



## 2024 IN REVIEW

***The Mission of the Broadalbin Library is to provide free, non-discriminatory access to library books and media services for adults and children and to offer other lifelong learning opportunities for the community.***

2024 reflects how far we've come because of a dedicated board of directors, generous volunteers and a community that is beginning to notice who, what, and where (quite literally) we are. *In the last two years foot traffic has increased on average by 55%*. Friends, new and old have stepped up and offered support in numerous ways. Here are the names of volunteers, *brand new* to us in 2024 who reached out and have made valuable contributions each in their own way and some in several ways.

- Jan Bohne - Robert W. Chambers Mansion and Park liaison, spearheading the restoration project; in August, approached the library to offer potential space at Mansion.
- Carley Bolibaugh - marketing and promotion: children's library card, letterhead, bookmark; feature article on "Broadalbin Living" a new Facebook Page highlighting business and services in Broadalbin;
- Lauren Draus - took on website lead, conducted Canva training; led the board in long term planning exercises; new board member
- Megan Floyd - began hosting StoryTime on 2nd & 4th Fridays (see Children's Programs)
- Mary Gagnon - new desk volunteer; book covers; reads to any child who asks
- Caron Reynolds - new desk volunteer; StoryTime assistant (see Children's Programs), Stampin' Up card making classes

Dedicated board members, desk volunteers and others have contributed to help carry out the mission. From taking on the website, keeping up with Facebook posts, monitoring and responding to messages and emails, processing books, Readerware entries, grant writing, teaching crafts, making sure our window is decorated, our shelves and space organized, going before the Town and Village Boards to request funding, covering new books, taking shifts at community events, and so much more (keeping sidewalks clear...), our team of volunteers keeps the doors open so others can enjoy this "community gathering place". And ultimately fostering a positive image for the library and being a collaborative community member.

### **Children's Programs** 15 events, 81 children

*Summer StoryTime* was held 5 times beginning late June through August. Thanks to community volunteers including MaryJo Argotsinger, Lisa Caughey, Lauren Draus, Alexis Lin, April Renna, Mary Sniezyk and Amy Wurtz.

The Children's Program made a big splash this year when, just as the summer StoryTime was wrapping up, Megan Floyd, former preK teacher at BPCSD, reached out with an offer to host a

StoryTime for babies, toddlers and preschoolers (0-5 year olds)...”on a regular basis”. *StoryTime with Megan Floyd*, held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays began on October 11th. Five additional events followed through Friday, December 27th with 14 children and 13 adults in attendance. So far, StoryTime has become a hit with the under 5 crowd and their caretakers, reaching a mom and her toddler who travel from Schenectady twice a month to participate. A \$100 donation for StoryTime resulted in the purchase of a much needed child sized craft table that is being used regularly. The success of StoryTime wouldn’t be complete without a mention of Caron Reynolds, a new volunteer to the library this past year and Stampin’ Up demonstrator who joins Megan to help prepare the space, greet parents, take pictures and act as library representative. Megan is also a substitute storytime reader at Galway Library. We’re so grateful to both Megan and Caron for their contribution to the community.

*Children’s Drop-in Craft Time:* Dedicated board member, Linda LaCasse spearheaded and delivered most of the Saturday drop-in craft for children. The library offered sessions in February, March, April and May. Suzan Sussman led the rain maker craft in April.

### **Adult Programs**

*Adult craft classes* were held throughout the year bringing in approximately \$690 in donations. The following classes were offered:

January 13	Pressed Flowers	\$40
February 2	Valentine Stamping	60
March 16	Quilling	100
April 20	Mixed Media	280
May 16	Stampin’ Up	30
June 16	Junk Journal	30
September 14	Framed Pressed Flower	105
November 7	Stampin’ Up	45

### *Author Readings*

October 3 : Local author David Brooks read from his book, 'Where I Reside: a Retrospective into Modern History, Vol. 3, followed by conversation and refreshments.

December 7: Local author Stacey Delaney presented a family reading of her children’s book, *The Adventures of Layla, the Loveable Dog*. She donated copies of her 3 books, *The Adventures of Layla, the Loveable Dog: The Story of Rescuing Her Owners*, *The Story of Her Going To School*, and *The Story of Going To Doggie Training Classes*. In addition to hearing all about Layla, children created a craft to take home.

### *Book Discussion Group*

An organizational meeting was held in April with 7 interested participants. The first book discussion was held on June 10th. Monthly meetings continue with solid participation of 10 readers each month. A community collaboration with Galway Library has been an outgrowth of this activity. Suzan Sussmann organizes this program.

### *Knitting group*

Meets most Wednesdays with Roseann Doran and a steady group of 5 - 7 knitters eager to learn and share tips and tricks that enhance their skills. Beginners are welcome.

### **Fundraising and Grants**

The 2nd Annual Garden Tour and the Election Day Bake Sale were our two biggest fundraising activities this past year. Town and Village appropriations, memorial donations, individual donations and the Stewart's grant targeting youth activities were among other substantial money makers.

We received more modest amounts through the sale of raffle tickets and used books sales at community sponsored events throughout the year: The 3rd Annual Eggstravaganza,(a PTO sponsored event in April),a used book sale during the Village Wide garage sale, and the Annual Craft Festival at Broadalbin Hotel.

We submitted an application and were awarded \$800 from Stewarts for their annual Holiday Match Program. This money has been allocated to funding children's related activities. This includes furniture, craft supplies, children's carpets and books.

Suzan Sussmann completed an application for a \$5000 grant through the Saratoga Arts Council. She procured MOUs from 3 artists who, if awarded, will lead workshops in their areas of expertise. A request for hardware for displaying artwork is capped at \$1000 with the board approving additional expenditures of up to \$1000 for an art display installation system.

### **Other Day-to-Day Operations**

#### *Book Selection Policy and New Tag System implemented*

Book selection policy was reviewed and adopted by the board. A tag system for newly acquired books has streamlined the process of cataloging, covering and shelving new books.

#### *Data Collection*

An updated data collection tool was put in place to simplify logging foot traffic and book circulation giving us better insight into the usage and traffic in the library. This year we have increased traffic significantly and we attribute it to the stellar offerings we have been providing as well as community offerings that include the library. For example, this past year Broadalbin celebrated their Centennial and many people popped in to check out the library to see what it was all about. Having these statistics helps us forecast usage, staffing and plan better for the future.

#### *Book Acquisition*

We strive to select titles that will be of interest to a wide range of readers and are continually purchasing and stocking our shelves with new books.

## **Community Events/Collaborations**

- Eggstravaganza, a PTO event - display table with book sale, bike give-away
- Galway Library - provides multiple copies of books for book discussion group; we offer donated books/CDs Great Courses series
- Village wide garage sale - book sale
- GARDEN TOUR - Library Fundraiser
- St. Joseph's Festival - raffle basket donations (2)
- Village Centennial Block Party
- Broadalbin Fall Festival - display table with book sale
- Local Author David Brooks read from his book, "Where I Reside"
- Halloween parade - in costume, candy hand-out
- Christmas Parade - Open, bookmark give away Garden Tour
- Cookie Stroll - starting point for the Robert W. Chambers Mansion & Park fundraiser \$100 donation
- Town of Broadalbin \$2500
- Village of Broadalbin \$1000
- Tom Sniezyk
- GARDEN TOUR Sponsors
  - Jesse Walter - BeyondYourGarden.com
  - Broadalbin Antique Mall
  - Broadalbin Christian Bookstore/Linda's Antiques/Linda E. Eastman, Photographer
  - Charles Bradley Brown, Broadalbin Christian Bookstore
  - Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc.
  - Jankowski Agency Inc.
  - First Choice Financial Federal Credit Union
  - Last Chance Salon
  - Milburt Farm & Greenhouse
  - The Winney Family, SUBWAY
  - Pizza Supreme
  - Patti's Greenhouses
  - Robert J. Hoy Agency, Inc.
  - Slipstream Watercraft
  - Spinnaker Realty Management/Realty Sales
  - Tanner Lumber Inc.
  - Susan J. Walter, Inc.
  - TrillionMedia - Lee Miller
  - Magazines & Placemats Graphic Design - Mike & Linda Palmieri

## **Moving forward:**

Expand the large print collection

Continue with long term planning\*

Consider using alternative platforms to promote library as many are exiting Facebook- for example e-newsletter using email lists

Continue to increase foot traffic & circulation

Increase volunteer base

Implement grants if awarded

Consider other ways to fundraise

Community gathering place

Plans were set to schedule visits to local public libraries to develop a “wish list” for the possible relocation to the Chambers Mansion. Although it wouldn’t be for several years, the board has been asked to consider what the new space should have if the library is moved to that site..

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Roseann Doran, President

Suzan Sussmann, Vice President

Linda LaCasse, Secretary

Jeff Foley, Treasurer

Judy Frederick, member-at-large

Ruth Castler, member-at-large

Lauren Draus, member-at-large

## **Contact us**

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