



**Shelter Island Public Library**  
 37 N Ferry Road, PO Box 2016  
 Shelter Island, NY 11964  
 (631) 749-0042

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Shelter Island, NY  
 Permit No. 2

POSTAL PATRON  
 Shelter Island, NY 11964

## BY THE NUMBERS ...

\*statistics gathered July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023  
 Visits - **96,397**  
 Checkouts - **40,923**  
 Live-brary Downloads - **23,123**

Programs - **1,013**  
 Program Attendance - **12,123**  
 Library Card Holders - **3,079**  
 Books & Materials - **29,705**

*“On our little island, the library is the one place I can trust and count on, to know I belong, that I am part of a thriving community, that books and creative and intellectual pursuits are waiting to be explored, and that I am welcomed with open arms. – Susan Schrott”*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jo-Ann Robotti, President  
 Henry Fayne, Vice-President  
 Donald Regan, Treasurer  
 Linda Kraus, Secretary  
 Susan Binder  
 Archer Brown  
 Marianne Carey  
 Donald Dunning  
 Henry Fayne  
 Phyllis Gates  
 Karyn Issa Greenwald  
 Tom Hashagen  
 Bonnie Berman Stockwell

Terry Lucas, Library Director  
 Laura Dickerson, Assistant Director

## ABOUT THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the Shelter Island Public Library fill important roles in the operation of the library. They are responsible for governance, fiduciary oversight and setting policy. The volunteer members serve staggered three-year terms and are elected or re-elected by the Shelter Island Library Association at its annual meeting.

More information about the election of Trustees will be provided later this fall.



# SPECIAL REPORT

October 2023



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The big news of 2023, of course, was the passage of our successful expansion referendum in June. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supported this. It will allow the addition of much-needed space and resources to keep up with community demand.

Use of the library's facilities and offerings continued to increase this year. In August, visits were up a significant 20% versus August 2022. Program participation increased by 64%, with 1,576 attendees, with a 55% jump in programming sessions. The summer's children and youth activities were particularly well-attended, thanks in no small part to the amazing efforts of Youth Services Librarian Sara Garcia and her creative helpers. Whether it was a "Sensory Hour" for toddlers and caregivers, a crafts program or a movie, attendance this year out-stripped all previous summers.

Our "Library of Things" gained in popularity and the options continued to expand. This summer the Birding Back Packs, the telescope and the DVD player were among the most popular. Look for new items for fall.

To keep up with the increased activity and traffic, "Tent Week" once again became "Tent Summer" and everything from craft programs to story times and musical events moved outdoors. The tent also hosted the popular community clothing swaps and accommodated numerous town meetings.

Overall, it appears that the community recognizes that the library is providing a good value.

Throughout the year, we continued the popular vaccine and shot clinics, as well as offering a wide variety of in-person, remote and "hybrid" programs for everyone from infants to seniors.

None of this would have been possible without our extraordinary staff, led by "Super Director" Terry Lucas. In addition to her "day job," Terry managed and marshaled the resources leading up to the referendum. She spoke with community groups, home owners' associations, farmers market shoppers and library users about the project, as well as working with the architects on preliminary plans. Thank you, Terry!

We sadly said goodbye to staffer Kimberly Atkins who left to move to Montana. She was replaced by two part-timers, Dana Hallman and Heidi Neurauter.

Our trustees continued their non-stop work, supporting the expansion effort by hosting and catering numerous "meet and greet" events, writing weekly feature articles to promote programming, carrying out building repairs, as well as continuing to update policies and keep watch over the library's finances. Marianne Carey joined the board in January and we are fortunate to have her acumen and expertise.

And last but not least, the library is very grateful to the Friends for its continued support. They made a very significant pledge to the building fund, in addition to underwriting the Summer Reading Programs, Tent Week, Museum Passes, Ancestry.com and many other programs.

Thank you all for your support of this great island institution.

See you @ the Library!

*Jo-Ann Robotti*

Jo-Ann Robotti  
 President  
 Board of Trustees

*Una versión en español de este reporte especial está disponible en la biblioteca.*

## SHELTER ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY SOCIETY 2023 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

SUPPORT	2023	2024
Donations, Contributions & Fundraising	111,400	111,300
Grants	27,000	23,500
Annual Appeal	20,000	20,000
Fines, Fees & Programs	12,375	11,400
Taxes	755,796	789,806
Interest Income	144	155
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 926,715</b>	<b>\$ 956,161</b>
EXPENSES		
Membership & Professional Licenses, Dues and Fees	69,000	71,011
Fundraising	3,450	3,550
Books and Other Media	78,275	87,575
Website, Office Equipment and Computer Maintenance	7,400	9,000
Office Expenses and Equipment	12,709	13,500
Adult, Young Adult and Children's Programs	26,650	25,600
Salaries, Employee Taxes and Benefits	630,281	651,565
Utilities, Telecommunications & Building Maintenance	64,500	62,595
Property and Liability Insurances	19,950	21,265
Capital (Includes Computer Equipment)	14,500	10,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 926,715</b>	<b>\$ 956,161</b>

### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: 2023 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

As the Shelter Island Public Library's Treasurer, I am pleased to report that our library is in very stable financial condition, performing within 2% of Budget projections. As I reported last year, we weathered two years of the pandemic by adopting more conservative revenue and expense plans. In 2023, we continued that same conservative approach because of our anticipation of unsure levels of inflation, which could and did impact our costs of running the library. Our main cost increases came from three areas:

1. Maintaining and improving technology provided for patrons, including new computers and online borrowing capability;
2. Utilities;
3. Employee and building insurance related costs.

Lastly, we expected and experienced building maintenance costs due to an aging facility. These included plumbing and air conditioning repairs and electric maintenance.

The Board of Trustees of your library carefully reviews and approves expenses, investment performance, fundraising revenues and cash positions each month. The Patterson Fund, a wonderful legacy from the late Gil Patterson, has performed well for us and provides monies to cover many of our youth services expenses such as books and other media, program materials and more. As in past years, we are also indebted to the ongoing support of The Friends of the Library, who help out in numerous ways.

In 2023 there continued to be an increase in visits by our patrons who took advantage of the many services offered. We increased expenditures this year for children's and adult's books to replenish the shelves and accommodate increased demand. Through the Suffolk Cooperative Library System we continued to subscribe to a wide variety of electronic resources (downloadable e-books, audio books, movies, magazines and many, many services such as *Homework Help*, *Pronunciator* and *Ancestry.com*). All of these expenditures were managed within the budget parameters.

In 2024 we are anticipating breaking ground on the new expansion of your library. Regarding the library budget for 2024, we are predicting slight cost increases for building maintenance and infrastructure, technology, utilities, staff salaries and insurance, all similar to the increases we have seen over the last two years. Our projected costs for running the library for the upcoming year are slightly above 2023, so we will be asking residents to vote for an increase of \$34,010 in tax support in 2024. This increase means a home assessed last year at \$836,000 would see an average library tax increase of about \$7.87 according to estimates from the Assessors office. We ask for your support of this budget and pledge to continue our oversight of every one of your tax dollars.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald Regan  
Treasurer, Board of Trustees

### BUDGET AND VOTING INFORMATION

**Budget Vote:** Saturday, October 28th, 10a.m. to 4p.m. at the library.

**Public Hearing:** Wednesday, October 18th, 5p.m. at the library.

**Eligibility:** You must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old and a primary resident of the Shelter Island School District for at least 30 days prior to the vote.

**Voter Registration:** Thursday, October 19th, 2p.m. to 6p.m. at the library.

**Absentee Ballot applications** are available from the District Clerk at the school, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at [www.shelterislandk12.ny.us](http://www.shelterislandk12.ny.us)

Completed applications must be received by the clerk 7 days before the vote – by Friday, October 20th if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or the day before the vote if it is to be delivered personally to the voter.

All absentee ballots must be received by 1p.m. on October 27th.

*“ I like coming to the library because it's really really really really really really fun because they have a bunch of good programs. – Maggie Potter, 7 years old ”*

### COMMUNITY @ THE LIBRARY

These Shelter Island groups and clubs co-sponsor events and/or meet in a Library space

Art/Rich Poetry Roundtable	League of Women Voters	Shelter Island Health	Shelter Island Town
Book Clubs	Mah-Jongg Club	and Wellness Alliance	Silver Beach Association
East End Hospice	Philosophy Discussion	Shelter Island Poetry Project	Sylvester Manor
English as a Next Language	Group	Shelter Island School	... and many more
French Conversation Club	Shelter For All	Shelter Island Senior Center	
Friends of the Library	Shelter Island Alliance	Shelter Island Senior	
Garden Club	Shelter Island Association	Citizens Foundation	

*“ The Shelter Island Public Library has been the highlight of our days most days. The library is the perfect place to bring our 10 month old to experience social time, a bright and engaging atmosphere and it's the perfect place to meet friends for some peaceful mom time. We would be lost without our daily library visit. – Kate Davidson ”*

