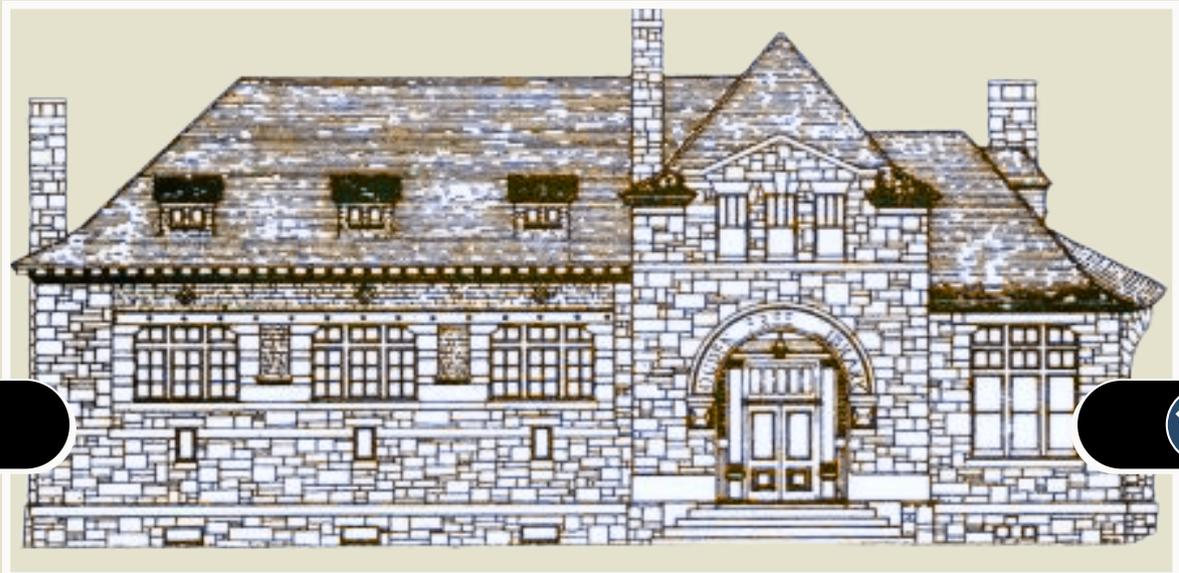




# Annual Report



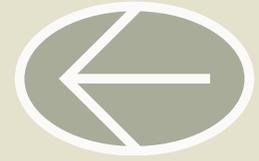
PO Box 298  
42 Gardiner Place  
Walton, NY 13856  
607-865-5929  
<https://libraries.4cls.org/walton/>

2025





# Mission & History



## Mission

The mission of the William B. Ogden Free Library is to enrich the literary and cultural lives of our community members, and to preserve the integrity of the historic structure of the library building.

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## History



The William B. Ogden Free Library, chartered in 1899, serves residents of the Walton Central School District and surrounding communities. Named for William B. Ogden, Walton's former postmaster and Chicago's first mayor, the library's construction was funded through his 1877 bequest. Designed by Morris and Walker and built with native bluestone, it opened on January 29, 1899. The Library was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. A portrait of Ogden hangs above the fireplace on the main level.





## A Letter from the Director



This has been a year to be proud of. The old adage “many hands make light work” has certainly held true. I am deeply grateful for the dedicated efforts of our staff and trustees, whose commitment continues to make the William B. Ogden Free Library an exceptional resource for our community. Their work has advanced every major area of our long-range plan, resulting in tangible improvements to our facility, collections, collaborations, communication, and organizational development.

This year, many building improvement projects have come to fruition, some after years of careful work and coordination. The library has never looked better. The plumbing is fully functional, our doors operate more smoothly, the new carpeting enhances the aesthetic of our historic interior, and the ADA-compliant circulation desk fits the space beautifully, as if it has always belonged there. The desk represents many years of planning, and it exceeds every expectation I had when I first envisioned it. These upgrades reflect the careful attention by the Building & Grounds Committee, who kept the facility’s goals continually on their agenda and worked diligently toward completion.

Our programs have grown stronger and more innovative. Staff collaboration is at an all-time high, and the drive for excellence is evident in every initiative. They understand the needs of our community and meet those needs with creativity, professionalism, and genuine care for one another. This supportive environment directly contributes to our success.

Our Board continues to grow in strength, engagement, and clarity of purpose. Members are deeply committed to the mission of the William B. Ogden Free Library—to enrich the literary and cultural lives of our community and to preserve the integrity of our historic building. Trustees took responsibility for learning, fulfilling their roles, and contributing meaningfully within their committees. Good questions were asked, thoughtful discussions took place, and real progress was made.

As we look ahead, I remain profoundly thankful for the opportunity to serve as the library’s director. It is a privilege to work alongside such dedicated people and to steward an institution that means so much to our community. With gratitude for all we have accomplished together, I look forward to the coming months with renewed commitment, energy, and optimism for the work that lies ahead.

~Heather Johnson, *Director*

Heather Johnson





# A Letter from the Board President

Dear Community Members,

At times the days seem to crawl by but somehow the years fly. Here we are in 2026.

The Board of Trustees of the William B Ogden Free Library thank you for your continued support. We hope you will use this wonderful facility to enrich your lives by taking advantage of the book collections, diverse programs offered for all ages and interests or just to come sit, relax and enjoy moments of peace and escape from what at times may seem like a chaotic world.

The past year was very productive. At long last the ADA compliant circulation desk was completed. The functionality allows this great library staff to be even more accessible to you AND it is truly beautiful. We are grateful to the donors that made it possible. New carpeting enhances the overall WOW appeal of the main floor. This majestic building needs and deserves care and upkeep. To be good stewards and fulfill the responsibility of the board of trustees a Building Survey was completed by Keystone Associates. This allows us to have information to form a list of priorities of what physical needs this building will have now and in the future to ensure that the library will be here for the community.

The Board of Trustees is comprised of a diverse group of individuals each adding a perspective, idea or raising questions that help us to better serve the core mission of the WBOFL. We come together as a united entity to ensure fiscal responsibility, quality of service of the various product lines and maintaining the historic building. We work together with Heather Johnson, Library Director, and her outstanding staff to accomplish these goals. The team is strong, dedicated and enthusiastic!

For those of you who don't routinely use the library please stop in and learn firsthand all that we have to offer. For our regular users THANK YOU, THANK YOU and we look forward to seeing you soon. Thoughtful suggestions for program ideas are always welcome. May 2026, bring you joy and a sense of wellbeing,

~Mary Doig, *President of the Board of Trustees*



## Executive Committee

- Hoss Banaja, *Finance Officer*
- Jessica Reed, *Secretary*
- Mary Doig, *President*
- Vicki O'Brien, *Vice-President*



## Trustees

- Hoss Banaja
- Mary Doig
- Jenny Kilpatrick
- Dotti Kruppo
- Jackie Malaret
- Venus Melo
- Janet Merrill
- Vicki O'Brien
- Chris Ogden
- Dana Plaud
- Jessica Reed





# Meet our Staff



**Carol Barnes**  
Clerk



**Sharon LaPierre**  
Adult Services  
Coordinator



**Mari Lynd**  
Clerk



**Kim Poulin**  
Youth Services  
Coordinator



**Tara Vitti**  
Marketing  
Coordinator

## Support Staff

Flossie Curtis  
*Gardens*

Marie Dutcher  
*Business Manager*

Larry Govendo  
*Maintenance*

Shannon McCall  
*Grounds*

Penny Wyman  
*Custodian*



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# New Circulation Desk

The William B. Ogden Free Library is pleased to share the successful installation of its new circulation desk, completing a long-planned upgrade to the public service area of our main floor.

Designed by Crawford & Stearns and built by Lawrence Woodworks, the new desk strikes a balance between modern functionality and the architectural character of our historic building. The project brings several important improvements, including full ADA compliance, better visibility across the main reading rooms, a safer and more efficient workflow for staff, and a more welcoming experience for patrons of all ages.

Funding for the desk was made possible through the generous support of grants and private donors including the Estate of Richard Pond, the Estate of Shirley Huyck, the John Henry Eldred Jr Foundation, and the Platt Mead Hanford / Jennie Bradley Hanford Memorial Fund.

Staff, trustees, and project partners worked collaboratively throughout the design and construction process to ensure that the final result truly meets the needs of our community. We're delighted with the transformation and look forward to welcoming those who may want to see the space firsthand.





# Other Highlights

## Bluey Bash

We concluded our 2025 Summer Reading Program, *Color Our World*, with a lively Bluey Bash, drawing more than 200 children and families to the library lawn for an afternoon of crafts, games, and community fun inspired by the popular children’s show. A special highlight was the appearance of New York Times best-selling author Tracey West, creator of the Dragon Masters series, who attended with her Dragon Wagon Book Bus and ensured every child received a free book to take home, reinforcing the library’s mission to encourage lifelong reading and learning.

## Mosaic Workshop

This fall, we hosted *Pieces of Our Past: A Heritage Mosaic Workshop*, a six-week series led by mosaic artist Marilyn Lindstrom that blended art, memory, and community connection. Participants explored their family heritage by creating personal mosaic artworks incorporating meaningful objects and heirlooms. The series concluded with a community reception where the finished pieces were proudly displayed and shared alongside the stories behind them. Funded through a Delaware County Arts Grant, the workshop offered both artistic instruction and a space for reflection and storytelling.



## Noteworthy...



Fishing Pole Lending



Sensory Play Group



Adult Craft Nights



Library Road Signs Installed





# By the Numbers



**LIBRARY VISITS**

**9,841**

1.6% INCREASE over 2024



**CIRCULATION**

**17,022**

Physical & Digital Items  
4.22% INCREASE in Digital



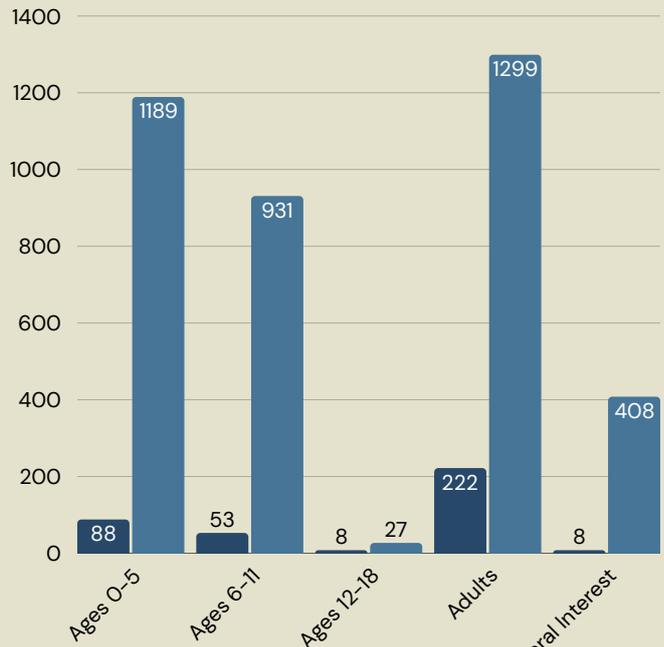
**REGISTERED  
BORROWERS**

**1,217**

Added 149 New Users

## LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

● Sessions ● Attendance



**379**

Total Programs  
38 more than in '24

**3,854**

Total Attendance  
13% INCREASE over '24



**LIBRARY  
COLLECTION**

**10,449**

Total Physical Items Held

\*Statistics Provided by the 2025 Annual Report to NYS





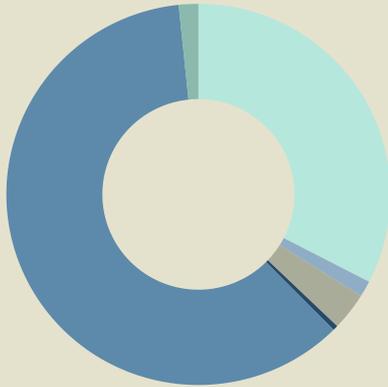
# Financial Overview

## Income

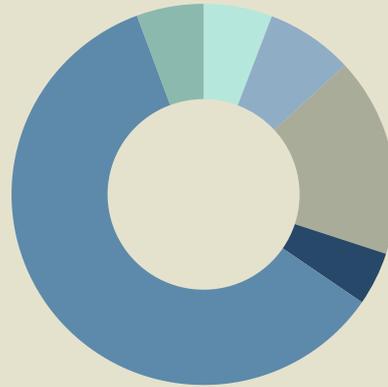
## Expenses



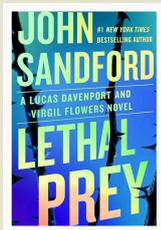
- Endowment Transfer
- Grants
- LLSA
- Local Public Funds
- Donations
- Other



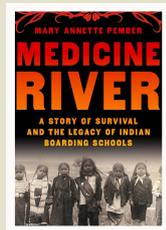
- Administration
- Library Materials
- Library Services
- Benefits
- Salaries
- Facilities



## Reader Favorites from 2025



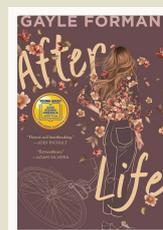
Adult Fiction



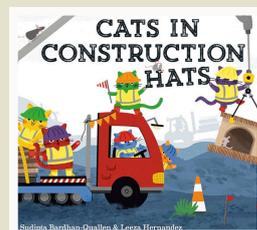
Adult Non-Fiction



Juvenile Fiction



Young Adult Fiction



Picturebook



DVD

