2020: A Year of Growth and Gratitude

In reflecting back over the past year, I feel extremely fortunate to live and work where I do. It was a hard year for all of us, but it also was a year for growth and gratitude. When forced to close our doors for several months last spring, it was heartbreaking. However, it was also an opportunity to stretch and to find new ways to serve our community.

We quickly learned new technologies and developed new kinds of programs. We invested in even more online materials. We found ways to foster community through poetry and art projects. We made face shields, collected food for the local food pantry, and provided job search help. We checked in with our seniors to offer help and sometimes just a much-needed ear. We brought people together online for book discussion groups, writing workshops, and graphic novel workshops, and outside for concerts and children’s programs.

Many people took advantage of our free Wi-Fi, both outside our building and inside, once we reopened in July, to teach and to take classes, to apply and interview for jobs, and to work remotely.

The pandemic reinforced and demonstrated that our library is not just a building, or books, or DVDS, or even programs—though it provides all of those and more—but is an essential component of our community. And we were not alone in this realization. We welcomed more new patrons to our library community in 2020 than at any time since the new library building opened, even with more limited services, and we welcomed back many others who had not used the library in several years.

Despite having to cancel our annual gala, our biggest fundraiser for the year, we were able to end the year in the black thanks the generosity of our donors, including many new donors. Over and over, you have told us how much you appreciate our work this year.

We appreciate, in turn, all the support that you provide us. Thank you.

Tammy Gaskell / Library Director

In 2020 Your Library:

- **UPGRADED ITS INTERNET CONNECTION** from DSL to fiber, providing more reliable and faster service
- **ELIMINATED OVERDUE FINES** for most items
- Added even **MORE ONLINE RESOURCES**, including hoopla—for electronic books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, and more—and the Register Star
- Collected and **DELIVERED COUNTLESS BAGS OF GROCERIES** to the Roe Jan Food Pantry
- Shared stories from local residents during a time of isolation though a series of **ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS** (roejanlibrary.org/covid-19-local-oral-history/)
- **COLLABORATED WITH NEIGHBORING LIBRARIES** on virtual summer reading programs and programs for adults
- Held a fall series of **OUTDOOR CONCERTS**
- **PAVED AND EXPANDED THE PARKING LOT**, with funds from a New York State construction grant
- Received a grant from the American Library Association to provide **MOBILE WI-FI HOTSPOTS** to lend to patrons
- Welcomed **NEARLY 300 NEW PATRONS** to the library—a more than 50% increase in new patrons compared to 2019

To receive our e-newsletter, which keeps you up to date on programs and resources, send an e-mail request to communications@roejanlibrary.org

Also visit our website, roejanlibrary.org, and our Facebook and Instagram pages

Register for a library account by visiting roejanlibrary.org/get-a-card

Feel free to contact us with any questions—we are here to help!

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We Want to Hear from YOU!

Whether you currently use the library or not, we value your opinion. Please complete a brief survey to help us better serve your community.

VISIT: ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG/SURVEY.
**2020 by the Numbers**

*Our Collection: What You Can Borrow and Use*

- **Print material:** 25,271
- **Electronic materials**—e-books, downloadable audio and video, e-magazines, databases: 20,192 (up 5% from 2019)
- **Non-electronic materials**—DVDs, books on CD, museum passes, etc.: 5,341

Total holdings: 50,804—up 3% from 2019

**2020 Circulation**

- **Electronic content:** 12,828 (up 61% from 2019)
- **Adult books:** 9,410
- **Children’s books:** 5,528
- **Adult other materials:** 8,326
- **Children’s other materials:** 292

Total circulation: 33,591

- **Borrowers:** 4,311—up 7% from 2019
- **285 new patrons in 2020—52% increase in new patrons over 2019**

Total number of visitors: 16,007

**2020 programs**

- **Adult program sessions:** 154
- **Children’s and teen program sessions:** 84
- **Family and other program sessions:** 4
- **One-on-One programs:** 227 (job search help, “take and make” programs)

**Program attendance:**

- **Adult program attendance:** 2,042
- **Children’s and teen program attendance:** 1,592
- **Family and other program attendance:** 48
- **One-on-One program attendance:** 227

Visits to website: 25,445—20% increase from 2019

- **Computer sessions:** 866
- **Wireless access:** 6,000

**RJCL Local Public Funds in Comparison to Other Libraries (3-year average)**

- **RJCL:** $15.30/capita
- **Columbia County libraries:** $30.49/capita
- **Mid-Hudson Library System libraries:** $50.13/capita

**How Is Your Library Funded? Income — $420,107**

- **Income — $420,107**
  - Local Public Funds - taxes from Copake & Hillsdale, donations from Ancram & Taghkanic: $116,000 (27.6%)
  - State & county funds: $21,762 (5.2%)
  - Federal Payroll Protection Program loan/grant: $29,400 (7.0%)
  - Fundraising events, individual contributions: $199,030 (47.4%)
  - Grants: $21,414 (5.1%)
  - Miscellaneous income: $14,894 (3.5%)
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  - Business partnerships: $12,575 (3.0%)

**What Does the Money Pay For? Expenses — $422,711**

- **Personnel (salaries, benefits, other related expenses):** $195,741 (46.3%)
- **Library materials, supplies, fees:** $36,803 (8.7%)
- **Building operation & maintenance:** $7,155 (1.2%)
- **Program expenses:** $17,725 (4.1%)
- **Equipment, technology:** $7,155 (1.2%)
- **Debt service:** $87,144 (20.6%)

*Pre-pandemic, kids enjoyed creating tornadoes in a bottle.*

*Masks on, the library staff adapted to new ways of running a library.*

*A conservative estimate of the amount patrons saved by borrowing materials and attending free programs: $600,000. And that doesn’t include the many other benefits of having a library in your community!*