

SHEPHERDSTOWN  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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# Annual Report 2023

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# A Message from Board President Terrence Kramer



Congratulations to the Shepherdstown Public Library (SPL) board of trustees, staff of the library, and community for making 2023 a year of milestones. We created a new library based on the dreams and contributions of our engaged community. Our success is magnificently evident in this rich 2023 Annual Report. Membership, services, programs, and the number of materials offered all increased dramatically and we're still counting the numbers of birds, insects, and pollinators in our habitat.

The Board recognizes Hali Taylor and her remarkable leadership, professionalism, and commitment in making this dream a reality. It is the crowning achievement of her 34+ years of outstanding service to the library and community. Thank you, Hali. The Board is also delighted to welcome Christy Hagerty, our new Director, who is providing the same high level of library leadership and services to our vibrant community.

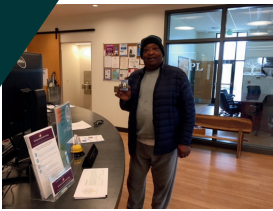
## Grand Opening

On July 22, 2022, the new Shepherdstown Public Library opened its doors with great fanfare. Then Library Director Hali Taylor, with the help of Board Trustee Bob Keller, cut the ceremonial ribbon to signal public entry into the newly constructed facility.



In 2023, the library welcomed more than 1,230 new card holders, including Carl Jenkins, #609, and averaged 120 visitors daily.

Circulation of total print materials increased by 166% with children's circulation alone seeing an increase of 566%. The library held 340 programs, reflecting an increase of 1,378%, and program attendance totaled 6,023, up 1,330%.



Throughout the year, the library implemented exciting and innovative programming for children, teens, and adults, to include STEM Club, Teen Writing Group, Middle School Anime/Manga Club; Crafternoon;

Art Club, Lego Club, Math Circle, Microscopy, Dungeons and Dragons, Meditation Hour, Sip & Stitch, and more.



## Programs

### Summer Reading Program

The exciting Summer Reading Program explored space through NASA's STAR Lab planetarium; animal programming with a falconry event presented by Laurel Fork Falconer and the behavior of beavers presented by the Human Beaver Coexistence Alliance; and finishing with author, musician and puppeteer Kevin Sherry.



# Find Your Place

Increased library space, from 2,000 to 8,900 square feet ensures that everyone can now better connect with the new library. Patrons can still check out books, but now they can also discover genealogy records and resources,



conduct research at any one of the library's many new public computers, charge their electric vehicles, or simply enjoy a little father/daughter quiet time.



## Commons Room

The library now offers public meeting spaces to the community for use. Over the last year, the room has been used for multiple and various group and book club meetings; mixers; workshops and seminars; weekly meditation; crafting functions; vaccine clinics; presentations by local area authors, educators, and beekeepers; art exhibits; and two baby showers.



## Landscape

Peggy Bowers and her team of landscape stewards have transformed the library grounds into an explosion of plants, trees, and grasses, all combining to create a natural habitat for pollinators. The landscape has been designed to not only demonstrate the beauty and functionality of a native plant landscape, but also provide a fantastic teaching opportunity to inspire and educate the community on the importance of growing native plants that support indigenous species.

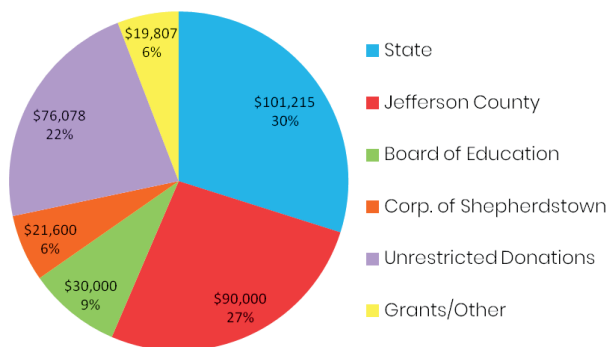


## Thank You Library Volunteers

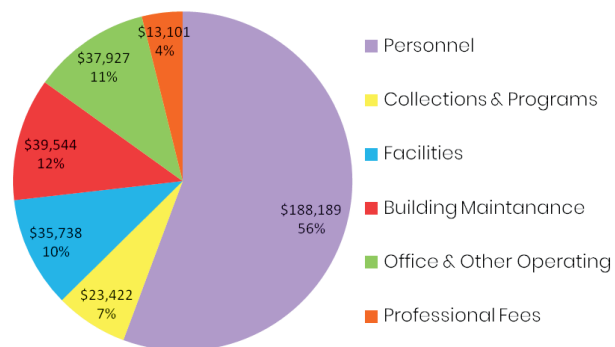
Library volunteers are a gift. As a group, the library's 16 adult and 8 teen volunteers are essential for efficient and effective day to day library operations. As individuals, they supplement library staff by providing multiple and varied services such as tech support, working the circulation desks, book shelving and reading, programming prep, storytelling, and so much more. Thank you, Tina Barton for overseeing this amazing combination of unpaid library ambassadors.



## Operating Revenues FY2023



## Operating Expenses FY2023



## Financial Position

Friends of Shepherdstown Library (FOSL) is a non-profit group of volunteers operating under its own 501(c)(3) designation, led by President Rob Sisk, formed to strengthen and expand library services by raising funds for programs and enhancing community awareness and participation. In 2023, FOSL's 116 members raised \$28,073.74 for library programming and services.

## Financial Position (cont.)

The Nourishing Literacy Giving Circle (NLGC) is a library initiative spearheaded by Linda Spatig created to provide a sustainable system for financially supporting the library through regular monthly contributions. NLGC has over 85 members, and in 2023, NLGC donations totaled \$23,910.94.

In June of 2023, the Shepherdstown Public Library Foundation, established in 2014, elected a new board, with John Barton as current Chair. The Foundation's purpose is still to support the library, but now with a goal of raising revenue for operations.

## One Year and Going Strong

With cake, ice cream, and an open mic, the library celebrated its one-year anniversary on the patio in a special event sponsored by FOSL. A huge crowd was in attendance to mark this milestone event and to bid a fond farewell to Hali Taylor and Lee Ann Warner, both retiring after many years of service.



## The Future A Message from Director Christy Hagerty



This year the library will continue to encourage the love of literacy and to provide a space that will allow community members to become engaged and educated through a variety of programming and services. We will continue to look for opportunities to support learning and reading, outreach through the community, and creating a comfortable and accessible library for all. Needs will include building maintenance inside and out, programming for adults and children, staffing, and continuing to enhance the new library with finishing touches.

### Board of Trustees

Terrence Kramer, President

Jack Eggleston, Treasurer

Rosemary Nickerson, Ph.D., Secretary

Robert Keller, Trustee

Sally Brasher, Ph.D., Trustee



### Library Staff

Christy Hagerty, Director

Rachel Heller, Youth Services Director

Lance Dom, Adult Services

Addison Reese, Adult Services

Jesse Ward, Children's Services