BY THE NUMBERS...

Statistics gathered July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Visits - 96,397
Checkouts - 40,923
Library Downloads - 23,123
Programs - 1,013
Program Attendance - 12,123
Library Card Holders - 3,079
Books & Materials - 29,705

On our little island, the library is the one place I can trust and count on, to know I belong, that I am part of a thriving community, that books and creative and intellectual pursuits are waiting to be explored, and that I am welcomed with open arms. — Susan Schrott

ABOUT THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Shelter Island Public Library fill important roles in the operation of the library. They are responsible for governance, fiduciary oversight and setting policy. The volunteer members serve staggered three-year terms and are elected or re-elected by the Shelter Island Library Association at its annual meeting.

More information about the election of Trustees will be provided later this fall.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jo-Ann Robotti, President
Henry Fayne, Vice-President
Donald Regan, Treasurer
Linda Kraus, Secretary
Susan Binder
Ancher Brown
Maritme Carey
Donald Dunning
Henry Fayne
Phyllis Gates
Karyn Isa Greenwald
Tom Haslagen
Bennie Berman Stockwell
Terry Lucas, Library Director
Laura Dickerson, Assistant Director

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The big news of 2023, of course, was the passage of our successful expansion referendum in June. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported this. It will allow the addition of much-needed space and resources to keep up with community demand.

Use of the library’s facilities and offerings continued to increase this year. In August, visits were up a significant 20% versus August 2022. Program participation increased by 64%, with 1,576 attenders, a 58% jump in programming sessions. The summer’s children and youth activities were particularly well-attended, thanks in no small part to the amazing efforts of Youth Services Librarian Sara Garcia and her creative helpers. Whether it was a “Sensory Hour” for toddlers and caregivers, a crafts program or a movie, attendance this year outstripped all previous summers.

Our “Library of Things” gained in popularity and the options continued to expand. This summer the Birdding Back Packs, the telescope and the DVD player were among the most popular. Look for new items for fall.

To keep up with the increased activity and traffic, “Test Week” once again became “Test Summer” and everything from craft programs to story times and musical events moved outdoors. The tent also hosted the popular community clothing swaps and accommodated numerous town meetings.

Overall, it appears that the community recognizes that the library is providing a good value.

Throughout the year, we continued the popular vaccine and shot clinics, as well as offering a wide variety of in-person, remote and “hybrid” programs for everyone from infants to seniors.

None of this would have been possible without our extraordinary staff led by “Super Director” Terry Lucas. In addition to her “day job,” Terry managed and marshaled the resources leading up to the referendum. She spoke with community groups, home owners’ associations, farmers market shoppers and library users about the project, as well as working with the architects on preliminary plans.

Thank you, Terry!

We sadly said goodbye to staffer Kimberly Atkins who left to move to Montana. She was replaced by two part-timers, Dana Hallman and Heidi Neurauter.

Our trustees continued their non-stop work, supporting the expansion effort by hosting and catering numerous “meet and greet” events, writing weekly feature articles to promote programming, carrying out building repairs, as well as continuing to update policies and keep watch over the library’s finances. Maritme Carey joined the board in January and we are fortunate to have her acumen and expertise.

And last but not least, the library is very grateful to the Friends for its continued support. They made a very significant pledge to the building fund, in addition to underwriting the Summer Reading Programs, Test Week, Museum Passes, Ancestry.com and many other programs.

Thank you all for your support of this great island institution.

See you at the Library!

Jo-Ann Robotti
President
Board of Trustees

Una versión en español de este reporte especial está disponible en la biblioteca.
SHELTER ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY SOCIETY
2023 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

SUPPORT
2023 2024
Donations, Contributions & Fundraising 111,400 111,300
Grants 27,000 23,500
Annual Appeal 20,000 20,000
Fines, Fees & Programs 12,375 11,600
Taxes 755,796 789,808
Interest Income 144 155
TOTAL SUPPORT $926,715 $956,161

EXPENSES
Membership & Professional Licenses, Dues and Fees 69,000 71,011
Fundraising 3,450 3,850
Books and Other Media 78,275 87,575
Website, Office Equipment and Computer Maintenance 7400 8,000
Office Expenses and Equipment 12,709 13,500
Adult, Young Adult and Children's Programs 26,850 25,600
Salaries, Employee Taxes and Benefits 630,281 651,565
Utilities, Telecommunications & Building Maintenance 64,500 62,595
Property and Liability Insurance 19,950 21,265
Capital (Includes Computer Equipment) 14,500 10,500
TOTAL EXPENSES $926,715 $956,161

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: 2023 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

As the Shelter Island Public Library’s Treasurer, I am pleased to report that our library is in very stable financial condition, performing within 2% of Budget projections. As I reported last year, we weathered two years of the pandemic by adopting more conservative revenue and expense plans. In 2023, we continued that same conservative approach because of our anticipation of unsure levels of inflation, which could and did impact our costs of running the library. Our main cost increases came from these areas:

1. Maintaining and improving technology provided for patrons, including new computers and online borrowing capability.
2. Utilities.
3. Salary, employee insurance, and building maintenance costs.

Lastly, we expected and experienced building maintenance costs due to an aging facility. These included plumbing and air conditioning repairs and electrical maintenance.

The Board of Trustees of your library carefully reviews and approves expenses, investment performance, fundraising revenues and cash positions each month. The Patterson Fund, a wonderful legacy from the late Gil Patterson, has performed well for us and provides monies to cover many of our youth services expenses such as books and other media, program materials and more. As in past years, we are also indebted to the ongoing support of The Friends of the Library, who help out in numerous ways.

In 2023, we continued to support the many services offered at the library, specifically for children’s and adult’s programs and for the purchase of new materials. Through the Suffolk Cooperative Library System, we continued to subscribe to a wide variety of electronic resources (downloadable e-books, audio books, movies, magazines and many, many more services such as Homework Help, Pronouncer and Anxiety.com). All of these expenditures were managed within the budget parameters.

In 2024, we are anticipating shrinking the library budget. Regarding the library budget for 2024, we are predicting slight cost increases for building maintenance and infrastructure, technology utilities, staff salaries and insurance, all similar to the increases we have seen over the last two years. Our projected costs for running the library for the upcoming year are slightly above 2023, so we will be asking residents to vote for an increase of $34,010 in tax support in 2024. This increase means a home assessed last year at $856,000 would see an average library tax increase of about $78 per year, according to estimates from the Assessor’s office. We ask for your support of this budget and pledge to continue our oversight of every one of your tax dollars.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Ragan
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

BUDGET AND VOTING INFORMATION
Budget Vote: Saturday, October 28th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the library.
Public Hearing: Wednesday, October 18th, 5 p.m. at the library.
Eligibility: You must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old and a primary resident of the Shelter Island School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.
Voter Registration: Thursday, October 19th, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the library.
Absentee Ballot applications are available from the District Clerk at the school, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at www.shelterislandk12.ny.us.
Completed applications must be received by the clerk 7 days before the vote — by Friday, October 20th if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the vote if it is to be delivered personally to the voter.
All absentee ballots must be received by 4 p.m. on October 27th.

COMMUNITY @ THE LIBRARY
These Shelter Island groups and clubs co-sponsor events and/or meet in a Library space:

Art/Rich Poetry Roundtable  League of Women Voters Shelter Island Health Shelter Island Town
Book Clubs  Mah Jong Club and Wellness Alliance Silver Beach Association
East End Hospice  Philosophy Discussion Shelter Island Poetry Project Sylvester Manor
English as a Next Language Group Shelter Island School Shelter Island Senior Center ... and many more
French Conversation Club Shelter For All Shelter Island Senior Center
Friends of the Library Shelter Island Alliance Shelter Island Senior
Garden Club Shelter Island Association Citizens Foundation

The Shelter Island Public Library has been the highlight of our days most days. The library is the perfect place to bring our 10 month old to experience social time, a bright and engaging atmosphere and it’s the perfect place to meet friends for some peaceful mom time. We would be lost without our daily library visits. — Kate Davidson

I like coming to the library because it’s really really really really really fun because they have a bunch of good programs. — Maggie Potter, 7 years old