

2020 Annual Report to the Community



A Message from the Director:

Wow. 2020 is finally over, and we've made it out the other side. It has been a real challenge, and here at the Tivoli Free Library we have met the challenges that 2020 presented and owe so much of that success to our community, who have been so good to us and so understanding of the myriad changes we have had to make in order to continue our services in a safe and responsible way. Thank you all so much for that.

On March 16, 2020, we closed the library for 105 days due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During that time of closure, the library staff and board of trustees reacted swiftly to explore and find ways to maintain and deliver as many services as possible. We added the Tivoli At Home page to our website, where patrons could go and find fun and interesting things to do and watch online. We made it possible for patrons who did not yet have a library card to acquire an online card and be able to take advantage of our downloadable content, including ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, classes and film streaming. We made our chromebooks available for circulation and added extra wifi hotspots (thanks to a grant from Dutchess County) so our patrons could go to school and work while they were at home. We opened a Zoom account and began exploring how to pivot our in-person programming to a virtual platform. We had help: we belong to an amazing consortium and the support and advice we received from the Mid-Hudson Library System and all of its member libraries helped us to better assist our community.

On June 10, 2020, we began providing curbside service to our patrons and it was only a few weeks after that when we were able to open the doors and allow people inside. Today, it is much the same as when we first opened the doors. We are still being careful, but we have learned so much! And so has our community: we've learned that we can have (almost as much) fun creating ginger bread houses or learning calligraphy via Zoom as we would in person; we can enjoy having a guide showing us places like The Cloisters and Jackson Pollock's studio from our living room. The village found new, creative ways of celebrating Halloween and Winterfest, and they were so much fun! We have begun new relationships with other libraries in our system and collaborated on programming to share costs and bring those events to as many of our patrons as possible. In many ways, isolation has brought us so much closer together.

Looking forward, things are definitely different, but not at all in a negative way. We are adapting, and we will continue to adapt. As the pandemic slowly subsides we will plan on more in-person events and resume some of our popular activities (Tivoli's Got Talent! and Mahjongg, for instance), and we will continue our online offerings as well. Meanwhile, we are here, the doors are open, and our staff will welcome all of you when you stop in to say hello. Hope to see you soon!

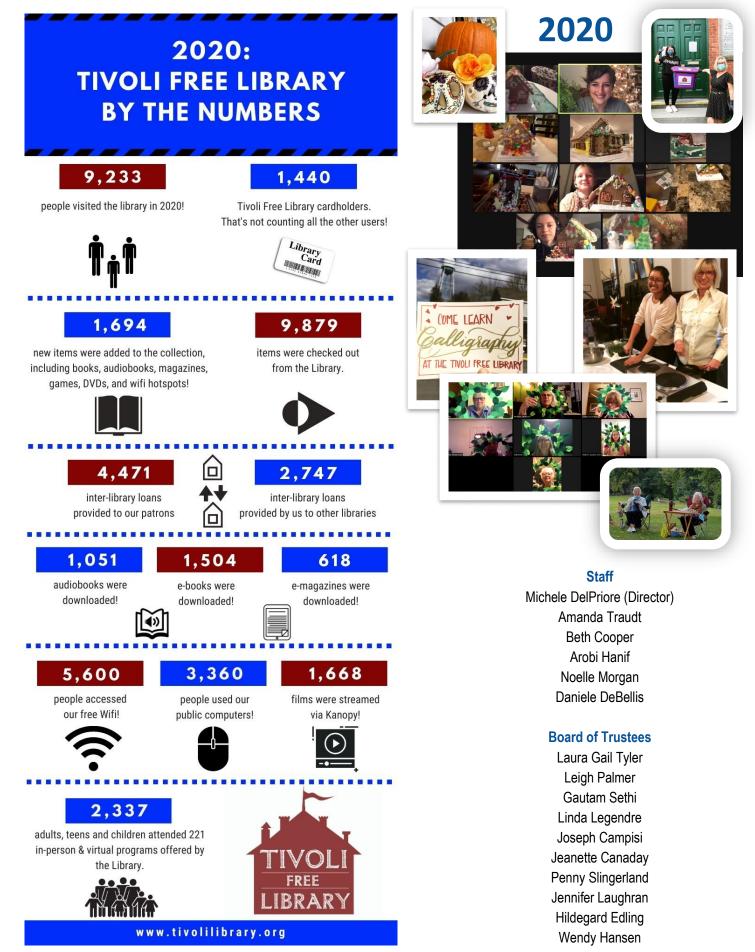
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