



UPPER HUDSON
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

2009 Annual Report

2009 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - LouAnne Lundgren

The Trustees of the Upper Hudson Library System once again proved to be a flexible, creative group of dedicated volunteers. The uncertainty of state funding and the challenges that ensued were met head-on. The Trustees did not allow the funding situation to disrupt or diminish services to our twenty-nine member libraries. The input of UHLS staff and Directors Association liaisons provided the Board with the expertise to aid them in making informed decisions. In 2009, three new members were welcomed to the Upper Hudson Board of Trustees. William Colgan and Janet Ivory joined the Finance Committee and Anne Kuthy rounded out the Administration Committee.

Administration Committee - James Reilly, Chair
Yolanda Caldwell, Charles Diamond, Anne Kuthy
Tim Burke/Julie Zelman, Directors Association representative

In 2009, the Administration Committee oversaw the renovation of the Shipping Room. When UHLS contracted with the new courier in August 2008, sorting returned to this building. The new service was highly commended by the member libraries. Early in 2009, we realized that the quantity of material being handled by our courier already equaled the highest amounts handled by mid-summer in any of the previous years. In order to continue with quality service, and to accommodate the ever-increasing amount of materials, the Shipping Room needed to be enlarged. The Administration Committee reviewed several estimates for the construction work and selected a contractor. The work was completed within a week and the Room was doubled in size.

The Committee also started the procedure for an annual evaluation of the Executive Director and the "health" of the organization. As part of the process, the Committee received quarterly reports on how well the Goals and Objectives were being met.

During the course of the annual Financial Review, it was determined that a Conflict of Interest Policy was required on the Federal 990 Tax Form. The Committee then developed this Policy for the organization.

Services Committee - Erin Apostol, Chair
Brian Hartson, Mary Muller, Lois Prenovost
Richard Naylor, Directors Association representative

The Services Committee was very busy during the year, meeting nine times to discuss various concerns and issues. In order to clarify the UHLS portion of the construction grant review process, the Committee diligently worked for several months to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines. These guidelines specified how the applications would be reviewed and detailed the ranking process that the Committee would use. The completion of work, that started in 2008, included a survey of the member libraries to determine what components would be the most useful in their decision to apply for construction funds. Richard Naylor, Directors Association liaison to the committee, compiled and presented the results of the survey.

Throughout the year, all of the grant applications submitted by the UHLS staff, including the funding request letters sent in support of the annual Riverway Storytelling Festival, were reviewed by the Services Committee.

Finance Committee - MaryAlice Molgard, Chair
William Colgan, Ronald Ginsburg, Janet Ivory
Nancy Pieri, Directors Association representative

In 2009, this Committee struggled with the finances as they received conflicting, or no, information from the State regarding the annual aid to support the organization. Fortunately, due to financial acumen honed from several years of dealing with the UHLS finances, the Committee members were able to keep the organization on an even keel and ended the year in a better situation than was first projected.

Committee members met with representatives from our current bank and discussed various options for maximizing the interest on funds in the reserve account. Although the interest rates are low, and we are prohibited from any long-term investments, the Committee was able to develop a “laddered” plan that made the best use of the current funds.

Last, but not the least, the Finance Committee was integral in development of the UHLS budget. After reviewing information provided by the UHLS staff and suggestions from the Directors Association, the Committee presented the budget to the full Board. Their diligence in checking each line and making difficult decisions served the Upper Hudson community well.

I am proud of the accomplishments of the UHLS Board of Trustees. The Board took its responsibilities seriously. Each new challenge was met head-on and each decision was thoroughly considered. It has been a pleasure to serve with such a diverse group and to be reminded each month of the dedication to, and importance of, public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

2009 STAFF

Executive Director:	Philip Ritter	
Manager, Automation Services:	Joseph Thornton	
Manager, Information & Outreach Services:	Jo-Ann Benedetti	
Manager, Youth & Family Services:	Mary Fellows	
	Robert Carle	Lynn Orme
	Rawdon Cheng	Diane Riganti
	Heidi Fuge	Joseph Sherry

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Philip Ritter

The Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) had a very stable year during 2009. There were no major problems with the provision of automation services or with the courier delivery services for the first time in many years. Since these are our most important services to the member libraries, this is significant. Because of the numerous reductions in State Aid to Public Library Systems, we were unable to initiate any new services. The maintenance of our current services was our highest priority during 2009.

We lost one employee during 2009, and his position was not filled because of the reductions in State Aid. After more than six years at UHLS, Jonathan Koppel, Technology Specialist, accepted a job offer from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

UHLS sponsored a number of special workshops during the year for the staff and trustees of the member libraries:

- Three sessions on consumer health reference services were held for a small but eager group of staff members who learned how to improve their medical research skills in order to better serve their patrons.
- Warren Graham, a nationally renowned expert on day-to-day public library security procedures, taught program attendees how to deal with potentially difficult situations in public libraries.
- Frank X. Craine, of Peter Gisolfi Associates, presented an introduction to building, renovating, or expanding a public library.
- Jo-Ann Benedetti and Mary Fellows presented a workshop on *Powerful Partnerships* which helped our members develop partnerships with organizations and businesses and to market their programs.
- They also presented a grant-writing workshop in which participants learned how to maximize their chances of success in the grant application process.
- Mary Fellows presented a workshop on *Effective Meeting Management* in which participants learned when to hold a meeting, how to get the desired outcome, and how to keep the meeting on track and productive.
- A Trustee Workshop taught library trustees about library advocacy and how to create a successful campaign for library support.

Following is a summary of some of the major accomplishments in our other areas of service.

Automation Services

In 2009, UHLS processed more than four million loans, and we added 44,686 bibliographic records and 182,086 items. We sent out 413,535 hold and overdue notices: 39,564 print, 173,297 by Telecirc, and 200,674 by email. We also sent 33,553 email notices to warn patrons that their holds were about to expire and 165,584 email courtesy notices to remind borrowers that their loans were due in two days. We sent our entire bibliographic database to LTI for authority control processing, which resulted in 39,487 updated records. All of the above statistics show significant increases over the previous years. The value of an online presence cannot be stressed too strongly, especially considering that the new UHLS website, which is just over one year old, experienced over 36 million hits.



The new UHLS website had over 36 million hits in one year.

Using part of the supplemental state aid that we received in 2009, we purchased \$5,000 worth of credits for training with *MicroKnowledge*. Staff members from the libraries took classes at *MicroKnowledge*, and *MicroKnowledge* trainers set up group instruction in some of the libraries.

The management of the *US Library Hardware Sustainability Access Grant* (aka “Gates Grant”) was completed. The staff coordinated the process of determining the eligibility of our libraries for this grant and helped to deploy the hardware that they received.

The staff continued to add libraries to the group of WordPress-based websites that we host on our web server. We advised libraries as they developed their sites and worked to solve any problems as they arose.

The *UHLS Calendar* (http://uhls.org/new/calendar_uhls.asp) was created using *Google Calendar*, and a link to it was put on the UHLS home page and on the *News and Events* page. We added job announcements to the UHLS home page and the *News and Events* page. All libraries may now send job announcements to us for posting

SirsiDynix made a special effort to assure us of their continued support of, and enhancements to, *Horizon 7.x*. Given the bleak outlook for financial support from New York State, and the assurance given us by SirsiDynix about the future of the *Horizon* system, it was agreed that UHLS would postpone migration to a new system and would instead purchase a new *Horizon* server to avert the inevitable problems that could occur with our current aging server.

Information and Outreach Services

The Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council met in January to review applications for the UHLS mini-grant program and make recommendations regarding their funding. UHLS was able to award \$14,514 for programs directed at those most in need of services. Thirteen libraries received

funding for projects to support programming for seniors, the unemployed, teens, the educationally disadvantaged and ethnic minorities in need of special services. Programs included oral history projects, teen parenting workshops, seminars on resume writing and job hunting skills, and the creation of family literacy materials.

In 2009, UHLS reassumed the responsibility for interlibrary loan service (this had previously been outsourced to CDLC) and supplied 825 titles to libraries outside of the System. We now also have seven member libraries (Albany, Bethlehem, East Greenbush, Guilderland, Troy, Voorheesville, and William K. Sanford) doing their own borrowing and lending to libraries outside of UHLS, which has greatly facilitated the interlibrary loan process and made materials available to a much wider audience.

In 2009, our courier service delivered over 602,000 items to our member libraries.

Delivery of materials among the libraries has been a challenge in the past, but in 2009 UHLS moved more items with fewer problems than ever before. According to our calculations, *A. L. Delivery Service*, our contracted courier company, picked up, sorted, and delivered over 602,000 items to our member libraries. As the reliability of this service increased, so did the demand for items. The couriers were able to sort more efficiently and quickly when the UHLS shipping room was doubled in size in May 2009.

UHLS is one of the few Systems in the State to continue to support rotating collections. These materials move among our member libraries to augment the libraries' individual collections, making more selections available to browsing patrons. Currently, UHLS maintains 1,528 Large Print Books, 1,486 Audio Books, 1,537 Videos/CDs and 1,334 Music CDs, and these are rotated six times a year among our members.

Another service that UHLS provided to the member libraries is the filing for annual e-rate reimbursements. UHLS applied for and received \$21,052 in e-rate reimbursements on behalf of our member libraries for the 11th year, and we began the application process for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Youth and Family Services

In recognition of the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth, 2009 proved to be a year of evolution for UHLS member libraries in youth services. For the first time, seventeen UHLS libraries used online registration for their Summer Reading Programs. This was an important development in embracing new ways of delivering services to our customers. Enabling users to participate in the library virtually, and in a way many find convenient or fun, is our path to maintaining relevance.

Library staff members prepared for their busy summer at the UHLS/MVLS *Summer Reading Program Planning Workshop*. We had 58 attendees at this daylong training. It was one of three joint UHLS/MVLS workshops offered during the year. *Tween/Teen Services* in September drew 46 participants, as did our second annual *Storytime Skills* in November.

All Youth Services Advisory Council meetings included a training component. Eight meetings were held during the year, offering discussion and additional training in the area of serving children, teens, and families. Book reviews were held every other meeting with alternating meetings offering an hour each for small library concerns and large library concerns discussion groups. A teen services discussion group was also offered for an hour every other month.

Paper Maché anchors and the ubiquitous Henry Hudson doll were highlights of our participation in the two-year LSTA grant *Explore Your Shore: Discovering Community History @ Your Library*. The anchors, created and decorated by youth and/or seniors at each library, were displayed at the *Art On Lark* festival in downtown Albany on June 6th. Henry Hudson traveled extensively throughout the region and served as an ambassador for new partnerships as well as stimulating library connections with fascinated children. As part of the grant, libraries also promoted resources on local history and held dozens of programs for youth.

Another grant project was the LSTA Summer Reading Program Mini-grant. The *Community Relations Challenge* trained and motivated member library staff to rev up their partnerships and marketing for the Summer Reading Program. Each library was challenged to reach out to their communities in new ways to involve individuals, businesses, organizations, and local media in promoting and participating in summer reading program and its activities. Twelve libraries participated in the challenge and earned program stipends for their efforts.

The overall totals of Summer Reading Program attendance and club participation were down slightly (36,253 in 2009 vs. 37,035 in 2008), but there was an increase in programs for teens. Since that has been a “growing edge” for libraries in UHLS, it was gratifying to see that the training and encouragement we offered helped motivate them to serve this group.

Riverway Storytelling Festival ended its seventh year as another success, judging by attendance and verbal feedback. Attendance at our 25 events was 2,071. Our total expenses were \$40,075, total revenues including UHLS contributions were \$42,722, and we ended with over \$2,100 as start-up revenue for 2010.

UHLS went, not to the dogs, but to the Rats as we initiated a partnership with the Albany River Rats. Eighteen libraries participated in a joint reading program for kids, and player and mascot visits were the main content of the program.

MEMBER LIBRARIES

Albany	(Hoosick Falls) Cheney	Troy
Altamont	Menands	Valley Falls
Berlin	Nassau	Voorheesville
Berne	North Greenbush	Watervliet
Bethlehem	Petersburgh	Westerlo
Brunswick	Poestenkill	
Castleton	RCS	
Cohoes	Rensselaer	
(Colonie) William K. Sanford	Rensselaerville	
East Greenbush	Sand Lake	
Grafton	(Schaghticoke) Arvilla E. Diver	
Guilderland	Stephentown	

DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION - Judith Wines, President

The Directors Association membership consists of all of the Directors of the twenty-nine member libraries in the Upper Hudson Library System. The Association holds monthly or bi-monthly meetings in which they learn about programs under consideration by the UHLS staff as well as hearing reports from the DA representatives on the UHLS Board Committees: Administration, Finance and Services. This representation also includes a Director who is a voting member of the UHLS Board of Trustees.

In 2009, the DA met eight times. It was through these meetings that the Directors of the member libraries expressed their needs and concerns to UHLS since the Executive Director attended all DA meetings. At each meeting, the Executive Director gave an update on UHLS programs. Following the report a free and lively exchange of opinions, advice and suggestions took place.

Discussion during the year focused on the way member libraries handle out-of-system and out-of-district patrons, efforts for coordinated publicity, and the efforts of UHLS advisory committees and staff. The DA hosted a Continuing Education Day, which grew out of the annual Directors Association Conference. One half of the full-day program was given to a facilitated discussion led by automation consultant Rob McGee about the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities presented by the UHLS automation system. The other half-day session dealt with Director and Board communication techniques and was led by Carol Sheffer.

One distinguishing characteristic of this year was a larger-than-usual turnover in the leadership in several of the member libraries: Amanda Benedict became Director at the Watervliet Public Library; Elizabeth King at Rensselaerville; Carol Nersinger at Albany; Judy Petrosillo at Berne; Suzette Cyr at Schaghticoke; and Sukrit Goswami at Cohoes. We welcomed all of them with their varying experiences and expertise.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

Carol Nersinger, Executive Director

Every Public Library System in New York State is required to have a Central Library, and the State Education Department sets aside a prescribed amount of funds that are annually granted to the Central Libraries to help them provide the mandated services. Using these funds, the Central Library cooperates with the System in offering additional services to the member libraries and their patrons. These include access to the collections of the Central Library via interlibrary loan; access to selected reference tools, including online databases; and access to adult non-fiction materials purchased with the Central Book Aid.

The Albany Public Library has served in a dual role for UHLS from the beginning; as both the public library for Albany residents and as the Central Library for the entire System. During the year, a Central Library Advisory Committee composed of Directors from the UHLS member libraries (including the Central Library Director), and staff from UHLS, meet to discuss how the Central Library Aid will be spent. These funds are used to acquire electronic resources including e-books, audio books, online databases and other online content. In 2009, the Central Library purchased 3,903 adult non-fiction titles with the Central Book Aid and subscribed to four online databases - all of which were made available to the staff and patrons of the member libraries. In addition, a portion of the funds were allocated to pay for staff time to support these services.

Albany Public Library recognizes its responsibilities as the Central Library and willingly takes on the additional duties. The large collection of adult non-fiction materials support the collections of the member libraries, the online databases are available through member library network connections and to patrons at home, and the Library is open approximately 3,400 hours per year to maximize access to the materials.

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dennis Gaffney, Board President
Carol Nersinger, Executive Director

Albany Public Library continued its commitment to provide customer-centered service to people of the City of Albany. In 2009 the Library circulated 1,039,329 items, recorded more than 841,000 customer visits, had 135,490 public computer uses, and 84,047 reference transactions. These statistics demonstrate the important role that the Library plays in Albany.

The Library's other focus was to continue to move toward the completion of the \$29.1 million Branch Improvement Plan. The plan includes two new branches in the Arbor Hill/West Hill and New Scotland neighborhoods, extensive renovations to the Pine Hills and John A. Howe Branches, and renovation of a former funeral home into the new Delaware Avenue Branch. The first two renovated libraries opened in late 2009, and the other three will open by June 2010. All projects are receiving tremendous acclaim for their

attractive and distinctive designs. To make the libraries user friendly in a new way, we instituted a Dewey-free subject arrangement at each branch library. In June 2009 the Albany Public Library Board of Trustees appointed Carol A. Nersinger as Executive Director. Nersinger is an experienced library administrator whose previous position was Director of the East Brunswick (NJ) Public Library where she was named 2008 New Jersey State Librarian of the Year.

Albany Public Library continued its innovative programming and offering our users connections to health information and financial literacy were two of the major themes. Several hundred people attended a Lunchtime Health Awareness Fair, which Library staff followed with a series of free workshops to help people establish healthy lifestyles. The Library's free income tax preparation program processed over 1,000 returns for low-income residents. We initiated large-scale family events, including Family Fun Fest and Monster Mash Halloween Bash, which together attracted close to 2,000 children and their families. The Library recognized *Hispanic Heritage Month* with programs including a bilingual story time, film screenings, and outdoor concert. We are making plans to continue and expand these programs in 2010.

The dedication and hard work of the staff, the leadership of the Board of Trustees, and the support of the community combined to make 2009 another dynamic and exciting year for Albany Public Library.

ALTAMONT FREE LIBRARY

Daniel Capuano, Board President

Judith Wines, Director



The Altamont Circuit Bike Race brought library activities into the sports world.

2009 was a year in which the Altamont Library expanded its role in the community. Partnering with Altamont Community Traditions and with support from the **New York State Council for the Arts**, the Library hosted three summer concerts. The inaugural *Altamont Circuit Bike Race* expanded Library activities into the world of sports and, in doing so, engaged new members of our community. The Library added hours on Sunday afternoons, providing access for those who work full time. The Library also expanded its program offerings with new adult fiction and mother-daughter book clubs.

In addition to recurring programs such as storytimes, computer classes and book discussion, the Library held dozens of special events, including a *Car Maintenance for Women* workshop, a "Doga" event in which humans and their dogs practiced yoga, the construction of an Altamont Anchor, a workshop on *Life Coaching*, a trip to the Clark Art, and a *Day of the Dead* celebration.

Work on the renovation of the Altamont Train Station to provide an accessible facility for the Library proceeded in 2009, following completion of the new slate roof in 2008. The electric power supply was upgraded, photovoltaic (solar) panels were added, and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning work was undertaken. In addition, as a result of the efforts of our Board and Community volunteers, major interior demolition work neared completion in preparation for the next phases of construction.

BERLIN FREE TOWN LIBRARY

Monica Shupe, Board President

Sharon Vogel, Director

2009 proved to be a steady year for the Library and included fundraising events spearheaded by our hard-working Friends of the Berlin Library group. Our annual *Book and Bake Sale* was a success; our 3rd *Fourth of July Café* enticed parade-watchers with pie a-la-mode and other goodies; and this year's *Crafts Fair* filled more vendors' booths and generated more foot traffic than in previous years.

Throughout the year the Library presented educational/recreational/social programming for patrons of all ages with a particular focus on our younger patrons during the *Summer Reading Program*.

Local clubs, organizations and school-related groups continued to utilize our facility for meetings, classes and gatherings during the year. Our patron base continued to grow and computer use increased 10%.

We look forward to a prosperous 2010.

BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Kinnaird, Board President

Jodi Ebel, Director (Jan.-Sept.)

Judy Petrosillo, Director (Oct.-Dec.)

Progress slowly continues toward providing the library with more room. The Berne Town Hall and the recently purchased Senior Center are being evaluated for accommodating the library, town court and town offices. We expect some positive changes in the near future.

Because of limited space, our collection size remained essentially the same. However, we are pleased that our circulation increased in 2009 and that we have loaned as many items as we have borrowed from other libraries.

Jodi Ebel added writing, scrap booking and game nights to our adult programming so that, along with the Book Club, there was an adult program almost every Sunday night.

The highlights of the year for youth services involved the "Explore Your Shore" programs celebrating the Henry Hudson quadricentennial. Besides adopting the Henry Hudson puppet, families enjoyed making terrariums, the Sinterklaas program presented by the William K. Sanford library, and Native American programs. Our teens did a great job creating an anchor representing Berne history.

For the first time we used computer registration for the summer reading program. We celebrated creativity with dance, arts, and visual arts programs. We also involved adults in their own summer reading program.

We continued to reach out into the community by sponsoring “Music in the Park,” stories around a campfire (indoors!), and a holiday parade. In addition, many Berne-Knox-Westerlo students heard Kathy read books and entertain with her puppets during outreach programs.

The Friends of the Berne Public Library provided a source of inspiration. The annual Haunted Hayride was a spooktacular fund raiser. We have many volunteers who are helping us pave the way to a bigger and better library.

We look forward to planning a new library and continuing to serve our community in 2010.

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Aaron Baldwin, Board President

Nancy L. Pieri, Director

Our parking lot expansion heads the list of this year’s highlights. Project PARC improved safety and accessibility, retained trees and green areas, and added much-needed parking spots, including more spaces for disabled patrons. The library procured a **State Construction grant** of \$42,000 to support the project. New York State **Assemblyman Tim Gordon** provided a \$5,000 legislative grant from the state to help fund replacement of the library’s 25-year-old-roof.

In the fall we launched a web page offering a comprehensive window on Bethlehem’s history. An expansion of the CDLC digitization project, the page includes directories of historic records, families and cemeteries, and photos of historic Bethlehem houses.

In the realm of library services, one of our Adult Services staff earned certification as a consumer health reference specialist. Youth Services staff initiated family playtime sessions for very young children and their caregivers. *Study Hall @ the Library* accommodated individual and group study for teens preparing for exams. Our revamped teen area resulted in steady use of the space and increased circulation of young adult materials. *Computer Partners*, our tutoring program for adult beginners, continued to draw new students.

We celebrated the Hudson Quadricentennial with eighteen related programs and exhibits, including talks by author Frances Dunwell and historian Thomas Carroll, regional tales told by Native American storyteller Joseph Bruchac, and a spectacular performance of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by The Puppet People.

Several program series garnered considerable interest. A UHLS minigrant funded *Fit for Life*, which focused on mental health, wellness, and quality of living for seniors and others. Youth Services launched Book Buddies, a book discussion group for kids, parents and friends. Our author series *Writers and Friends* welcomed two notables: Steve Hamilton and Russell Banks.

Just another ordinary year of extraordinary library service.

BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Judith Brown, Board President

Julie Zelman, Director

- The Summer Reading Program theme was *Express Yourself @ Your Library*. We introduced an online program which allowed children and teens to track their reading, and post reviews of their books. Our activities included an End of Summer Reading Program Party featuring the *Leapin' Lizards of the Children's Museum of Science and Technology*. Special thanks to Sara Hawley and Sarah Joy for co-facilitating the SRP.
- The Tuesday Book Group met once a month for a spirited book discussion. Titles included "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society," "Stern Men," and "Hot, Flat, and Crowded."
- The Book and Movie group met twice a month to discuss a book and view its film adaptation. Titles included "Marley and Me," and "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."
- We are an Acceptance facility for U.S. Passports, and processed 63 applications. Our convenient hours made this an especially popular service.
- The Board of Trustees ran several fundraising events, including a Garden Day Sale, a Defensive Driving class, and two Basement Book Sales.
- The biggest news was our move to a newly renovated building at 4118 State Highway 2. We had our grand opening on September 26, a beautiful, sunny day and hundreds were in attendance, including many former staffers and trustees, and elected officials. Performances, crafts and visits by local authors delighted the crowd, who feasted on refreshments donated by Potter's Tavern, Jayne Tarbox, Dunkin' Donuts, and Hannaford. Planning and set-up were handled by a slew of volunteers, too numerous to mention, but never to be forgotten.
- We owe an ocean of gratitude to the following people who donated their talents and time to the rebirth of our library: Doug Bartow, and the crew at ID29, who created our fabulous new logo; Victoria Crowell, who held sales of her pottery with a portion of the proceeds going to support the library; Marilyn Sirco, who sewed a beautiful quilt, and Carolyn Abrams, who hand-painted an Adirondack chair, both of which were raffled to benefit the Library. Mark McCarty took the photographs for our brochures and posters. Our furniture, wall colors, carpeting, etc., were the work of the splendid Denise Maurer, who donated her interior design expertise.

On September 26, 2009, we had our Grand Opening in a newly-renovated building at 4118 State Highway 2. Hundreds of people were in attendance and helped us to celebrate.

CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Carolyn Stetson, Board President

The 100th year of the Castleton Public Library represented a significant achievement for our small library. Successful programs celebrating the Quadricentennial of the Hudson River discovery were offered. Ninety nine students registered for the annual Summer Reading Program.

At the same time, significant challenges have been encountered and as a result the Board decided to terminate the director with cause. The Board will operate the library while legal issues are being resolved. The Library

successfully continued the core programs, including outreach to senior citizens and nursing home residents, and teens at risk.

The Library received a legislative appropriation from **Assemblyman Tim Gordon** to upgrade equipment and replace worn out furniture. We also successfully competed for community awards from Stewarts Corporation and the WGY Christmas Fund. These will be used for children's books and family programs.

COHOES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Barbara LaMarche, Board President

Sukrit Goswami, Director

The Cohoes Public Library had an interesting and challenging year. Our director of many years moved on to another position in August. However under the guidance of the Trustees and a capable interim director, Ginger Hewitt, we were able to accomplish the following:

- Offered the Big Read program;
- Total Circulation: 50,723 (4th consecutive year of reaching over 50K circulation);
- Our Summer Reading Program was very successful. We had over 80 children register and they read over 900 books. Programs offered during this time including musicians, magicians and ventriloquists.
- Loaned 7,056 items to other libraries;
- Added 1,308 new patrons;
- *Book Shelf Grant – Picture America*: Displayed these pictures and made them available to local public schools and to other UHLS libraries;
- Received a mini grant and hired a retired teacher to teach classes on resume development and computer applications;
- Purchased a “Wii” for seniors and teens with a UHLS – Fit for Life grant;
- Created a liaison between the Library Board and the Friends of the Library;
- Had a very successful year for annual “Bake-Bloom-Book & Bric-a-brac” event organized by the Friends of the Library;
- Provided museum passes for patrons,

And finally, in December 2009, we appointed Sukrit Goswami as our new Library Director.

WILLIAM K. SANFORD TOWN LIBRARY (Colonie)

Linda Murphy, Board President

Richard J. Naylor, Director

Perhaps because of the difficult economic times but continuing an ongoing trend, library circulation continued upward, rising 7% in 2009 to 738,147, with adult books up over 5%. For comparison, in 2003 circulation was 536,616.

It was also a good year for programs, starting out with a Friends sponsored book talk by local author David Pietrusza, that was also taped for c-Span and ending with local author Peter Hess discussing his new book, *"People of Albany: the first 200 years."* There was also a very exciting program sponsored by the Library Board who brought nationally famous forensic expert Dr. Michael Baden to talk about his famous cases, e.g. Czar Nicholas II, Medgar Evers, JFK, and O.J. Simpson.

March featured the return of *Reading Between the Lines*, sponsored by the **New York Council for the Humanities** with the topic "Contention and Dissent at the Founding of the Republic." August featured our first Annual Colonie Photography Contest. *"Let's Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness"* also returned in March, sponsored by ALA and the Fetzer Institute. Adult program attendance for the year was 9,364.

The Teen Center created some exciting programs including *Battle of the Bands* and an Anime Convention. The Center also featured cultural excursions, including a trip to the Teen Book Festival in Rochester, monthly "After Hours Coffee House," and art exhibits.

The Youth Services staff had another wonderful year, including winning their eighth straight "Best Children's Library" in the *Times Union* Annual Readers' Poll. Programs in 2009 included a Book Character Part where children 2-8 dressed as their favorite book character, a blockbuster Harry Potter extravaganza, and numerous *Explore Your Shore Quadricentennial Celebrations*.

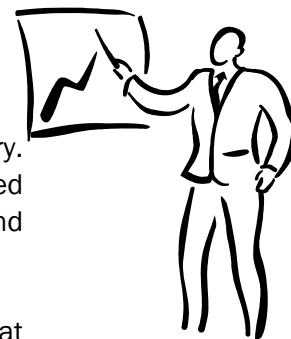
EAST GREENBUSH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Michael Poost, Board President

Evelyn Butrico, Director

2009 was another "up" year for the East Greenbush Community Library. Circulation increased by 4% as did attendance at programs. We saw a marked increase in reference transactions, up 30%, computer usage, up 21%, and usage of downloadable Audiobooks, up 80%.

The Children's 3rd Annual Festival and Book Sale held on September 26th at the library was a great success. The festival was co-sponsored by The Friends of the Library. About 1,000 attendees enjoyed refreshments, and entertainment. The Book Sale, raised approximately \$1,500 that will be used toward children's programs and materials.



Circulation, program attendance, and reference transactions all increased in 2009.

The Library continued its work with the seniors at Hawthorn Ridge Retirement Community, this time with the independent residents. We used stories and pictures to document a portion of the participant's life. The materials were collated and a completed storybook was produced for each participant to keep. This project was funded by the UHLS Outreach Grant 2009, and two grants from the Friends of The East Greenbush Community Library.

Other programs and collections the Friends supported in 2009 included the Teen and Children's Summer Reading programs, new laptops, and new literacy materials. In addition, the Library did an evaluation of its collection and supplemented non-fiction areas.

GRAFTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Tim Holt, Board President

Carolyn Durnin, Director

The library realized several goals this year. We unveiled a new web site rich in graphics, which better highlights all the programs, activities, and news at our library. Wireless internet access was implemented for increased service for our patrons.

The parking area paving project became a reality by pursuing various sources of funding. Initial funding was secured through a **New York State Public Library Construction Grant**. Additional funding from The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region, The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, and patron donations made it possible to complete the project. The result is a safer parking area with improved accessibility and a well-marked handicapped parking space. We are so grateful for the generosity of our benefactors.

As in previous years, the grant funding awarded by the **Arts Center of the Capital Region** enabled the library to present quality children's programs. The library sponsored arts programs at the library and the Grafton Summer Youth Program. The library also provided the Summer Youth Program with hundreds of high-interest children's books from the library's collection, which the children enjoyed during their daily reading period.

Our primary fundraising event, the *24th Annual Run for the Roses* at the Grafton Lakes State Park, took place on August 9th. Its success has enabled the library to replace the old leaky mailbox that served as the book return with a new stainless steel model that offers improved visibility and better protection of library materials.

Use of the library continues to grow, with circulation figures 14% higher than last year.

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Brian Hartson, Board President
Barbara Nichols Randall, Director

2009 was a year of ever-increasing usage, celebrations of our regional history and looking to the future. Circulation was up 4.5% over the previous year, far above our population growth. The celebration's theme was "Explore New York's Roots & Rhythms." It focused on the Quadricentennial of Henry Hudson's voyage as well as Samuel de Champlain's exploration of northern New York.

New services that were introduced during the year included TumbleBooks, Facebook, and Twitter. Some of the most popular programs were *Disney Family Fridays*, *Remembering 1969* and the 2nd annual *Family Fun Day*. Bob Mankoff, Cartoon Editor of *The New Yorker* magazine was our 2009 Notable Author.

Our connection with community businesses increased in two ways, through a series of small business workshops and our Director being elected Treasurer of the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce.

Grants allowed us to continue our Literacy Training partnership, offer fitness programs, and finally resolve an ongoing problem with the building's skylight.

In the fall the Board contracted with a consumer research firm, Fact Finders, for a survey to measure community satisfaction and support for future growth. The survey showed that 91% of those surveyed felt the Library was doing an excellent or good job meeting their needs! In addition an expansion was supported by a 2 - to -1 margin.

CHENEY LIBRARY (Hoosick Falls)

Paul Miller, Board President
Carol Gaillard, Director

Cheney Library, located in Hoosick Falls, NY, enjoyed a year of helping our patrons. The cardholders really learned how to reserve books and other items from their home computers, so Cheney Library was able to satisfy the needs and wishes of our cardholders.

Due to the assistance of Rawdon Cheng from UHLS, we have a computer system that is not breaking down on a daily basis. It left patrons and staff frustrated to be in the middle of something and not be able to accomplish the end result without starting at the beginning again.

We had the usual preschool story times, which were well attended. Also the New York State Summer Reading program was really enjoyed by the school age students, especially the end program of free books and ice cream sundaes.



Bob Mankoff
2009 Notable Author

The library sponsors two book clubs. One meets at the library and the other meets in the local senior housing community room. The members enjoyed lots of great discussions. The knitting and crochet group grew this past year as members brought in others to learn the crafts. They share the finished products with non-profit groups like Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall.

It is our hope to be able to do more for the community of Hoosick Falls in 2010.

MENANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Report not available.

NASSAU FREE LIBRARY

Matt Guinane, Board President

Patricia Sahr, Director

Early in 2009 the Nassau Free Library used ART\$GRANTS funding to participate in the region's quadricentennial celebration by presenting three musical/storytelling programs relating to the history of the Hudson River. The performers (all local) were the *Hudson River Ramblers*, *Ampersand Heritage* and Nancy Marie Payne. As the year went on, the library made use of **Outreach Mini-grant** funds to provide career counseling services to residents seeking employment, and the Stewart's Foundation funded an art-from-recyclables program for the children of the community. A **New York State Construction Grant** allowed the library to install a chair lift which makes the lower level community room accessible to persons with disabilities. Thanks to **Assemblyman Tim Gordon**, who acquired a Special Legislative Grant for the library, and to Eagle Scout candidate Joe Wantuch, the library's access ramp was renovated, and the perennial garden was restored.

Trustees completed three projects during the year. One committee updated the by-laws. Another worked on long-range planning. A third group arranged for the painting of the exterior of the building.

Finally, 2009 was a year of growth in all areas. Circulation was up 7% over that of 2008. The library offered 182 programs to the community, and 2,415 people of all ages attended these programs.

NORTH GREENBUSH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kenneth Bogdan, Board President

Daryl McCarthy, Director

Our Library continued to grow both in collection size and yearly circulation. In 2009, our collection grew to over 52,000 items with Books on CD, DVD, and music collections increasingly popular. Circulation increased by over 3% and we circulated almost 105,000 items. The community continued its strong support of the library and our growth in circulation is continued proof that we are successfully meeting the informational and recreational needs of our patrons. Based on patron requests we have expanded the DVD collection and the Books on CD collection. Both collections continue to grow in popularity.

In the fall of 2009 the library began a lecture series featuring local authors. The three programs were very popular. The local authors spoke on the diverse topics of Bigfoot, horror movies, and the effects of 911. The library plans to expand this program in the future.

Our children's room is a very active meeting place for children of all ages. Several school groups toured the library and received their first library cards. We had 115 children signed up for the Summer Reading Program and participating at various levels. Our Teen Summer Reading Program had a small but dedicated group of readers who wrote reviews of books to encourage other teens to read.

Our Friends group remains active in keeping our on-going book sale in order. The Friends provide the library with funds to purchase items as needed, including funding to improve our DVD and Book on CD collections. Without the help of the Friends, the library would not be able to consistently meet the needs of the community. We look forward to more growth and continued community support in 2010.

PETERSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dan McCumber, Board President
Sharon Hodges, Director

On January 21st the Petersburg Public Library celebrated the completion of renovations and the opening of the lower level of the library. This almost doubled the library's size and provided much-needed space for programs. Our weekly story hours enjoyed the space and the convenience of child-size tables and chairs. Programming increased including an author visit, energy workshops and a travelogue on three weeks in China. The summer reading programs also took advantage of having space for activities.

Our circulation reached an all time high. Art exhibits continued at the library and benefitted from the additional space. Art programs for children were held and their artwork exhibited. The annual plant, book and bake sale was very successful. The staff, volunteers and trustees worked very hard to improve library services to our community and provide access to materials of all kinds for our patrons.

POESTENKILL LIBRARY

LouAnne Lundgren, Board President
Margie Morris, Director

Improved and updated are the words that best describe the Library for 2009. Two building projects made our space more appealing and functional. First, the Rensselaer County Sheriff Department's Community Service Program painted the children's room a bright yellow. Several years of furnace issues and soot residue had left the white walls looking drab and dirty. In addition, we changed all the halogen flood light bulbs to CFL and saw a marked reduction in the electric bill. The second big project was to make the work room more functional. We sold the dining table and chairs we had used as a

workspace and installed upper and lower cabinets. This gave us much needed storage space and a great work surface.

We improved our programs by hiring someone to coordinate them and have been able to schedule at least one per month. They are always listed on our new Facebook page, and our website.

Adding Wi-Fi services, within the library and outside on the porch and the parking lot, was appreciated by many community residents. You can often find someone sitting in their car using a laptop when the library is closed. Warm weather draws people to our welcoming porch to use the wireless service.

The Trustees updated our policies and procedures which are now available on our website. The Friends Group continued to raise much-needed funds for library expenses. The community support for Market Day held in May and September remained strong and everyone enjoyed the great bargains. Online book sales also continued to bring in funds to augment the book budget. The dedication of the Trustees, staff, volunteers, Friends, and the support of great patrons help make the library a vital part of the Poestenkill community.

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Report not available.

RENSSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tobi Freebern, Board President

Jane Chirgwin, Director



The Library moved into a newly-renovated building in November 2009.

The Rensselaer Library moved into a newly renovated building at 676 East Street in November. The new facility has parking, is fully ADA compliant, has two small tutor rooms and a large conference room, and is more able to meet the needs of its patrons.

Our mayor, **Dan Dwyer**, presided over the opening ceremony, which was attended by State Librarian **Bernard Margolis**, Assemblyman **Ron Canestrari** and Division of Library Development representative Grace Kelly. The Library received computers through the Bill and Melinda Gates grant.

We held at least one adult and one children's program a month and are increasing programming in our new building. We continued to bring story-times to Headstart preschool and visit Van Rensselaer Elementary School. This was the third year that we participated in the annual Summer Reading Program; the 2009 theme was *Be Creative at Your Library*.

RENSSELAERVILLE LIBRARY

Report not available.

SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY

Terrence Dingman, Board President
Melinda Fowler, Director

The Sand Lake Town Library had a busy and productive year as we moved ahead on renovations planned in response to our 2006 community survey. A NYS Construction grant helped us to upgrade to more energy efficient lighting. We also began a major renovation of our Children's Room with new carpeting, an updated color scheme and a new shelving which will allowed more room for the collection. The addition of window seats helped us take advantage of the natural lighting in the room. Volunteers from the community pitched in to dismantle the room in preparation for the renovations. Legislative grants from **Assemblyman Tim Gordon** and former **Senator Joe Bruno** also helped to make this renovation possible.

A wide range of programs were offered during the year. Adults could attend workshops on arthritis or ROTH IRAs, a discussion on Dr. Albert Schweitzer, or a class on making band boxes. Assemblyman Tim Gordon even brought his Mobile District Office to the Library for an afternoon. Youth could attend a Red Cross Babysitting course, participate in National Gaming Day, or sign up for summer activities involving science, nature, crafts, and music. The Story time program for preschool children showed a considerable increase in attendance. A highlight for all ages was the Circus Theatrics Workshop at our Summer Reading Program kickoff.

As always, we are thankful for the dedication and hard work of our staff, volunteers, and trustees, and the support of our patrons and our community.

ARVILLA E. DIVER LIBRARY (Schaghticoke)


Report not available.

STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Sue Brissette-Cass, Board President
Laurenne Teachout, Director

The Stephentown Memorial Library expanded programs, improved collections, and enhanced community service. Open six days a week, cars overflowed the parking lot daily. Library membership grew, and we added 10-15 new cardholders each month. Youth programs, including monthly Tween Night and a Webkinz Party, were well attended. Weekly Story Time, led by Rebekkah Corbett, was popular and parents and children looked forward to their Thursday morning library visit. Summer Reading was fun and busy, with 75 people attending *Dazzle Dogs* and large turnouts at *Chickens around the World* and others. Adult programs included *Computers for Beginners*, Genealogy workshops, Classic Film series, Book Discussion group, and more.

Patrons raved about new releases in books, DVD's and audio books. As one reader summed it up, "Wow! My small, local library has the bestseller I want on the shelf the day it is released! That's customer service!" We continued to offer the best in books and movies, in spite of budget constraints. Patrons



"Wow! My small local library has the bestseller I want...on the day it is released! That's customer service!"

helped by donating books and movies. These were processed quickly and the whole community benefitted from this generosity and commitment to recycling. Several residents also sponsored memberships for our Museum Pass program. The community is thrilled to be able to visit the Berkshire Museum, Norman Rockwell Museum, Hancock Shaker Village, MASS MoCA and The Clark at no cost.

Summer floods hit Stephentown hard with many homes under water and without power. We extended our hours to help displaced residents. At SML, people could use the restroom, get fresh drinking water, and use computers to communicate with friends and family. We strive to go the extra mile for our patrons, meeting their needs and inviting their input.

TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Muller, Board President

Paul Hicok, Director

The special district initiative, along with a more sustainable budget, passed with a substantial margin.

In the beginning of 2009, the Troy Public Library was forced to close both its Sycaway and Lansingburgh Branches due to increasing expenses and shrinking revenue projections. That even made national news when it appeared on the front page of *USA Today*. But instead of all doom and gloom it turned out to be a banner year for the Troy Public Library. After a failed attempt in 2008 to establish a special district public library (the district was approved but the budget failed), the library board chose to hold a special election in September 2009 to once again ask the voters to decide on the future of the library. This time the results were different and the special district initiative, along with a more sustainable budget, passed with a substantial margin. Establishing a special district public library will allow the Library to reopen both its branches early in 2010, add hours of service to all three of its locations and substantially increase its book and materials budgets. A special thanks is due to **Ron Canestrari** who sponsored our legislation in the Assembly and also to **Roy McDonald** who helped get our bill through the Senate.

2009 was also a year for fund raising. TPL launched a brand new fundraising event by chartering the 600- passenger “Captain JP” for an *I Love My Library* dinner cruise down the Hudson. In spite of poor weather the cruise was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Also new was a sold-out dinner entitled *Pasta for Knowledge* hosted by local restaurant owner Michael Loporto and held at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Lansingburgh. All of our fundraising events helped the library get through a very challenging year.

VALLEY FALLS FREE LIBRARY

Dale Akin, Board President
Sandra Goodwin, Director

Valley Falls Library continued to make improvements in the building. We had a programmable thermostat installed, new carpeting, and walls painted; all of which gave us a new look. We also purchased a new computer for the circulation desk with the help of Rawdon Cheng from UHLS.

We received donations from Key Bank, United Way, Wentorf Foundation and some patrons. There have also been donations of books, videos, and audios; newer items were added to the collection and the rest went to the basement sale. Patrons continue to enjoy the \$1.00 a bag book sale. As part of Key Bank's "neighbors make the difference" program, a crew of 5 people came and cleaned all the library windows; which was nice. The library was very busy and our circulation increased by 19%.

Programs were enjoyed throughout the year. Story time with Nancy Backstrom for preschoolers was always fun and we were joined by Marcia Geren, a retired teacher. The Valley Falls/Pittstown Youth Program was well attended. The staff and counselors brought the children to the library to read and show them what we had to offer. The Summer Reading Program was up a bit from last year and 53 children participated and read 338 books. They enjoyed the reading and also the two programs: Scotia-Glenville Traveling Children's Museum did a program on Character Puppets and children were able to make their own hand puppet. We also had Beatrice Green the Recycling Queen with Reggie. The children enjoyed her and her puppet. We sponsored a Red Cross babysitting course and had 12 young people participate and receive a certificate. I think that we all learned something from that class.

The library collected for a food drive to help the Pittstown and Schaghticoke food pantries. Our annual yard sale and bake sale was a success as usual. We thank all who help us throughout the year with all sale items, baked goods, and volunteers.

VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Richard Ramsey, Board President
Gail Alter Sacco, Director

The Small Town Friends Festival in September was one of the highlights of the year for the library and the community. In a cooperative effort with the Library Friends and assistance from the Town of New Scotland and Village of Voorheesville, the library hosted an all-day event featuring more than 70 exhibitors, craft booths and organizations under tents in the parking lot. Musicians donated their talents for nine hours of music and dancing. Area restaurants staffed a food court with hamburgers, pizza, sandwiches and drinks. Inside the building, we held a "People's Choice" art show, collected recipes for a new community cookbook, and had exhibits of local history. A big hit of the day was the Pet Parade around the lawn. Popcorn and balloons,



**Beatrice Green
the Recycling Queen**

the Phillips Hardware Moose and **Assemblyman Jack McEneny** added to the festivities which more than 600 people attended.

The library maintained close community connections as it collected food for the New Scotland Food Pantry and reached out to the preschools. Our senior services liaison worked with the town coordinator to provide programs for seniors in an ongoing series called Real Life 101

Other popular events were an author visit by Rebecca Flowers, crazy quilt, decorative painting and digital camera workshops, and an art exhibit by the VPL poetry group. The Friends of the Library packed a bus for a Boston day trip and the classical concert featuring Melody of Dragon packed in an audience for a wonderful performance. Library Friends, who provide invaluable assistance with their support, celebrated their 20th anniversary.

We hosted not quite 30,000 visits to our website, substantiating our claim to provide a highly relevant and valued community service.

WATERVLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Report not available.

TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY (Westerlo)

Lili Starna, Board President

Elaine Albrecht, Director

2009 was a year of exploration for our library! We presented several programs through the UHLS-sponsored "Explore Your Shore: Discover Community History @ Your Library" grant. Carol Ann Margolis from the Heritage Visitors Center entertained a young audience with the Henry Hudson Historical Puppet Show. A local history program presented by Museum Curator, Alicia Malanga, offered our more senior group the opportunity to share remembrances and peruse old photos. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Claire Marshall and Lee Sawyer our young adults enjoyed designing beautiful glass terrariums while exploring ideas about their responsibility to the world we all share. Claire, with the help of her teenage children, also organized a morning of Native American crafts, foods, games and stories. A highlight of the Native American Program was a traveling exhibit of fossils from the NY State Museum with Jennifer Newman, our local archeologist, sharing her expertise and answering questions.

In the spring we participated again in the Riverway Storytelling Festival - Stories Everywhere...with storytellers Kent Busman and Nancy Marie Payne. We were also entertained by a young award winning storyteller from NYC who was a joy to listen to.

Our Summer Reading Program was a great success. The creative theme was a challenge at first but as usual our volunteers, Bonnie Duchow, Claire Marshall and Lee Sawyer came through with fantastic programs. There was jewelry making, mini concerts with musical instruments from some of our young patrons and adult friends, mask decorating, creative food sampling and much more. There were lively storytimes and lots of new books to check out for our youngest participants. Small prizes and a cool canvas bag with art

supplies to personalize their bag were given out to all readers at the end of the summer programs.

A special “Thank You” is definitely in order to our Library Trustees and Staff for their willingness to go above and beyond their job description to make the Town of Westerlo Public Library such a valuable resource to our community.

We continue to receive the support of our Town Board and the encouragement of our patrons for a job well done and move forward to explore and support the needs of our community.

AWARDS

WILLIAM MEREDITH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

- 2000 Malcolm Bell
Eva Gemmill
- 2002 Michael Borges
- 2006 Dennis Gaffney

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

- 1993 Carolyn Durnin, Grafton
- 1994 M.Joyce Hunt Strand, Bethlehem
MaryLou Youmans, Ravena
- 1995 Pamela Daves, Brunswick
Sally Ten Eyck, Voorheesville
- 1996 Janice Brand, Rensselaerville
Sally Fox, Stephentown
- 1997 Lynne Strnad, Altamont
Frank Della Rocca, WK Sanford
- 1998 Susan Birkhead, Bethlehem
William Meredith, Albany
- 1999 Sue McLaren, Poestenkill
Michael Poost, East Greenbush
- 2000 Jane Spain Ducatt, Troy
Barbara Hahn, Schaghticoke
- 2001 Dorothea Fisher, Poestenkill
Judy Rosen, Albany
- 2002 Patricia Carlson, Brunswick
Lester Warren, WK Sanford
- 2003 Ellen Bach, Albany
Monica Shupe, Berlin
- 2004 Susan Zweig, Nassau
- 2005 No Award presented
- 2006 David Brown, Albany
Francis Hamblin, Nassau
- 2007 Anthony Beverly, Stephentown
- 2008 Robert E. Ganz, Guiderland
- 2009 Mary Muller, Troy

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

- 1993 Sand Lake Town Library
Voorheesville Public Library
- 1994 Guiderland Public Library
Honorable Mention:
Berlin Public Library
East Greenbush Library

- 1995 Berlin Public Library
Watervliet Public Library
- 1996 Rensselaerville Library
Guiderland Public Library
- 1997 Petersburg Public Library
WK Sanford Town Library
- 1998 Rensselaerville Library
Guiderland Public Library
- 1999 Castleton Public Library
WK Sanford Town Library
- 2000 Brunswick Community Library
Bethlehem Public Library
- 2001 Brunswick Community Library
Guiderland Public Library
- 2002 Brunswick Community Library
Albany Public Library
Honorable Mention:
WK Sanford Town Library
- 2003 Petersburg Public Library
Cohoes Public Library and
Watervliet Public Library (joint
award)
- 2004 RCS Community Library
Troy Public Library
- 2005 Albany Public Library
Guiderland Public Library
- 2006 Castleton Public Library
Guiderland Public Library
- 2007 Albany Public Library
- 2008 WK Sanford Town Library
Berne Public Library
- 2009 WK Sanford Town Library
Voorheesville Public Library
Honorable Mention:
Albany Public Library

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- 2006 Tanner Williamson, Cheney
Maggie Oldendorf, Guiderland
- 2007 Dan Cornman, Reed Dawley,
Ed Evans, East Greenbush
- 2008 Stephanie Sampsen, Berne
- 2009 Michele Reilly, Voorheesville

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

BALANCE SHEET

as of 12/31/09 and 12/31/08

	2009	2008
Cash and other current assets	1,868,391	1,806,014
Buildings and equipment, net	903,475	959,830
Other assets	29,276	33,316
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,801,142</u>	<u>2,799,160</u>
Current liabilities	95,140	105,129
Long-term debt	629,606	659,879
Net assets	2,076,396	2,034,152
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>2,801,142</u>	<u>2,799,160</u>

ACTIVITIES

for years ended 12/31/09 and 12/31/08

State, federal, other government aid	1,566,585	1,734,708
Other revenue	<u>397,552</u>	<u>402,465</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	1,964,137	2,137,173
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,921,893</u>	<u>2,152,274</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>42,244</u>	<u>(15,101)</u>

2009 STATISTICAL SUMMARIES - MEMBER LIBRARIES

LOCAL SUPPORT, MATERIALS and PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Library	Population	2008 Local Support	2009 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	95,716	\$6,215,150	\$6,587,590	6%	\$68.82	5
Altamont	1,737	\$85,000	\$86,435	2%	\$49.76	8
Berlin	1,901	\$10,250	\$10,250	0%	\$5.39	28
Berne	2,846	\$8,800	\$10,300	17%	\$3.62	29
Bethlehem	25,965	\$3,572,277	\$3,639,412	2%	\$140.17	1
Brunswick	11,664	\$137,400	\$144,164	5%	\$12.36	23
Castleton	1,619	\$110,500	\$105,500	-5%	\$65.16	6
Cohoes	15,521	\$191,844	\$287,370	50%	\$18.51	18
East Greenbush	15,560	\$1,482,625	\$1,527,531	3%	\$98.17	3
Grafton	1,987	\$28,750	\$28,750	0%	\$14.47	20
Guilderland	33,475	\$2,599,986	\$2,782,972	7%	\$83.14	4
Hoosick Falls	6,759	\$50,200	\$50,200	0%	\$7.43	27
Menands	3,383	\$111,940	\$120,607	8%	\$35.65	10
Nassau	4,818	\$109,100	\$109,100	0%	\$22.64	14
North Greenbush	10,805	\$237,608	\$267,167	12%	\$24.73	13
Petersburgh	1,563	\$47,880	\$51,417	7%	\$32.90	11
Poestenkill	4,054	\$50,946	\$51,687	1%	\$12.75	22
RCS	14,505	\$277,687	\$294,501	6%	\$20.30	16
Rensselaer	7,761	\$72,237	\$76,990	7%	\$9.92	25
Rensselaerville	1,915	\$50,000	\$43,000	-14%	\$22.45	15
Sand Lake	7,987	\$114,000	\$114,389	0%	\$14.32	21
Schaghticoke	676	\$29,200	\$29,200	0%	\$43.20	9
Stephentown	2,873	\$39,300	\$44,191	12%	\$15.38	19
Troy	49,170	\$527,100	\$533,100	1%	\$10.84	24
Valley Falls	491	\$28,080	\$28,080	0%	\$57.19	7
Voorheesville	7,131	\$879,819	\$918,734	4%	\$128.84	2
Watervliet	10,207	\$95,800	\$95,800	0%	\$9.39	26
Westerlo	3,466	\$58,944	\$65,169	11%	\$18.80	17
William K. Sanford	79,258	\$2,317,823	\$2,259,174	-3%	\$28.50	12
AVERAGES	14,649	\$673,802	\$702,165	4%	\$37.06	

Library	2009 Total Expenses	2008 Collection Expenses	2009 Collection Expenses	Change in Collection Expenses	Percent Collection of Total \$	Percent Staff of Total \$	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$7,104,629	\$672,036	\$591,472	-12%	8%	46%	\$6.18	9
Altamont	\$308,648	\$9,344	\$7,970	-15%	3%	22%	\$4.59	12
Berlin	\$51,967	\$3,890	\$4,121	6%	8%	58%	\$2.17	19
Berne	\$16,458	\$2,791	\$4,512	62%	27%	9%	\$1.59	23
Bethlehem	\$3,654,663	\$325,927	\$317,722	-3%	9%	69%	\$12.24	2
Brunswick	\$193,735	\$18,846	\$16,230	-14%	8%	57%	\$1.39	25
Castleton	\$111,915	\$14,481	\$18,352	27%	16%	64%	\$11.34	3
Cohoes	\$262,851	\$35,550	\$32,973	-7%	13%	68%	\$2.12	20
East Greenbush	\$1,688,077	\$173,187	\$203,978	18%	12%	55%	\$13.11	1
Grafton	\$57,342	\$4,770	\$4,615	-3%	8%	44%	\$2.32	17
Guilderland	\$2,717,082	\$324,997	\$337,032	4%	12%	73%	\$10.07	5
Hoosick Falls	\$76,081	\$8,179	\$4,671	-43%	6%	71%	\$0.69	27
Menands	\$119,067	\$26,966	\$31,697	18%	27%	47%	\$9.37	7
Nassau	\$117,401	\$10,527	\$10,557	0%	9%	50%	\$2.19	18
North Greenbush	\$221,446	\$61,197	\$64,922	6%	29%	52%	\$6.01	10
Petersburgh	\$62,287	\$8,411	\$8,900	6%	14%	58%	\$5.69	11
Poestenkill	\$73,394	\$16,636	\$14,231	-14%	19%	51%	\$3.51	13
RCS	\$337,961	\$22,821	\$20,918	-8%	6%	67%	\$1.44	24
Rensselaer	\$85,215	\$14,563	\$13,490	-7%	16%	79%	\$1.74	22
Rensselaerville	\$91,618	\$4,285	\$6,569	53%	7%	36%	\$3.43	14
Sand Lake	\$181,510	\$30,555	\$27,433	-10%	15%	51%	\$3.43	14
Schaghticoke	\$32,929	\$5,514	\$4,438	-20%	13%	32%	\$6.57	8
Stephentown	\$80,252	\$7,001	\$5,862	-16%	7%	48%	\$2.04	21
Troy	\$889,831	\$56,849	\$46,081	-19%	5%	54%	\$0.94	26
Valley Falls	\$38,078	\$5,104	\$4,819	-6%	13%	50%	\$9.81	6
Voorheesville	\$951,199	\$88,671	\$79,064	-11%	8%	69%	\$11.09	4
Watervliet	\$124,863	\$8,433	\$5,990	-29%	5%	32%	\$0.59	28
Westerlo	\$64,286	\$8,422	\$11,127	32%	17%	64%	\$3.21	15
William K. Sanford	\$2,321,515	\$262,335	\$252,461	-4%	11%	74%	\$3.19	16
AVERAGES	\$759,872	\$76,975	\$74,214	-4%	12%	53%	\$4.90	

HOLDINGS and CIRCULATION

Library	Population	2008 Holdings	2009 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2009 Per Capita Holdings	2009 Reference Transactions
Albany	95,716	235,241	320,802	36%	3	84,047
Altamont	1,737	15,865	16,809	6%	10	1,575
Berlin	1,901	11,234	11,575	3%	6	561
Berne	2,846	15,136	15,049	-1%	5	624
Bethlehem	25,965	134,416	132,604	-1%	5	82,303
Brunswick	11,664	12,788	10,243	-20%	1	3,584
Castleton	1,619	22,767	21,487	-6%	13	2,860
Cohoes	15,521	48,107	48,149	0%	3	4,000
East Greenbush	15,560	87,289	94,570	8%	6	29,148
Grafton	1,987	11,918	12,495	5%	6	416
Guilderland	33,475	190,078	191,180	1%	6	63,210
Hoosick Falls	6,759	17,125	17,239	1%	3	484
Menands	3,383	13,824	14,739	7%	4	327
Nassau	4,818	25,550	25,874	1%	5	548
North Greenbush	10,805	51,495	53,322	4%	5	6,200
Petersburgh	1,563	23,530	22,815	-3%	15	860
Poestenkill	4,054	15,119	14,481	-4%	4	624
RCS	14,505	25,026	25,669	3%	2	5,069
Rensselaer	7,761	18,554	19,685	6%	3	12,000
Rensselaerville	1,915	17,630	11,366	-36%	6	750
Sand Lake	7,987	31,127	31,034	0%	4	5,931
Schaghticoke	676	7,398	8,108	10%	12	250
Stephentown	2,873	12,436	13,423	8%	5	2,340
Troy	49,170	384,145	375,874	-2%	8	38,965
Valley Falls	491	9,270	9,732	5%	20	598
Voorheesville	7,131	45,948	45,195	-2%	6	9,638
Watervliet	10,207	16,754	17,288	3%	2	1,188
Westerlo	3,466	12,941	12,443	-4%	4	4,672
William K. Sanford	79,258	210,591	209,682	0%	3	46,401
AVERAGES	14,649	59,424	62,170	5%	6	14,109

Library	Population	Annual Hours Open	2008 Circulation	2009 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	95,716	12,514	1,053,629	1,039,329	-1%	11
Altamont	1,737	2,980	22,577	25,640	14%	15
Berlin	1,901	1,120	11,393	9,052	-21%	5
Berne	2,846	1,300	11,306	12,594	11%	4
Bethlehem	25,965	3,623	691,074	742,126	7%	29
Brunswick	11,664	2,497	37,237	39,171	5%	3
Castleton	1,619	1,820	36,542	31,691	-13%	20
Cohoes	15,521	2,428	51,346	50,537	-2%	3
East Greenbush	15,560	3,574	420,849	437,287	4%	28
Grafton	1,987	1,144	24,413	27,809	14%	14
Guilderland	33,475	3,400	566,959	592,537	5%	18
Hoosick Falls	6,759	1,976	23,024	23,885	4%	4
Menands	3,383	1,534	45,995	47,341	3%	14
Nassau	4,818	1,820	29,587	30,826	4%	6
North Greenbush	10,805	2,440	101,836	104,472	3%	10
Petersburgh	1,563	1,144	33,782	37,166	10%	24
Poestenkill	4,054	1,456	23,653	23,611	0%	6
RCS	14,505	2,912	45,995	51,319	12%	4
Rensselaer	7,761	2,040	12,013	11,630	-3%	1
Rensselaerville	1,915	1,456	10,737	10,795	1%	6
Sand Lake	7,987	2,432	49,818	50,570	2%	6
Schaghticoke	676	1,326	13,100	13,810	5%	20
Stephentown	2,873	1,872	18,004	19,044	6%	7
Troy	49,170	2,912	217,515	193,964	-11%	4
Valley Falls	491	1,300	11,208	13,305	19%	27
Voorheesville	7,131	3,164	119,900	122,431	2%	17
Watervliet	10,207	2,184	27,084	28,542	5%	3
Westerlo	3,466	1,508	15,923	16,981	7%	5
William K. Sanford	79,258	3,550	691,552	738,147	7%	9
AVERAGES	14,649	2,532	152,347	156,745	3%	11

BORROWERS, INTERNET USE and PROGRAMS

Library	Population	2008 Resident Borrowers	2009 Resident Borrowers	2009 Non-Resident Borrowers	Internet Filtering	# Public Internet Terminals	# Users of Public Terminals	Total Annual Attendance
Albany	95,716	59,880	63,502	485	No	67	135,490	841,620
Altamont	1,737	1,661	1,605	178	No	5	4,500	17,987
Berlin	1,901	948	986	104	No	5	2,901	6,329
Berne	2,846	655	1,182	89	No	5	2,086	7,568
Bethlehem	25,965	19,120	20,600	39	No	28	58,723	355,663
Brunswick	11,664	1,863	2,720	704	No	4	2,220	15,857
Castleton	1,619	634	662	961	Yes	4	769	13,832
Cohoes	15,521	5,791	6,602	591	No	10	10,140	28,000
East Greenbush	15,560	6,535	10,919	8,382	No	37	54,229	231,035
Grafton	1,987	759	801	78	No	3	780	6,405
Guilderland	33,475	22,367	22,442	7,245	Yes	30	33,789	330,448
Hoosick Falls	6,759	2,054	2,443	115	No	3	556	10,155
Menands	3,383	938	1,019	138	No	3	2,350	16,250
Nassau	4,818	1,084	1,134	640	No	2	1,588	12,480
North Greenbush	10,805	2,550	2,689	1,829	No	2	850	45,050
Petersburgh	1,563	866	893	99	Yes	3	1,175	7,644
Poestenkill	4,054	1,327	1,400	177	No	3	1,245	11,638
RCS	14,505	3,493	3,662	469	No	5	13,282	40,248
Rensselaer	7,761	1,040	3,289	9	No	8	12,092	18,000
Rensselaerville	1,915	774	386	136	No	2	2,912	7,500
Sand Lake	7,987	3,758	3,908	1,201	Yes	4	3,310	22,813
Schaghticoke	676	217	218	816	No	3	1,103	6,284
Stephentown	2,873	932	970	70	No	8	3,848	11,648
Troy	49,170	17,221	18,397	3,747	No	15	28,376	77,123
Valley Falls	491	460	523	327	No	3	1,450	7,883
Voorheesville	7,131	4,781	4,974	452	No	5	7,006	69,997
Watervliet	10,207	3,606	3,914	552	No	6	5,192	25,741
Westerlo	3,466	873	912	176	No	2	645	9,178
William K. Sanford	79,258	40,528	42,876	7,207	Yes	23	47,050	372,223
AVERAGES	14,649	7,128	7,780	1,276		10	15,161	90,572

Library	Adult		Young Adult		Childrens		Other	
	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance
Albany	327	6,536	50	649	677	10,812	1,742	16,676
Altamont	54	500	21	200	290	2,320	0	0
Berlin	27	322	2	5	44	369	0	0
Berne	33	218	7	28	65	1,946	20	424
Bethlehem	134	3,199	80	1,597	484	11,228	0	0
Brunswick	40	240	1	6	28	800	1	465
Castleton	62	N/A	22	N/A	36	N/A	43	N/A
Cohoes	10	136	0	0	52	740	0	0
East Greenbush	160	2,878	107	2,802	299	12,562	203	572
Grafton	32	233	0	0	21	372	0	0
Guilderland	224	4,769	51	680	412	10,998	3	229
Hoosick Falls	94	744	0	0	35	365	0	0
Menands	38	200	40	60	40	265	0	0
Nassau	23	302	34	245	125	1,868	0	0
North Greenbush	13	190	0	0	50	1,250	0	0
Petersburgh	12	100	0	0	56	652	0	0
Poestenkill	24	267	2	53	64	1,090	0	0
RCS	21	60	17	174	187	3,024	9	177
Rensselaer	7	56	2	25	55	1,029	0	0
Rensselaerville	96	960	60	480	36	300	10	150
Sand Lake	65	511	3	22	67	981	7	226
Schaghticoke	22	237	0	0	20	359	0	0
Stephentown	36	204	21	130	83	870	1	24
Troy	88	508	43	169	80	3,284	0	0
Valley Falls	0	0	0	0	31	590	3	400
Voorheesville	166	2,515	31	774	166	3,798	29	1,734
Watervliet	271	985	12	36	20	163	0	0
Westerlo	12	72	5	39	14	147	2	70
William K. Sanford	374	9,364	129	2,000	976	18,423	0	0
AVERAGES	85	1,252	26	351	156	3,124	71	729

INTERLIBRARY LOAN, ACCESS and POLICIES

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Albany	85,147	83,179	82,640	85,796
Altamont	9,277	9,095	5,144	7,737
Berlin	3,423	3,056	2,224	3,039
Berne	3,747	4,706	2,243	4,063
Bethlehem	70,466	77,895	67,685	66,017
Brunswick	12,266	12,612	4,927	4,890
Castleton	10,327	9,142	4,943	6,950
Cohoes	7,094	9,061	6,153	7,056
East Greenbush	51,766	51,829	47,707	48,469
Grafton	5,732	5,897	2,894	4,745
Guilderland	59,824	61,335	91,796	94,718
Hoosick Falls	7,014	8,019	2,844	4,317
Menands	7,333	6,947	4,722	1,924
Nassau	11,891	10,925	3,871	7,186
North Greenbush	13,379	13,354	9,805	13,495
Petersburgh	4,596	5,507	8,278	9,539
Poestenkill	4,864	4,837	4,828	6,714
RCS	9,306	9,971	4,661	5,484
Rensselaer	5,547	5,320	1,635	3,419
Rensselaerville	3,265	3,322	1,151	3,866
Sand Lake	11,779	12,365	10,469	11,586
Schaghticoke	3,440	5,300	1,065	1,743
Stephentown	4,474	4,627	1,742	3,750
Troy	37,200	30,395	26,111	19,630
Valley Falls	4,469	5,713	1,587	3,558
Voorheesville	14,608	15,691	25,094	27,310
Watervliet	7,281	9,061	3,615	5,068
Westerlo	4,254	4,415	1,948	3,458
William K. Sanford	69,723	78,771	85,024	71,401
AVERAGES	18,741	19,391	17,821	18,515

Library	Provide Services to Homebound	Open Meeting Policy	Disaster Policy	Confidentiality Policy
Albany	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Altamont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Berlin	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Berne	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bethlehem	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brunswick	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Castleton	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cohoes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Greenbush	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grafton	No	Yes	No	Yes
Guilderland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hoosick Falls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Menands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Nassau	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Greenbush	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Petersburgh	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Poestenkill	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
RCS	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rensselaer	No	Yes	No	Yes
Rensselaerville	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Sand Lake	No	Yes	No	Yes
Schaghticoke	Yes	No	No	Yes
Stephentown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Troy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Valley Falls	No	Yes	No	No
Voorheesville	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Watervliet	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Westerlo	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
William K. Sanford	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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