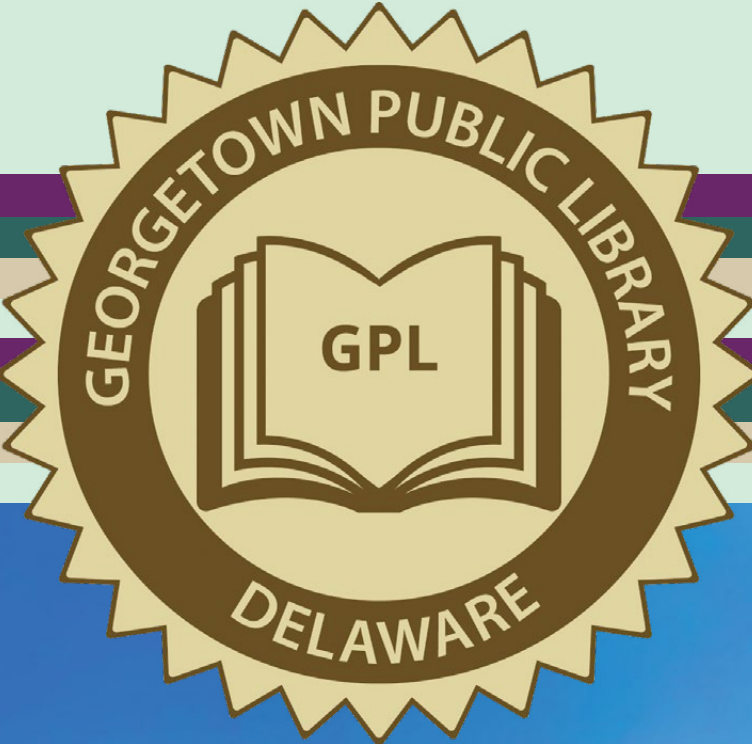


# Georgetown Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT

# 2023

July 2022 - June 2023



## GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

123 West Pine Street

Georgetown, DE 19947

 facebook.com/GeorgetownPublicLibraryDE

[georgetown.lib.de.us](http://georgetown.lib.de.us)

### LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday – Thursday:  
10:00am – 7:00pm

Friday:  
10:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday:  
10:00am – 2:00pm



# MISSION

The Georgetown Public Library provides all members of the community with a welcoming environment in which to freely access ideas and information to help fulfill educational, cultural, and recreational needs. We seek to engage and reflect our community through programs, services, and informational sources that address current topics and lifelong learning.



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Georgetown Public Library Community,

As the Library Director, it is an honor and a privilege to share with you the highlights and accomplishments of our beloved institution over the past year.

In an ever-evolving digital age, libraries continue to play a vital role in our communities. Georgetown Public Library is more than just a repository of books; it is a dynamic hub of knowledge, a center for learning, and a place where people from all walks of life come to explore, connect, and grow.

Here are some of the key achievements and initiatives that shaped our journey this year:

**Expanding Our Digital Resources:** We worked with the Delaware Division of Libraries to expand our digital collection, providing our patrons with access to an ever-growing array of e-books, online databases, and multimedia resources.

**Promoting Lifelong Learning:** We hosted a diverse range of workshops, seminars, and educational programs for all age groups, fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

**Community Engagement:** In our role as a gathering place for the community, from book clubs to author talks, we offered numerous events that brought people together and fostered a sense of belonging.

**Partnerships and Collaborations:** We forged valuable partnerships with local schools, nonprofits, businesses, and cultural institutions, expanding our reach and impact within the community.

All these achievements were made possible by the unwavering support of our dedicated staff, the generosity of our donors, and the enthusiasm of our patrons.

With your continued support, Georgetown Public Library will remain a vibrant, inclusive, and innovative institution that empowers individuals and strengthens our community.

Together, we will continue to write the next chapters in the story of Georgetown Public Library.

With warm regards,

*Rachel Culver*

Rachel Culver  
Library Director





FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Rachel Culver, Tina Sonzogni, Ida Fitchett, Meghan Palazzo, Thelma Jones, Nicholas Logue

**Rachel Culver**  
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

**Meghan Palazzo**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Adam Cook**  
LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**Nicholas Logue**  
LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**David Salner**  
LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**Tina Sonzogni**  
LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**Karen Young**  
LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**Barbara Barr**  
SUBSTITUTE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

**Ida Fitchett**  
BEHAVIOR MONITOR

**Thelma Jones**  
CATALOGER

**Scott Walls**  
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

**Deirdre A. McCartney**  
PRESIDENT

**Susanne Laws**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**Alice Brumbley**

**Christina Diaz-Malone**

**Charles Koskey**

**Carolyn McPeak-Fletcher**

**VOLUNTEERS:**

**Nancy Kramer**

**Gina Shearon**

**Joyce Skrobot**

**Charlotte Watt**

**Gail Yering**



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:  
Scott Walls, Karen Young, David Salner

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Georgetown Public Library serves as a resource for knowledge, creativity, and community engagement. We enrich the lives of our diverse population by providing access to information, fostering a love of learning, and promoting inclusivity to tens of thousands of visitors each year.

### FY 2023

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
Circulation	38,033
Library Visitors	65,201
New Library Cards Issued	971
Computer Sessions	5,195
WiFi Sessions	6,473
eMedia Circulation	10,284
Meeting Space Use	134
Programs, Classes & Workshops Offered	1,139
Library Program Attendees	11,403



### New IN 2023!

- Electronic RFID tags and self-checkout for faster service
- Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots available for checkout
- Health, social, and teleservice appointments
- Kanopy online video streaming service
- Jigsaw puzzles available to be checked out just like a book
- Assessment conducted to improve facility accessibility
- New repaved parking lot



# Youth

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Our exciting programs give children and teens a chance to interact with each other while learning to use the resources in the library.

- **Storytime** – On Fridays, starting at 11:00 am, we offer engaging activities for children aged 1-5. These activities include reading books and creating crafts that relate to the stories. It's a great opportunity for children to interact with others and enhance their early literacy skills while having fun.
- **Chess Club** – Chess fosters the development of analytical problem-solving skills in children, encouraging them to learn from their peers and build new friendships along the way.
- **PAWS - Literacy Support** – Engaging in reading aloud to a furry therapy companion, whether it's a dog, cat, or bunny, through PAWS for People, serves as a source of inspiration for cultivating a passion for reading.
- **Lego Club** – With the Library's extensive collection of Lego bricks, children have the opportunity to delve into their creative potential and exhibit their creations for a duration of up to two weeks!
- **PC-based Planning** – We have utilized STEM software to design wetlands, acquire knowledge about conservation techniques, delve into the mysteries of the ocean and its inhabitants, and engage in a multitude of other educational experiences.
- **Model Train Display** – Each fall the Delaware Seaside Railroad Club brings their amazing model trains to be enjoyed by more than 700 people through special tours and public displays.
- **Homeschool Programs** – Through our exchange program, homeschooling families have the opportunity to contribute materials they no longer require and acquire new ones. Additionally, they can take advantage of activity stations tailored for conducting science experiments, engaging in art projects, and fostering creative writing skills.
- **Summer Reading Program** – We begin the summer season with a Summer Kickoff Party featuring arts and crafts, games, Kona Ice treats, live music, food trucks, and collaborative activities with our partner organizations. Following the festivities, we host an outdoor, family-friendly movie screening. This marks the beginning of our three-month-long Summer Reading Program, filled with opportunities for literacy, theater performances, science-based activities, and more. The Library's Summer Reading Program provides kids with a way to keep their reading habits active during the school break. And, as a bonus, patrons who read for at least 10 hours throughout the program have a chance to win exciting prizes!



# Adult

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Library's free, entertaining programs for adults include art instruction, cooking classes, lecture series, exercise classes, and more.

- **Local Authors Event** – Local authors read excerpts from their work, delve into their research and discoveries, and engage in Q&A sessions.
- **Sip & Shop** – This annual fundraiser, co-hosted by the Board and the Friends, is a chance for the community to come together to support the library by enjoying local wine while perusing the library's fall book sale, and bid on silent auction items.
- **Whimsical Masterpieces** – Local artist John Donato guided participants in mastering basic techniques with oil pastels, and the resulting artwork was proudly showcased at the library.
- **Food Preservation Course** – Explored various methods to extend the shelf life of food, rejuvenate ingredients, and reduce food waste. The course included preservation techniques such as drying/dehydration, pickling, oil packing, and freezing.
- **Pilates** – Every Friday, we host a free Beginner / Intermediate class for stretching and strengthening through pilates.
- **ESL Classes** – The Georgetown Public Library partners with three organizations who provide a variety of English as a Second Language Classes to individuals of various levels of English proficiency.
- **Wildflower Arrangements** – Attendees learned the best techniques for collecting wildflowers and making beautiful arrangements to take home.
- **Jewelry Making Workshop** – Participants had the opportunity to acquire the skills needed to craft their very own bracelets.
- **Il Divo Concert** – Thanks to the Freeman Arts Pavilion, Georgetown Public Library patrons were able to get an exclusive group opportunity to attend the Il Divo concert for free.
- **Computer Training Program** – Thanks to a generous grant from AARP, the Georgetown Public Library offered complimentary computer classes for adults, covering a wide range of topics from setting up email addresses to creating Excel spreadsheets.
- **Gardening Series** – A comprehensive three-part workshop series designed to instruct participants on garden planning and the selection of compatible plants, the art of planting native wildflowers, and the process of starting seeds for their gardens.
- **Easter Seals Pre-Vocational Team** – Twice a week, a dedicated group from Easter Seals collaborates with the library to assist in book shelving, library organization, and program preparation, while simultaneously gaining valuable job skills



## FINANCIAL REPORT

As an independent library, 67% of our operating funds are provided via state and county funding and the balance must be raised through modest program fees, support from Friends, and contributions from our community.

### SOURCE OF FUNDS

Scheduled Contributions, Fundraisers, Grants	\$ 8,900
Meeting Room Rentals	\$ 2,500
Fines & Fees	\$ 5,370
Sussex County	\$ 242,048
Mobile Home Tax	\$ 19,000
State of Delaware	\$ 72,492
Donations	\$ 116,190
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 466,500</b>

### USE OF FUNDS

Building & Grounds	\$ 109,025
Materials & Programs	\$ 30,000
Operations	\$ 24,060
Personnel	\$ 303,415
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 466,500</b>



## GRANTS

- **Food Bank of Delaware** – Donation for reading material that will enhance the experience of the children that walk through your doors
- **DANA Discover Grant** – Board Excellence Survey
- **Delaware Division of the Arts** – Creative Aging Art Program
- **Bartlett Trees** – Legacy Tree Program and Tree Maintenance
- **Sussex County Anchor Grants** – Library Programming
- **National Science Foundation** – Blue Whale Education
- **Community Connect** – Chromebooks and Hotspots for circulation
- **M&T Charitable Contributions** – Bathroom remodel

## Our FUTURE

In our ongoing commitment to community engagement and sustainable progress, our future revolves around community collaboration and innovative improvements for our local library.

1. Community collaboration - assessing needs and providing services tailored to what the community wants.
2. Improving our HVAC system for a more geothermal and comfortable library.
3. Relocating accessible parking spaces to provide individuals with disabilities easier access to the library.
4. Installation of solar panels to enhance energy efficiency and reduce costs.

By contributing to the library's efforts, you help foster the enduring growth and flourishing of our collective ideals in education, exploration, inclusivity, and service, ensuring they resonate for generations to come. We encourage you to donate to the Georgetown Public Library and help us to sustain our mission and continue to participate in our community's flourishing by embodying all that's good about Georgetown.

## HOW You CAN HELP!

Make a tax-deductable donation

DONATE ONLINE:



SEND A CHECK:

Georgetown Public Library  
123 West Pine Street  
Georgetown, DE 19947



## BECOME A Friend OF GEORGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY

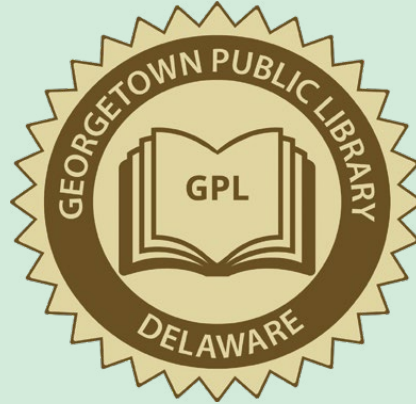
The Friends of the Georgetown Public Library (FGPL) is a separate registered 501 (c) (3) organization. The Friends advocate for the Library and raise funds for programming, book acquisitions, and general support. The Friends meet annually in May to elect officers and board members.

### HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND

The yearly membership year for FGPL runs from May 1 to April 30 of the following year. Membership forms are available at the library or via download as a PDF from the library website: <https://georgetown.lib.de.us/friends/>

### TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE:

<b>Student:</b>	\$5 for one year		\$20 for 5 years
<b>Individual:</b>	\$10 for one year		\$40 for 5 years   \$100 lifetime
<b>Family:</b>	\$15 for one year		\$50 for 5 years   \$150 lifetime
<b>Benefactor:</b>	\$25 for one year		\$75 for 5 years   \$200 lifetime



## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS


At the Georgetown Public Library, we aim to carry out programs and establish partnerships to enhance access to resources and services. We are grateful for the support from the following organizations:

Alzheimer's Association  
Apex  
Child, Inc.  
Delaware Aviation Museum Foundation  
Delaware Botanic Gardens  
Delaware Center for Distance Adult Learning, Inc.  
Delaware Division of the Visually Impaired  
Delaware Volunteer 50+  
Delaware Seaside Railroad  
Easter Seals  
First State Community Action  
Friends of Georgetown Public Library  
Georgetown Arts & Flowers  
Georgetown CommUNITY  
Greg Hitz, ESL Tutor  
Indian River School District  
La Colectiva  
La Esperanza  
Literacy Delaware  
CAMP Rehoboth, Music & Memory  
Quality Insights  
Read Aloud Delaware  
Sandhill Fields  
Sussex Tech Adult Education, ESL  
Town of Georgetown

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