

Brewster Ladies' Library Association



2021 - 2022 Annual Report

Brewster Ladies' Library Association President's Report



Joan Pernice, BLLA President

As the pandemic continues to recede, I am happy to bring you a report that reflects our pride in the accomplishments of the past year and also our optimism about the future.

It has been an exciting and productive year for the Brewster Ladies' Library Association. As we gradually came out of more restrictive pandemic public health requirements, the Board began meeting in person and Board committee work took on ambitious goals. Here are some accomplishments.

The Membership Committee implemented a broad array of public awareness strategies about the critical role membership dues and donations make to the overall operating budget of the library. Under the leadership of Susan Stewart as Membership Committee Chair, the committee increased Association membership and raised 20% more funds in dues and donations from prior years exceeding our budgeted goal for this year. The Association contributes 25% of the library operating budget and specifically helps support annual programs such as Sunday concerts, museum passes, and most of the children's programming.

This committee also partnered with the Brewster Garden Club and co-hosted a pre-holiday raffle with items made by the Garden Club such as decorative wreaths and boxwood trees and including gift cards from local businesses. This event was specifically planned as an Association members' event that we hope becomes an annual holiday kick-off.

The Board initiated two new programs this year. The BLLA Scholarship Program and the Discovery and Enrichment Program.

The Scholarship Program awards a \$2,500 scholarship to a graduating Brewster high school student attending college or other institution of higher education. This first year the program focused on Nauset High School students, but we intend to broaden the application process to all Brewster graduating high school students. The review committee with the leadership of Committee Chair, Lisa Perkins, received 10 applications from the guidance department at Nauset High School and I am delighted to report that this year's award goes to Alexia Colella.

Brewster Ladies' Library Association President's Report

The Discovery and Enrichment Program is designed as a series of programs, given throughout the year, that offer a one-day, one-session or multiple session program in new areas of interest, as well as opportunities to enrich knowledge on specific topics relevant to ongoing learning and current events. With the leadership of Program Chair, Pat Meservey, and an active group of Board members, the first program, held in June, was planned in partnership with the Brewster Conservation Trust and featured Mark Robinson, Executive Director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trust on the topic of "Conserving our Resources and Ourselves". This program was the first in a series with two follow-up events, which included a guided walk of the herring run and a "fix-it" Repair Cafe sponsored by library staff. Another session on September 1st will cap off this conservation topic. Entitled "Conserving Ourselves", it will be presented by Cape healthcare providers.

The annual summer Book Sale continues to be a significant fundraiser for the library. The hard work of Hannah Larson and her core group of book sale volunteers is augmented by other library volunteers and they work tirelessly during the 2-3 weeks of the book sale. Fortunately, last summer we could schedule an indoor "traditional" book sale and our proceeds exceeded \$30,000. The opening of this summer's book sale began Tuesday, July 19th with a pre-sale day for Association members on Monday, July 18th. Buyers can pick up their favorite books inexpensively!

The Association continues to support the Little Free Libraries installed around Brewster. These "take a book" and in some instances "leave a book" have been a great success as a summertime free library right at the beach, and another creative way to showcase the services of the library and support literacy skills for all ages.

I would like to acknowledge an outstanding Director who is retiring from the Board.

Anne O'Connell served an outstanding six years which included being chair of the Personnel Committee. The Board was pleased to honor Anne with the Mayo Award this year.

Joan Pernice, President

Library Director's Report

CYNTHIA ST. AMOUR



Cynthia St. Amour, Library Director

As we charge into the next fiscal year it seems hard to believe how swiftly another year has flown by. The past year ushered in a number of welcome changes. There is now a gradual re-opening of our meeting spaces, and Children & Adult programs are reemerging and transitioning from Zoom to a hybrid combination of online, outdoor, and indoor activities. Our patron visits rose from 9,766 to 47,256 in 2021. There was a return to the successful Book Sale in July and an increase in membership to begin the BLLA budget cycle on a positive note. It's been wonderful to be able to welcome back patrons to our library; for many reasons it had been much too long.

There were a multitude of retirements, while four open positions were filled. How fortunate we are to have hired some extremely talented staff members. With the Board's approval of additional funding assistance from our Massachusetts Board Library Commissioners state grant-in-aid funds, we are now able to increase 3 part-time positions of 27 hours in reference, children's and circulation assistants to full-time 35 hour positions. This definitely served to increase the pool of applicants interested in full-time employment.

The Brewster Ladies' Library Association approved the library's Strategic Plan Revisions for FY22-26 on June 17, 2021. This document continues to serve as a road map to our future; with periodic reviews to be conducted. A few of the plan's highlights concerned joining the Digital Commonwealth! This is the start of digitizing, storing and online sharing of our vast, rich historic collections. Adult programs have gotten restarted with a flurry of activities and many patrons participating in a broad range of interests. In coordination with the BLLA's launch of the new Discovery & Enrichment Program we are able to present a broad spectrum of topics.

We were fortunate to receive a number of grants this fiscal year in addition to our town and association budgets. The Eddy Foundation awarded a grant of \$10,000 for refurbishment and improvements to the historic rooms. Our state grant-in-aid from the MBLC was increased to \$16,773 this year. We also received a Small Libraries grant from the MBLC for \$2,500.00 which helps to offset the costs of our CLAMS membership.

CLAMS = Cape Libraries Automated Material Sharing for 34 Cape Cod libraries that share integrated library software. This is a cost-effective model for libraries to share collections and a central library staff for IT resources.

Library Director's Report

Thanks to the Brewster Ladies' Library Association sponsorship and in collaboration with the Brewster schools we were able to give away more than 390 books which totaled \$4974 purchased at our local Brewster Book Store. Free books are provided to all participants of the summer lunch program. We will be continuing to make this delightful book giveaway program an annual event.

We also distributed more than 2820 books through the very popular & soon to be expanding Little Free Libraries. They are ambassadors for our library association and can be found on the beaches and parks in Brewster. Our social media accounts and newsletter continue to grow in popularity and reach more & more people each month. More than 3300 people now subscribe to the monthly newsletter, and we have an open rate that averages around 54% which is considered extraordinary.

Once again, I am reminded how fortunate we are here in Brewster to have the support of both the town & Association as well as an enormously dedicated staff and many volunteers that strive to excel.

"Libraries are emerging from the pandemic stronger, more resilient and more pivotal than ever before," says Yotam Kramer, director of product marketing for ILS system, Ex Libris. "Now, they must continue to demonstrate their value and prove how essential they are to the communities they serve." This standard of excellence is a long tradition here at the Brewster Ladies' Library.

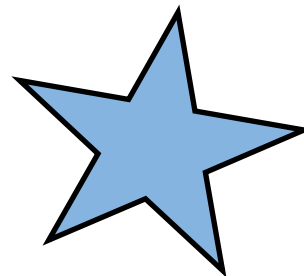
Cindy St. Amour

The Year In Review

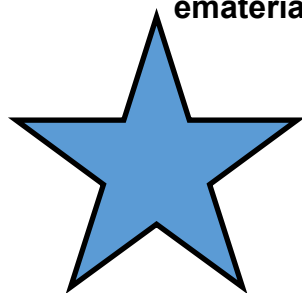
2021 - 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



We welcomed **47,256** patrons through our doors this year.



After the pandemic, numbers of patrons returning have continued to increase during this year. The number of new borrowers increased **45%** from last year to **641** and **201** new borrowers registered for Overdrive ematerials



Wireless hotspots for remote internet access were added to our Library of Things for borrowing. We added **5** hotspots in December and they circulated a total of **64** times in **6** months.

FY 2022

BLLA FINANCIAL DATA

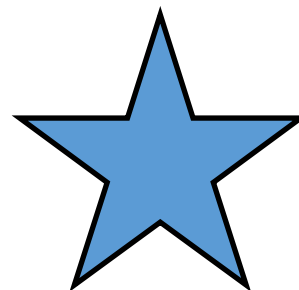
Association Revenue*	\$172,242
Association Expenses	\$134,328
Town Expenses	\$678,749
Total Library Expenses	\$813,077
Town Contribution	83.5%
Association Contribution	16.55%

*Realized gains /losses from endowment portfolio \$85,440 are not included in Revenue

The Association planned to breakeven, zero net income. Revenue was 23% higher than budget due to strong income from memberships and donations. The used book sale generated \$26,000, \$6,000 more than planned.

With higher revenue and expenses close to budget, the new income was \$37,914.

Membership and donation income was very good at \$69,262, 23% better than last year.



The interlibrary loan activity in Overdrive grew as trends moving into digital collections showed continued growth.

OverDrive Outside Network
Holds by Brewster Patrons -8,344
Items Borrowed by Brewster -4,369
Items Borrowed From Brewster -3,532

The Year In Review

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Ross Gorman & Anne O'Connell

Named 2022 Sarah Augusta Mayo Award Winners

Named for one of the two founders of the Brewster Ladies Library, the award is presented each year to an active adult member of the Association, whose service is truly noteworthy and significantly contributes to library initiatives.

There were two recipients this year: Ross Gorman and Anne O'Connell

Ross Gorman has been a long-standing Board member and contributor to the Brewster Ladies Library, and now serves as a valued volunteer. He continues to serve the library doing countless tasks in his quiet unassuming way. He took responsibility for the Little Free Libraries with great enthusiasm, overseeing the materials for stocking them and the volunteers who make sure they are filled weekly, as well as taking care of repairs as needed.

Every winter he is responsible for the BLL holiday lights, somehow always managing to surpass the previous year's display. The Association is so appreciative of Ross's willingness to continue to be a volunteer, advocate, supporter, and recruiter for the library in this community.

Anne O'Connell has been a director on the Board of the Brewster Ladies Library Association for twelve years. In addition to the six-year term from which she recently retired, she had also served a prior double term. She returned by request of the Board, where her keen insights and clear analysis helped to guide many significant decisions.

In her capacity as Chair of the Personnel Committee, Anne brought her human resources skills, experience, and expertise to staff-union negotiations. Her keen observations and reasoned opinions will be missed. We wish her a happy retirement from her responsibilities on the Brewster Ladies Library Board.

The Year In Review

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The Brewster Ladies' Library Association Scholarship Program



In the fall of 2021, the BLLA board established an annual scholarship in the amount of \$2500 to be awarded to a deserving Brewster senior who was planning to pursue post-secondary education following graduation. The Scholarship Committee consisted of four board members and a community member and, this past year, worked in partnership with the Nauset Regional High School Guidance Department. Going forward, the committee has decided to reach out not only to NRHS seniors, but also those Brewster students who attend other high school programs on Cape Cod. Brewster residents planning to attend a two or four year accredited college or university, or vocational or technical school of higher learning, are eligible to apply.

Selection criteria include:

- Brewster residence at time of application
- Grade Point Average
- Participation in extracurricular organizations
- Volunteer work
- Employment records during the high school years
- Financial need
- Future goals and objective

The committee reviewed 10 strong applications in the spring. Due to her outstanding profile, Alexia Colella, Class of 2022 at NRHS was awarded the first BLLA Scholarship at the school's Awards Assembly in June and received the congratulations of the Board and Membership at the BLLA Annual Meeting on July 21st. Alexia is attending George Washington University in our nation's capital, planning to study international relations. Alexia is pictured here with her mother, Amy Cuneo at the annual meeting.

The Year In Review

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Hurrah For Volunteers

Volunteers contributed **4,415** hours of their time this year. Lauren Elliott Grunes, our volunteer coordinator, writes: "We are incredibly fortunate to have over **175** volunteers who faithfully undertake a myriad of tasks such as mending and shelving books, "Beautifying Brewster", refilling five "Little Free Libraries around town, designing and building holiday displays, marching in the "Brewster In Bloom" parade, helping with children's programs, staffing our book sale, and delivering books to homebound patrons. We are immensely grateful that they choose to share their time and talents to support the library."



Brewster Ladies' Library Newsletter

Our newsletter and social media accounts continue to grow in popularity, and are an excellent and cost-effective way to let library patrons know about the library's many initiatives and programs. The newsletter now has over 3300 subscribers: the open rate of 54% is considered extraordinarily high, and attests to the community's interest and involvement with the BLL.

The Year In Review

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Little Free Libraries



The popularity of the Little Free Libraries continues to grow as the Brewster Ladies Library offers the community the gift of reading. These small libraries, situated at beaches, parks, and recreational areas, give residents and visitors the chance to “take one, leave one book”.

There are now five Little Free Libraries: Breakwater Beach, Crosby Landing, Drummer Boy, Saints Landing, and the newest and very successful, Captains Golf Course. The Libraries are kept clean and stocked by a group of volunteers, led by Ross Gorman. More than 2200 books were provided from the Library inventory and from private donations. Hopefully, more and more patrons will choose to donate as well as take books!

Climate Resilience

The Brewster Ladies’ Library became a Climate Resilience Hub. The Brewster Ladies' Library joined the Massachusetts Library System and Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) as part of the Climate Resilience Hub network. Climate Resilience Hubs are organizations and institutions that help prepare communities before emergencies strike, so that residents are equipped and know what to do in times of crisis. As a resilience hub, the library provides extreme weather preparedness guides and offers educational events about emergency preparedness. Patrons are able to access emergency preparedness resources both at the library and on our website.

As part of Climate Preparedness Week 2021 - The Brewster Ladies' Library hosted a book discussion with David Pogue, Emmy-winning correspondent for CBS News Sunday Morning, technology writer for the New York Times, and author of dozens of books including *How to Prepare for Climate Change: A Practical Guide to Surviving the Chaos*. The library also hosted a Family Emergency Planning session with Chip Reilly, Emergency Preparedness Specialist for the Barnstable Regional Emergency Planning Committee, and a Flood Insurance Information session with Shannon Hulst, Floodplain and Community Rating System Specialist from the Cape Cod Extension.

The Year In Review

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

A Virtual Talk on
**Gut Health & Nutrition with
Registered Dietitian
Nicole Cormier**
Thurs. Feb 10. 5:30pm **ON ZOOM**
To register please email: devans@brewsterladieslibrary.org
Join Nicole for a discussion focused on the gut microbiome and learn about how to incorporate both intuitive eating and mindful eating exercises into your routine. She will dive into gut health, help you to set a foundation for digestive improvement through deep breathing, movement practices, routines, and medicinal teas.
Brewster Ladies' Library
1822 Main Street, Brewster, MA 02645

Free Program
on Zoom
**Preparing
Your Garden
for Spring**
A Virtual Talk with
Master Gardener Cherie Bryan
Tues. Apr. 12 @ 5:30pm
Join us as Cherie Bryan, a Barnstable County Master Gardener, discusses the various tasks we should be performing in our early spring gardens—including soil preparation, pruning, dividing perennials, & choosing ornamental & edible plants. Let's look ahead together & bring your questions!
To register visit our calendar at:
www.brewsterladieslibrary.org

ADULT PROGRAMS

Programs were provided in-person and over Zoom in 2022, in response to feedback of some attendees saying they're tired of virtual programs and some saying they enjoy them. Program topics ranged from health and nutrition, to gardening and birds, to writing and painting workshops, to featuring Cape Cod organizations like the Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum and Cultural Center, and the Community Development Partnership. Our hope is to make our adult programming as varied as our patrons' interests.

Some Quotes from participants:

Quote about Fermented Foods: A Virtual Talk with Registered Dietitian Nicole Cormier: "Thank you! I've been trying out a few of the ideas from the Zoom workshop. The presenters were very passionate and enthusiastic when sharing their knowledge." -Doreen K.

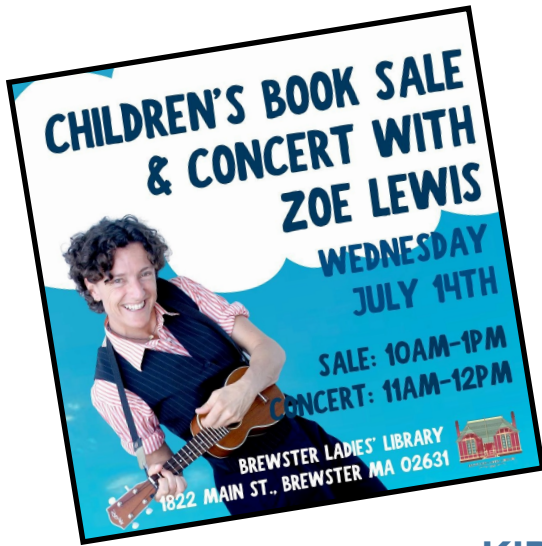
Quote about Magical Incantation: A Online Workshop on Meditative Poetry with Rose Auslander: "I could've stared at a blank page for an hour, but instead I came to this workshop and was inspired." -Alan W.

**The Wonder
of Birds**
with Naturalist Peter Trull
Thurs. June 23 @ 2pm EST
This colorful and informative program, through photographs and discussion, will explain how birds have evolved and adapted to their environment.
Register at brewsterladieslibrary.org
Brewster Ladies' Library
1822 Main Street Brewster, MA 02631

A Virtual Tour of the  CAPE COD CAPE
VERDEAN MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTER
Sat. Feb. 19 @ 11am
To register please email:
devans@brewsterladieslibrary.org
Brewster Ladies' Library
1822 Main Street, MA 02631

The Year In Review

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



KIDS' PROGRAMS

In 2021-2022, the Library's Youth Services department presented hybrid programs where families could pick up kits at the library and do workshops over Zoom. These included the Lotus Flower Lantern Workshop, the Pop Up Art School Digital Mantra Insect Shadow Box Workshop, and Make Your Own Dog Treats and Cat Nip Toys Workshop. The Youth Services staff gave away bags and kits for families to make things at home, such as fairy gardens and Halloween crafts.

There were digital story times and outdoor story times. The department had a digital pajama party, featured along with many craft videos on the Library's social media pages. We also took advantage of the lovely outdoor space where everything from magic shows, family concerts, and gardening workshops took place. There was even a Family Movie Night in the parking lot.

The Children's Staff created booklets to give away to all children when they receive their first library cards. Kids also had the opportunity to write postcards to the library fish when they visited the Children's Room.

The library also created Digital Escape Rooms and hosted a Teen Trivia event. There was a Youth Writing Contest and a Winter Creativity Contest.



The Year In Review

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

More Kids' Programs



Kids Digital Mantra Insect Shadow Box Workshop Kids 8+

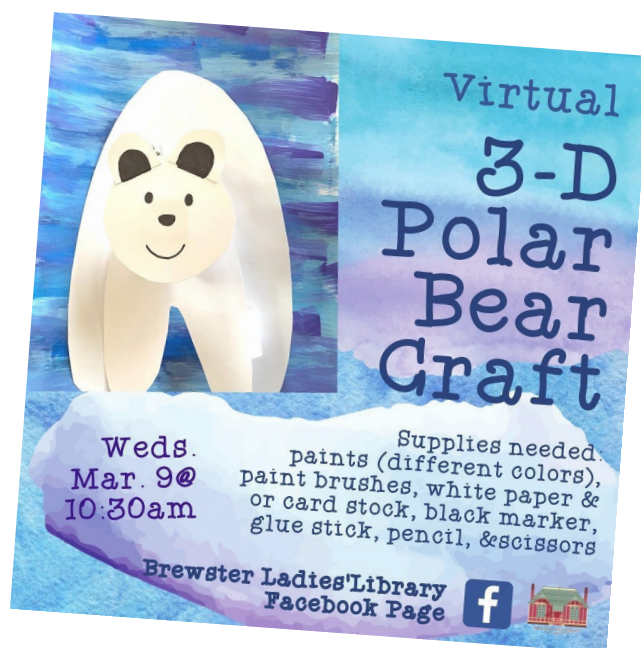
Tues. Apr. 19 @ 10am

Using images of butterflies, moths and beetles as reference, draw & paint your own realistic or imaginative insects and mount it in a paper shadow box. Pick your supplies up the week before the event. Registration is required for this event.

Register at: brewsterladieslibrary.org

FOR UP
TO DATE
LIBRARY
PROGRAMS
CONTACT
US AT
603.882.1234

FOR UP
TO DATE
LIBRARY
PROGRAMS
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Virtual 3-D Polar Bear Craft

Weds. Mar. 9 @ 10:30am

Supplies needed: paints (different colors), paint brushes, white paper & or card stock, black marker, glue stick, pencil, & scissors

Brewster Ladies' Library Facebook Page



OUTDOOR GARDENS GROW STORYTIME

WEDS. MAY 11 [AT] 10:30AM

JOIN US IN THE FLAGPOLE COURTYARD. WEATHER DEPENDENT. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BLANKET TO SIT ON.

BREWSTER LADIES' LIBRARY 1822 MAIN ST, BREWSTER, MA 02631

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Appreciation and Memorial Gifts 2021—2022

In Memory of Marjorie Allain

Carl and Sandra Makielski-
Lindstrom

Erin Carroll

In Appreciation of Brewster Ladies Library Book Sale Volunteers

June Cameron

In Memory of Robert Campion

Deborah Johnson

In Memory of Elliott and Susan Carr

Gail Agneta

In Memory of Julianne Polidoro Deloye

Marlene Mellon

From Karen Monks' book club in
honor of her mother

In Memory of The Domonkos and Leffell Family

Cheryl Greenberg

In Memory of John Fundin

Lawrence Russo

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Doug Wilcock

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We are grateful for the individuals and businesses whose generosity make our work possible.

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Library Supporters

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Grants to the Brewster Ladies' Library in FY2021

The Eddy Foundation awarded a grant of \$10,000 for refurbishment and improvements to the historic rooms.

The state Grant-in-Aid from the MBLC was increased to \$16,773 this year. We also received a Small Libraries grant from the MBLC for \$2,500.00 which helps to offset the costs of CLAMS membership.

Contributions from Clubs and Organizations

The Brewster Garden Club contributed decorative wreaths and boxwood trees for a pre-holiday raffle co-hosted the Association. Gift cards from local businesses were also included.

Cape Cod Genealogical Society

BLLA Board of Directors

2021-2022

Joan Pernice, President

Susan Stewart, Vice President

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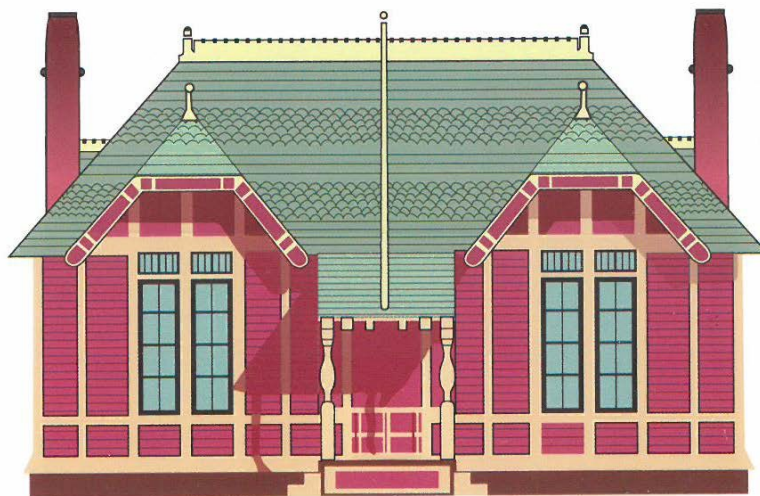
Tricia Kibbe

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BREWSTER LADIES' LIBRARY

1868

BLL Library Staff

Cindy St. Amour - Director

Nori Morganstein – Assistant Director; Youth Services Librarian

Gabrielle Griffis – Assistant Youth Services Librarian

Devon Evans – Adult Services / Reference Librarian

Michelle Ryan – Circulation Manager/ Processing Manager

Joanne Clingan — Assistant Circulation Manager

Lauren Elliott-Grunes – Volunteer Coordinator

Stephen Allen – Assistant Reference Librarian

Kathy Hunt – Library Assistant for Adult Services

Cheryl Murphy – Library Assistant for Youth Services

Wicke Walsh – Library Assistant for Adult Services

Rick Cronin - Custodian