

# 2024

## 2023 IN REVIEW

### 195

**New Library  
Cards Issued**

### 66,041

**Physical Items  
Checked Out**

### 134

**Experience  
Passes Checked  
Out**

2023 was a year of big changes at the Oostburg Public Library, including staffing changes, the addition of Experience Passes, the revamped Children's Audio collection, and much more.

There was no shortage of activity over the past year. In the summer, we had the most engagement we've ever had in the Summer Reading Program, especially in the Adult and Teen age groups. The annual Peeps Show Diorama contest doubled its number of participants from last year, and our YA graphic novels followed suit, doubling in circulations. Over all, 66,041 physical items and 11,270 digital items circulated last year. That makes 2023 the highest year of circulation on record! Thank you to all of the patrons that have made this a year for the record books!

### 2295

**New Items Added  
to the Collection**

### 11,270

**Digital Items  
Checked Out**

### \$916,564.11

**Amount Patrons  
Saved by Using The  
Library**



# what's next?

After such an exciting year, you may be wondering what could possibly be in store for 2024. Without revealing too much (and as a result

robbing myself of future newsletter topics) here's a sneak peek at what's in store for the Oostburg Public Library!

**More Adult Programing** - From author visits and guest speakers to skill building workshops and a new monthly DIY program, we're dedicated to bringing more programing for the adults in our community.

**Continued Growth of New Collections** - The new children's audio collection has already been immensely popular, and we're going to keep expanding it with new and classic materials in the read along format, as well as continue our progress in growing our graphic novel collections for all ages.

**New Experiences** - In 2024, we're looking to expand beyond our initial offering of experience passes to help you and your family explore more of what the area has to offer without breaking your budget.

**Facilities Updates** - To go along with the new shelves we're having built with the proceeds of the book sale, the village has approved new carpeting for the main area of the library! Stay tuned for more updates, especially as the project draws closer!

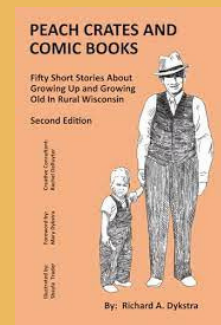
**New Staffing** - Nancy Josiah is officially off of page duties and into desk duties! Additionally, we have a new schedule that allows for two staff members to be working during our busiest time, the after school rush.

**Much More** - As I said earlier, I don't want to spoil everything that's coming this year, but I hope you're as excited as I am to see where 2024 takes us!

## New At the Library

### *Peach Crates and Comic Books*

*Richard A. Dykstra*



This new book by local author Richard A. Dykstra promises Fifty Short Stories About Growing Up and Growing Old in Rural Wisconsin, and is full of the wit and nostalgia readers have come to expect from Dykstra. With illustrations by Shayla Trader and a forward by Mary Dykstra, this book is a treasure of local culture. Make sure to catch Richard at one of his speaking events around the area in the coming months!

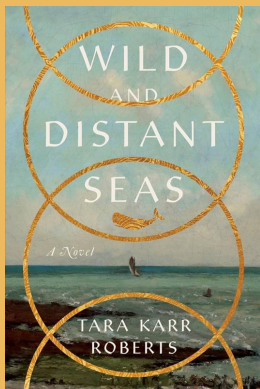
*Thank you!*

The Oostburg Public Library would like to once more thank the estate of Barbara Ingelse for the generous donation of her collection of books, DVDs, and CDs. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers who organized the materials, worked the sale, and provided baked goods for the bake sale. Thanks to your efforts, this was by far the most successful book sale we've ever had!

## New At the Library

### *Wild and Distant Seas*

Tara Karr Roberts



This generation spanning epic takes *Moby Dick* as its starting point and then sets its course into uncharted waters. Evangeline Hussey is a widow who runs an inn in Nantucket. Her life is turned upside down when a man comes to her door and asks her to call him Ishmael. *Wild and Distant Seas* follows four generations of Evangeline's family and shows how her choices ripple into bigger consequences. From Nantucket to Boston and on to Brazil, Florence, and Idaho, this tale goes far beyond the whale and examines the lives of those left on land.



The Monarch Library System, of which Oostburg is a proud member, is one of the simplest and most user friendly library systems out there, and Oostburg patrons benefit greatly from our involvement. The most obvious benefit we receive is in the holds system.

Most of you have experience with placing holds, either through the online Monarch Catalog, the Monarch2Go App, or by asking one of our friendly librarians to place a hold for you. From there, the hold is sent off to one of the member libraries who owns the requested material.

There is a tier system in place, so as not to overwork the smaller libraries. Requests will first be sent to Grade One libraries, which have the largest collections, as well as the staff hours to ensure requests are fulfilled quickly. If no Grade One libraries have the material available, the request goes to a Grade Two Library, and then to a Grade Three Library if no Grade Two Libraries have the material.

Each day, libraries run a pull list, which is a list of all the requested titles from their branch that day. A staff member finds each item and checks it in, at which point a slip prints out that shows which library the requested material needs to go to. Then, the material is placed into a bin with other outgoing materials.

The bins are picked up from Oostburg and sorted every afternoon by a driver from the Monarch system, who also brings in the bins full of requests and returns coming into Oostburg. Because of the organization of this system, most requested items reach their destination library within a day or two.

The drivers are the unsung heroes of the library system. If you're ever in the library when they arrive, be sure to give them a huge thank you for all they do!

## A Note from the Director



And just like that, 2023 has left us. Or is in the process of leaving us. He wanted to stop and say bye to all of you real quick, so make sure to wave at him on his way out. I'm gonna miss the little guy. He was pretty good to me.

That being said, I'm very excited about the new year. I am now officially a full time employee, and I was able to cut down on my desk hours so that I am only on desk Monday mornings, which should give me more time to work on projects that will benefit our patrons.

That being said, I'm going to miss having so much regular time on the desk. Working those hours gave me a chance to meet and get to know so many of our wonderful patrons, and I treasure the connections I have made in that time. If you're one of those patrons I saw regularly, make sure you stop by my office from time to time to chat, or stop me if you see me scurrying around the library!

It's the patrons that make this library. I've said that since the beginning. We are so blessed here at Oostburg to have such a vibrant and passionate patron base, and I am so happy to get to come to work each day to make the library a better place for you all.

I have a habit of getting mushy in these director's notes, so I'll stop there before my heartfelt tears short out my keyboard. Just know that this job means the world to me, and so do all of you that come in and make the library such a special place to be.

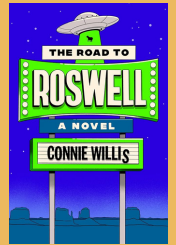
Jesse Rogers  
Library Director

P.S. I love reading end of the year lists, so I included one here for those of you who also enjoy them. If you've read any of the books I've listed here, I'd love to hear what you thought of them!

## Jesse's Top 10 Books of 2023



10. Pineapple Street  
Jenny Jackson



9. The Road to Roswell  
Connie Willis



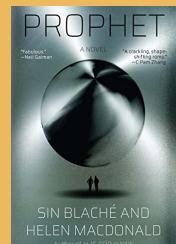
8. How Can I Help You?  
Laura Sims



7. Speech Team  
Tim Murphy



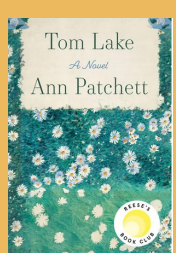
6. Wonder Woman Historia  
Kelly Sue DeConnick



5. Prophet  
Sin Blanche and Helen MacDonald



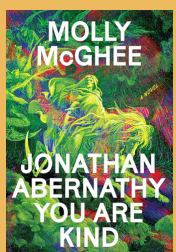
4. Chain Gang All-Stars  
Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah



3. Tom Lake  
Ann Patchett



2. Shark Heart  
Emily Habeck



1. Jonathan Abernathy You Are Kind  
Molly McGhee