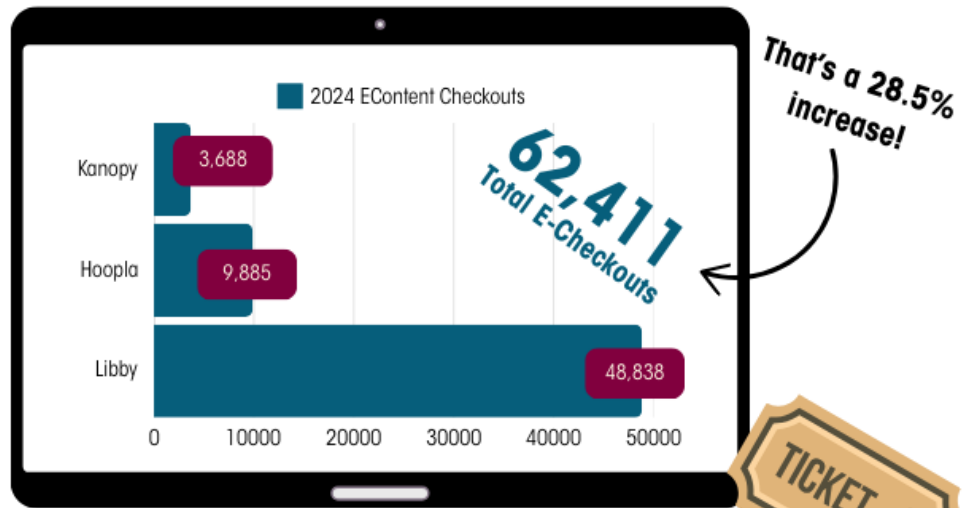


2024 Year in Review



1,181 Library Cards Issued
3rd Highest Ever!

14,592 Reference Questions

616 Museum Pass Checkouts
(23% increase)

Top Books



Top Children's Book



Most Popular Museum Passes

Library of Things Fan Fav



JANUARY

Teas of the Revolution: Talk & Taste

FEBRUARY

World Read Aloud Day

MARCH

Suitable for Framing: A Victorian Woman's Place in Botanic Art & Illustration

APRIL

K.L. Going Storytime

Eclipse Watch!

MAY

Founders' Day: Growing Toward Liberty

JUNE

Music on McFarland presents: The Scooches

JULY

Music on McFarland presents: Oldies, Doo Wop & More!

AUGUST

Christian Cooper Author Talk

Mini Golf

SEPTEMBER

Braver Angels: Bridging the Political Divide

OCTOBER

Music on McFarland presents: Classical Spanish Guitar

Warwick Children's Book Festival

NOVEMBER

Eric Sloane: Art & Americana

DECEMBER

Music on McFarland Presents: The Warwick Valley Choral

Music on McFarland presents: E'lissa Jones

21,049 Patrons Attended Programs

That's a 15% increase over last year!

meet • discover • learn • connect

Throughout the year, AWPL partnered with other local community organizations, including but not limited to Wickham Works, We the People Warwick, Sustainable Warwick, Repair Cafe, Warwick Valley Gardeners, Jewish Family Service of Orange County, Friends of Hathorn House, Warwick Historical Society, Orange County Audubon Society, Warwick Valley Farmers' Market, Warwick Valley Rotary, and the Warwick Valley School District.

Building & Grounds:

In June, we installed two diner booths on the lower level, funded by a generous grant from Assemblyman Karl Brabenec. We then added two new study rooms on the main level in November, with 50% of costs funded by NYS Construction Aid.

We also installed a large digital scanner available for public use. Outside, we planted a flowering dogwood tree donated by the Warwick Valley Gardeners and began work on a pollinator garden funded by Sen. James Skoufis.



AWPL Foundation Support

We had another extraordinary year of support from the AWPL Foundation, including thirteen Music on McFarland concerts (sponsored by Glenn P. and Susan D. Dickes), the expanding Library of Things, the Museum Pass collection (sponsored by Glenn P. and Susan D. Dickes), the annual College Scholarship competition (sponsored by Glenn P. and Susan D. Dickes and one anonymous donor) and a \$30,000 contribution to the Library's operating budget.



Glenn P. & Susan D. Dickes

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



It was another busy year in our Children's Department! We hosted Children's Art Shows featuring our talented young artists, held an Earth Day puppet show and author visit from K.L. Going, welcomed our local fifth graders for a tour, honored our beloved therapy dogs with a bench dedication and celebrated our annual Solstice Walk (brrr!).



From the Director

2024 was a vibrant whirlwind of creativity, discovery and conversation at Albert Wisner Public Library. This annual report to the community highlights some of the year's accomplishments and some of the metrics by which we measure our progress and areas for improvement.

The visible hallmarks of 2024 are the new spaces we created. On the lower level, we installed two diner booths in a previously under-used area. It's now useful meeting space for students and tutors, professionals working remotely, and friends meeting to catch up or brainstorm a new idea. It's gratifying to see the area repurposed so effectively, and we thank Assemblyman Karl Brabenec for underwriting most of the project.

On the main floor, we created two new quiet study/meeting rooms to respond to the community's increased need for private space to conduct a conference call, study in silence or hold small group meetings. Equipped with whiteboards and available to reserve in two-hour increments, these rooms are in constant use throughout the week.

Meanwhile, we collaborated with multiple community organizations, watched the solar eclipse together, launched a new website, began work on a new pollinator garden funded by a grant from Senator James Skoufis, presented thirteen diverse concerts, hosted mini-golf in the stacks, and hosted visits from our local Kindergarten and fifth grade classes. Five hundred children participated in the summer reading program and kept the Children's Room humming all season long. Most of those children and their families joined us again at the Warwick Children's Book Festival, our annual celebration of children's literacy sponsored by Glenn P. and Susan D. Dickes.

I hope you will enjoy this retrospective, and encourage you to share with us your ideas for making the Library even more inviting and relevant to you and your family. Together with the entire staff and Board of Trustees, I thank you for your support. We are honored to serve this community.

Sincerely,

Lisa Laico
Library Director

Board of Trustees

Mark Damia
President

Nora Aman-Gurvich
Vice President

Regina Wittosch
Financial Officer

Colleen Larsen
Secretary

Mary Berrigan
Barbara Johansen
Dr. Wayne Rossi

2024 Highlights



TECHNO ADVANCES

We successfully migrated to a new library circulation software, Koha, on August 5th. In December, we launched the Library's new and improved website.



FOCUS AREAS

In July, we added two diner-style booths on the lower level, followed by two new study rooms on the main level in November.



PASEO DE CUENTO

We presented our first bilingual StoryWalk in 2024, featuring *Emma and the Bees / Ema y las Abejas* by Virginia Mortola.



YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

The Friends of the Library raised \$20,000 in support of the Library's operating budget, via book sales & raffles, & the ever-popular Friends & Bookends used book shop.



BIRD IS THE WORD

We welcomed NYT Bestselling Author Christian Cooper to discuss his memoir, *Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World*.



GONE TO THE DOGS

On February 7th, we dedicated a bench to our beloved therapy dogs and their owners. Thank you for the joy you bring to our young readers!

Generous Donations and Grants

- \$37,000 NYS Construction Aid, for 2 study rooms
- \$20,000 NY Assemblyman Karl Brabenec, for 2 diner booths
- \$20,000 unrestricted donation from the Friends of the Library, raised through book sales, bridge tournaments, raffle baskets and ticket sales
- \$10,000 American Library Association, for Homebound Patron Outreach
- \$7,500 NY Senator James Skoufis, to develop a pollinator garden
- Gardening book donations by Warwick Valley Gardeners
- 1,724 hours of volunteer time, talent and effort – a new high!

} Priceless!

ALBERT WISNER PUBLIC LIBRARY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

