

*“To build up a library is to create a life. It’s never just a random collection of books.”*

*– Carlos María Domínguez*

Elting Memorial Library

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**93 MAIN STREET  
NEW PALTZ, NY 12561**  
845.255.5030  
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# A WORD FROM THE INTERIM

Greetings New Paltz,

I stepped into the position of Interim Director at the end of 2023 to help the organization after the departure of Gillian Murphy. The Board is searching for a replacement, as well as a replacement for Miss Kim, our Children's Librarian who departed in January of 2024. I am working closely with Elting's Board, staff, and volunteers to keep our wonderful library moving full speed ahead. I wish to thank all of our voters for their support of our 2023 tax initiative- your backing makes all the difference in how well we can serve our community.

We have reconfigured our space to create more work and meeting areas. We've added new computers and printers, and strengthened wifi all over our property. Last year was a banner year for programs: Children's, Young Adult, and Adult. Our Steinberg Room was heavily booked, with talks, meetings, book discussions, and art shows. In 2024 we will be replacing our carpets and working on other infrastructure projects. We will continue to purchase great new books and greatly increase our e-book and downloadable audio titles to meet the growing demand.

Please join us here at the true center of the New Paltz community. I am sure you can find something going on at Elting that interests you. Keeping up with all that is happening here is easy- just look at our calendar or sign up for our newsletter, both linked to the right. And, if there is a title you are interested in that we have missed, just let our desk staff know, and I will see about adding it to the collection.

*Stephen Cook*

**STEPHEN COOK**

Interim Library Director



<https://bit.ly/EltingCalendar>



[www.eltinglibrary.org/subscribe-to-newsletter](http://www.eltinglibrary.org/subscribe-to-newsletter)

# LIBRARY INFORMATION

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard Heyl de Ortiz

*President*

June Wheeler

*Vice President*

Hilary Cloos

*Second Vice President*

Christine Wesserling

*Treasurer*

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*Trustee*

Misha Harnick

*Trustee*

Laurie Hlavaty

*Trustee*

Thomas Rocco

*Trustee*

Linda Welles

*Trustee*

## LIBRARY STAFF

Stephen Cook

*Interim Library Director*

Kevin O'Leary

*Head of Circulation*

Kimberly Demetriou

*Children's Librarian*

James Frauenberger

*Adult Programmer*

Deborah Engel-Di Mauro

*Teen Coordinator*

Carol Johnson

*HHHC Coordinator*

Margaret Stanne

*HHHC Collections Manager*

Bebhinn Dungan

*Outreach & Development*

Bibi Sandstrom

*Collection Dev. & Data Entry*

Isaac Murphy

*Library Clerk*

Maya Hood

*Library Clerk*

Kim Haughton

*Library Clerk*

Jessica Maciag

*Library Clerk*

Colin Salt

*Custodian*

Marsha Black

*Bookkeeper*

## CONTACT US

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### Haviland-Heidgerd

### Historical Collection

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### Social Media

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### Outreach

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## “This is what a library should be like!”

“Such a great environment. The librarians are so helpful. Books are organized and easy to find. Great collection of movies. And the newly renovated children's room is wonderful. I especially like the new non-book items that you can take out which include a tent, sewing machine and bocce ball. Elting Library is truly a community treasure.”

*Hannah Scarpati*

# WHAT WAS NEW IN 2023?



### More space for people

Libraries are for the people who use them. In 2023 we increased the number of seating areas in the library for our users.

### Let there be light

As part of our commitment to sustainability we took the first step in replacing our old lights with LED bulbs.



### New book return

To make book returns even easier we purchased a new book return for the parking lot, which is accessible by car.

### GO with Elting Library

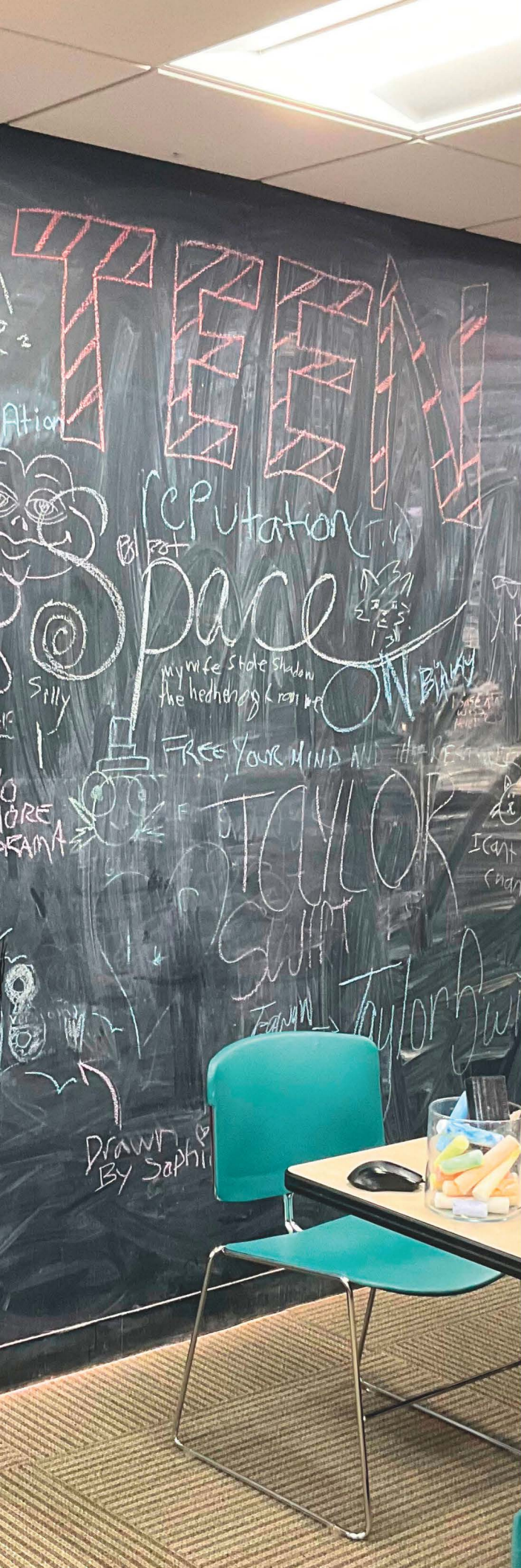
Partnering with the Ulster County Library Association we began offering double the number of passes to local museums and parks.



## 2023 NEW DIGITAL RESOURCE: TRANSPARENT LANGUAGE ONLINE

Transparent Language Online provides a fun, effective, and engaging experience for learners of all levels looking to build their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a foreign language. With over 100 languages to choose from, there is something for every learner. Best of all, with enhanced support for Android™ tablets and iPads, learners can enjoy the freedom to learn at home, in the library, or on the go.





## AT THE END OF 2023,

we bade Library Director Gillian Murphy the best of luck as she departed to serve as director of the Howland Public Library in Beacon. In her two-and-half years serving as our director, she accomplished many great things for our library:

Developed strategic use of the Library's building

Increased space for patrons to work, read, and gather

Expanded programming for adults, youth, and children

Dedicated a larger, appropriate space for teens

Established our passport center

Re-imagined the children's room

Created a more refined and responsive collection, including innovations such as our Library of Things

**MANY THANKS TO STEPHEN COOK FOR STEPPING UP TO SERVE AS INTERIM DIRECTOR BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER.**

# 2023 GROWTH

Circulation increased  
by 11% from 2022



Over 900 new  
cardholders, a 15%  
increase from 2022



Held 257 children's  
programs



Held 60+ programs  
for teens

Held 175 adult  
programs



Accepted over 530  
passport applications



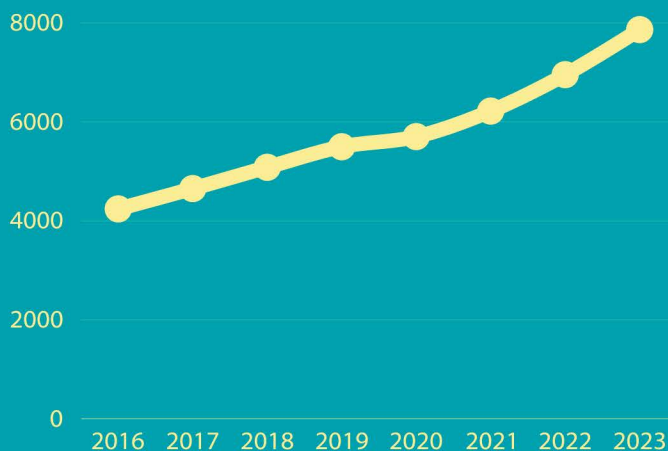
Partnered with  
Out Loud Hudson Valley  
Rosendale Theatre  
SUNY New Paltz Black  
Studies Department

Library of Things  
circulation  
increased by 24%



# LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS INCREASED BY 15%

Our library continues to see an increase in library card applications. In 2023 we issued over **950** library cards to new patrons



## STUDY ROOM USAGE

Following trends from 2022 our study rooms continued to be very popular in 2023.

Study rooms can hold up to 6 people and be reserved online and in advance. Rooms can be used up to 120 minutes per person/per day.

Have a larger group? Reach out to James Frauenberger, Adult Programmer, to inquire about using the Steinberg Reading Room for your meeting or event.

**TOTAL STUDY ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR 2023: 2,304**

**TOTAL HOURS USED IN 2023: 2,847**

# AND BECAUSE LIBRARIES ARE MORE THAN BOOKS



## LIBRARY OF THINGS ELTING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Our Library of Things continues to grow. In 2023 we added a Spice Library! We want to continue to grow this collection to best serve our community's needs. What would you like to see in it?



## MEETING AND STUDY SPACES

Our study rooms were reserved **1,694** times in 2023. Reserve a study room by going to [bit.ly/bookstudyroom](https://bit.ly/bookstudyroom) or by scanning the QR code.



## PASSPORTS

The library earned **\$18,700** accepting passport applications in 2023. For more information about passport applications visit [eltinglibrary.org/passports](https://eltinglibrary.org/passports)



## Tech Help

We held **107** one-on-one tech help appointments in 2023—more than double the number in 2022. Appointments can be made by going to [eltinglibrary.org/tech-help](https://eltinglibrary.org/tech-help)





# ADULTS

Adult Programs in 2023: 175

Participants: 1,200+

2023 saw continual growth in adult programming. We continued to host popular ongoing programs such as the Elting Book Club, our weekly Knitting Group, Music on the Hill, and Early Gen Z Queer Hangout with the Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Center. We also branched out and tried new programs such as Chess Club, pollinator programs, and weekly iPhone classes. Two new lecture series kicked off with wild success: The Sally Rhoads Lecture Series, featuring a talk by Lee Glazer, Director of Museum Programs at the National Archives, and Coming Together: Black History Is American History, presented by local teacher and lecturer Albert Cook. Both were met with packed, attentive audiences. To continue to try to meet our community's needs, many of 2023's programs were hybrid, allowing both virtual and in-person audiences.

For the first time since the library had to close its doors in 2020, we hosted a diverse array of art exhibits in the Steinberg Room going from highlighting local artists such as Doug Skinner, whose work has been featured in *Cabinet*, *Fate*, *The Fortean Times*, and *Nickelodeon*, to presenting art by Dominic Newsome, an inmate in Pennsylvania whose art was instrumental to his survival while in solitary confinement.

The reach of our programming allowed us the great pleasure of working with over 30 community partners, covering arts, gardening, wellness, and continuing education.

*James Frauenberger*  
Adult Programmer



Staff began attending the Campus Market on the SUNY New Paltz campus in 2023.

**Over 100 SUNY students signed up for cards at our table.**



We hosted two late-night programs for SUNY students in 2023 and had over 40 students take advantage of our space to study for finals.

# TEENS

Teen Programs in 2023: 60+

Participants: 200+



Scheduling programs for teens with busy academic schedules and a wide range of extracurricular activities can be difficult, but we've done a lot to engage them in 2023. Our programs gave teens opportunities for leadership and creative problem-solving, offered tools for academic growth, and provided an outlet for fun and relaxation.

Many of our programs were conceived of by our own Teen Advisory Group. These teens helped pave the way for video game, board game, and movie nights, as well as for Valentine's Day and Halloween parties. In 2023 they even helped usher in the first-ever marshmallow roast, Open Mic Night, and wildly successful Sleepover in the Stacks.

Mini Golf in the Stacks returned in 2023 with the theme, "Imaginary Worlds." Teen Advisory Group members designed and constructed nine holes throughout the library stacks and helped run the two-day event, which attracted **over 100** players.



Over the summer, high school and middle school students went to battle in the annual Mid-Hudson Battle of the Books. Each team read 5-6 books and prepared to answer trivia questions on each of them. Our high school team won third place in the finals!

This year we hosted a Jump Start Your College Application Series with Dwight Englewood School Director of College Counseling, Paola Gentry, who guided students in searching for the right college, navigating their applications, and writing their college essays. These were followed by drop-in help sessions where students could ask specific questions about their process.

It was a full and exciting year for teen programming! I'm looking forward to seeing how things will develop in 2024.

*Deborah Engel-DiMauro*  
Teen Coordinator



# CHILDREN'S ROOM

Children's Programs in 2023: 257  
*142 programs more than 2022*

Participants: 6000+  
*A 220% increase in program attendance from 2022*

Circulation Increase: 27%

Children's programming underwent substantial growth this year. We significantly expanded our program offerings, particularly for babies and toddlers, in direct response to the expressed needs of our patrons and the identified gap in programming for this specific age group among local libraries. As these children transition to older age groups, there is a growing demand for increased toddler programs to meet their evolving needs.

School-age programming experienced a boost in attendance throughout the year, as well, due to the introduction of new offerings such as the STEAM Stories program, various craft programs, and the Brick Builders program. This achievement is noteworthy, considering the difficulty in attracting this age group due to elementary students, busy schedules, and competing obligations, including various extracurricular activities.

Circulation increased significantly in 2023. The collection's inclusivity and diversity were also significantly improved, earning commendation from patrons. Numerous parents have expressed joy in seeing their children and families represented within the collection. The introduction of parenting materials, along with a focus on child development and early literacy for even the youngest babies, garnered praise as well.

Continuing the enhancements to the Children's Room, this year saw the addition of two new chairs, a fresh area rug, and new toys. Patrons consistently express how the new furniture and room configuration significantly contribute to the welcoming and inviting atmosphere of the space.

This annual report encapsulates the vibrant and diverse activities, enhancements, and community collaborations in the Children's Library throughout 2023.

*Miss Kim*  
Children's Librarian

**The library remains dedicated to providing enriching experiences for all young patrons and their families.**

In June of 2023, the kindergarten class from Duzine Elementary School visited the library. They received a tour, asked questions, and were able to sign up for a library card.



**85% of the class of 2034  
now have library cards.**



# HAVILAND-HEIDGERD HISTORICAL COLLECTION

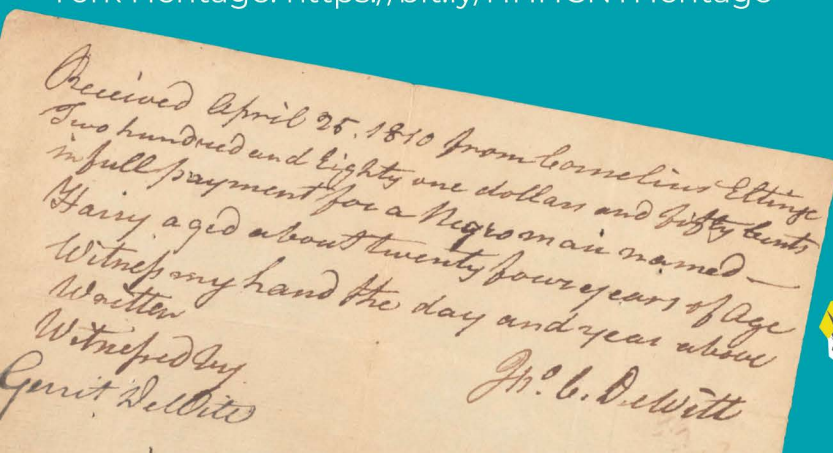
Coming out from COVID made 2023 a very unique year for the Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection (HHHC). In many ways, researchers were eager to get back to work hammering us with queries that were unable to be answered online. Meanwhile, other patrons were eager to start projects that were delayed by the pandemic. Some patrons were still hesitant to travel and we received many notes from our out-of-town regulars that usually come and stay here for a week explaining their hesitancy. Hopefully, they will come in 2024. The pandemic certainly changed researching both local history and genealogy forever.

Our biggest accomplishment for the year is completing the \$349,999 National Endowment for the Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Implementation Grant that we were awarded in 2020. The New Paltz Historic Document Project was a collaboration between four New Paltz institutions with historical documents: HHHC, Historic Huguenot Street, the Town of New Paltz, and the Reformed Church of New Paltz. These documents include personal papers created or kept by individuals and families chiefly of southern Ulster County, falling into three major categories: legal and financial documents, military records from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and family items. The majority of the papers date from the mid-1600s through 1830, with a few documents through the late 19th century included. **2,724** pages were digitized, of which 163 were single-page objects. These documents are now all online at New York Heritage: <https://bit.ly/HHHCNYHeritage>

*Carol Johnson*  
HHHC Coordinator

**READ THE  
FULL REPORT  
ON OUR PAGE**

[eltinglibrary.org/hhhc](https://eltinglibrary.org/hhhc)



Received April 25, 1840 from Cornelius Elting  
Two hundred and eighty one dollars and fifty cents  
in full payment for a Negro man named  
Harry aged about twenty four years of age  
Witness my hand the day and year above  
written  
Witnessed by  
Garret DeWitt



# LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS



## ORGANIZATIONS

Maya Gold Foundation  
Next Year's Words  
Margaret Wade-Lewis Center  
for Black History and Culture  
New Paltz Historical Society  
Hudson Valley LGBTQ+  
Community Center

## INSTITUTIONS

SUNY New Paltz  
New Paltz District Schools  
Mountain Laurel Waldorf  
School  
Nursery Schools



## LIBRARIES

We partner with 66+ libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System and 21 libraries as part of the Ulster County Library Association.



## GOVERNMENT

We support local government whenever possible. In 2023 we partnered with the Office for Community Wellness to provide free Narcan trainings.



We could not do what we do without the help of our community! Throughout the year, we worked closely with many local groups and individuals.

We strengthened our relationship with the Town Office of Community Wellness, providing community members with education and resources. We continued to be active members of the office's Thriving Together group.

We hosted field trips for the local schools, from kindergarteners to college kids, signing them up for library cards so they always have access to resources that will help them grow. We also made many visits to schools for open houses or information days.

We partnered with other nonprofits and organizations like Next Year's Words and the Margaret Wade-Lewis Center for Black History and Culture. Demand for our public meeting spaces only continues to increase. We also were able to use our resources to promote their causes, collecting food, clothing, and hygiene products to support the local community.

## BECOME A PARTNER

Join us in serving our community!  
Email [director@eltinglibrary.org](mailto:director@eltinglibrary.org)

**30+ OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS USED OUR SPACE FOR THEIR EVENTS**