

# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2025

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*David A.  
Howe  
Public  
Library*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Library Director, Nic Gunning

When I think of 2025, my thoughts shift first to **Construction!** We were fortunate that our two major projects, the stairs and parking lot, were funded mostly through NYS Aid for Library Construction. Still, the disruption led to a lot of uncertainty and many phone calls and online messages, “Are you open?!” Yes! I appreciated your patience and resilience. I’ll be asking for that again as we look ahead to upcoming capitol projects. This building is a marvel and we intend to keep it that way.

In other news, 2025 turned out to be a banner year for our patrons making use of the digital collections! Libby (formerly known as Overdrive) is the go-to app for ebooks, digital audiobooks, magazines, and more. It’s a pleasure to introduce new patrons to this app because it soon becomes a favorite. Some newer apps include Kanopy (video streaming) and Mango Languages (language learning). I’ve enjoyed streaming BBC mysteries and classic sci-fi on Kanopy and have been learning Portuguese on Mango. These apps are a great addition to library services because you can access the collections wherever you are in between visits.

2025 also marked the tenth year of the library podcast, which Eric Mikols and I started in August of 2015. Now Youth Services Coordinator Ally Fesmire and I trade off introducing each other to new things on the podcast *But Have You Tried*. Some of the highlights of 2025 included us learning cross-stitch, discovering new music, and rediscovering old classics, like *Animal Farm*.

It is an exciting challenge for us to find new ways to interact with patrons and serve the community. So whether you experienced the library regularly in person, discovered new ways to connect digitally, or a little bit of both, we were happy to connect with you!

# ARTS & CULTURE

## NANCY HOWE AUDITORIUM AND HOWE GALLERY

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You might not expect to find a coffee truck and a traveling Shakespeare company in front of the library on a warm summer evening. But, that was the scene set in July. Shake on the Lake brought their production of *The Tempest* to the library lawn and, throughout the evening, the cast seamlessly (and hilariously) incorporated the SheBrews truck and staff into their kinetic, raucous performance. In that one evening, over 130 community members came out to visit the library and enjoy a professional theater experience, which was supported by patron contributions and funding from local organizations like Allegany



Shake on the Lake performs *The Tempest* (photo credit: Kate Kuo)

### By the Numbers

8 art/craft shows



24 movies



18 concerts



8 other performances



County Area Foundation and Arts Council for Wyoming County. Hosting performers is just one way the library fulfills its mission to foster arts and culture in our community. We also have dance performances, concerts, films, author visits, art classes and shows, gallery exhibits, and more. Often, the artists featured in the Nancy Howe Auditorium and Howe Gallery live and work locally, contributing to our community beyond their art. We get to enjoy their creative talents and have the pleasure of interacting with them and seeing how life in our community inspires their creative endeavors.

# TEENS

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Early in the spring of 2025, as Ally was starting to plan the teen summer reading program, she had an idea: what if instead of simply having the teen participants track the time they spend reading, we split them into teams to compete to read the most? This idea came to fruition with red, yellow, and blue teams sporting color-coded team arm bands. Some teens even wore shirts and beanies in their team's color to show their team spirit!

Throughout the summer, as the teens tracked the minutes they spent reading on our leaderboard, many established personal rivalries, choosing someone else on the leaderboard and trying to read more than their rival. The competition must have been extra motivating, because this year our teens read 69,000 minutes—nearly double the number of minutes read the year before! It was a close race, but the blue team ultimately won, securing a popsicle party and commemorative winner buttons.



Costume contest judging at the annual Teen Halloween Party



Each year, we hold a variety of events for older and younger teens, including the Friday Club (a relaxed hang out with snacks and board games), Dungeons & Dragons, NERF, hide-and-seek, crafts, and our annual Halloween party.

One of the Summer Reading activities for teens was roasting marshmallows on the terrace

## By the Numbers

Programs: 123

Attendance: 1973

### Summer Reading

Programs: 79

Attendance: 770

Reading  
Challenge  
Participants: 68

Minutes Read:  
**69,000** (1,150 hours  
or 48 days!)

# CHILDREN

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One of the best spots around for our littlest library patrons and their grownups to have a fun and learning-filled experience year-round is at our weekly story times. After reading stories together, there's always a craft and free play. Kids get to flex their creative muscles and work out their wiggles and giggles together. Our librarians also take story time on the road to local daycare centers and afterschool programs to bring the joy of reading into the community.



Amy Hunt, Wellsville Elementary School Librarian, reads at her All-Star Storytime in August

This year, we had some extra special story times with beloved teachers, librarians from nearby towns, and other special guests. These folks helped us get through the period between Miss Kate's departure in August and Miss Ashleigh's arrival in mid-December. Amy Hunt, the Wellsville Elementary School Librarian, kicked off this series of All-Star Storytimes and she brought down the house with Buffalo Fluffalo!

As always, the annual Summer Reading Program was a huge hit, offering a variety of engaging programs to help kids unleash their energy, enthusiasm, and creativity. Activities revolved around the Color Our World theme and included many artistic ventures, as well as a rainbow of family movies, like

Harold and the Purple Crayon and James and the Giant Peach.

We finished out the year with a Noon Year's Eve Party, hosted by our new children's librarian, Ashleigh Beblavy, who couldn't be any more excited to host fun events and share stories and experiences with the children of our community!

## By the Numbers

Programs: 159

Attendance: 2451

## Summer Reading

Programs: 66

Attendance: 1877

Participants: 292



Miss Ashleigh and Ally celebrate Noon Year's Eve with some of our littlest patrons

# ADULTS

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When it comes to adult programming, we always strive to take into account the interests and suggestions of our patrons. Having an adult drawing class had been in the works for a couple of years. So when the opportunity arrived to offer one, we jumped on it.



“The Joy of Drawing” class session

Wellsville Elementary School Art Teacher, Liz Menichino, came up with a 6 week series of drawing classes, “The Joy of Drawing” that was offered during our summer reading program. The classes were well received, and the adult summer reading program had its highest number of patron registrations to date!

Throughout the year, we offered a number of different adult programs from mushroom cultivation, crochet classes, a cooking class, book clubs, an adult Dungeons & Dragons club, and more. We rounded out the year with two popular programs presented by Hawk Creek Wildlife Center, “Walk with the Eagles” and “Harry Potter Owls.” There was something for everyone!



Hawk Creek Wildlife Center’s “Walk with the Eagles” in October

Hawk Creek Wildlife Center’s “Harry Potter Owls” in December



## By the Numbers

Programs: 79

Attendance: 1,781

## Summer Reading

Programs: 26

Attendance: 783

Participants: 124

# BUILDING & GROUNDS

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In 2025, we tackled two large construction projects: replacing the front stairs and the parking lot. Both areas, subject to decades of harsh weather, as well as the feet and vehicle treads of many thousands of patrons each year, were in dire need of repair. The front stairs were completely removed and replaced with cast concrete in the spring. The parking lot was repaved and the adjacent crumbling brick wall deconstructed in October.

Of course, construction projects represent only a small part of the work done to maintain the 89-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, to making sure the

bathrooms are fully stocked. Without this team, the library would be a far less pleasant and beautiful place to visit.

The stone stairs were gorgeous but the steady need for repairs made poured concrete the best choice to replace them

Tearing up and repaving the parking lot in October



# PERSONNEL

## STAFF & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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### Senior Staff



Rick Dodd  
*Head of Maintenance*

Kate Elliott  
*Public Programming  
and Exhibits Curator*



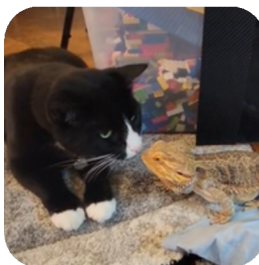
Ally Fesmire  
*Youth Librarian*

Niki Gordon  
*Circulation Operations  
Manager*



Nic Gunning  
*Library Director*

Kate Miller  
(January -August)  
Ashleigh Beblavy  
(started in December)  
*Children's Librarian*



Amanda Smith  
*Acquisitions and  
Finance*

David A. Meow  
and Spike



### Support Staff

- Erik Baldwin
- Annabelle Budinger
- Shaw Carlton
- Quentin Case
- Wilson Cummins
- Darryl Depner
- Justine Dodaro
- Kennedy Ewing
- Gary Havens
- Jim Knapp
- Cori Lunn
- Tara Luthart
- Daphne O'Kelly
- Victoria Slovak
- Jessica Stack
- Paige Taylor
- Jessica Wieszczyk
- Heather Wonderling



### Board of Trustees

- Donald Comstock  
*President*
- Emily Peavey  
*Vice President*
- Jodi Pearson  
*Secretary*
- Nancy Reuning  
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- Nora Burdick
- Tim Colligan
- Madeleine Gasdik
- Kris Green
- Tom Reuning



David A. Meow with  
the Library Board after  
their monthly meeting

# 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

## 2025 Operating Budget

### Income

WCSD Taxpayers	\$469,941
Endowment	\$150,781
Gifts & Grants	\$96,484
Fees & Other Income	\$20,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$738,106</b>

### Expenses

Personnel	\$537,029
Administration	\$29,470
Programming	\$28,094
Collection	\$33,941
Facility	\$55,031
Technology	\$28,721
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$712,286</b>

### Capital Projects\*

Gifts & Grants	\$112,418
Capital Fund Expenses	<b>\$258,989</b>

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

## Miss Kate Will Be Missed!



**4,412 library card holders**  
**2,542 hours open**  
**41,874 visitors**  
**That's 16 visitors per hour!**

**57,056 materials checked out**  
**An average of 22 materials per hour!**  
**4,739 items loaned to other libraries OR**  
**91 items each week.**

**2,253 items added to the collection**  
**Total collection: 115,339 items**  
**We have books, DVDs, CDs, magazines,**  
**birdwatching kits and much more.**

**380 events and activities for all ages**  
**8,394 attendees**  
**That's more than 7 programs per week!**

**Summer Reading**  
**484 people registered**  
**171 events and activities**  
**3,430 attendees**

**Computer and wifi: 14,012 sessions**  
**Tech support: 63 sessions**  
**Library podcast: 7,216 listens**

Kate Miller served as the children's Librarian of the David A. Howe Public Library from 2017 until August 2025. Families were invited to share memories and warm wishes in a suitably oversized goodbye card as she transitioned to new a position within the community.

Miss Kate with the Easter Bunny at the 2025 Easter Egg Hunt

# DONORS TO THE LIBRARY

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## \$50,000 or more

Kelsey-Naylor Foundation

## \$40,000 or more

Donald Daily Trust

## \$10,000 or more

Kathy Farnsworth

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

## \$5,000 or more

ACWC

Charles Joyce

Friends of the Library

Manley Trust

## \$2,000 or more

Allegheny County Area Foundation

Anne Currier

Daniel J. Higgins

Doris MacFarquhar

East Hill Foundation

James & Nancy Stevens

Jeremy & Sara Donlon

Monday Club

The Schumann Foundation

## \$1,000 or more

Dollar General

Elaine Johnson

Keith & Kathie Dello

Moogan Family Foundation

Neil & Mary Poppendeck

Robert & Zalie Linn

Rochester Magnet

Short's Convenience Store

## \$500 or more

Barbara Hulbert

Frederick & Susan Beckhorn

Rise Above Group

Susan DiBiase

WHS Class of 1983

## \$200 or more

Don & Judy Mong

George & Barbara Cretokos

James Walchli

John & Linda Cook

Karol Marciano

Kyle Torok & Hilary Yarbrough

Music on the Lawn

National Philanthropic Trust

Pamela Horr

Rotary Club of Wellsville

Terah Soule

Timothy & Suzanne Colligan

Wellsville Development Corps.

## \$100 or more

Catherine Schuyler Chapter NSDAR

Charles & Carole Bohne

Debra Gee

Edward Tezak

Family of Georgia Xanthos Kousias

General Roofing

Georgana Cochran

Hornell Book Club

Jack Carter

Joan Guiney

Judy & Robert Loughlin

Madeleine Gasdik

Marge & Jim Goodspeed

Michael & Jeanette DeBarbieri

Michael & Nora McArdle

Patricia Heitmuller

Suzanne Monaghan

Wellsville Ladies Golf Association

WHS Class of 1975

## \$50 or more

Amy & Mike Carrick

Blackbaud Giving Fund

Dylan Newton

James & Dorothy Spellicy

John & Gwen Potter

Kevin & Nancy Kailbourne

Kristopher Green

Larry & Deborah Clark

Marcia Minges

Michelle Alvord

Steve & Ann Martin

Steven & Louise Mattison

Walter Gardner

## Up to \$40

Amy Yanity

Bolivar-Richburg Faculty Association

Garth Brewster

Janet Lambert

Jerry & Robin Harrington

Kate Williams

Lynn Lamitie

Michael & Kristylee Davis

Sarah Campbell

Tom & Kandra Hirsch



Staff wish Daphne good luck at her farewell party.



Nic and the Board enjoy lunch on the Terrace



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

## \$10,000 or more

Sherry C. Walton

## \$500 or more

Angela Glickstein  
Charles & Lorraine Joyce Family  
Foundation  
Michael & Cheryl Jackson  
Samantha Gilkey  
William & Carol Smith

## \$200 or more

AAngelica Spring Co.  
Arvos Ljungstrom LLC  
Daniel & Anne Andrianos  
Daniel & Constance Synakowski  
L. C. Whitford Co., Inc.  
Larry & Deborah Clark  
Walker Business  
William & Joyce Loughlin

## \$100 or more

Allegany County Mental Health  
Association  
American Legion Post 702  
Anne McAndrew  
Donald & Jackie Comstock  
Floyd & Deanna Scharf  
Gallagher Bassett Services Inc.

Gary & Gail Goetschius  
Hart's Jewelry  
Jean Richmond  
Joseph & Cynthia Baker  
Kevin & Claudia Gildner  
Lee & Donald Davis & Bowie  
Loyal Order of Moose #601  
Michael & Jeannette Cobb  
Nanette Johnson  
Ross & Brenda Roberts  
Terry & Janice Engelder  
Thomas & Nancy Reuning  
Timothy & Suzanne Colligan  
Wellsville BPO Elks  
Wellsville Lions Charities  
William & Patricia Childs  
William & Sally Geoppner

## \$50 or more

Alex & Nikki Cole  
Alexander & Alice Cole  
Amy Kasper  
Casey & Jasmine Sanders-Maglier  
Christopher & Brenda Comstock  
Edward & Kathryn Eicher  
James & Demetra Raptis  
James & Kay Birmingham  
John & Gwen Potter  
MaryBeth Thompsett

Nyhl & Linda Austin  
Olney-Faust & Embser Funeral Home  
& Crematory  
Rich & Gwyn Shear  
Robert & Patricia Maiden  
Robert & Tracy Insley  
Sandle Custom Bearing Corp.  
Shaun & Elaine Walsh  
Susan & Beth Pederson  
Wayne & Margarita Crittenden

## \$25 or more

Barbara Wilman  
David & Karen Maskens  
Dean & Mary Piscitelli  
Donald & Janiece Dahlgren  
Eleanor Reynolds  
Gloria Fanton  
James & Dorothy Spellicy  
John & Wanda Dean  
Kevin & Sheila Murphy  
Paula Swier  
Thomas & Agnes Brush

In 2025, the Friends  
donated \$8,566 to help  
pay for library programs  
and resources!



## Friends of the Library Board

Jackie Mason <i>President</i>	Kris Bailey Cindy Baker
Mary Piscatelli <i>Vice President</i>	Kerri Buchholz Monica Finn
Julie Willson <i>Secretary</i>	Carol Gardner Liz Huyler
Gina Elliott <i>Treasurer</i>	Ashley Robichaud Cindy Schreiner

# WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

## 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 7 p.m.
Tuesday	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

## Keep in touch!

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



In 2025, patrons and library staff collected 530 pounds of film plastic. The goal was to collect 1,000 pounds and receive a bench from the recycled material. Though we didn't reach that goal, diverting 530 pounds of film plastic waste from the landfill was worth the effort.

