Weihua Yan

I would be remiss if I say that I hadn’t hoped for an end to the pandemic by now when I wrote my last annual report one year ago. Instead, we are still wearing masks and keeping our social distance. Nevertheless, no amount of social distancing is keeping patrons away from our branches and using our online programming and other e-services. The pandemic has only accentuated the fact that the library is a magnet that keeps the community together. It is heart-warming to see the Main Library teeming with people, from toddlers playing in the Children’s Room, to students taking up spaces on the mezzanine, and others taking advantage of our new computers or browsing our comfortable reading areas.

People often ask me what I learned about being a trustee that I didn’t know before I was elected to the board. The last four years have taught me that a library is more than just its buildings and materials within. Our dedicated staff is the soul of our library. Despite many challenges, they have innovated with new programming and found new ways to engage and serve our patrons. We have kept all branches open and have returned to our pre-pandemic service hours. We successfully renovated the Station Branch on-time and within budget. Amazingly, we accomplished these feats despite the significant shortage of staff. While the pandemic presented many unprecedented obstacles, the lessons we learned will only help our library prepare for future challenges and be better at serving our patrons in the years to come.

2021 is a year of transition for the Great Neck Library. As we battle challenges brought on by the pandemic, we are welcoming the return of Denise Corcoran as our director. There are many challenges facing community libraries, and Great Neck is no exception. I believe that she has the right temperament and experience to lead the library in the decades to come. Additionally, the board has focused on reevaluating internal processes and simplifying our policy manual. While this is still ongoing, I am happy to report that the overhaul has simplified many processes and restored much of the independence back to the director. This change will undoubtedly help Denise be more effective in managing library affairs.

In the last three years, we witnessed two library elections whose turnout has far exceeded any in years past with voting lines occasionally stretching around the building. While it is satisfying to see people passionate about our library, it is important to understand that ideological differences should not divide us and damage the library’s reputation. The library should be a place for not only information, but also unity. It should be a place where everyone is welcomed and all are treated equally. In this charged environment, I hope everyone can temper their political views and be understanding of others. Rather than let our differences divide us, we should celebrate our diverse community. Let our library be an oasis in today’s environment of grave mistrust of government and authority, erosion of objective information, and decline in civility and civil engagements.

As I conclude my tenure on the board, I want to thank my fellow trustees for their tireless effort in volunteering for the community. For the greater community, I want to thank you for your continued support.

Kathleen Gold, Treasurer

Treasurer’s Report

I am pleased to report that Great Neck Library finances remain on solid footing. At the close of business, November 30, 2021, total general fund holdings were $1,957,361 of which $1,539,543 was on deposit at HSBC; $415,848 at US Bank (as Trustee for the DASNY bonds) and $1,976 in Petty Cash at Main and the Branches. This compares to a November 2020 balance of $2,121,462.

Additionally, the cash balance of the Main Building and Special Services fund was $728,439; the DASNY Construction fund was $411,726; the Restricted Gift fund was $275,342; the Landscaping fund was $1,733,117; the Branch and Special Services fund was $828,625; the Automated Library fund was $242,952; and the Bond Retirement fund was $3,745,000. These funds totaled $7,965,201 on November 30, 2021. The November 2020 total was $7,756,725.

2021 has seen the following accomplishments:
• The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2021 resulted in a net operating overage of $99,749. The 2022 Audit Committee will be making recommendations to the Board for the disposition of these funds.
• Zero audit findings for the fourth 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,
Kathleen Gold, Treasurer

Weihua Yan, President
Liman Mimi Hu, Vice President
Dr. Barry Smith, Secretary
Kathleen Gold, Treasurer
Scott Sontag, Assistant Treasurer
Josephine Mairzadeh, Trustee

2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Throughout 2021, the Board of Trustees and staff worked to find ways to continue to offer services to the community. Due to the pandemic, only curbside pickup, services by appointment, online library card applications, expanded homebound services, and virtual programming were available at the beginning of the year. In April, when conditions allowed, browsing by appointment was added. When our buildings were finally able to reopen without appointments, staff were grateful to be able to meet with and serve patrons in person once again. Staff were able to offer some limited outdoor in-person programming at Main and Parkville. Outdoor theater forum shows were produced by Levels.

On October 15, 2021, we welcomed the community to the newly renovated Station Branch with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The new space includes a computer area, open seating, quiet study room, meeting room, Children’s Room, and makerspace. The Children’s Room has a soft seating area with natural light and a story time area. The colors throughout the branch are bright. The newly renovated space will allow more versatility in programming and services for a better patron experience.

The renovation plans for Parkville were approved by the New York State Department of Education and sent out for bid. Bids were received, opened, and reviewed. As we await further action, staff continues to provide quality services and programming to the community.

New shelving was added to Main which has enabled us to move materials from the bookroom to the shelves. This has helped to create ease of browsing. It has also given an opportunity to better showcase our collection. This is most apparent in the Children’s Room where our young patrons have been delighted at the addition of so many books.

After several months of closure due to mechanical failure and lengthy supply chain disruptions, repairs were completed and Lakeville reopened. Although closed for several months, Lakeville staff continued to offer virtual programming of their popular programs and helped to staff Main.

We continued to work with our community partners in the Great Neck School District, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and the Great Neck Garden Club. The library and community stakeholders participated in the time capsule project to gather and preserve items from this unique time and secure them for future viewing years from now.

Unfortunately, we still have not seen an end to the pandemic and we still face challenges, such as mask mandates and social distancing guidelines. We have had to rearrange workspaces and have had to learn new workflows.

As we await further action, staff continues to provide new workflows.

As we await further action, staff continues to provide quality services and programming to the community.

As I reflect on all of the changes and accomplishments at the library in 2021, I am reminded of the innovative staff who worked tirelessly to provide services despite the pandemic. They reached out to patrons and added as many services as possible. I am reminded of the Board of Trustees who voluntarily gave their time to ensure that the library continued to meet and serve the needs of our community. I am reminded of our patrons who have demonstrated patience and understanding as we navigated the many changes that the pandemic brought. I am grateful to those community members who shared their ideas and gave input at meetings, through letters, and through emails. Their participation has been valuable to the library and the community.

Thank you to all who committed their time, resources, talents, and abilities to Great Neck Library. I look forward to our continued collaboration and success.

Respectfully yours,

Denise Corcoran, Director

The Great Neck Library through the years. From left to right: 540 Middle Neck Road (1892-1907); 14 Arrandale Avenue, now the Great Neck House (1907-69); 159 Bayview Avenue, now the Main Building (1970-present)
by the numbers

Circulation of Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Check-outs</th>
<th>Check-ins</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAIN</td>
<td>176,025</td>
<td>137,768</td>
<td>313,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKEVILLE</td>
<td>14,188</td>
<td>12,796</td>
<td>26,984</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARKVILLE</td>
<td>20,604</td>
<td>25,230</td>
<td>45,834</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATION</td>
<td>16,570</td>
<td>19,668</td>
<td>36,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>227,387</td>
<td>195,462</td>
<td>422,849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library Cardholders

Adult Resident: 25,014
Junior Resident (K-6): 6,756
Non-Resident: 2,261
**TOTAL: 34,031**

New Cards Issued

Adult Resident: 2,000
Junior Resident (K-6): 770
Non-Resident: 80
**TOTAL: 2,850**

Cards Renewed: 3,395

Homebound Services

Deliveries: 112
Items Delivered: 296

Reserves & Interloans

Placed: 69,581
Filled: 194,495

Computer Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>USAGE (via PickTime)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>LAKEVILLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARKVILLE</td>
<td>1,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATION</td>
<td>1,466</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>9,842</td>
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Library Appointments

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<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>APPOINTMENTS (via PickTime)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>LAKEVILLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARKVILLE</td>
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<td>STATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>9,015</td>
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Library Programs

<table>
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<th>PROGRAMS</th>
<th><strong>PROGRAMS</strong></th>
<th><strong>ATTENDEES</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>8,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s*</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>11,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teens*</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>7,481</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEM Lab</td>
<td>1,375</td>
<td>4,431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family/All Ages</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>3,685</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,326</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,681</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Website visits:

275,082 (sessions only)
Another year is drawing to an end and it’s a good time to summarize our accomplishments and make plans for the future.

Our Summer Reading Program continues to expand. This year more than 160 adults participated and 26 of them became eligible for special awards for reading and reviewing four books.

In anticipation of getting extra circulation shelving and to make the most requested books more accessible to library patrons, members of the Reference Department completed a number weeding and reorganizing projects. Many popular non-fiction titles were moved from storage to the main floor, while titles less popular were transferred to storage.

In an effort to accommodate patrons looking for Fantasy fiction, a decision was made to separate them into an independent section located on the main floor next to Science Fiction. To this end, special stickers have been applied to Fantasy books.

A number of successful wellness programs were conducted by a member of the Reference Department, Mimi Rabizadeh. These programs covered the following topics: “Journey to True Self”, “Happiness Prescription: Principles and Practices for Inner Happiness”, “The Power of Awareness”, “Healing Habits: Build and Strengthen Spiritual Connections Daily”, “Befriending Yourself: Awareness of Body, Thoughts and Emotions” to name just a few.

The Great Neck History Collection, supervised by Christy Orquera, is thriving. A special grant was obtained to digitize Nassau County telephone books presently on microfilm. An extensive archive of one of the local organizations, Women Space, became part of the collection.

Under the guidance of our librarians, Reference clerk Jamie Eckartz put together a number of attractive book displays which helped promote our rich book collection.

It was a productive year and we are looking forward to accomplishing even more in 2022.

Irina Zaionts, Head of Reference

We have returned to full capacity at the Library - after a long lockdown and much time spent working from home, 2021 saw a return of the patrons to the stacks. Our Overdrive collection has grown immensely due to rejoining the Nassau Library System. We have increased our electronic catalog threefold, adding their collection to ours. This is a great enrichment for our Great Neck patrons’ selections. All the while I have been adding additional copies and circulations per unit to decrease the wait time on items with heavy holds. This has been working out fabulously.

RBdigital, featuring streaming platforms from Acorn, Qello, Great Courses, Indieflix, Learn It Live, and Method Test Prep was sold and disbanded, and many were moved to Overdrive. We have added Indieflix (independent movies), Qello (live musical performance), Great Courses and Artistworks (music instrument instruction) from Overdrive. Hoopla saw 556 new users with 14,618 total circulations and 100% borrows with zero wait time. This year Kanopy had 8,685 plays. The patrons love the flexibility they have between the hard copy, electronic and streaming resources we offer. Very rarely are we not able to fulfill the patron's wishes.

My film discussion is growing nicely. We have a steady group of participants from all over. They love the films we discuss and enjoy each other's insight and company.

The Media Department has had some staffing changes. Kashmira Shah, Senior Media Clerk, retired after a 30-year long career at Great Neck Library. Ryan Sullivan was promoted to full-time circulation clerk, Debbi Tierney has been promoted to full-time media clerk and Karen Trager has been promoted from shelver to part-time media clerk. If I can replace Debbi's part-time hours I will again be working with a full staff.

I am enjoying my time here at Great Neck Library and also loving my job.

Respectfully Submitted,
Camille Di Pietro, Media Librarian
Throughout 2021, the Adult Programming and Publicity Department at the Great Neck Library remained completely integrated into the new normal with a full schedule of virtual programs. We stayed in contact with our community via our website, social media, e-mail blasts and local newspapers, sharing updates on program offerings and happenings at the library. The community was Zoom proficient and continued to rely on the department for quality programs that inspire, educate and feed their spirit. Attendance at virtual programs began to exceed that of live programs, allowing unlimited numbers of patrons and guests to participate from their homes – and that they did! The schedule remained robust with diverse programming in Wellness, Adult Literacy, Community Conversations, Art, Creativity, Game Instruction, History and Current Events, Environmental Awareness and Outreach with various local institutions.

Our 2021 lecture series covered a wide variety of topics in the arts, cultural and timely events. Highlights included: A Visit to the Barnes, Los Angeles Museum, Artist Colonies of NY and multiple art lectures on current exhibits in museums. We learned of key people in our times including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Misty Copeland, Wassily Kandinsky, Fiorello La Guardia, Madame Curie, Philip Guston, Louise Bourgeois, Baryshnikov, Basquiat, and Frank Lloyd Wright. Multiple lectures on events in our history included The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, the Golden Age of NY Baseball, Hollywood and the Movies, The Declaration of Independence, Supreme Court Decisions and many other lectures relating to our democracy. Community Outreach continued in 2021 with our Shoe Drive partnering with the Baker School, as well as our annual Pet Food/Supply Drive. We were able to continue to offer the Nassau Tax Assessment program workshop live this year, to assist the community with tax adjustments. In 2021, the Great Neck Library joined the Nassau Libraries Health Share, and collaborated with other Nassau libraries to share lectures on wellness and outreach. We also had our first Paper Shredding Event in the spring that did so well we offered another in the fall!

Highlights of 2021 author visits include Michael Hartnett discussing his book Memorable Building and Streetscapes of New York, and Esther Amini discussing her popular biography Concealed. Poets Alan Walowitz and Betsy Mars joined us during poetry month for a reading from their new chapbook and Ben Katchor discussed his popular graphic novel, The Dairy Restaurant.

Great Neck alumnus Larry Weitzman spoke about writing Ghost Rendition and Marie Ruggles shared her smart health sense on How to Optimize Your Immune System. Scott Seligman explained the details of history from his title The Great Kosher Meat War, and Carl Safina discussed our connection to animals in his popular book Becoming Wild.

We offered virtual concerts as well as Music Education to the community. Canta Libre Chamber Ensemble performed virtually and Leon Burnette gave a lecture and music education titled Why They Sang the Blues: Civil Rights in the Mississippi Delta. Napoleon Revels-Bey gave us a musical lecture titled Al Andalusia to Dizzy – Drums and Movement included!

Our monthly series continued virtually and remained popular throughout the year. Topics covered in our series included Home Improvement, Mahjongg and Canasta instruction and Creative Writing. The monthly discussions at Socrates Salon continue to inspire dialogue that opens the perception of the group on the chosen topic for each month. In the wellness corner, weekly day and evening Yoga continues to be popular, as does the Allies in Wellness discussion series on cutting-edge modalities in wellness.

In 2021, live art exhibitions returned in the Lower Level Gallery. We began with an exhibition of illustrative pop culture works of fellow staff member Laura Helen Sweeney; followed by Great Neck resident, Raisy Derzie’s exhibition titled Out of Isolation. In the fall, the Art League of Nassau County exhibited the work of their talented artists and our final exhibition is the work of the artists from Manhasset Art Association titled A Return to Art.

I’d like to thank the Great Neck community for your interest, curiosity and engagement, for the Adult programs offered in 2021. I’d also like to thank the PR/Programming Department, Cindy Simeti and Debbie Feldman for supporting and getting the word out on all the events at the library. We are fortunate to be in a community with a library that values life learning.

Lastly, I’d like to honor Debbie as she starts her new chapter into retirement. She has been an integral staff member of the Great Neck Library for more than 20 years wearing many hats. It has been a pleasure to work with Debbie in the PR/Programming Department and I know she will be missed by staff and those in the community who know her. Best to you as you venture into retirement!

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

Our Youth Services and Technology programs continue to adapt by offering virtual programs, outdoor programs, socially-distanced indoor programs, grab-and-go activities, and by-appointment services.

Levels/Jr. Levels: And we’re back! Levels was thrilled to be able to offer our first in-person show since December 2019. To continue to prioritize safety, the summer performance was held outdoors on three lovely summer evenings. It was magical for the teens and staff to participate in live theater with a live audience once again. In addition to our in-person performance of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, the Levels theater program worked on four other performances in 2021.

Under the mentorship of Barry Weil, our other student-created mainstage shows included our first ever live-on-Zoom musical, Schoolhouse Rock Live, and the classic comedy Arsenic & Old Lace. We are also proud to have presented two “Next Stage” workshops of original student plays, mentored by Jonelle Robinson. The first, Sheamus’s Tragedy, was a Zoom production, and the second show, In Spite of You, was presented live on stage and also livestreamed to viewers across the Internet thanks to Mike Meehan’s tech expertise.

Under the direction of Levels Manager, Jamie LaGasse, Levels (grades 7 and up) and Jr. Levels (grades 5 and 6) have continued to offer weekday programs and weekend events. We’ve run game nights, theatre workshops, music classes, writing and drawing sessions, craft nights, and so much more. We have partnered with local schools for gaming and trivia nights, and visited Great Neck South Middle School to promote Library Card Sign-Up Month in September. In addition, while the library was still closed to the public, Levels continued to provide daily virtual workshops and events, including craft pickup kits.

Levels has invited special guests to visit the teens of Great Neck for in-person and virtual events, including the 501st Legion, artists, authors, and even a magician. They partnered with the Crime Victims Center to offer classes on cyber safety awareness, hate crimes prevention, and relationship safety.

The teens of our community are tremendously talented, and many of them offer to lead workshops for their peers or younger students, including ukulele classes, a robotics club, writing classes, debate clubs, and a scholar club!

Levels continues to partner with other departments, and has worked with the STEM Lab to offer tech-themed classes to teens. In addition, Levels has collaborated with our Children’s department to create a seasonal mural, puppetry performance, and offer a teen-led storytime!

Young Adult: The library’s Young Adult Librarian, Courtney Greenblatt, continued to offer programs on college readiness, literacy, and more!

One of the programs we offered our Young Adult patrons, The Price We Pay for College, was run in partnership with the Great Neck South High School Guidance department. Other college-readiness workshops included study skills, college admissions, career exploration, and more. Besides academic programs, we also offered programs to empower teens. In collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, our Young Adult Librarian offered a program called Stand Up, Speak Out: Finding Your Inner Activist.

Some of our literacy-based and creative programs included author events, including a five-author panel, a program on graphic novels, and creative kits that could be picked up from the library.

We ran a successful Teen Summer Challenge that encouraged teens to take advantage of a variety of library services, and introduced them to our digital services, social media profiles, and programs!

STEM Lab: The STEM Lab was thrilled to collaborate with many community partners this year. We offered programs on digital animation and video game design for all of the students in the Great Neck Elementary Remote Program (ERP). In addition, we offered similar programs for in-person students. We partnered with the Boy Scouts on the Pine Derby event, and offered workshops to the Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Great Neck Garden Club.

In 2021, the STEM Lab incorporated some new equipment into our space, including a Digital Embroidery machine and mug press. These creative tools have allowed us to offer programs for groups, as well as individuals by-appointment. Many of these programs have been offered by Emerging Technologies Librarian, Jamie Poland.

Chris Van Wickler continues to promote the STEM Lab as a leading institution in Long Island libraries. He has run classes for Long Island Library Resource Council on augmented reality, virtual reality, and mixed reality, as well as 3D design.

We look forward to continuing to provide virtual programs, in-person programs, and by-appointment services for 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

2021 has been a year in which we have built upon our lessons from 2020, and come back with new strength and enthusiasm. We would like to thank our community, residents, and schools for their support in serving our children.

Over the course of the year, we saw several staffing changes. After the July departure of Michelle Minervini, Rachel Sferlazza joined as Head of Children’s Services in August 2021. We have also welcomed several new staff members in late November 2021. I would like to personally thank our wonderful staff for all of their thoughtful ideas, creativity, and dedication to the Library: librarians Judy, Kat, Judy, Lisa, Jen, Christina and Serimatie; Circulation clerks Nefertaria, Graciela, Julia, Rose, Candice, Lisa, Lizandra and Iris.

Recognizing the changes in our patrons’ needs, Children’s staff went above and beyond to go past the walls of the library to ensure community connections to the Library. During the 2020-21 remote school year, Michelle Minervini, Parkville Children’s Librarian Kat, and Youth Services Coordinator Adam Hinz remotely visited students across the district to show them the Library’s great resources. Between class visits, collaborations with our teachers, and other off-site events, we demonstrated the Library’s commitment to education in all forms. In September 2021, Adam and I collaborated to ensure that every family in Great Neck Public Schools has the ability to apply for a library card online. A library card is a passport to knowledge in many forms, from digital streaming services to attending our fabulous programs, and I am thrilled to welcome our new card holding families to our Great Neck Library family! I would personally like to thank our School Media Specialists for their enthusiasm and collaborative spirit.

Despite the challenges the pandemic has brought us, we have also had the opportunity to innovate and create new forms of programming that are both educational and fun. In February, we were able to welcome acclaimed graphic novel author Kazu Kibuishi for a virtual visit, as well as a virtual puppet show created by the teens of Levels. Once again, this year we partnered with the Queens County Farm Museum to bring back pumpkins for our annual take-and-make decorating event. Simply Creative Chef Rob Scott and Choctolicious brought us wonderful baking and cooking programs, to show that even our youngest of friends can prepare a delicious dessert. Online trivia challenges were a popular way for children to show off their knowledge.

Our 2021 Summer Reading Club this year had more than doubled its participation compared to 2020. This year, as part of our digital club using Beanstack, children could enter passwords to earn extra raffle tickets towards fabulous prizes; the passwords could be obtained by visiting the Library or attending a program. School-age children logged their books read to earn prizes, and our youngest patrons in the Smart Start program participated in literacy-building activity challenges each week. We also debuted this year a multi-generational Summer Viewing Olympics, in which participants could review media to earn raffle tickets. This was a clever and novel way to motivate multiple forms of literacy, and encourage families to spend time and participate together. We would like to thank Lakeville Branch Head Alana for her work in bringing this club to fruition. In tandem with our Summer Reading Club, the Library hosted a number of fun outdoor events for children. We offered weekly fitness classes, bilingual storytimes, scavenger hunts, and even a live circus show. These programs were a pleasure to run, and we were thrilled to see our families attending them!

In terms of programming, over the course of the year, we transitioned from entirely remote offerings, to take-and-make, to in-person outdoor events, and, beginning in November, in-person indoor events. Each step in this gradual return to “normalcy” has been done with utmost care, to ensure the safety and well-being of our youngest patrons. In the fall, we have had an increasing number of in-person programs, including indoor events. We had weekly parent-child yoga classes, science experiments, musical performances, and even animal shows! Most importantly, though, we’ve seen a number of new faces, as well as familiar friends returning to the Library in greater numbers, and are thrilled to welcome them in for all the wonderful events and services we offer. These programs have been well-received by our community, and we look forward to offering even more in 2022!

Throughout 2021, Children’s has collaborated with our colleagues across departments to standardize our catalog and our collection. We have worked with Technical Services to inventory and re-label books so they can be found more easily. I am excited to report that we installed new shelving in the Children’s Room in mid-November, which will allow greater access to the collection. We’ve continued to collaborate with the creative and clever Levels teens, beyond our February virtual show, to paint a fall mural for us, and host another puppet show, in-person, during our December school recess. I would like to thank our wonderful colleagues and volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication.

Overall, 2021 has been a year for us to learn and grow with our families, and deliver services in multiple modalities. The Children’s Services staff and I are looking forward to seeing you in the new year!

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Sferlazza, MSLIS, Head of Children’s Services
The Circulation Department was at the forefront in the Library’s struggle with COVID-19 this past year. We continued to provide and expand services as best we could, including curbside pickup, online library card applications, expanded homebound deliveries and extended expiration dates.

As the crisis began to ease, we opened the Circulation Desks, first by appointment, then in general to patrons seeking indoor services. We continued our interloan and LILINK services to such an extent that we were running at a rate of nearly 50% of pre-COVID numbers. (Remarkable when one thinks of how many other businesses closed completely.) We helped to clean up the database and eliminate inactive patron and item accounts. We welcomed back our full membership with the Nassau Library System and re-established the delivery and interloan systems. The department worked with the head of Technical Services, James Pagano, to help develop our new library mobile app and Vega catalog system.

As we all continue to heal together, the Circulation staff is looking to expand our interloan services even more, continue with our app’s development, revamp the way we process our reserved materials, re-evaluate our fine structure and overdue notices, and examine all the policies and procedures, some of which are more than 35 years old.

I would like to thank the clerical staff at the Main Library for their invaluable help during this trying time. Nothing would have been accomplished without them. We look forward to a bright future serving our community and welcome all input.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicholas Camastro, Head of Circulation

In 2021 we bid farewell to a few of our longtime colleagues, who have since retired from the Great Neck Library - Kashmira Shah, Senior Media Clerk (30 years), Margie Chodosch, Head of Reference (42 years), Debbie Feldman, Programming & Editorial Assistant (21 years) and Irina Zaionts, Head of Reference (26 years). We thank them for their years of service to the Great Neck community and wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives!

2021 was a momentous year for the Great Neck Library. From virtual visits with award-winning authors to outdoor stage performances and programs - even a branch renovation and ribbon cutting - we continue to go above and beyond to enrich our community with safety for all in mind due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
The Technical Services Department has continued to efficiently order, receive, catalog, and process all materials for the Great Neck Library in spite of the challenges brought on in the last year. This ensures that the items get to the patrons as quickly as possible, and with the most accurate information in our database.

We receive, catalog, process and deliver materials to the shelves of all four locations from multiple vendors. These vendors include Midwest Tapes, Baker and Taylor, Ingram, Brodart, and GALE. The department has continued to work with Baker and Taylor on our Shelf Ready services. We have received several orders from the shelf ready adult and children’s accounts throughout the year.

With regard to digital materials, we have continued to add records in our catalog for OverDrive and Hoopla. In January, we joined the Nassau Library System’s OverDrive consortia so that we could access their eBooks, eAudiobooks, and digital periodicals. We were able to add an additional 60,000 Nassau titles to our Sierra database.

We have continued working with Christy in the Local History Room where we are cataloging files, data, and photographs so that our patrons can find these materials in our catalog.

Since cataloging standards and processes have changed how our materials were originally processed, we have continued to re-catalog and label various collections in the library to ensure for better finding of materials both online and in person. This allows for greater accuracy and standardization, both on the physical items and in our catalog.

To that end, when the Station Branch was being renovated, we collected over 4,000 items to shelve here at Main, enabling these materials to be available to the public during the renovation. We were able to fix many old labels and re-catalog these items. Before the branch reopened, my staff and I spent some time there correcting additional catalog errors and also to assist with the reopening of the location.

In April, we negotiated a new 3-year contract with Innovative, the company that hosts our Sierra database. I thank Garry, Nick, George, and Steve for working with me on these negotiations. With this new contract, we added four new products: Mobile Worklists and Decision Center are staff tools that will help us inventory our collection and generate specific statistics; Vega is a new catalog that will eventually replace Encore. With this new catalog, various formats of individual titles will “rollup” into one page to make for easier browsing. Innovative Mobile is a patron app for smartphones and tablets where they can access all of our resources as well as use a digital library card with convenience. The team of Alana, Nicholas, Cindy, and Arifa worked tirelessly throughout the summer alongside Innovative staff to make sure that these new products performed all the functions necessary to best serve the community.

I would like to thank all of my staff for their hard work throughout the year, including Arifa, Marie, Jennifer, Wanda, Rose, Lisa, and Jennifer. I would also like to thank Justin and Doreen who worked with us in the department during the Station closure.

We look forward to another year working closely with our colleagues to ensure the best service to the public.

James Pagano, Technical Services Manager
Branch Reports

Parkville:
Though 2021 brought many changes to the branch, one thing never wavered: the caring, creative, and service-oriented approach of our staff members. These qualities may be seen in the work of clerical staff member Doris Pinzon, librarian Sheila Cursio, and full-time clerk Faye Toy. In addition, I would like to thank clerks Lisa Barnes, Iris Elledge, Nancy Henigson, Tong Li, Katie Lin, Lily Nandi, and Nick Pontolillo, and librarian Ian Bloomfield for their incredibly hard work on our inventory project, in partnership with Technical Services Manager James Pagano.

Children's Librarian Judy Snow joined the Parkville staff in June from Main. Judy has brought a strong devotion to outreach with her, conducting class visits with the Parkville School next door and partnering with local organizations like the Alley Pond Environmental Center. Her babyslimes, STEAM Storycrafts, and bilingual storytimes have also been STEAM Storycrafts, the partnering with local organizations like the next door and outreach with her, conducting class visits Judy has brought a strong devotion to the Parkville staff in June from Main. 

The year started with a transformation from fear to hope as the vaccine rollout started through the country. Here at Station, we were helping those in the earliest phases (our most vulnerable neighbors and patrons) with the arduous task of navigating the State and local sites. We also maintained a steady flow of patrons using our computers to interact with state agencies. Many of us became incredibly adept at helping our public get their documents together, scanned, and uploaded in order to maintain licenses and certifications.

As we moved into March, we were almost universally overjoyed that staff was finally going to be eligible for vaccinations. Hope was spreading faster than the virus, and with our immunities boosted, we were able to bring back more services. We maintained our “curbside” pickup (or “stair-side” in our case), and opened our doors to browsing sans appointments.

We began forming our cocoon and entered our chrysalis after Memorial Day. The Station Branch staff gathered and prepped our space for our next transformation. Then, after having summered at the Main Library, we emerged transformed in October.

The runup to Station’s Reopening was exciting and thrilling. There was much work to be done, and the Station staff dove in to set the stage for the public’s return. The Technical Services department played an integral role in getting us ready to cut the ribbon on October 15, 2021.

So here we end our transformative year. In our newly renovated space, eagerly serving the public. It has been wonderful welcoming back our regulars, and introducing the Station Branch and its services to those who had not yet experienced our wonderful branch.

I am grateful to return to Parkville as its Acting Branch Head, and look forward to seeing what the next year brings.

Station:
As 2021 draws to a close, it is impossible not to notice just how transformative this year has been to us all. Though, it must be noted, the Station Branch’s transformation has been more comprehensive than many others.

We’ve rearranged our collections to ensure our curbside pickup area remains easily accessible for curbside pickup, introduced monthly grab-and-go craft bags for children and families, and brought back our Crossword Puzzles. For our patrons stopping in for longer visits, Lakeville continues to offer computer appointments, reference and readers advisory assistance for all ages.

The most popular Lakeville programs remained virtual through 2021. Lakeville Literary Club enjoyed monthly discussions of popular titles throughout the year. Sticks in the Stacks, led by staff members Mina and Jamil, have also held grab-and-go donation drives where registered participants have been able to pick up supplies to create handmade knitted and crocheted items for donation to Veterans, Midnight Runs and other local institutions.

Additionally, Lakeville introduced The Great Give Back Cardmaking in the fall as another community service opportunity. 50 teen participants throughout the year have earned over 1,000 service hours through their participation in our events.

Service at Lakeville Branch ran into a roadblock with the ventilation system breaking down in August. I would like to thank Administration and our Maintenance Department for their dedication to bringing the branch back for service in the wake of COVID-related shipping delays. Despite service going offline at the branch, the branch was nominated for Best Library on Long Island for the 5th time in a row! It is still an honor and a privilege to be nominated each year.

I would like to thank our Circulation team Mina, Farah, Katie, Tong, Nancy, Eugene, Julia, Candice and Allen as well as our Librarians Lisa, Jennifer, Barbara, Marleen, Jill, Ian and Camille. They, along with departed staff member Kara, have continued to push the branch forward through everything this year has thrown at us. I am very grateful for their assistance and look forward to continuing our work together in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted, in alphabetical order:
Kat Baumgartner, MLS*; Justin A. Crossfox, MLS; Alana J. Mutum, MLS, MPA
*Acting / Branch Heads
2021 ANNUAL REPORT to the COMMUNITY

for the year ending December 31, 2021

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