THE SHERMAN LIBRARY Annual Report July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

As we begin our annual review of the Sherman Library, it is clear that we have faced another demanding year as the pandemic continued to drastically impact all of our lives. It is a testament to the entire library community that despite the day-to-day challenges of these uncertain times, we have continued to offer quality library services and materials while remaining mindful of the safety of our staff and patrons.

In a constantly changing public safety environment, our staff was both flexible in response to new realities and focused on service to Sherman residents. We continuously adjusted our programs and procedures to keep patrons and staff safe while also keeping the library's resources accessible, and the response of patrons was overwhelmingly supportive. Over these past months, it became even more apparent how important the Sherman Library is to our community.

The library continued to bring people together for virtual programs when in-person programs were not prudent. We remained a cultural hub as artists displayed their work in the library gallery space and on our virtual art show gallery. Our summer reading program for children remained an essential aspect of education for the town's children. The Sherman Library continued to be a resource for information, from assisting with vaccine appointments to welcoming new residents.

Although the past year had its challenges, there were many bright spots. The Sherman Library unveiled its new website, with a more user-friendly interface and enhanced features. The site offers visitors a variety of new tools (including an improved events calendar, event registration links, adult and children's programs pages, and art show gallery) and the option to peruse new books with synopsis and reviews.

The Sherman Library also expanded its digital resources, in direct response to the needs of our community. Patrons now have access to Mango online language learning programs. We also now offer America's News, which features over 3,000 news sources from across the United States. Additionally, we've expanded virtual programs for both adults and children.

As the Sherman Library enters a new fiscal year we are actively planning expanded services. With the assistance of a recently received American Recovery Plan Act grant we will provide our community with an outdoor extension of our library, with flexible seating and the installation of outdoor charging stations. Additionally, we will be updating our wireless network so that it remains secure and reliable, and we will be adding wireless printing amenities for our patrons.

Although the challenges this year have been many, I am proud that the Sherman Library staff and Board of Trustees have risen to the occasion. The resilient library staff members have adjusted to their unique responsibilities in an admirable fashion, and we look forward to resuming in-person programming and a return to normalcy. On behalf of the Sherman Library, I would like to express sincere appreciation for the constant support of our members, volunteers, and patrons.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashleigh Bake

Executive Director of the Sherman Library



Highlights of 2020-21

- The Sherman Library celebrated 119 years of service to the community
- The Sherman Library unveiled its all new website. The website offers a beautifully designed interface and new features such as an improved event calendar, a rotating banner on the main page, direct online registration for upcoming programs, links to digital resources and much more
- The Sherman Library offered doorside pickup to patrons seeking an alternative to coming into the library
- The Sherman Library launched our "New Book" e-newsletters with reviews and links to the library catalog through Booksite, making remote browsing possible while promoting our newest books
- The Sherman Library created a large print section and expanded its large print book collection
- 21,115 items were loaned to library patrons
- The Sherman Library expanded its virtual program offerings for children and adults including our very popular travel series, artist presentations, family bingo nights and more
- 1,889 books, audio books and films were added to the library collection
- 5,057 children and adults attended over 250 free library programs
- Sherman Library cardholders enjoyed our free digital resources including Hoopla, Overdrive, Simply E & New York Times online. In addition Mango and NewsBank were added to our digital resources for patron use

Highlights of 2020-21 (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, expanded social media, local publications, and online events calendar
- Our popular programs included collaborations with local organizations, including the Brookfield Library, CT Audubon

Society at Deer Pond, Jewish Community Center in Sherman, Sherman Conservation Commission, Sherman Playhouse, Sherman School, Sherman Senior Center, Commission on Aging, Town of Sherman, White Memorial Conservation Center and the Women's Center

- 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

- Our talented and friendly staff provided outstanding service during challenging times
- A dedicated Library Board of Trustees remained committed to excellence and advocating for the Sherman Library

Programs at a Glance

ADULT

- 1964/65 New York World's Fair- presented by Jason Scappaticci
- Accupressure and Trigger Point Therapy- presented by Dr. Kenneth Hoffman
- Appalachian Trails: A Personal Story of Discovering the Wild East- presented by Rob McWilliams
- Author Presentations:
 - Woodson Falls: 16 Lakeview Terrace By Andrea O'Connor
 - Woodson Falls: 9 Donovan's Way by Andrea O'Connor
- Basic Breads at Home- presented by Tal Pease
- Behaving Birdly- presented by Michael Audette
- Book Discussions- Friday Evenings
- Census Representative Information Session
- Classic Book Discussions- Friday Mornings
- · Conifer Paradise in Sherman- presented by Jeff Ginsburg
- Connecticut and the Pandemic of 1918- presented by the CT Historical Society
- Connecticut's African American Heroines- presentation by the CT Women's Hall of Fame
- COVID-19 Update- presented by Dr. Kenneth Marici
- Digging for Venture Smith- presented by Dr. Lucianne Lavin
- Great Decisions: 8 topics with featured speakerscollaboration with Sherman JCC
- Health and Stress: An Integrative Natural Medicine Approach- presented by Dr. Kenneth Hoffman
- High Speed Rail in Japan & China- presented by Jim Cameron
- Historic Scotland- presented by Caitlin Augusta
- How to Detox Your Body Naturally & Lose Weightpresented by Dr. Kenneth Hoffman



- Iceland Through My Heart- presented by Gerri Griswold
- Knitting and Needle Arts- Elly Bockley
- Kraut It Out- presented by Tal Pease
- Lost New York City: A Tour of New York's Demolished Landmarks- presented by Jason Scappaticci
- Mark Twain in the Margins- presented by Mallory Howard
- Mars 2020- presented by Bill Cloutier of the McCarthy Observatory
- Nowhere is a Place: Chilean Patagonia- presented by Gerri Griswold
- Off the Rails: CT's Transportation Future- presented by Jim Cameron
- Ongoing Free Books Cart
- Planning for Social Security: Retirement Workshoppresentation by AAAretire
- Protecting Special Places: Land Conservation in CTpresented by Northwest CT Land Conservancy
- Remembering Rex Brasher- presented by Gerri Griswold
- Safari Through Namibia and Botswana- presented by Angela Dimmitt
- Sherman Story Slam with the Sherman Playhouse

Programs (continued)

- Sourdough Workshop- presented by Caitlin Mandracchia
- "Street Photography"- artist talk with Neil Zobler
- Stocks: the Nuts and Bolts- presented by Maria Xavier
- Teaching Your Children the Financial Facts of Lifepresented by the UConn Financial Extension
- The International Space Station: 20 Years of Living in Space- presented by Bill Cloutier
- The Sinking of the Titanic- presented by Jason Scappaticci
- The Truth About CBD- presented by Dr. Kenneth Hoffman
- "Through My Photographers Eye"- artist talk with Neil Zobler
- Walk on the Wild Side: Animal Photography- presented by Scott Dengrove
- Wildlife and Habitat Are Inextricably Linked- presented by Peter Picone of DEEP
- Witches in CT- presented by the CT Historical Society
- Women's Center Services- presented by Matt Austin
- Women Center Stage- presented by the CT Women's Hall of Fame
- Writer's Group
- Yoga Nidra- Mariya Hurwitz
- Program Collaborations: CT Audubon Society Deer Pond Farm, Great Hollow Photographers' Club, JCC in Sherman, Northwest CT Land Conservancy, Sherman Playhouse, Sherman School, Sherman Senior Center, Commission on Aging & the Women's Center



ART SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

- Lorraine Ryan- "My Favorite Things" paintings
- Various Artists- "Great Hollow Artists Invitational 2020"
- Suzanne Ashley- "Light Reveals" paintings
- Neil Zobler- "Through My Photographer's Eye" virtual show
- Rich Engel- "Old Glory" wooden pieces

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- Ex Libris by Anne Fadiman led by Pat Corrigan
- In the Time of Butterflies by Julia Alvarez led by Pat Endress

- *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel led by Bob Gamper
- Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys led by Corinne Kevorkian
- The Road by Cormac McCarthy led by Mariya Hurwitz
- Bel Canto by Ann Patchett led by Lorna Barrett
- Solar Bones by Mike McCormack led by Pat Corrigan
- The Rent Collector by Cameron Wright led by Sheila Kaplan
- The Oregon Trail by Rinker Buck led by Marge Josephson
- Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead by Olga Tokarczuk led by Diana Bristol
- Doing Justice by Preet Bharara led by Barbara Bacewicz
- Stones from the River by Ursula Hegi led by Pat Corrigan

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSIONS

- Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte led by Corinne Kevorkian
- The Plague by Albert Camus led by Suzanne Ashley
- *The Master and the Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov led by Mariya Hurwitz
- Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather led by Polly Kelley
- The Good Soldier by Ford Maddox Ford led by Marge Josephson
- The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham led by Diana Bristol
- Dracula by Bram Stoker led by Bernie Kaplan
- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald led by Mariya Hurwitz
- Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston led by Sheila Kaplan
- Selections from The Complete Poems by Carl Sandburg led by Suzanne Ashley
- Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier led by Denise Schlesinger

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- 100 Book Challenge for Preschool
- Annual Community Halloween Bash- Library booth
- Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebration
- Bingo Family Fun Nights
- Halloween Stories & Fun
- Harry Potter Trivia Night
- Holiday Take & Make
- Jester Jim
- Love Birds featuring CT Audubon Society Deer Pond Farm
- Mummy at Mystery Mansion featuring Talewise
- Spring Story Walk
- Take Your Child to the Library Day: Story Faces featuring Christopher Agostino
- Trick or Treat at the Library
- Virtual Cartooning Class: Learn to Draw Cartoons featuring Rick Stromoski
- Virtual Turkey Talk with the Audubon Society of CT Deer Pond

- Volunteer Helpers
- Way to Grow presented by White Memorial Conservation Center
- Wildlife Welcomes Spring presented by White Memorial Conservation Center
- Winter Wonderland 2020

SCHOOL YEAR STORY TIME AND CRAFT PROGRAMS

- Outdoor Story Time for 3-6 years old
- Outdoor Toddler Time for 0-3 years old
- Sherman School First Grade Library Visit
- Terrific Tuesdays for grade Pre-K-2nd
- Teen Take and Make for grade 6th-8th
- The Stage for grade 6th-12th
- Teen Game Night for grade 6th-12th
- Virtual Storytime for 0-5 years old
- Zoom Game Club for grade 3rd-5th

SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

- Imagine Your Story- Summer Reading Program
- Middle School & High School Game Night
- Summer Bingo Family Fun Nights
- Summer Craft Crew
- Summer Reading Bingo Challenge for Pre-K to High School
- Virtual Fairy Tale Theater
- Virtual Storytime

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- Golden Ticket
- Membership Appeal





Statistical Review 2020-21

Circulation	21,115
Adult Book Circulation	12,199
Children's Book Circulation	7,739
Audiovisual Circulation	1,177
Sherman Circulation Per Capita	5.9
Population Served*	3,581
Library Visits	5,854
Patrons Registered	1,439
borrowIT Borrowing by Sherman	1,042
borrowIT Loans to Non Residents	1,355
Interlibrary Loan from other libraries	2,048
Interlibrary Loan to other libraries	1,257
Library Holdings	26,403
Library Holdings Adult Books	14,418
Library Holdings Children's Books	11,985
Downloadable eBooks & Audio Books Available	15,972
Adult Programs	102
Adult Programs Attendance	1,865
Children's Programs	149
Children's Programs Attendance	3,192
Days Open	243
Tax Dollar Support Per Capita	46.2

Programs, Circulation & Library Visits were impacted by Covid-19 restrictions *U.S. Census Bureau 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020-21

PRESIDENT, Karen Cardillo through 12/2020, Mariya Hurwitz starting 1/2021, VICE PRESIDENT, Lauren Kenney TREASURER, Mariya Hurwitz through 12/2020, Henry Cooperman starting 1/2021 SECRETARY, Laura Jagodzinski BOARD MEMBERS, Elly Bockley, Rosemarie D'Ostilio, John Ehrenreich, Irit Granger, Barbara Ireland, Jennifer Laviano, Dee Ratterree

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Ashleigh Blake CHILDREN'S SERVICES, Cheryl Mandracchia SENIOR ASSISTANTS, Karen Borneman & Heather Hafer STUDENT PAGES, Susan Hackett, Remington Hafer, Dardan Recaj & Amanda Williamson

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

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

Karen Cardillo President through 12/2020 Mariya Hurwitz President starting 1/2021 Lauren Kenney Vice President Mariya Hurwitz Treasurer through 12/2020 Henry Cooperman Interim Treasurer starting 1/2021 Laura Jagodzinski, Secretary

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Karen Borneman Senior Assistant Heather Hafer Senior Assistant

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ART CURATOR Linda Hubbard

BOOK SALES

Pat Corrigan Ashleigh Blake

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Lorna Barrett Diana Bristol Pat Corrigan Corinne Kevorkian Stephanie Spinner

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSION

Suzanne Ashley Corinne Kevorkian

FINANCE

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SOIRÉE

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Dave Adams Suzanne Ashley Lorna Barrett Barbara Binzen Buzz Binzen Ashleigh Blake Elly Bockley Karen Borneman Ben Borneman Diana Bristol Joel Bruzinski Adele Burke Karen Cardillo **Rachel Churner** Henry Cooperman Pat Corrigan Josefina Cutrona Sharon Danosky Rosemarie D'Ostilio **lill Finch Bill Garrison** Irit Granger



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Katie Robbins Steve Roffwarg Anita Smith Stephanie Spinner Steve Vlamis Janet Wey Russell Whitman Al Zeisler

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

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.



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.