

Director's Report to the Board of Trustees & the Easton Community For the Year Ending December 31, 2021

This was a year of climbing up a hill. From January to June the library remained open to the public with Covid precautions in place. The public was allowed to enter the main door of the library, but the collections were closed for browsing. Staff monitored the number of people in the building, most parts of the library were off-limits to patrons, there was no computer or meeting room use. Staff continued to make copies, fax and scans for patrons. And, notary services were available. Normal operating hours and staff schedules stayed in effect.

Mid way through the month of June the library advanced to our next service level of the Covid policy. The public could gain access to all areas of the library. Computers could be used with a reduced capacity. The meeting room was available for use. Browsing while maintaining social distancing was allowed. Programs could be held, but had to be limited in scope, take place outdoors, or continue virtually online.

On July 12 the board modified our Covid policy to resume normal operations, but still abide by masking requirements.

All of these stages of our well thought out and planned Covid policy has kept our library open, and our staff and patrons healthy.

To keep children coming in the door the library offered *Take & Make Snowman Kits in the winter months*.

A staff member read a story *Tales of the Dairy Godmother* as an asynchronous virtual event for New York State Agriculture Literacy week. The library collaborated with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Another collaborative event with Cornell Cooperative Extension was the *Garden Kits for Kids* that was held in May. This was very popular and 9 garden kits were supplied.

The regularly scheduled programs at the library such as the mahjong group was so excited about our opening up of the meeting room that they booked it right away. They were the first to get together for their weekly game in June at the library. There were 26 mahjong sessions and 108 total attendance in 2021. For those that don't know, mahjong is a Chinese game played with tiles.

The exercise group for seniors, Osteobusters, began in September. The ladies meet twice a week. This year there have been 30 sessions with an attendance total of 158.

Story Hour Teachers JoAnne Booth and Carol Reeve retired in the spring. Both wonderful and dedicated ladies taught pre school literacy at the library for over 10 years.

As director I was at a loss of who would fill their shoes. The goal was to have story hour back at the library in September, which meant advertising for just the right person or team to take over. Nadia

Christy answered the ad and it turned out to be the perfect fit for both her personal needs and the needs of the library.

Story Hour began in September, after being on pause for over a year. There were 14 sessions. 209 people attended total. 120 of the attendees were 0-5 years old.

The last of our normal programs to come back to the library was the knitting group. They resumed meeting in October. There were 9 sessions and a total of 21 participants.

The Tails and Tales summer reading program had 23 children register. 14 participants completed the program. 464 total books were read.

There were 3 “Drum, Dance and Sing” virtual videos that were funded by a Stewart’s Match Grant. There were 163 asynchronous views of the videos.

Our first in-person public program at the library in 17 months since the shut-down from Covid was author Matthew Witten. He debuted his new novel *The Necklace*. Eight people were in attendance. This was very exciting for everyone because it had been so long since our meeting room had been used for public events, excluding the new start-up the osteobusters.

A wonderful new experience for our library this past October was *The Great Give Back* “Warm Hearts and Warm Toes”. Easton Library joined with Greenwich Free Library to collect brand new hats, mittens, sox, and gloves to donate to local teen and adult shelters. Our library gathered 75 items from 15 individuals.

Two final programs sponsored by the library to round out the year were *A Graduate’s Student’s Experience with Osteological Analysis of Revolutionary War Soldier’s Feet*, and the traditional Holiday Tree Decorating Party.

Other non sponsored library events that took place in the meeting room in the fall were a LARAC Grant Opportunity Seminar, the Easton Book Club (which meet once in October and once in November), and the *Annual Friends of Easton Library Election Day Book and Bake Sale*. Attendance total to the four events was near 100.

Our program attendance total was 785 people and 96 programs!

Looking at the physical statistics of the annual report the wonderful news is our numbers have increased in practically all areas. The circulation of our physical items almost doubled from 2,198 items in 2020 to 4,033 in 2021. This can be contributed to the increase of patron activity at the library. The library had a successful summer reading program, successful story hour, there was a change in our Covid policy rules allowing patrons to browse, and addition of new neighbors who love to read! There has been a definite increase in the borrowing of items from the library as our visitor count doubled from 1,441 in 2020 to 2,443 in 2021.

Two new things were introduced to our patrons for online access. Both can be located with ease on our website. The first is a staff member of the library has created a list of genealogical records that are kept at the library. These records may only be viewed at the library and can not go out on loan. These genealogical records are important for people interested in local history and anyone looking for family members who may have originated in Easton. Our hope is that this will make locating historic research items more efficient. They can be located by visiting our website at <https://easton.sals.edu> > About Our Library > Special Collections > Local & Historical Genealogical Records.

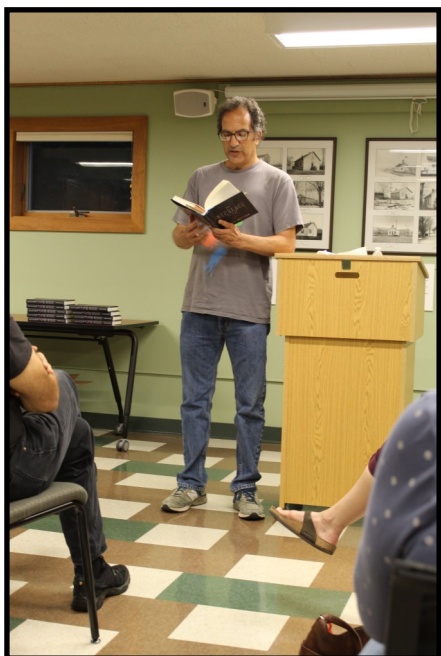
The second, is the library subscribed to the popular on-demand film streaming service hoopla digital in August. It is now available for free at Easton Library. Easton Library card holders can access over 920,000 titles (audiobooks, eBooks, comics, movies and TV). Content can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform by downloading the hoopla digital app for iOS, Android, AppleTV, Chromecast or Roku. All content is accessible via hoopla digital's mobile app and online at www.hoopladigital.com or it can be accessed at our website by clicking on the hoopla button at <https://easton.sals.edu>. Our registered card holders increased from 254 in 2020 to 261 in 2021.

This year we had 3 teen volunteers and 1 adult volunteer. They accomplished various projects from making videos of the library to put onto our website, working on displays, learning how the library operates, reading stories for story hour online, and digitizing historical documents.

By the conclusion of 2021 I felt at the top of the hill. At this point Covid numbers were on the rise again with a new variant. Overall I have to say it was a successful year due to the circumstances. All the programs participants were satisfied with the library's Covid policy for library use and programming. Everyone followed the guidelines to do their best to keep the library patrons healthy and the library relevant. I am proud of what my staff, volunteers, board members, and I have accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer DeCarlo
Director, Easton Library

Photographs from the year



Author Matthew Witten



**LARAC Grant Seminar with
Alyssa Shiel**



Alexandra DeCarlo's Experience with Osteological Analysis of Revolutionary War Soldiers' Feet



The Great Give Back Collaborating with the Greenwich Free Library



Tails and Tales Summer Reading Program The djembe was a reading incentive prize.



Tails and Tales Summer Reading Program

Book Reading Tracking for participants





Annual Friends of Easton Library Election Day Book and Bake Sale



Friends of Easton Library Annual Tree Decorating Event



Easton Public Library

REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

2,443
VISITORS



Wifi



574

TIMES ACCESSED

eBook



718

DOWNLOADS

Highlights



Began hoopla service in August of 2021:

73 electronic content borrowed from 8/1/21-12/31/21
(audiobooks, comics, ebooks, movies, music, and television)

Card Holders



264

HOW WE GOT IT DONE

IN 2021

Programs



96

PROGRAMS

785

ATTENDANCE

4,033



Items
Borrowed



33,247



Items in the Collections