



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### Annual 2023

The year 2023 was a year of transition for the New City Library as we came into the final stages of our renovation project. We began the year in our 3,000 sq. ft. temporary location at 198 South Main Street and ended it in our beautiful, 34,000 sq. ft. renovated space.

In January, we always take a moment to celebrate the milestones of achievement with a celebration of staff anniversaries in the prior year.

- Karen Ostertag – Adult Services Librarian II – 25 years of service
- Karen Vetrano – Community Relations Assistant – 25 years of service
- Joseph T. Smith – Page II – 25 years of service
- Kathy Bachor – Children's Librarian II – 20 years of service
- Naushin Sharif – Library Assistant I (part-time) – 20 years of service
- Christopher Ely – Library Assistant II – 20 years of service
- Marianne Gallagher – Director – 20 years of service
- Anne Davies – Library Assistant II – 15 years of service
- Andres Abreu – Custodian II – 15 years of service
- Eric Schreiber – Page II – 15 years of service
- Matthew Aull – Adult Services Librarian II – 5 years of service
- Matthew Ciuccio – Technology Support Assistant – 5 years of service
- Joseph Barbieri – Local History Librarian II – 5 years of service

We were sad to see Library Assistants II, Anne Davies and Susan Telesca, leave us to retire. New Children's Librarian I, Deb Guerra, and Library Assistants I, Joy Teising and Karen Kyle, were welcomed to the staff.

Trustee Denis O'Hanlon resigned after five years of service to the Library Board. His financial background was an asset in the decision making that led to our renovation.

The Ramapo Catskill Library System made big changes in their service model by separating their ILS and IT functions. Libraries had the option of continuing to depend upon the system for IT support or seeking independent contractors. New City Library chose the independent approach. Coming off their network meant that we had to use the web-based version of the ILS, which proved to be a challenge, albeit a short-lived one. By December, the 47 libraries of RCLS voted to migrate to Koha, managed by ByWater Solutions, an open-source ILS platform that should be in use by August 2024.

Adult, teen, and children's programming continued to be held in remote locations during the first half of the year, while the library was still operating out of 198 South Main Street.

We made some new connections with patrons at events held at the Congers Learning Center, the Congers Train Station, Street School Community Center, and Dutch Gardens.

While at the temporary location, we were only able to offer a browsing collection of popular items and new materials. Circulation was less than half of normal; many holds had to be filled with other libraries’ materials. When the full collections were restored during the move back in, some collections (mostly media) were relegated to less prominent spots in the Library due to their dwindling appeal. The DVDs, Books-on-CDs, and Music CDs now are housed on the lower level. Online, downloadable digital books and audiobooks continue to increase in circulation; the physical formats of media are going the way of vinyl records and books on cassette.

The move to digital access of collections allowed us to create a space that places priority on our patrons. The addition of study rooms and comfortable, attractive seating has drawn a new crowd of young adults from high school, college, and beyond. The larger meeting room, High Tor, and the addition of a dedicated children’s meeting room, Little Tor, and a makerspace for creative outlet provides an opportunity to develop programming to serve a larger audience than ever before.

In December, the Library’s budget passed with a solid approval rate. Incumbent Nicholas A. Longo, Jr., who was appointed to replace Denis O’Hanlon, was re-elected, and the Board welcomed newcomers Joseph Ciardullo and Roxanne T. Perrone.

The Library is well-positioned to serve its community in the coming years. But we will always be looking for ways to adapt in order to meet the evolving needs of contemporary library users. We welcome the challenge!

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Gallagher, Director  
NEW CITY LIBRARY  
January 12, 2024

MG/kc