

ANNUAL REPORT – 2023

The 2023 calendar year was the first to mark a true return to pre-pandemic services, traffic, and programming.

It was refreshing to see patrons of all ages clamoring for programs and to experience busy registration events again. In preparation for the Library's 100th anniversary celebration in 2024, several staff began planning in earnest for a full year of programs and events themed around the 1920s. The Library held its first community yard sale, and due to popular demand, it was repeated in the fall. The Library also hosted its first annual craft fair, which attracted hundreds of patrons over the course of a Saturday in December.

In 2023, the Library's "Library of Things" collection was greatly expanded in the Adult, Teen and Children's Departments. Many items in the Children's collection were purchased specifically for enjoyment in the building, and the Department became a vital community play destination for children and their caretakers through all seasons of the year.

New museum pass options were added to the Library's offerings, including the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in Manhattan, and the growing ease of use of print-at-home museum passes made the collection easier for patrons to access.

The Library's aging HVAC and original slate roofing came into focus in 2023. A full survey of the roof and HVAC conditions were conducted over several months, and schematics were begun for submission to the State for approval ahead of a bidding process.

Old carpet in the upstairs and lower stacks of the Adult Department were replaced and the Library undertook a library-wide carpet cleaning the day before Thanksgiving.

As part of a New York State mandate, Board members received two hours of NYS mandatory educational training, which was devoted to the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of Trustees.

Longtime and beloved Trustee, Lois Overton, passed away unexpectedly, and her seat was filled by a new Trustee, Francis Flynn. The Library's Assistant Director resigned to become the new Director of the East Islip Public Library. Adriana LoDolce, formerly Head of Children's Services and Head of Outreach, was appointed to fill the open position.