

## **DIRECTOR'S 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

Throughout 2023, Eden Library staff worked diligently to continue offering the excellent customer service it's known for throughout Erie County. Staff circulated books and other library materials, created displays, performed reader's advisory service, and made each and every library user's visit a special one.

In 2023, Eden Library welcomed **15,913** patrons through their doors who collectively checked out **46,592** items, used computers **1,350** times and accessed the library's WiFi network **2,114** times. **1,351** people attended **129** in-house programs during the year, with offerings for all ages. Program attendance increased 33% over 2022; the number of program offerings increased 54%.

### **Community involvement/Partnerships/Outreach:**

Eden Library once again partnered with Erie County Senior Services to present 13 programs in the popular University Express lecture series, aimed at citizens 55 and up. Eden's offerings included talks on electric vehicles, paranormal activities in old houses, the fireboat Edward M. Cotter, better sleep techniques and scandalous stories from Buffalo's past. Lectures drew 148 participants from across the county...and several new library cardholders!

Throughout the year, the library partnered with representatives from Edward Jones Financial Services to present several informative seminars on topics ranging from estate planning to retirement investment strategies. 15 people participated in the workshops.

Library Director Donna-Jo Webster visited local schools three times during the year, once at Grover L. Priess Primary School for a Reading Night promotion (October), and twice at Eden Middle School for Reading Night (February) and a K-5 Mental Health Night (May). She shared information about the library's services with a total of 210 students and their families (notably, 75 at the EES Mental Health event and 105 at the GLP Reading Night event). Several attendees took applications for new library cards during the outreaches.

Pathways to Employment and United Health Care both had informational tables at the library during 2023. Collaborative Community Mission hosted a series of six free early literacy classes for children during July and August, which drew 71 participants. Eden Parks and Recreation brought two groups of youngsters to the library for field trips during the summer months, allowing 39 students to obtain library cards, check out materials and enjoy the coolness inside the building.

Eden Library participated in the first ever Eden WinterFest in February, offering a special winter themed storytime and a frosted luminaries workshop for all ages. A total of 25 people took part in the two events.

Throughout the year, the library distributed free COVID-19 test kits and eclipse glasses to the community. Hands-on CPR training kits and Chromebooks with hotspots became some of the library's newest borrowing options.

### **Donors/Contributors/Grants:**

The library received a number of memorial donations in 2023 in memory of former Library Board President Frances Palmerton and in memory of longtime library patron Dolores Gracz, which collectively netted \$1,153.25. Additionally, the library benefitted from one non-memorial donation totaling \$1,000.00.

The Board of Trustees graciously sponsored an end-of-summer carnival in August, which drew 115 participants of all ages. Magician Dave Jeffers entertained with a magic show, outdoor carnival games, face painting, and, of course, sno cones, popcorn and cotton candy.

### **Equipment and Facilities:**

Staff from the Town of Eden's Highway Department continued snowplowing of Library parking lots in 2023. Additional repairs and maintenance to the Town-owned library building included installation of structural beams to support the ceiling over the circulation desk, renovation of the staff kitchenette, and installation of drainage tile outside the building. New carpeting had been selected at the end of 2023 with funding through the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's Facilities Improvement Initiative, with installation expected in early 2024.

### **Friends of Eden Library:**

Annual collection of membership dues continued to be the group's main fundraiser. The Friends presented a drive-through Weidner's Chicken Barbecue in July that netted additional proceeds. Fundraising efforts allowed the group to sponsor several library events throughout the year, including a picnic sides cooking demonstration, a hands-on make and take butter lamb workshop, and the popular Pumpkin Patch program for children. Former Eden Library Director (and now local author!) Joyce Maguda launched her new children's book, "Mr. Turkey's Song" at the library in October. The Friends Board met in-person at the library in January, March, May, July, September and October.

### **Library Personnel:**

Senior Clerk Helga Antonou, Clerk Typists Cindy Bancroft, Cheryl Colvin, William Ruof and Caretaker/Custodian Tony Sacilowski all continued in their respective roles. All staff members completed annual compliance training in avoiding sexual harassment and preventing workplace violence, and all took part in annual technology training relevant to their job titles. Each of the clerks presented at least one program or series of library events.

### **Volunteers:**

Eden Library utilized 11 volunteers with a combined 128.75 hours of service at booksales, basement book inventory cleanouts, carnivals, and others events during the year.

### **Yarn Club:**

After 16 years of continuing service to the Eden community and beyond, Eden's Yarn Club surpassed another milestone at the end of 2023. Club members created and donated more than 8,797 knitted or crocheted items to charities.

In conclusion, the Eden Library continues to serve as an important asset and community hub to the citizens of Eden and beyond, a vital resource to all. Patrons from all over Erie County enjoy ongoing programming, informative speakers, free access to books, magazines, newspapers, music, digital content and the Internet. The library offers free "one-stop shopping" for everything from board games to cookbooks, home Internet to health care items. Eden Library provides a clean, comfortable and inviting space for people to interact with others, explore the world around them and participate in life-long learning.

The library remains truly appreciative of its dedicated, hard-working staff, the guidance and leadership received from its Board of Trustees, and for its continued relationship with the Town of Eden.

Donna-Jo Webster, Library Director