

Annual Report
2019-2020

Trustees

Ellen DelloStritto,
Fleming,
Vice President

Lynda DeOrio,
Auburn

Russ Harkins,
Sennett,
Secretary

Nancy Karpinski,
Seymour Library
Foundation Representative

Ginny Kent,
Auburn

Larry Liberatore,
Owasco
President

Joseph Runkle,
Sennett,
Finance Officer

Dawn Taylor,
Fleming

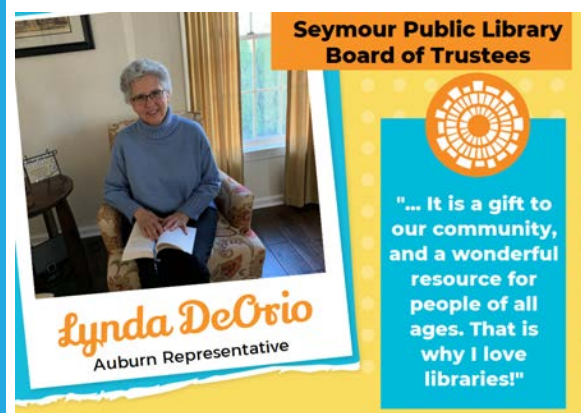
Meg Vanek,
Owasco

Trustee Spotlights

In 2020, Seymour Library wanted to bring the faces of the Board of Trustees to life. The Trustees were encouraged to submit their testimonials on what serving on the Seymour Library Board meant.

These testimonials gave a personal side to each participating representative and helped connect our patrons to the individuals who are their neighbors and friends.

Personal narratives, like these stories, help to engage and inspire by creating togetherness in the community and allowing the library to thrive.



Seymour Library Foundation

The **Seymour Library Foundation** is a not-for-profit organization that helps to support Seymour Public Library District by providing monies for the maintenance and care of Seymour Library's beloved building. The Foundation is essential to preserving our historical treasure.

Seymour Library Foundation Board of Directors

Nancy Karpinski, President, Foundation Representative to District Board

Chris Hutchinson, Vice President

Walter M. Lowe, Treasurer

Guy Cosentino, Secretary

Joseph Runkle, District Board Representative to Foundation

John Latanyshyn, Assistant Treasurer

Mike Trapani

David Kalabanka

Lisa Carr, Library Director, ex-officio

Friends of Seymour Library

The **Friends of Seymour Public Library District** is a membership organization that supports the Library.

Funding from the Friends allows the Library to further its community outreach and mission through their generous donations. Support from the Friends of Seymour Library made it possible for the library to offer programs for all ages, including **chair yoga & meditation classes, lectures & workshops** with local historians & artists, **hands-on crafting & maker programs**, and visits from the **Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre, Montezuma Audubon Center, Rosamond Gifford Zoo, and the Kopernik Observatory and Science Center.**



Shari Ross,
President

Jeff Ludwig,
Vice-President

Ann L. Wiley,
Treasurer

Mary Nellenback,
Co-Secretary

Barbara Avino,
Membership

Diane Lehner,
Co-Secretary
& Membership



From the Director

To our community,

We typically put together an annual report in May/June to reflect on our past fiscal year and to show you what we have accomplished and the things we are proud of.

In a typical year, we would have produced the 2019 report in May/June of 2020 and would have highlighted robust programming such as **Chair Yoga**, the **Discover Summer Series**, **Google Expeditions**, **Read More! Reading Challenge**, the **Library's Book Clubs**, themed **Storytimes**, a **Technology & Job Seeker Assistance** program, and engaging community with local history at our **History Discovery Center**. We would have done the same for 2020, preparing a report for you in May/June of this year. However, the last 18 months have been anything but typical.

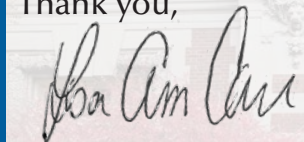
Our world shifted in March of 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library closed its physical doors, and would stay closed to the public far longer than any of us could have imagined. We started the slow process of reopening our building on July 6, 2020, allowing you to pick up holds (**Library Take Out**), in November 2020, opening the building for **Express Browsing**, and in June 2021 going back to our full hours.

Our Library continued to serve our community every single day, in whatever way we could. I have been extremely proud of the resiliency and creativity of library staff as they continued to provide services for you. Their work allowed us to quickly transition to digital services, expanding our digital collection of materials so you had access to books, movies, music, and more from the safety of your home.

We answered your emails, issued library cards online so you could access digital content, and answered your tech help questions. Our programs went virtual - everyone on staff worked to develop and deliver content to you. The Board of Trustees moved to go "**fine free**" when we opened in July of 2020. We found new and innovative ways to bring the Library to you, including **Curbside pickup** and **Take & Make kits** for all ages.

Our fiscal year ended on December 31, the pandemic did not. We continue to meet new challenges in 2021 and will share our stories in next year's report. We remain committed to providing services that **connect, engage, and inspire** our community.

Thank you,



Lisa Carr, Library Director



You may know some of our faces already, but we have many individuals working diligently behind the scenes as well. From buying books (in a variety of formats) you like, developing programs you find engaging to writing grants and maintaining our beautiful building, our dedicated staff works to inspire a love of reading, learning, and discovery.

The staff at Seymour Library thank you (and our Friends) for your continued support, especially during the challenges of the past eighteen months.



"Seymour Library feels like home to me. I spent time there as a child with my Dad at the library over 30 years ago. I feel so proud to say that. Our library is the best and the hub of our community. We are lucky to have such an amazing historical resource which is available to all of us."

~Kathleen Sherman
Library Concierge and Bibliotherapist

Our Dedicated Staff

Supporting Community

Cayuga County History Symposium "Creating Connections"



JOIN US AUGUST 16 & KICKOFF THE



**PERSONAL CARE
DRIVE 2019**
—CAYUGA COUNTY—



Seymour Library welcomes all of its community members! A library is more than just the books inside, it's a critical form of a community's social infrastructure. A library can foster openness and inclusivity by offering open access to our shared culture and heritage. We do this by providing robust programming, dynamic resources for an increasingly diverse community, and by building friendships among our neighbors.

In 2019 and 2020, Seymour Library sponsored and collaborated with community stakeholders. Here are some of the highlights from our outreach efforts:

Intergenerational Storytime: Over 90 participants attended this interactive storytime that connected children with seniors at Bluefield Manor and The Commons on St. Anthony.

Pride Week: Seymour Library joined members of **The City of Auburn's Historic and Cultural Sites Commission** in celebrating **LGBTQ+ Pride** with a screening of **"The Stonewall Uprising"** in 2019 and a virtual book discussion on Uzodinma Iweala's novel **"Speak No Evil"** in 2020.

Lights, Camera, Social Action!: In 2019 the library partnered with ARISE to bring the community a film and discussion series focused on different social issues, with the goal of raising public awareness around disabilities and creating a community dialogue.

Storytime with the Auburn Police Department: Local law enforcement joined children and families at the library for a special storytime followed by a pizza party!

2019 Cayuga County History Symposium: Seymour Library, in partnership with the Cayuga County Historian, coordinated **"Creating Connections,"** the 2019 Cayuga County History Symposium. The goal was to bring together the diverse range of history organizations in the county for dialogue regarding strengthening community connections and collaboratively expanding the interpretation of local history.

2019 & 2020 partnerships also included: the **Alzheimer's Association**, **Zonta**, **Cayuga Community Health Network**, **SCORE Business Counseling**, the **Volunteer Lawyers Project**, and more!



In this
library,
**ALL
ARE
WELCOME**



Seymour Library partners
with Bluefield Manor

At Seymour Library
ALL are WELCOME.

Reaching our Readers

RAISE A READER with Seymour Library!

Want to instill a love of reading in your children that will benefit them for a lifetime?

Get a library card.

A library card means you can fill your home with new reading material as often as you'd like, for free!

Seymour Library has more than just books! Check out all of our collections by visiting the library!

Sign up now!

Our collections have grown over the course of 2019 & 2020, with our digital collection of eBooks more than doubling to accommodate readers during the pandemic. Even though our building was closed, the library was OPEN with staff working behind the scenes to connect our community with books, resources, and each other!

Did you know that Seymour Library provides Early Literacy Programs? Early Literacy is extremely important for child development, early education, and a lifelong love of books.

Seymour Library offers storytime programs for children under the age of five and their families.

Discover Summer: Seymour Library's summer reading series, Discover Summer, invites children and families to get hands-on with reading and exploration! In 2019, we discovered a Universe of Stories with special guests that included: the **MOST**, the **Merry-Go-Round Theatre**, the **Museum of the Earth**, **Outdoor Life Learners**, and the **Kopernik Observatory and Science Center**. In 2020, Discover Summer went virtual with online storytimes and Take & Make kits filled with fun activities for children and families to do together at home. Back by popular demand: Seymour Library's **StoryWalk®** at Hoopes Park.

Our eLibrary offered access to thousands of eBooks, eAudio, films, and more through digital services including **Overdrive**, **Hoopla**, **Kanopy** and **Creativebug**. All you need is your library card.



creativebug OverDrive



hoopla

kanopy

We are proud to say that digital checkouts were up by 63%

2019 Stats

Total Cataloged Books	57,974
Total Holdings	90,227
Electronic Books	12,284
Audio Downloadable	7,134
Video Downloadable	1,104
Visits www.seymourlibrary.org	70,882

2020 Stats

Total Cataloged Books	54,115
Total Holdings	102,564
Electronic Books	25,995
Audio Downloadable	9,672
Video Downloadable	2,017
Visits www.seymourlibrary.org	81,972

Family Storytime with Miss Annette in the Children's Room.



Discover Summer kicked off with 214 children and adults joining us.

Tea and Tales Book Club in the Garden



Our Pop-Up Library served 462 Visitors!

Our PATRONS are the LIFE of the library.

Without
Libraries
what have we?
We have no past
and no
Future.

Seymour
Library

Opening New Worlds

Chess Club



Dino Storytime was a big hit!



Google Expeditions



Cupcake Decorating Contest

2019 was filled with programs for all ages! We explored 3D virtual reality and traveled to Morocco and to the depths of the Caribbean with the Library's Google Expeditions kit, got hands-on with science and nature programs for families, learned research tools for family history and genealogy, enjoyed lectures on local history, and celebrated fall with local community partners during Seymour Library's Fall Festival!

Book Clubs • Chair Yoga • Chess Club • Crochet & Chat
Discover Space Science • Family Sensory Time • Genealogy & Family Research
Google Expeditions • Knitting Circle • Local History Lectures
Little Listeners • Movie Mondays • Outreach Stories
Protecting Yourself Online • Pajama Storytime • Saturday STEM
Seymour Summer Reads • Technology & Job Seeker Assistance
The MOST - Science on the Go!
AND MORE

- **Chair Yoga** - back by popular demand from 2018, we increased the number of classes in 2019!

- Our **History Discovery Center's** mission is to create personal connections with local history. Traversing our rich history through experiential learning and hands-on activities is what a visit to the History Discovery Center is all about.

2020 promised to offer many of the programs and events our patrons look forward to. January and February's sampling of events was just a taste of all of our planning & preparation -- which included a 1920s themed series with local history spotlights, guest speakers, a film series, and book clubs.

Then everything changed...



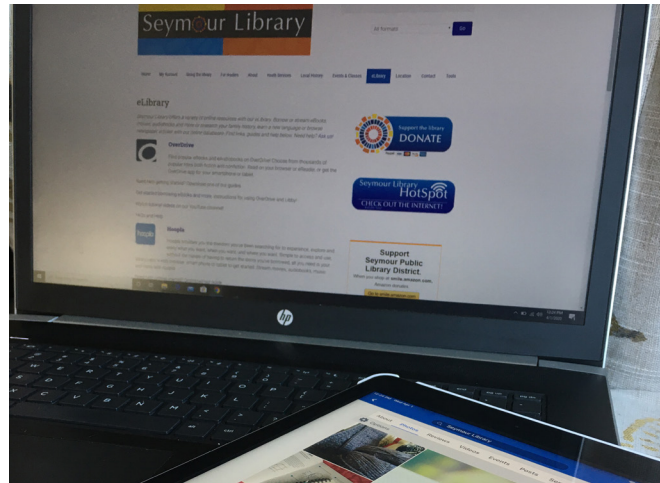
Chair Yoga



Sensory Program

Seymour Library HELPS to EXPLORE the world.

Learning Goes Virtual



Ed Catto - Garden Art Challenge



Garden Art Challenge



In March of 2020, amid a global pandemic, Seymour Library, along with its patrons, went virtual as our world went viral. Longstanding programming such as storytime became an online event, and our staff joined you in the comfort of your homes.

The digital divide never seemed greater, and in response to our community's needs, the library shifted. Overnight, subscriptions to our online services and resources soared. Staff kept working during the pandemic; we made calls to check on patrons and had a weekly digital newsletter to provide info, activities, and fun links.

- **Mobile Hotspots** - A total of 9 were added to our collection.
- **Online Book Clubs** - Coffee & Crime, Tea & Tales, & Read More! Book Club
- **Zoom Meetings** - from Book Clubs to Monthly Board Meetings
- **Storytime** - Ms. Jill's Virtual Reading Corner, What We're Reading Wednesday, and Virtual Storytime with local preschools- BOCES and Headstart.

Patrons turned to history during these historical times! In 2020, the **History Discovery Center's website** noted **1,095 NEW online users** accessing their digital collections.

In conjunction with **Seward House Museum, Cayuga Museum, and Harriet Tubman National Historical Park**, we provided a virtual **Hands-On History Camp** via Zoom!

In partnership with the **Cayuga Museum**, we launched the **Voices of Cayuga County** project. The project collects oral histories from traditionally underrepresented people in the historical record of Cayuga County. Due to the pandemic, the interviews were conducted via Zoom rather than in person.

Local artist Ed Catto, along with artists of all ages, joined in with the **Garden Art Challenge**, with artwork featured on our Facebook page and website!

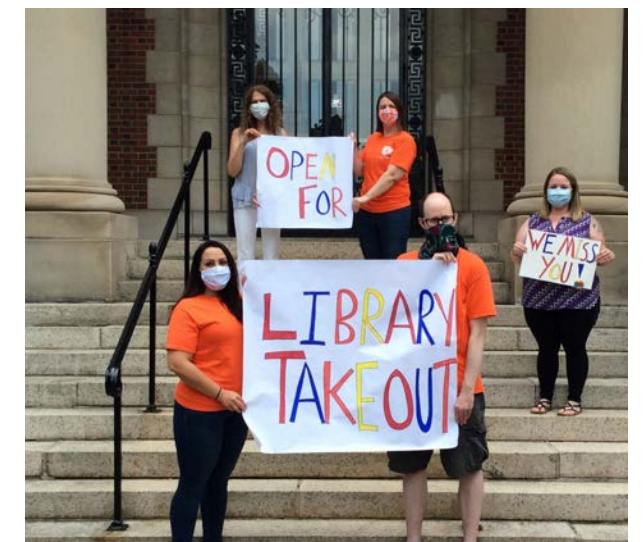


Mr. Spider joins the virtual fun!



Bringing everyone **TOGETHER**
when we had to stay apart.

Take Out & On-the-Go!



Seymour Library continued to serve our patrons throughout these different phases of the pandemic -- whether it was someone looking to take out the latest DVDs in our collection, reserving a mobile hotspot, finding your next great read, downloading eAudio or eBooks, or requesting a publication in print.

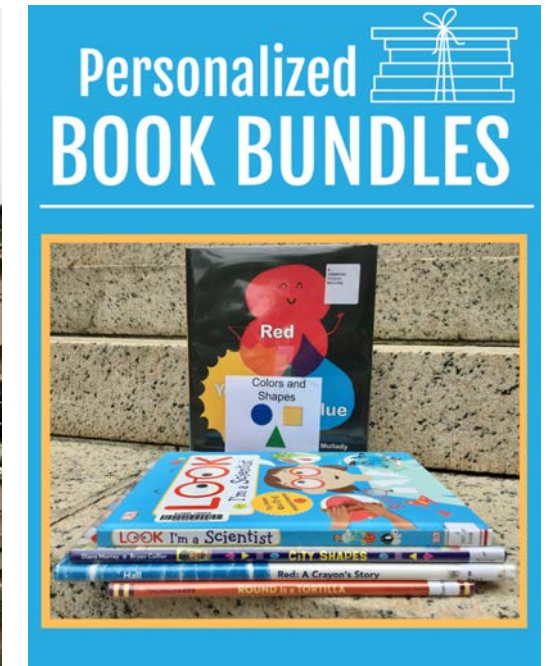
In response to the pandemic, we added new services including, **curbside pick-up**, **personalized book bundles**, and **Books-by-Mail**. By adding these services, the library brought resources directly to you, helping to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Books-by-Mail is a monthly service that delivers books and media (eAudio and DVDs) to homebound patrons. Seymour Library offers this service to any **Cayuga County cardholder** who is not able to come in to the library because of a **temporary or permanent disability** and satisfies the eligibility criteria.

During this time, the library placed borrowed material into quarantine to ensure items were safe to bring into the comfort of your home. It may have taken a bit longer to get your items, and we appreciated your understanding.

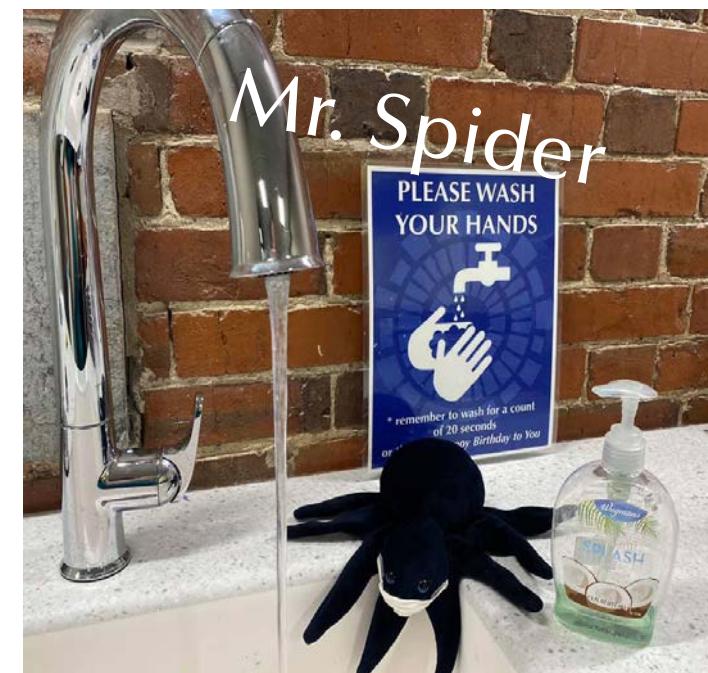
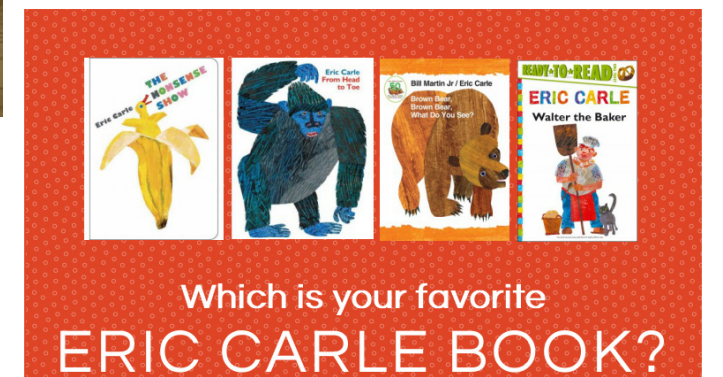
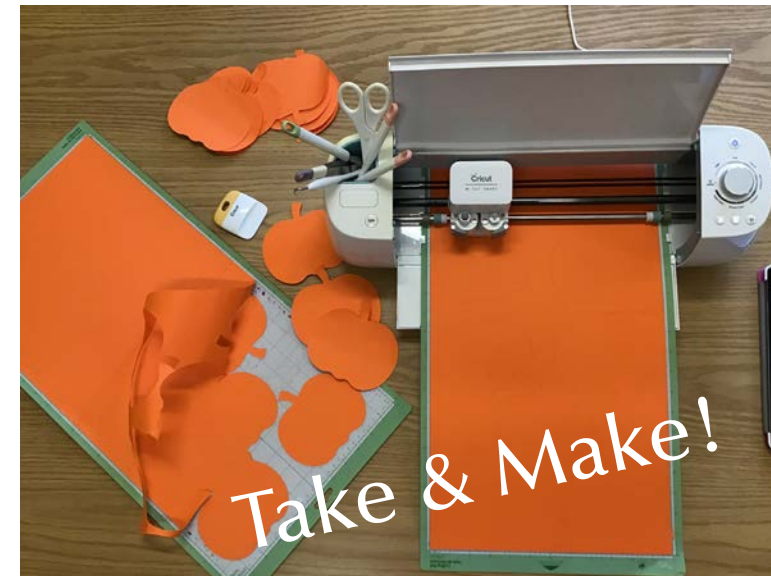
As restrictions eased, the library then offered **Express Browsing!** Seymour Library also launched a **Resource for Exploration & Home Schooling** web page to help families navigate the challenges of a virtual school year. **Take & Make kits** were available to give families socially distanced activities.

Plus, in 2020 - **NO MORE LATE FEES!** Reopening after the shutdown accelerated the library's plan to become fine-free. Seymour Library no longer charges late fees when you return items past their due date. However, if you don't return items within a month, you will be charged for the cost of the item. This allows the library to replace that item for others to enjoy.



Curbside, Express Browsing, Books-by-Mail and MORE!

Social Media Highlights



Seymour Library connected with patrons on social media platforms -- **Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube** were the library's top-performing outlets.

Our Facebook reach in 2019 was a total of 17,304 impressions, with our primary online audience located in Auburn and our surrounding communities.

In 2020 our **Facebook outreach doubled**, interacting with a larger audience than ever before. As words such as social distance became part of our everyday vocabulary, the library utilized social media to keep our patrons updated and informed! Storytimes transformed into virtual events that were accessible 24/7! During the stages of reopening, we used both **Instagram and Facebook** to notify our followers about the library's available services! From **Take & Make** kit announcements to fun with **Miss Jill and Mr. Spider** we continued to connect!

Overnight our YouTube Channel surged in popularity! Throughout 2019-2020, we had an astounding total of 2,701 views, with over 118 hours of watch time!

Our top video was "**A Message from Seymour Library**," bringing you the familiar faces of our staff. And Seymour Library's gardener, Dixie, educated and entertained viewers with the "**Ask Our Gardener**" series. As we slowly eased into reopening, a video created by our library staff for **Talk Like a Pirate Day** certainly helped lift the spirits of all patrons!

Let's CONNECT



Facebook • Instagram • YouTube

Building for the Future



IDEA Lab - STEM Programming



Children's Room Remodel

Seymour Library is building for the future, with a significant footprint in the past. Our staff and trustees worked with architects to develop a plan that helps us preserve our beautiful building while adapting to changes the architects of 118 years ago could not have imagined. As we plan each phase in our building projects, we incorporate needed building condition updates. While you may see new carpeting and furniture, what you don't see is new wiring, more efficient lighting, updated infrastructure - but it's there.

• Phase One: The IDEA Lab

Construction for this first phase began at the end of June 2019, with a grand opening on November 18, 2019. The IDEA Lab provides a Maker Space that utilizes technology to foster hands-on learning, creative thinking, and problem-solving for all ages.

Programs hosted in the IDEA Lab include: Fall Festival crafts, Movie Mondays, Maker Monday (STEAM), "Lights, Camera, Social Action!," and more!

• Phase Two: The Family Space

After serving the community for over 100 years, the Children's Room required a facelift. In 2019, Seymour Library used a bequest from Mrs. Jeanne Z. Dunn to secure public state dollars to revamp the library's lower level.

Using this grant and the bequest, Seymour Library is creating the new **Richard S. and Jeanne Z. Dunn Family Space** that provides an intimate and interactive space dedicated to the needs of our families. The Family Space will offer a designated study area, a reading room, updated furnishings, a special reading nook for children, and new windows that bring natural light into the space. Included in this project is a new lift allowing visitors with mobility issues access to areas never available in the past.

• Phase Three: West Lobby

In 2020, we applied for funding to renovate the West Lobby with plans to begin construction in the fall/winter of 2021.

We are working hard to take care of this beautiful resource that is an integral part of the community.



Seymour Library is planning for a VIBRANT future!

Financials & Grants

Revenue 2019	\$Total	Revenue 2020	\$Total
Tax Levy	812,000	Tax Levy	830,000
Gifts	608,995	Gifts	19,061
Fees and Miscellaneous	27,850	Fees and Miscellaneous	14,505
State & Local Aid	14,023	State & Local Aid	10,882
SL Foundation	27,295	SL Foundation	2,028
Grant Income	<u>110,943</u>	Grant Income	<u>43,823</u>
	\$1,601,106		\$920,299

Expenses 2019	\$Total	Expenses 2020	\$Total
Administrative	63,762	Administrative	63,932
Building & Grounds	69,433	Building & Grounds	66,798
Materials to Circulate	108,371	Materials to Circulate	105,663
Payroll & Related	691,375	Payroll & Related	675,378
Programs, Services & Supplies	31,902	Programs, Services & Supplies	17,075
Technology	<u>41,935</u>	Technology	<u>37,963</u>
	\$1,006,778		\$966,809

2019 and 2020 were atypical in terms of fiscal reporting for the library. In 2019, we received the remainder of a significant bequest initiated in 2018. We also received a NY State Construction Grant (\$57,827) to complete renovations to our IDEA Lab. In 2019, we had \$13,111 in grant funds that were not yet expended.

In 2020, the accounting rules governing how we recognize certain types of income have changed. We received a NY State Construction Grant of \$397,379 in December of 2020 but cannot recognize this revenue until the construction project is complete (in 2021). Additionally, in 2020, we had \$22,327 in grant funds that were not expended.

Grants 2019

Bernard Carl & Shirley Rosen Library Fund Grant
D.E. French & Stanley W. Metcalf Foundations
FLLS Family Literacy Grant
FLLS Outreach Grant
Fred M. Everett & Ora H. Everett Charitable Trust Grant
Humanities New York Vision Grant
Kiwanis Club of Auburn
NYS Construction Aid to Public Libraries
South Central Regional Library Council

Grants 2020

Bernard Carl & Shirley Rosen Library Fund Grant
D.E. French & Stanley W. Metcalf Foundations
FLLS Outreach Mini Grant
FLLS Family Literacy Grant
Fred M. Everett & Ora H. Everett Charitable Trust Grant
NYS Construction Aid to Public Libraries
South Central Regional Library Council