

Croton Free Library

SHELF LIFE

Annual Newsletter, Spring 2024

Featured Service: Research Requests

Are you working on a research project? We can help! Patrons researching a topic of interest may request a selection of preliminary resources. Our reference librarians will select up to 10 appropriate resources, which can include print books, articles, or referrals to online databases or websites.

A few examples of the kinds of questions we can help with:

- How can I get started with astrophotography?
- What was going on in Croton during the 1940s?
- What's the difference between an electric organ and a pipe organ?



To find more details and place a request, please visit our website and go to Research > Research Requests.

2023 ANNUAL STATISTICS

Circulation

Adult Book Circulation	42,188
Children's Book Circulation	55,717
Adult Audiovisual & Other	10,627
Children's Audiovisual & Other	2,178
Digital Materials	37,709
Items Loaned to Other Libraries	16,467
Total Items:	164,886

Programming

Adult Program Attendance	2,457
YA Program Attendance	1,211
Children's Program Attendance	11,705
General Interest Program Attendance	2,105
Total Attendees:	17,478

Services

Visitors	187,804
Reference Transactions	11,396
Registered Cardholders	6,994

A Message from the Director

It's official: the Croton Free Library no longer collects fines! Back in March, our Board of Trustees voted unanimously to eliminate late fees on our materials. Research has consistently shown that fines put up unnecessary barriers and deter some of the people who need library services, programs, and collections the most.

Our goal is to encourage people to use the Library — not turn them away — and we are proud to join the ranks of libraries all over the county, the state, and the country that have gone fine-free for overdue material.

Stop by and visit this spring — we have a host of great programs going on, including a new writers' circle, a series of new art workshops, concerts and performances, and our annual Book & Bake Sale on May 18 & 19.

As always, everything at the Library is free and open to all! Check our website for the latest.

-Jesse Bourdon, Library Director

**SPRING
BOOK & BAKE
SALE**

SATURDAY, MAY 18
SUNDAY, MAY 19
10AM - 3PM

**SATURDAY EARLY BIRD
ADMISSION \$10 (8-10 AM)**

**SUNDAY SPECIAL
FILL A LIBRARY TOTE BAG
FOR \$20**

LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21

6:00am–9:00pm

at Croton-Harmon High School



A Note of Appreciation for Volunteers

Each year, we use this space to highlight the work of our incredible volunteers. Here's a brief list of things they've already accomplished in 2024:

- Arranging, straightening, and organizing shelves
- Leading community groups and workshops
- Tutoring elementary-school students
- Restocking the Seed Exchange in our repurposed card catalog
- Organizing and setting up our Spring Book & Bake Sale
- Hanging flyers
- Cleaning vinyl donations
- Cataloging donated puzzles and games
- Making keychains and bookmarks for National Library Week

High school students have completed hundreds of community service hours, and adults have used their time and talents to help. We deeply appreciate their efforts.

Library Board of Trustees

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New Cool Stuff: Mango Languages, Medici.tv, and The Shelf

Is this the summer when you'll start to learn a new language? Watch an opera? Listen to a podcast in Spanish?

Thanks to the Westchester Library System, we offer three new services that can help:

- Mango Languages, which prepares learners for realistic conversations and communication in over 70 world languages;
- Medici.tv, a streaming video service that provides access to concerts, operas, performances, classes, and documentaries; and
- The Shelf, which provides access to a variety of Spanish-language content, including kids' media and games, movies, podcasts, music, and more.

Check them all out at crotonfreelibrary.org!



Library Staff and Volunteers

Jesse Bourdon
Library Director

Gwen Glazer
Head of Collection Development and User Engagement

Lori Phillips
Head of Technical Services

Megan Fenton
Reference and Circulation Manager

Joan Arnold (v)	Victor Illonardo
Art Almeida (v)	Christina Moore
Pat Bane	Doreen Nisenson (v)
Sarah Bannan	Kyle Nolan
Fernando Bernal	Nikki Rank
Mary Bernal	Gillian Rothchild
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Carol Hirsh (v)	Adriana Zavala