

Director's Report to the Board of Trustees & the Easton Community For the Year Ending December 31, 2024

Embracing the social framework—that's how I reflect on 2024. The library experienced an exciting influx of new visitors and the number of library cardholders, with increased attendance at live programs and children's activities. Our focus during the summer reading program led to a small growth in both teen and children's programming. Computer usage and Wi-Fi access became even more vital, highlighting our commitment to serving the Easton Library community with accessible resources and enriching experiences.

The library's regularly scheduled programs are Story Hour which met every Wednesday morning following the Greenwich school calendar, the Knitting group which met on Monday afternoons, Osteobusters that met twice a week on Monday and Wednesday mornings, the Mahjong group which met on Wednesday afternoons, and the literacy group (collaborating with the Tri-County Literacy Center of Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties) that met on Tuesday evenings.

There was continual good support of programs. The favorite by caregivers and children birth to five years old, by far, was Story Hour at the library. In 2024, Story Hour met 33 times and there was a total of 466 people in attendance. The knitters met a total of 44 times with an attendance of 121, the Osteobusters group met a total of 49 times with an attendance of 722, the mahjong group met 35 times with an attendance of 145, and the literacy group met 29 times with an attendance of 48.



The Dairy Princess visits Easton Library
Story Hour



Knitters meeting up at the library on a Monday afternoon.

I had two goals for programming in 2024: form a cookbook club, and begin a book club. The "Cookbook Club" began in February 2024 and the participants planned to make the program a bi-monthly meeting. There were 5 sessions and a total attendance of 38 people. The "Neighborhood Book Club" got its start in October 2024 and the readers meet monthly. There were 3 meetings and a total attendance of 12 people.



The first Cookbook Club Meeting was held in February, featuring Mediterranean and Maple recipes.



Appetizer & Cookie Exchange at Cookbook Club in December

The library has a teen volunteer who requested to help in the library in August. Our teen assists the staff bi-weekly. The library provides leadership opportunities to this young person by teaching work ethics and social skills in a professional setting. It is important to develop and foster relationships between our teen volunteer, the library, and the community.



The library's teen volunteer helps keep the non-fiction book section organized. This is one of the many ways Callen helps at the library.

The "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer reading program at the library began June 26 and ended August 14. Sixteen children registered, between the ages of 0-11 years old. Six teens registered between the ages of 12-18. And, eight adults registered to compete to read. The Easton Library collaborated with the Washington County Fair, Collaborative Summer Library Program, Summer Reading at NY Libraries, Smokey Bear Reading Challenge, Town of Easton, and Friends of Easton Library.



Tracking of reading progress on the circulation desk for all ages, for the "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer reading program.

During the summer reading program, four programs were held. "Felt a Masterpiece with Idlenot enabled some teens to walk away with their very own, one-of-a-kind needle felted piece using local wool. Children from birth to five years old, "Set Sail with Story Laurie" while they joined in the singing and guitar performance of Laurie's stories of sea chanteys and maritime lore from many cultures. Samantha Allan conducted a "Floral Arranging Workshop". Several children, ages six to eleven years old enjoyed a short demonstration on how to make fresh floral arrangements, and they practiced making their floral creations to bring home.



"Felt a masterpiece" with Idlenot
July 10



"Set Sail with Story Laurie"
July 17



Floral Arranging with Samantha Allen
July 29

Approximately thirty-seven people of all ages participated in a "Popsicle Stick Community Quilt". During the summer reading program patrons of the library were asked to embrace their creativity with collaborative art by decorating popsicle sticks with geometric designs, doodles, or inspirational messages. At the end of the summer, the popsicle sticks were assembled into colorful squares, and framed, and it is now on display in the children's area of the Easton Library!



Popsicle Stick Community Quilt on display before its official framing.

The library held interesting programs throughout the year. Barb Skiff taught seven individuals how to "Sew a Reusable Bag" in February. Each patron up-cycled a pet food bag and turned it into a reusable shopping bag, to take home.



Participants displaying their newly made reusable shopping bags!

After rescheduling to the following day due to a tremendous snowstorm, “Tim O’Shey and Friends” held a concert at Burton Hall sponsored by the library, for fifteen patrons. The Irish music and Irish step dancing were enjoyed by all who attended.



Tim O’Shey, Padraig Timoney, and an Irish Step dancer entertained a group of music lovers, on a winter day in March, at Burton Hall.

For the third year in a row, the Easton Library and the Greenwich Free Library collaborated to participate in the “Great Give Back”. The Great Give Back’s mission is to provide a day of opportunities for patrons of Public Libraries of New York State to participate in meaningful, service-orientated experiences. Our two libraries joined together to support local animal rescue groups, for a successive year. At Easton Library, thirty-two patrons donated one hundred and ten pet items to the cause.



“Great Give Back” pet donations for four local animal rescue groups.

Mixing it up, our library tried a 3-month subscription to the family-friendly Deadbolt Mystery Society, which blends puzzle-solving and escape rooms with the murder investigation of a crime show. The first Deadbolt Mystery Society Game Night was held in October and two people attended. Future Deadbolt game programs will be planned in the coming year.



Patrons contemplating "Witch Hunt", at the library's first Deadbolt Mystery Society Game event.

The "Community Trick-or-Treat" held at Burton Hall, sponsored by the library and collaborated with the Town of Easton, was popular again in 2024. The library's table contributed book-themed stickers and bookmarks for children. Ninety-two people visited the building to show off their Halloween costumes and take home goodies from the community volunteer tables.



Many families stopped at Burton Hall on Halloween to participate in the "Community Trick-or-Treat".



Barb Skiff offered a holiday crafting "Make a Felt Bird Ornament" class to nineteen patrons in November. Individuals were able to sew their own felt Chickadee or Cardinal bird ornament to take home as a holiday decoration.



Happy participants that went home with their hand made felt bird ornaments for the holiday.

The Friends of Easton Library held the annual "Tree Trimming" party in December and sixteen people from various families joined in the celebration. The children who attended hung ornaments on the library Christmas tree, Mrs. Clause read a Christmas story, a few Christmas carols were sung, the winners from the Election Day Bake and Book Sale raffles were picked, and the children went home with a few holiday treats.



Children enjoyed decorating the library's Christmas tree.



"Mrs. Claus" read a holiday story to the families at the annual tree trimming event.

The Farm-2-Library program is a partnership between the Comfort Food Community and the Southern Adirondack Library System, which offers high-quality, locally sourced food, and free to all community members. Easton Library is one of eleven libraries that offers fresh nutrition to patrons. Farm-2-Library foodstuffs are delivered by our library volunteers each week to the Easton Library. Last year the the library served 2,139 people over 52 weeks.



Staff members keep the Farm-2-Library area neat and clean. This wonderful resource is available to all local residents.

The staff at Easton Library work diligently to create displays that captivate patrons who visit the library. A new exhibit is installed monthly in the entry display case, the upstairs library area, and the downstairs children's book room. These presentations are designed to stimulate thought, suggest a new read, and encourage conversation on the topic at hand.

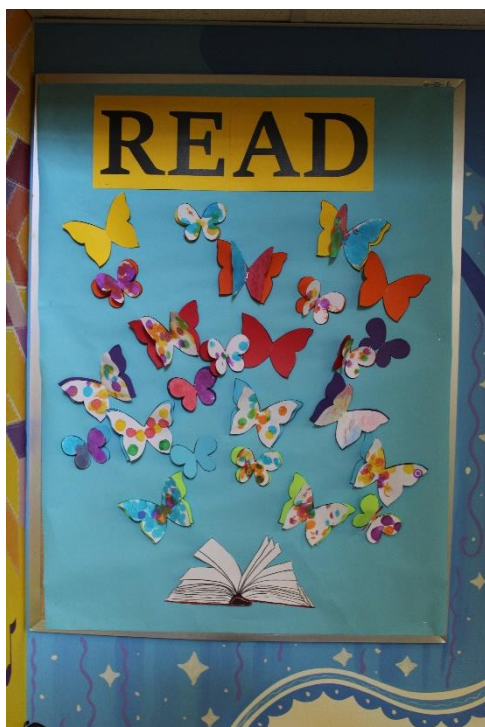
A new activity that was included at the library was the "Puzzle Swap". People may take a puzzle and leave a puzzle, just take a puzzle, or just leave a puzzle. The staff doesn't monitor the exchange. It is an honor-system activity and patrons have been enjoying the variety of puzzles, especially over the long winter!



Staff member Amaris's horse display was dedicated to her daughter who graduated with a BA in Equine Management.



One of the many popular displays created by Amaris.



Staff member Barb's butterfly display in the children's room. Some of the butterflies were fingerpainted by the story-hour children.



Barb's "Adventure Begins at Your Library" summer reading program presentation.



One staff member Doris's book displays.



The ever-popular "Puzzle-Swap".

The electronic services at the library such as hoopla, OverDrive, and Libby are important to patrons as we live in this high-tech world. The total electronic content used for the ebook and audio downloads was 1,542.

The year 2024 was busy at the library hosting 3,554 visitors. Patrons love SALS Joint Automation, with 846 books borrowed through interlibrary loan and 2,054 items furnished through interlibrary loan.

Despite the statistics regarding the number of items in the library's collection (17,077), the usage of electronic books and audiobooks by patrons (1,542), and the number of circulations (4,488), I believe the most important aspect is the library's social fabric. To quote the Easton Library's Plan of Service Vision Statement:

"To promote an inviting atmosphere and supply resources where residents can further their education, investigate local history, increase literacy, and come together to enjoy social experiences and build community."

The staff, board members, teen and story hour volunteers, and Friends of the Easton Library, along with community collaborators, created a welcoming atmosphere that encouraged patrons to stay longer and enjoy their library experience. Last year, our many regular programs and special events inspired people to connect with their neighbors and friends while building relationships. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the annual Election Day Book and Bake sale sponsored by the Friends of Easton Library. The entire community eagerly anticipates this event, where good books, great food, and friendships are renewed and nurtured. Education was enhanced through the weekly literacy group. I can confidently state that 2024 was a successful year for the Easton Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer DeCarlo
Director, Easton Library

The following page is infographics from 2024:



Easton Library

2024 REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

3,554
VISITORS



Wifi



739

TIMES ACCESSED

eBooks



1,542

DOWNLOADS

Highlights

Card Holders
421



Easton Library started a Cookbook Club that met every other month

Neighborhood Book Club began in October that met monthly in 2024.

The literacy program continues to meet weekly on Tuesday evenings, collaborating with Tri-County Literacy of Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties



Programs

237

PROGRAMS

1,938

ATTENDANCE



4,488

Items
Borrowed



17,077

Items in the Collections

