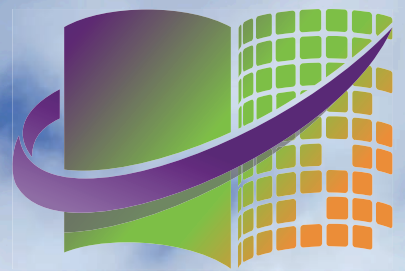


ANNUAL REPORT 2024



509 Cherry Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-484-7135
prendergastlibrary.org

JAMES PRENDERGAST F
EST. 1891
ONCE THE SITE OF JAMESTOWN'S
THE LIBRARY WAS FOUND AND
JAMES PRENDERGAST, THE YOUNG
CREATE A FREE LIBRARY FOR RESIDENTS
MASONRY WALLS, AND TURRET OF
ROMANESQUE STYLE ARE ORIGINAL

PLACED BY THE
JAMESTOWN HISTORICAL
MARKER COMMITTEE
2023

ERECTED
1889.



TRESS WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for being a library user!

As the library's new director, I want to express my appreciation to our community of library patrons. Every library patron helps the library thrive and contributes to our shared sense of community by visiting the library regularly, attending our programs, or borrowing materials.

However you use the library, our dedicated and patient staff members are here to help. I know firsthand how much the library's staff care about our patrons and community, having worked at Prendergast as a library assistant and then as a librarian until being promoted to library management in 2019. I was fortunate to work alongside our former Executive Director, Anne Greene, from when I was hired until she retired in January of this year. After learning alongside Annie for nine wonderful years, I am committed to continuing the progress that Annie has cultivated here.

From our expansive collection and available technology equipment to our wide-ranging programs for all ages and accessible meeting rooms, there is something here for everyone, and I hope to see you at the library soon!



COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY



On June 29th, we hosted the third annual Community Block Party. It was a rainy, stormy day, but that didn't keep people away; over 1200 people came to support the library.

We welcomed twenty artisan vendors, and hosted a large indoor book sale, summer reading signups, community organizations, and our brave food truck vendors, Taste of Buffalo and Conduit.

Each year, the party grows; be sure to join us in 2025!

HAUNTED LIBRARY



On October 26th, 300 people enjoyed a journey down the library's [Yellow Brick Road](#).

Volunteers and staff portrayed characters from the Wizard of Oz, culminating in a visit with the Wizard.

Stay tuned for 2025; you're invited to a spooky, fun mystery dinner party.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024

Focus, Goals, Investments

A Focused Mission

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

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

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

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, inspire investment and build support for the future.

Collaboration

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

STRATEGIC FOCUSES

READ THE COMPLETE PLAN AT WWW.PRENDERGASTLIBRARY.ORG



ACCESS

ENSURE THAT SPACES AND RESOURCES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL LIBRARY USERS.



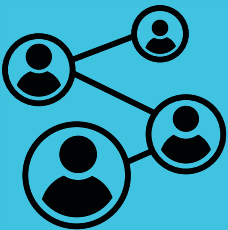
LITERACY

SUPPORT THE VARIETY OF LITERACIES NECESSARY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND WELL-BEING.



SUSTAINABILITY

PRIORITIZE PRACTICES THAT ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE, AND SOCIALLY EQUITABLE



CONNECTING

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL CONNECTION AND BELONGING.



SHARING

COLLABORATE WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND SHARE RESOURCES.

Summer Reading 2024

985,564 Minutes Read



The 2024 Summer Reading Celebration was an adventure at the library! We registered 557 children who read nearly 1 million minutes. We also had 36 teens read 315 books and complete 299 journal prompts. The new teen journals let the teen show off their creativity and they loved it! We continued adult bingo with 59 adults participating. Adults read and completed over 500 books and activities.

The library continued to participate with the JPS LEAP camps. This year campers created banners and competed in a writing and coloring contest. The LEAP banners and winning stories hung in the library during the summer.



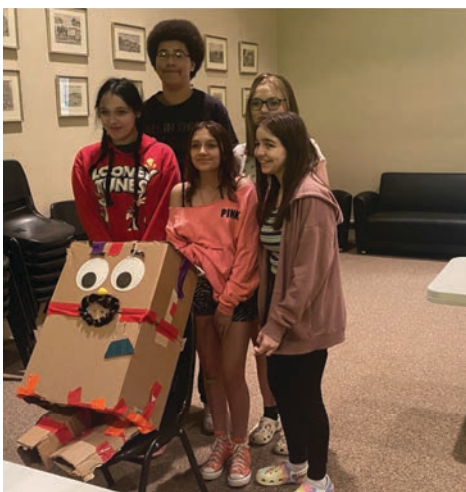
Gingerbread Workshop

The yearly Gingerbread Workshop took place in December, and children and families enjoyed a special storytime with the YWCA and made their own graham cracker gingerbread houses using different sweet supplies.



Library “Creature” Project with JHS

In 2024, six Jamestown High School English classes visited the library. Students toured the library, registered for library cards, checked out books, and completed a special project, "Library Creatures," where they created mascots to welcome people to the library. They presented their creatures' stories as part of learning public speaking skills. Their creative creations are on display in the Children's Room.



OUR YEAR

16,911 Wireless Sessions
17,108 Computer uses
490,916 Website visits

37

1-on-1
Tech Help
Appts

151,203 Reference
Questions

NUMBERS

943

Meeting
Room uses

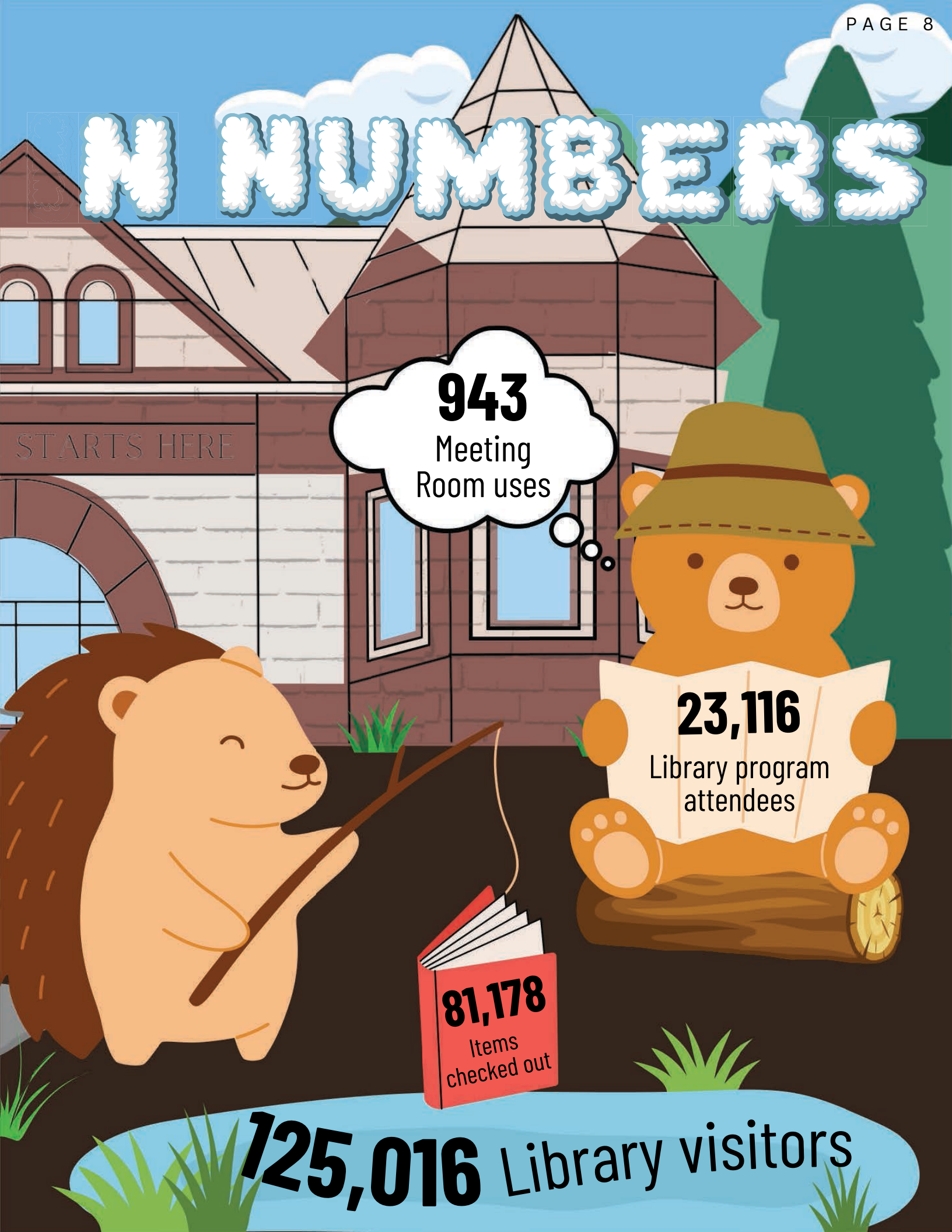
23,116

Library program
attendees

81,178

Items
checked out

125,016 Library visitors



Community Gardens with Royal Fern Nursery

Thanks to a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, we expanded the community gardens around the entire library property.

The expanded gardens are the second phase of a five-year project to reintroduce native plants to the library's grounds, improve water conservation, and celebrate placemaking.

Royal Fern Nursery replaced invasive and damaging vegetation along the historic sandstone structure, creating a beautiful space celebrating biodiversity, landmark preservation, and community well-being.



Fredonia Music Concerts



The Murray Bob Education Initiative brings community organizations to the library to conduct classes and run programs. This initiative honors Murray L. Bob, the former director of the Prendergast Library and the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System. In 2024, SUNY Fredonia Music School held three concerts at the library. The concerts were free and open to the public, and the musicians performed outstandingly!

Pet Portraits with The Humane Society

In 2024, the library continued its partnership with the Chautauqua County Humane Society (CCHS). Teen Crafting participants painted portraits of animals looking for homes. CCHS provided pictures of the animals, and teens created a touching tribute to each pet's unique character and charm.



The portraits and information about the animals were on display in the library, and many people commented on how happy the paintings made them, passing along information about the animals to their friends and family. We are pleased to report that all the animals were adopted, and we plan to continue this program in 2025!

Books & Brews

As part of reader's advisory services, we created a monthly off-site book club at Labyrinth Press Co., in downtown Jamestown. Each month, attendees socialize and participate in a book discussion led by our librarians!

The program is popular with a steady group of ten or more participants each month. The club reads all genres, and books are put on hold and picked up at the Front Desk. Books and Brews meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Check out the website for upcoming books!



Community Partner Spotlight

Infinity Visual and Performing Arts

For the last several years the library has partnered with Infinity Visual and Performing Arts to host art and music programs. The community drumming during Summer Reading is a favorite, bringing a crowd each week to the library's front lawn. Participants of all ages drum together, creating comradery and music in a safe space. Join us in 2025!



Chautauqua Book Read

The library was one of several sites to host a CHQ Book Read Event. The YWCA of Jamestown and Chautauqua Institution are pleased to announce the fourth year of the county-wide initiative – The Chautauqua County Book Read.

The 2024 CHQ Book Read book was Apple Core to Core by Eric Gansworth.



A vibrant discussion of the book was led by CHQ Book Read's Project Coordinator, Danica Olson and JPLA's Librarian Hannah Dewey.

Grants



Hultquist Foundation

Hultquist provided funding to update the adult nonfiction collection.

\$20,000

\$15,000

Jesse Smith Darrah Fund

The Jesse Smith Darrah Fund provided support for our eBook and eAudiobook collection.

Lenna Foundation

Lenna Foundation provided matching funds for the 2024-2025 front entrance NYS Construction Grant.

\$36,000



Cummins

\$1,500

Cummins funded new tables and chairs. These will soon be added to the Makerspace!

\$14,000

CRCF - Community Impact

CRCF funded the expansion of the native plant gardens as well as removing invasive and harmful vegetation from around the historic building.



Holmberg Foundation

A grant from the Holmberg Foundation provided funding for adult Makerspace supplies, such as new 3-D printers and STEM activities for all ages.

\$19,000

\$27,000

Carnhan - Jackson

Carnahan-Jackson Foundation funded recycling and waste management improvements, and updates to the lobby area.



\$36,000

Sheldon Foundaton

The Sheldon Foundation provided matching funding for the 2024-2025 front entrance NYS Construction Grant.

THANK YOU, DONORS & SPONSORS!

2024 PROGRAM SPONSORS

Thank you for your support of the library.

HAUNTED LIBRARY



COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY



FREDONIA MUSIC CONCERTS

Price Abstract
Company, LLC

COMMUNITY GARDENS



SUMMER READING



RODGERS
LAND SURVEYING



SHULTS
Auto Group
THE NEXT GENERATION OF AUTO CARE



STORMER
Mechanical INC.



Raynor's Liquor Store

2024 ANNUAL FUND & MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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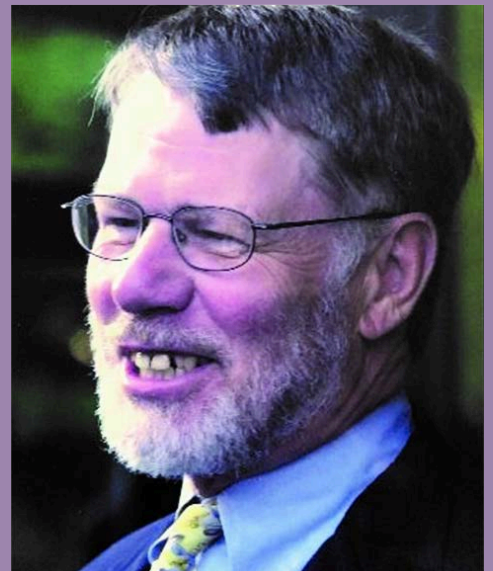
MEMORIALS

Memorials given to the library are in memory of loved ones and contribute to the growth and diversity of the library's collection.

124 memorials totaling
over **\$12,600**

People donate to remember loved ones who supported the library, education, lifelong learning, and community empowerment each year.

Over half of all memorials in 2024 were made in memory of Joseph C. Johnson, a lifelong learner, advocate of reading, and passionate library supporter!



Joseph C. Johnson

FUNDRAISING

346 donors & **13** sponsors
donated **\$71,892**

to our annual fund & programs.

A total of **\$115,219**
was raised in combination with
our Annual Fund drive, booksale,
and other library fundraisers.



2024 BUDGET

REVENUE

28.5%	SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$350,000
34.1%	ENDOWMENT	\$419,414
7.3%	FUNDRAISING	\$90,000
8.7%	STATE	\$107,228
4.8%	CCLS REIMBURSEMENT	\$58,500
1.6%	LIBRARY FEES	\$20,000
0.2%	LEGACIES	\$3,050
0.8%	COUNTY	\$10,000
13.8%	GRANTS	\$169,490
TOTAL		\$1,229,682

EXPENSES

50.8%	SALARIES	\$624,834
17.8%	BENEFITS & RETIREMENT	\$219,445
8.6%	LIBRARY OPERATIONS	\$106,039
9.0%	MATERIALS	\$110,857
0.7%	PROGRAMMING	\$8,500
7.1%	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	\$87,507
2.0%	LEGAL / PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$25,000
0.6%	FUNDRAISING	\$7,000
2.9%	IT	\$36,000
0.2%	TRAINING & CONTINUING ED.	\$2,500
0.2%	OUTREACH / PUBLICITY	\$2,000
TOTAL		\$1,229,682

About us

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

Board of Directors

- 2024 -

Dan Hickman - President

Ned Lindstrom - Vice President

Cassie Blakeslee - Secretary

Michael A. Corey - Treasurer

Jessica Carr

Frank Corapi

Cindy Johnson

Judy Long

Matt Mancuso

Mary Zdrojewski

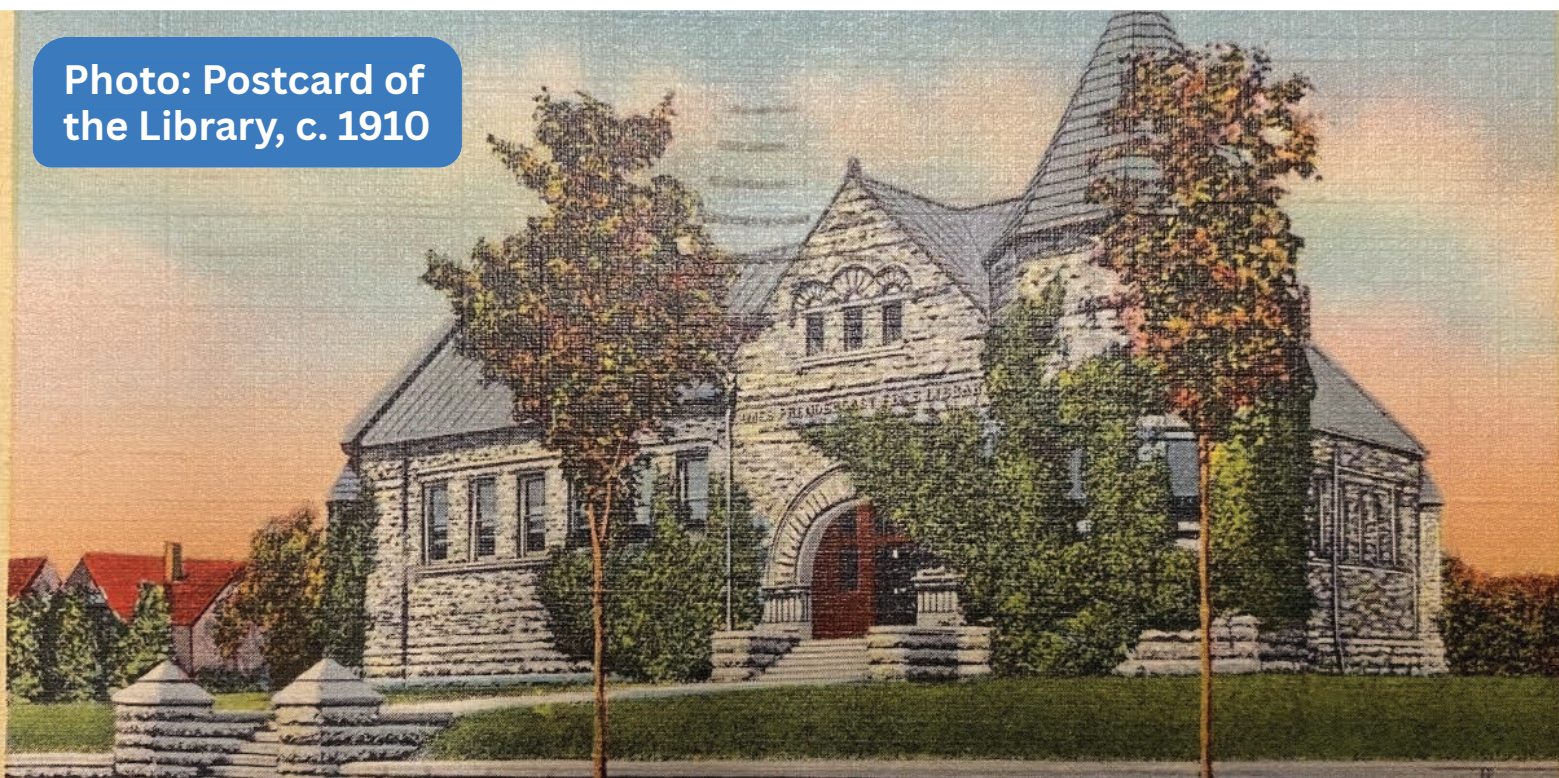
While the Library continues to evolve with the needs of our community, one thing will never change: our commitment to helping everyone build literacy skills.

We host hundreds of programs and events annually and maintain collections of books and resources designed to help you discover a love for reading.

We couldn't do it without our community members, staff, Trustees, partners, volunteers, and donors who support the Library's pursuit of gathering spaces for all to connect, relax, learn, and thrive.

We greatly appreciate your support and hope you visit this library in 2025!

Photo: Postcard of the Library, c. 1910



James Prendergast Library
509 Cherry Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
716-484-7135



Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 - 7:00

Saturday
10:00 - 4:00

prendergastlibrary.org
[@prendergastlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/prendergastlibrary)   