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## ANNUAL REPORT

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Last year was tough, as we all know. The library was closed for 2.5 months, and we offered curbside pickup for 4 months. Nevertheless,

- We opened the library in June for curbside pick-up, and we opened our doors in September, with our regular hours, with social distancing restrictions to keep patrons safe.
- We increased the number of people who have library cards by 8%.
- We registered 41 people for the summer reading program, and offered ice cream coupons.
- Our circulation was up overall, from 2020, by 16%, and our circulation for children's books rose dramatically – 72% up from 2020!
- Inter-Library Loan use was also up quite dramatically, 312%! If you don't know about this service, this means that if you need a book and we don't have it in the Mid-Hudson Library System, we can get it for you. This is a great resource for teachers, for anyone doing research, for those writing a book, and probably lots of other reasons. All you need to do is ask Gisi – tell her the title of the book you want, the author if you have it, and she'll get the book for you.

“The COVID lock down of the last year has been hard on everybody at every level of life. What probably most do not know is that for scholars and researchers like me, the lockdown has added an additional layer of misery; all research libraries being closed, it was not possible to check out any books. This meant that our preferred activities, reading and writing, were immediately suspended with no end in sight.

Lucky me, I have been spending the entire lock down in Pine Hill, a few minutes away from the Morton Library. It is unbelievable what a tiny place like Morton, in a tiny village like Pine Hill, can do; Gisi, thanks to her master knowledge of the secret ways of the Mid-Hudson Library System, was able to make available to me books from research libraries located in New York State and other locations on the East Coast.

I will be forever grateful to Gisi and to the Morton Library for the services that they can provide to the all of us.” ~ Dr. Sandra Gambetti, Associate Professor, Department of History at the College of Staten Island - CUNY

- We were so pleased to again offer the grocery program, with donations from the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. Between July 2020 and January 2021, we delivered a total of 11,546 pounds of groceries to 25-30 people. This is an important part of our service to our community, and we are so grateful to the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, and to volunteers who helped organize, pack, and deliver the food. (Special thanks to Allen Vella for making deliveries!)

- We kept our free WiFi on for you 24/7 – just park at the curb by the library and you should get the signal.