



Ema Amato joins The Sunshine Hall Free Library as the first intern from Eldred Central School District.

The Board of Trustees along with Library Director Patty Kennedy and the Friends of The Sunshine Hall Free Library are excited to announce a new internship program for students from the Junior Senior High School in Eldred made possible by a generous grant from the Grace Johansen Memorial Foundation (GJMF).

September 2022 marks the first year that GJMF has offered The Grace Grant which is intended for libraries and historical organizations in the Catskills and Upper Delaware regions to help create youth skill building and growth opportunities by way of developing programming or offering internships for middle- and high-schoolers.

After developing components of the internship program, the SHFL embarked on a partnership with Eldred Junior Senior High School faculty, Amanda Ross, to identify qualified and interested students. Candidates submitted resumes and completed in-person interviews with library staff in January. While a tough decision to make, Ema Amato was selected from the pool of candidates to start in early February and will be joining the library team to learn how a library works, engage with the public at the front desk, assist with specialized tasks and develop a community service project of her own design to enhance the experience of library patrons.

Ema is an accomplished Senior engaged in multiple activities at Eldred including Student Council Social Media Specialist and she is a founding member of the Book Club, Art Club and Gay Straight Alliance.

Internships at Sunshine Hall Free Library integrate knowledge and theory with practical application and skill development in a traditional Library setting. This program is conducted as a partnership between a student, Eldred Central School District, and the library staff and Board of Trustees.

About the Grace Johansen Memorial Foundation: GJMF is committed to engaging young people in their communities. Every year, they award scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who have dedicated time and energy to volunteerism in Sullivan County. Her family established the Grace Johansen Memorial Foundation after her death to further this mission by providing scholarships to local high school students who demonstrate an interest in bettering their community. Grace's legacy lives on in the kindness we share with each other as we strive to create a friendlier, more cohesive Catskills community.

About The Sunshine Hall Free Library: The mission of the Sunshine Hall Free Library is to be a valuable resource and a benefit to everyone in our community.