

On July 6, 2020, the Library re-opened after being closed for several months due to COVID. We continued to offer curbside pickup and homebound delivery services, with Penelope Papadoulis making the deliveries. All of our programs continued to be delivered virtually, via Zoom. The Youth Services Department began to offer “Grab & Go” crafts, and community members of all ages were encouraged to participate in a Town Scavenger Hunt and post photos to our Facebook or Instagram accounts. The Library also made a commitment to engage in regular collaborations with other Town departments and organizations, including Park & Recreation, the Senior Center, Easton Community Center (ECC), Easton/Redding schools, and the Town’s Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Task Force (EDIT), as well as other area libraries. Examples of programs that came out of these collaborations include Scratch Programming and Computer Processing with the JBHS Robotics Team, Improv Comedy with the Brookfield Library, Cards for Seniors with the Senior Center, and Trivia, Bingo, and Comedy Nights with Park & Recreation and ECC. In addition, the Library participated in the Town’s PRIDE event in June.

In an effort to further engage with the community, the Library installed a “Voices of Diversity” lawn sign exhibit on the grounds, beginning in late winter. This exhibit was spearheaded by Mary Beth Rassulo, Assistant Director/Head of Youth Services, and co-sponsored by EDIT. Members of the community were encouraged to submit quotes on diversity by famous people. In addition to being displayed on the lawn signs, these submitted quotes were also featured in an online exhibit on our website. Youth Services Librarian Kristine Oulman created a monthly program, “Community Book Chat,” in which she interviews a well-known Town personality about a favorite book. These interviews are recorded and posted on the Library’s website and YouTube channel.

After 25 years in this building, the Library finally got its own sign, which was generously created and donated by Easton resident Michael Ogrinz and his family. A new five-year strategic plan was created, bringing the Library to 2025. The Library created an EDI/Social Justice Task Force, which is chaired by Mary Beth Rassulo. The Library Board of Trustees awarded the 2021 Anne Lindquist Library Spirit Award to Dolly Curtis - longtime Easton resident, co-founder of the Easton Arts Council, and curator of the Library’s art exhibits. An outdoor reception was held in Dolly’s honor, with many friends, family members, colleagues, and local dignitaries in attendance.

The Friends of the Library group was re-invigorated with new members, new officers, and lots of fresh, new ideas. Their first two fundraisers, Make a Difference Day and the Wine & Cheese Tasting, were both very successful. Beth Cliff is the new Friends’ president.

The Library said goodbye to Circulation Assistants Debby Holland and Kevin Krug. They were replaced by Kerry Santoro (furloughed from another position) and Bob Knapik.

With our collections, programs, services, partnerships, and knowledgeable and friendly staff, the Library continues to be an important and valued community asset.

#### **FY ‘20-‘21 Statistics**

Circulation: 56,666

Total Print/AV/Digital Collections: 66,333

Registered Borrowers: 3,903

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Zaffino, Library Director