

DAVID A. HOWE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Your Library by the Numbers - 2023

Number of library card holders	4,589
Number of library materials checked out to card holders	55,244
Number of library materials loaned to other libraries	8,904
Total in state aid/grants to library for special projects	\$197,133
Total in private grant dollars awarded for special projects	\$61,662
Number of hours open	2,542
Number of library-sponsored programs offered	652
Number of library subscription service bags	290
Number of attendees at library- sponsored programs	10,355
Number of early literacy programs for children ages 0-5	103
Number of children, teens, & adults who attended Summer Reading programs	3,474
Number of group and one-on-one digital literacy sessions offered	102
Number of times library computers & wireless service were used	12,854
Number of library podcast listens in 2023	7,156
Number of times library meeting rooms were used by community groups for meetings, events, & fundraisers	96
Approved 2023 tax levy	\$447,527

I have found that the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card. - Laura Bush



The Library in 2023

In 2023 we celebrated the well-deserved retirement of our IT Tech, Ken Reichman. An avid birder and expert candle maker, Ken had been with the library since 2013. During his tenure, Ken worked to maintain and upgrade library technologies and also provided invaluable one-on-one Tech Help sessions for patrons in need of assistance.



Gary Havens, who has been one of our auditorium techs for the past several years, stepped into Ken's role after his departure. We are thankful for both of them and

wish Ken all the best in his retirement.

In January 2023, we welcomed Kate Elliott as our new Public Programming and Exhibits Curator. In this role, Kate is charged with oversight of the Nancy Howe Auditorium and the Howe Gallery. As both an artist and a seasoned administrator, Kate brings a fresh perspective to the role.



Auditorium Staff (left to right) Wilson Cummings, Peter Mangels, Kate Elliott and Gary Havens

Kate received her Bachelor's Degree in 2003 and her Master's in 2009.

She grew up in Watertown, NY, and has lived in

6 states but, most recently, lived in Indiana and worked for the College of Arts and Sciences at Indiana University.

Kate is a welcome addition to the staff and has become an active member of the community, joining the Music on the Lawn Committee and working on special



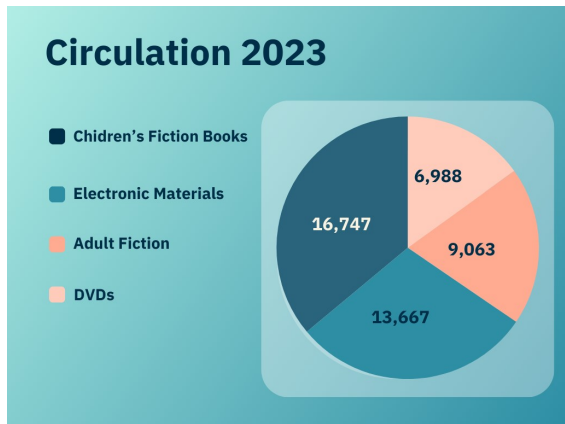
projects with the Wells-ville Development Corporation.

When not at the library Kate might be reading Hugh Howey's *Silo* trilogy, re-watching Emma Thompson in *Sense and Sensibility*, working on a

wide array of art, craft, or home projects, or singing along to 90s grunge music.

-Director Nic Gunning

What People Borrowed in 2023



Patrons borrowed a total of 55,244 items in 2023—an average of about 151 items per day. Borrowing is not limited to the hours the library is open, as our digital collections are available 24/7/365.

In 2023, children’s fiction books topped the most-borrowed list with 16,747 items checked out. This figure includes picture books, juvenile fiction, and young adult fiction. Electronic materials came in second with 13,667 loans of digital books, audiobooks, and magazines. Adult fiction came in third with 9,063 loans.

The library’s collection consists of 152,804 items, including 33,930 youth books, 66,794 adult titles, 4,675 DVDs, and 3,396 audiobooks on CD. In addition, patrons have access to 38,663 electronic items. We added 5,118 items to our collections in 2023.

Some exciting non-book additions to our collection in 2023 included fishing poles, Adventure Passes to local attractions, and 6 ukuleles, which can be checked out just like other library materials!

Library Operating Income and Expenses for 2023

INCOME	
WCSD Taxpayers.....	\$447,527
Endowment.....	\$139,736
Gifts & Grants.....	\$81,759
Fees & Other Income.....	\$17,038
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$686,060

EXPENSES	
Personnel.....	\$500,080
Administration.....	\$27,138
Programming.....	\$21,051
Collection.....	\$33,840
Facility.....	\$65,740
Technology.....	\$30,248
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$678,097

CAPITAL PROJECTS:	
Gifts/Grants.....	\$235,428
Capital Fund Expenses.....	\$157,796



People At The Library (2023)

LIBRARY PERSONNEL

Senior Staff
 Nicolas Gunning, Director
 Rick Dodd
 Kate Elliott
 Allison Fesmire
 Niki Gordon
 Kate Miller
 Amanda Smith



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In 2023, the Friends donated \$12,870 to help pay for library programs and resources!

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Community Outreach



This year, the library was able to reach many new faces through different and renewed outreach opportunities. We resumed our regular deliveries of Large Print titles to Manor Hills as well as helping to stock the library at the Allegany County Jail.

We were pleased to maintain several other vital community partnerships, as well.

The library continued working with WCSD to distribute free lunches to kids on weekdays throughout the summer and with Community Kitchen in offering a monthly community meal. We partnered with Rotary Club of Wellsville to host a community Easter Egg Hunt and with the Allegany County Blind Association to demonstrate library services at their



“See All You Can See” information fair. We also participated in a very successful community cleanup day, organized by the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce, and installed a community closet on the front terrace to provide free clothes to those in need.



In 2023, the library launched a new bi-weekly podcast and radio show where staff members share favorite books, movies, recipes and more. The show is called *But Have You Tried* and is available on all podcast apps, our YouTube channel and airs locally on 92.7 FM.

With storytime visits to Trinity Daycare, ACCORD Headstart, and the YMCA afterschool program, the library is connecting with more and more children. We also had the opportunity to have a table at the first annual Community Family Fun Day where families were able to browse local free resources. All elementary grades were able to visit again for a Summer Reading run down and library tour!



Adult Programming

In 2023, there were several new, ongoing programs offered including monthly game nights, knitting circles, and The Adult Pride Alliance. The Adult Pride Alliance started in March of 2023, and was able to grow its membership enough to end the year with a big “Friendsgiving” dinner!



We also offered our first ever Poetry Slam contest to celebrate National Poetry Month. Patrons turned out to listen to contestants read their poems. Gift certificates were awarded to the three most popular. Alongside the regular adult

craft club, SerenHippity Crafts, from Olean, offered two additional craft classes for adults in 2023: a house plant instruction and craft and a jewelry-making craft. Heather Joyce returned to offer another 6-week yoga class and we hosted several authors from the surrounding area, including Gerald Borchert, Steven Jakobi, T.R. Sherlock, Dylan Newton, and Amanda Woomer.



Tuesdays on the Terrace, one of our most enduringly popular adult programs, ran

from mid-July to mid-August, serving well over 100 lunches per week! The Wellsville Village Farmer’s Market was back offering locally grown food and handcrafted goods on the library lawn each Saturday from June through September. They also held a holiday market as part of



the kick-off to the Hometown Holidays season on Small Business Saturday. The library even stayed open late so patrons could view the Wellsville Area Chamber of Commerce fireworks show from the back terrace!



The Nancy Howe Auditorium & Howe Gallery

In January 2023, Kate Elliott joined library staff as the Public Programming and Exhibits Curator. Her role includes planning programming in the Nancy Howe Auditorium and Howe Gallery.

During her first year at the library, Kate oversaw a slate of programming that included perennial favorites, like Irish Band Emerald Isle and Genesee Dance Theatre performing Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker Ballet*, as well as performers making their DAHPL debuts, like pianist Judd Sunshine and dynamic painting-and-piano-duo Pocket Vinyl. Program highlights included the turnout for our first ever screening of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and the incredible *Bubblemania!* show, by Doug Rougeux, that was a fun addition to our summer reading activities. Also, after years of planning, the auditorium patio was refurbished to improve accessibility and safety; molded concrete pavers replaced the previously slick and broken stone and the turnaround at the end of the wheelchair ramp was expanded.



In the Howe Gallery, we had a variety of art displays. In April, David Kuranda, a local art collector, hung over 150 original paintings. Student shows organized by WCSD and ICS followed in May and June. A fall highlight was the spooky photography show—*From the Shadows*.

Our major programs are paid for in part through state and private grants, organizational sponsorships, and contributions from members of the community. Library program in the Auditorium and Gallery are always free and open to everyone.

Teen Programming

In 2023, Ally celebrated two whole years with her weekly Teen Dungeons & Dragons Club! The club started as a small group in the fall of 2021, but grew to a record high of 14 in the summer of 2023—large enough that we had to split into three groups to play! The D&D Club celebrated Halloween by designing and wearing costumes based on their game characters.



Some highlights from teen programming in 2023 were the second annual Trivia Easter Egg Hunt, a photography class taught by Brian Oglesbee, and the second annual Too-Old-to-Trick-or-Treat Halloween Party! In September we also held our first ever Live-Action Clue, where teens took on the roles of the classic clue characters and roamed the library after hours to look for clues.



In November we held the library’s 11th annual Teen Photography Show, sponsored by the Wellsville Rotary Club, and judged by local photographer, Brian Oglesbee. We received 91 entries to the photo show, had 75 people come for the reception, and 271 community votes for the People’s Choice Award! This award went to Olivia Palmiter for the photograph “Zuri.” The Best of Show Award

went to August Sparatta for the photograph “Dazed and Confused.”

We also continued to update our Young Adult reading room with a hand painted solar system, by Isabel Crowner, and a game station with Xbox and PS3 for teens to play in the library!



Children's Programming

The children's department has been a hub of activity ranging from old favorites, like storytimes and the Fancy Tea, to reinvigorated programs, such as the Pirate Party and Halloween Party!

Our storytimes continue to entertain families with themes, such as alphabet storytime, Pete the Cat, and spring, that allow us to explore books, and our world, through color, texture, shapes and music! These are all very important tools for developing early literacy skills in children, as well as a lifelong love of reading. We also enjoy play time at every storytime because play is work for children. We always work on our fine motor skills like building, twisting, and pinching items, as well as our gross motor skills like jumping and running! Over the course of 2023 we had 1,000 participants in about one hundred storytimes!



Every year, the Fancy Tea shows just how classy library kids can be. In 2023, we hosted a Fairy Tale Tea Party where children got gussied up to make shields or tiaras,



decorate their own "mirror mirror," and enjoy a horse-drawn carriage ride. The Friends of the Library help fund this event, and Miss Kate and her volunteers make it come to life. We love to be able to provide the community with free programming such as this to give children new and exciting experiences.

Our Pirate Party has been a big hit for the past couple of years. One new addition that has been a huge crowd pleaser is having Master Swordsman Wayne Welburn join us to teach proper sword fighting technique! This year we also made our own treasure maps, and followed clues around the library to find the hidden treasure! Kids of all ages had a swashbuckling good time!

The Halloween Party is one that always has the building bursting at the seams. This year we were graced with an appearance from a local group of witches who entertained not only the kids, but also the adults in attendance, with a choreographed dance! We played bingo and enjoyed snacks in costume the rest of the night.



All Together Now Summer Reading Program

WOW! 290! That's how many children between the ages of 0-12 participated in our 2023 Summer Reading Program: All Together Now! These kiddos also boasted an amazing number of books read, totaling almost 4,000!

Along with lots of books read, participating kids had many opportunities throughout the summer to enjoy fun and educational programs based on teamwork, community, and cohabitation. Some of our favorites from last Summer were the Pick Your Poison program, by Prehistoric World, which highlighted the importance of venom, our visit from the Hornell Steamers baseball team, and, of course, our Crafts for a Cause in which kids got to help give back to our community organizations such as the SPCA, Hart House, and Rescue Pups!

We continued the tradition of awarding children a small prize each week, which consisted of coupons to local businesses. Thanks again to Sugardaddies, Napoli Pizza, Shorts, McDonalds, Burger King, & 7-Eleven for their generosity!

Our teen summer reading program reached new highs with 75 participants! Teens tracked books read, time spent outside, and creative activities. Our teens read over 400 books this year! We kept busy with a variety of crafts and games, and some teen storytimes. Some



highlights from the summer were making things like guacamole, candles, and soap, and having a sponge water fight on the front lawn!

The adult summer reading program set a record in 2023, as well, with 123 registered participants! We offered a variety of programs including, yoga classes, knitting circles, adult game nights, book clubs, craft classes, and an author visit. Nacho Mama's helped us kick-off our popular Tuesdays on the Terrace program. Everyone who registered received a specially designed tote bag. And, participating in programs, answering a weekly trivia question, and checking out books gave participants entries in weekly prize drawings, valued at \$25, as well as the grand prize gift basket drawing, valued at \$150!

Alongside the library's robust slate of summer programming, the Music on the Lawn Committee presented another great lineup of free outdoor concerts on the library lawn. We also had a spectacular performance of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* by local theatre troupe Shake on the Lake! and a fun evening of *Bubblemania!* With Doug Rougeux.

All in all, it was a great summer!



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The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man. -T.S. Eliot



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