

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION





Thank you for a memorable day in Wallingford, a place I will always think of as the town that loves its library to the moon and back.



[DRAMATIS PERSONAE]

July 1st 2023 - June 30th 2024

Board of Managers

Jared Liu, President (October 2023 – current) Cliff Overstrum, President (through October 2023, term expired)

Deron Chang, 1st Vice President Suzanne Wright, 2nd Vice President

Kristi Doerr, Treasurer
Art Elliott, Secretary
Lisa-Marie Bellmore
Patricia Bentley
Tricia d'Oliveira
Jaime Hine
Maria Rodrigues McBride
Carol Mikulski
Bill Pursell* (resigned)
Umera Raza
Dara Solan
Willi Stahura
Andrew Whitehouse
Megan Grossman, Board Fellow
Ilana Hamer, Board Fellow











a cast of 84
volunteers
dedicated
2,797 hours
of their time to
helping improve
library services

Library Staff

Library Director: Sunnie Scarpa **Assistant Director:** Julie Rio

Head of Adult Programming: Rachel Taylor **Head of Borrower Services:** Barbara Cangiano

Head of Cataloging &

Collection Management: Liz Gatter
Head of Children's Services: Kari Hamad
Head of Emerging & Creative Technologies:

Janet Flewelling

Head of Facilities: Rich Heidgerd

Head of Teen Services: Kayleigh Sprague **Administrative Assistant:** Windsor Geraci

Business Manager: Deborah Ward **Children's Librarians:** Kristina Garner,

Josh LeBlanc, Erin Lynch

Creative Technology Associate: Russell Larson **Creative Technology Librarians:** Katie Dygon,

Max Spurr

Custodians: Jacob Hutchinson*, Ted Muszynski, Midnight Nathan, Han Nguyen

Digital Navigators: Matt McGregor*,

Elijah Mitchell

Library Assistants (part-time): Patricia Bathrick,
Raymond Brumleve, Daniella Derraugh,
Mickey Dichele, Kara Felegian,
Rebecca Funaro, Thirl Gravell, Sue Krol,
Linda Muszynski, Katherine Novko,
Sylvia Ohlrich, Daniel Robinson,
Jennifer Ryder, Lenny Schnerr, Tierra Shannon

Library Monitors: Tony Kowalski, Ed Nelson **Library Pages:** Ginnie Albraccio, David Andrews, Cathy Burns, Samantha Goode, Sam LeGrand, Colin McNeill*, Sarah Shideler, Emily Zajac

Library Technical Assistants (full-time):

Kaleb Cahoon, Caitlin Serra, Michelle Wooding

Library Technical Assistants (part-time):

Jesse Bernier, Dune Bryant, Gina Cabrera, Rebecca Paniagua, Janelle Rosales

Publicity & Public Services Librarian:

Christopher Ciemniewski

Readers Advisory Librarian: Cindy Haiken Reference Librarian & Career Specialist:

Sarah Eiseman

Reference Librarians (part-time):

Amy Humphries, Chris Siloac

a letter from the DIRECTOR & BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear WPLA members and friends,

It's hard to believe a whole year has passed since I became WPL's 14th Library Director. It is my honor to serve in this position, leading an organization with a storied history of excellent service to the community, fiscal responsibility, and profession-leading innovation.

One of the things I am most proud of from the past year is the success of our Digital Navigators' "Tech Connect" program (more details below!). Thanks to the high number of users and the incredibly positive feedback, I'm happy to report that we've decided to continue this program after the original ARPA grant funding ends. Tech Connect will now be supported in our operating budget.

On that note, our financial health continues to be strong! This year marks 125 consecutive years of taxpayer support keeping our library public. Your membership dollars and gifts through estate planning, wills, and more allow us to continue to grow—thank you!

Out of all WPL's vast collections and resources, our most valuable resource by far is our incredible staff. It is their hard work and expertise that makes WPL such a special place. The number one piece of feedback I receive from members of the public is how much their interactions with our staff have benefitted them and their loved ones. Each of our departments continues to develop and expand their programs and services to meet the interests and needs of our ever-changing, multi-generational, and multi-cultural community.

I know I speak for both myself and our Board of Directors, led by President Jared Liu, when I tell you that we are committed to continuing WPL's legacy of excellence. We appreciate your support in this endeavor and hope you are as proud as we are to be part of this incredible team!

Sincerely,

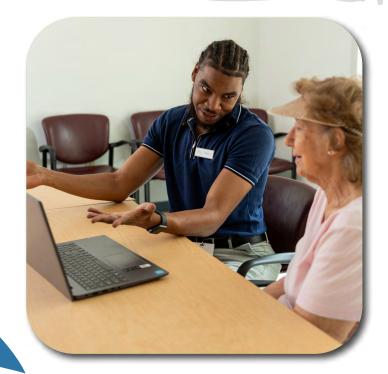
Sunnie Scarpa library director Jared Liv president of the board



Free tech help • Free computers • Free internet

hanks to an ARPA grant from the Town of Wallingford, we hired two digital navigators to oversee our Tech Connect program,

which launched in Sept 2023. The digital navigators provide technology training, long-term loan of Chromebooks, and assistance in obtaining low-cost home Internet connectivity. They hold one-on-one training appointments at the Library, the Wallingford Senior Center, and the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW). They also lead group classes on common questions, such as email, Internet searching, social media, online privacy, and digital security.





digital navigators assisted 363 clients across 597 appointments and 87 walk-ins

[BOOKKEEPING] Revenue & Expenses

Support & Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Town of Wallingford	3,314,377		3,314,377
State of CT	13,151	58,862	72,013
Donations	24,721	12,823	37,544
Dues	29,287		29,287
Book Seller	29,237		29,237
Copier/Printing	17,380		17,380
Collaboratory	14,152		14,152
Other Grants		7,000	7,000
Misc. Sales & Consumables	3,866		3,866
Fines	2,919		2,919
New Alliance Foundation		2,000	2,000
Total	3,449,090	80,685	3,529,775
Net assets released from restriction: Satisfaction of program restrictions	26,284	(26,284)	
Total	3,475,374	54,401	3,529,775

Expenses (continued)	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Continuing education and membership	11,318	200	11,518
Postage and miscellaneous	11,157		11,157
Auditing	10,016		10,016
Payroll Processing	8,328		8,328
Merchandise	7,871		7,871
Marketing	6,536	159	6,695
Meetings & Events	5,146		5,146
Total	3,426,791	152,037	3,578,828
		Vith Donor To estrictions	otal
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assests Before Other Income	48,583	(97,636)	(49,053)

Expenses	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Employee expenses	2,407,726	64,879	2,472,605
Materials to Borrow	248,156	2,407	250,563
Equipment & Improvments	125,993	58,566	184,559
Utilities	107,511	973	108,484
Capital Projects	98,842	8,643	107,485
Automated Systems	95,607		95,607
Repairs & Maintenance	80,117		80,117
Programs & Publications	39,231	14,157	53,388
Maintenance Service & Supplies	51,455		51,455
Collaboratory	29,656	785	30,441
Legal & Professional	28,263		28,263
Insurance	23,007		23,007
Copier Lease & Related Expenses	18,469		18,469
Library Supplies	12,386	1,268	13,654

Other Income

Interest and dividends	69,168	22,771	91,939
Reimbursements and other	435		435
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	140,950	44,594	185,544
Total	210,553	67,365	277,918
	_	_	
Increase in Net Assests	259,136	(30,271)	228,865
Net Assets —			
Beginning of Year	3,215,337	622,315	3,837,652
Net Assets —			
End of Year	3,474,473	592,044	4,066,517



or the first time, One Book One Wallingford focused on a children's book, *The Lost Library* by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead. The Library provided copies of the book to 3rd, 4th & 5th grade classrooms. Many teachers and families used the book as a read aloud. At the end of April, both authors came to Wallingford to visit some schools and then spoke in front of a large audience about the joys of being children's book authors.

n addition, the Children's Department has been focusing on supporting Wallingford preschoolers and their families. Wallingford library cardholders now have access to a free online resource, Playgarden Prep, a preschool program designed to help children get ready for kindergarten. Our Children's Librarians guided craft and STEM activities at elementary school aftercare programs, and performed monthly story times at a local daycare.



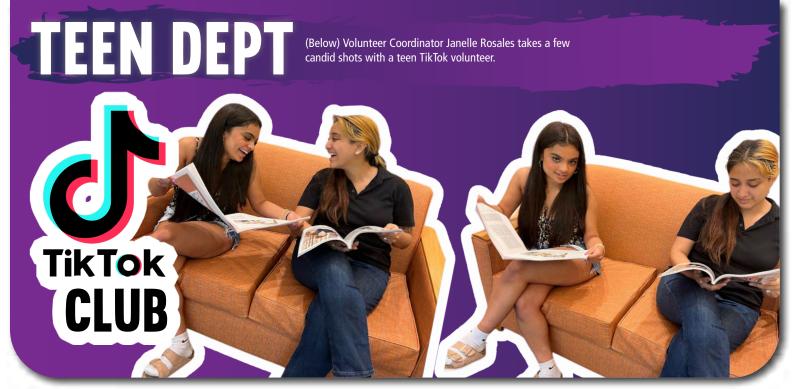


Children's Librarian Josh LeBlanc playing a round of *Magic: The Gathering* with a tween library patron (Above) and some young patrons playing Flat Pack at the library's Bluey Party (Left).



K-5th graders read over 350,000 minutes during summer reading







his past year was all about giving teens more ownership of the teen space. Student volunteers created amazing art for the teen area which brought color and life to the space. The YA nonfiction collection was relocated to the teen area for easier access and browsing, as a result, circulation has greatly increased. Dungeons & Dragons is increasingly popular and we're running monthly D&D and dice-making programs, enabling kids to connect to those with similar interests.

e also continued a mentorship program where Choate students come to the Library once a week to meet with Moran & Dag students. Each week middle schoolers bonded with their mentors with energy and excitement. Staff noticed the mentees grow and develop their confidence over the school year, and parents have responded positively to this program.



1,654 teens attended 118 events

1,469 volumes of manga circulated 5,679 times





(Above Left) Taking advantage of the Teen Area's comfy booths for a study session and celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride at the Library! (Above) Libraries are for Everyone!



e have launched several new recurring programs, including ukulele clubs, our monthly trivia night at Tap and Vine, and the first two events in our Wallingford Table series where participants got a taste of different cultures from within our community. We also collaborated with the Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust on programs that explored our local history through diverse perspectives and material culture.

eference Librarian and Career Specialist Sarah Eiseman continued to provide tailored one-on-one job seeker assistance—helping to edit or create new resumes, editing cover letters, creating a strategy for applying to jobs, updating LinkedIn profiles, and practicing for interviews. In addition to her years of experience, this year Sarah earned two new credentials: Certified Professional Resume Writer (CPRW) and Certified Career Services Provider (CCSP)





Our first Wallingford Table events included a Turkish Coffee Tasting with Peace Islands Institute (Left) and a Juneteenth Celebration with panel of speakers (Above and Top) hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



8,709 patrons attended **295** events

library staff answered 52,200 questions





Sarah assisted 88 individual job seekers

BORROWER SERVICES DEPT



🏲 eptember is National Library Card Signup Month and in 2023 the Borrower Services Dept. initiated a Library BINGO game that highlighted all of the incredible services that WPL offers. Patrons of all ages participated and everyone, staff included, had fun! We heard a lot of patrons say — "WOW! I didn't know you had that/could do that at the library!"



library users borrowed
359,992 items, the highest
amount in the LION Consortium





ataloging is where it all begins. We cataloged and processed new library items for your education, entertainment, and general enrichment. We also mended countless books to keep them in circulation, cleaned discs for continued watching or listening, and maintained our online catalog so you can find items in the library. In May 2024, our office received updated lighting and new carpeting to match the rest of the building. We are thrilled to have an improved space where we will continue to perform our vital behind-thescenes work.

8,384 new items were added to the collection



total collection size is 185,975 items

■ he Facilities Department, including the Head of Facilities, custodians, and library monitors, Is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the library's building and grounds to ensure their functionality, comfort, safety, and efficiency.

the 65,698 square foot library building sits on 157,250 square feet of grounds





the library welcomed **204,403** visitors

the library used **1,920** rolls of toilet paper





opular maker programs this past year included needle felting, decorative painting, polymer clay sculpture, and holiday-themed crafts. In the fall, we collaborated with the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW) for a library-wide celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and Día de los Muertos with a number of hands-on activities. The centerpiece was a Day of the Dead altar, where patrons left drawings and notes to deceased loved ones. We are excited to reach new audiences through cooperative efforts.

n September 2023, we installed a new laser cutter, which has the capacity to cut and etch on more types of materials and at larger sizes, expanding the variety of projects we can produce. In April 2024, we upgraded the Surface Hub, an interactive whiteboard used for group meetings and co-working.





Highlights from the library's First Annual Dia de los Muertos Celebration with SCOW (Above and Top) and one of the most elaborately detailed quilts we've ever seen on the Collaboratory's long-arm quilting machine (Left).



1,402 patrons attended **156** Collaboratory events

patrons made 497 equipment appointments for the embroidery machine, the long arm quilting machine, and the serger





MEMBER LIST, JULY 1ST 2023 - JUNE 30TH 2024

LIFETIME (\$1.000)

Lisa & Peter Barr Abby & Christopher Beale Sharon Benard Barbara & Jeff Borne Emily & Dean Brenner Karen & Richard Caplan Deron Chang & Penny Post MaryEllen & Bruce Connell Judy Donald Kathleen Elwell Marie C. Hulicki Virginia Kazimer Kristin & Jared Liu Michele Massores Maria Rodrigues McBride Daniel McDonnell Karen Rabis Susan Rhodes Heather Robison Joanne C. Sullivan Virginia Towle Ginny White Sharon Willhelm

LIBRARY LOVER (\$500)

J.A. Baumbach Fish Window Cleaning Rita C. Kovacs

KNOWLEDGE SEEKER

Carol Mikulski Joan M. Munger Kevin O'Rourke Paulette Rvdzv Ashley Sinclair & William Corey Rudolph Jane Socha Susan Stewart

LIBRARY ENTHUSIAST (\$100)

Marjorene Ainley Janet Amento Jean A. Anderson Davna Arduini Lisa Barillaro Jack & Barbara Beecher Lisa-Marie Bellmore Frin Benham Doug Benham & Diane Chandler Nancy Benson Eleanor Benson Thal Best Life Hearing Center Katherine Birnev Richard Brennan Beth Brooks Kevin Buno Frank & Amy Campbell Marie Carbone June D. Carroll Richard Cassello Colleen Cervero Nancy Charles Marlene Cohen Karen C. Connell Pat H. Dellaripa Kristi J. Doerr Patricia Gormican d'Oliveira Peggy Drew

Marianne Federici Rosina Feser Maris Fiondella & Sean O'Connor Jane Fisher George Foulds Benjamin & Bethany Fox Eugene S. Gazda Chris Gingras Susan Gomes Cindy & Matt Haiken Barbara & Philip Hannon Nancy & Lee Kaplan Jane Kinkead Steven LeClair Dianne Lendler Michael Lipman Kristin & Jared Liu Stephen MacKenzie Rose Malfa, M.D. Jane Marrone Vincent & Leigh Mascia Jane & Dana Masson Fred Monahan Ion Mroz Bette Niezgorski Laura Noto Carrie Olewnik Edwin H. Olson Patricia Perkins Neel Pizinger Donna Rackie Suzanne Ramsdell Umera Raza Martin Regan Diana Reilly Julie Rio & Gladys Alcedo Anne Marie Rivard Julie & Neal Robison Kathy A. Schave Richard John Sinkiewicz Richard Socha

Wilma Stahura Lorraine Tagliatela Richard Towne Jean R. Valenti Carmelina C. Villani Blair Wagner Nancy & Stephen Wikel Phil & Suzanne Wright

BIBLIOPHILE (\$50)

Jacqueline Barbato Doll Barnes Jonathan & Robyn Bennett Jill Bishop Larry Campane **Robert Carmody** Cyrus Cook & Megan Shea Eleanor Corazzini Lourdes Cruz Janet De Leon Gerald Dembiczak Lynn A. DiNallo Patricia B. Dokas Mara Dunleavy Arthur Elliott Brenda Fazzino Norman & Christina Fishbein Eric Friede Faith Fuller Patricia Gannon Carol, Guv & John Gennette Karen Audrev Grava Brian & Laurie Grav Veronica Haeberlen Erica Andrea Hanson Debra J. Hicks Amy Humphries Neal & Jean Hurwitz Velta Inglis Deryth Jacobs



Norma Buchanan Aleda, Anna, & Teddy Franz James Hine Stephen & Catherine Knight Doug & Galyna Latham Cynara McPhail & Jon Kornacki Jeanette Mercadante





Susan & Alan Eddy





Brian Johnson & Margaret Ennever Grace & Jozef Kopakow Shirley Lagerstrom Linda Lane Barbara & John Lathrop Steven L. Lazarus & Celeste Yanni James Mansfield Ann Marie & John Marriott Carol Meade Linda Miller ' Charles & Carol Moakley Pat Morse Sara Munson Russell Naylor Carissa Neubig Sylvia Ohlrich Lou Passariello Jean Pawlich Mona Perlot Paula Perrelli Anne Porier Jeanne Raccio Bernice Riha Tom & Brianna Robert Stanley & Sandra Sablak Karen M. Serafino Judy & Larry Singer Mary & Ole Sivertsen Robert & Elizabeth Torino Joan Troccolo Marfha & Gus Trujillo Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Turnbull Patricia Twohill Ramon Vallejos Sally & Alan Weisker Kathy & Paul Womelsdorf Judith Yale Christopher & Tammy Zorn

LIBRARY GROUPIE (\$25)

Edward Adams Virginia Albraccio Patricia Astorino Jean Balsley Barbara Battles Marissa Woodhull Beamer Ralph Beauchamp Jane Bedard

Eileen Bly Ernest Boehm Robert Bonvini Kathleen Boyd Debra Bozzi Sue Brosnan Catherine Burns Cary Lou & Glenn Canfield Barbara Cangiano Priscilla A. Canny Maggie Carr James D Catala Nancy Cerrotti Lawralee Chadbourne Thomas & Mary Jane Chicoski Carol Christmas

Patsy Cleaves Christine Connolly Jan Cook Fedelina & Peter Cortland Sheila & Jay Cosgrove David & Carol Cotton Charmaine Craggs & Brenda Robideau Maryann D'Addario Nancy Davis Nancy Dedmond Patricia Dering William Dickinson, Jr. Dee Anne Dodd Janet & Gary Dorsey Claudia Dunton Paula Durso

Doreen Ely Cynthia Erling Lauren & Scott Esposito Barbara & Brian Farrell Lori Feeney Irmina D. Fikus Phyllis & Debbie Firth Linda & Tom Fisher Janet & Josh Flewelling Lori Folk-Barron Kathryn Fontaine Amy Foster Carole Franceschet

Victoria Gerace

Pamela Gorman

Thirl & Debbie Gravell

Janice Egan

Greta Gribkoff Michael & Linda Griglun Dolores Ann Gudain Elizabeth Guidone Kari Hamad Joan Harlow Susan Harris Elizabeth & John Hart Marilyn Hausmann Anna Hladky Carolyn Hodges Sheila Holdt Betty Holroyd * Donald & Gloria Horbaty Carol Hotz Carol B. Isaacs Patricia Johnson Isabella Jump Mary & Matt Kelley Kate Kelly Adelheid Koepfer Richard & Pam Krombel

Carmen Laine Catalina Langin Luke Lauretano Patricia & Donald Lee, Jr. Barbara Libby Maryon Lindholm Nancy & Ron Lindsay Dorothy Lipton Michael Lobasz John Lunny * Benjamin Marrero

MaryAnn & **Edward Martindale** Joyce Martineau Anna Mastroianni Janet McCool Johanne McLean Jared McQueen Laura Michnowski Theodore Milewski Stephen Miller Nancy Millett James Roger Morrison Nancy & Alfred Mueller Barbara Mushinski Elizabeth Ann Napolitano Pat Nastri & Michele Raffaele

Susan O'Brien

Michelle O'Connell Suzanne Mary O'Donnell Courtney O'Keefe Cliff & Kris Overstrum Alex Penczynzyn Joan Petro Susan Pierson Yves & Ines Poirier Melanie Pontbriand Jan Pucci Kathleen Raven Gerald & Mary Reid Marci K. Resler Leah & Richard Stancil Frank & Alexis Rinaldi Karen Roesler Charles Rogers Charlene Rohloff Maureen Rowe Linda Sacco Pam Savenelli Sunnie & Steve Scarpa Marie J. Scharf Karen Scorel Barbara Self Margaret Shand Martha Shea Barbara Sibley Edie Simon Tom Smith Dara Solan Todd Sperry Michelle Thibeault Lorna Thibeault Kathryn Thompson Stephanie Timek Marilyn & Louis Ulizio Colleen Vann

Jolyn Walker Caroline & William Wall Johanne Walworth Dorena Wasik & James Twigg

Debra & Richard Voelker

Beth Vumbaco

Mary Williams Sonya Wulff & Scott Gray Mark Yoshida









BOOKWORM (\$10)

Dolores Adamo Rebecca Aldrich Elisa Allardice Anthony Michael Annunziata Mary Beth Applegate Krystyna Bak Fred Baptist, Jr. Rae Barbieri Patricia & Bruce Bathrick Carol Beniani Pat Bentley Jesse Bernier Heather & Bob Beverage Rosanne Bilodeau Candice Brashears Susan H. Brosnan Suzanne Brylowe Richard Buongirno Suzanne Butler Barbara Cannaverde Madalyn Caputo Allison Carboni Vivien A. Carrano Joyce Carter Myrtle Connolly Patricia Coppola Robert Cosgrove, Jr. Janet & Charles Craig Joyce Crebase Mary Anne Cresman Susan P. Crowther Geraldine R. Deangelis Carol Desiardins Lois Doherty Joyce Ellen Alberta T. Flynn Eileen Flynn Karen Foster Gavle Franceschetti Jennifer Frechette Henrietta Fried-Stolzman Bettyjane Fulton Sharon A. Furtak David Furtak Liz Gatter Marian Gemmell Windsor Geraci Joan Ginter Ed Glazewski Eve Gold Heidi Hajna Michael J. Hall Ilana Hamer Wayne Harris Richard Heidgerd Patricia & August Heltke Deborah Hill Cynthia Holland-Toftness Linda Howe

Robert Howell Thomas M. Hughes, Jr. Cynthia Jedynak Noelle Johnson Milton & Eileen Kahl Linda Kane John Kedves Vincent Kiernan Donald & Lyvia King Jayne J. Kleinman Roberta LaBelle-Thomas Paul Lamoureux Rose Gaudio Lamy Doreen Patricia Lang Pauline Lawrence Patricia Levasseur Rose C. Lordi Rebecca Macfarlane Cynthia Mansfield Louis Marino Debbie Markiewicz Florence Masselli Nancy Maynard Diane & Richard Mesite Judith Moore Scott Mowerson Matthew Mowerson Linda Musco Joellen Nellums Denise Nigro Elissa A. Orio Eva Overchuk Catherine A. Panico Bertha Parese Kathy Partesano Patricia Petrelli Cheri Piascik Rosemary Pilch Jane Reed Jean Regnier Mildred Rodriguez Andrea S. Rosner Courtney Schroeder Laura Schuster Judy & Deanna Scinto Caron Shanahan Elizabeth Shutts Doreen Simijian Patti Sirulnick Carolann K. Slayton Kate Slomkowski Kayleigh Sprague Jana Staffaroni Jennifer Stevenson Janet Sudol Catherine M. Sullivan Susan Tarantino **Eleanor Tessmer** Jean Tierney Maria Toczko Nancy S Toomey Kathryn Tuttle

Jane Tuttle Linda Valente Kimberly Vollono Nancy Wailonis Deborah & Mark Ward Arlene Weimer Amy Wexler **Emily Whitehouse** Andrew Whitehouse Carol Whitney Michelle Wooding Elizabeth Zalonski





this past spring we debuted three different hats in our library merch store available for \$10 each











