



# ELTING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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100 years at 93 Main  
1920-2020

## **President's Report to the Association for the Year 2021 Presented at the Annual Meeting on January 24, 2022**

### **Overview**

This year last year was dominated by the transition to new Library Director Gillian Murphy, and the continuation of the impact of the coronavirus on Library operations.

### **Transition**

John Giralico, Library Director since 1974, announced that he would be retiring in April 2021. A Search Committee made up of board members, staff and representatives of the business community was formed in the fall of 2020 to begin a search for our New Director. Attempting a search during Covid lockdowns was challenging. In person interviews and visits to the library were impossible. To introduced final candidates to the community members and get their feedback, each candidate gave two presentations that were open to the public via Zoom.

Gillian Murphy was selected and became Library Director on April 15, bringing fresh ideas and new perspectives on Library services, collections and programs as well as library management. Taking over from a Director who led the Library for 47 years is a daunting challenge and the transition that began in April will continue well into 2022.

In the spring, the Board hosted a community-wide celebration of John and retired Children's Room manager Bonnie Pfeffer. A tree was planted on Library grounds in John's honor.

## **Losses**

In addition to the retirement of John Giralico, Jesse Chance, longtime Operations Manager and Assistant Director, left to accept the Directorship at Hyde Park Public Library. The year was also marked by the tragic death of beloved library circulation desk clerk Raymundo Jackson.

This will also be the last meeting of two valuable board members who have come to the ends of their terms.

**Alison Nash:** Alison has served on the Board for over nine years. She served on many committees and has been, for the past two years, the Coordinator of the Communication Committee. She has also served for many years as Secretary of the Board. In addition, Alison has led the popular community wide raffle and silent auction conducted during the Annual Library Fair. This huge task requires interaction with more than a hundred local businesses as well as the collection and distribution of the many prizes.

**Jason Warren:** Jason has been a leader in introducing technological improvements to the Library, including the hearing loop in the Steinberg Room, improved Wi-Fi throughout the Library building and grounds, the acquisition of state-of-the-art video projector, hot-spots, and updated tablets and laptops. In addition, Jason served as Treasurer for two years and, as a long-time member of the Finance Committee, was instrumental in winning a PPP grant that allowed Elting to pay staff members when the Library was closed and fundraising activities were suspended.

Both will be missed. We hope they continue to be involved with the Library for years come.

## **Long Range Plan**

In the spring, the Board adopted a Long-Range Plan of Service for 2021- 2023 establishing goals for the Library reflecting the Library's mission, values and vision statements. The Plan will be evaluated annually to measure progress toward those goals. The Plan is available on the Elting Library website.

## **Finances**

**Proposition 414:** In November, New Paltz voters approved a 414 proposition increasing the Library's allocation by \$100,000, from \$556,000 to \$656,000. It has been four years since we last went to the voters for an increase.

Independent Financial review: In December, the independent accounting firm UHY completed our financial review for 2020. “Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.” (UHY, 12/3/21).

IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax: This form is used to share financial and programmatic information about the Library with the general public. Granting organizations review the 990 to learn more about the Library. This year, the 990 was submitted with a completely rewritten narrative to better reflect how the Library is carrying out its mission through collections, programs and services.

In December, the Board voted to eliminate all overdue fines on Library materials, effective immediately.

## **JEDI**

In order to advance one of the primary goals of the Long-Range Plan, a JEDI (Justice, Equity Diversity and Inclusion) committee was formed to explore ways to implement this goal and make recommendations to the Director. The Committee is made up of Board, staff and members of the community.

## **Revised/New Policies**

Elting adapted the following ALA Statements of Principle:

- Freedom to Read
- Library Bill of Rights
- Free Access to Libraries for Minors
- Freedom to View

The following policies were updated and approved:

- Patron Code of Conduct
- Collection Development Policy
- Programming Policy

The Employee Handbook was revised and updated.

### **Return of the Library Fair**

For the first time since 1956, the Fair was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid. The Board decided to bring back the fair in 2021 with modifications to increase the safety of patrons as well as of staff and volunteers working the Fair. The Flea Market was eliminated allowing the remaining booths to spread out. Masks were mandated in the book tents. Aisles in the book tents were widened to allow for more distancing. The Fair was a gratifying success. It was a beautiful day and the community seemed genuinely pleased to have their Fair back again.

### **Capital Campaign Committee**

After a year's hiatus, the Board is examining the possibility of mounting a capital campaign to fund a major building construction project meant to address issues of access to the Library as well as provide increased meeting and storage space. Paul Mays, award-winning library architect, completed a design two years ago and will work the Committee and the Director to update the design and adapt it to serving the public in a post-Covid world.

### **Summary**

There's no doubt that 2021 was a challenging and eventful year. I'm pleased to report that the Board and staff worked together to bring the library through this difficult period. The support of the community and the love shown to the library throughout the year was a thing of beauty.