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.

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

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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.

Board of Trustees

Friends of Seymour Library

Seymour Library Foundation Board of Directors

Our Supporters

Our Supporters
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
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.


**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!
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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Stats</th>
<th>2020 Stats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cataloged Books</td>
<td>57,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Holdings</td>
<td>90,227</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electronic Books</td>
<td>12,284</td>
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<td>7,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Downloadable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits <a href="http://www.seymourlibrary.org">www.seymourlibrary.org</a></td>
<td>70,882</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cataloged Books</td>
<td>54,115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Holdings</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Audio Downloadable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Downloadable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visits <a href="http://www.seymourlibrary.org">www.seymourlibrary.org</a></td>
<td>81,972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our PATRONS are the LIFE of the library.
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...
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!

Learning Goes Virtual

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

### Revenue 2019

<table>
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<td>Tax Levy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
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<td>Fees and Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>State &amp; Local Aid</td>
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<td>SL Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Revenue 2020

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
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<td>Gifts</td>
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<td>Fees and Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Grant Income</td>
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### Expenses 2019

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<td>Building &amp; Grounds</td>
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<td>Materials to Circulate</td>
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<td>Payroll &amp; Related</td>
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<td>Programs, Services &amp; Supplies</td>
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<td>Technology</td>
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### Expenses 2020

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<td>Programs, Services &amp; Supplies</td>
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<td>Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>966,809</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 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