

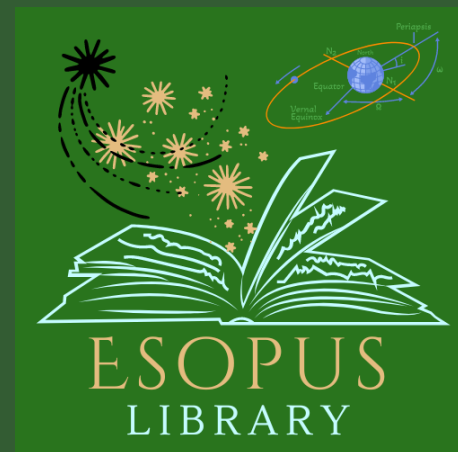
# Esopus Library



## Annual Report to the Community 2023

"Bad libraries build  
collections,  
Good libraries build  
services,  
Great libraries build  
communities"

~ R. David Lankes ~



128 Canal Street  
Port Ewen, NY 12466

Town of Esopus Library  
[www.esopuslibrary.org](http://www.esopuslibrary.org)

(845) 338-5580  
[info@esopuslibrary.org](mailto:info@esopuslibrary.org)

# Library Information

## Library Staff

**Jesse Chance**

Director

**Jennifer Russell**

Interim-Director

**Shannon Powell**

Circulation &  
Programming Manager

**Meaghan Darling**

Adult & Teen Program  
Coordinator

**Deborah McMenemy**

Office Clerk

**Laura Salgarolo**

Cataloging

### Clerks

Marilyn

Josie

Janet

Barbara

**Secretary to the Board**

Mary

## Library Foundation

**Chet Allen**

President

**Reggie Heffernan**

Vice-President

**Marion Zimmer**

Treasurer & Secretary

## Board

### of Trustees

**Donald Carragher**

President

**Nancy Beranek**

Vice-President

**Reggie Heffernan**

Treasurer

**Susan Barbarisi**

Trustee

**Larry Decker**

Trustee

**Martha Farrell**

Trustee

**Elaine Jaffe**

Trustee

**Stephen Lewis**

Trustee

**Elaine Rylance**

Trustee

## Foundation Members

**Margaret Phalen**

**Donna McCauley**

## Friends of the Library

**Connie Spoth**

President

**Susan Leiching**

Treasurer

**Kathy Milhaven**

Membership Secretary

**Joan Alley**

Book Cellar Manager

**Elaine Rylance**

Board Liaison

**Margaret Phalen**

Member

**Ruth Palmer**

Member

**Maj-Britt Allen**

Member

**Barbara Engel**

Member

**Stephanie Ewanich**

Member

# WHAT WAS NEW IN 2023?

## No More Late Fees!



The Town of Esopus Library has joined the growing majority of libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System and put an end to late fees on Esopus Library material. Loss and damage of materials excluded of course.

## ENERGY EFFICIENT PARKING LOT LIGHTING



Thanks to a generous grant from the NY State Department of Library Development, in 2023 we were able to begin taking major steps toward reducing the library's energy consumption and contributing to overall community resilience. 2024 will see the installation of a large generator to run the building in an extended power-outage as well as repairs/upgrades to the library's existing solar array.



# WE ALSO GOT A NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR...

Jesse Chance was hired in September after a thorough, some might say exhaustive, search for an appropriately qualified candidate. Jesse came to Esopus Library from Hyde Park Library where he was Director for two years. Prior to that, he spent 17 years at Elting Memorial Library in New Paltz where he worked his way up through the ranks from Clerk to Assistant Director.

*“As a dedicated and passionate library administrator, my philosophy revolves around creating inclusive, innovative, and community-driven library spaces that foster intellectual growth, lifelong learning, and personal development. My approach to library administration is grounded in core principles that promote accessibility, collaboration, and adaptability to changing societal needs.”*





# But Do People Still Use the Library?



**IN 2023,  
WE MADE 291 LIBRARY  
CARDS, AND  
CIRCULATED MORE  
THAN 40 MUSEUM  
PASSES.**

*You bet they do!*

**WE HAD 38,929  
VISITORS  
IN 2023. THAT'S UP  
MORE THAN 18,000  
FROM 2022.**

TOTAL CIRCULATION	
2023	2022
ADULT PRINT: 16,345	15,096
CHILDREN'S PRINT: 11,399	10,138
DVDS, CDS, ETC.: 8,756	8,498
E-BOOKS, ETC.: 19,946	~17,500





# Children's Programming and much, much more

2023 was a year of immense growth at the Town of Esopus Library. As a program coordinator and interim manager, it was very important to me that we prioritize our programming by maintaining programs that were known and well-loved by our patrons, while introducing new and exciting programs into our calendar. For our adult patrons this meant new programs like the art and history of Henna, flower arranging workshops, a fungi identification walk and a charcuterie board tutorial. For youth, we hosted award winning graphic novel artists, who assisted kids and teens in creating unique characters and single page comics. We collaborated with a number of local organizations, including the Town of Esopus, BOCES, UCRRA, the Office for the Aging, the Alzheimer's Association, the Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union and the SPCA. We offered a variety of movement and mindfulness programs including Chair Yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba, Mat Yoga, Guided Meditation and kids' Yoga. We had presentations from local historians, authors, science enthusiasts, story-tellers and animal rehabilitators. We were entertained by a rock concert for the whole family, at an open mic night, and by a variety of films shown in our community room. In addition to the talented local artists who displayed their beautiful artwork in our Duck Pond Gallery, we held a special exhibit where patrons of all ages came together to create art that was displayed in the gallery throughout the month of September. This is perhaps my favorite outcome of 2023 (besides seeing so many new and returning faces in the library!): collaborative programming where patrons of all ages united and interacted.

I am happy to share that we have many more events planned for 2024, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Shannon Powell,  
Circulation and Programming Manager

*Shannon*





# 2023 in Review *Teen & Adult Programs*

2023 was an exciting year for the Town of Esopus Library! While I only joined the library team in June, it was a bustling six months of library programs, outreach events, and increased library services. Adult programs focused on health and wellness with chair yoga, Tai Chi, Zumba, slow flow mat yoga, and meditation. Medicare 101 and presentations with the Hudson Valley chapter of the Alzheimer's Association provided up-to-date information and tips for future planning. World and local history lectures featured WW1 and WW2 as well as local points of interest like the Gomez Mill House in Marlboro. The Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association had us looking up at the night sky for an evening of stargazing with three different telescopes. A variety of local authors also visited to discuss their latest works of both fiction and non-fiction. Teen programs took off with a variety of hands-on opportunities to get creative in our Make One Take One, Nailed It, and Bad Art workshops. Teens also had an opportunity to earn community service hours while volunteering at the library. The library ventured out into the community at Esopus' town-wide events like Trunk or Treat and the Winter Wonderland Parade. Classes from Ulster BOCES and volunteers from the Ulster County Youth Bureau visited to learn more about the library. Finally, the Duck Pond Gallery continued to feature local artists and photographers each month. We can't wait to see what we can bring to the Esopus community in 2024!



Tie Dye Workshop



Harry Potter Birthday Celebration



Five nights at Freddy's Workshop



Stargazing with MHA



Town of Esopus Trunk or Treat



Nailed It Workshop

See you at the library!  
Meaghan Darling  
Adult & Teen Program Coordinator

*Meaghan*

## Adult Programs

2022: 157 programs with 1020 attendees

2023: 197 programs with 1824 attendees

### WOW!

That's a **25.5%** increase in the number of programs and a **78.8%** increase in attendance!

### Teen Programs: 2022 vs 2023

We offered **8x** more programs and had **351** more attendees!

### 2023 on Social Media

**Facebook:** 127% increase in followers and a 515.8% increase in reach  
**Instagram:** 471.8% increase in profile visits



# FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD:

To the Esopus Community,

I want to thank the public for the critical support we at the Library have received. The hardworking staff and dedicated board members could not have completed this period of transition without the encouragement and constructive comments of our patrons. Our collections, varied programs, art shows, and access to critical services have all grown and been increasingly well attended. There is a great deal happening at your Library and we want to develop our ability and professionalism in meeting community needs. Please accept my invitation to meet our talented staff and see what the modern library can offer.

Thank you again,

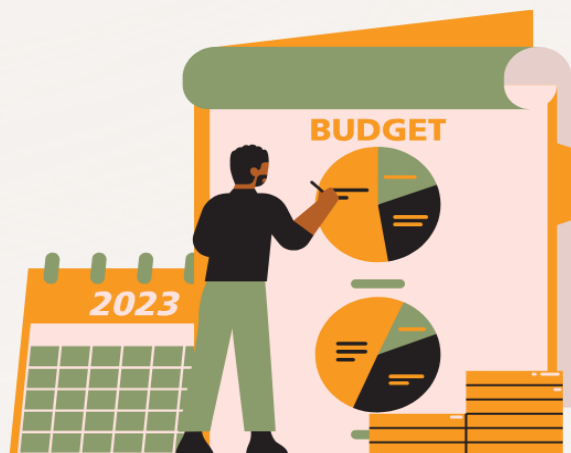
Donald Carragher, Board President.

March, 2024



## 2023's Finances in a Nutshell

<b>Library Budget 2023:</b>	\$530,865
Town Tax Appropriation:	\$416,966
Library Foundation:	\$53,193
PILOT:	\$3,480
Library Charges:	\$5,000
Interest & Earnings:	\$4,500
Gifts & Donations:	\$12,000
Grants:	\$4,000
State Aid:	\$9,500
Savings:	\$22,226



# Annual Report to the Community: 2023

## Some words from the Director



“Change is the law of life. Those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” John F. Kennedy said that well over 60

years ago. It was true long before he said it so eloquently and continues to be true today. 2023 was a year that held many changes for the Town of Esopus Library. From installing new energy efficient lighting in the parking lot to adding new and talented staff, there have been very few dull moments around here. Change is good and we are learning to embrace it (or at least roll with it). Another saying that springs to mind is “Let go or get dragged.”

This is an exciting time for Esopus Library and for libraries in general. Even before Covid 19 struck in 2020, people were changing the ways that they access and interact with information. The pandemic just kicked that shift into Overdrive (all library and book puns always intended). Now that most patrons know that their library card gives them access to loads and loads of digital content (e-books, downloadable audiobooks, online classes on so many topics, job hunting assistance, streaming movies and television and so much more), their relationship with the library is forever changed. Many of them have no need to come in the library at all most of the time. Libraries must adapt to this new reality or risk becoming irrelevant and Esopus Library is up for the challenge.

Of course there are many small things we do every day to prepare for these changes, but two of the major shifts you will notice in the coming years will be a dramatic increase in programming and community engagement as well as a greater focus on providing access to digital collections. As a matter of fact, if you are paying attention you will have already noticed this trend. As you will have seen in the Adult and Teen Programming report, in 2023 alone there has been more than a 25% increase in programs and about a 75% increase in attendance. Although we can't promise to continue to increase attendance at such a rate, we can promise that the programs will keep coming and that we will try to keep it interesting.

Like most communities these days, a steadily building number of Esopus Library patrons are getting their books and films electronically. Last year at Esopus Library, over 19,000 electronic titles or databases were used compared to slightly over 38,000 books or other physical items being checked out in the same time period. That's about 1/3 of Esopus Library's total circulation for 2023! This demands a sustained increase in spending on electronic materials and licenses over the next several years and we are working on that too. Of course we will continue to offer Hoopla and Kanopy, but we are also committed to increasing funding for electronic titles for Libby.

Libraries have never been just about books, but never more so than today. In recognition of this fact, Esopus Library is making important changes to its approach to programming and levels of e-content spending, but we must also continuously engage and educate our community about the many services we offer. One important tool for doing this is social media and you may have noticed we are not ignoring cyberspace either. Our followers on FaceBook are up 127% and on Instagram we've enjoyed more than a 470% increase in profile engagement and we intend to continue to offer engaging, informative content in that arena.

For those of you who may not quite see the connection between 'page likes' and library success, I'd like you to imagine Route 9W as a cyberspace highway and our FaceBook and Instagram profiles as 'digital signposts'. Not a big leap of the imagination considering that we do in fact have a digital sign out there on 9W. However, on the cyberspace highway the only way for our sign to be visible from a distance is if it gets a bunch of likes. Lucky for us, we are getting those. We are so glad that the Town of Esopus loves its library and we would like to keep it that way. If you have any ideas, thoughts or concerns about the future of Esopus Library, my door is always open and I welcome feedback and suggestions.

Yours Truly,

*Jesse Chance*

Jesse Chance, Director  
Town of Esopus Library



## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ESOPUS LIBRARY...

The Library is very important. I enjoyed all of the musical performances and hope there are more. The librarians are very helpful and the Book Cellar is great!

-Barbara O'Brien,  
Retired Special  
Education Teacher

It's a wonderful resource for books, music, movies, and books-on-cd. The employees are also very helpful! I also attend the Esopus Artists sessions every Tuesday. They often have interesting programs.

-Anne  
O'Neill

# THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ULSTER COUNTY  
BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION

