GREAT NECK LIBRARY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
for the year ending December 31, 2019
It has been such a pleasure to serve the library as President of the Board in 2019. It has been a year of transition and progress, and there is much to celebrate as the staff members of the Great Neck Library continue to make it a vibrant and ever-evolving resource for the people of the Great Neck community.

I’d like to take a moment to thank my fellow board members for their care and enthusiasm for the library. These committed individuals volunteer many hours a month engaged in the work of governing the library through committee work, oversight of the finances, and policy-making. Their work often goes unrecognized, so I would like to recognize it here. Thanks to a great team.

If you aren’t sure how the board works, or how that volunteer time gets used, please come and see: board and committee meetings are open to the public (with the exception of those in executive session), and the library thrives when there is active engagement from the public in the process.

To that end, I’d also like to thank the many members of the public who have given the library the benefit of their perspective through feedback and suggestions. We need to hear from you all and welcome your input. This is your library, so please help us make it everything you want it to be.

And, I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the wonderful staff of the library, led by Acting Director Tracy Van Dyne, for their hard work, deep commitment, and continual positive evolution of the library. You can read the details of just some of the new initiatives and accomplishments, including progress on the branches, in their letters to follow. Read all about it.

We entered the year with a relatively new board and the challenge ahead of hiring a new director. The board looked within, and we have focused on internal process as well as seeking training to ensure we as a group had the information we need to fulfill our responsibility. That process has also encouraged us to look hard at the policy manual to see where we might simplify policy to help speed the operations of the library. The policy committee will be doing a robust review of a number of recommendations in that regard as 2020 gets under way, and we invite you to give us feedback as we move forward.

For 2020, we are also excited to have the Director Search under way and anticipate breaking ground on the completion of the landscaping project for Main in the spring. With eyes on today and for the future, the library is also making headway with the commitment to sustainable thinking, and I look forward to what emerges for the library and the community as a whole from engaging in that mindset.

It’s an exciting time at the Great Neck Library. Thank you for your support.
2019 began with the ribbon cutting of our STEM Lab which opened to popular approval! We have been the interest of other libraries who are looking to open their own STEM Labs as well as school groups, community groups, and our patrons. Programs are added on a continuous basis and are always full. If you have not already done so, please take the time to visit the Lab. Our STEM Librarian, Christopher VanWickler and YA Coordinator, Adam Hinz are always ready to show off our toys!

The Lakeville Branch may not be receiving a renovation but it did get a much-needed update. The walls were painted, carpets cleaned, new public computers were put out and a mural in honor of past Branch Head, Ruth Klement was placed on the drop-down ceiling for all to see. For anyone who knew Ruth, you know that she welcomed all of her patrons with a cheerful “Welcome to your favorite little branch!” Thank you to everyone who assisted with this project.

The Parkville and Station branch renovations are still moving forward as planned. We are currently working on receiving the necessary permits. The updated plans for the branches will provide study rooms, brand new furniture, and more program rooms to allow for expanded programming. These changes will allow the branches to expand services to the community.

This year we say good luck but not good-bye to Pamela Levin, our veteran Media Librarian of 31 years. Pam will be retiring and enjoying her art and other endeavors. We all wish her well and know that she will be missed. She is leaving with a lighter heart though knowing that she is passing her much loved department into the hands of a kindred spirit. We are very happy to welcome Camille DiPietro in January 2020 to the Great Neck Library as our new Media Librarian.

2020 also welcomes James Pagano as our new Technical Services Manager. James will also take lead as our Innovative professional to make sure that our catalog is in working order for our staff and patrons.

The Main Committee is currently working on hiring a website design company in order to bring our community a more user-friendly experience as well as a device-friendly site. We value our patrons input so please join us at our next Main meeting.

Our Trustees approved the replacement of the last batch of computers from our replacement plan. Thank you to Garry Horodyski who has single-handedly been replacing each of these computers for our patrons and staff.

Programming & Outreach has greatly expanded in all departments this year. Thank you to all of our patrons who have sent in suggestions and thank you to all of our managers and branch heads who have implemented these suggestions. I am looking forward to seeing what comes in the new year.

Collection Development has increased in all departments and branches. Multilingual Collections are being paid special attention to and are being ordered as per each community's needs. Please see your local branch head if there is something special you are looking for. Collection development in a library also brings book sales! Patrons can look forward to the start of 2020 with the reinstatement of a permanent book sale in the lobby of the Main Library.

As yet another year closes, I would like to thank the library staff, and Board of Trustees for their dedication to making the Great Neck Library an institution that is so loved and needed.

Tracy Van Dyne, Acting Director
I am pleased to report that Great Neck Library finances remain on solid footing. At the close of business, December 31, 2019, total general fund holdings were $2,457,183, of which $1,542,811 was on deposit at HSBC, $183,770 at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, $728,632 at US Bank (as Trustee for the DASNY bonds,) and $1,970 in Petty Cash funds at Main and the Branches. This compares to a December 2018 balance of $3,435,968.

Additionally, the cash balance of the Main Building and Special Services fund was $767,126; the DASNY Construction fund was $407,950; the Restricted Gift fund was $341,187; the Landscaping fund was $1,702,141; the Branch and Special Services fund was $1,075,370; the Automated Library fund was $248,259; and the Bond Retirement fund was $2,150,000. These funds totaled $6,692,033 on December 31, 2019. The December 2018 total was $4,800,373.

2019 has seen the following accomplishments:
- The fiscal year ending on June 30, 2019 resulted in a net operating overage of $204,790. The 2020 Finance Committee will be making recommendations to the Board for the disposition of these funds.
- Zero audit findings for the second year in a row.
- Continued review and renegotiation of expiring contracts and agreements have resulted in ongoing savings.

Copies of our audited financial statements as prepared by our auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP, are currently available at the Reference desks of Main and the branches.

Respectfully submitted,
Josie Pizer, Treasurer

2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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Dr. Barry Smith, Secretary
Josie Pizer, Treasurer
Chelsea Sassouni, Assistant Treasurer
Liman Mimi Hu, Assistant Treasurer
Scott J. Sontag, Trustee

What a way to end a decade! From our growing programs and workshops such as knitting and crocheting and English Conversation groups, to the STEM Lab Ribbon Cutting in March 2019 and prominent author events such as Jamie Bernstein, there is always something new to look forward to at the Great Neck Library.
### Circulation of Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Check-OUTS</th>
<th>Check-INS</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAIN</td>
<td>222,724</td>
<td>157,756</td>
<td>380,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKEVILLE</td>
<td>22,531</td>
<td>23,590</td>
<td>46,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARKVILLE</td>
<td>36,549</td>
<td>41,459</td>
<td>78,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATION</td>
<td>52,902</td>
<td>70,342</td>
<td>123,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>334,706</td>
<td>293,147</td>
<td>627,853</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reserves & Interloans

- **Placed:** 60,828
- **Filled:** 61,628

### Library Cardholders

- **Adult Resident:** 24,031
- **Junior Resident (K-6):** 6,784
- **Non-Resident:** 2,021
- **TOTAL:** 32,836

### New Cards Issued

- **Adult Resident:** 2,419
- **Junior Resident (K-6):** 858
- **Non-Resident:** 216
- **TOTAL:** 3,493

### Cards Renewed:

- 2,250

### Library Collection (by title)

- **Books:** 157,127
- **Electronic Databases:** 28
- **Media:** 385,046
- **e-Books:** 303,490
- **Computer Software:** 1 (TurboTax)

### Library Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>19,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>18,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>4,635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teens/Levels</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>7,298</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>2,933</td>
<td>50,582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Library Services

- **Digital Downloads:** 37,835
- **Homebound Service Deliveries:** 43
- **Items Delivered:** 165

### Website visits:

- 307,398 (sessions only)

### Computer Usage

- **MAIN:** 13,884
- **LAKEVILLE:** 5,030
- **PARKVILLE:** 7,960
- **STATION:** 16,927
- **TOTAL:** 43,801
Reference Department

Have you been to the Main Library lately? I’m always amazed when I meet patrons who tell me that they haven’t been to the library since we re-opened three years ago. Please come and see the changes. From time to time, we change the locations of our materials. For example, some of our art books now have a new location. They are on two floors. Books about artists and their works, painters and paintings, have been moved downstairs into the Gallery area where our shelving allows for larger size books. There are also separate bookcases for oversized art books. Patrons are able to sit and read from our ‘coffee table’ collection while they can peruse the current art display on our walls. The rest of the art collection still remains on the Main floor. If there is any confusion, ask the librarians for guidance.

Have you noticed our book displays? They change monthly and are visible throughout the building to bring attention to our varied collection of materials.

The Reference Department just received new computers for patron use. Our Department offers one-on-one beginner computer classes for those who need computer help. Call the Reference Desk to sign up for a one hour computer class on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings. This is in addition to computer classes offered in the STEM Lab and Tuesday afternoon help from the Tech Squad, which circulates monthly to our branches.

We have regained the ability to interloan books from academic libraries and libraries outside Nassau and Suffolk counties. This is extremely beneficial to our patrons who may be looking for more academic titles than most public libraries carry.

Our four study rooms, available on a first-come, first-served basis, are filled with students looking for either a quiet place to study or an area to study in a small group. Dry erase markers are available for use on the white boards in each room.

Our periodicals continue to be heavily used. Although some titles have been discontinued by publishers, we maintain a good core collection. Others are available through the RB Digital Magazine Collection to be read on a computer, tablet or smartphone.

This is the second year of our monthly Great Decisions group. If you wish to participate, please contact Reference.

We continue to demonstrate the use of our online databases to the public. Some of the demonstrations included Consumer Reports, and the Historical New York Times and New York Times databases. Not only is the public informed, but we also have in-house staff training to keep us on top of our sources.

If students are taking online courses, the Reference Department offers a proctoring service so that students can take their examinations at the library.

Our Local History librarian is available to answer your questions on Great Neck History. Our Legacy Collection, books written by local Great Neck authors, continues to grow. We have an ongoing and changing display of works by locals that are available for check-out. We encourage local authors to send us a copy of their books so that they can be included in our collection.

We ran a successful Adult Summer Reading program. 65 adults enjoyed sharing their book selections and reviews online. All participants were invited to attend a special event when we hosted Carol Goodman, former Great Neck resident and author, at the end of August.

Please don’t be shy. Our reference librarians are here to help you find materials, fill your book requests and answer your varied questions, in person, by phone or e-mail.

Margery Chodosch, Reference Department Head

The Great Neck Library family mourns the passing on November 19, 2019 of long-time friend and colleague Gabriel Chieco, Founding Member of the Library’s Music Advisory Committee.

Upon his return from the Korean War in 1953, Gabe was anxious to become involved in community service. His passion for music led him to join Great Neck Community Concerts, for which he held various positions (President, Vice President of Artists Selection.) Gabe’s keen sense of the emerging opera talent resulted in the appearance of Joan Sutherland, Beverly Sills, and Kiri Te Kanawa before they became the reigning divas of their day.

In March of 1974 Joseph Keenan of Newsday wrote, “Gabriel Chieco scouts singers for the Great Neck Community Concerts Association. Because of his scouting reports, members of the Association are going to hear the hottest soprano (Kiri Te Kanawa) on the international circuit.”

It was in 1969 that Gabe’s 50-year association with the Great Neck Library began with the creation of the Music Advisory Committee. The Committee has continually presented musical programs of extraordinarily high quality for the cultural enrichment of the Great Neck community.

The Great Neck Library has been proud of its association with Gabe Chieco and appreciative of all the many years he shared his love and enthusiasm for music, his knowledge and remarkable sense of humor. Gabe will be missed greatly and remain in our thoughts always.
Throughout 2019, the Adult Programming Department at the Great Neck Library strived to include programs on a variety of subject matters to engage all members of our diverse community. The quality of our programs has enriched the environment of our library.

We partnered with many local associations, and the library has become a platform for them to share their information and messages with the community. Outreach in 2019 included professionals from Northwell and Winthrop Hospitals speaking on multiple subject matters. A visit from the St. Francis Hospital Community Outreach Van provided free non-invasive testing. Our bi-annual Blood Drive organized with the New York Blood Center reached record donation levels. We collaborated with Legislator Ellen Birnbaum's office during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and provided current information on this timely subject. We participated in a School Supply Drive with Assemblyman Anthony D’Urso's office and collaborated with Island Harvest and Senator Anna Kaplan's office for a Food Drive at all four Great Neck Library locations. In addition, our Veterans Collection bin overflowed with generous donations from the community. We partnered with North Shore Action and the Sierra Club Long Island Chapter by showing a film on renewable energy, followed by a lively Q&A panel. We participated again with the Gold Coast Film Festival for scheduled family shorts and collaborated with The Great Neck Chinese Association to celebrate the Chinese Harvest Festival.

Our lectures series in 2019 covered a wide variety of subjects both cultural and current. Some of the topics include the First Ladies of the White House, the Mystery of the Pyramids, Dorothy Parker, Flutes of the World, Genealogy, Climate, and the Brooklyn Bridge. This year we were educated on the value of digestion and the fermentation process. We were regularly informed by art lectures and biographies of well-known personalities in our culture and explanations of our political system.

Multiple authors visited the library this year. The community room was filled to capacity when Jamie Bernstein visited the library and shared her biography Famous Father Girl, about growing up with Leonard Bernstein. Other authors of interest included Kevin Winkler, Lisa Kohn, Anthony DeStefano, and Andrea Rothman.

Sunday performances throughout 2019 included a variety of music styles from rock to jazz, as well as theatrical plays, all of which were well attended. Included in the line-up were The Yale Spizzwinks, Caroline Doctorow, The Hambones, performances of Leaving Evelyn and Tuesdays with Morrie, as well as a showing of The Lost Jews of Kastoria with the writer and director on hand for Q&A. The Music Advisory Committee (MAC) continued to suggest music of high quality throughout 2019. Highlights include performances by Guy Mintus, Gilbert and Sullivan’s Gondoliers, The West Village Quartet, and Warren Chiasson.

Our monthly series discussion at Socrates Salon continues to inspire and create dialog that opens the perception of the group on the variety of topics chosen for each month. This group recognizes the value of listening as well as being heard. Our Allies in Wellness series continues to grow with discussions on cutting-edge modalities in wellness. The Great Decisions group, offered through the Foreign Policy Association, creates vibrant conversations on international topics in the news. Other popular monthly programs include writing workshops and singles discussions. All are open to everyone and we encourage new participants to join! Our weekly day and evening Yoga series continues to fill to capacity, and our Tai Chi series and monthly Community Meditation continues to grow in popularity.

Throughout the year a variety of art exhibitions were displayed on the walls of our Lower Level Gallery. This year’s artists included exhibitions by Great Neck Adult Education instructors; Maxine Townsend-Broderick; Milton Yarensky; Marion Gerrick-Cohen; Great Neck North and South High Schools; Catherine Abrams; Baker Hill Art Students; Atria Cutter Mill residents; Wendy Csoka; and Judy Friedman.

Attendance at the Adult Programs records from 800 - over 1,000 patrons per month. It takes many people to support the quality and volume of adult programs offered at the library. I’d like to thank Debbie Feldman and Cindy Simeti who pay attention to the many details involved in bringing each program to fruition, and the Library Board and Acting Director for their trust in this department. And last but not least I’d like to thank the Great Neck community for your engagement, curiosity, and conversations with me about our Adult programs. We are fortunate to live in a community with a library that values life-learning.

Donna Litke, MLS,
Adult Program Outreach Coordinator
Youth Services & Emerging Technologies

In 2019, we opened a brand-new STEM Lab, developed new programs, and collaborated across departments to provide our patrons with a variety of programs and services.

Levels/Jr. Levels:
Once again, between Levels and Jr. Levels, the teen center produced 4 theatrical productions and offered over 600 workshops to over 6,000 patrons in 2019. Three of our theatrical productions were for teens and one additional production was organized for our fifth and sixth-graders. Levels shows included Pippin in May, The Addams Family Musical in August, and Noises Off in December, along with the Jr. Levels production of Shrek Jr. in November. Each Levels show is both proposed and chosen by teens via vote during Proposal Meetings. As always, our productions are run by our teens, with students heading set construction along with acting as directors, costume and set designers, lighting designers, and more. This tradition extended to this year’s Jr. Levels production, with our teens assisting along the way.

Each year, Levels hosts a Haunted House in October, and this year we decided to create a digital version. Filmed in 3D and made viewable on our Oculus VR devices, this year’s haunted house had viewers stranded outside the library and chased by zombie clowns.

Levels collaborated with schools, community volunteers, and other departments at the library to serve as many patrons as possible and offer innovative programs. Adam Hinz, Courtney Greenblatt, and Jamie LaGasse have been in contact with the Great Neck Public Schools throughout the year. They visited Village School to promote the library’s services to students, and Adam and Jamie gave a presentation during South High’s annual Career Day. The three visited North and South Middle Schools in June with giant games and book raffles to promote summer reading, and again in September to spread awareness of Library Card Sign-Up Month. Jamie partnered with the South Middle’s Librarian to bring Dungeons & Dragons to their after-school gaming club.

Levels partnered with Emerging Technologies Librarian Chris Van Wickler to run the library’s first ever Hackathon in March 2019. Working in teams of 4-5, the teens were tasked with finding solutions for dealing with the busy, overworked lifestyle of today’s world. After many hours of hard work, the teams created websites, coded games, created portable back massagers, and did much more all in the name of alleviating stress. The winning group coded a game for the Oculus Rift in which players go on a relaxing walk through nature while listening to classical music.

In 2019, Levels welcomed Art Program Coordinator Laura Sweeney, an adjunct art professor at Long Island University Post and Suffolk County Community College who has exhibited her work internationally. She is excited to be working at Levels and has immediately jumped in with interesting new art projects. Laura has a talent for getting a multitude of students involved with art, and her expertise is often sought out by staff and patrons alike.

Young Adult:
The library’s Young Adult Librarian, Courtney Greenblatt, continued to offer academic and creative programs for teens. Programs included new events such as Study Skills, Public Speaking, Wellness for Teens and more! Courtney and Adam continue to reach out to schools to partner and collaborated on author visits at South Middle and Village. Two professional authors visited both schools, providing a workshop and Q&A on the creative writing process.

College prep and test prep programs for teens and parents remain popular. To support the academic needs of Great Neck teens, we offered programs on the SAT, ACT, a variety of Regents Exams, College Admissions, and Financial Aid. Teens continue to use the library to study and prepare for their futures. We look forward to supporting their academic goals.

STEM Lab:
The STEM Lab had its grand opening in March 2019. In our inaugural year, we hosted over 400 workshops and served over 4,200 patrons. Programs have ranged from basic computer courses to complex programs that involve coding virtual reality.

Our Emerging Technologies Librarian, Chris Van Wickler, is often sought out by patrons looking to learn how to use their own tech-devices, or to use the equipment in the STEM Lab to work on creative projects.

The STEM Lab has been a unique programming department in our library, as it really gets to serve patrons across all age groups. We have helped young children learn the basics of coding via Scratch, and helped senior citizens restore family photos by digitally enhancing them. We have offered many all-ages Saturday programs including Sphero Mini-Golf and Star Wars Day!

The Lab has quickly become a point of interest for community groups and other library professionals. We ran events at North High School, Nassau County Library Association events, and the Great Neck Street Fair. We hosted class visits from local Great Neck schools to teach augmented reality and 3D printing. We also offered tours to several libraries and presented at the Nassau Library System to explain our technology services and programming.

We look forward to continuing to serve the community in 2019 by offering new programs, and developing stronger relationships with other institutions and organizations in the community.

Adam Hinz. Youth Services Coordinator, Jamie LaGasse, Levels Manager, Courtney Greenblatt, Young Adult Librarian Christopher Van Wickler, Emerging Technologies Librarian
Children’s Department

Last year, the Great Neck Library was particularly invested in our ongoing expansion of early literacy services – both within our branches and outreach services. Beyond our bookshelves, expanding knowledge at the Library takes many forms - programs, hands-on-training with STEM, parent/child paint nights, cooking programs and weekend programs at all of our locations have been bustling.

Programming for the age group of birth-12 years is a major part of our mission. Story times for toddlers and preschoolers are offered in the daytime during the school year. We offer four six-week story time sessions throughout the year. During school vacations, we hire entertainers/performers for our community members to enjoy during breaks for both public and private schools. The summer reading and winter reading programs round out our programming success.

Along with broadening our collections, we are also committed to assuring the preservation and expansion of both our research and new circulating materials.

The Children's Department in our four convenient locations will continue to be an essential resource for residents. With materials for research and entertainment, music concerts, story times for children and special art and science programs, the department is an important cultural and educational institution in the community. Next year, the Children's Department staff members will continue to focus on providing the community with superior library services and collections.

Respectfully yours,
Deidre Goode, MLS,
Department Head of Children's Services

Check out the Children’s page on our website for event information.

Media Department

The Media Collection continued to grow in all formats in 2019. As the media shelves overflow, part of the collection is kept in storage. These items are older or duplicate titles and are marked in the database as storage. Staff will be happy to retrieve any item for you.

Our digital services are very popular.

Kanopy is an on-demand streaming film service that offers award-winning films that include classic cinema, foreign language, indie titles and top documentaries. Kanopy also includes children's programming called Kanopy Kids. Hoopla continues to be very popular with instant access to digital eBooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, TV programs, and music for all ages. There are no reserves required and every title is available to everyone immediately. OverDrive/Libby, another digital eBook and eAudioBook service, continues to grow with books for all ages. OverDrive/Libby is a reservable system.

The Media collection also includes librettos and music scores, which are heavily used and very popular.

The weekly Wednesday Film Matinee Series at Main and Thursday Encore Film Series at Station Branch continue to be enthusiastically received, and attendance is steadily growing. 46 films were screened this year with new and old favorites, foreign, animated and award-winners. All films are shown with subtitles if available. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and films start promptly at 2:00 p.m.

On a personal note, after 31 years I retire from the Great Neck Library at the end of 2019. As I begin my retirement with great excitement and a full bucket list, I thank our Great Neck patrons who over the years have enjoyed the media collection and all it has to offer. As formats change and new products are offered, you embraced them with enthusiasm and excitement. Thank you again and I wish you all great viewing and listening for the future.

Pamela Levin, Media Librarian

For all of our streaming/downloading services, all you need is your Library card. We are here to assist you with your streaming and downloading questions. Appointments are encouraged.
The Technical Services Department keeps the collection vital and up-to-date by procuring new library materials and organizing them for easy and convenient use. This helps staff to serve patrons of the Great Neck Library efficiently. The department has been working diligently with vendors to modernize the ordering process. Rather than create entire bibliographic records on-site, we have been providing vendors with information that allows them to automatically download the records to our database. We have also been providing vendors with Genre Labels, Call Numbers and Location Labels so they can deliver pre-processed books to the library. 2019 has been spent in communication with vendors as well as Library staff in an effort to establish a new ordering process. We are pleased to say that our department has put more than 17,000 new Print and Media materials on the shelves of all four Great Neck Library locations. We also proudly announce that our department has entered more than 9,000 new titles in the library catalog. We make GALE resources available with just one click. More than 30 records were downloaded in the catalog with links to the resource in the database. We oversee the Overdrive service, so patrons are able to download their favorite titles on their devices anywhere with an Internet connection. More than 500 records were downloaded this year.

The department updated more than 28,843 physical/online items in 2019. We also update all “Coming Soon” lists as we add any new titles to our collection. This allows patrons to place a hold on their favorite title when it becomes available. The department also assisted with organizing two book sales in 2019. This responsibility included arranging the sale space as well as assisting patrons during the sale.

The regular passes for the other museums are still available for pick up and return at Main and Parkville. Our new interlibrary loan systems went live in 2019. Patrons now have access to all of Long Island’s libraries (LI-Link) and libraries country-wide (OCLC).

Thanks to our Computer Department for installing lasers that will read your library card from your personal device. Patrons can load their library cards onto their smartphones, etc., and the laser will read the barcode. No need to carry your card!

Our museum passes are continuing to go virtual. Participating museums now offer printable, one-time-use only passes that patrons can access from home. Wait time for these virtual passes has been reduced significantly.

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Technical Services supports the mission of the Great Neck Library by acquiring, organizing, providing bibliographical access to and preserving the library’s traditional collection.

Arifa Shuja, Senior Librarian
January saw Justin A. Crossfox take over as Branch Head of our beloved Station Branch. Then later in the year, the incomparable Lisa Wu Stowe came as our full-time Children’s Librarian! Together, along with the amazing staff, many new initiatives and programs have begun. Even with new events on our horizons, Station has continued to provide a high level of service (in a high volume capacity), and maintained programs which have become staples of the branch and community.

Station is very proud to continue its well-liked and well-attended programs in partnership with the Performance Poets Association. We have meetings with readings the first Saturday of every month. Our Thursday afternoon matinee encores also are quite a big draw - many thanks to Pam Levin for her curation of the series. Our English Conversation group, run by the wonderful Barbara Buckley, remains popular, as does our weekly Scrabble group. The West Egg Book Club has moved from the first to the last Tuesday evening of the month, and has lively discussions regarding the many issues brought to light from our wide array of novels. We are very excited to see these programs continue to grow and thrive, and look forward to their continuations in the coming year.

The month of June saw a month-long series of programming based on the Muppets, and our other locations joined us in the celebration. Thanks to Adam Hinz, the branch participated in the Craft for a Cause program in 2019. We will also re-work and expand it into a weekly drop-in program in which anyone can create greeting cards for children in the hospital. Other new programs from the year which will be continuing into the next are Station’s Stitchers, a cross-stitch group, and our Lanyard Club.

The Station Branch has also added a Manga collection this year, and expanded its breadth of graphic novels. Many thanks to Tracy Van Dyne for her help in these efforts to bring important pop culture touchstones to our branch.

We are incredibly excited and anticipating a wonderful 2020!

Parkville: The Parkville Branch is not only a building that collects manuscripts, publications, and other materials for reading, viewing, listening, study, or reference. But it is a pillar of the community that provides storyline, technology help, and health and fitness.

Parkville saw many changes this year with the departure of Irene Winkler and the hire of its new branch head Egita Johnson-Guillaume in the fall. While Parkville still awaits its renovation, the branch went through a small but modern facelift. The cash register, which was located in the middle of the desk, has now relocated to the right side of the desk, allowing more room for our patrons to check out on the circulation desk. The branch is also excited about its new 3D printer. Staff received training, and in 2020 we will be welcoming all patrons to book appointments to learn how the 3D printer works.

Sheila Cursio, one of our Children’s librarians, was featured on St. John’s University’s website for her Knitting and Crocheting Circle held here on Thursday evenings. The circle started with just six people and now has 22 regulars attending the program. This year, the group delivered 43 hats to an ongoing collection for the St. John’s University Midnight Run, distributed to those in need. They’ve also provided 12 blankets to local veterans. Any future donations planned?

The Children’s room has been booming throughout the year with new and exciting programs such as Baby Ballet and 60 Second Challenge. Baby Ballet is fun and interactive while including ballet warm-up, storyline, and choreography to famous, recognizable music such as Disney’s Aladdin’s “A Whole New World.” The 60 Second Challenge is a Minute to Win It-style game that brings sports and fitness classes right to our patrons!

Our beloved Sunshine the Giraffe spent Halloween and the remainder of the year dressed as Elsa from the movie Frozen, in honor of its sequel Frozen 2. Children and their families love entering the Children’s room and asking what outfit will Sunshine be sporting next.

Lakeville: 2019 showed just how much good the little branch that can, can do. With our hard-working staff and engaged community, we have been able to grow our Branch.

Lakeville is known for its friendliness and service. This is only possible because of our phenomenal staff; our Circulation team Mina, Farah, Kara, Tong, Nancy, Eugene, Julia, Candice and Allen as well as our Librarians Lisa, Jennifer, Barbara, Marleen, Jill, Mij and Camille.

Children have been able to enjoy a variety of new vendor programming at the branch including Sweet Treats, STEM Sessions, Paint Nites and Storytellers. 2019 saw Lakeville continuing fan favorites including Creative Corner and Story Crafts, as well as the introduction of our weekly drop-in storytime Lakeville Listeners. We’re looking forward to even more children’s programming in 2020!

Sticks in the Stacks has continued their charitable work, creating projects for national organizations Hat not Hate, Warm up America, and Knitting Without Borders. Additionally, the group turned their projects towards the community, creating 30 Twiddlemuffs through the Jewish Community Center, blankets for Cohen’s Children’s Hospital and handmade items for the outreach pantry at St. Aloysius.

Lakeville Literary Club has reached its 10-year anniversary! If you’re looking for curated selections and active discussions, the Club is looking for you!

Lakeville’s beloved giraffe, Raffe, went through dozens of outfit changes this year including Spidey Raffe, an Alien, and Raffe Bader Ginsberg. Stay tuned for more outfits in 2020!

2019 closed with a bang for the branch as we closed November 4th for painting and cleaning. Upon reopening ahead of schedule on November 16th, our patrons have been loving the fresh color, new computers, and updated furniture. The update to the branch would not have been possible without the support from the Library’s Board of Trustees and Administration, especially Acting Director Tracy Van Dyne.

Lakeville capped off 2019 with our 3rd nomination for Best Library on Long Island. We’re looking to 2020 with clear eyes and a can-do attitude for what’s to come!

Respectfully submitted, in alphabetical order:

Justin A. Crossfox, MLS; Egita Johnson, MLS; Alana J. Mutum, MLS, MPA

Branch Heads