



**PrendergastLibrary**  
Focusing on Your Future.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021

JAMES  
PRENDERGAST  
FREE  
LIBRARY

509 Cherry Street

Jamestown, NY 14701

716-484-7135

[www.prendergastlibrary.org](http://www.prendergastlibrary.org)

# Message from Director

Dear Community:

As I write this, all I can think about is gratitude. The James Prendergast Library would not be here today without the support of the community we serve.

## You Advocated for Your Library

You spread the word and told other people about all the excellent programs and resources available at your library. You talked about how the library serves you and others whenever you got a chance. You used your platforms (newspapers, blogs, social media) to share library news and your love of the library with others.

## You Donated to Your Library

You donated to and purchased thousands of books at the library's daily book sale, which raised over \$20,000.

In 2021, the library's Annual Fund raised over \$57,000 from donors like you. The Annual Fund provides the resources we need to sustain our services and grow our programs.

## You Supported our Staff

You let staff know that they're doing a great job! If you saw someone going above and beyond, you thanked them. I have greeted many of you personally, and I am delighted when you tell me about a positive experience you have had at the library and what the library means to you.

Thank you all for everything that you do! Without your support, our library would not be what it is today.

Please contact us if you're interested in learning more about our library's programs and services or how you can help support your library.

With sincere gratitude,  
Anne Greene  
Executive Director  
James Prendergast Library

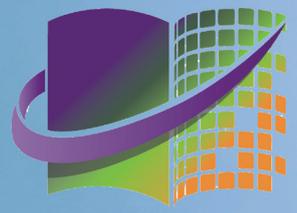


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We celebrated  
**130 years**  
serving our  
**community**

EST. 1891





**PrendergastLibrary**

Focusing on Your Future.



# James Prendergast Library Strategic Plan 2021-2024

We are excited to present the James Prendergast Library's new strategic plan.

This strategic plan sets a course and a promise to provide services that focus on you, your family, and the community. Thanks to sustainable local funding, the library team can now work to bring this plan to life, and we can't wait to see all that can be accomplished.

## Mission

Responsibly empowering  
lifelong learning for the  
residents of the  
City of Jamestown

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# Focus, Goals, Investments

The planning process included a review of our mission and core values. We gathered community input and data in order to develop our focus, goals and investments.

## A Focused Mission

Develop a new program plan that meets community needs, reaches new audiences, and brings the collection to life.

Invest in new technology and equipment that enhances library services for our community.

Create a collection management team to ensure the collection meets the community's needs.

Implement organized approaches to staff development to deliver service effectively.

## Community Engagement

Improve community connections by collaborating with local organizations and developing a volunteer program.

Utilize all media platforms to communicate library services, and celebrate its history and continuing role in our community.

## Sustainability

Improve the library's natural and physical space to enhance use and ensure inclusiveness of services.

Develop a fundraising plan that speaks to the community about their library's value and contributes to its ongoing financial sustainability.

## Values

### Equity

We are an inclusive and equitable organization that promotes equity of access in our community and serves the diverse needs and requirements of our users.

### Community

We align our services and programs with the needs of the community.

### Creativity

We embrace a culture of exploration, experimentation, and reflection to improve services, anticipate needs, and manage change.

### Sustainability

We invest in economic feasibility, environmental stewardship, and social justice, to inspire investment and build support for the future.

### Collaboration

We build partnerships to achieve shared goals and increase the impact of our mission.

# Summer Reading 2021

## Tails and Tales

The library was thrilled to return to in-person, outdoor programming as part of our Summer Reading Challenge. The challenge ran from June through August, with 795 participants and 1742 free books given away, thanks to a grant from Cummins.

In 2021 we explored the "tails" and "tales" of our community. We partnered with the Chautauqua County Humane Society, and with help from the Audubon & Roger Tory Peterson Institute, discovered the many different "tails" that live along the Jamestown Riverwalk. We also explored the historic makers around the city to learn more about the tales of our local history.



### Thank you Jamestown Skate Products

Jamestown Skate Products donated a skateboard, helmet, and knee pads for the winner of our Summer Reading grand prize!



### Take'n'Make Kits

Our Summer Reading Take'n'Make kits were extremely popular. The themed summer kits were given out at kickoff and midway points, with over 100 of each kit distributed.



### Mobile Makerspace

We visited local schools, parks, and community events with our Mobile Makerspace wagon!



### Keeping it Local

Summer reading prizes included gift cards from local businesses.



### Storytime under the Oak

The library's historic oak tree provided shade for many outdoor programs and events.



Over  
**1 Million**  
minutes read!



The Jamestown Public School's LEAP Camps returned in 2021. The library partnered with the YMCA, the YWCA and the Jamestown Boys and Girls Club to make sure the LEAP campers were part of the library's Summer Reading Program.

Library staff visited LEAP camps during the summer, bringing our Mobile Makerspace so campers could explore STEAM concepts through play.

We also worked with the YMCA to offer grab-&-go lunches area families. The free meal program began two years ago and continues to grow.

**6,104**  
**Lunches**





168,222

items in  
our  
collection

103,519

checkouts

72,343

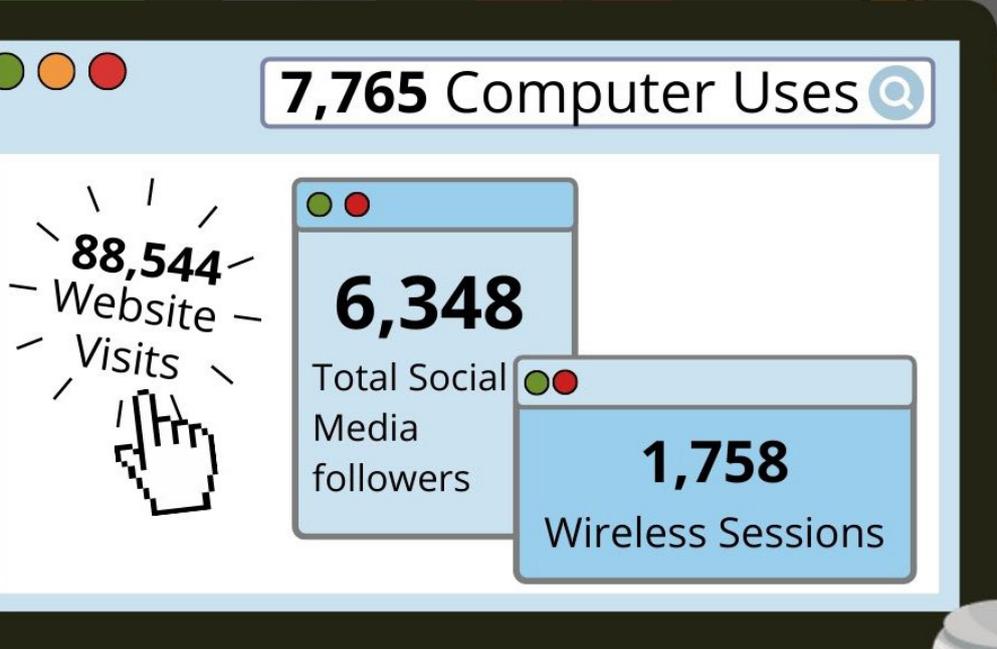
library  
visits

223

community  
meeting  
room uses



10,607  
PROGRAM  
ATTENDEES



7,765 Computer Uses

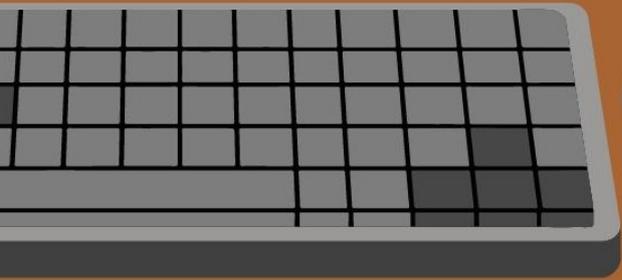
88,544  
Website  
Visits

6,348  
Total Social  
Media  
followers

1,758  
Wireless Sessions

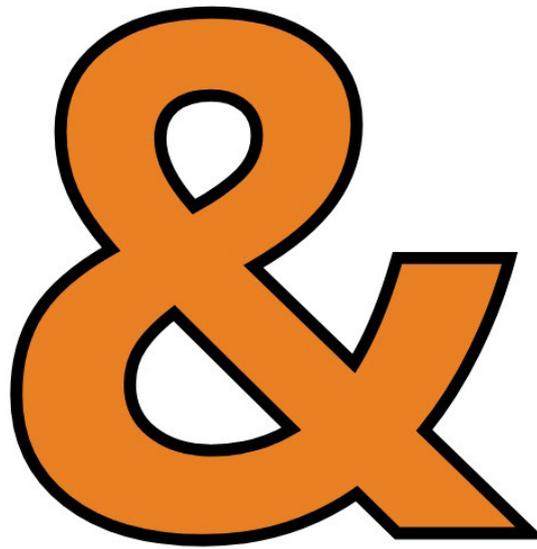


39,374  
Reference Questions  
answered





Outreach



Partnerships



# Collaborative and Creative

## Collaborating with our Community

The library strives to reach our community both inside our walls and outside the library, to make sure we are connecting with Jamestown residents.

In 2021, our staff worked with the Jamestown Public Market, running a stall at the Market to promote the library's resources. We also visited the Audubon Community Nature Center's Snowflake Festival and Monarch Festival with library information and activities. In December, we collaborated with the Chautauqua County Humane Society to offer a drive-through pet food giveaway in the library's parking lot. Over 200 people received free pet food at the event!

We also worked extensively with local children at the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and Jamestown Public Schools' LEAP camps. Staff brought our mobile Makerspace with a variety of STEAM-focused activities, including marble runs, magnetiles, robotics, and crafting.



## A New Focus on Crafting

This year, we developed a new focus on crafting for children and adults, offering demonstrations and hands-on learning of skills like spinning, dyeing, and weaving. Crafting activities for children were offered after storytimes all summer and throughout the Mobile Market visits each Wednesday morning. We also developed a new program called "Crafting & Community," which invites adults to socialize and work on crafts every Thursday evening.

Every other week attendees participated in a planned craft such as decorating bee houses, making windchimes, and dyeing scarves.

# Programs

## NEW ITEMS TO BORROW

Theme Boxes



Board Games



Science Kits



Thanks to a grant from the Holmberg Foundation, the library now has board games, science kits, and early literacy activity kits available for check out! Patrons can borrow fun family board games including *Sorry* and *The Floor is Lava*, as well as more complex games like *Settlers of Catan* and *Risk*. We are excited to offer a variety of materials for patrons to check out.

# Top Check-outs

2nd  
 1st  
 3rd

**Adult Books**

2nd  
 1st  
 3rd

**DVDs**

2nd  
 1st  
 3rd

**Children's Books**

# Databases & Resources

## Genealogy

### Ancestry

2141 Sessions

### HeritageQuest

1959 Sessions

## Newspapers



### NYT Online

13,291 Sessions On-Site  
693 Sessions Off-Site

### Rosetta Stone

2,743 Minutes Used  
46 Active Users

## Language



# Library Resources



## A NEW WEBSITE FOR THE LIBRARY

As our digital resources expanded, we knew we needed a website that would be easier to navigate. In 2021, we had our website professionally redesigned with a focus on library resources. Now it is easy to access eBooks, online audiobooks, the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Consumer Reports*, and *Rosetta Stone* - all with one click from our homepage!



# Community Partner Spotlight



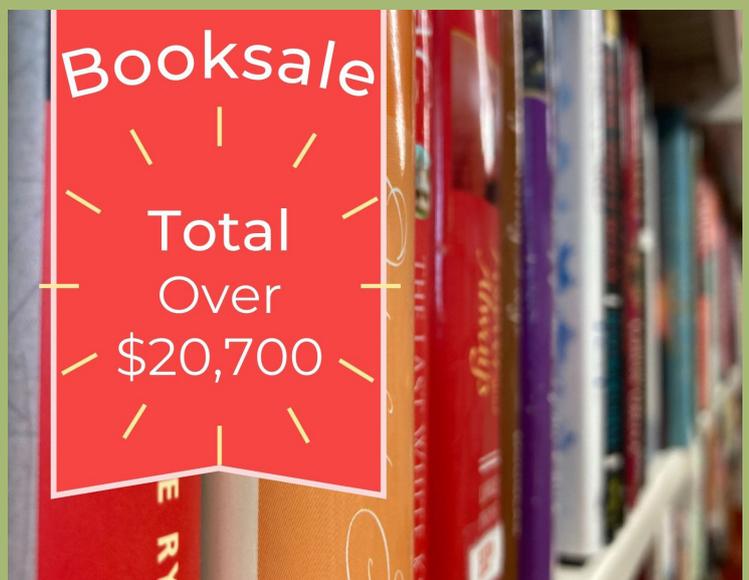
In 2021, the Jamestown Public Market brought their "farmer's market on wheels" to the Prendergast Library. Modeled after successful food distribution programs across the country, the Mobile Market brings fresh, local produce to high-need areas.



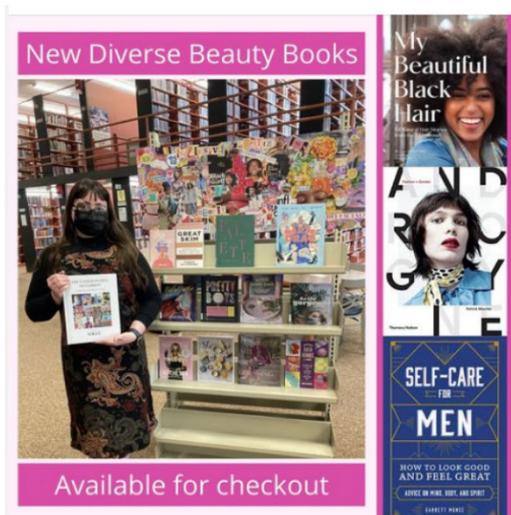
**Murray  
L. Bob  
Lecture**  
With Sony Ton-Aime

Sony Ton-Aime gave the 2021 Murray L. Bob Memorial Lecture. Sony is the Michael I. Rudell Director of Literary Arts at Chautauqua Institution. His program focused on the power of poetry to connect people and change lives.

The library's daily booksale is an important fundraiser for the library. Patrons enjoy browsing our extensive collection of nonfiction and fiction books. Children's books are especially popular.



# Grants



\$1,420

## Chautauqua Cattaraugus Library System

CCLS provided grant funding for adult crafting, updating and diversifying our self-care collection, and summer reading prizes for children and teens.



\$10,000

## Holmberg Nonfiction

A Holmberg Foundation grant purchased circulating science kits, literacy theme boxes, and board games!

\$14,500

## Sheldon Foundation

A grant from the Sheldon Foundation provided funding to update the library's security system.

\$15,000

## Hultquist & Lenna Foundations

Grants from the Hultquist and Lenna Foundations provided funding to update our children's collection and purchase building equipment including a new vacuum cleaner and power washer.



\$5,000

## Cummins Summer Reading

Funding from Cummins supported our 2021 Summer Reading Challenge. In 2021, the library distributed 2,892 books.

\$10,000

## Jesse Smith Darrah Fund

The Jesse Smith Darrah Fund provided funding for our eBook collection.



\$10,000

## CRCF Collection Updates

A grant from the Chautauqua Regional Community Foundation funded new large print and audiobooks.

## Memorials

We received 40 memorial donations totaling \$3,325.

## Donors

We had 529 donors give \$58,731.

# 2021 BUDGET

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
35.4%	SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$350,000	50.6% SALARIES \$499,848
30.8%	ENDOWMENT	\$304,454	15.5% BENEFITS & RETIREMENT \$152,686
9.6%	FUNDRAISING	\$95,000	3.2% LIBRARY OPERATIONS \$31,950
1.9%	STATE CENTRAL BOOK AID	\$18,678	5.2% UTILITIES \$51,184
5.1%	STATE CENTRAL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AID	\$50,308	1.3% INSURANCE \$13,180
0.9%	OTHER STATE AID	\$9,050	11.1% MATERIALS \$110,000
5.7%	CCLS REIMBURSEMENT	\$56,000	0.5% PROGRAMMING \$5,000
1.4%	LIBRARY FEES	\$14,000	7.4% BUILDING MAINTENANCE \$72,587
0.3%	LEGACIES	\$3,000	1.8% LEGAL / PROFESSIONAL FEES \$18,000
0.0%	LOCAL COLLEGE	\$0	0.7% FUNDRAISING COSTS \$7,000
1.4%	COUNTY	\$13,400	2.0% IT \$19,405
7.4%	GRANTS	\$73,550	0.5% TRAINING / CONTINUING ED. \$4,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$987,440</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$987,440</b>

# About us

The James Prendergast Library opened in 1891. The library building and collection was a gift to the citizens of Jamestown from Alex and Mary Prendergast in honor of their son, James Prendergast. 130 years later, the James Prendergast Library is still serving the community.

## Board of Directors

**Dan Hickman - President**

**Ned Lindstrom- Vice President**

**Cassie Blakeslee - Secretary**

**Michael A. Corey - Treasurer**

**Ned Lindstrom**

**Dan Hickman**

**Cassie Blakeslee**

**Frank Corapi**

**Maggie Scorse**

**Mary Zdrojewski**

In 2021, the library operated with a team of 18 people. The staff is cross-trained to quickly move from helping a patron in the Children's Room to assisting with a question at the Reference Desk.

On a typical day out in the library, our staff shelve returned materials, keep the library clean, and assist patrons who are checking out items, searching for new books and using public computers.

Behind the scenes, staff plan programs and outreach events, coordinate with community organizations to bring library activities out and about in Jamestown, and order and process new materials.

Every day is a busy day at the Prendergast Library!

Photo: The construction crew that built the Prendergast Library 130 years ago!



# James Prendergast Library

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## Hours

Monday - Friday  
9:00-7:00

Saturday  
10:00-4:00

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