

## Sustaining Community



### In 2023 Your Library:

- Sponsored the first Southeast Columbia County Repair Café
- Began completing the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification Program
- Introduced a monthly nonfiction book club
- Added a weekly Tai Chi and Qigong program
- Replaced our large folding partition to allow for more programs during library hours
- Began a monthly Tea Time program for conversation and learning
- Provided digital training with online Tech Labs
- Continued weekly English language tutoring classes
- Hosted a film screening and discussion on the importance of diversity in children's books
- Held a series of Back to Nature programs on gardening and our environment
- Provided summer reading programs at the Farmers Market and at town camps
- Participated in the Columbia County Libraries Association first county-wide community read
- Paid off our mortgage!

To receive our e-newsletter, which keeps you up to date on programs and resources, send an e-mail request to:

[COMMUNICATIONS@ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG)

Also visit our website, [ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG](http://ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG), or our [FACEBOOK](#) or [INSTAGRAM](#) pages

Register for a library account by visiting [ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG/GET-A-CARD](http://ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG/GET-A-CARD)

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

Tammy Gaskell, Library Director, 518-325-4101,  
[DIRECTOR@ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG](mailto:DIRECTOR@ROEJANLIBRARY.ORG)

Patricia A. Placona, President, Board of Trustees,  
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Armen Donelian kicked off our 2023 concert series



The rain stopped just in time for pumpkin painting

Over the past year, the Roeliff Jansen Community Library has thought a lot about what it means to be sustainable. How can we best support the sustainability of our library, our community, and our planet? What do practices that are environmentally sound, socially equitable, and financially feasible mean in our daily work?

Libraries are inherently sustainable. We are a sharing economy, supporting the sharing of resources and providing a place where people can borrow rather than buy. In doing so we help reduce consumption and save people money. We are also places that promote social equity, empowering individuals and leveling the playing field so that all can participate in our democracy. As for financial feasibility, there are few institutions that can squeeze more out of a dollar than a public library.

So what have we done this past year to further these goals? We became a member of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, which has helped us examine our practices. We conducted waste and energy audits, updated financial, programming, collection development, and personnel policies, and inventoried supplies. We cut back on our use of plastic, including of those receipt papers you get with checked out items.

More visibly, we organized southeast Columbia County's first Repair Café, where about 100 items were repaired in order to continue their useful life. We held a Back to Nature series on topics such as birding and native plants and held a Homegrown National Park program. We continued our seed library. We installed interpretive panels about the wildlife in our region along our path to the Roe Jan Kill. We screened *Tell Me Another Story*, a film about the importance of diversity in children's literature. We held English language and digital literacy classes to build skills to participate more fully in our society.

Finally, we also conducted a community survey to learn how we can more effectively and efficiently serve you. Your feedback will inform our planning for the coming years as we develop a new long-range plan to sustain your library and our community for years to come.

**Tammy Gaskell**  
Library Director

OUR ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ROE JAN COMMUNITY

2023 BY THE NUMBERS

Our collection: What you can borrow and use

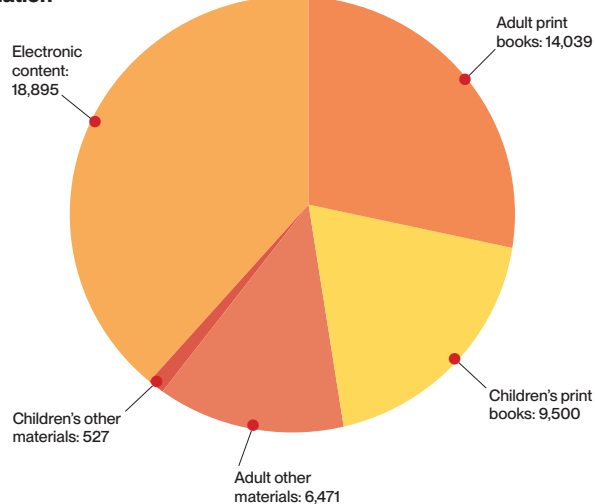
Print material: 19,741

Electronic materials—e-books, downloadable audio and video, e-magazines, databases: 29,114

Non-electronic materials—DVDs, books on CD, museum passes, etc.: 4,900

Total holdings: 53,755

2023 Circulation



Total collection use: 49,432

Registered borrowers: 4,135 / New patrons: 318 / Total number of visitors: 30,834

RJCL local public funds in comparison to other libraries (3-year average)

RJCL : \$19.41/capita

Columbia County libraries: \$35.13/capita

Mid-Hudson Library System libraries: \$55.77/capita



We celebrated Cinco de Mayo by playing some Spanish bingo



Tia took summer reading to the Copake-Hillsdale Farmers Market



A seasonal centerpiece workshop was a hit



Artist David Lesako demonstrated drawing with pastels



Wednesday afternoons are busy with homeschool fun and learning



Our first Repair Café was a real community event

Number of 2023 Programs

Adult program sessions: 203

Children's and teen program sessions: 146

General/Family program sessions: 9

One-on-one program sessions: 12

Program attendance

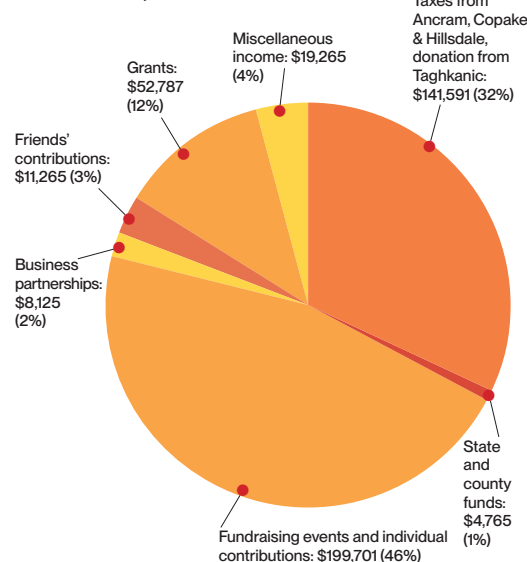
Adult program attendance: 3,168

Children's and teen program attendance: 2,173

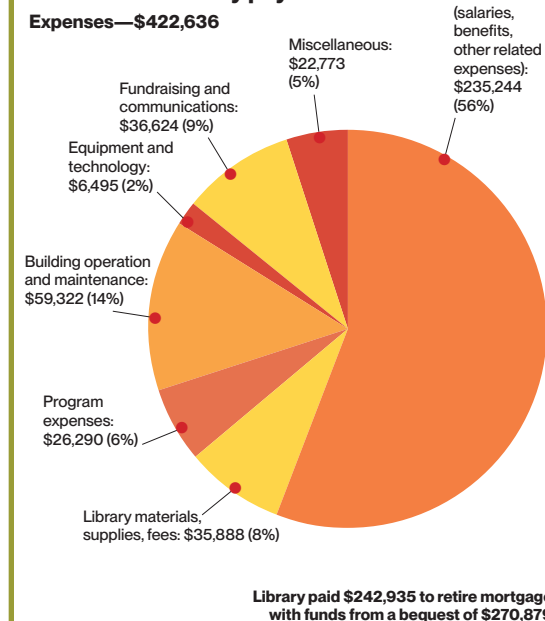
General/Family program attendance: 437

Visits to website: 24,310 / Computer sessions: 928 / Wireless access: 7,033

How was your library funded? Income—\$437,499



What did the money pay for? Expenses—\$422,636



Library paid \$242,935 to retire mortgage with funds from a bequest of \$270,879

A conservative estimate of the amount patrons saved by borrowing library materials\* and attending free programs: \$745,000. And that doesn't include the many other benefits of having a library in your community!

\*NOT INCLUDING HOTSPOTS, CAMPING EQUIPMENT, SEEDS, AND MANY OTHER RESOURCES