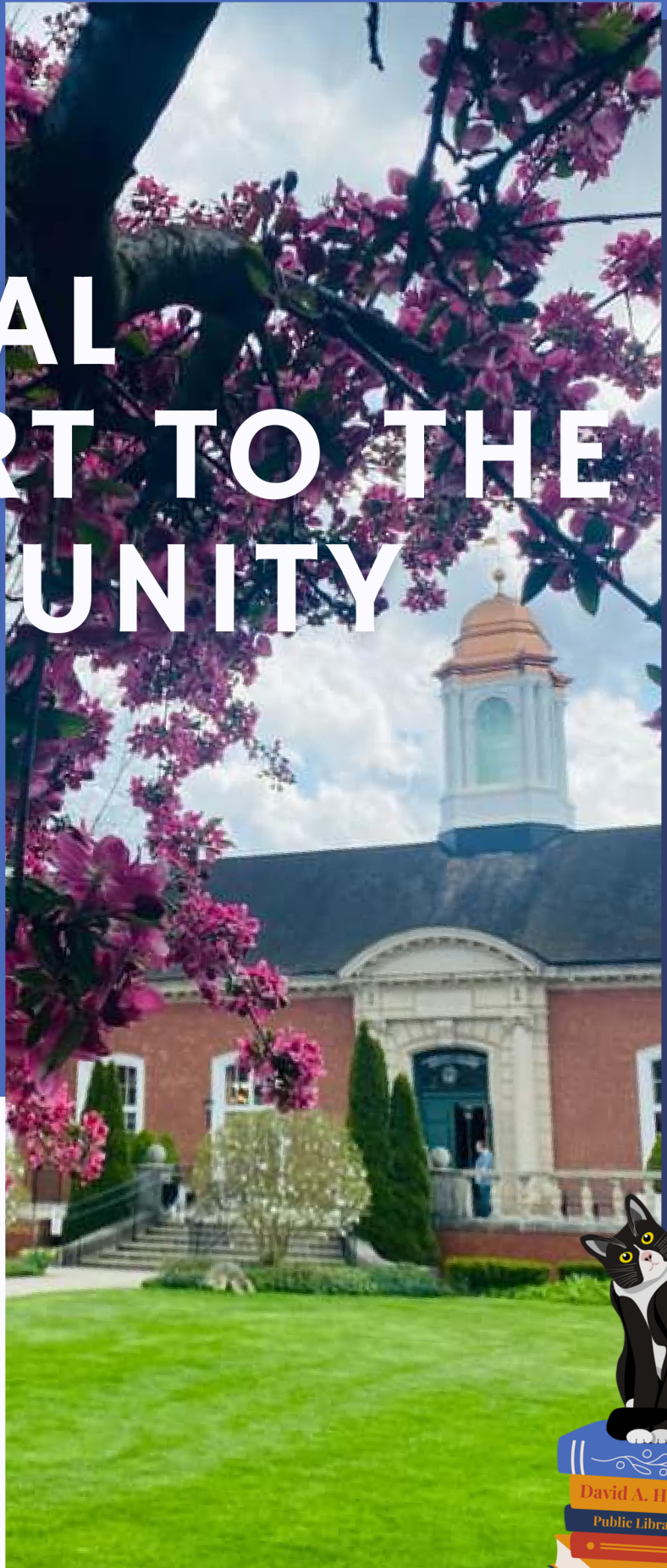


ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2024



*David A.
Howe
Public
Library*



FROM THE DIRECTOR



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

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

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

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

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

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
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Heather Wonderling

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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
Total	\$706,480

Expenses

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

Capital Projects*

Gifts & Grants	\$750,541
Capital Fund Expenses	\$86,785

*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

\$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

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Short's Convenience Store

\$500 or more

Barbara Hulbert

Bonnie Hallett

Christopher Depner

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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

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Charlyne Hickey

Cindy Baker

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Edward Tezak

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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

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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

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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

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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



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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

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Ian & Sandra Whitehouse
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Pekarek Law Group PC
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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
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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!



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Ashley Robichaud

Jackie Mason

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WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

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

Connect Online



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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

