

**Director's Report to the Board of Trustees
& the Easton Community
For the Year Ending December 31, 2022**

As director I would like to share my enthusiasm for a tremendous year at Easton Library! Backed by my talented staff, supportive board of trustees, wonderful programs, and helpful Friends of Easton Library and other volunteers-2022 saw the library revitalized.

From January 1st to March 21st, 2022 the library was open to the public with precautions: Library Service Level C under our Covid Policy. In June of 2021 I had applied for a grant from the Washington County Home for Aged Women. The grant was to fund a Hand Drum Program for Seniors, to be held in January, 2022. Local music teacher Chelsie Henderson was hired to teach the djembe class. Due to the Covid precautions Chelsie needed to limit the number of participants in the class. Despite the mask wearing the joy and happiness that each person received from learning how to play a djembe, and making music with a group of peers was well worth the effort. There was so much interest in the four week class that Chelsie was urged to hold a second set of four week classes in February which was funded by the program budget. I wished we could have made this an on-going class.

On March 22nd the board of trustees (in accordance with the Governor of NY State) voted our library open up to Library Service Level D: Normal Operation with masking optional. This change in our Covid policy made a huge difference in our patron's willingness to come to the library more often and participate in the regular on-going programs like the Knitting Group, Osteobusters and Mahjong.

Here are some impressive statistics with Osteobusters: there were 104 sessions and 688 people who attended class twice a week on Monday and Wednesday mornings from January through December, 2022. The Mahjong players had 42 sessions with 173 in attendance, meeting once a week on Wednesday afternoons. . The knitting group met every Monday afternoon and they held 41 sessions with a total of 118 people attending.

Due to our Covid precautions our children's story hour was on hiatus from January 1st to April 6th, 2022. From April 6th to December 21st,, 2022 pre school story hour has held 24 sessions and has had a total of 232 people in attendance .

In the fall of 2021, I made plans for a concert to be held on March 19, 2022. To be prudent with not knowing the state of affairs with Covid with the coming months, I booked the concert to be held at Burton Hall, with the thought that our meeting room space would mean attendees would not meet distancing requirements if too many people attended. I also thought this would be a positive way to collaborate with the Town of Easton, plus the acoustics are much better at Burton Hall for music performances! Wechgelaer & Carey performed a successful concert with traditional folk and Irish music to a crowd of 38 people.

Another program that had its inception in the Fall of 2021 was the Farm-2-Library Program. I contacted the Southern Adirondack Library System's Erica Freudenburger who was in charge of writing a grant to fund the program that enabled libraries to participate with Comfort Food Community partnered with Capital Roots Squash Hunger. The initiative has four goals. To reduce food waste, improve access to food, lessen food insecurity, and to improve adult literacy. The expectations for participating are as follows: display fruit and vegetables, keep the refrigerator clean, track the number of people who use the service, share stories with Erica to help promote the project, promote the program through social media, press releases, and advocacy to legislators, connect patrons to additional library resources, and promote adult literacy services. The mission of the initiative is to save the planet, feed the people, and become better readers! At that time eight libraries were participating. Erica was unsure if the Comfort Food Community would have enough food to share with more libraries coming on-board. Erica said she would let me know the definitive answer in the spring.

In April of 2022 Erica sent me a happy email to let me know that Easton Library was selected to participate in the Farm-2-Library program. Erica sent me the specifications to the refrigerator the library needed to purchase. The board of trustees approved the purchase of the refrigerator so I could go ahead and get started. On May 26th we held our "Soft Launch" of the Farm-2-Library Program. Since then, there have been 29 pick-ups by our wonderful volunteers (who we couldn't do without!). And, the library has served farm fresh food to 1,434 people.

The *Oceans of Possibilities* Summer Reading Program which ran from July 2nd to August 20th was the first to have young adult and adult sign-ups, as well as the traditional children's sign-up. There were 7 children registered, 1 teen registered, and 13 adults registered for the reading program. The kids did great, but I have to say the adults were very competitive and took their weekly reading goals seriously! Together our children and teen read 13,309 minutes and the adults read 65 books.

The library's *Oceans of Possibilities* Summer Programs included a *Dance and Movement Workshop* attended by 19 people. *The Hot Club of Saratoga* performance was funded

by the Stewart's Holiday Match Grant and 17 people attended this program. Both of these programs were held at Burton Hall in accordance to Covid precautions, to provide more open space. The *Make a Waterwheel Program* resulted in becoming a one-on-one take home project that children could do on their own. Twenty one Waterwheel kits were given out.

The staff of the library worked hard tracking daily/weekly minutes and books of all the participants on the front of the circulation desk. One of the staff created an underwater photo booth. Twenty water test kits were given away which were provided by the Southern Adirondack Library System. The Friends of Easton Library also supported the *Oceans of Possibilities* summer reading programming.

In December 2021 and January 2022 the library asked patrons to participate in a Programs & Events Survey. The data was collected and compiled. In September of 2022, after several years of inactivity, a new Program Committee met. The committee made a list from the data of programs that patrons would find popular. The committee would do their best to hold programs on days and times that were best for most people to attend.

In the fall of 2022, the library held programs *Coming Up Pumpkins* presented by Jessica Chittenden Ziehm. *Happy Mail Club: Fall Crafts delivered to Seniors* was taught by Abby Henderson. *Winter Crafts for Adults Class making Natural Wreaths* was taught by Kaya Lin Jarrett, and the *Monastery of New Sket's Brother Christopher Talked Dogs*. All the programs were popular and well-attended.

For the second year in a row Easton Library collaborated with the Greenwich Free Library to participate in The Great Give Back. We titled this year's theme *The Great Give Back Returns: Warm Hearts & Warm Toes*. Twenty one items from Easton Library was donated to the cause. The amount was lower than last year, but I am so grateful to our patrons that donated to help the Comfort Food Community, and homeless adults at The Open Door Mission.

Our library was selected to be viewed by the 2023-2024 ALA President, Emily Drabinski. Emily learned about our crucial resources and services as a rural library. Sara Dallas, the director of the Southern Adirondack Library System, and several Easton Library Board of Trustee mem-

bers helped make Emily feel welcome.

The annual Tree Trimming party hosted by the Friends of Easton Library saw 26 people attend the event. The Friends helped the youngsters trim the tree. The story hour teacher, read a couple of Christmas stories and sang Christmas carols with the crowd. The program was concluded with small gifts for each child and a goodie to take home.

Easton Library held quite a few non-library sponsored events in the meeting room. The Easton Book Club met in May and July. The Washington County Nutrition Program held a luncheon event in May. There was a Foster Parenting Information Session in September. In October a LARAC Grant Opportunity Seminar was held.

The Friends of Easton Library held their Annual Election Day Book & Bake Sale in November. Over 100 people passed through the door to purchase used books and buy some of the best baked goods in the county! It is a day I look forward to all year. Some people you see once a year attend the book and bake sale and it is fun to see the chit-chat among the folks in the library.

Comparing 2021 to 2022 I have noticed a vast improvement in our statistics. The circulation of materials, computer usage, Wi-fi access, number of library visitors, interlibrary loan borrow, Ebook and audiobook downloads, number of registered card holders, one-on-one programs, regular programs, non-library sponsored programs, overall program attendance have all increased. Our patrons are enjoying hoopla and the new Farm-2-Library service. Needless to say, the library was busy in 2022!

The saying "it takes a village" is so accurate. All of the programs that were successful at the library would not have been possible without our wonderful teen and adult volunteers. Three teen volunteers helped out at the library in 2022. They were so helpful in the day to day operation of the library when they could come in, setting up displays, and assisting with the *Oceans of Possibilities* Summer Reading Program. A library board member and his family took on the weekly pick up of the Farm-2-Library fresh food stuff, which became so important to our Easton community. Our adult volunteers have assisted in programming events, and were a humongous help at the Annual Election Day Book & Bake Sale. The Easton Library Board

of Trustee members are always a phone call away. I can't count the number of emails, phone calls, and Zoom meetings we had in 2022 to take care of important library business. The Friends of Easton Library will help me in a moments notice. They support the library's story hour, summer reading programs, and help fund-raise with the Annual Election Day Book & Bake Sale. Lastly, I must mention my wonderful staff. I appreciate all they do. They go beyond what is required in their work duties so I can tell they enjoy their jobs. Taking into consideration the many fabulous displays that have been made, fun for the summer readers, and making the Farm-2-Library display appealing; just to name a few. The staff helps make the Easton Library a welcoming environment. I couldn't ask for more!



Story Hour April, 2022



***Oceans of Possibilities* Summer Reading Progress
at Circulation Desk**



***Oceans of Possibilities* Photo Booth**



**Wechglauer & Carey Irish Folk Music Concert at Burton Hall
March, 2022**



**Hand Drum For Seniors
January, 2022**



**Hand Drum For Seniors
February, 2022**



**The Great Give Back
October, 2022**



**Winter Craft Wreath Making Class
December, 2022**



**Farm-2-Library Display
Launched May, 2022**



**Tree Trimming Party Hosted by
the Friends of Easton Library December, 2022**



Easton Library

REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY



3,071
VISITORS

Wifi



745

TIMES ACCESSED

eBooks



947

DOWNLOADS

Highlights

The Easton Library took part in the Farm 2 Library program for the first time. The library provides fresh produce and shelf stable food weekly for free to members of the community. **1,434 people shared 3,372 lbs of food in 2022.**

Easton participated in The Great Give Back program. The library provided an opportunity for community members to give NEW warm adult winter accessories, new socks, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for people who need them. The items were donated to the Comfort Food Community and homeless adults at the Open Door Mission in Glens Falls.



Card Holders
347



Programs

241

PROGRAMS

1,460

ATTENDANCE



4,401

Items
Borrowed



273,809

Items in the Collections

