

# Southeast Steuben County Library

## 2022 Report to the Community

### Making The Mary Lu Walker Children's Room





# Southeast Steuben County Library

## 2022 Report to the Community

### Our Mission:

The Southeast Steuben County Library provides free and open access to collections, electronic resources and innovative services which anticipate, support and respond to the ever-changing informational, cultural and leisure needs of all people within our community.

### Our Vision:

*Informing, Inspiring, Enriching, Amazing* – Creating an environment that fosters lifelong learning and community connections

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Pauline Emery, Library Director





# Southeast Steuben County Library

## 2022 Report to the Community

### *FROM THE DIRECTOR:*

It has been such a whirlwind of a year! Even as we scrambled to create the Mary Lu Walker Children's Room without interrupting patron services and programming, library trustees and staff members were involved in major projects. For example, the library updated its *Building Conditions Survey and Facilities Master Plan* and revised and expanded its *Emergency Preparedness Plan*. A new *Technology Plan* was drafted, a failed utility elevator was replaced, and second floor windows were replaced. All this while we circulated 185,360 items, interacted with 11,620 library visitors and ran hundreds of educational programs for all age groups.

Construction work on the Mary Lu Walker Children's Room began in the fall, with the Children's Department relocated upstairs to a recently vacated office suite. Renovations weren't quite finished by the end of the year, but on March 10, 2023 Children's Librarian Sue McConnell and staff returned to a completely new space sporting a new entrance way, a performance and story time theater, an elegantly defined tween area, movable shelving, an activity center, storage units and so much more.

It all came about because the Walker Family and the library wanted to honor Mary Lu Walker's legacy by providing a vibrant and magical children's room for kids and their families. For many years, Mary Lu shared her love of books and music at the library, performing regularly at children's story hours. Redesigning the children's room in her honor was a perfect way to celebrate her legacy.

Funding for the renovations was provided by grants, gifts and capital funds. Special thanks to the Walker family for getting the project going with a large donation. Senator Tom O'Mara and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano are due thanks for supporting New York State Construction Aid for Libraries, an essential funding component. Many thanks to Ken & Janice Freeman, and to Marcia Weber & Jim Flaws, for their very substantial project support. Heartfelt thanks also to the Friends of the Library, the Library Board of Trustees, FLX Gives, and all generous donors who supported this project.

We would like to recognize everyone who worked hard on this renovation. HUNT E|A|S designed the Mary Lu Walker Children's Room, and Streeter Associates built it. Robert Drew Engineering, PLLC was the library's project manager. Thank you for making our dream real!

We've learned that libraries are needed now more the ever, and we are dedicated to cultivating a thriving and comfortable community space that provides access to all.

*Sincerely,*  
*Pauline Emery*



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### Digital checkouts, library visits trending up

With pandemic worries receding, 60 percent more people visited the Southeast Steuben County Library in 2022 than in the previous year. Total collection use was up significantly, with the largest growth realized in digital checkouts via *Overdrive*, *Libby* and *Hoopla*. Combined with digital checkouts, the library circulated 185,360 items in 2022.

Digital holdings - electronic books, downloadable audio books and videos - swelled, with 3,619 new items added during the year. Patrons responded, accessing 57,726 digital items in 2022, up 11,285 from the year before.

Despite construction work on the Mary Lu Walker Children's Room and relocation of the Children's Department upstairs during renovations, 13,387 children, young adults and adults attended lively and enriching Southeast Steuben County Library programs, with a panoply of in-person, virtual and hybrid sessions.

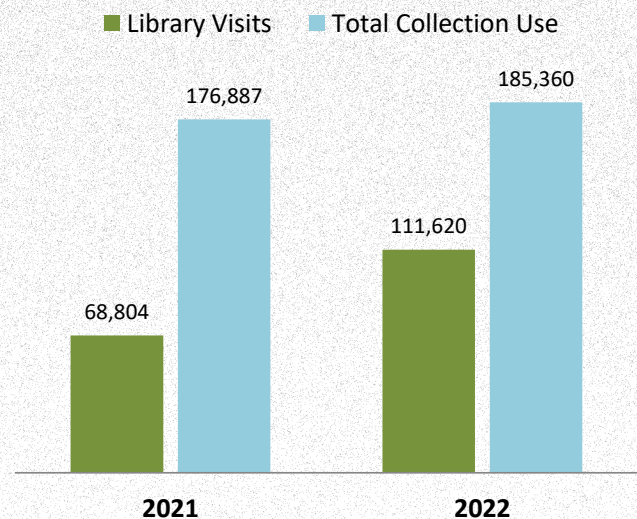
More than 300 patrons benefitted from one-on-one Tech Coaching sessions at the library, and Reference Department staff assisted patrons 10,855 times during the year.

The library held 395 programs for adults in 2022, drawing 3,179 participants. Children's program attendance was 9,621, including 5,386 Children's Summer Reading Program attendees.

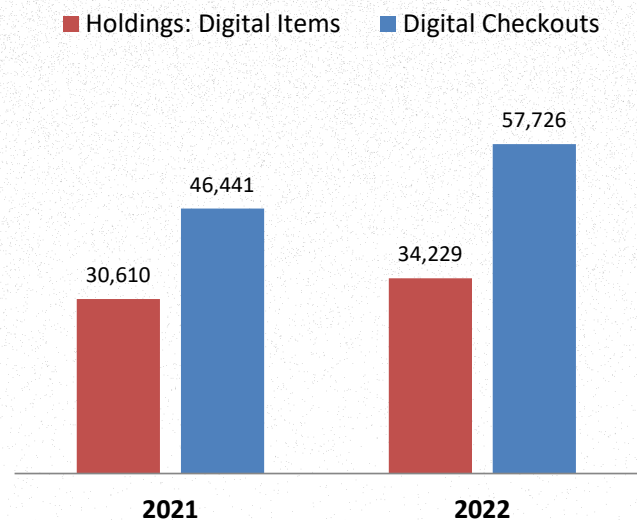
High-speed public computer sessions totaled 6,475, up from 6,160 in 2021. The library's expansive 24/7 free Wi-Fi hotspot powered 40,882 user sessions.

Programs for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) have become popular in many of New York's libraries. Southeast Steuben County Library's Coffee, Tea & English programs drew 552 participants in 2022, with 86 program sessions.

#### Visitors & Circulation



#### Digital Holdings & Checkouts



Visitors to the library website, [www.ssclibrary.org](http://www.ssclibrary.org), increased from 73,568 in 2021 to 89,442 in 2022.

Adult literacy instruction, a collaboration with GST-BOCES, drew 475 attendees to 89 classes.



# Southeast Steuben County Library

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### *Learning, by the Numbers ...*

#### **Registered Resident Borrowers**

**16,769** = These borrowers live or work within the library's chartered service area.

#### **Registered Non-resident Borrowers**

**698** = Most non-resident borrowers reside or work within the wider Southern Tier Library System area. Others pay an annual fee.

**9,621** = **Children's Program Attendance in 2022**

**86** = **# Summer Reading Program Sessions**

**5,618** = **Attendance at Summer Reading Events**

**552** = **Coffee, Tea & English (ESOL) Participants**  
(English for Speakers of Other Languages)

**10,855** = **Reference Questions & Transactions**  
Does not include public computer usage.

#### **Tech Coaching Sessions**

**308** = One-on-ones with patrons by appointment

#### **Digital Checkouts**

**57,726** = eBooks - Audiobooks - Periodicals - Videos

**185,360** = **Total Collection Use**



**GET DOWN!** The library's 2022 Summer Reading Program attracted 5,386 children and caregivers to 86 sessions. The season's activities were capped by Doc Possum's Summer Reading Dance Party, shown above, held on August 25 in Nasser Civic Center Plaza.



One-on-one sessions with Southeast Steuben County Library tech coaches have helped hundreds learn how to optimize their use of computers and handheld devices. If you have questions about how to use your eReader, tablet, smart phone or computer, we can help. It's free! Call us at (607) 936-3713 Ext. 502 and ask about Tech Coaching, or email [diglit@stls.org](mailto:diglit@stls.org).

### *Library Objectives in 2023*

- Build a diversity, equality and inclusion plan for implementation by board and staff.
- Expand, revise and update the library's emergency and disaster plan.
- Develop a marketing/communications plan for board-related activities including advocacy, fundraising and community engagement.
- Reaffirm principles established in the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights" to support intellectual freedom.



# Southeast Steuben County Library

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### Live In-house Events Sprang Back in '22



#### Mah Jongg Draws in Dozens

Adult Services Director Michelle Wells said she was persuaded to learn Mah Jongg only after the volunteer who formerly led the library group moved away. She quickly found out how engaging the game can be and now teaches newcomers how to play. Whether it's been for the mental benefits of the game or the sheer fun and comradery, the group has grown to a consistent dozen that can be seen playing in the Reading Room on Wednesday afternoons.



#### PLEASE TOUCH!

Thanks to a collaboration with The Rockwell Museum, library visitors were able to see, and touch, a sculpture from the Museum's 2022 exhibition of sculptures by artist Michael Naranjo, who is visually impaired.

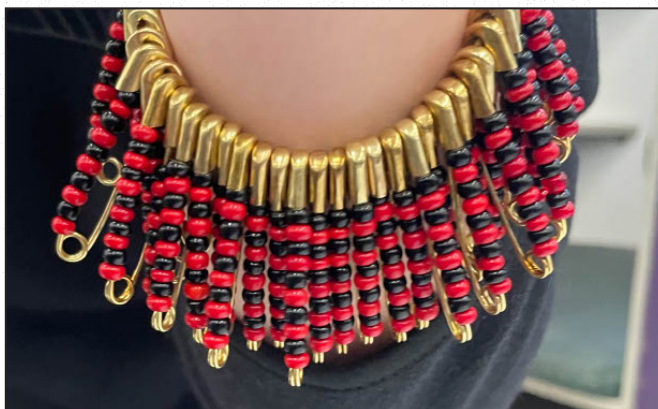


**MARVELOUS MAKERS:** Creating is for everyone, as these *Crafting with Kimberly* participants, above, demonstrate. Shown at center: Chief Maker Kimberly Canale.

#### Afterschool At The Library Rocks

Young Adult Services Coordinator Kayla Crane said some of her favorite afterschool programs through the year included perler beads, LEGO building challenges, BUTTON MAKING, safety pin art and jewelry - shown below - and recycled book crafts.

"I'm looking forward to programs this summer, made possible in part by a generous donation, featuring local artists including Filomena Jack, Erica Unterman, and performer Tim Collin," Kayla said.





# Southeast Steuben County Library

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### Financial Matters

In 2022, the library tax levy covered 63 percent of the library's total operational expenses for the year. Grants, Gifts, Annual Appeal donations and matching funds totaled \$249,664 and covered another 18 percent of expenses. A federal low-interest loan, service fees and other income covered the remainder of the year's operational expenses. Total expenses were \$1,387,069.

Patron services, library materials, equipment and programming made up 65 percent of spending, with only 23 percent of outlays used for administrative and business expenses. Facilities maintenance, plus debt service for the year accounted for the remaining 12 percent of spending.

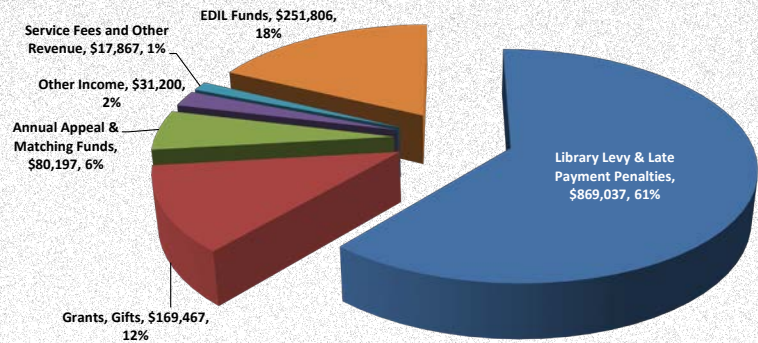
Spending categories of note: The library spent \$870,959 on employee compensation (payroll, taxes, benefits and insurance) and awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to college bound high school seniors. The library spent \$103,200 on circulating materials in 2021.

On the income side, local taxpayers contributed \$869,037 to the \$1,419,574 total. Grants and gifts totaled \$249,664. Of that, the Friends of the Library organization gifted \$55,000 in book sales proceeds to the library in 2022. Donations to the library's Annual Appeals, including employer matches, brought in \$80,197 from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

Library service fees, reimbursements and other income brought in \$49,067, about 3 percent of library income.

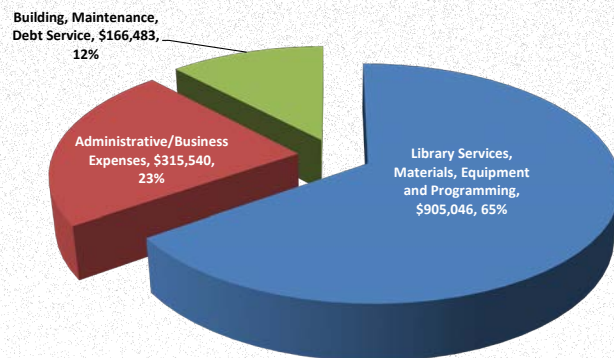
Savings over budgeted expenditures were realized in numerous categories including legal and auditing expenses, library supplies, and wages & benefits. The library's operational budget ended the year with a net income of \$32,505. These funds were transferred to the Capital Reserve account for future facilities upgrades.

### 2022 Library Income



Total Income - \$1,419,574

### 2022 Library Expenses



Total Expenses - \$1,387,069

\*\$32,505 added to Capital Reserve



**Mindfulness Zone:** Southeast Steuben County Library welcomed more than 111,000 visitors last year, a 60 percent increase over visits in 2021.



# Southeast Steuben County Library

## 2022-23 Annual Fund Drive

### *Thank You, Donors*

#### Trustee's Circle (\$2,000 and above)

Corning Incorporated Foundation  
Corning Enterprises, Inc.  
James B. Flaws and Marcia D. Weber  
Kim Frock and Wendell Weeks  
Charlie and Trudy Craig  
Barbara B. Cook  
Sarah and Dan Collins  
Patrick Tepesch and Kate Paterson\*

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Charitable Fund  
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Rakiba and Dipak Chowdhury  
Edmund R. Reif, in memory of  
Carol J. Reif  
Margie Lawlor and Mike Scalzone

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Robert and Judy Garrett  
Bruce and Judy Graf  
Mr. and Mrs. Kirk P. Gregg  
Jeffrey Hagy, in memory of Marilyn Hagy  
Bill and Mary Hallinan

Continued ...

The Southeast Steuben County Library extends thanks to Annual Campaign Co-Chairs Marcia D. Weber and Mary H. Bacalles. We gratefully recognize the individuals and organizations that contributed to our 2022-23 Fund Drive, ending March 31, 2023. More than 240 donors contributed \$74,743 to enhance library resources and programs for everyone.

Donations received after March 31, 2023 will be acknowledged in next year's 2023 Report to the Community. We are grateful for your support!



# Southeast Steuben County Library

## 2022-23 Annual Fund Donors

### Enrichment Circle (Continued)

Elizabeth Hanley  
 Thomas J. Hart  
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 Sharon and Roe Hemenway  
 Janet H. Hoover  
 William E. Horsfall and Family  
 William J. Howells  
 Janet and Walter Jones  
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 of Eileen Riesbeck  
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 Jeffrey Scott and Corning Incorporated  
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 Jeffrey L. Scott\* (individual donation)  
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 John Benson and Sandy Wallace  
 Vincent and Mary Lee Welch  
 Robert G. and Mary Jo Wich  
 Family of Jerry E. Wright  
 Michiko Yamaguchi

### Owl's Nest (\$1 - \$99)

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 Nancy Doult's 90th birthday  
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 Judith L. Wright

**\*Thank you to these donors for participating in their employer's matching gifts program.**

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**SPRING CHEER:** Volunteers from Corning Incorporated celebrated Earth Day 2022 with a Day of Service, helping to improve the landscape outside the library in Nasser Civic Center Plaza.



# Mary Lu Walker Children's Room Project Donors Thank You!

## The Walker Family New York Public Library Construction Aid

Ken and Janice Freeman  
Corning Incorporated Foundation  
James B. Flaws and Marcia D. Weber  
The Library Board of Trustees  
The Friends of the Library

Geoffrey Steenberge  
Janelle Sudduth  
Kate Paterson  
Gail Bardhan  
Jamie Curtis

Janice Fitzpatrick  
Jane C. Walker  
Ryan Hughes  
Adam and Nogaye Tandia  
Jeffrey and Joan Cline

### *Donors via FLX Gives and The Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes:*

Brian W. & Mitchell S. Whisenhunt  
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Tracie and Bob Drew  
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Bev Stevens  
The Hughes-Larson Family  
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&  
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Thanks to Senator Thomas P. O'Mara, Assemblyman Philip A. Palmesano and Assemblyman Chris Friend  
for their support of New York Public Library Construction Aid