

# COMMUNITY REPORT 2023

CHENEY LIBRARY

**Report by Danny Yetto,  
Library Director**

**March 22, 2024**



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# LIBRARY HISTORY

The Cheney Library was a gift to the people of Hoosick Falls from Charles Cheney who, in 1912, left \$50,000 in his estate for the construction and support of a library and historical rooms. Mr. Cheney was a long-standing student of history with a keen interest in libraries. In 1907, Mr. Cheney petitioned the New York State Education Department for a charter for a library for Hoosick Falls. The Hoosick Falls Free Public Library was opened in February of that year in the municipal building on Main Street. After Mr. Cheney's death in 1912, the funds he left for the Library were invested until they had increased enough for a suitable building. On October 22, 1922, the cornerstone of the Cheney Library was laid. The library opened on November 23, 1923 with 4,000 books in its collection and 400 patrons.

The Cheney Library currently has over 13,000 books, over 1,000 audio and visual materials, several different magazines and newspapers, and nearly 3,000 patrons.

We offer 7 public computers for Internet access, as well as programming and clubs for individuals of all ages. All of the historical material from the Library is now at the Louis B. Miller Museum, and a Grandma Moses painting is on loan to the Bennington Museum. Some items of interest that remain at the Library include an original 1860 map of the Village, the Hurlburt Chart (handwritten in 1872 and giving a history of the Village from 1832 on), and a Jose de Creeft painting. The Cheney Library is a member of the Upper Hudson Library System, a consortium of 29 libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Through the interlibrary loan service, Cheney Library borrowers have access to thousands of books, CDs, and DVDs, and video games throughout the system.

October 2022 marked the beginning of the Cheney Library 100 year anniversary celebration. This celebration concluded in November, 2023 following a vibrant centennial party at BYTE Lounge!



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# LIBRARY HOLDINGS

PRINT BOOKS

**13,262**

DVDS

**996**DOWNLOADABLE  
EBOOKS**62,475**CDS AND  
AUDIOBOOKS**190**PRINT MAGAZINES  
& NEWSPAPERS**134**DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS  
(EBOOKS, AUDIOBOOKS, ETC.)**102,975****30,488**PRINT & DIGITAL  
MATERIALS ADDED IN 2023

## UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

As a member library of the Upper Hudson Library System, Cheney Library provides patron access to thousands of materials from other libraries. Cheney Library patrons are able to borrow virtually any item available from the Upper Hudson libraries via a system-wide interlibrary loan. Interlibrary loan items are delivered via a courier service directly to Cheney Library.

The Upper Hudson Library System also offers rotating collections. These collections include DVDs and large print books which alternate among the system's libraries every month. Because rotating collections are always changing, there is always something new to see on Cheney Library's shelves!

Cheney Library patrons enjoy a universal library card. Cheney Library cards are accepted at any of the 29 Upper Hudson libraries.

# ITEM CIRCULATION

Circulation indicates the number of times an item is lent to a patron. Items are also lent to and borrowed from other libraries through the interlibrary loan system.

## CIRCULATION BY CATEGORY

**9,333**

Adult book  
circulation

**4,980**

Children's  
book  
circulation

**7,245**

eBooks and  
eContent  
circulation

**2,205**

Other  
materials  
circulation

## INTERLIBRARY LOANS

**3,670**

Items lent  
to other  
libraries

**9,344**

Items  
borrowed  
from other  
libraries





## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

- Storytime
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Crafternoon
- Coding robots
- In-person Among Us
- Lego activities
- "Anti-Valentines Day" party
- Tea exchange
- Self-care activities
- Beading station
- Easter egg decorating
- Easter egg hunt
- Spirograph station
- Zen coloring
- Mother's Day crafts
- Kids' Craft Club
- Teen tea parties
- Author readings
- Baby goats at the library
- Wine tasting
- Seed exchange
- Father's Day crafts
- Juneteenth jazz concert
- Financial literacy presentation
- How to grow and use herbs workshop
- Spice Club
- Teen/tween board game night
- Tie-dye
- Mini book making
- Edible architecture
- Halloween activities
- Ornament making
- Wreath decorating

# A STORY ABOUT STORYTIME

In December 2022, Cheney Library Storytime was revamped. Organized and led by Elizabeth Robinson, program sessions increased to once a week, with each session including crafts, music, and movement activities. Back in the winter of 2022, Storytime sessions averaged around 8 attendees. However, as word got around about the program, that number swiftly doubled to 16 attendees per session. Realizing the program was growing, the library was fortunate to find Storytime volunteer Susan Madison. With Susan's help, we were able to begin a second weekly session on Thursdays at 10 AM. Elizabeth also creates take-home craft kits and provides extra Storytime books so that individuals who cannot attend in-person can still enjoy our activities at home.

Using Storytime as a springboard, the library began the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. This nationwide initiative challenges little ones to read (you guessed it) 1000 books before they start kindergarten. Every time a participant reaches a reading benchmark, they receive a prize book... and a featured post on our library Facebook page! 33 children are currently participating in this program.

Watching Storytime grow has been a truly heartwarming journey. Thank you to Elizabeth, Susan, and our wonderful community for helping cultivate a love of reading in our youngest patrons!





# PROGRAM SESSIONS

**89**

Adult program sessions

**1074**

Children's program sessions  
(Last year: 60 programs)

**14**

Young adult program sessions

**2,376**

Total program attendance  
(a 93% increase from 2022!)

# LIBRARY SERVICES

Cheney Library provides access to vital public technology to help bridge the digital divide. Some of these resources include:

- 5 stationary public PC computers
- 2 Chromebooks
- Color printer with wireless service
- Photocopier
- Scanner
- Fax machine
- 24/7 WiFi access
- Screen and projector
- Personal technology assistance

The library also has a heart rate monitor and blood pressure monitor for patron use. As of March 2024, all of our library staff are CPR/AED certified.

The library also still offers curbside services. Curbside pickup services are a quick and contactless way for patrons to retrieve their materials. Items can be ordered online via the Upper Hudson Library System catalog. Patrons can also place orders over the phone by calling (518) 686-9401.

Curbside ordering instructions can be viewed on our website on the following page:  
<https://www.cheneylibrary.org/curbside-pickup/>



# CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

81 patrons and supporters of Cheney Library gathered on the evening of Saturday, October 21 to celebrate the library's 100th birthday at BYTE Lounge on John Street in Hoosick Falls. Sponsored by the Friends of Cheney Library, the event featured live music, history, raffles, and a wide variety of delicious foods including wood-fired pizza, smoked salmon, cheeses, and baklava.

Music from Connecticut-based indie rock group Basement Apartment began at 6 PM. The musicians entertained guests with guitar, keyboard, banjo, and mandolin in classic tunes which got the whole room dancing.

Tom Madison, a member of the Friends of the Library, spoke about the Cheney's history. Most guests were familiar with the basic elements of the story. However, what many didn't know is the story of caretaker Jerome Williams. In the summer of 1953, Mr. Williams caught and disposed of a weasel which had snuck into the library and hidden itself among the books. According to accounts of the event,

Mr. Williams even used a book to pin down and catch the weasel! This story elicited plenty of laughter from partygoers.

Later in the evening, raffle tickets were drawn for a centennial quilt. Created by the Cheney Library Quilting Club, the quilt featured characters from children's classics. In addition to the quilt, local businesses helped organize 3 prize baskets. Brown's Brewing, Hoosac Package Store, Hoosick Provisions, Iron Coffee, and SmallSong generously contributed gift cards and merchandise in support of the library. Local artist and retired Cheney librarian Silvia Plasse donated two photographs, which were raffled, as well.

The library shares its deep thanks to all of those who made this event possible: the Friends of Cheney Library, Yucel and BYTE Lounge, our local business partners, library staff, trustees, and patrons. We at Cheney Library are grateful to serve such a vibrant community of people, and look forward to the next century of Cheney Library excitement!





## OUR TEAM

### TRUSTEES

**President:** Kay Powers  
**Vice President:** Pam Cross  
**Secretary:** Lynne Teker  
**Treasurer:** Emily Sanders  
**Members:** Hope Barry, Eliza Bouplon,  
 Mary Haynes

### VOLUNTEERS

**Interlibrary Loan:** Tom Madison

**Book Sale:** Colleen Doyle,  
 Susan Hoffman, Lynne Teker

**Programs:** Alexis L'Heureux,  
 Susan Madison

### STAFF

**Director:** Danny Yetto  
**Library Assistants:** Mary Lucey,  
 Silvia Plasse, Elizabeth Robinson

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

**President:** Nancy Luke  
**Vice President:** Danny Yetto  
**Secretary:** Colleen Doyle  
**Treasurer:** Diane Davendonis  
**Co-Treasurer:** Tom Madison

**Members:** Pam Cross, Gail Delurey,  
 Gayle Donohue, Susan Hoffman,  
 Mary Jackson, Debbie Lennon,  
 Bridget Pierce, Kay Powers,  
 Lynne Teker, Deb Tudor,

# CHENEY LIBRARY 2024 BUDGET

## Income

Annual Donation	500.00
BOOK SALE	800.00
BUCKLEY ESTATE	3,500.00
Friends	1,000.00
From Circ Desk Drawer	1,000.00
GIFTS	1,000.00
Howard Haynes Charitable Trust	1,000.00
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS	20,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	100.00
RENSSELAER COUNTY	4,940.00
REYNOLDS FOUNDATION	500.00
TAX REVENUE - TOWN OF HOOSICK	95,000.00
UPPER HUDSON	2,000.00

<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>131,340.00</u></b>
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## Expense

BANK CHARGES	130.00
BOOKS AND MAGAZINES	6,000.00
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	700.00
DATA BASIS CHARGES	2,872.00
DEPRECIATION	16,656.00
HEATING AND FUEL	3,500.00
INSURANCE	4,500.00
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT F	4,000.00
LIBRARY MAINTENENCE AND	20,000.00
LIBRARY PROGRAM EXPENSE	2,000.00
LIBRARY SUPPLIES	3,400.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	50.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,500.00
Payroll Expenses	73,018.00
PAYROLL TAXES	7,996.00
POSTAGE	200.00
SUPPLIES FOR MAINTENANCE	800.00
TAX PREPARATION	125.00
TELEPHONE	1,200.00
TRAVEL	50.00
UTILITIES/ELECTRIC	3,500.00
UTILITIES/WATER	900.00

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>154,097.00</u></b>
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