

THE SHERMAN LIBRARY

Annual Report

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to be back at the Sherman Library, supported by a wonderful staff and a dedicated Board of Trustees and surrounded by vibrant community members. This was a year of changes as I stepped back into the role of executive director. The library welcomed a new staff member, Derek Pearson, as one of our very important technical services assistants, and greeted a new group of energetic pages. In addition, we wished our industrious board president, Mariya Hurwitz well as she departed from the position and we embraced Barbara Ireland as the new board president.

This year we were able to return to all of our regular pre-pandemic fundraising events in person. The community was thrilled to attend the Annual Gala, Women's Soiree, Annual Golf Tournament, Book Sale, and more. Fundraising is an ongoing effort and is critical to the continued vitality of our library. The funds raised through these events go directly towards operating costs for the library so that we can continue to provide our community with library materials, electronic resources, and great programming for adults and children. Being able to gather in person not only helps to support the library financially but also helps to keep us connected as community members.

This past spring the audio visual system in the program room was upgraded and streamlined. These improvements directly impacted the functionality of the program room and the quality of the presentations offered at the library. In addition, the library acquired an Owl Labs meeting camera to enable remote and hybrid meetings and programs. The Owl camera is portable and can be used in any room of the library. We currently offer in-person programs, remote programs, and select hybrid programs through the Owl.

Adult and children's programs were expanded during the fiscal year to include regularly scheduled and special programs. These programs featured topics in the areas of arts, culture, nature, literature, historic events, science, technology and more. Community members are kept up-to-date on our wide array of programs through our wonderful website, weekly e-newsletters, a weekly events column found in our local papers, and via signage throughout the library. As always, our programs are free for our patrons to attend.

As we reflect on the 2022-23 fiscal year with much of the pandemic behind us, we are very thankful for the generosity and continued support of our members, volunteers, and patrons. The dedicated Sherman Library staff and Board of Trustees have guided the library through these past difficult few years and are ever vigilant as we return to normalcy.

The Sherman Library is the heart of our community, a place where people of all ages can expand their knowledge through a varied selection of books and library materials, partake in interesting programs, and access digital offerings. It is a special space where patrons feel comfortable to explore, gain knowledge, collaborate, and gather. We look forward to another year of community engagement and to expanding library offerings to the patrons of Sherman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashleigh Blake

Executive Director of the Sherman Library



Highlights of 2022-23

- The Sherman Library celebrated 121 years of service to the community
- The Sherman Library updated and streamlined the audio visual system in our program room
- The Sherman Library welcomed Ashleigh Blake back to the position of Executive Director in December 2022
- Derek Pearson, joined the library staff in the role of Technical Services Coordinator in March 2023
- The Sherman Library patrons made use of our recently acquired wireless printing services and outdoor charging stations
- The Sherman Library received a Fiber to the Library grant from the CT State Library. The grant provided funding for an assessment of the library internal connections and technology
- The Sherman Library acquired an Owl Labs meeting camera which enables a hybrid option for select meetings and programs
- The Sherman Library added Palace Project to our collection of digital resources
- The Sherman Library returned to hosting all of our annual fundraisers in person
- The Sherman Library fully integrated Neon, our new donor management system, into our event, donor and membership operations
- 23,566 items were loaned to library patrons
- 1,333 books, audio books and films were added to the library collection

Highlights of 2022-23 *(continued)*

- 4,572 children and adults attended over 318 free library programs
- Sherman Library cardholders continued to enjoy our free digital resources including Hoopla, Libby, Palace Project, 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 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 Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, Jewish Community Center in Sherman, Sherman Volunteer Fire Department, Sherman Chamber Ensemble, Sherman Conservation Commission, Sherman Historical Society, White Memorial, the Institute for American Indian Studies and McCarthy Observatory.
- The Sherman Library's robust and updated wireless Internet network access remained free for all library users
- The Golden Ticket, Women's Soiree, Book Sale, Bags & Baubles, Annual Golf Tournament and Annual Holiday Gala provided important financial support for the Library
- 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 that was essential to reaching our goals
- A dedicated Library Board of Trustees remained committed to thoughtful stewardship and advocating for the Sherman Library

Programs at a Glance

ADULT

- 1904 St Louis World's Fair- Jason Scapatticci
- Anxiety, Stress & Depression – Dr. Kenneth Hoffman
- Arshile Gorky- John Cilio
- Artist Talk- Beyond Taking Photos with MJ Newman
- Artist Talk- Great Hollow Invitational Show with Various artists
- Author Talk- All the Light That Comes from Above by Robert McMaster
- Author Talk- Bachelors of Citizenship by Ted Hollander
- Author Talk- Boticelli's Secret by Joseph Luzzi
- Author Talk- The Darlings by Hannah McKinnon
- Author Talk- Native Trees of CT by John Ehrenreich
- Author Talk- The Nature of Oaks by Doug Tallamy
- Author Talk- The Making of a Pandemic by John Ehrenreich
- Book Discussion- monthly
- Classic Book Discussions- monthly
- Decoding the Mystery of Cats- Stephen Quandt
- Edible Wild Plants & Fungi- the 3 Foragers
- Great Decisions: 8 topics with featured speakers- collaboration with the Sherman JCC
- History of UFOs- Michael Panicello
- Hudson River Painters- John Cilio
- Knitting And Needle Craft- Caitlin Mandracchia & Tal Pease
- Native Populations in Northwestern CT- Paul Wegner
- Navel of the World- Gerri Griswold
- Navigating Medicare- Randi Oster



- Ongoing Free Books Cart
- Mahjong weekly
- Meet the Artist with Miriam Nelson
- Plant It and They Will Come- Jim Sirch
- Pour Painting Night- Christy Bonaiuto
- Return to the Moon with Artemis- Bill Cloutier
- Spymistresses of WW2- John Cilio
- Webb Space Telescope- Bill Cloutier
- Writers' Group
- Yoga Nidra- Mariya Hurwitz
- Program Collaborations: Institute for American Indian Studies, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, Jewish Community Center of Sherman, McCarthy Observatory, Sherman Artists Group, Sherman Conservation Commission, Sherman Historical Society and White Memorial

Programs *(continued)*

ART SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

- John Cleary- "Their World, and Intimate Glimpse" photography
- Carolyn Cohen- "Left Turn" mixed media
- Miriam Nelson- "Free Spirit" sculpture and paintings
- MJ Newman- "Scapes" photography
- Nancy Astor-White- "Nature's Art" photography
- Chris Osborne- "Art of the Drive" painting
- Sherman Artists- "Sherman Artists Open Studio" various mediums
- Various Artists- "Great Hollow Invitational Show" various mediums

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *Einstein's Wife: The Real Story of Mileva Einstein-Maric* by Esterson, Cassidy & Sime led by Denise Schlesinger
- *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders led by Stephanie Spinner
- *1776* by David McCullough led by Dr. Joseph J. Baxter
- *Quichotte* by Salman Rushdie led by Marge Josephson
- *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene led by Bernie Kaplan
- *My Year of Meats* by Ruth Ozeki led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *The Promise* by Damon Galgut led by Sheila Kaplan
- *Crossroads* by Jonathan Franzen led by Diana Bristol
- *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter led by Pat Corrigan
- *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro led by Christine Keenan
- *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes led by Denise Schlesinger
- *The Boat* by Nam Lee led by Mariya Hurwitz

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- *The Portrait of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde led by Corinne Kevorkian
- *Confessions of Nat Turner* by William Styron led by Bob Gamper
- *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens led by Suzanne Ashley
- *Return of the Native* by Thomas Hardy led by Pat Corrigan
- *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote led by group
- *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi led by Bob Gamper
- *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner led by Bernie Kaplan
- *Men Without Women* by Ernest Hemingway led by group
- *Sea and Sardinia* by D.H. Lawrence led by Diana Bristol

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Animal Adaptations
- August Guess Jar
- Awesome Artists
- Birds of Prey Presentation

- Bunny Scavenger Hunt
- Chalking and Ice Pops
- Conservation Program
- Earth Day Story and Craft: Butterflies
- Fall Fun Walk
- Fall Lego Fun
- Fire Prevention presentation
- Gingerbread Decorating
- Guess Game: Chocolate Eggs
- Half Day Program: Crafternoon
- Halloween Crafternoon
- Handwriting Fun
- July Guess Jar
- Kind Kids
- Middle School Visit
- Movie Afternoon- Lyle, Lyle Crocodile
- Movie Afternoon- Paddington
- Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt
- Robbyn's Nest Visit
- Sand Art
- Scavenger Hunt and Hot Cocoa
- September Guess Who?
- Sherman Chamber Ensemble Performance
- Sherman School First Grade Visit
- Slime Scientists
- Spring Storywalk
- Stories of Survival
- Storytelling with Cindy
- Stuffy Sleepover
- Stuffy Sleepover + Story & Craft
- Tie Dye Afternoon
- TYCLD Craft
- TYCLD Scavenger Hunt
- TYCLD Storytime
- Wildlife in Winter
- Winter Art Show

SCHOOL YEAR STORY TIME AND CRAFT PROGRAMS

- Adventurous Eaters
- Fantastic Fridays- fall session
- Fantastic Fridays- spring session
- Foodie Fridays
- Gardening Club
- Outdoor Storytime
- Sensory Story and Play
- Story and Craft-Winter
- Story and Craft- Crustaceans
- Story and Craft- Fall
- Story and Craft- International Dot Day

- Story and Craft- Mindfulness
- Story and Craft- New Year's Eve
- Story and Craft- Rocks
- Story and Craft- Bunnies
- Story and Craft-Flowers
- Story and Craft- Outer Space
- Story and Craft-Teeth
- Story and Craft- Pudding Garden
- Story and Snack: Smores
- Story and Snack: Halloween
- Storytime- Fall
- Take and Make Birdhouse
- Take and Make- Foam Corn
- Take and Make Pony Bead Keychain
- Tuesday Travels- Fall Session
- Tuesday Travels- Winter Session
- Wacky Wednesdays
- Zoom Storytime

SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Summer Kids Art Show
- Summer Story Walk
- Summer Lego Club
- Summer Reading BINGO
- Summer Reading Registrants

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- 3rd Annual Golf Tournament
- Annual Winter Gala
- Book Sale
- Bags & Baubles
- Golden Ticket
- Women's Soiree

Statistical Review 2022–23

Circulation	23,566
Adult Book Circulation	13,222
Children's Book Circulation	8,911
Audiovisual Circulation	1,433
Sherman Circulation Per Capita	6.8
Population Served*	*3,527
Library Visits	13,844
Patrons Registered	1,500
borrowIT Borrowing by Sherman	3,057
borrowIT Loans to Non Residents	1,192
Interlibrary Loan from other libraries	1,660
Interlibrary Loan to other libraries	1,192
Library Holdings	24,680
Library Holdings Adult Books	13,302
Library Holdings Children's Books	11,378
Downloadable eBooks & Audio Books Available	1,018,424
Adult Programs	114
Adult Programs Attendance	1,549
Children's Programs	204
Children's Programs Attendance	3,023
Days Open	249
Tax Dollar Support Per Capita	55.79

*U.S. Census Bureau 2020



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LIBRARY STAFF 2022-23

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Jamie Cantoni through 11/2022, Ashleigh Blake beginning 12/2022 CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR, Charlotte Svetkey
 TECHNICAL SERVICES ASSISTANTS, Karen Borneman, Derek Pearson beginning 3/2023 STUDENT PAGES, Ana Flood, Susan Hackett, Emma Mandracchia,
 Susanne Nika, Mateo Ordinas-Lewis, Katie Smith & Marisa Swan

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!**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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STAFF

Ashleigh Blake
Executive Director beginning 12/2022
Jamie Cantoni
Executive Director through 11/2022
Charlotte Svetkey
Children's Services Coordinator
Karen Borneman
Technical Services Assistant
Derek Pearson
Technical Services Assistant beginning 3/2023

STUDENT PAGES

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Susanne Nika
Mateo Ordinas-Lewis
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Marisa Swan

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2022 Volunteer of the Year award recipient Katy Osborn

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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.



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Golden Ticket 2022

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Robertson Jewelers
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The Old Store Gift Shop & Museum

IN-KIND DONATIONS

GOLF 2022

Anglebrook Country Club
Criag Busby
Dunedin Golf Club
Captain Breezy Grenier
Lauren and Al Kenney
Quaker Hill Country Club
River Oaks Country Club
Torrington Country Club
Whippoorwill Country Club

GALA 2022

American Pie Company
Ellen Archer and Jeff Gracer
BD Provisions
Bleu on Bank

Amy Bocompani
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Cornell Lab of Ornithology - Bird Academy
Covered Bridge Electric Bike in Kent
Amanda Croasmun
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John Ehrenreich
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Good Eats Restaurant and Bar
Irit Granger
Great Hollow Nature Preserve
Greca Mediterranean Kitchen + Bar
Hour Lake
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Joanna Johnson
Jill Kaplan of JAK Ceramics
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Lotus Gardens
Lucia Ristorante

Christine Marks
Jeff Matusow
Mohawk Mountain
New Milford Fitness and Aquatics Club
New Milford Tennis & Swim Club
Cynthia O'Connor of Hotshots
Old Store Gift Shop & Museum
Painted Lemon
Pantages Gems Jewelry
QueensBeads
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Ultimate Limousine Service

WOMEN'S SOIREE 2023

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Pat Corrigan
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Karen Cushnie
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Katy Osborn
Amy Poster
Dee Ratterree
Kate Suchman
Suzanne Telsey
Stephanie Warren
Nancy White
Anne Weisberg

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

Board of Trustees Presidents

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Charles Duell 1969-1970
Joyce Ware 1970-1971
Theodore Hollander, Jr. 1971-1973
Peter Stearns 1973-1975
Edward Rizzi 1975-1976
Flossie Ukena 1977-1978
Barbara Eells 1980-1983
Elizabeth Oliver 1983-1984
Joan Halberstam 1984-1986
Sharon Carini 1986-1987
Joan Cannon 1987-1994
Eileen Rowland 1994-1997
Lorraine Kupper 1997-1999
Joseph Keneally 1999-2004
Clay Cope 2005-2008
Sharon Danosky 2009-2011
Karen Cushnie 2011-2014
Joan Laucius 2014-2016
Lisa Bilbrough 2016-2018
Karen Cardillo 2018-2020
Mariya Hurwitz 2021-2023
Barbara Ireland 2023-

Sherman Library Directors

Nellie Worden 1935-1952
Beatrice Perry 1952-1956
Ann Morin 1956-1964
Anne Davies 1964-1966
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 2021-2022
Ashleigh Blake 2022-



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.