



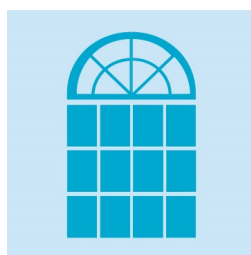
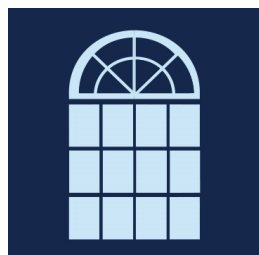
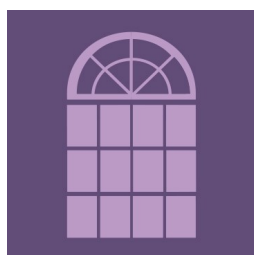
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Dear Pelham Patrons,

The Library enjoyed a period of growth and change in 2019. Demand for digital materials increased enormously, and we are shaping our collections in accordance with the changing reading habits of our patrons while still maintaining a robust print collection. Our programs also grew in 2019, thanks to the efforts of the Library staff and our generous volunteers. In particular, we added new storytimes for babies and toddlers to introduce our youngest patrons to early literacy skills. One of our most visual changes can be found at the top of this page—our beautiful new logo inspired by one of the Library's Palladian windows and designed by Pelham resident Russell Solomon.

Although this report represents a snapshot in time, it is part of the larger transformation of our Library into so much more than the building and the materials within it. While our physical capacity may be limited, our creativity is not. And while technology continues to bring rapid change to information delivery, our mission remains the same: to provide people of all ages, abilities, tastes and backgrounds with access to materials, services and programs that reflect diverse interests and points of view. This is your Library.

Patricia Perito, Library Director





2019 Highlights

Programs

Programs were big in 2019. The Library staff added many new offerings, which resulted in a whopping 33% increase in attendance to 12,023 attendees. Among new programs introduced: baby story time emphasizing early literacy skills, which led to a 73% increase in participation, and a new New Year's Eve countdown for kids. Coding classes were also popular.

The Friends of the Town of Pelham Library organized a community-wide Pelham Reads! celebration of *Hidden Figures* by Margo Lee Shetterly. The Library partnered with the Friends and other Pelham institutions to help host a week-long series of family events related to space exploration and women in science.



The eLibrary

Patrons availed themselves of the eLibrary in 2019 more than ever, as evidenced by large increases in usage of eBooks, digital audiobooks, databases and streaming services that make up our digital offerings. Use of electronic materials rose from 9,554 to 14,543, a 52 percent increase.

Cardholders

The Library staff issued 662 new library cards in 2019, bringing the total number of library cardholders to 5,738. The number of annual visits to the Library's website was 39,373, increasing slightly over 2018, while the number of physical visits was 81,809, decreasing slightly from the previous year.

Pelham's Teen Team Wins Battle of the Books!

In October 2019, the Pelham teen team (Grades 6-10) participated in the annual Battle of the Books and came home with the Champion Cup! Led by librarian Oz Coto-Chang, the aptly-named Readers of Oz group beat teams from Yorktown in the quarterfinals, Briarcliff in the semis, and Somers in the championship! Pelham team members were Lise Obudulu, Matthew Michailoff, Cararose Vitale, Vivian Guo, Ava Vitale, Madeline Simon, Delia Lavallee, Uma Kancharla and Viviana Wright.

The cup itself, pictured at right with librarian Coto-Chang, will now live in the Town of Pelham Public Library until another team claims it. Battle of the Books is an annual competition where teams of kids representing different libraries in Westchester read books and compete to answer increasingly difficult questions. Books read in the teen division were: *Scythe* by Neal Shusterman; *Refugee* by Alan Gratz; *The Screaming Staircase* by Jonathan Stroud; *Restart* by Gordon Korman; and *When Dimple Met Rishi* by Sandhya Menon. Thanks to our librarians Augusta Turner and Oz Coto-Chang for all their work with the teams and BOB committee!





About the Library

BUDGET

As a municipal library, the Library is funded primarily by taxes collected by the Town of Pelham, which appropriated \$599,963 towards the Library's operating budget—just over 84 percent of \$712,144. We were fortunate to receive a number of gifts and grants, including the Friends' contribution which is our biggest gift at \$82,000 or 12% of the total budget. Other gifts and grants totaled over \$19,472 and we used \$11,142 of our gift fund for juvenile books, professional development and select programs.



If you have any questions about this report, please contact Library Director Patricia Perito at 914-738-1234. The Library values feedback from the community.

LIBRARY STAFF

(as of 12/31/2019)

Director: Patricia Perito

Managing Librarian: Augusta Turner

Youth Services : Oz Coto-Chang

Support Services Supervisor: Irene Kobziar

Clerks: Adam Marciano, Maureen Annunziata, Adrian Coto-Chang, Ruth Konigsberg, Carl Wadley, Jamice Williams

Pages: Jilsana Bakry, George Cisneros

Bookkeeper: Gail Vidales

TRUSTEES

(as of 12/31/2019)

Sandy Angevine, Vice President

Margaret Breuninger, Secretary

Catherine Campbell

Karen Fellner

Emily Gest

Robert Gimigliano

Keith Keaveny

Jennifer Meyer

Terrence Mullan, President

Lisa Robb

Judith Shampanier

Town of Pelham Liaison: Dan

McLaughlin, Deputy Supervisor

An 11-member board governs the Library. We wish to thank Jennifer DeLeonardo and Samantha Monroe Hinton for their service and welcome new trustees Meyer, Robb and Shampanier. We also welcome Maura Curtin as the Library's new liaison to the Town of Pelham.



TOWN OF PELHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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