

# FINKELSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring!

I have some very exciting news to share: we have been awarded 2.5 million dollars in Federal and State construction grants to expand the library! A grant is money provided by a governmental or non-profit entity for a specific purpose. Thanks to these grants, we are able to innovatively address the pressing needs in our community and expand the building to include counseling rooms, additional program/classroom space, and a multicultural study center for all ages to enjoy. This will also allow the library to reconfigure the existing layout and improve services by increasing capacity for books and other collections, installing a new elevator, and a central staircase without increasing your taxes. Although none of the funding for this project comes from local taxes, it is limited to construction related costs and cannot be used for operational costs including staffing or purchasing of materials.

Last year, we were happy to be able to bring some additional programs and services to the community such as the human rights satellite office, job fairs, senior services, career workshops, financial literacy courses, legal clinics, fitness classes, case work appointments, additional resources for New Americans, and much more. We also addressed several safety concerns by replacing our parking deck and roof.

This year, we have several exciting plans for our existing library services. If the 2024-25 budget is successful, we will restore the book and other materials budgets to pre-pandemic levels which will increase the size of our most popular special collections and best-sellers while allowing us to maintain the variety of offerings we are pleased to provide. In addition, we will be increasing the hours of operation on Fridays over the summer months to 7 p.m. which will allow more people time to check out their materials for the weekend. We have plans to become a passport acceptance center with Sunday hours for the convenience of our community. We will also increase e-resources such as e-books and e-audio books. All of this will cost an average of \$3 more per year per person, less than the cost of a single trade paperback!

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees, we thank you for being a valued patron and look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,  
Laura Wolven



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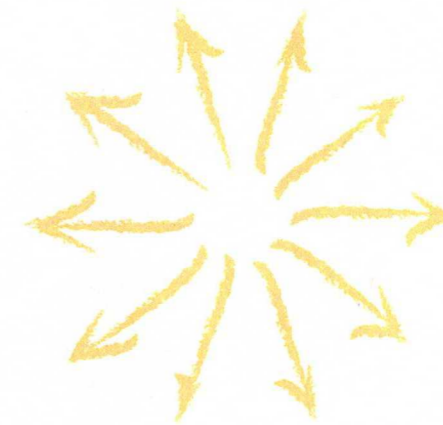
**YOUTH SERVICES**  
Won 3rd place in Battle of the Books!

460 library cards generated for grades K-12.

828 children and teens registered for Summer Reading 2023.



**OVER 585K  
ITEMS  
CIRCULATED  
FROM OUR  
COLLECTION!**



**\$5.2 MILLION  
RECEIVED  
THROUGH  
GRANT  
FUNDING!**



**ADULT SERVICES**  
The Rockland County Human Rights Satellite Office opened in Spring Valley this year and is located at our library!

We hosted our first ever Farm Stand and look forward to bringing this back again this summer.

