

ANNUAL REPORT TO ASSOCIATION

January 27, 2022

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A NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

On April 1, 2021, I started my position as the new Library Director for the Elting Memorial Library! I began by getting to know the library staff, board, and our many wonderful volunteers. I was encouraged and excited to lead the library into its next chapter.

Although, hampered by the pandemic, I was still able to connect with many New Paltz residents and community leaders. I attended a joint Village and Town of New Paltz meeting in the summer to introduce myself to our elected officials. I was able to connect with various other community organizations through virtual meetings and look forward to a time we can meet in person.

LIBRARY STAFF

The Elting Memorial Library underwent several staff changes in 2021. Assistant Director, Jesse Chance left in July to become the new library director of the Hyde Park Free Library.

Shortly thereafter, Kevin O'Leary was promoted to the Head of Circulation and James Frauenberger was promoted to Adult Programmer. Both individuals have worked at the library for several years. A much needed maintenance staff position will be filled in 2022.

In November, our library family experienced the tragic loss of our coworker Raymundo Jackson. Raymundo was a special part of the library and he is greatly missed by all at the library. The library has established a Memorial Book Fund in Raymundo's name. Information about this fund can be found on our website: eltinglibrary.org.

JUSTICE • EQUITY • DIVERSITY • INCLUSION

The Elting Memorial Library's Long Range Plan outlines a heightened focus on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) principles. The Board of Trustees has formed a JEDI Committee which includes Trustees, Staff, and Community Members. Staff has been offered continuing education on this topic. JEDI has also been incorporated into library collections, programming, services, and resources.

Additional resources and suggested reading/viewing/listening links have been organized on our Anti-Racism Resource webpage: <https://www.eltinglibrary.org/anti-racism>.

FACILITY UPDATES

The Library's largest asset is its facility. The Library has a Facilities Committee to help oversee the many challenges in keeping a large building maintained. Last year, the Facilities Committee began work on developing a Facilities Plan, including capital and maintenance projects. The plan will be completed in 2022.

The Children's Library underwent a renovation in December 2021 - January 2022. The room is now a beautiful light blue, with painted clouds and plans for future murals. Shelving has been rearranged to allow for more people space. New signage will be added and well as plans for the creation of a MakerSpace. Materials for middle school aged patrons is being moved next to the Teen area and out of the Children's Library.

A Teen area has been created where the reference section once lived. Modern library's reference collections are mostly offered as an online resource, freeing up shelf space for more popular collections. The area includes comfortable seating, four teen computers, and study space.

Tables and chairs were added to several areas of the library to provide work and study space for all patrons.

New outdoor lighting and a parking lot drop box were added to our facility in 2021.

POLICIES

The Elting Memorial Library has a Policy Committee. The committee has been hard at work updating and writing policies. Policies such as Collection Development Policy, Employee Handbook, Customer Service Policy, Patron Code of Conduct, and more have been revised or adopted. Our policies are posted on the website: <https://www.ellinglibrary.org/policies>

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

The first task I felt compelled to address was the creation of a new library website and online calendar. Our new mobile-friendly site was launched in May.

The site includes an online *calendar* where patrons can register for events or sign up for alerts and notices. The new site included a scheduling software that allows patrons to reserve study rooms. From our website users can view their patron records, order materials, access online resources, leave suggestions, request purchase, donate, and so much more! Visit our *website* today!

COLLECTIONS

I realized right away that Elting patrons used the library heavily for print materials. What I didn't realize, was how popular digital materials were too! Our users borrowed well over 13,000 digital items in 2021! As a result, the library has increased its focus on providing digital materials to the community. In addition, the library has purchased four tablets for patrons to borrow. These devices will be loaded with library resources - including bestsellers!

We reorganized our DVD collection alphabetically by title and put the DVDs inside the cases on the shelves.

We haven't forgotten about print books! Although we are focusing more on providing the digital resources our patrons want, we understand that books are still important. I want our patrons to know that we are a *Patron Driven Library* - we want to purchase what our patrons ask for, so please ask!

LIBRARY OF THINGS

The Elting Memorial Library now has a Library of Things (LoT). This collection includes items you may not expect a library to circulate. Patrons can borrow a sewing machine, telescope, lawn games, camping and hiking equipment, hot spots, electronic devices, musical instruments, museum passes, and more. Patrons need to be 18 years of age or have parental permission to use the LoT.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Our new Adult Programmer, James Frauenberger started mid-summer in his new role. James hit the ground running and provided our library with many valuable and educational programs. Author visits including local author, Roger Roloff. Helpful programs such as Medicare 101 have been collaborated on by several Ulster County Libraries. Fun events like Trivia Night and Paint & Sip classes have been very popular and are planned for 2022. Look for our Human Library to happen in early Spring of 2022.

TEENS AT ELTING

Our Elting Teens have been busy in 2021! This group of young adults meet throughout the year. Here are a few of the activities our teens have been engaged in: Math tutoring for elementary school kids, a winter break book club, refreshment sales during Music in the Garden and outdoor movie nights, 2 trivia nights (one internal and one public), High School

Battle of the Books over the summer, hike with a craft in April, online streaming movie nights, four activities at the library fair (pumpkin decorating, sculpey craft, lollipop game, and corn hole, held a Halloween haunted courtyard for younger children, decorative magnet take and make kits, hot cocoa bomb take and make kits

HAVILAND-HEIDGERD HISTORICAL COLLECTION

The Haviland - Heidgerd Historical Collection received a \$349,000 NEH grant for the preservation, conservation and digitalization of the library's pre Civil War collections, including unrecorded deeds, ledgers, letters, receipts, wills and inventories.

The collection acquired papers from the Wallkill Valley Land Trust on the history of the Wallkill Valley Railroad, including notes by Carleton Mabee, an extensive collection on Sojourner Truth from Corinne Nyquist, two paintings by local artists and a video of the building of the French Church on Huguenot Street, given by Dee Jaye Kurta.

HHHC helped research and produce the video for the annual *Houses on the Land*, house tour and currently assisting Esie Lewis on the groundbreaking ceremony to turn the Ann Oliver house into a local Black History museum. HHHC also helped the Mohonk Mountain House celebrate the centennial of the Albert Smiley Memorial tower.

HHHC added three new volunteers this year, Shayna Murphy, Anne Wandres and Sally Vasse. HHHC volunteers recorded over 500 hours, even with Covid regulations!

HHHC Coordinator, Carol Johnson continued to write her *Our Town* column for the local newspaper. For the 2nd year in a row provided the photo for the Ulster Savings Bank calendar cover page and microfilmed the end of the *New Paltz Times* newspaper and 1st volume of *Hudson Valley One*.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Providing programming was challenging in 2021. During the nice weather we were able to hold programs in the Vera Rushforth Reading Garden, which helped with social distancing and Covid protocols. We also conducted programs on Zoom and offered limited-size indoor events. Despite the pandemic, we were able to provide: over 70 story times, 20 craft-related programs (craft along, take-home crafts, and in-person programs), Early Literacy and Sensory take-home kits, monthly music and movement programs and an outdoor family concert. We held special programs such as songwriting, book bingo, online scavenger hunt, cartooning, author visit, Book Mark Contest, programs co-sponsored by *The Town of New Paltz Center for Wellness*, a very successful Summer Reading Program that included: over 150 registrants, including 20 babies, a partnership with the Ulster County SPCA, eight live animal programs, including mini donkeys, reptiles, amphibians, and adoptable animals from the UCSPCA, the formal introduction of Moose E. McMooseface as our library mascot, partnering with local businesses for a Family Scavenger Hunt.

The Children's Library collection underwent significant changes this year. With the

assistance of volunteers, the entire collection was weeded using the CREWS method. After systematically removing titles, we began ordering replacements and filling gaps in the collections. Additionally, some of the Children's collections were rearranged and relabeled to enhance findability. To assist emergent readers, a category of books called "Early Chapter Books" was defined within the fiction collection using spine labels, alphabetized the Books on CD and began to alphabetize the DVD collection, created finding aides such as in-house generated bookmarks (such as *Great LGBTQIA Reads* and *Beginning Chapter Books*).

While the majority of changes to the physical characteristics of the Children's Room will occur this year, a number of adjustments were made in 2021. The toy area was selectively filled with new, washable toys and activities, including two activity cubes, plastic community helpers, and plastic cars. The Children's Reference desk was relocated closer to the room's entrance, which opened up the room significantly.

Not only will the Children's Room's transformation make our space a more inviting area, but it will also maximize its functionality. The new collection configuration will not only be more user-friendly for patrons, but it will also provide space for new activities and collections, such as: Early literacy kits which will contain a set of books and manipulatives for collective circulation, a parenting collection intended to meet the needs of parents and their children, professional caregivers and teachers, an area with tables and chairs for patron use (for example, homework and tutoring) but also library programs, a makerspace, a designated area for hands-on learning, both independent and library-led, expanded programming, including more JEDI, STEAM-inspired programs, and early literacy focused activities (for example, *1000 books Before Kindergarten*), the acquisition of new titles for all collections, but especially the Early Reader and Nonfiction sections.

Children's Librarian Kimberly Demetriou, is looking forward to having a beautiful, whimsical, inviting, organized space that will instill a love of the library and reading in everyone who visits it.

THE FUTURE

As I look to the future, I am very excited about what is on the horizon for the Elting Memorial Library! In 2022, we will continue to increase our focus on JEDI principles, creating people space, building partnerships, and removing barriers to using the library.

Lastly, I look forward to the end of the pandemic. Only once this is truly over will I be able to interact with the greater New Paltz community. I am eager to meet you, learn more about your needs, and how the Elting Memorial Library can help make your life better.