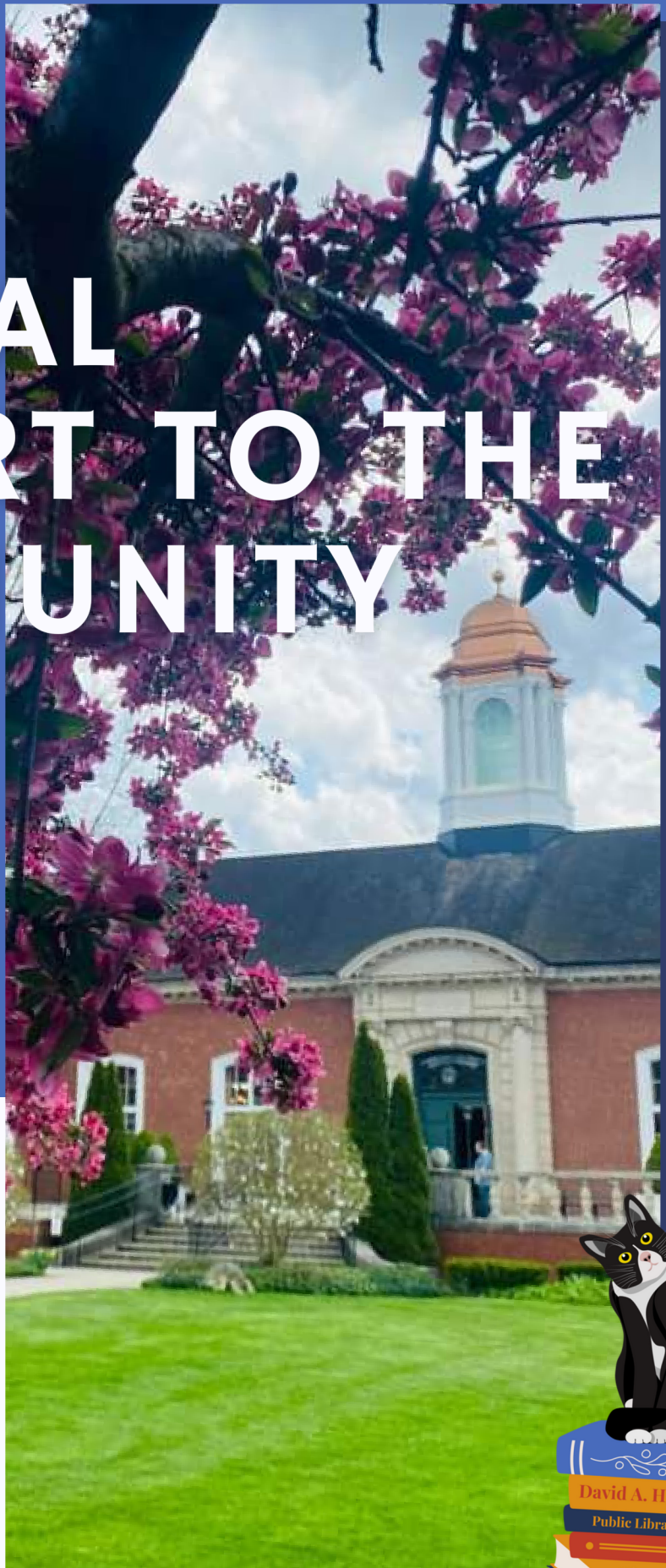


# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2024

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*David A.  
Howe  
Public  
Library*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Library Director, Nic Gunning

It's hard to believe, but 2024 marked my tenth year at the David A. Howe Public Library. My history as a library staffer goes back even farther. I started my first library job as a teenager in southwest Michigan, and it has been fascinating to see how libraries have evolved over these past 20 years.

Books and literacy will always be the heart of library service, and in fact 2024 represented our highest circulation in 5 years as well as a record for the most digital circulation we've ever had. (Seriously, if you're not using Libby, you should check it out. Kanopy and Mango

Languages too while you're at it!) But beyond that, the library is place where the community feels at home because it's yours. Whether you are a parent bringing your kids to storytime, a teen hanging out at the Friday club, someone attending a community meal or enjoying a concert in the auditorium, we've got something for you here.

While there will always be a place for quiet study or settling in with your favorite book and something from the coffee cart, it is also exciting to feel the hustle and bustle of traffic in and out of those big green doors, to see people finding their new favorite author, or even a new friend.

I've seen the changes over the past couple of decades and am pleased with how libraries have grown along with their communities. It's how it should be. If life gets you down or you just want a place where you can go to unwind and recharge, we'll be here. We've got you.



# ARTS & CULTURE

## NANCY HOWE AUDITORIUM AND HOWE GALLERY

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It was a beautiful evening in early May. The library's antique Steinway was waiting center-stage. A din of conversation filled the Nancy Howe Auditorium as an eager audience waited for Emma Tyme to take the stage. Emma, a local singer-songwriter, particularly known for her guitar tunes, had chosen to play this concert entirely on piano.

Early on in the show, Emma stumbled on the introduction to a song. She stopped and begged the audience's patience as she began again. With a fresh start, Emma not only got through that song, she also captivated her audience for the rest of the evening.

Hosting concerts is just one way that the library fulfills its mission to foster arts and culture in the Wellsville area. We also have dance performances,

plays, history lectures, films - new and old, author visits, art classes and shows, gallery exhibits, and more. One of the best parts is that, performers and artists featured in the Nancy Howe Auditorium and Howe Gallery often live and work locally, contributing to our community in a variety of ways beyond their art. Not only do we get to enjoy the creative talents of these folks but we also have the pleasure of interacting with them and seeing how life in our community impacts and inspires their creative endeavors.



Emma Tyme performs in the Nancy Howe Auditorium in May 2024 as part of the Spring Concert Series.

### By the Numbers

8 art/craft  
shows



29 movies



18 concerts



10 other  
performances

# TEENS

At a star-gazing event during the teen summer reading program this year, one of the teens in attendance asked if we'd ever considered holding a NERF event. The answer: not really...but we could! We put out a request on Facebook for donations of gently used NERF supplies. Within a week we were generously gifted two large totes full of blasters and darts—more than enough to supply all the teens who attended!

On the day of the event, Ally was working at the main desk in the afternoon when three of our regular teen patrons burst through the front doors ready to go with blasters from home and tactical gear. “We’re ready! When is NERF?” They were so excited for the event they’d come down to the library five hours early! We had eighteen teens attend the event—a record for attendance at a first-time event during Ally’s time at the library. Teens had a blast playing capture the flag, zombies, team

battle, and other NERF games, and the event has become a favorite that we plan to repeat for years to come.

Throughout the year, we hold a variety of events for older and younger teens, including the Friday Club (Dungeons & Dragons, mafia, and other board games), NERF, hide-and-seek, puzzle adventures, crafts, and other games.



Winners of the 2024 Teen Photo Show



Teens enjoying NERF night at the library

## By the Numbers

Programs: 169

Attendance: 1970

## Summer Reading

Programs: 73

Attendance: 586

Reading  
Challenge  
Participants: 61

Minutes Read:  
39,200  
(653 hours  
or 27 days!)



# CHILDREN

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It was a perfect day to play in the snow. The kids at storytime heard books about snow and even made a snow-themed craft, but the highlight of the day was when everyone bundled up and went out to throw snowballs, make snow angels, and even eat a little snow. One little girl stumbled while chasing another kid, but instead of getting upset, she just rolled over, giggled and made another snow angel.



Playing in the snow after storytime!

Our weekly storytimes aren't the only thing happening in the children's department. We also host different parties that include fun activities, like getting a manicure at our Fancy Tea Party or walking the plank at our Pirate Party! We also love to celebrate everyday things that kids (and adults) enjoy, like National Cookie Day, or the release of a popular book-to-movie adaptation, like **Dog Man**! Miss Kate and our other librarians even make trips to read to kiddos in local daycares and afterschool programs.

## By the Numbers

**Programs: 186**

**Attendance: 4554**

## Summer Reading

**Programs: 90**

**Attendance: 1701**

**Participants: 279**

**Ages 0-5: 105**

**Ages 6-11: 174**

And we can't forget about Summer Reading! This six-week summer program is jam-packed with fun and enriching experiences. The theme for 2024 was "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Playing with this theme, Miss Kate had a new "adventure camp" each week, which included an exciting array of activities, including proper sword fighting for Knight Camp, basic self defense as part of Ninja Camp, and tumbling practice during Clown Camp!

Enjoying a tromp through the fall leaves in the Library lawn.



# ADULTS

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We have always prided ourselves in having programs and events for all ages and 2024 was a full year for adult programming. Book Clubs and libraries go hand-in-hand and this year we took our Books and Brews Book Club to the streets! We've experimented in

the past with holding book clubs at places like The Wellsville Creative Arts Center. We even read Stephen King's *Needful Things* at our own *Needful Things Antique Store*! This year we added brews to the mix. First up, we read a classic from Clive Cussler at the Wellsville Brewery then continued the cycle with meetings at coffee shops like Book Cellars and the Shop at Main. With a mix of fiction and non-fiction, the conversations were always robust and, in many cases, we left with a new understanding of that month's book. Beyond the Book Clubs, we offered a variety of fun events including watercolor classes, a poetry slam, yoga on the lawn and more! There were nearly 100 individual programs with over 1,000 participants.



Books & Brews Club meeting at Book Cellars



Learning the basics of watercolor

## By the Numbers

Programs: 88

Attendance: 1792

## Summer Reading

Programs: 29

Attendance: 964

Participants: 115



# BUILDING & GROUNDS

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In early 2024, after several years of planning and fundraising, significant water damage to the walls in the Nancy Howe Auditorium was finally repaired. The photos reveal the night and day difference the renovation made - with the after shots showing this space completely restored. This project was made possible through funding from the Kelsey-Naylor Family Foundation and New York State Construction Grants.

Of course, construction projects represent only a small part of the work done to maintain the 88-year-old library building. Our small but dedicated team of maintenance staff work tirelessly to keep the library building and grounds clean, safe, and in good repair. From painting walls to

hauling trash, trimming hedges to shoveling snow, replacing light bulbs to making sure the bathrooms are fully stocked,.. Without this team, the library would be a far less pleasant and beautiful place to visit.



Erik and Jim keeping the library landscape looking beautiful



# PERSONNEL

## STAFF & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### Senior Staff



Rick Dodd  
*Head of Maintenance*

Kate Elliott  
*Public Programming  
and Exhibits Curator*



Ally Fesmire  
*Youth Librarian*

Niki Gordon  
*Circulation Operations  
Manager*



Nic Gunning  
*Library Director*

Kate Miller (Miss Kate)  
*Children's Librarian*



Amanda Smith  
*Acquisitions and  
Finance*

David A. Meow  
and Spike

Nic with the  
Library Board  
after their  
monthly meeting



### Support Staff

Malik Acosta  
Erik Baldwin  
Annabelle Budinger  
Emily Budinger  
Shaw Carlton  
Wilson Cummins  
Darryl Depner  
Justine Dodaro  
Kennedy Ewing  
Ann Giddings  
Gary Havens  
Jim Knapp  
Cori Lunn  
Peter Mangels  
Daphne O'Kelly  
Jessica Stack  
Paige Taylor  
Jessica Wieszczyk  
Heather Wonderling

### Board of Trustees

Donald Comstock  
*President*

Emily Peavey  
*Vice President*

Anne Soback  
*Secretary*

Nancy Reuning  
*Treasurer*

Nora Burdick  
Tim Colligan  
Madeleine Gasdik  
Kris Green  
Tom Reuning



# 2024

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 2024 Operating Budget

#### Income

WCSD Taxpayers	\$457,025
Endowment	\$149,682
Gifts & Grants	\$77,528
Fees & Other Income	\$22,245
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$706,480</b>

#### Expenses

Personnel	\$513,455
Administration	\$30,204
Programming	\$29,042
Collection	\$32,154
Facility	\$67,656
Technology	\$31,225
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$703,736</b>

#### Capital Projects\*

Gifts & Grants	\$750,541
Capital Fund Expenses	<b>\$86,785</b>

\*Funds in this category are designated for major, multi-year building and infrastructure projects

### 1 Employee Retired: Ann Giddings



Staff celebrate at Ann's retirement party

**4,480 library card holders**  
**2,542 hours open**  
**40,059 visitors**  
 That's 16 visitors per hour!



**60,745 materials checked out**  
 An average of **24 materials per hour!**  
**8,445 items loaned to other libraries OR**  
**162 items each week.**

**2,011 items added to the collection**  
**Total collection: 114,426 items**  
 We have books, DVDs, CDs, magazines,  
**ukuleles, fishing poles, and much more.**



**498 events and activities for all ages**  
**10,405 attendees**  
 That's nearly **10 programs per week!**

**Summer Reading**  
**455 people registered**  
**189 events and activities**  
**3,949 attendees**



**Computer and wifi: 14,821 sessions**  
**Tech support: 70 sessions**  
**Library podcast: 15,143 listens**



In August, Ann Giddings worked her last day at the library. She'd been on staff as a library clerk since 2001! Staff and visitors to the library could always count on Ann's knowledge of our collections and systems, her kindness, and her joyful spirit. Fortunately, she still comes to visit us from time to time.

# DONORS TO THE LIBRARY

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## **\$500,000 or more**

Jody Miller

## **\$100,000 or more**

Brian Cook

## **\$75,000 or more**

Kelsey-Naylor Foundation

## **\$50,000 or more**

Donald Daily Trust

## **\$20,000 or more**

Arts Services Inc.

## **\$10,000 or more**

Friends of the Library

Louanne Comstock, Patrick & Katie  
Comstock, and Brandon & Sloane  
Gage

## **\$5,000 or more**

Anne Currier

Charles Joyce

Manley Trust

## **\$2,000 or more**

ACWC

Barbara Haskins

Daniel J. Higgins

Doris MacFarquhar

Erland & Pauline Kailbourne

James & Nancy Stevens

Jeremy & Sara Donlon

Otis Minnesota Services

Shane & Firkel

LLSA

The Monday Club

## **\$1,000 or more**

ACAF

James Walchli

John Hammond

Keith Dello

Moogan Family Foundation

National Fuel

Robert & Zalie Linn

Short's Convenience Store

## **\$500 or more**

Barbara Hulbert

Bonnie Hallett

Christopher Depner

Frederick & Susan Beckhorn

Knights of Columbus

## **\$200 or more**

Fumble Fingers Knitting Group

Jacquelyn Moon

James Szabo

John & Diana Embser

L.C. Whitford Co. Inc.

Music on the Lawn

Pamela Horr

Susan Heywood

Wellsville Lions Charities

## **\$100 or more**

Allegany County Mental Health Assn.

Andrew Harris

Betsy H. Shaw

Bob & Voni Walker

Carol Collins

Catherine Schuyler Chapter NSDAR

Charles & Carole Bohne

Charlyne Hickey

Cindy Baker

Craig & Nora Burdick

Dale & Arlene Kepner

David & Patricia Luzer

Edward Tezak

Floyd & Deanna Scharf

Gary Perkins

Hart's Jewelry

Jack Carter

Jasmine Sanders

Jason McChesney

Jodi Abbey-Hines

John & Joan Burdsall

Joseph & Cynthia Baker

Karen Rositzke

Katherine Randall

Larry & Deborah Clark

Linda Blank

Louann Pawlak

Maria & Mike Bessasparis

Mark Peters

Michael & Nora McArdle

Nic & Hilary Gunning

Rolf & Sheila Mikkelson

Terah Soule

Terry & Janice Engelder

The Ryan Agencies

Walker Insurance

Wellsville BPO Elks

Wellsville Brewing Co. Trivia Teams

Wellsville Development Corps.

William & Joyce Loughlin

## **\$50 or more**

AFSCME Local 2574 Council 66

Alan Cunningham

Alex & Alice Cole

Barb Lee

Dan Smith

Dennis & Connie Wyant

Elaine & William Duffus

Hans & Doreen Arnold

James & Dorothy Spellicy

Judy & Robert Loughlin

Louise & Steven Mattison

Michael & Linda Tronetti

Philip & Gladys Swarthout

Robert M. Mountain

Roxane Schmidt

Shirley Boyd

Tim & Suzanne Colligan

## **Up to \$40**

Barbara Wilman

Carol & Ken Didion

Gloria Fanton

Gordon Phenes

John & Audrey Wood

John & Cynthia Santora

K. David & Janice Porter

Kevin & Jeanne Harris

Kristin Buchholz

Megan McClune-Smith

Nancy Alt

Pauline Stebbins

Tom & Kandra Hirsch

Chelsea's Catering

Denecke Family

Doris Perkins

Hannah Denecke

Kathleen Murphy

Molly Riccardi



Donate to the  
Library via PayPal  
(Scan the QR code or search  
for David A. Howe Library  
as a payee in the app)



# DONORS TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

## \$20,000 or more

Sherry C. Walton

## \$1,000 or more

Ian & Sandra Whitehouse  
William & Carol Smith

## \$500 or more

Bonnie Hallett  
Charles & Lorraine Joyce Family  
Foundation  
Michael & Cheryl Jackson  
Samantha Gilkey  
Sandle Custom Bearing Corps.

## \$200 or more

Angela & Barry Glickstein  
Barry & Catherine Kulp  
Daniel & Constance Synakowski  
David & Jane Pinney  
Don & Judy Mong  
Donald & Jackie Comstock  
George & Barbara Cretekos  
Jacqueline Mason  
Kathy J. Cook  
Kenneth & GERALYN Gough  
Michael & Julie Wilson  
Pekarek Law Group PC  
Walker Business

## \$100 or more

Cynthia Sikaras  
Dennis & Melissa Grantier  
Donald & Harriet Latten  
Edward & Kathryn Eicher  
Gary & Gail Goetschius  
Hans & Doreen Arnold  
Hart's Jewelry  
J. W. Embser Sons Funeral Home  
James & Kay Birmingham  
Jean Richmond  
John & Carol Flurschutz  
John & Gwen Potter  
John & MaryBeth Thompsonsett  
John Booth  
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L.C. Whitford Co., Inc.  
Marsha & David Sick  
Marsha & James Brown  
Michael & Jeanette DeBarbieri  
Peter Van Tyne  
Robert & Patricia Maiden  
Ross & Brenda Robarts  
Stanley & Joyce Krupnik  
Tim & Suzanne Colligan  
VFW Frank B Church Post 2530  
Wellsville BPO Elks  
William & Joyce Loughlin

## \$50 or more

Barbara Gordon  
Christopher & Brenda Comstock  
Dick Kling  
Dominick Petrelli  
George & Nanette Johnson  
George Goetschius  
H. Kier & Lisa Dirlam  
James & Demetra Raptis  
Jason & Liz Huyler  
Jody & Christine Torrey  
John Cochran  
Kevin & Nancy Kailbourne  
L'talia  
Mark & Monica Finn  
Nyhl & Linda Austin  
Philip & Gladys Swarthout  
Robert M. Mountain  
Sharon W. Hedrick-Ash  
Susan Pederson  
Sylvia Masin  
Yvonne Miles

## Up to \$30

Barbara Wilman  
James & Dorothy Spellicy  
John & Audrey Wood  
Kenneth Canfield  
Shaun & Elaine Walsh  
Susan Perry  
Thomas & Agnes Brush  
Wayne & Margarita Crittenden  
Wellsville Brewing Co. Inc.  
William & Patricia Childs

In 2024, the Friends donated \$10,649 to help pay for library programs and resources!



## Friends of the Library Board

Kris Bailey

*President*

Monica Finn

*Secretary*

Mary Piscatelli

*Vice President*

Kerri Buchholz

Julie Wilson

Cindy Schreiner

Cindy Baker

Liz Huyler

Carol Gardner

Ashley Robichaud

Jackie Mason

Virginia Elliott

Elissa Burke

# WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

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The 2026 School and Library budget vote is on May 20, 2025! Eligible voters can cast their ballots at Wellsville High School.

## Connect Online



David A. Howe  
Public Library



dahowelibrary



dahowelibrary



dahoweteens



dahowelibrary



dahowelibrary



David A. Howe  
Public Library



Join us on  
Discord



## Come by! We're open

Monday	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

## Keep in touch!

155 North Main Street  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
585.593.3410  
[wellsville@stls.org](mailto:wellsville@stls.org)

