



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Annual 2024

By the start of 2024, both staff and patrons had settled in and adjusted to the new and improved Library space created by the major renovation performed over the prior three years.

President Victor Berger retired from the Board midyear after serving the Library and its community for a decade. Head Custodian Andres Abreu retired in October after 17 years of service. Both men possessed significant institutional and building knowledge that will be missed. Children's Librarian Cathy Bodan joined the team in June. Veteran Part-time Custodian Richard Wrobel was promoted to full-time to replace Andres; Allen DeGroat was hired as Part-time Custodian at the end of November.

Several staff members achieved significant working milestones in 2024:

- Mary Phillips, Teen Librarian – 35 years of service
- Roopa Vasa, Library Assistant I (Part-time) – 25 years of service
- Karen Berkowitz, Page II (Part-time) – 20 years of service
- Veronica Reynolds, Head of Community Relations – 15 years of service
- Brian Jennings, Head of Adult Services – 10 years of service

Circulation of physical materials was 229,243 for the year, while circulation of digital titles climbed to 95,825. Digital materials accounted for 29.53% of total checkouts during the year, continuing the established trend towards increasing preference for digital over print and physical media.

The annual number of patron visits hit 191,921, which is just 14% shy of the door count of 2019, our last "normal" year before COVID-19 and the renovation, significantly, but temporarily, altered our operations. Programming attendance, too, is still shy of 2019 levels.

In April, the Board of Trustees voted to end overdue fines on all materials except for videogames, museum passes, and technology.

In August, the migration to a new Integrated Library System (ILS, or "the catalog"), Koha, was completed. This system-wide change was prompted by calls for better efficiency, usability, and cost from the Directors Association of the Ramapo Catskill Library System. Although the renovation is behind us, necessary improvements in our 45-year-old facility continue. A grant from the New York State Division of Library Development allowed us to tackle an ongoing drainage issue along the west wall of the building, as well as one that had developed at the entry to the Receiving Room in the basement on the eastern side.

At year’s end, the New City/West Nyack combined library budget was passed at the December 11 vote with a solid 78% approval. Incumbent Trustees Robert Axelrod, Patricia Ranieri, and Mindy Rader were re-elected for three-year terms.

This year proved a productive one. The staff, administration, and Board of Trustees of the New City Library remain committed to providing excellent library service at a level our community expects in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Gallagher, Director
NEW CITY LIBRARY
January 8, 2025

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