



Township Library of Lower Southampton 2021 Annual Report

message from the director

2021...

Another challenging year of pandemic. This time, we faced it with more experience, vaccines and boosters. Still, we felt it. Our patrons felt with the lack of programs, and mask wearing, and the “Covid-fatigue”.

We felt it in our numbers: patrons came back, but slowly. Many of our most constant library users were still reluctant to come in at all. Toward the end of the year, with vaccinations up, we felt comfortable to open study rooms, return to proctoring and welcome a few volunteers. .

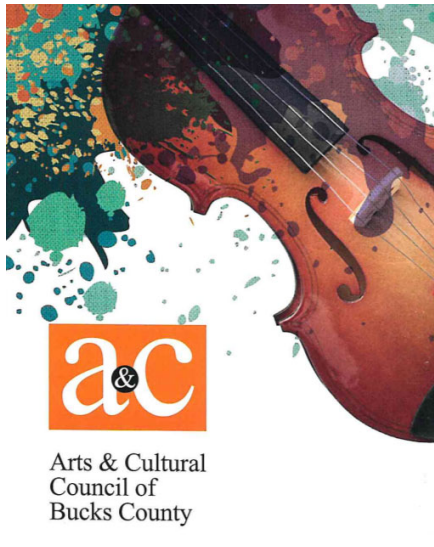
We felt the pandemic in our 2021 budget: our township slashed their contribution by 22% (anticipating reduced revenues). Staff was cut, shifts were shortened, plans were delayed.

We felt it with our vendors: publishers delayed titles, shipments were slow to arrive, and patrons had to wait for much anticipated reads. (True readers always found something of interest...)

I commend and thank our staff and patrons who rose to the continued challenges of the pandemic. And now from here , 2021 seems a long way behind us as we look forward to a brighter year.



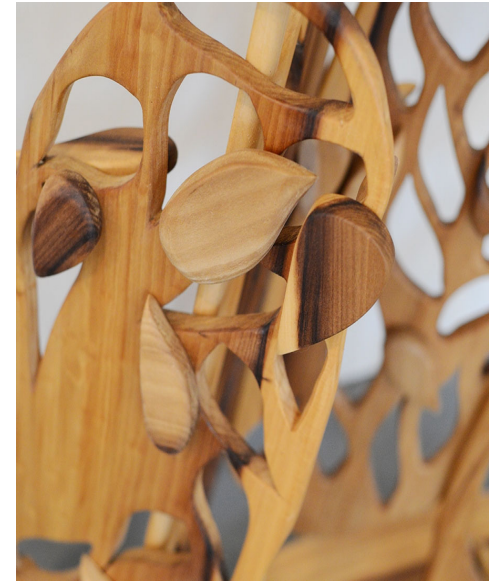
New 2021 partnership



In 2021, the Library partnered with the Arts & Cultural Council of Bucks County to bring art into the community. Professional, local artists shared their works, their talents and their passion exhibiting in the building.

For some, this is their first time to be up close with art. Better than a picture, way better than a screen - here is art you can walk around and view from all angles.

Library's have a unique opportunity to expose and inspire ...



In-person, out doors

We held our first in-person programs since the start of the pandemic outside - safe & comfortable. Planning outdoor events gave us a whole new list of firsts.:

- ♦ A very successful outdoor book sale
- ♦ Tai Chi in the ballfield
- ♦ family Yoga on the grass
- ♦ Fab Lab STEAM
- ♦ sidewalk Story Walk
- ♦ all-across-town scavenger hunt



COMMUNITY SCAVENGER HUNT

JUNE 19 - AUGUST 21

Get out, get moving, and join the Community Scavenger Hunt!

Print your activity sheet at the library or download one off of our website starting June 19, and go explore Feasterville.

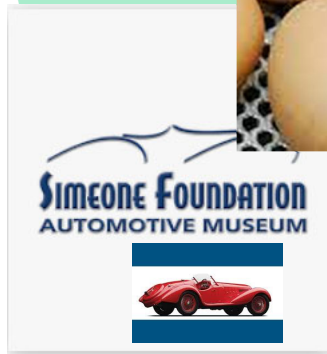
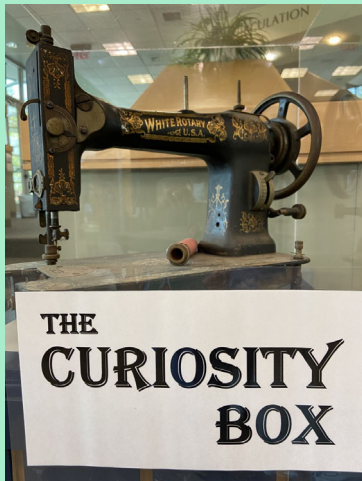
Find a mystery letter at each location on your sheet. Scrambled the word when you've found all the letters for a chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card.



...and safely masked indoors

We didn't encourage large groups or long stays inside the building, but everyone enjoyed new "passive" programs indoors:

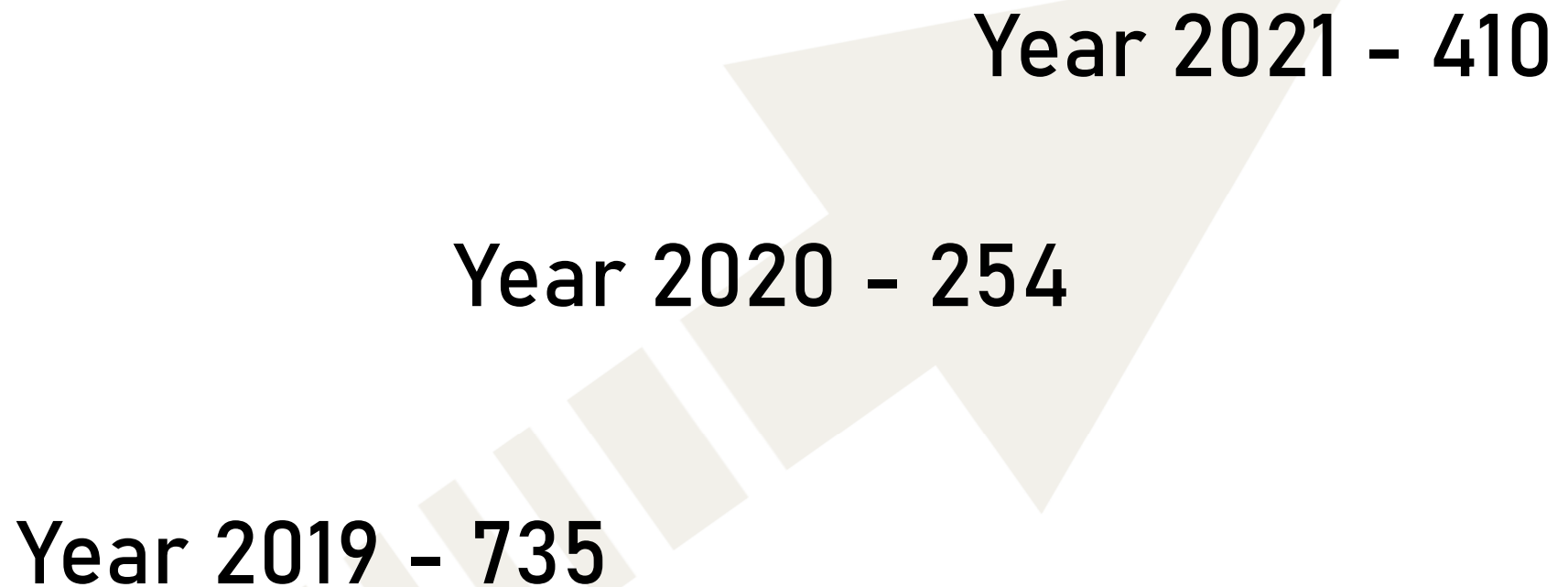
- * Our Curiosity Box
- * Quail egg hatching and an indoor "Quail" fact-finding scavenger hunt
- * 3 additions to our museum pass collection
- * 2 new Roku streaming devices added



2021 numbers: Covid recovery = steady!

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Library visits | 82,194 | 35,130 | 39,792 |
| materials borrowed | 134,354 | 60,021 | 76,037 |
| Children's materials | 46,764 | 22,696 | 30,815 |
| Electronic materials checked out | 28,795 | 752,721 | 674,037 |
| Reference questions | 10,192 | 987 | 3,363 |

And always new members!





The 2021 Township Library of Lower Southampton is:

Staff:

Library Board:

Anne Berlin
Gary Bowman
Joan Bowman
Ellen Budman
Chris Dunham
Catherine Hahn
Carol Merchiore

Dennis Stranz, Library Director
Chryssi Gumina, Head of Reference & Adult Services
Brittany Eastman, Head of Youth Services
Debbie Carroll, Head of Circulation
Karissa Murray, Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper
Information Desk: Gerry,
Circulation: Nancy, Carole, Sarah, Liz, Nancy
(left in 2021: Susan, Ryan, David, Lisa)
Office: Peggy
Shelver: Shannon