

2023 Annual Report

Onondaga Free Library



Onondaga Hill Volunteer Fire Dept. Visit
July 20, 2023

Greetings from Onondaga Free Library

During the past year, we worked to support our mission of promoting access to all, lifelong literacy, and the well-being of our community. 2023 saw a significant increase in library engagement as evidenced by library usage and patron feedback. A total of 242,252 items circulated last year. E-book circulation was up 22% compared to 2022. Our in-person visits totaled 68,458 and 950 patrons registered for a library card.

Notably, we had many personnel changes in 2023 including an administrative promotion, new hires, and the creation of new staff roles. Please take a moment to review our staff news within the annual report. We are especially grateful to have a knowledgeable and welcoming staff.

We strengthened our partnerships with the Onondaga, West Genesee, and Westhill school districts, OCC, Community Living Advocates, ARC of Onondaga, and worked together to bring a wide variety of programming to our community. As a result, we offered 740 programs attended by 7,092 people.

We are in the final stages of updating our next long range plan and will continue to grow over the next several years with collections, programs, services, and building improvements.

To our dedicated community that supports the library, we thank you for providing the financial resources to be able to offer collections, programs, and services that change lives for the better. Our library staff, Board of Trustees, Friends, and patrons have made it possible for us to succeed and meet the changing needs of our community. We look forward to seeing you at the library.

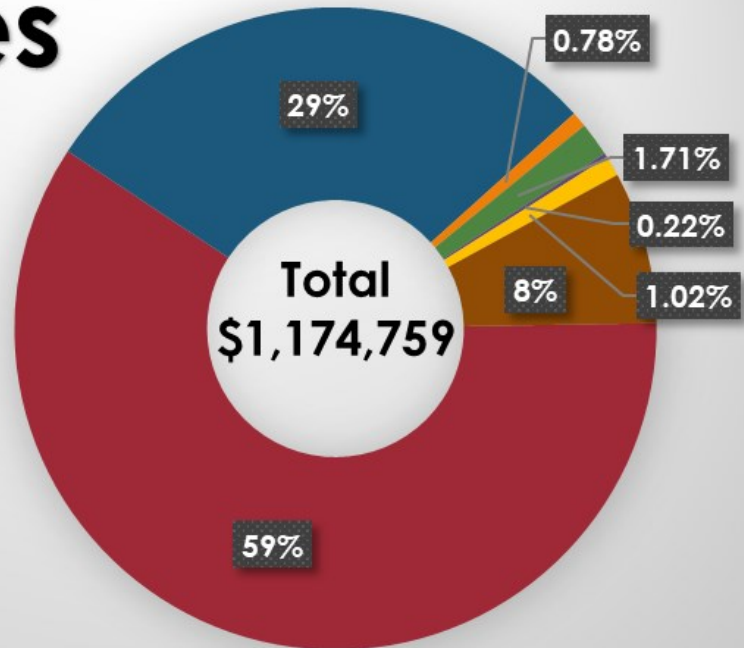
Susan Morgan, Director



2023 Financial Summary

Revenues

- Town of Onondaga (\$700,000)
- School Funds (\$340,930)¹
- State Aid & Grants (\$9,204)
- Gifts & Fundraising (\$20,052)²
- Interest (\$2,592)
- Library Charges (\$11,981)
- Fund Balance (\$90,000)

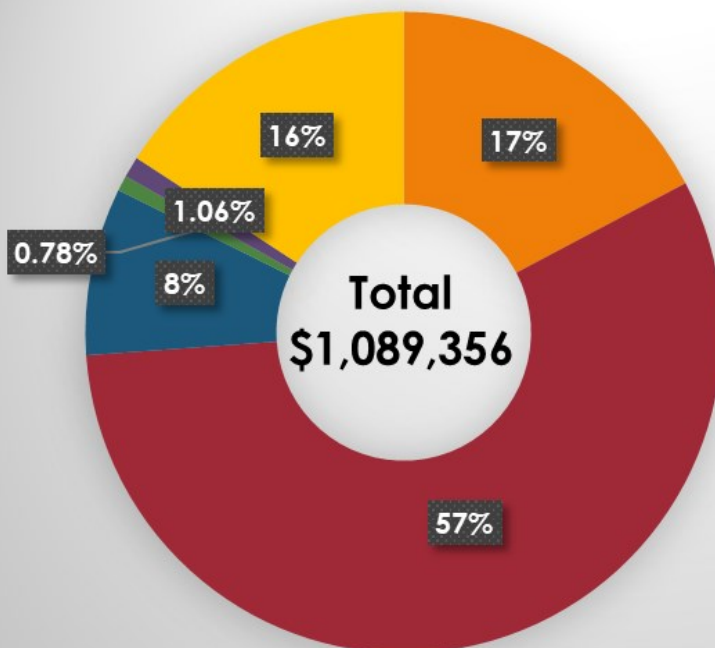


¹School Funds include Westhill, West Genesee and Onondaga Central School Districts.

²Gifts & Fundraising total includes \$15,606 from the Friends of Onondaga Free Library.

ARPA Grant: In March, OFL was awarded \$6,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding from the Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC) to complete hardware upgrades for all of our public PCs. The new PCs are faster and more powerful and reliable than those previously in use, ensuring that OFL is able to meet the technology needs of our community for the next decade or more.

Expenditures



- Debt Service (\$188,415)
- Staff Salaries, Wages, Benefits & Taxes (\$616,238)
- Collections (\$92,066)
- Programming (\$8,492)
- Capital Expenditures (\$11,535)¹
- Building Operation & Maintenance (\$172,610)

¹Capital Expenditures include a new HVAC unit.



ABOVE left to right: Dancing Through the Decades taught by Walt Medicis Dance Studio and sponsored by the Friends of OFL; Book Talk & Signing with former Chief Medical Examiner for Onondaga County, Dr. Mary Jumbelic

Programming, Outreach & Partnerships

OFL offered many new and innovative programs in 2023. During February Break Week, we offered an A.I. art class for families. We displayed many of the amazing pieces created by both patrons and staff in our art exhibit space throughout April. Congrats to our teen volunteers, who planned and hosted two very successful fun and trendy events for their peers – A *Stranger Things* fan party and a *Nailed It!* cupcake decorating competition. The Friends of OFL were very excited to sponsor Dancing Through the Decades, the first ever dance classes hosted at the library. We also welcomed great local authors including romance novelist Rochelle Bilow and former Chief Medical Examiner for Onondaga County, Dr. Mary Jumbelic.

Thanks to strong partnerships with local organizations and schools, we were able to offer several noteworthy events to our community – highlights include our Junior Library Volunteers hosting a Welcoming Refugees Family Fair in partnership with Interfaith Works of CNY and Onondaga Hill Middle School; hosting OCC's Dean of Natural and Applied Sciences to talk about OCC's Micron® Training program; and partnering with Onondaga County Public Libraries, Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation and Syracuse Peace Council to host the international Witness to Injustice KAIROS Blanket Exercise™, a program to foster truth, understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Summer Reading

We had an amazing summer. Thank you to all who participated in Summer Reading!

⇒ Total Summer Reading Participants: 467

⇒ Total Books Read: 6,395

32% increase in books read per participant compared to last year!

Thank you to the Friends of OFL who supported everything summer at the library by providing \$3,000 in funding for prizes and programming, including guest presenters such as Cayuga Nature Center and Museum of the Earth. To go along with the *All Together Now* theme of community, we were thrilled to invite community helpers including firefighters, trash collectors, sheriff's deputies and paramedics to join in our family storytimes. As always, thank you to Gannon's Isle Ice Cream and Fairmount Glen Mini-Golf for providing our prize incentives for children and teens each year.

Thank you Friends!

The Friends of OFL held successful fundraising and membership campaigns in 2023, including raising a record-breaking \$1,700 from the Festival of Trees. Proceeds from their fundraising efforts provided support for the library's collections, including Lucky Day books, eBooks, Empire Passes and Wonderbooks. The Friends also funded the following building enhancements: 2 new book display units for adult fiction, a gaming mouse and keyboard, 3 Aunt Flow® dispensers and products, 2 Bumbo® infant seats and an iPad for staff training/support. The Friends sponsored many programs as well including Dancing Through the Decades, teen art classes and a tour of the Onondaga Historical Association. The Friends advocacy efforts, program support and staff appreciation help make our library an amazing community resource. Thank you for being champions of all we do at OFL!



MARCH 2024 FACES OF OFL:

Board of Trustees

Chris McCarthy, President
Beth Crump, Vice President
Margaret Farrell, Treasurer
Charlotte Garofalo
Elizabeth LaRochelle
Rob Price

Full-Time Staff

Susan Morgan, Director
Scott Lipkowitz, Assistant Director &
Digital Services & Technology
Librarian
Victoria Deal, Youth Services Librarian
Nicole Wright, Teen Services Librarian
Chantal Rothermel, Marketing &
Outreach Coordinator
Lisa Agustin, Circulation Supervisor

Part-Time Staff

Suzanne Allen, Clerk
Laura Calandra, Processing Clerk
Theresa Castilano, Clerk
Michelle Crews, Marketing Assistant
David Kleberg, Page
Tiffany Marx, Library Assistant
Kote McGlaughlin, Page
Sue Thomas, Clerk
Debbie Zabel, Clerk
Brennan Zimmer,
Clerk & Bookkeeper

Substitute Staff

Penny Feeney, Librarian
Pat Hagemann, Clerk
Goran Lucic, Clerk



2023 Staff Hires & Promotions:

Laura Calandra joined the OFL team in March as our part-time **Processing Clerk**. Laura's position is unique in that she is the only staff member who sees every library item before it gets released to the public. In addition to starting at OFL, 2023 proved to be a banner year for Laura as she and her husband, Michael, welcomed their first child.

In March, we also welcomed a new **Page**, **Kote McGlaughlin**, who is currently a junior at West Genesee High School. Prior to joining our team, they had been an active participant in OFL's Junior Library Volunteers.

Lisa Agustin, who has a background in restaurant management, joined OFL as our new full-time **Circulation Supervisor** in May. She is excited to bring her management knowledge and experience to her new position as well as learn and grow in a public library setting. Lisa has especially enjoyed meeting and interacting with patrons.

In June, **Scott Lipkowitz** was promoted to **Assistant Director**. Scott joined the OFL team as our Digital Services and Technology Librarian in June 2020. He is enjoying his new leadership role, while still being able to do what he loves— All the tech stuff!

In September, we welcomed our new full-time **Teen and Youth Services Librarian**, **Nicole Wright**. She comes to OFL from Northern Onondaga Public Library (NOPL)'s Brewerton Branch where she served as their Youth Services Librarian. She's very excited to have a renewed focus on teens, who she says are "the most fun age group to work with." Nicole enjoys creating content for her book-related Instagram, @nicoleknowsbooks.

Victoria Deal joined OFL as our **Youth Services Librarian** in November. Victoria recently relocated to CNY from Florida, where they worked as a reference and makerspace librarian in Sarasota County. They are excited to work with the children and families in our community. In their free time, Victoria weaves, knits and plays tabletop roleplaying games.

Filling our newly developed part-time **Library Assistant** position is **Tiffany Marx**. She began in November after recently moving to Syracuse from Austin, Texas to pursue a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Syracuse University. Tiffany is excited to be planning OFL's very first puzzle derby!

Onondaga Free Library

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Connect with us:

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