

THE SHERMAN LIBRARY

Annual Report

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! When we began the 2019-2020 fiscal year we could not possibly have anticipated how it would conclude. The first few months rolled along smoothly, with a strong start to the membership drive and the expansion of adult programming. In September of 2019 we wished our children's coordinator, Chris Ranno, well as she transitioned to a new workplace. The beginning of December brought us Cheryl Mandracchia, the new children's coordinator, and we celebrated the start of the holiday season with our Annual Holiday Gala. A migration from Windows 7 to Windows 10 required that the library upgrade all of our patron and staff computers by the end of December. The transition was smooth and the patrons and staff have enjoyed using the new computers. The late winter was quiet as the library aptly served the community in the many ways that we do. Then came March....

In response to the pandemic, the library closed to the public as the board and staff assessed the safety of operating during COVID. We continued to work remotely as we promoted our digital services to Sherman Library patrons and moved quickly to convert our adult and children's programs to a remote platform. The library was able to retain a majority of our programs as we shifted to a digital format. Once it was deemed safe, the staff returned to the library and began to offer curbside pick-up of library materials to our community. A month later, once reopening procedures were in place and we received input from the State of Connecticut and the local health department, the Sherman Library was able to welcome patrons back into the library. We were met by enthusiastic visitors who were happy to be able browse the collection in person.

Please know that throughout these last very challenging months, the staff has been working diligently to continue to offer library materials and services to the Sherman community. Even in the face of a global pandemic, the Sherman Library has managed to provide its patrons with access to great books, interesting programs, reliable wifi access, book discussions, and a wide variety of digital offerings—all of the things that continue to make the library such a vibrant community resource.

As we look towards the new fiscal year we are working on expanding our digital offerings to meet the changing needs of our community. Additionally, we are nearing the completion of a new Sherman Library website that will offer our digital resources and information in a user-friendly format. We look forward to returning to our normal hours and in-person activities when it is deemed safe to do so. We deeply appreciate the support of our volunteers, patrons, and members as we navigate through these changing times!

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashleigh Blake

Executive Director of the Sherman Library



Highlights of 2019-20

- The Sherman Library celebrated 118 years of service to the community
- The Sherman Library upgraded to new Windows 10 computers for patron and staff use
- Cheryl Mandracchia, joined the library staff in the role of Children's Services Coordinator
- The Sherman Library responded quickly to the Covid-19 pandemic and worked to quickly restore services to the library patrons in a safe manner. This included successfully converting adult and children's programs to a virtual format in response to the pandemic
- 21,095 items were loaned to library patrons
- The Sherman Library introduced new adult programs such as Classic Book Discussion, Saatva Yoga, Adult Sewing Class and the Mahjong Group
- 1,190 books, audio books and films were added to the library collection
- 4,597 children and adults attended 300 free library programs
- Sherman Library cardholders enjoyed our free digital resources including Hoopla, Overdrive, researchIT and RBDigital. In addition the NY Times online was added to our digital resources for patron use
- Patrons used www.shermanlibrary.org to access library catalogs, databases, manage their account, download eBooks and audio books and learn of library events anywhere, anytime

Highlights of 2019-20 (continued)

- Generous grants from individuals, foundations and local organizations supported programs and special material purchases
- Members, patrons and the town were informed of library news through our enhanced e-newsletter, website, social media, local publications, and online events calendar
- Our popular programs included collaborations with local organizations, including CT Audubon Society, Jewish Community Center in Sherman, Sherman Chamber Ensemble, Sherman School, Sherman Senior Center, Commission on Aging, Town of Sherman and the United Nations CT Chapter
- Wireless Internet access remained free for all library users
- Membership donations, fundraising events, in-kind donations and a grant from the Town of Sherman supported the library operating budget
- The Sherman Library participated in the seventh *Celebrate Sherman Town Softball Tournament*
- Our talented and friendly four member staff provided outstanding service that was essential for reaching our goals
- A dedicated Library Board of Trustees remained committed to excellence and advocating for the Sherman Library

Programs at a Glance

ADULT

- 2020 Census Information Presentation – by Yvette Rose of the U.S. Census Bureau
- A Modern Ecological Detective Story–presentation by Jim Arrigoni of the CT Audubon Society
- A Right to Vote – presentation by John Cilio
- Annual Meeting – How to Foster Rationality and Civil Discourse in an ‘Era’ of Fake News- Jason Zweig
- Author Presentations:
 - *The Good Life?* by Betty Krasne
 - *China Notes of the Venerable Foreign Expert* by Pat Endress
 - *The Lawyer, the Lion and the Laundry* by Jamie Jackson Spannhake
 - *The CT 169 Club: Your Passport to Exploring CT* by Marty Podskoch
- Book Discussions – Friday Evenings
- Census Recruiting Event – presentation by representative from the U.S. Census Bureau
- Classic Book Discussions – Friday Mornings
- Community Conversation and Legislative Update with State Senator Julie Kushner
- Consumer Reports – How to Protect Your Online Privacy: Password Management Workshop
- Cookbook Club – Lauren Kenney
- DIY Kombucha – presented by Velya JAncz-Urban & Ebris Urban of the Grounded Goodwife
- Elephants Matter – presented by Cynthia O’Connor
- The Elusive Wood Duck: Using Yankee Ingenuity to Attract Waterbirds – presentation by Jeff Ginsburg and Lu Li
- Great Decisions – collaboration with Sherman JCC
- Heroes and Villians: How to Avoid a Nightmare Renovation – presented by Mason Lord
- Knitting and Needle Arts – Elly Bockley and Amanda Ruane
- Leading the Way Through Alzheimer’s – presentation by Geri and James Taylor
- Living and Dancing and All That Jazz – discussion with Mary Ann Lamb
- Lotus Lantern Workshop – the Korean Spirit and Culture Project
- Lucky 13 – The Apollo 13 Mission – presentation by Bill Cloutier of the McCarthy Observatory
- Madagascar: Mysterious Island with Amazing Wildlife – presented by Angela Dimmitt
- Mahjong Club
- Marco Polo: The Silk Road & China and the UN in Action – speaker Joseph J. Baxer
- Ongoing Free Books Cart
- Pollinator Perfect Gardens – presented by Michele MacKinnon
- Program Collaborations: CT Audubon Society - Deer Pond Farm, JCC in Sherman, Sherman Chamber Ensemble, Sherman School, Sherman Senior Center, Commission on Aging & United Nations CT Chapter



Programs *(continued)*



- Russia: Adversary or Partner to the US? – speaker Dr. Sergei Kambalov
- Saatva Yoga – Andrew Cox
- Senior Center Visit to View “The Senior Artists of Sherman” Show
- Sherman Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal Performance of “Mendelssohn’s Last”
- Sherman Song Swap – Al Burgasser and Nancy Walsh
- Sleep: Do You Get Enough – speaker Dr. Kenneth Hoffman
- Spymistresses: the Story of Allied Women Spies of WWII – presentation by John Cilio
- Sustainable Living Tips on Earth Day – presentation by Jennifer Prescott
- Taste of Korea – the Korean Spirit and Culture Project
- The Telling of Sherman’s Story – talk by Gloria Thorne and artist Paul Fortenberry
- Use It Up: Sewing Class
- Yoga Nidra – Mariya Hurwitz
- Women’s Work in WWII – Presentation by John Cilio
- “Wild Sherman” – artist talk with Dennis Larkin
- Writer’s Group

ART SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

- Historical Society curated by Gloria Thorne – “The Telling of Sherman’s Story” *antique photographs*
- Paul Fortenberry – “The Telling of Sherman’s Story” ceramics
- Various Sherman artists – “The Senior Artists of Sherman” mixed media
- Plonia Nixon – “Seven Pages from the Book of Renaissance Collages and Still Life Pastels
- Dennis Larkin – “Wild Sherman” photographs
- Beth Carlson – “Water and Sky” paintings
- Jeff Ginsburg and Lu Li – “Magnificent Birds” photographs

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat led by Pat Endress
- *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Adichie led by Marge Josephson
- *Adolfo Kaminsky: A Forger’s Life* led by Joseph J. Baxer
- *The Liars’ Club* by Mary Karr led by Pat Corrigan and Corinne Kevorkian
- *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss led by Bernie Kaplan
- *The Color of Lightning* by Paulette Jiles led by Pat Corrigan
- *West with the Night* by Beryl Markham led by John Barrett
- *The Year of Magical Thinking* by Joan Didion led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard led by Diana Bristol

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf led by Suzanne Ashley
- *Pale Fire* by Vladimir Nabokov led by Joe Keneally
- *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce led by Pat Corrigan
- *The Postman Always Rings Twice* by James M. Cain led by Bob Gamper
- *One Hundred Years of Solace* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez led by Bernie Kaplan
- *The Idiot* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky led by Mariya Hurwitz
- *The Red and the Black* by Stendhal led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James led by Diana Bristol
- *In Our Time* by Ernest Hemingway led by Suzanne Ashley
- *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe led by Cindy Whitman

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- 100 Book Challenge for Preschool
- Annual Community Halloween Bash- Library booth with game and treats for children
- Before This Decade is Out: The Apollo 11 Mission with Bill Cloutier of the McCarthy Observatory
- Bob Ross Painting Party

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (continued from Programs)

- Classics for Kids Book Discussion- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London
- Classics for Kids Book Discussion- *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration
- Harry Potter Birthday and Trivia Party
- Harry Potter Kahoots and Pictionary Night
- Sew Much Fun- Pat Corrigan
- Sherman Chamber Ensemble Children's Concert
- Take Your Child to the Library Day featuring Alexair Dreams Storytelling
- Trick or Treat at the Library
- Volunteer Helpers
- Winter Wonderland Event

SCHOOL YEAR STORY TIME AND CRAFT PROGRAMS

- Fun Fridays for grade k-2nd
- Toddle Times for Ages 18 Months to Three Years
- Mad Scientists for grade 3rd-5th
- Preschool Storytime for Ages 3-5 Years
- Virtual Show and Tell for 0-7 years
- Virtual Storytime for 0-5 years old



SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Community Rocks Garden
- Imagine Your Story- Summer Reading Program
- Park & Rec Jr Campers weekly summer library visit
- Preschoolers Summer Program
- Summer Bingo Family Fun Nights
- Summer Crafts- Moon Books and Fairy Houses
- Summer Reading Bingo Challenge for Pre-K to High School
- Virtual Fairy Tale Theater

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Book Sale Rack Summer
- Holiday Party-Nineteenth Annual
- Membership Appeal
- Soiree Winter Pop Up Shop

Statistical Review 2019–20

Circulation	21,095
Adult Book Circulation	11,818
Children's Book Circulation	6,891
Audiovisual Circulation	2,386
Sherman Circulation Per Capita	5.9
Population Served*	3,581
Library Visits	11,573
Patrons Registered	1,481
Connecticard Borrowing by Sherman	4,676
Connecticard Loans to Non Residents	2,538
Interlibrary Loan from other libraries	1,059
Interlibrary Loan to other libraries	941
Library Holdings	26,322
Library Holdings Adult Books	14,896
Library Holdings Children's Books	11,426
Downloadable eBooks & Audio Books	17,812
Adult Programs	176
Adult Programs Attendance	2,322
Children's Programs	124
Children's Programs Attendance	2,275
Days Open	175
Tax Dollar Support Per Capita	46.2

*U.S. Census Bureau 2010

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LIBRARY STAFF 2018-19

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Ashleigh Blake CHILDREN'S SERVICES, Christine Ranno until 9/2019, Cheryl Mandracchia beginning 12/2019
 SENIOR ASSISTANTS, Karen Borneman, Heather Hafer
 STUDENT PAGES, Susan Hackett, Remington Hafer, Elizabeth Neunzig, Cassidy Ranno, Dardan Racaj, Marisa Shiland, Madalyn Smith

Annual report by Ashleigh Blake. Design and layout by Marie Mulvaney Loria. Photos by Ashleigh Blake and Linda Hubbard

Staff & Volunteers

The Sherman Library Association thanks all volunteers for their outstanding support of the library. Our indispensable adult and student volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of their time and energy this past year. Whether participating as a member of our Board of Trustees, manning the circulation desk or helping with fundraising events, volunteers are an integral part of our library each and every day. These dedicated volunteers also work behind the scenes on a myriad of tasks. They help maintain our building, organize the book sales, design print material, lead book discussions and present adult and children's programs. They vacuum, help with repairs, weed gardens and move heavy boxes. Sherman Library volunteers are committed and enthusiastic. They give our library its character and personality. This devoted group ranging from age 9 to ninety, helps to keep our library operating smoothly year after year. **Our appreciation for all they do runs deep!**



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Executive Director
Cheryl Mandracchia,
Children's Services as of 12/2019
Christine Ranno,
Children's Services until 9/2019
Karen Borneman
Senior Assistant
Heather Hafer
Senior Assistant

STUDENT PAGES

Susan Hackett
Remington Hafer
Elizabeth Neunzig
Cassidy Ranno
Dardan Racaj
Marisa Shiland
Madalyn Smith

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ART CURATOR
Linda Hubbard

BOOK SALES
Pat Corrigan

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

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Diana Bristol
Pat Corrigan
Barbara Griff
Corinne Kevorkian
Stephanie Spinner

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSION

Suzanne Ashley
Joe Keneally
Corinne Kevorkian

CIRCULATION DESK

Diana Bristol

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Amanda Williamson



Many volunteers participate in more than one library activity

Support of the Sherman Library comes in many forms. We thank everyone who donated funds and materials and volunteered time to enrich our services. Please accept our apologies for any omissions or errors in this report.



Josefina Cutrona, the 2019-20 volunteer of the year

THE SHERMAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Luminaries

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- Marianne Ogno 1983-1985
- Deborah Froggatt 1985-1992
- Melissa Coury 1992-1997
- Millie Loeb 1997-2018
- Ashleigh Blake 2018-

Memberships, Gifts and Grants

The Sherman Library Association is most grateful for the generosity of our many supporters. Although we function as a public library for the Town of Sherman we are a not-for-profit library. This means that our annual appropriation from the town provides a portion of our operating budget. The remaining funds come from other sources, principally from our annual membership campaign, fundraising events, grants and other donations.



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NY Municipal Arts Society

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Old Oak Tavern
The Old Store
Origami Owl- Jaclyn Mattison
The Painted Lemon
Kathy Peck
Bill Petkanas
Prisca Nail Salon
Prospector Theater
Quaker Hill Country Club
Dee Ratterree
Ridgefield Playhouse
Riverview Cinema
Jeanne Robbins
Mary Lee Roulat
Roundabout Theater Company
Sacred Grounds Coffee
Salon 27
Susan Seeger
Sherman Playhouse

Sherman Sentinel
Nevan Swanson
Russell Swanson
Tandoori Flames
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Terston Home Accents
Two Steps Downtown Grill
Town Tribune
Kate Uhry Photography
Ultimate Limo
Virginia Walther
Sarah Wiggins Photography
Bob Winshell
Yokohama

Special thanks to all the people who donated books for our book sales and items for our DuckFest and Women's Soirée.



THE SHERMAN LIBRARY

The Sherman Library Mission Statement

The Sherman Library is a community resource, freely available to all. The library responds to the public's need for information, education and recreation. With books at its core, the library provides a wide range of materials, both print and non-print. It is the community's center for lifelong learning. By incorporating new developments in technology the library ensures that its resources are accurate, timely and responsive to those it serves.