

# BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY

*the ♥ of our community*



Dan Williams, Artist

**a safe, supportive, friendly place where all are welcome**

learn or teach a skill... make a new friend... find information... discover a new hobby... offer or receive a helping hand



Find books + so much more here:

- ◆ Music CDs and movie DVDs
- ◆ E-books and audiobooks
- ◆ Computer access
- ◆ Childrens' story time play group
- ◆ Adult Craft Group enjoys a variety of art and handwork projects
- ◆ Reading Club participants read and talk about books of interest
- ◆ Language learning through MANGO
- ◆ Berkshire history (books by locals + History Museum upstairs)
- ◆ Clothing and book giveaways
- ◆ Community information and participation in celebrations
- ◆ Seasonal events (Blueberry Festival, Kids' Farmers Market)

Ideas for new offerings welcome :-)

## HOURS OF SERVICE:

Tuesday	12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday	12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Thursday	12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Friday	12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Saturday	9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

12519 State Route 38, P.O. Box 151  
Berkshire, NY 13736

(607) 657-4418

<https://berkshirefreelibrary.org/>

## Serving our community since 1921

Initially located above the Red & White Store, the Berkshire Free Library was established by NYS charter in 1921, with 95 families joining in its first year. Its first librarian was Emma Bradley Andrews Payne (1857-1926), and following her death, her home was donated by her daughter, Miriam Alatheia Payne Patch (1883-1964) to become the new home of the library. Miriam Patch was very active in the Berkshire Reading Club and was the first President of the Board of Trustees of the Berkshire Free Library Association. Descendants of Emma Bradley Andrews Payne and Miriam Payne Patch, a number of whom still live in the area, continue to support of the library and its activities.

## Annual Report 2024

<b>Annual Report</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Total Annual Attendance	5,520	4,878	3,650
Total Circulation	9,378	10,933	11,870

- Average book price -  $\$35.00 \times 9378 = \$328,230$  free resources loan to the community
- At the Kids Farmer's Market this summer, the Library gave out 450 bags of fresh local produce to children in Berkshire and Richford.
- 1,784 people attended the programs at the Library
- Working with the Vestal Elks Club, we gave away 40 children's new winter coats to Richford and Berkshire children

### **New Programs This Year**

Reading Club, Kids Farmers Market

### **Continuing Programs**

Story Time, preschool children weekly

Summer Program was seven weeks long. Free lunches were served.

Craft Club meets weekly

**Total patrons visits** this year - 5,300 visits that equals about 100 people a week

Library public computer use - 850 visits came to use the computers