

# DAVID A. HOWE PUBLIC LIBRARY

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

### Your Library by the Numbers - 2021

Number of library card holders	5,333
Number of library materials checked out to card holders	44,612
Number of library materials loaned to other libraries	11,091
Number of state and private grant dollars awarded for special projects	\$18,209
Number of hours open	2,045
Number of library-sponsored programs offered	316
Number of online library programs offered	51
Number of attendees at library- sponsored programs	15,038
Number of attendees at online library programs	81
Number of early literacy programs for children ages 0-5	43
Number of children, teens, & adults who attended Summer Reading programs	2,897
Number of group and one-on-one digital literacy sessions offered	104
Number of attendees at all digital literacy sessions	104
Number of times library computers & wireless service were used	6061
Number of the 'Howe's Things' library podcast listens in 2021	17,256
Number of times library meeting rooms were used by community groups for meetings, events, & fund raisers	81
Approved 2021 tax levy	\$430,932

I have always imagined that paradise will be some kind of library. - Jorge Luis Borges



## The Library in 2021



Looking back, it's hard to sort out what events happened in what year. Time since 2019 seems to have melded together, but I think I have it sorted out. We began 2021 with curbside service and a circulation desk with a browsing collection set up in the lobby of the Nancy

Howe Auditorium. We were doing daily tech labs out of the Exhibition Room and holding regular programs both digitally and in person. In March, we were able to open the front doors again, and what a relief it was! At first, we had only the main reading rooms open, and the youth wing soon followed. We were encouraged to see so many community members coming back through. There was a nice boost of energy and excitement in the library.

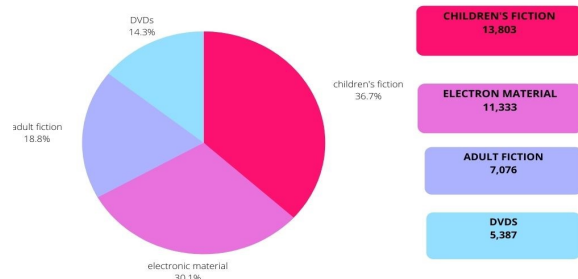
As things began to resemble normalcy, we knew our first order of business would be to fill the Youth Librarian position that had been open since March of 2020. Ally Stevick joined the staff in May of 2021, just in time for the 10th Annual Teen Photo Show, and she hit the ground running!



A recent graduate of Houghton College, Ally brought with her a fresh perspective, creativity, and enthusiasm for the job. She began with a variety of programs including board game and

hangout nights, tie dye and knitting classes, and education programs like math tutoring times and book discussions. She also joined me for several episodes of the library podcast and radio show, Howe's Things. She developed a library Discord server as well as a teen-specific Instagram (@dahplteens) and TikTok (@dahoweteens). With Ally in place, the staff was complete again, and we were ready for the challenge of rebuilding after the 2020 shutdowns. The future looks bright ahead. -Nic Gunning, Director

## What People Borrowed in 2021



## Circulation in 2021

Patrons borrowed a total of 44,694 items in 2021—an average of 123 items per day. Patrons are not limited to borrowing only when the library is open, as our digital collections are available 24/7 year round.

In 2021, children's fiction books were the most borrowed items in the library's collection with 13,803. This includes picture books, juvenile fiction, and young adult fiction. Electronic materials came in second with 11,803 loans. This includes digital books, audiobooks, and magazines. Adult fiction came in third with 7,076 loans.

The library's collection consists of 143,233 items, including 34,033 youth books, 65,554 adult titles, 4,196 DVDs, and 3,329 audiobooks on CD. In addition, patrons have access to 23,239 e-books. The library added 2,818 items to its collections in 2021.

## The Nancy Howe Auditorium

Auditorium programming for 2021 began virtually and slowly expanded as the year went on. The Nancy Howe Auditorium was visited 597 times by community members wishing to partake in the artistic, cultural, and entertaining programs that we had to offer. The auditorium provided 6 virtual programs and 52 live and in person programs for people of all ages. These programs included music history, workshops, movies, concerts, plays, speakers, dance, and more.



We kicked off the Fall season with rising country music star Allie Colleen, who joined us all the way from Nashville, Tennessee. We welcomed theatrical productions from Short Tract Towne Theatre and Bookworm Theatrics of New York City, then ended the year with *The Nutcracker's Toy Box*, an original ballet performed by the Genesee Dance Theatre.

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



## Library Programs & Outreach Services



In a year full of challenges, we continued to look for ways to reach out into the community. We resumed our rotating deposit collection with the Wellsville Creative Arts Center. Through a partnership with the Southern Tier Library System we were able to purchase books for use in the Allegany County Jail. We held several outdoor festivals and provided giveaway books. We even resumed our partnership with the Wellsville schools to provide free lunches to kids over the summer.

*Howe's Things*, the library's podcast and radio show featured many guests including library staff, volunteers and directors from around the system. We also interviewed several authors including Jason Fry, Steven Barnes, J.T. Ellison, Tess Gerritsen and musician Don Danneman of the Cyrkle. We even welcomed author Dylan Newtown for a special in-person interview on her Wellsville-set novel, *How Sweet It Is*. Plus we presented the original audio comedy *Aunt Velma's House of Horrors*.



The youth department was able to get in front of many school aged children this year by utilizing both in person and virtual outreach. We held our first ever Picture Book Madness virtually with Allegany County Librarians and the schools that they serve! We have also continued to reach patrons through virtual Storytimes with the Starbridge Company. During the Summer we were able to visit local daycares and Summer camps again to share stories and crafts.

## Library Operating Income and Expenses for 2021

### INCOME

WCSD Taxpayers.....	\$430,932
Gifts & Grants.....	\$188,198
Fees & Other Income.....	\$4,884
<b>TOTAL INCOME.....</b>	<b>\$624,014</b>
Surplus Use.....	\$177,074

### EXPENSES

Personnel.....	\$443,167
Administration.....	\$26,063
Programming.....	\$16,330
Collection Development.....	\$36,332
Facility.....	\$60,826
Technology.....	\$26,125
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>\$603,101</b>





## The Tails and Tales Summer Reading Program

Animals abound at the library for our 2021 Summer Reading Program! We were lucky enough to have cats, dogs, a bunny, alpacas, horses and even lizards stop by the library for the kiddos to enjoy! Over the course of our six week animal adventure, over 150 kids were registered and participated in our plethora of activities!

We were able to return to a fairly normal structure for our Summer Reading Program in 2021 while holding the majority of our programs out on the beautiful front lawn. We were able to collaborate with local nonprofits to continue our Crafts for a Cause including Abbe Freeland Animal Sanctuary, Allegany County Trap Neuter Return, and the SPCA Serving Allegany County.

We also expanded our efforts in collaborating with some of our local businesses. In a hope to move away from plastic toy prizes, we are now giving kids books, as well as certificates for goods around town. We had free ice cream from Shorts, free slice of pizza from Napoli, free kid's meal from Burger King, free fry or ice cream from McDonalds, and free slurpee from the local 7-Eleven! This way kids get an experience and we help support our local businesses!



Our Teen Summer Reading Program featured hourly reading trackers as well as a "Read as High as the Youth Librarian Is Tall" challenge. Participating teens logged over 550 hours of reading! We held weekly programs for teens and had designated Teen Loft Open Hours for teens to come and read or relax in the Teen Loft throughout the summer.

This year we were able to welcome back our very popular program, Tuesdays on the Terrace to the adult programming! Everyone who registered for the adult summer



reading program received a specially designed Summer Reading Program tote bag. A \$25 Chamber of Commerce gift certificate was awarded in each of the six weeks of the program. In the final week a winner was selected at random to receive the grand prize of a Nook 10" HD Tablet. Programs offered to adults included book clubs, crafts classes, movies, tai chi, plays, trivia games, and more!

## People At The Library (2021)

### LIBRARY PERSONNEL

#### Senior Staff

**Nicolas Gunning, Director**  
**Rick Dodd**  
**Niki Gordon**  
**Kate Miller**  
**Ken Reichman**  
**Amanda Smith**  
**Allison Stevick (May-Present)**  
**Jessica Wieszczyk**



#### Support Staff

Malik Acosta  
 Carrie Baldwin (Sept-Present)  
 Sawyer Burke (Jun-Present)  
 Amy Cline  
 Izabel Culbertson  
 Darryl Depner  
 Ann Giddings  
 Gary Havens  
 Alexa Hill (Jan-Aug)  
 Jim Knapp  
 Peter Mangels  
 Heather Molloy (Feb-Present)  
 Daphne O'Kelly (March-Present)  
 Nicole Pepe (Jan-March)  
 Sheyana Smith (Jan-July)

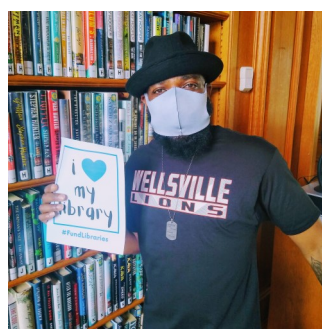
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 Scott Miller  
 Sally Jacoby Murphy  
 Sarah Jacoby Murphy  
 Eric Mikols  
 Kendra Mikols  
 Melanie Miller  
 Stephen Rudd

THANK YOU!!!



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In 2021, the Friends donated \$7,935 to help pay for library programs and resources!

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Mr. & Mrs. Guy & Kathleen Grantier  
Amy Hunt





The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library. -Albert Einstein

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#### **\$10 or more**

