

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## THRIVING IN A YEAR OF ADVERSITY

If 2020 was a year of sudden pivots and sharp turns, 2021 was a year of careful reflection and deliberate refinement. In 2021, in-person programming came roaring back to the Library District. At the same time, library staff took a hard look at the opportunities found in our virtual programs—what worked, what didn't, and how we could continue to tap into the strengths of our technological assets to bring people together.

Another approach we innovated during the pandemic was designing new ways to get patrons outdoors and catch them where they live, work, and play. Rover the Roaming Library, StoryWalks, pop-up library devices for ebooks, and mini-libraries for physical books sprung up all over parks in the City and Town of Poughkeepsie, complimenting popular ventures like the Hiking Club and various environmental education talks.



Similarly, outdoor family events like the Summer Reading Kick-Off and the Hoedown Block Party brought children to Adriance Memorial Library to enjoy festival fun and connect with library staff. By October, the celebrations included the massive Halloween on the Hill event brought into Adriance Memorial Library from College Hill Park due to a last-minute rainout. The result: waves of new and longtime patrons, many in costume, treated to a day of games, stories, and (of course) candy!

Here are some other ways that the Library District thrived this past year:

- Authors are at the heart of any library, and hosting authors of local interest here to speak about their work enhances our community's relationship to reading while bringing positive attention to Poughkeepsie. Featured author talks included Elin Hilderbrand (*Summer of '69*), Lisa Scottoline (*Eternal*), C.J. Box (the Joe Pickett series), Marc Brown (the Arthur series), and Alison Bechdel (*Fun Home*, *The Secret to Superhuman Strength*), among many other regionally- and nationally-acclaimed writers and poets.
- The 2021 Big Read marked the initiative's 15th year bringing our community together around great books. *The Best We Could Do*, a graphic memoir by Thi Bui, drew on her immigration to America from Vietnam in beautifully rendered watercolors to make a compelling story of one family's search for home.



- Offerings in Spanish continued to grow, with an impressive breadth of book clubs, concerts, crafts, movies, and culinary programs. Events built around Día de los Muertos grew to include an array of stunning altars that connected the library with neighborhood businesses.

As ever, 2021 included so many programs that it is impossible to properly acknowledge them all. Perhaps it's best instead to thank the many library staff members who organize them, from banner events that accommodate audiences of hundreds to the quieter, everyday book clubs, story times, art shows, talks, and crafts that add up to change the lives of many patrons on an intimate scale. None of this would be possible without many treasured partner organizations—and, of course, donors and taxpayers like you.

# ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

The Library District is grateful to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who contributed to the Annual Fund between January 1 and December 31, 2021.

## GOLDLEAF VOLUME \$2000+

Bentley - Holden Fund  
Fanny V.W. Boos Trust Fund  
of the Community Foundations  
of the Hudson Valley  
Gail Brittain  
Dutchess County  
Dyson Foundation  
Deborah Eisberg  
Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public  
Library District, Inc.  
Norman & Jeannie Greene Fund  
The Lant Family  
Jode Susan Millman  
National Endowment for the Arts

## FIRST EDITION \$1000 - \$1999

The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
by its agent, YourCause  
Timothy Harnett  
Joan M. Herrmann  
Nancy & Harold Shablom

## COLLECTOR \$500 - \$999

Drs. Ashok & Nila Shah  
Patricia M. Breen  
Anne Constantinople  
Curtis & Emily Dozier  
Rebecca Edwards  
Jack & Fredrica Goodman  
Donna Gruberg  
Tom & Enza Lawrence  
Mr. & Mrs. Lou Lewis  
Mary & Bill Lunt  
Mary & Patrick F. Moore, Esq.  
Eileen & Robert Nye  
Roland & Marion Patterson  
Karl & Cathy Schmitz

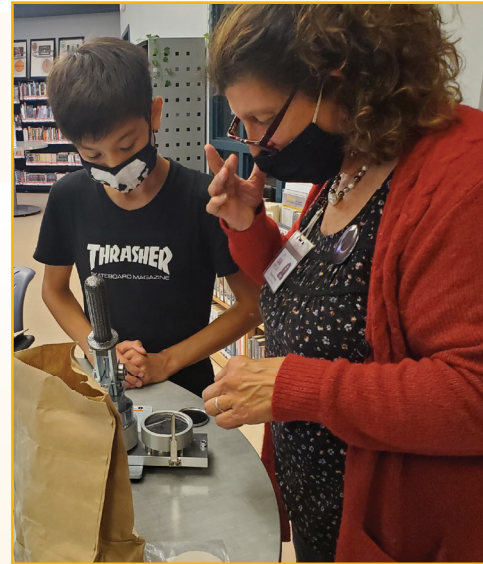
## BEST SELLER \$250 - \$499

Anonymous (5)  
Mark Aaron & Miriam Zimet-Aaron  
Chris & Bonny Algozzine  
Wendy Berger  
Dianne Blazek  
Mary Ann Boylan  
The Chazen Companies  
Bryan C. Childs  
Dennis Dengel  
Clare & Michael Graham  
Dawn Harkness  
Sanjaya Jha  
Barbara & Charles Lynch  
Lila & Phillip Lynch  
Mary McGowan

Liz Murphy  
Marc & Lisa Nelson  
New England Greenscapes, Inc.  
Ralph D. Pollard  
Christian Tiani

## BOOKWORM \$100 - \$249

Anonymous (7)  
Adams Fairacre Farms  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Aldrich, III  
Shanna Andrawis  
Margaret Banks  
Jane Bartik  
Kurt Beale  
Linda & Klaus Beyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Bunnell  
Grace & John Calella  
Norma Chang  
Eleanor & Martin Charwat  
Ann Churukian & James Costopoulos  
William Clarke  
Lynne & Bill Copeland  
Lee & Lleazer Isabell  
Richard & Lydia Cotter  
Christine Cuttler  
Susan Deane-Miller  
Nancy R. Dewey  
Sean & Kathy Eagleton  
Cindy Emmer & Gary Fitchett  
Mr. & Mrs. William Enichen  
Toni & Alex Farkas  
Ms. Mary Gesek  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gibbs  
Herbert J. Glaser  
Joe & Perry Goldsmith  
Jeffrey S. Graham  
Shirley M. Handel  
Harmon Printing  
Robert & Diane Hlavaty  
Muriel Horowitz  
Edwin L. Joba  
The Keller-Coffeys  
Martha Kaplan & John D. Kelly  
Lee Kennedy-Shaffer  
James & Sylvia Kitcher  
Joan Kuchenmeister  
Muriel Lampell  
George Lithco  
George & Linda Mann  
Lisa Morris & Phil Malinovsky  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Muffs  
Joan Nicholls  
Terry & Ann Novicki  
S. Ntambi  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. O'Brien  
Theresa O'Brien



Diane O'Leary  
Jeanne B. Opdycke  
John O'Shea  
R. P. Polivka  
Bobbie Post  
Jewel & Eugene Ratzlaff  
Rhinebeck Bank  
Cassandra D. Ruffin  
Leola Ruffin-McPhee  
Jim & Patty Ryan  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Schmidt  
Sue Serino  
Emily & Nasser Siddique Family Fund  
Linda Skolnik  
Mary R. Spriggs  
Drs. Howard & Shirl Susser  
Cathy Temple  
Tina Tockarshewsky  
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Turetzky  
Iris & Len Turkenkopf  
Frank & Lois Van Zanten  
Norma Vazquez  
Marilyn Vercelletto  
Jerry & Linda Vittone  
Patrick & Denise Watson  
Jean Mosca Woods  
Tony & Pat Zito

## WORDSMITH \$50 - \$99

Anonymous (10)  
Saba Ali  
Nancy Bahret  
Anita Bailey  
Dr. & Mrs. William Bakker  
Cherie & David Barnier  
Arlene Barresi  
Mr. Peter Bergamo  
John & Virginia Bickford  
Sue Blodgett  
Karen A. Blovat  
Margaret & Colin Britton  
Francis Campagna  
Certo Books

Linda Bartles Clarke  
 Diane Closs & Benjamin Grey  
 Stephen & Amity Currie  
 Natalie H. Davis  
 Mary Anne & Bob Deik  
 Millie DeNitto  
 Lillian DePasquale  
 John & M C Dinwiddie  
 Gloria E. Dobbs  
 Bruce Duncan  
 Mr. Jack Effron  
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard B. Ellis, III  
 Judith Elkin & Eugene Fleishman  
 Sharon Fleury  
 Nancy Foster  
 Michael A. Gargiso  
 Yvonne & Tom Gaynor  
 Andrea Guazzo  
 Jennifer Halloran  
 Stanley Israel  
 Barbara & Erich Hespeneheide  
 Carol E. Hiatt  
 Lydia Higginson  
 Janet E. Huen  
 Martin Hutchinson  
 Patricia Jackson  
 Jonathan G Jacobson  
 Mary & Minkailu Jalloh  
 Frank Johnson  
 Jacquelyn M Jones  
 Nancy Kappler-Foster & Kenneth Foster  
 Maha & Ahmad Katmani  
 Beverly Kaufman  
 Rita & Bob Lewis  
 Manuel & Margaret Liu  
 Iris & Fred Maron  
 Gerald Matusiewicz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Zinas Mavodones  
 James & Linda Merrell  
 Molly & Tyler Jones  
 Eric Perfecto  
 Michael Petronio & Moira Fitzgibbons  
 Laura Pilkington  
 Aline M. Pirrone & Jeffrey A. Purdy  
 Cal & Susan Polikoff

Wendy R. Preston  
 John Reilly  
 William Richardson  
 William R. Riggs  
 Enda Ryan  
 Ken & MaryAnn Sambells  
 Mr. David Schwartz  
 Mrs. Arthur E. Scott  
 Celia & Arnold Serotsky  
 Margery M. Short  
 Rosemarie R. Smith  
 Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich  
 Elaine Sproat  
 Laurel D. Spuhler  
 Suzi & Herb Stoller  
 Edith C. Stout  
 Harlow E. Waite  
 Mary F. Weglinski  
 Anita Whelan  
 Carole Wolf

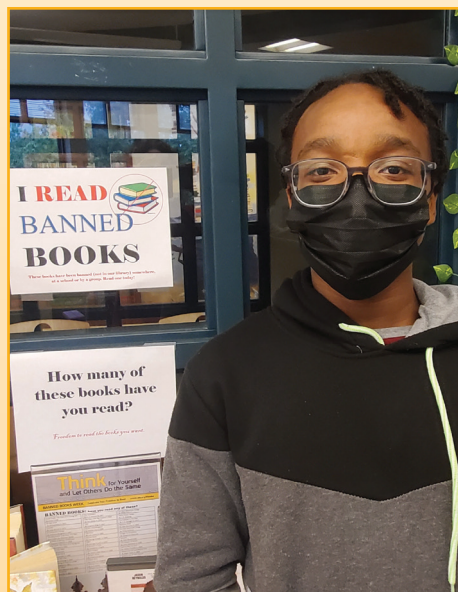
**READER \$25 - \$49**

John J. Atherton  
 William A. Barbash  
 Janette Bogdan  
 Saquon D. Brown  
 Judith P. Buck  
 Cem Cavdar  
 Joyce A. Chatfield  
 Susan T. Davis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Warren C. Dow  
 Aileen Eagleton  
 Walter Effron  
 Marwa Elkest  
 Fred E. Fimbel III  
 Bob Fisch  
 Roslyn Fox  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth J. Fredericks  
 Jacqueline Freeman  
 Richard Gitlin  
 Brenda S. Goldstein  
 M. Gregg & Ruth Aldrich Gau  
 Jeffrey M. Gregory  
 Albert Groccia  
 Jolie Aleen Hamer-Conroy  
 Lorraine Prince Harper  
 Gerald & Sheila Hayes  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan L. Heiles  
 Ellen Heller  
 Michael T. Hofschuster  
 Edward & Jennifer Holsopple  
 Sally Johnson  
 Anita & Dan Jones  
 Thomas Joyce & Janet Joyce  
 Dave & Judy Longacre  
 Main Printing  
 Marcia Minuskin & Jeffrey Zonenshine  
 Virginia Marcus  
 Bill & Eleanor K. Marr  
 Myra Morales  
 Alice M. Olewnick  
 Michelle R. Phillips

Cary Phillips-Auerbach  
 Ann & John Pinna  
 David Radcliffe  
 Don Rain  
 Penny & Tom Rinaldi  
 Ralph & Marian Schwartz  
 Edward L. Silverman  
 Sisselman Family  
 Lee Swartz  
 Joanne Tuthill  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Wall  
 Ellen Zelig  
 The Ziskind Family

**PATRON UP TO \$24**

Barbara Allegrante  
 Helen Bernstein  
 Nick Certo  
 Greg Darak  
 Albert Deluca  
 Laura Dempsey  
 Barbara Eastwood  
 Paul Fitzmaurice  
 Stuart Glasser  
 Goldenberg, Mackler, Sayegh, Mintz, Pheffer,  
 Bonchi & Gill PA  
 Evan Hartman  
 Ernest W. Hernandez  
 Mary Anne & Edward Hogarty  
 Nicole Imhoff  
 Jane F. Jackson  
 Evan Juska  
 Jennifer Kaiser  
 Ellen & John Korz  
 Zafer Kurkcu  
 Frank & Francine Lucato  
 C. Joyce Marra  
 Joseph Nathan  
 Margaret G. Nichols  
 Brittani O'Hearn  
 Shannan Pike  
 Darshan Russell  
 Marie & Bob Straub  
 Catherine Tomasko  
 Mr. Harold E. Veeder  
 Karl Volk  
 Deborah Weltsch



## FINANCIALS

### Revenue

Real Property Taxes: \$8,067,496  
Pilot Payments: \$158,071  
Library Charges: \$39,556  
Interest & Earnings: \$4,800  
Grants: \$210,445  
State Aid: \$332,906  
Gifts & Donations: \$662,389  
Miscellaneous: \$74,929  
Interfund Transfers: \$505,566  
TOTAL: \$10,056,158

### Expenses

Salaries & Wages: \$4,048,237  
Employee Benefits: \$1,900,447  
Library Materials & Information Services: \$633,080  
Equipment: \$157,249  
Circulation & OPAC Management Fees: \$125,844  
Operations: \$1,367,909  
Debt Service: \$1,336,954  
Interfund Transfers: \$1,455  
Increase in Fund Balance: \$484,983  
TOTAL: \$10,056,158

## 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Total Visitors: 240,949  
Items Loaned or Downloaded: 256,253  
Reference Questions: 12,203  
Public Computer Log-Ins: 66,945  
Public Fax Usage: 526  
Website Hits: 323,729  
Database Usage: 294,324

### PROGRAMS

Total Public Programs: 3,107  
Total Program Attendance: 36,658

## IN HONOR OF

**Gail Brittain**     **Sylvia Lerner**  
▸ *Ellis Family*     ▸ *Edward & Frieda Gershuny*

**Tom Lawrence**     **Skip & Chad Patterson**  
▸ *Deborah Eisberg*     ▸ *Deborah Eisberg*

## IN MEMORY OF

**Catherine Albanese**  
▸ *Debra Eisberg*

**Louis P. Barone, Sr.**  
▸ *Annette Barone*

**Toni Farkas**  
▸ *Alexander Farkas*

**Sylvia Lerner**  
▸ *Edward & Frieda Gershuny*  
▸ *Matt, Benjamin & Emmett Green*  
▸ *Adrienne & Joshua London*  
▸ *Edward L. Silverman*  
▸ *Marcia Minuskin & Jeffrey Zonenshine*  
▸ *Sarah Zonenshine*

### Mario & Rose Occhialino

▸ *Ted & Rick Occhialino*  
▸ *Diane Pozar*  
▸ *Pete & Jean LeRose*



93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
poklib.org

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEWBURGH, NY  
PERMIT #2290

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

The Annual Report is an exercise in transparency for the Library District, one of many ways we share facts and figures that describe our impact. Each number tells a story, a hopeful tale of progress and recovery. The Library District remained open all year long in 2021, with great caution and care, while many places struggled to reopen amid COVID-19. As our community continues to recover, we are seeing visitorship and participation in programs increase, as confidence grows inch by inch.

We're always grateful to the taxpayers, contributors, and library users who support us, but we don't always get the opportunity to say "thank you" to the librarians, clerks, security, maintenance, and many other employees who make the Library District hum along on a daily basis. Library workers are frontline heroes—though much of the hard work is invisible to those of us checking out books, seeking help in reference, or enjoying family time in children's programs, these staff members take on a measure of risk to fulfill our shared mission.

As we continue to refine a new definition of normal, I hope you will join me in celebrating what makes the library special, beyond the collections, events, and resources it offers. Next time you visit a branch, say "thank you" to every employee and volunteer you see. Your smiles and kindness help us all remember we are one community working together.

– **Dianne Blazek**, *President, Board of Trustees*

## 2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>Dianne Blazek</b> , Town, <i>President</i>	<b>Mary E. Moore</b> , Town
<b>Sean Eagleton</b> , Town	<b>Deborah Nichols</b> , Town
<b>Patricia Ferrer-Medina</b> , Town	<b>Patricia Ryan</b> , Town, <i>Treasurer</i>
<b>Moirá Fitzgibbons</b> , City, <i>Vice President</i>	<b>Cathy Schmitz</b> , Town
<b>Chip Hogg</b> , City	<b>Laurel Spuhler</b> , City, <i>Secretary</i>
<b>Jonathan McPhee</b> , City	