,541	\$4,056,742	2%	\$106.79	5
Menands	3,979	\$142,000	\$146,400	3%	\$36.79	13
Nassau	4,545	\$118,870	\$119,870	1%	\$26.37	18
North Greenbush	13,292	\$324,681	\$331,174	2%	\$24.92	19
Petersburgh	1,372	\$76,275	\$89,440	17%	\$65.19	9
Poestenkill	4,322	\$75,400	\$76,300	1%	\$17.65	21
RCS	14,093	\$602,119	\$627,879	4%	\$44.55	10
Rensselaer	9,210	\$114,958	\$120,574	5%	\$13.09	26
Rensselaerville	1,826	\$69,758	\$70,333	1%	\$38.52	12
Sand Lake	8,348	\$148,387	\$147,210	-1%	\$17.63	22
Stephentown	2,791	\$95,000	\$95,000	0%	\$34.04	14
Town of Westerlo	3,194	\$109,785	\$125,228	14%	\$39.21	11
Troy	51,401	\$1,263,008	\$1,429,441	13%	\$27.81	16
Valley Falls	5,630	\$43,802	\$43,852	0%	\$7.79	29
Voorheesville	7,756	\$1,174,317	\$1,197,802	2%	\$154.44	3
Watervliet	10,375	\$150,779	\$153,175	2%	\$14.76	24
William K. Sanford	85,590	\$2,836,650	\$2,893,383	2%	\$33.81	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	457,982	27,544,758	28,599,891	--	\$62.45 Average Per Capita	

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Library	2022 Total Expenses	2023 Total Expenses	% Change Total Expenses	2023 Materials Expenses	% Materials of Total Expenses	% Staff of Total Expenses	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$10,189,358	\$10,086,738	-1%	\$688,890	7%	58%	\$6.94	9
Altamont	\$154,918	\$188,378	22%	\$12,609	7%	57%	\$7.53	6
Arvilla E. Diver	\$165,984	\$126,114	-24%	\$3,924	3%	34%	\$7.45	7
Berlin	\$49,766	\$71,076	43%	\$2,740	4%	43%	\$1.52	26
Berne	\$66,451	\$78,730	18%	\$9,948	13%	63%	\$3.70	15
Bethlehem	\$4,027,242	\$4,155,259	3%	\$545,285	13%	75%	\$19.05	1
Brunswick	\$185,680	\$192,762	4%	\$17,416	9%	72%	\$1.38	28
Castleton	\$193,500	\$198,853	3%	\$20,761	10%	79%	\$14.06	3
Cheney	\$121,210	\$152,181	26%	\$4,897	3%	51%	\$0.73	29
Cohoes	\$204,001	\$222,429	9%	\$29,738	13%	59%	\$1.64	24
East Greenbush	\$1,857,263	\$2,103,074	13%	\$158,495	8%	71%	\$9.46	5
Grafton	\$83,536	\$104,381	25%	\$6,336	6%	49%	\$3.09	18
Guilderland	\$3,718,090	\$4,108,005	10%	\$419,267	10%	71%	\$11.04	4
Menands	\$157,738	\$283,349	80%	\$29,138	10%	26%	\$7.32	8
Nassau	\$203,622	\$174,286	-14%	\$12,039	7%	55%	\$2.65	20
North Greenbush	\$280,434	\$287,170	2%	\$58,741	20%	60%	\$4.42	12
Petersburgh	\$85,558	\$94,657	11%	\$2,204	2%	66%	\$1.61	25
Poestenkill	\$99,068	\$106,699	8%	\$18,055	17%	62%	\$4.18	13
RCS	\$586,832	\$634,620	8%	\$41,889	7%	68%	\$2.97	19
Rensselaer	\$119,789	\$140,834	18%	\$17,245	12%	77%	\$1.87	22
Rensselaerville	\$176,623	\$173,996	-1%	\$10,407	6%	53%	\$5.70	10
Sand Lake	\$159,824	\$162,003	1%	\$37,903	23%	66%	\$4.54	11
Stephentown	\$133,731	\$141,336	6%	\$11,009	8%	50%	\$3.94	14
Town of Westerlo	\$88,386	\$107,078	21%	\$11,348	11%	71%	\$3.55	16
Troy	\$1,876,501	\$2,123,024	13%	\$109,266	5%	54%	\$2.13	21
Valley Falls	\$67,554	\$81,980	21%	\$9,651	12%	56%	\$1.71	23
Voorheesville	\$1,111,781	\$1,099,649	-1%	\$114,201	10%	74%	\$14.72	2
Watervliet	\$155,257	\$86,613	-44%	\$15,181	18%	70%	\$1.46	27
William K. Sanford	\$2,900,229	\$2,995,171	3%	\$274,188	9%	76%	\$3.20	17
<b>AVERAGES</b>	\$1,007,584	\$1,051,050	4%	\$92,854	9%	65%	\$5.30	

# CIRCULATION

Library	Population	2022 Circulation	2023 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	99,224	461,489	516,150	12%	5.2
Altamont	1,675	31,601	34,891	10%	20.8
Arvilla E. Diver	527	6,997	7,860	12%	14.9
Berlin	1,808	7,424	8,240	11%	4.6
Berne	2,689	22,142	24,133	9%	9.0
Bethlehem	28,631	641,383	686,357	7%	24.0
Brunswick	12,581	66,905	87,888	31%	7.0
Castleton	1,477	30,642	32,227	5%	21.8
Cheney	6,711	21,169	23,881	13%	3.6
Cohoes	18,147	25,094	29,184	16%	1.6
East Greenbush	16,748	466,846	476,827	2%	28.5
Grafton	2,051	10,674	12,632	18%	6.2
Guilderland	37,989	418,280	556,742	33%	14.7
Menands	3,979	20,412	17,536	-14%	4.4
Nassau	4,545	23,136	22,185	-4%	4.9
North Greenbush	13,292	83,814	96,786	15%	7.3
Petersburgh	1,372	12,878	13,390	4%	9.8
Poestenkill	4,322	21,896	23,099	5%	5.3
RCS	14,093	70,334	63,707	-9%	4.5
Rensselaer	9,210	22,345	25,437	14%	2.8
Rensselaerville	1,826	14,475	13,962	-4%	7.6
Sand Lake	8,348	43,199	48,912	13%	5.9
Stephentown	2,791	15,527	17,222	11%	6.2
Town of Westerlo	3,194	14,996	18,026	20%	5.6
Troy	51,401	130,972	173,792	33%	3.4
Valley Falls	5,630	13,631	13,240	-3%	2.4
Voorheesville	7,756	90,879	101,311	11%	13.1
Watervliet	10,375	22,800	26,043	14%	2.5
William K. Sanford	85,590	554,000	586,098	6%	6.8
<b>AVERAGES</b>	15,792	116,067	129,578	10%	8.8

## HOLDINGS

Library	Population	2022 Holdings	2023 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2023 Per Capita Holdings
Albany	99,224	433,892	430,690	-1%	4.3
Altamont	1,675	133,457	116,964	-12%	69.8
Arvilla E. Diver	527	127,503	111,233	-13%	211.1
Berlin	1,808	130,384	113,973	-13%	63.0
Berne	2,689	138,175	122,076	-12%	45.4
Bethlehem	28,631	284,386	299,728	5%	10.5
Brunswick	12,581	130,971	115,194	-12%	9.2
Castleton	1,477	129,457	113,195	-13%	76.6
Cheney	6,711	139,005	117,560	-15%	17.5
Cohoes	18,147	152,704	137,107	-10%	7.6
East Greenbush	16,748	213,110	189,940	-11%	11.3
Grafton	2,051	129,197	113,045	-13%	55.1
Guilderland	37,989	248,113	233,693	-6%	6.2
Menands	3,979	120,502	107,852	-10%	27.1
Nassau	4,545	143,269	126,049	-12%	27.7
North Greenbush	13,292	178,926	161,858	-10%	12.2
Petersburgh	1,372	152,086	130,731	-14%	95.3
Poestenkill	4,322	130,908	114,924	-12%	26.6
RCS	14,093	137,817	128,276	-7%	9.1
Rensselaer	9,210	145,327	129,357	-11%	14.0
Rensselaerville	1,826	146,269	121,621	-17%	66.6
Sand Lake	8,348	150,493	133,952	-11%	16.0
Stephentown	2,791	137,119	121,013	-12%	43.4
Town of Westerlo	3,194	132,195	114,975	-13%	36.0
Troy	51,401	252,373	234,492	-7%	4.6
Valley Falls	5,630	132,250	110,825	-16%	19.7
Voorheesville	7,756	158,981	148,142	-7%	19.1
Watervliet	10,375	132,861	115,570	-13%	11.1
William K. Sanford	85,590	265,712	235,549	-11%	2.8
<b>AVERAGES</b>	15,792	169,222	153,434	-9%	35.1

## LIBRARY USE

Library	Resident Borrowers	2023 Non-Resident Borrowers	Internet Filtering	# Public Computers	# Public Computer Sessions	2023 Reference Transactions	Annual Hours Open	Total Annual Attendance
Albany	84,414	161	N	175	32,945	118,419	14,971	436,894
Altamont	2,350	60	N	3	1,859	1,938	2,479	12,495
Arvilla E. Diver	383	1	N	8	340	960	1,352	5,039
Berlin	1,035	0	N	1	204	156	1,040	3,563
Berne	2,600	66	Y	5	165	870	2,080	12,688
Bethlehem	21,187	87	N	32	13,008	34,275	3,511	194,334
Brunswick	4,685	6	N	7	1,286	3,742	2,288	28,687
Castleton	427	708	N	4	329	2,603	2,392	10,220
Cheney	2,891	0	N	5	1,968	680	1,976	24,960
Cohoes	1,789	29	N	7	421	2,340	2,080	5,866
East Greenbush	5,241	1,909	N	21	12,041	33,477	3,276	126,015
Grafton	1,012	2	N	4	598	1,200	1,352	4,787
Guilderland	17,968	276	N	21	13,011	29,330	3,192	173,101
Menands	1,597	4	N	3	632	1,560	1,330	4,972
Nassau	2,636	351	N	4	215	1,435	1,872	8,382
North Greenbush	2,776	6	N	3	1,352	3,988	2,548	21,005
Petersburgh	918	4	N	4	192	1,820	1,248	6,357
Poestenkill	883	0	N	3	52	90	1,514	9,427
RCS	8,628	428	N	5	1,882	3,242	2,924	28,580
Rensselaer	6,432	40	N	6	1,968	5,355	2,244	15,657
Rensselaerville	872	27	N	3	118	623	1,392	5,328
Sand Lake	1,936	0	Y	2	543	312	2,225	12,988
Stephentown	762	15	N	5	418	347	1,669	7,812
Town of Westerlo	608	11	N	5	54	453	1,560	7,107
Troy	26,886	673	N	16	11,356	5,772	4,836	49,743
Valley Falls	576	3	N	4	205	454	1,820	8,201
Voorheesville	3,047	22	N	3	1,307	6,172	2,960	39,281
Watervliet	1,657	14	N	8	2,771	884	1,900	14,293
William K. Sanford	38,487	130	N	16	13,175	31,931	3,040	190,436
<b>AVERAGES</b>	8,437	174		13	3,945	10,153	2,658	50,628

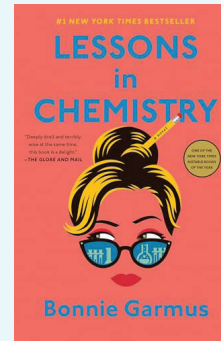
## PROGRAMS

Library	Adult Programs	Adult Attendance	YA Programs	YA Attendance	Childrens Programs	Childrens Attendance	Other Programs	Other Attendance
Albany	846	8,156	281	1,736	983	14,036	325	6,784
Altamont	37	457	2	28	115	1,128	16	2,440
Arvilla E. Diver	21	60	44	178	93	538	13	609
Berlin	46	154	2	3	40	172	19	119
Berne	48	378	3	5	88	1578	24	945
Bethlehem	181	2,859	61	631	370	11,954	54	9,174
Brunswick	155	2,034	7	153	168	4,922	16	1,447
Castleton	107	544	17	51	250	3,414	10	588
Cheney	89	976	14	245	82	1074	1	81
Cohoes	44	365	6	40	46	403	3	103
East Greenbush	328	4,800	76	811	339	20,323	21	1,332
Grafton	9	439	5	25	85	674	40	480
Guilderland	243	2,558	41	716	157	5071	3	215
Menands	74	189	19	35	263	653	2	246
Nassau	78	677	32	269	130	1561	10	200
North Greenbush	23	102	0	0	59	553	1	76
Petersburgh	103	390	6	40	60	681	8	89
Poestenkill	32	228	14	76	88	1229	8	284
RCS	89	670	7	31	347	6,648	19	507
Rensselaer	19	87	6	18	35	435	0	0
Rensselaerville	23	116	0	0	37	257	4	112
Sand Lake	41	340	3	12	102	797	7	418
Stephentown	101	626	65	367	75	1291	21	735
Town of Westerlo	43	229	88	112	143	935	0	0
Troy	416	5,672	45	239	172	2,392	5	350
Valley Falls	32	224	20	122	112	1162	24	800
Voorheesville	183	2,312	71	1,436	145	2,944	35	2,634
Watervliet	241	1,003	1	10	6	180	2	39
William K. Sanford	352	3,357	218	2,263	341	12,822	45	3,388
<b>AVERAGES</b>	138	1,379	40	333	170	3,442	25	1,179

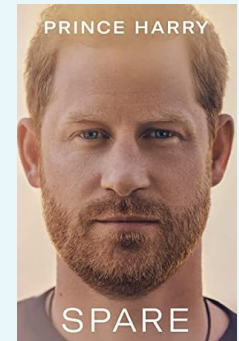
# RESOURCE SHARING

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Albany	79,538	82,099	107,645	117,192
Altamont	9,350	8,750	4,987	4,684
Arvilla E. Diver	1,168	1,430	763	974
Berlin	2,123	2,219	3,398	2,615
Berne	3,843	4,360	6,065	5,560
Bethlehem	77,607	73,725	52,068	53,319
Brunswick	18,108	16,989	3,279	3,746
Castleton	9,915	9,730	4,193	4,941
Cheney	8,682	9,344	3,037	3,670
Cohoes	5,758	6,524	1,689	2,304
East Greenbush	50,107	31,909	38,195	29,389
Grafton	3,414	4,510	2,439	2,703
Guilderland	33763	53,792	56912	106,092
Menands	5,221	4,193	5,759	5,300
Nassau	5,240	4,987	12,415	13,430
North Greenbush	12,827	15,557	16,029	15,901
Petersburgh	3,300	3,306	10,061	9,309
Poestenkill	3,850	4,287	5,422	5,386
RCS	10,710	10,588	19,065	18,767
Rensselaer	5,290	5,193	6,576	7,580
Rensselaerville	5,689	4,623	9,803	7,440
Sand Lake	8,694	9,577	7,329	7,805
Stephentown	2,846	3,406	7,715	8,055
Town of Westerlo	3,790	4,320	10,731	11,341
Troy	25,627	26,858	22,244	24,307
Valley Falls	3,690	3,068	3,554	4,789
Voorheesville	15,035	15,698	25,433	20,842
Watervliet	8,715	8,542	9,576	9,359
William K. Sanford	61,822	59,213	47,247	47,539
<b>AVERAGES</b>	16,749	16,855	17,367	19,115

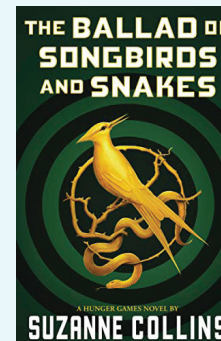
## TOP CIRCULATED ITEMS



Fiction



Non-Fiction



Young Adult



Youth







# STAY IN TOUCH

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Designed by:  
**Jona Favreau**  
*Platinum 36er*