2023 Annual Report to the Community

For the year ending December 31, 2023

GREAT NECK LIBRARY
2023 has been a year of challenges met and horizons expanded for the Great Neck Library, further solidifying the Library’s place as a jewel of our community. But just as each year brings its successes, it also leaves work left to be done in the coming year. I am confident that the Library staff and its elected leadership, with the ongoing support of its patrons and taxpayers, will continue to rise to the occasion in 2024.

The year began with the official opening of a major expansion of the Library’s services, the Library of Things. More than just giving patrons the ability to borrow “stuff,” it represents a new application of the Library’s long-standing mission to educate, nurture curiosity, and entertain.

The summer saw the commencement of a major renovation of the Parkville Branch that will give our patrons in the south of the district a “new” Library for all intents and purposes, completely redesigned to enhance users’ experience. It is nearing completion, and in the meantime arrangements were made for Parkville patrons to pick up their holds at the nearby Hillside Public Library and access programs elsewhere.

And in the fall the Library added a third polling site for the annual election of trustees and nominating committee members, at the Great Neck Plaza Village Hall, to make it easier (and quicker to vote). We are extremely grateful to the Village for accommodating us, and also to the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department for letting us use their firehouse as a polling site while Parkville undergoes renovation.

But as I stated at the outset, 2024 will not lack for things left to be done. The most visible is the restoration of the Main Branch’s front steps and other significant capital improvements arising from work that was incorrectly done as part of the Library’s complete renovation several years ago. While lawsuits against the responsible contractors proceed, decisions need to be made about completing these important projects. The Board of Trustees will keep the community updated.

Thank you to the Library’s dedicated and talented staff, to everyone who used the Great Neck Library in 2023, and to every district taxpayer whose funding the Library depends upon. The Library is worth our support in every way possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Rory Lancman, President
As 2023 draws to a close, I would like to thank the community for their continued support of the Great Neck Library. Your support has enabled us to continue to enhance services and bring new initiatives to the community.

In January 2023, we launched the “Library of Things.” This lending library of varied items like telescopes, dolls, binoculars, green screens, cornhole, Cricut Maker 3, etc. adds to the resources available at the Great Neck Library for the community. The addition of the “Library of Things” demonstrates our intentional planning of moving towards greater accessibility of shared resources.

During 2023, we were also able to launch a much-awaited new wireless printing service. Patrons can now send items to our printer station from our computers or from their own devices. The wireless printing stations allow patrons to pay with cash, coin, or credit at the printing station without having to make a separate trip to Circulation. This new wireless system includes a public computer management system which allows our patrons to add time to their session without staff assistance.

Our new ScanEZ station has also been installed. The multilingual interface allows users to switch on-screen text to one of 25 different languages. It has accessibility features of a magnifier, narrator, and high contrast. The ScanEZ station has translation which can convert documents to a user’s choice of over 100 languages. The station includes editing capabilities as well as image enhancement technology to restore old photos, newspapers, and documents.

At long last, renovation of the Parkville branch began. Once complete, our patrons will have access to a newly designed space with additional seating options including window seats, booths, and co-working stations. The new Children’s room will have a new color palette and will be bright and inviting. Glass doors will showcase programming at the branch. We anticipate that the reopening date will be announced soon.

During the Parkville renovation, our neighbors at the Hillside Public Library collaborated with us to be a pick-up location for our patron’s holds. The hospitality of the Hillside Public Library Board of Trustees and the Hillside Public Library staff was extremely helpful to our patrons and is gratefully acknowledged. Since Great Neck Library patrons can use their library card at any Nassau County Library, our patrons were able to visit other libraries, browse, and borrow while Parkville has been closed. Patrons were also able to attend Great Neck Library programming events such as book club meetings at the Town of North Hempstead Clinton G. Martin Community Center.

After the Parkville renovation, our neighbors at the Hillside Public Library collaborated with us to be a pick-up location for our patron’s holds. The hospitality of the Hillside Public Library Board of Trustees and the Hillside Public Library staff was extremely helpful to our patrons and is gratefully acknowledged. Since Great Neck Library patrons can use their library card at any Nassau County Library, our patrons were able to visit other libraries, browse, and borrow while Parkville has been closed. Patrons were also able to attend Great Neck Library programming events such as book club meetings at the Town of North Hempstead Clinton G. Martin Community Center.

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Together, we accomplished many of our goals. Thank you to the Board of Trustees, staff, and community members who have 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

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Treasurer’s Report

I am pleased to report that Great Neck Library finances remain on solid footing.

At the close of business, November 30, 2023, total general fund holdings were $1,495,277 of which $1,053,555 was on deposit at HSBC, $439,752 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 November 2022 balance of $2,066,937.

Additionally, the cash balance of the Main Building and Special Services fund was $1,295,617; the DASNY Construction fund was $437,013; the Restricted Gift fund was $306,946; the Landscaping fund was $1,786,482; the Branch and Special Services fund was $590,921; and the Automated Library fund was $230,650; and the Bond Retirement Fund was $4,239,856. These funds totaled $8,887,485 on November 30, 2023. The November 2022 total was $8,960,008.

2023 has seen the following accomplishments:

• The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2023 resulted in a net operating overage of $74,416.
• Zero audit findings for the sixth 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 the Main Library as well as the branches.

Respectfully submitted,
Liman Mimi Hu, Treasurer

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2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rory Lancman, President
Scott Sontag, Vice President
Kathleen Gold, Secretary
Liman Mimi Hu, Treasurer
Josephine Mairzadeh, Asst. Treasurer
Dr. Barry Smith, Trustee
The Great Neck Library was named the 2023 Best Children’s Library of Nassau County by Blank Slate Media!

We congratulate our Children’s Department staff on this accomplishment and for providing outstanding service to the community.