

EDEN LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

2901 East Church Street

Eden, New York 14057

Board Members

President	Patricia Smith
Vice President	Jim Agle
Rec. Secretary & Corr. Secretary	Linda Meyer
Treasurer	Bettyann Neifer
Trustee	Jon Wilcox
Trustee/Town Liaison	Susan Wilhelm

Library Personnel

Library Director	Donna-Jo Webster
Sr. Library Clerk	Helga Antonou
Clerk Typist	Cheryl Colvin
Clerk Typist	Cynthia Bancroft
Clerk Typist	Claire Blandino
Cleaner & Custodian	Anthony Sacilowski

The Eden Library is a public library under the jurisdiction of the New York State Education Department. It enters into contract with the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system each year which provides the budgeted funds.

The library building and grounds are owned and maintained by the Town of Eden. The Eden Town Board appoints the board members (trustees) at the recommendation of the Eden Library trustees.

Library Hours: 35 hours per week.

Meetings:

Board meetings: January 8th, February 12th, March 11th, April 15th, May 13th, June 10th, July 8th, August 12th, September 9th, October 14th, November 18th, and December 9th, 2024.

Annual meeting: January 8th, 2024

ACT meetings: May 4th, October 19th, 2024. Trustee workshop was held on March 9th, 2024

It was another busy year for the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System. Erie County and Contracting Library funding was stable. Eden Library hours remain the same

At our annual meeting in January, the library officers for 2024 were elected and are listed above. The library board approved both the library director's and the president's reports.

Circulation has been stable as well as patron visits and Wi-Fi use. Programs offered at the library continue to be well attended with a variety of offerings for all age groups from toddlers to seniors. The "Friends of the Eden Library" continued their support this year sponsoring an author talk as well as sponsoring programs. Community use includes Eden Recreation, Boy Scouts, Erie EMS, Eden Central School district and the University Express Programs. University Express offered a variety of programs including drumming, yoga, choosing a care giver, preservation and transfer of assets, as well as discussions of historical events. A program of holiday music and song was also successful.

At two of our meetings, Tracy Palicki, a business office administrative manager for the central library, presented information on the annual library report and Dean Nelipowitz, the Fire Inspector in the Town of Eden, presented information on the fire alarm system.

A carnival was held in August with hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones and popcorn. Children of all ages enjoyed music and fun with games, face painting, a magic show, and balloon animals.

Our fall book sale and the ongoing book sale continue to be very successful. We received a generous donation from State Assemblyman David DiPietro to the library. Donations were also received from Home Depot. We also received a generous gift toward technology.

Projects at the library included new carpeting throughout the library, lift repair, and a vestibule update. New landscaping was also installed through an Eden Community Foundation grant.

2024 was a year of changes for the library. William Ruof moved to a role outside of the Eden Library, and we welcomed Claire Blandino as our new clerk typist. Jim Agle retired from the board at the end of December after 40 years of service. Thank you to Jim and William for their dedication to the Eden Library, and we wish Jim and William the best in their future endeavors. Sadly, Marilyn Antos, a former board member and longtime resident of Eden, passed away. We remember Marilyn for her kindness, friendship, and her strong commitment to the Eden Library.

Library trustees, Mr. Sacilowski, and community volunteers provided maintenance and planted flowers, trees, and shrubs. Thank you to the Agles Farm and Market for the beautiful geraniums and summer arrangements.

Our library continues to be an asset to the Eden community. Eden Library serves our population by offering story hours and children's programming including Easter Wow, a Lego building program, and teen programs which were well attended. Donna-Jo continued a reading program at the Eden schools to inspire a love of reading in children, during which she provided bookmarks and applications for library cards. The library was also the site of a scavenger hunt for the Eden Fire Department.

The yarn club has donated over 9500 items to local charities throughout the region. A monthly book club and the cookbook club continue, which are both well attended.

DVDs, audio books, electronic books, music, internet access, "mono mouse" readers for the visually impaired, and computer classes are some of the many offerings to our community.

Thank you to Donna-Jo Webster, our Library Director, for making reading fun and enjoyable. She continues to have a positive impact by offering programs to stimulate learning as well as encouraging community and school involvement. Thank you to Helga Antonou for her dedication to the yarn club and giving back to communities who are less fortunate. Thank you to Cheryl Colvin for organizing and running the cook book club. Thank you to Helga Antonou, Cheryl Colvin, Cynthia Bancroft, Claire Blandino and Anthony Sacilowski for maintaining the warm, relaxing atmosphere of the library and making it an inviting place to visit.

Thank you to Susan Wilhelm, our board liaison, for working with the town on our behalf. She continues to advocate for us with the town and is a valuable part of our team.

Thank you to the Eden Community Foundation for their support of our landscaping project.

Thank you to the Eden Town Board for all your help throughout the year. Your unwavering support and collaboration are invaluable. We greatly appreciate all that you do. We are fortunate to have your support to make the library a welcoming place.

Thank you to the Eden Library Board for all that you do to make this library such a warm and welcoming place to visit! We are very fortunate to have such hard working members working together. Thank you for attending meetings, balancing our finances, working on policies, planning and publicizing events, along with helping with the used book sales, gardening and landscaping and being active in decision making. As we move forward into a new year, our library will continue to be a positive asset to our community with all your support and guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia R. Smith
Eden Library Board President

cc: Eden Town Board