

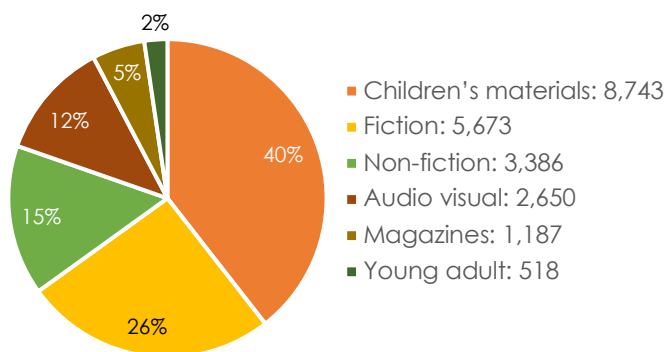
Pound Ridge Library Annual Letter to the Community 2022

2022 By the Numbers

3,000 Library Card Holders	2,080 Hours Open	22,157 Physical Materials Borrowed	14,298 Digital Materials Borrowed
1,039 Programs Offered	15,064 Program Attendees	464 Online Programs Offered	9,089 Online Program Attendees

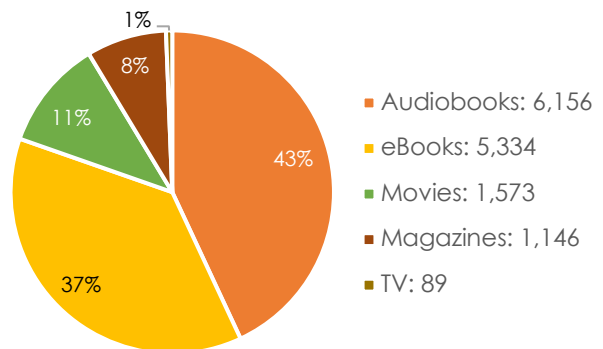
Circulation

Total circulation: 22,157 items



Digital Borrows

Total digital borrows: 14,298 items

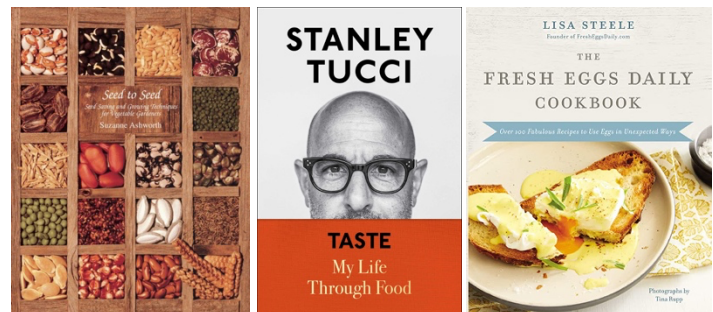


Most Borrowed

Fiction



Non-Fiction



2022: A Year of Change

Interior Transformation

What a difference a year can make! In 2022, the Library underwent a complete makeover to modernize the space into an inviting, open concept with new shelving and furniture, comfortable seating areas, collaborative workspaces with a multitude of power outlets to power personal devices, and a coffee and tea cafe suitable for remote working and lounging. The Fiction Room relocated to the forefront to greet patrons as they enter, there is a new space dedicated to teens, and the multi-purpose Schaffner Room was refreshed from top to bottom.

The interior renovations feature purposefully designed and selected wood shelving and furnishings, a serene color palette, updated flooring, new circulation and reference desks, and clear, modern signage. The relocated fiction area is a bright, open-concept space filled with comfortable

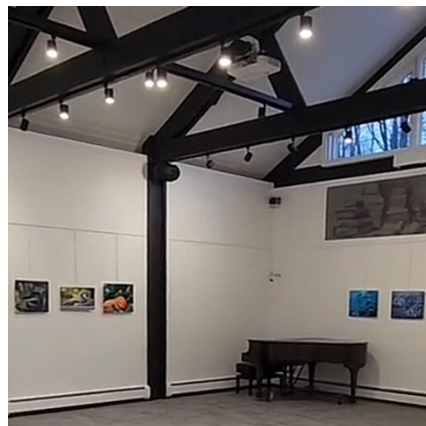
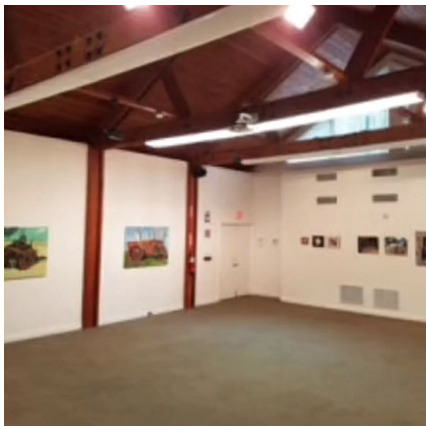
Before...



and After!



seating and workspaces. The non-fiction collection and patron computers moved to the Reading Room, which provides quiet space to work and study. Many individuals and groups take advantage of the new meeting space on the lower level, which can accommodate up to 30 visitors, and offers collaborative workspace. The new café with free coffee, tea, and hot chocolate has proven very popular. Teens love the new young adult area which features stylish “egg chairs,” and houses the YA collections, graphic novels, and Nintendo Switch games. Other collections were relocated to improve access and functionality. Every seating area throughout the Library features floor electrical outlets for charging devices. The Library was open throughout the six-week project, which concluded in December, providing check in/checkout services and inter-library loans. All programs and events took place as scheduled and the Children’s Room remained open.



The Schaffner Room, a multi-functional space which serves all ages and hosts a wide range of events and activities, serves a pivotal role in the Library’s programming as a gathering space for the community. The new aesthetic is reflected in high-contrast,

monochromatic colors, carpeting, and LED track lighting. An upgrade to motorized shades and custom acoustic wall panels improves the room’s form and function. A new state-of-the-art audio system offers an enhanced experience for lectures and multimedia presentations, and enables the Library to offer hybrid in-person and virtual programs. The room features a professional art track display system which offers visitors an inviting space to enjoy the work of local artists. The Pound Ridge Library Foundation generously funded updates to the Schaffner Room, completed in July.

Library Leadership

In January, the Library appointed a new Director. In September, 14 residents ran for seven open seats on the Library Board and four new Trustees joined the Library Board. The Board also elected a new slate of officers.

2022 Programming Year in Review

Dozens of Programs for All Ages

Our weekly children's programming includes **musical programs, twice-daily all-ages story-time, Reading with the Dogs, chess, STEM programs, and art.** Weekly adult Zoom programs like **Tai Chi, Modified Yoga, Mindful Meditation, Writer's Inspiration, and Cardio & Strength** are popular and convenient. In-person adult programs like **The Great Courses, Mah Jongg, Canasta, and Yoga** are a great way to meet people who share your interests. Not to mention, our monthly book groups for both adults and children!

Our Special Programs

The Library held many special workshops and sessions in 2022 from live performances to author visits to educational presentations and visits for children, teens, and adults. These included:

- **Lectures** like *Can Sustainable Food Systems Save the Climate?*, *Books and Bridles: The Story of the Horseback Librarians*, *Bird-Friendly Backyards*, *What is Juneteenth?*, *Northeast Native American Stories*, and *If Stone Walls Could Talk*
- **Workshops and discussions** like *The Last Slave Ship* book discussion, *Simple Skills for Watercolor*, *Earring-making workshop*, *Home Downsizing in 4 Easy Steps*, and *Women and Money* financial series "How to Make Sense of Today's Financial Market"
- **Informational sessions** like *How to Successfully Navigate College Admissions in 2022*, *Behind Closed Doors: Shedding the Light on Domestic Violence*, and *New Local*, *Heirloom Community Seed Library* and "Seed Saving" program
- **Activities, visits and performances** like the *Darien Nature Center* animal visit, *Children's Summer Reading Game*, *children's costume swap*, *Annual Fox Read: Merci Suarez Changes Gears*, *Dr. Peter Muir* piano recital and lecture, and *Mommy & Me Yoga*

The Schaffner Gallery

In 2022, the Schaffner Gallery featured exhibits including *Paintella: Works by 4 Women Artists* (Robin Artz, Patti Ivry, Roe Prosser, and Fran Weiss), *Emergence: Paintings* by Susannah Leighton, *Beyond Basic Shapes* by Patricia Frankel, '6 Feet' by Moim Group, 'Poetry in Symmetry,' digital art by Pound Ridge resident Seth Markowitz (known as S.E.M.), and 'From Brownie to Leica to Nikon: Bernie Gastrich's Progression in Photography.'

In the Community: Did You See Us Under the Tent?

- **Earth Day Festival:** Distributed reusable library totes and the Library Director spoke about how the Library earned its Green Business Certification.
- **Pound Ridge Proud Day:** Gave out seeds from the new Seed Library, signed kids up for the Summer Reading program, and had a Krafty Kids art session.
- **Memorial Day Parade:** Marched proudly representing the Library.
- **Harvest Festival:** Greeted festival goers and distributed goodies.
- **Halloween Walk:** Handed out candy, book lights, and spooky swag.
- **Health and Wellness Fair:** Offered healthy snacks and brochures about the Library's wellness programs.



On behalf of the Library staff and Board of Trustees, we look forward to continuing to serve and engage with the community in 2023!

Staff

Jennifer Coulter (Director/Librarian)
 Alan Ramsay (Senior/Children's Librarian)
 Marilyn Tinter (Librarian)
 Susan Turner
 Jocelyn Gash
 Reeno Hashimoto
 Sam Postman
 Hannah VanTilburg

Board of Trustees

Bonnie Schwartz (President)
 Valerie Nelson (Vice President)
 Michael Clark (Treasurer)
 Anne Benefico (Secretary)
 John Cristiano
 Jennifer Savage
 Selena Shen
 Maryellen Walsh
 Jenna Wise

What's in Store for 2023?



This spring, the Library will **repave and install new lighting in the parking lot and electric vehicle charging stations.**



There are **new faces in the Children's Room.** Three new Children's Room Assistants joined us in January. All are Pound Ridge residents who bring a fresh perspective, creativity, and enthusiasm to their roles. Stop in and say hello. They are eager to assist you!



In celebration of the Library's makeover, **a grand reopening, An Evening of Storytelling, will take place on April 22nd.** Join us for an evening of funny, poignant tales shared live by the people who lived them, including Moth GrandSlam winner Terry Wolfisch Cole who will host the evening and share the experience of her appearance on Jeopardy against 40-time champion Amy Schneider.

Did You Know...



You can **recycle batteries** at the Library → Bring them to the circulation desk.



There is a **Notary** on staff → Call for an appointment.



We have **museum passes** you can borrow to visit area museums → Reserve passes online.



We are now a **Passport Acceptance Facility** → Call for an appointment.



We offer **technology help** → Come by Saturdays at 11am or call for an appointment.



We have **equipment available** for loan → Borrow podcasting microphones, mobile hotspots, Nintendo consoles and games, and Google Chromebooks.



We have **seeds** for your garden → Visit our Seed Library for vegetable, flower, and herb seeds.



We are the Town's **official warming and cooling center** during power outages.