

THE SHERMAN LIBRARY

Annual Report

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Dear Friends,

As we look back at the last year, not only did we face yet another demanding year as the COVID pandemic continued to momentarily impact our lives but we were also called upon to navigate much change. Despite these challenges, we have persevered and managed to achieve much progress and success.

Our community was patient and supportive as we cautiously rolled back our pandemic protocols so that we could continue to provide services to our most vulnerable populations. For that we, I, am immensely grateful. As, at this point, we are all exhausted talking about, managing, and responding to the ongoing pandemic let us instead look back on some of the high points of the year.

In July we welcomed Charlotte Svetkey as our new Children's Services Coordinator. Charlotte has grown tremendously over the last year and has almost doubled our children's programs. Charlotte has also taken great initiative in weeding and refreshing the Children's and Teens' collections, which has received much positive feedback.

In the last year we have undertaken several initiatives to improve our technological offerings. The Library's wireless network and security was updated, two laptops were purchased for patrons to borrow for use inside the library, and wireless printing capabilities were added. With our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant, the library was able to install outdoor seating, workspaces, and charging stations to expand our offerings of flexible spaces for patrons to use.

Over the winter the library migrated from its outdated donor management database, Giftworks, to our new platform, Neon. It was an enormous project that took a tremendous amount of work and ongoing data clean up. As we've transitioned to Neon I'm looking forward to its advanced capabilities for better data gathering and improved efficiency.

Also, in an effort to improve efficiency, we obtained a grant from the State of Connecticut and Eversource to replace all of the interior light fixtures in the library. The purpose of this upgrade was to improve our energy efficiency. This project was completed in the spring and so far our energy efficiency has improved by 30%.

As we look forward to next year we hope to explore other possible avenues to reduce our carbon footprint and increase our efficiency in many areas. In an effort to keep our physical plant in top condition we have a variety of facilities projects planned over the course of next year. We will also be reviewing our staffing to ensure we are utilizing the resources we have to meet the needs of our patrons as best we can.

Respectfully,



Executive Director of the Sherman Library



Highlights of 2021-22

- The Sherman Library celebrated 120 years of service to the community
- The Sherman Library added wireless printing services for patrons
- The Sherman Library offered doorside pickup to patrons seeking an alternative to coming into the library
- The Sherman Library added outdoor work and charging stations through the ARPA Grant
- The Sherman Library purchased two laptops for patrons to borrow while in the building
- The Sherman Library transitioned to Neon as its new Donor Management platform
- The Sherman Library received a grant from the State of Connecticut and Eversource to install more energy efficient lighting fixtures increasing our energy efficiency 30%
- The Sherman Library expanded its large print book collection
- 23,942 items were loaned to library patrons
- The Sherman Library returned to socially distanced in-person programming for children and expanded its virtual program offerings for children and adults including our very popular local author talks, artist presentations, extinct species series and more.
- 1,343 books, audio books and films were added to the library collection
- 3,728 children and adults attended over 300 free library programs

Highlights of 2021-22 *(continued)*

- Sherman Library cardholders continued to enjoy our free digital resources including Hoopla, Overdrive, Simply E, Mango, Newsbank & New York Times online
- 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, expanded social media, local publications, and online events calendar
- Our popular programs included collaborations with local organizations and we are very appreciative of their time and effort, including Danbury Library, New Milford Library, Bethel Public Library, New Fairfield Library, Mark Twain Library, C.H. Booth Library, Ridgefield Library, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, Jewish Community Center in Sherman, Sherman Conservation Commission, White Memorial, the Institute for American Indian Studies, the New England Carousel Museum, Mark Twain House, and Museum and Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority.
- The Sherman Library updated its wireless Internet network access improving its security and remained free for all library users
- The Sherman Library welcomed Charlotte Svetkey as the new Children's Services Coordinator
- The Sherman Library welcomed Jamie Cantoni as the new Executive Director
- Membership donations, fundraising events, in-kind donations, and a grant from the Town of Sherman supported the library operating budget
- Our talented and friendly staff provided outstanding service during challenging times
- A dedicated Library Board of Trustees remained committed to thoughtful stewardship and advocating for the Sherman Library

Programs at a Glance

ADULT

- Artist Talk with Denise Schlesinger
- Artist Talk with Ed Smith
- Artist Talk with Ginny Schaffer
- Artist Talk with Kenny Litwack
- Bachelors of Citizenship- Ted Hollander
- Bats are Good Guys- Gerri Griswold
- Beauty on the Wing: film screening and discussion- Kim Smith
- Book Discussion- Friday Nights
- Carvers: American Immigrant Success Story- Kristen Berggren
- Classic Book Discussions- Friday Mornings
- Composting 101- Jen Heaton-Jones
- Connecticut Native Trees – John Ehrenreich
- DIY Kimchi- Velya Jancz-Urban and Ehris Urban
- Great Decisions: 8 topics with featured speakers- collaboration with Sherman JCC
- Knitting Group- Tuesdays
- Harry Houdini- Mallory Howard
- Jackie Stories- Bill Kuhn
- Liquid Gold: Maple Sugaring in New England- Paul Wegner, Darlene Kascak, Gabe Benjamin, and Susan Scherf
- Lovers Leaps- Paul Wegner
- Mark Twain and the Supernatural- Mallory Howard
- Mary Rogers Williams: Forgotten Impressionist- Eve Kahn
- Nevermore: The Auk, The Dodo, The Passenger Pigeon, and the Thylacine- four part series with Gerri Griswold
- Ongoing Free Books Cart
- Pollinator Gardens- Michele MacKinnon
- Reading Gravestones in Early New England – John Hanson
- Ready or Not? Preparing for the Unexpected- Maria Xavier
- Russia's Invasion and Ukraine's Resistance- Alex Kuzma
- Sherman Artists Group
- Sherman Artists Zoom
- Tales of the Jazz Age- Mark Schenker
- This is Halloween- Mallory Howard
- Tired of Arguing with Your Teen? Change is Possible- Lianne Dixon
- Traveling with Your Camera
- Wildlife and CT's Changing Landscape- Paul Coburn
- Winner's Circle Artist Talk
- Writer's Group



Programs *(continued)*

- Yoga Nidra- Mariya Hurwitz
- Program Collaborations: Mark Twain House & Museum, Institute for American Indian Studies, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, Great Hollow Photographers' Club, Sherman JCC, Sherman Artists Group, Sherman Conservation Commission, White Memorial Conservation Center, and New England Carousel Museum

ART SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

- Senior Artists- "New Beginnings"
- Denise Schlesinger- "Big, Little Details" paintings
- Sherman Artists- "Sherman Artists Open Studio Show"
- Virginia Schaffer- "Blooming in Winter" paintings
- Kenny Litwack- "Little Pieces" glass
- Ed Smith- "Through My Eyes" paintings
- John Clery- "Their World, An Intimate Glimpse" photographs

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead led by Russ Whitman
- *Based on a True Story* by Delphine de Vigan led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by Jon Meacham led by Joseph Baxer
- *Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro led by Ashleigh Blake
- *Happiness for Humans* by P.Z. Rezin led by Sheila Kaplan
- *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari led by John Barrett
- *To Be a Man* by Nicole Krauss led by Bernie Kaplan
- *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones led by Marge Josephson
- *How to Destroy America in Three Easy Steps* by Ben Shapiro led John O'Donnell
- *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell led by Pat Corrigan
- *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Pease* by Jeff Hobbs led by Chris Keenan

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner led by Polly and Ray Kelley
- *Native Son* by Richard Wright led by Bob Gamper
- *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne led by Tina Redecha
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain led by Bernie Kaplan
- *A Room with a View* by E.M. Forster led by Suzanne Ashley
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky led by Mariya Hurwitz
- *Hunger* by Knut Hamsun led by Marge Josephson
- *A Good Man is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor led by Diana Bristol

- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison led by Sheila Kaplan
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare led by Bernie Kaplan

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Disney Trivia Night
- Virtual Visit to the Trevor Zoo
- Halloween Crafternoons
- Let's Draw Monsters with Rick Stromoski
- Fall Stuffed Animal Sleepover
- Gratitude Jar
- Guess Who
- Winter Stuffy Sleepover
- Guess Jar - Hershey Kisses
- Virtual Tour of the Carousel Museum
- Guess Who Dr. Seuss
- Spring Children's Art Show
- Dr. Seuss Birthday Storytime and Trivia
- Animal Menagerie with the Sharon Audubon Society
- Guess Jar- Chocolate Eggs
- Haiku Zoom Event
- Spring Storywalk at the Mallory Preserve
- Bunny Scavenger Hunt
- A Plant's Life Presentation with White Memorial
- Guess Who?
- May the 4th be with you Story and Craft
- Earth Day Story and Craft
- Pom Pom Palooza
- Paws and Pages Program with CT Humane Society
- Birds Story and Craft
- Music and Movement
- Lego Club
- Story and Craft Slime
- Sherman School First Graders Visit
- Sense-sational Study with White Memorial
- Chalking

SCHOOL YEAR STORY TIME AND CRAFT PROGRAMS

- Zoom Storytime with Ms. Cheryl
- Tween Book Club
- Teen Book Club
- Craft Crew
- Tuesday Travels
- Mini Modern Artists
- Fantastic Thursdays - Fall Session
- October Kids Take and Make October Teen Take and Make
- November Kids Take and Make
- November Teen Take and Make
- Awesome Artists

- Friday Flights
- Fantastic Fridays - Winter Session
- Take and Make - Snowflake Keychain
- Take and Make - Gingerbread People
- Take and Make - Snowflake Tree
- Take and Make - Paper Snow Globe
- Graphic Novel Book Club
- Tuesday Travels
- Awesome Artists
- Fantastic Fridays - Colors
- Take and Make - Groundhog Day
- Take and Make - Valentine's Day
- Zoom Storytime with Ms. Charlotte
- Tuesday Travels
- Comics Club
- Fantastic Fridays - Spring Session
- Story and Craft: The Dark
- Gardening Club
- Awesome Artists
- Fantastic Fridays - Summer Session
- Spring Take and Make
- May Take and Make - Mother's Day Cards
- June Kids Take and Make
- June Teen Take and Make

SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Summer Reading Bingo Challenge
- Let's Draw Animals with Rick Stromoski
- Summer Craft Crew
- Teen Take and Make
- Harry Potter Trivia
- Outdoor Storytime with Ms. Cheryl
- Toddle Time with Ms. Cheryl
- Radical Raptors
- Children's Virtual Summer Art Show

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Book Sale
- Books, Bags & Baubles
- Golden Ticket
- Women's Soiree

Statistical Review 2021-22

Circulation	23,942
Adult Book Circulation	12,958
Children's Book Circulation	9,562
Audiovisual Circulation	1,175
Sherman Circulation Per Capita	6.8
Population Served*	*3527
Library Visits	13,007
Patrons Registered	1,452
borrowIT Borrowing by Sherman	1,309
borrowIT Loans to Non Residents	2,692
Interlibrary Loan from other libraries	1,765
Interlibrary Loan to other libraries	1,311
Library Holdings	26,207
Library Holdings Adult Books	14,301
Library Holdings Children's Books	11,376
Downloadable eBooks & Audio Books Available	16,566
Adult Programs	100
Adult Programs Attendance	1,057
Children's Programs	216
Children's Programs Attendance	2,671
Days Open	247
Tax Dollar Support Per Capita	48.2

Programs, Circulation & Library Visits were impacted by Covid-19

*U.S. Census Bureau 2020

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-22

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 Jennifer Laviano until 4/22, Caitlin Mandracchia until 6/22, Jeff Matusow, Dee Ratterree

LIBRARY STAFF 2021-22

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Ashleigh Blake until 12/21, Jamie Cantoni beginning 11/2021 MARKETING, PROGRAMMING, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR, Julia Conant
 CHILDREN'S SERVICES, Cheryl Mandracchia until 12/21, Charlotte Svetkey beginning 7/21 TECHNICAL SERVICES ASSISTANTS, Karen Borneman; Heather Hafer until 5/22
 STUDENT PAGES, Ana Flood, Susan Hackett until 8/22, Remington Hafer until 6/22, Susanne Nika, Mateo Ordinas-Lewis until 8/22 & Amanda Williamson until 3/22

Annual report by Jamie Cantoni. Design and layout by Marie Mulvaney Loria. Photos by various contributors

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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beginning 6/2022
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beginning 6/2022
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through 5/2022
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Irit Granger
Barbara Ireland
Jennifer Laviano
through 4/2022
Caitlin Mandracchia
through 6/2022
Jeffrey Matusow
Dee Ratterree

STAFF

Ashleigh Blake
Executive Director
through 12/2021
Jamie Cantoni,
Executive Director
beginning 11/2021
Charlotte Svetkey
Children's Services
Coordinator beginning 7/21

Cheryl Mandracchia
Children's Services
Coordinator through
12/2021
Karen Borneman
Technical Services
Assistant
Heather Hafer
Technical Services
Assistant through 5/2022

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Ana Flood
Susan Hackett
Remington Hafer
Susanne Nika
Jose Mateo Ordinas-Lewis
Dardan Racaj
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Amanda Williamson

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Diana Bristol
Pat Corrigan
Corinne Kevorkian
Stephanie Spinner

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSION
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Corinne Kevorkian

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Joel Bruzinski through
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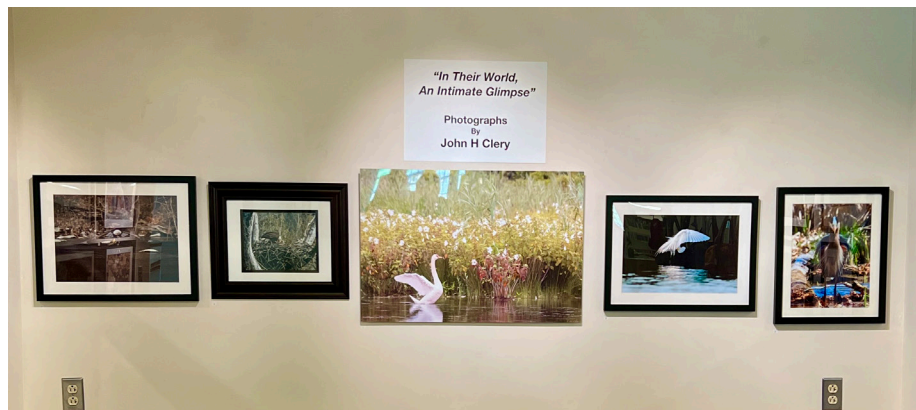
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Matteo Ordinas-Lewis
Justin Ruffler
Amanda Williamson

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.

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.



MARK TWAIN SOCIETY \$2,500 - \$15,000
Hoag Family Charitable Foundation
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 Robertson's Jewelers
 Sarah Wiggins Photography
 Stella Rose Boutique

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

THE SHERMAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Luminaries

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Elizabeth Oliver 1966-1975
Carol Brooks 1976-1978
Nadia Yavanovitch 1979-1983
Marianne Ogno 1983-1985
Deborah Froggatt 1985-1992
Melissa Coury 1992-1997
Millie Loeb 1997- 2018
Ashleigh Blake 2018-2021
Jamie Cantoni 2021-



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.