



UPPER HUDSON
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

2011 Annual Report

2011 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT:	Mary Muller	
VICE-PRESIDENT:	William Colgan	
TREASURER:	MaryAlice Molgard	
SECRETARY:	Yolanda Caldwell	
	Erin Apostol	Janet Ivory
	Evelyn Butrico	Anne Kuthy
	Philip Erlich	LouAnne Lundgren
	Ronald Ginsburg	James Reilly
	Brian Hartson	Celeste Steinke

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Muller

2011 was the first full year for our new Executive Director, Timothy Burke, it was my second year as President and it was a year in which the Board oversaw many improvements and accomplishments. In June, we celebrated those accomplishments at our 50th Annual meeting aboard the Captain JP Cruise Ship. Over 150 people enjoyed the dinner cruise on the Hudson River.

We had only one change in Board membership over the year and that was to say "Farewell and Happy Retirement" to Nancy Pieri, who had for several years represented the Directors Association on the Board. We always relied heavily on her advice and expertise. Evelyn Butrico, Director of the East Greenbush Community Library, was selected by the Directors Association as their new representative and was formally elected at the June meeting.

We experimented this year with effective methods to keep Board members informed, yet decrease the amount of paper used in preparing materials for the Board and Committee meetings. Since all of the Board members now have email, we found that it was easiest to send all of the documents that way. Several Board members were able to load the information onto various devices such as i-Pads and this further helped in using less paper. This also lowered our postage costs.

As in previous years, the Board's Committees handled the bulk of the detail work, bringing their recommendations to the full Board for discussion and decisions.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chair: James Reilly

Yolanda Caldwell, Philip Erlich, Anne Kuthy, Julie Zelman

Following their busy schedule in the previous year, 2011 was much more quiet for this Committee which only had to meet three times. One of its primary tasks is to oversee the care and maintenance of the UHLS headquarters building. As part of this, Committee members approved the submission of a \$93,000 NYS Construction Grant in order to replace the roof.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: MaryAlice Molgard

William Colgan, Ron Ginsburg, Janet Ivory, Nancy Pieri/Evelyn Butrico

Once again the Finance Committee struggled with another cutback in State funds. The bulk of the 2010 funds were not released until the first quarter of 2011 and then there was an additional 6.5% cut in the 2011 funds. As part of the attempt to modify expenses, the Finance Committee and the staff began a review of our banking situation in 2010 and after extensive research, evaluation and interviews, determined to move all of the UHLS funds, including the building mortgage, to NBT Bank. This resulted in a substantial decrease in the mortgage costs and a better interest rate on our investments. It took almost seven months to complete the move to NBT, however at the close of 2011, we were very pleased with our new banking partner.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chair: Erin Apostol

Brian Hartson, LouAnne Lundgren, Richard Naylor, Celeste Steinke

2011 was a fairly quiet year for this Committee also. They continued with their regular tasks selecting the winners of the Library Program of the Year Award and the Volunteer of the Year Award as well as reviewing the proposed applications for the Outreach mini-grants and the applications for the State Construction grants. Although these duties did not require a lot of meetings, they did require that the Committee members review substantial amounts of information sent to them prior to the meetings and be prepared to discuss the various grant applications and make recommendations to the full Board.

Our Trustees are an experienced group of volunteers who bring a dedication to libraries to their work at UHLS. In order to begin serving on the UHLS Board, they must be current members of a local public library Board of Trustees. Therefore, their duties are two-fold: to work on their local Boards as well as to see the “bigger picture” as a member of the UHLS Board. I am proud to say that all of these people have been more than willing to put in the time necessary to become fully informed about any issues brought to them. They have proven, time and again, that they really care about their work on this Board, and care about what happens to our libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

2011 UHLS STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	Timothy Burke	
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

Timothy Burke

This was a very active and productive year for both the Upper Hudson Library System and our 29 member libraries. Our services, programs and projects show a sincere commitment to the cooperation, collaboration, and creativity that is necessary for us to ensure library service now and into the future.

Responding to the unprecedented growth in the demand for e-content was a major focus for us in 2011. Recognizing this unique opportunity to build a truly communal collection of e-content, the System and the member libraries collaborated in crafting a collection development model that will help us meet user demand. In addition, we created a training program for both staff and the public to help them understand and access the new e-content. This program was presented on-demand at our member libraries and represents another highly successful System/Library partnership.

Providing our member library trustees with the information and tools they need to move their libraries forward was another area of focus. The UHLS CORE Trustee Training Program was created to cover the fundamentals of being a successful library trustee and emphasize the CORE values of **C**ommunity, **O**penness, **R**espect, and **E**thics as they relate to the work of a library trustee. The program was presented to sixteen of our member libraries in 2011 and proved to be a valuable experience for their leadership teams.

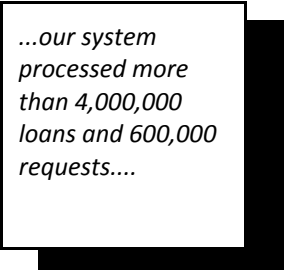
Exploring new and different ways to support the connections between the member libraries and their users is an on-going priority for UHLS. Recognizing the flexibility and cost-effectiveness of open source software, UHLS made its first major move into that arena with the introduction of the VuFind catalog enhancement tool. Embracing the collaborative nature of open source technology, the UHLS staff helped to make VuFind a more effective tool for all consortia users of the software. The open source experience will be valuable as we move forward in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

We are fortunate to have such a talented, resourceful and dedicated staff at UHLS and it is my sincere pleasure to work with them every day. The department reports that follow detail the major accomplishments and initiatives in each functional area in 2011.

Automation Services

Joe Thornton

Along with the everyday responsibilities of support of the servers, managing a training program, providing 24/7 helpdesk support, maintaining the UHLS website, network and desktop repair, support of library websites, cataloging, Riverway website, online databases, system backups, reports, three advisory councils, and email (including mailing lists) – we accomplished the following: our system processed more than 4,000,000 loans and 600,000 requests, and added 36,784 bibliographic records and 148,565 items. We sent out 478,003 hold and overdue notices: 23,488 in print, 152,591 by automated phone calls, and 301,924 by email. We sent 68,051 email notices to warn patrons that their holds were about to expire, and 315,083 email notices to remind borrowers that their loans were due and purged more than 46,000 patron records from our database. We also sent 6,513 email reminders to patrons whose accounts were set to expire. We moved more than 400 email accounts from our local mail server to Gmail, which saved us over \$3,000 a year in license fees.



...our system processed more than 4,000,000 loans and 600,000 requests...

As patron use of our rapidly growing Overdrive e-book collection increased, so did the Help Desk questions, which occupied a substantial part of our workdays. Fortunately for us, Jo-Ann Benedetti took the lead in responding to these, building a local knowledge-base, and keeping up with OverDrive developments.

In 2011 we signed a contract with SirsiDynix with a strong contingency clause to purchase Enterprise – their modern OPAC enhancement. But soon after installation we discovered a service limitation that was serious enough to persuade us to cancel the agreement and to explore other options. As a result we discovered VuFind – an open source tool that does a lot of what Enterprise does but costs nothing. We installed it and have been using it since July. We also contributed to the development of VuFind by helping to write the code required to support consortia use. The cost savings were significant, and we're pleased with the frequency and quality of the updates.

We performed a major upgrade to Sybase, Horizon, and the HIP. The excellent preparation by Rawdon Cheng and Rob Carle, along with the flexible schedule and expert help of SirsiDynix, allowed us to reduce system downtime from the estimated two full days to less than one half day. Also, during that half day we provided uninterrupted access to our catalog through VuFind and to our e-content collection through a workaround managed by Jo-Ann Benedetti and Overdrive.

In response to the increasing use of smart phones and tablets, we investigated mobile OPAC clients and tested Library Anywhere, Boopsie, and BookMyne (SirsiDynix's mobile client). To date we have not found a cost-effective and customer friendly tool. We are cautiously optimistic that the latest version of VuFind, which we'll install in 2012, will solve this problem.

We also supported our libraries' implementation of the New York State Summer Reading Program or implementation of the Summer Reading Program developed by John Love at Bethlehem Public Library.

Outreach and Adult Services

Jo-Ann Benedetti

The popularity of e-readers (Nook, Kindle, SONY Reader) and mobile devices (tablet computers, smart phones) has created a huge demand for downloadable e-content. In 2011 circulation of electronic books in all formats via the Overdrive platform increased 115% from the prior year. As the year progressed, we found that we needed to provide more support and training for member library staff and their users. To this end, I attended “Digipalooza” – a four-day conference on the leading edge of digital media and the challenges ahead. As a System, we worked hard to keep up with the changing landscape - publisher decisions, ever-changing formats and devices, upgrades to our software platform and statistical analysis – to meet the needs of the member libraries and their users. In the last half of the year, I developed a training program for both library staff and the public to teach them how to use all of the new e-readers. Seven public training sessions were held at various member libraries and that was just the beginning: requests for these training sessions have increased as more of our public (patrons and staff) become aware of the growing e-content offerings.

In 2011, we moved 1.54 million items between and among our libraries.

The operation of an efficient delivery system to connect the member libraries is one of the UHLS core services. In 2011, we moved 1.54 million items between and among our libraries. We signed a new 3-year contract with ALDS, our courier company. We maintained a 5-day a week schedule to all of our libraries as part of that contract. However, in order to contain costs, we longer delivered materials on secondary holidays (Lincoln’s Birthday, Day after Thanksgiving, etc).

As in the past, UHLS managed the e-rate reimbursement process for our member libraries. This is the 13th year of the federal program benefitting disadvantaged and isolated schools and libraries. Through this support service UHLS was able to secure \$14,598 for our libraries.

The Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council was pleased to continue its Outreach Minigrant program. NY State budget cuts forced a reduction in the available award amounts but each of the applicants was very creative with their use of funds. Projects targeted programming for pregnant and troubled teens, developmentally disabled adults, migrant workers, the unemployed and seniors.

The second year of the LSTA grant “Tell Me About It” – an inter-generational storytelling project – continued the work of creating books with the life stories of area seniors. Two storytellers and our member librarians worked tirelessly with seniors and teens throughout the UHLS service area to create visually exciting hardcover books with compelling stories.

Youth and Family Services

Mary Fellows

Continuing education programs with a Youth Services focus are always a priority for UHLS. Throughout the last year we held an array of customer service-oriented workshops and meetings. Some of the highlights included: the tenth annual joint MVLS/UHLS Summer Reading Program planning workshop; “Early Literacy Skills” (co-presented with Sue Rokos, MVLS); two UHLS sessions of “Throw the Bums Out: a weeding workshop” (co-presented with Jo-Ann Benedetti) which was also presented a third time at the 2011 NYLA Conference; “Where the Boys (and Girls) Are: Developing Effective Partnerships with Schools” (co-presented with Sue Rokos, MVLS); two sessions of “School Savvy”, presented by Linda Fox, and “The Future of Youth Services Is Here” (tween/teen workshop) co-sponsored with MVLS and presented by Linda Braun. In addition we also hosted a full schedule of Youth Services Advisory Council meetings, teen services meetings, small library concerns discussion groups, and large library concerns discussion groups.

The coordination and support of the Summer Reading Program at our member libraries is another big chunk of our activities, and this past year was no exception. Total registration and attendance at programs in all of our libraries was 41,594, a substantial increase from 2010 and we continued to encourage member libraries to use an online registration program for their participants. With invaluable support from the UHLS Automation team, libraries were able to use the program created at Bethlehem Public Library or the Evanced Solutions product, which is available on a statewide basis. Almost all of our member libraries used one of these tools to help them manage their Summer Reading Program. We also continued our successful LSTA- supported Challenge Grants during the summer of 2011. Sixteen libraries participated in School Connection Challenge, which challenged libraries to reach out in new ways to students and schools in their community to promote the Summer Reading Program and its activities.

Total registration for the Summer Reading Program was 41,594.

The Riverway Storytelling Festival ended its ninth year as another success. Attendance at our 27 events was 2,059. However, it was clear to many of us that we could not effectively sustain the level of effort needed for our 2011 festival. After a respectful, inclusive process, we created a plan for a scaled back version of Riverway in 2012 – six days instead of seven with fewer events and an increased focus on our signature events like Laughin’ Night and Ghost Story Night.

In late June, I assumed the role of president for the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of ALA. In this role, I was privileged to attend meetings at ALA headquarters in Chicago, as well as a meeting in Washington, DC at IMLS. I was interviewed multiple times about children’s library issues and participated in a national radio show. I am truly and deeply grateful for the support and encouragement I receive from UHLS in this demanding professional role.

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. UHLS was one of the first Public Library Systems to include a Director as a voting Board member.

In 2011, the DA met seven times. It was through these meetings that the Directors of the member libraries expressed their needs and concerns to UHLS. The Executive Director, Timothy Burke, attended all meetings and gave an update on UHLS programs. Following the report a free and lively exchange of opinions, advice and suggestions took place.

Ebooks and e-content were the principal topics of discussion throughout the year. In March, the Association voted to boycott ebooks sold through HarperCollins. This was a major decision involving much heated discussion and debate. A letter was sent to the publishing company protesting their new policy of limiting the number of check-outs for their ebooks. The letter read, in part:

"...beginning on March 7, 2011 the Upper Hudson Library System and its member libraries will no longer purchase any e-content published by HarperCollins or any of its subsidiary publishers. Further, we will actively encourage similar action from library systems and public libraries throughout New York State. ...It is our hope that HarperCollins will hear our message and reevaluate this new policy. We also encourage all e-content publishers to work with the library community to explore new and creative ways to make material available to libraries in an equitable system that still maintains your viability as a for-profit company."

The DA established an ad-hoc e-Content Development Committee to draft guidelines for the development of the e-book collections and to propose an equitable solution for the libraries to purchase the items.

We saw a year of changes in the leadership of several of the member libraries: Nancy Pieri retired from Bethlehem and Geoffrey Kirkpatrick became the new Director; Sukrit Goswami left Cohoes, was briefly replaced by Steve Lackmann and ultimately by Matthew Graff, and Carolyn Durnin stepped down as Director at Grafton. Other new Directors included Amy Peker at Castleton and Gene Schatoff at Watervliet.

The Directors Association provides a forum for open discussions. It is the venue through which creative ideas and solutions can be exchanged. Attendance at the meetings is entirely voluntary but in 2011, attendance averaged **TWENTY-ONE** libraries represented out of twenty-nine. This certainly indicates the value placed on these meetings. Greater participation ensures that the System is aware of the libraries' concerns and there is a genuine sense of shared decision-making.

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dennis Gaffney, Board President

Carol Nersinger, Executive Director

This past year was a time of learning and stabilization at Albany Public Library. Staff and administration worked to figure out the best way to operate a greatly expanded library system that saw the opening of five new and renovated branches. The Library secured significant financial support in the form of taxpayer approval for an increased operating budget. Patrons learned what their libraries had to offer and settled into more predictable patterns of usage.

In 2011, Albany Public Library circulated more than 1.3 million items, recorded more than 1.1 million customer visits, had 205,000 public computer uses, answered over 147,000 reference queries, issued almost 9,000 new library cards, and hosted more than 2,700 programs. These impressive statistics demonstrate the important role that the library plays in Albany and in the UHLS service area.

Albany Public Library also expanded its tradition of beneficial programming and resources. The Working Knowledge Public Computing Center, which provides workshops and one-on-one assistance with job searches and computer skills, launched in the summer and assisted more than 1,100 people in 2011. The free income tax preparation program saw more than 1,200 people get their taxes prepared for free, resulting in more than \$1.6 million back to them in returns. Large-scale family events, including the annual Summer Splash and Halloween in the Hills parties, attracted more than 2,500 children and their families to the Delaware and Arbor Hill/West Hill branches. The “La Mezcla Hispana” weekly after-school culture program received the **UHLS Program of the Year Award**. The new Arbor Hill/West Hill Branch on Henry Johnson Boulevard earned the **NYLA Outstanding Public Library Building Award**. This is the fifth award for the new and renovated branches. Ongoing efforts to provide quality services and materials to patrons were recognized by *Metroland* magazine, which named Albany Public Library the “best public library system” in the Capital Region.

The Albany Public Library received several awards during the year, including “the best public library system in the Capital Region” from Metroland magazine.

For Albany Public Library, 2011 was a year of settling into new buildings, learning how to operate a greatly expanded library system, and continuing to deliver quality programs and services. The staff, administration, and board at Albany Public Library are committed to educating, entertaining, and empowering the Albany community.

ALTAMONT FREE LIBRARY

Anthony Kossman, Board President

Judith Wines, Director

2011 is best considered in two stages, pre and post-diluvial. Prior to the Tropical Storm Irene flooding, the Library worked hard to maintain its central role in the community. Partnering with the Village of Altamont and with support from the New York State Council for the Arts, the Library again hosted 5 well received summer concerts. We held a variety of programs for community members of all ages and worked to get books into the hands of readers. The Library provided space for the local farmer's market at the train station, made visits with area preschools, collaborated on programming with local scout troops, visited the elementary school, provided programming for seniors, worked with Center for Disability Services to provide volunteer opportunities. Program highlights included the monthly eat-around-the-world potlucks, and Library Lock-ins.

After the late August storm, the Library Board decided to move out of KeyBank on account of mold growing on the walls of our subterranean home. We were generously offered space by both the Altamont chapter of the VFW and the Masons. The Library closed for two weeks to execute the move, and we reopened in the Masonic Temple in early October with about 15% of our collection. The Library worked with UHLS to ensure that the system's database reflected the reality of our collection. While in our temporary space, we continued to offer storytimes, kids crafts, book clubs, computing services and most of our regular library services. The Library underwent another transformation when we prepared for Altamont's Victorian Holidays, which took place in the Masonic Temple. Book shelves were wrapped as if they were gifts and the Library made way for 18 trees. We closed for two days and had limited services for 12 days.

The Library community continued work on the train station. Contractors framed the interior walls of the station, worked on the HVAC systems, painted the exterior of the station, updated the electricity, dug the sewer line and plumbed the building. Volunteers worked to prep the beadboard and prepare the interior for completion.

BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Kinnaird, Board President

Judy Petrosillo, Manager



The Library's future home

After twenty years of searching, a location was found that meets the needs and budget of the Berne Public Library. The Town of Berne purchased the recently decommissioned St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Berne on November 11, 2011 for use by the library and offices. We are very excited about this upcoming move. The property even has a parking lot.



Storybook participants

While working with the Town on this purchase, we continued our normal library activities, participated in grants, and provided programs to the community. Our participation in the LSTA Storytelling Grant concluded in 2011. We produced a story book for each of the eight participants resulting in an impressive history of Berne in the early to mid 1900's. Local teens interviewed the seniors and webcasts were made. In June we held a reception for the seniors, their families, and the teens.

The 2011 Outreach mini-grant was geared toward the physical and mental fitness of our seniors. "Retired from Work – Not Life" consisted of eight programs: yoga, nutrition, gardening, Wii Fit, genealogy, computer social networking, Mango languages, and e-books. We are using the feedback from these to determine future programs for seniors.

We earned our Summer Reading Program Challenge grant by collaborating with the Berne-Knox-Westerlo School District and the Helderberg Christian School. During the summer, a program was held on Tuesday mornings for the Wee Read Group and on Thursday mornings for the One World Group. Special events for included programs on Russian folklore and Japanese culture. Teens were invited for henna tattoos, manga, sumo wrestling, and tea tasting. After reading novels from around the world, the adult participants enjoyed a foreign food pot-luck.

In addition to the grant projects, we had on-going programs including Storytime, Family Movie Night, Adult Game Night, Book Club, and outreach programs at the schools. The library hosted a total of 145 programs during 2011. The library also participated in community events whenever possible



Applying Zombie make-up

The highlight of our teen programs was a Zombie Fest in October. Eighteen teens learned how to apply zombie make-up, played Zombie Jeopardy, ate ghoulish food, wrote and then shared how they became zombies, and watched the original "Night of the Living Dead."

We were pleased to see an increase in the number of programs, the number of children at Storytime, and the number of patrons in 2011. We will work on increasing the number of library visitations and attendance at other programs in 2012. We will also be working on cleaning up our collection before the move to our new location. We expect to complete the renovations at the former church and move to 1763 Helderberg Trail before the end of 2012.

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

John Sobiecki, Board President
Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director

From Austen to ebooks, from Kilimanjaro to the Catskills—we covered a lot of ground this year. We welcomed several noted authors: Jackie Morse Kessler (*Hunger*), James Howard Kunstler (*A World Made By Hand*), Robin Oliveira (*I am Mary Sutter*), Julia Spencer-Fleming (Fergusson/VanAlstyne mysteries), Lee Woodruff (*In an Instant*), and a panel of local authors—Susanne Alleyn, Elizabeth Brundage, Peter Golden and David Klein. We are grateful to our library Friends for underwriting our *Writers and Friends* author series.



James Howard Kunstler

Our Friends also teamed up with us for two Fall offerings. A Roadshow-style antiques appraisal event drew about a hundred folks who carried in some fascinating items. A combination book recycling/household shredding day was a great way to do a little Fall housecleaning, be good to the environment, and assure that gently-used books got to people around the world who need them.

We traveled, too—albeit in our Community Room chairs—to Grand Teton National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, and the Catskill Peaks, with Bethlehem residents who graciously shared their adventures and fabulous photos.

The ALA traveling exhibit *A Fine Romance: Jewish songwriters, American songs* sojourned in our lobby for six weeks and we added a roster of related programs. We also welcomed Bethlehem town historian Susan Leath, who shared photographs and documents of the town's early history that would subsequently appear in her book *Bethlehem* (Arcadia, 2011).

Literary exploits included participation in the UAlbany Foundation's community read—Henry James' *Turn of the Screw* was the topic—and a 200th-anniversary bash for author (and BBC *Masterpiece* goldmine) Jane Austen that we called "Austentatious."



Our library was very busy in 2011

All this activity made us quite hungry, so we celebrated our first annual Pi Day on March 14 (3.14—get it?) complete with games, raffles and a pie-baking contest that produced about two dozen entries. Thankfully there was a People's Choice Award that required some discerning nibbling.

Our librarians enthusiastically embraced e-books and e-readers, presenting several hands-on workshops. The library also purchased several e-readers for loan, providing a try-before-you-buy opportunity for our patrons.

Our volunteers have enhanced library services for years: teens contribute immeasurably to the success of our summer reading program; garden volunteers help maintain and enhance our gardens and grounds; and adult tutors help adult beginners find their way around a computer. This year library staff worked to expand volunteer opportunities at the library, recruiting teens and adults for our yearbook digitization project, book recycling day, and story reading programs. Staff and administration devised an application form and interview procedure that we will continue to refine. Response has been excellent.

BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Judith Brown, Board President

Julie Zelman, Director

- We circulated **38,788 items**, including books, magazines, audio books on CD and tape, movies on tape and DVD, music CDs, and large print books.
- We registered **366 new patrons** this year.
- We have **four public computers** and logged **4,823 sessions** this year. Wi-fi is also available during library hours.
- This was the Year of the e-Book. Although the Upper Hudson Library System started its eBook collection five years ago, this was the year when Kindle titles became available at the library. We offered two instruction sessions in using the library's digital collection.
- We have passes for free or reduced admission to area museums: the Berkshire Museum, the Clark Art Institute and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.
- Through the Upper Hudson Library System, our patrons can request items from the 29 libraries in Albany and Rensselaer counties.
- The theme for the Summer Reading Program was *One World, Many Stories*. Programs included Making Cake Pops, Harry Potter Party, Ice Cream in a Bag, and Electrifying Science. **We had 104 youngsters who reported reading for an astounding 18,671 minutes**. Special thanks to Sara Hawley for facilitating the SRP.
- We made more use of our meeting room, presenting Wii Game Night, a weekly Knitting Group, two monthly book discussion groups, and other programs, for **a total of 145 programs with 1,667 in attendance**. We offered classes in using Facebook and downloading digital library material – look for more in 2012! Our meeting room and smaller study room were used 220 times by community groups and local agencies, such as Literacy Volunteers, AARP Tax Aides and Parents groups.
- The Tuesday Book Group met once a month for a spirited and friendly book discussion. Large-print and audio book versions of the selected title are usually available. Titles included “Little Bee,” and “A Covert Affair.”
- The Book and Movie group met twice each month to view and discuss a book and its film adaptation. Titles included “Secretariat,” “Cujo,” and “The Last of the Mohicans.” Participants can attend one or both sessions and newcomers are always welcome.
- We received a second grant from the New York Council for the Humanities to hold a 4 session book discussion group entitled “Spiritual Journeys,” which continued the group from 2010. **The book sets from these sessions are available for loan to any community book group**. Thanks to Marie Venaglia for leading the discussions and developing the title list.
- There are some changes around the library: we received a hand-me-down Brio train table courtesy of the W.K. Sanford Library in Colonie and were granted a bike rack from the Capital District Transportation Authority. Thanks to our revitalized Friends group, we installed new literature racks in our entryway, and glass doors on our display case.
- We are an Acceptance facility for U.S. Passports, and processed **59 applications** this year.

CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Donald McKnight, Board President

Amy Peker, Director

Overview: Our 102nd Year

During our 102nd year of serving Village and Town residents, the Castleton Public Library re-established regular programming, re-organized parts of the collection, expanded library hours, and adopted, amended and clarified several of its policies. This was accomplished with efforts from volunteers, staff, the CPL Board, and our newly hired Director, Ms. Amy Peker.

Increased Accessibility to Library Materials

Beginning February 2011, the staff of the Castleton Public Library began addressing the needs of patrons with regard to library services and materials. Staff worked to expand the library hours, re-organize the collection, assess lending policies, and with the help of the Village DPW, purchased and installed an outside book return.

- The library hours were expanded to include evening and morning hours beginning February 28, 2011. The library is successfully operating at 46 hours a week; 11 hours more than previous years!
- The library now offers a regular weekly story hour, monthly Lego Club, and monthly movie nights. Beyond regular programming, the library offers computer classes, preschool story hours, and crafts.
- A new book drop was installed in July 2011. The outdoor book return allows patrons to return items after library and Village Hall hours. As it was hoped, the book return is well-used and is quite popular with library patrons!
- Throughout the year, staff assessed the collection of library materials to ensure the collection was physically accessible and allowed patrons to easily find items. While there is still work to be done, the library staff, with the help of teen workers and volunteers, was able to organize, categorize, and color-code picture books and easy readers. Now, children can easily browse and find books for a particular category based on the color of the section the book is in. Staff also organized the graphic novels to respond to an increase in demand for those books.
- Lending policies were adjusted to ensure patrons were able to access materials in a timely manner. Adjustments included: no longer limiting the number of DVDs a patron can borrow at one time, a shorter loan period for new books, and allowing some books to be put on a request list that previously was not available.

Regular Library Programming

A particular focus of Ms. Peker's was to provide regular, sustainable programming. Throughout 2011, a number of different programs were offered for all age groups. From those programs, a schedule of regular programming was set in place. The library now offers weekly story hours, a monthly Lego Club, monthly movies, and technology workshops. These programs were made possible by volunteers, new ideas from local students, and community support!

Ruth Spieske Reading Nook

With the help of volunteers, the Ruth Spieske Reading Nook was created in memory of Ruth Spieske, a woman who dedicated many years of service to the library and left a generous gift upon her passing. The Nook is a comfortable, quiet space where community members can sit to read, use a laptop to connect to the wireless network, or meet with a small group.

Conclusion

During 2011, Ms. Peker, staff, volunteers, and the Castleton Public Library Board of Trustees worked hard to connect with the community to re-establish sustainable programming and improve access to library services and materials. After a year of working together, the CPL Board, Ms. Peker, the Friends of the CPL, and volunteers continue to preserve and expand the important services the library provides. Ms. Peker and the CPL staff are also attentive to the changing needs of the community. As a result of these efforts, usage of library materials and services continues to increase.

COHOES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Deborah Thomas, Board President

Matthew Graff, Director

2011 was a year of adjustment, transition and growth for the Cohoes Public Library. The environment within the Library was unsettled as three different directors took turns at the helm, and the Board of Trustees saw a considerable change of roster. And yet the foundation - the core elements necessary for the Library to grow - remained intact. I speak of a City government committed to supporting the Library even during hard economic times, a Friends Group eager and ready to assist in growing the Library, and a community that even during this period of uncertainty continued to embrace the Library and see it as a vibrant and necessary institution.

Faced with these challenges the Library looked to reestablish itself within the community. We began this process by targeting four specific areas for review and subsequent improvement: relationships, resources, programming, and library layout.

An analysis of our associations with various supporters of the Library suggested we needed to renew our relationships with the Cohoes City Government and its departments. We set about this by reintroducing ourselves over a number of meetings and discussions as a dynamic and proactive partner. The Library is moving forward again in no small part due to the cooperative and productive alliance we currently enjoy with the City.

Reintroductions were not limited to the City however. We have also worked hard to continue our work on improving our customer relation skills. Staff are going through customer service training and work everyday at solidifying our connection to the community and our individual patrons.

We continued our review by assessing our collection, and determined a "freshening" was in order. We've embraced new technologies by including

preloaded MP3 players and video players in our collection. We've also started a new initiative towards purchasing Overdrive ebooks as well as under-represented genres in our collection, including: YA Fic, Graphic Novels and LGBTQ content. Finally, in response to our proximity to the Cohoes Falls and surrounding ponds lakes and rivers, we've added fishing rods to our collection.

Programming also came under examination. 2011 included a substantial push on entertaining, informative, and useful programming for our patrons. We hosted a number of presentations, including Healthy Eating for People with Diabetes, and a presentation by the Albany County Paranormal Association. We also enrolled over eighty-five children in our Summer Reading Program and provided six fun and educational shows for the kids to enjoy, as well as an awards ceremony where participants were presented with certificates of achievement by the Mayor of Cohoes, John McDonald.

Our evaluation also included the Library's layout, and like our collection it also needed reinvigorating to reflect our new start. We started with consolidating our books on CDs and DVDs into one section of the library, creating a digital media corner. This freed up substantial space on the floor and together with the judicious rearranging of patron work stations, we created an adaptable collaborative space that has been embraced by academic and life skills tutors, as well as our regular patrons. We've also created a new Teen Section designed to offer greater flexibility, comfort and style in a more visible area of the Library.

2011 was a busy year. Much was accomplished but much more remains to be done. We look towards continuing our efforts at improving the Library and aligning with the needs of our patrons, as well as further integrating into the community. Besides continuing the prior-mentioned efforts, we look forward to working with local businesses and patrons with their employment needs, offering more services and resources to under-served populations, creating stronger and more effective ties with the local schools and tutors, improving the security and energy efficiency of our building, and providing useful and entertaining programs.

WILLIAM K. SANFORD TOWN LIBRARY (Colonie)

Anne Kuthy, Board President

Richard Naylor, Director

2011 was both a challenging and an exciting year. While the budget was very tight due to the recession and greater pressure on municipal government to cut costs, 2011 was also a year of progress. Following up on last year's million dollar investment in the library HVAC and new driveways, during 2011 our main parking lot and plaza were rebuilt and resurfaced greatly improving the look of the facilities.

Inside we did a lot of rearranging to create more open table space, especially for patrons with laptops, to create a new mass market paperback area, and to move the music CDs near the other audio visual materials. The new space was only partly responsible for a surge in wireless computer access. We also expanded the YA area by creating a new YA alcove for tutoring and for small programs. Children's Services also redesigned their entrance area to both increase shelving capacity and to make it look more spacious.

2011 was the tipping point for eBooks with a lot of planning, putting together patron training classes, and collection development. Although Colonie retained its highest book circulation status, overall circulation was down 4% with the drop traced to a combination of Albany reopening its branches and patrons moving to eBooks, our circulation of which has been doubling each year -- and we expect it to be at least as vigorous an increase in 2012.

The brightest area for traditional library services was in Youth Services and Teen Services where book circulation was up 4%. Youth Services programming was terrific with 1,003 children registered for Summer Reading and annual attendance at YS programs reaching 15,556.



Richard Naylor and guest Dr. Tom on TV17

Overall it was another great year for programming highlighted perhaps by the William & Henry James Reading Celebration, the Teen Anime Convention, and the Fall Book events built around Ilyon Woo's book, *"The Great Divorce."* Our TV17 Colonie programming also continued apace reaching 725 locally produced shows for our educational channel.

Our Friends of the Library worked hard to raise money and provided four new laptops for the Computer Training classes as well as a new Library Key Tag option for our patrons that has proven very popular.

Finally, art and photography continued to be highlights with our gallery exhibits, teen photography exhibits, and second annual judged Stedman Room Photography Contest.

EAST GREENBUSH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Michael Poost, Board President

Evelyn Butrico, Director

2011 was another good year for the East Greenbush Community Library. Our meeting rooms were busy with 790 library programs and 617 uses by outside groups including the Friends of the Library who held two adult and two children's book sales as well as their first Trivia Night. The library saw over 220,000 visitors.

One major change was a reduction in hours by four hours weekly. The library now closes at 6pm on Fridays and opens at 10am on Saturday. Though our circulation declined by 3% we saw an incredible demand for electronic material with an average monthly increase of more than 100%. In response we added many new items, increasing our overall electronic content by 13%.

Part of the Library's Plan of Service was to expand services to the developmentally disabled community. Through a UHLS mini-grant we were able to create a partnership with ARC and Living Resources and offer two storytelling sessions with a presenter who specialized with this audience. These were so popular that we received a donation as a thank you which we then used to provide two more sessions. Additionally we worked with Story Place, a special needs pre-school in Schodack, doing outreach story times in the Spring.

Our online and tech presence was a focus this year. We continued to make improvements to our website, increasing our visits by over 200%. We are working on our Facebook page, making regular posts to keep people coming back. At the end of the year we started working with Constant Contact to begin providing an online newsletter. The Staff Picks display and Blog continue to be popular and we welcome a new addition, a Tech Tips Blog done by the Library's resident Tech-brarian Karrie McLellan.

Some of the ways we strived to live up to the "community" in our name included:

- A food drive during the months of January and February. The donated items were delivered to Concerns-U in Rensselaer.
- Collecting donations for care packages for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Our Summer Reading Clubs, for both children and teens, raised money for Heifer International. This organization "works with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth."
- The staff teamed with Good Buy Books to walk in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer in October, raising approximately \$1,000 for cancer research.
- A Pet Food Drive with the supplies donated to the PETCARE Community "Progress for Pets" in Troy.
- The library staff filled many wishes on the Vanderheyden Hall Holiday Support Program Wish List in December through their donations of toys, books, crafts, games and clothing to help troubled youths and their families.

In 2011 the Library was voted the Best Library and Best Story time and Children's Activities by the magazine *Capital Region Living*. It was with pride and with gratitude that we accepted these awards.

GRAFTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Cynthia Pulito, Board Co-President

Sandra von Schilgen, Board Co-President

Stephanie Preston, Director

Embracing the social media trend, the library established a presence on Facebook and Twitter as another means of connecting with our community. The Lillis Bunce Memorial Award for high school seniors was instituted to acknowledge Mrs. Bunce's many contributions to the community and to the library, notably her twenty-five years as volunteer library director, and to recognize and encourage our young people to emulate the example she set.

The library continues to present ongoing programs such as the *Book Discussion Group*, *Preschool Songs & Rhymes*, *Story Time*, and the Summer Reading Program and the Summer Arts Program.

The grant awarded by the Arts Center of the Capital Region enabled the library to present six programs. A blacksmithing workshop filled quickly and received rave reviews. *Aunt Helen's Closet* was a delight, *Make a Duct Tape Wallet* was very well attended, *Quilting Math* came to the town youth program, along with *Homespun Community Dancing with Peter Paul & George*, and a series of knitting workshops introduced the attendees to the craft.

Additional programs included: *Time Travel Hike* at Grafton Lakes State Park, *Make a Rain Stick* with Dyken Pond Environmental Center, and *Where Do You Call Home?* with the Children's Museum of Science and Technology. Several new events this year included *Baby Goats Visit the Library*, *Spanish Language Fun for Families*, a FAFSA Workshop, *The Hows and Whys of Homeschooling*, and a nature journal book discussion of *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*.

Summer was busy with seventy-three youngsters registered for the Summer Reading Program. The program kicked off with a family concert presented by the engaging Mark Rust. For the first time, a group from the Troy Boys and Girls Clubs' Camp Barker visited the library once a week to log their reading.

Fundraising efforts included another successful annual Run for the Roses 5 K Race at the Grafton Lakes State Park, basket raffle, Kindle raffle, book sales and plant sale.

The arrival of Hurricane Irene caused a power outage and flooded the basement. Several trustees and helpers began bailing out the water until darkness forced a halt. Much to our relief, the water receded overnight. The cleanup and drying out commenced immediately. The library was fortunate to only experience minimal loss of used book inventory.

The last quarter of the year focused on the search for a new director. Providing patrons with accustomed services was a priority while the position remained vacant, an objective accomplished through the teamwork of staff, trustees, and volunteers. The library closed the year with its first purchase of electronic books, with the assistance and expertise of Jo-Ann Benedetti from UHLS.

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Douglas Morrissey, Board President

Barbara Nichols Randall, Director

In the past year we squeezed more materials, programs and people into the Library than in any previous year. The Library was open seven days per week, 11 hours each weekday and 11 hours on the weekend. We averaged 197 people an hour through our doors or over 2,100 people a day on weekdays.

Our collection currently stands at almost 200,000 items or 6 items per capita which is the recommended size for a medium-size library. We added about 2,200 more items to the Library's adult and children's fiction collection by reconfiguring and adding some more shelving. Unfortunately by doing this we have lost some study space and some materials are shelved on both the highest and lowest shelves which are hard for most patrons to both browse and reach. Our circulation of materials, particularly our electronic materials, increased by 1% to 731,932. This translates to 21 items per resident.

Our space needs limited what we offered both as programs for the community and the number of meetings community groups held at the Library. The Library was able to hold 12 more programs than the previous year, yet program attendance increased by 8%. One hundred and ninety-two community groups used our meeting rooms, and tutors held over 1,000 tutoring sessions in the Library.

We continued to apply for grants to improve both our facility and our programming. We currently have three programming grants and one construction grant. The construction work which we hope to complete in the Fall, will result in a relocation of our sewer connection, a slight expansion and re-paving of the parking lot, a drive-up book drop and drilling for three or more geothermal wells. The wells will eventually allow us to convert our facility to using geothermal energy for heating and cooling. We are continuing our other efforts to save money and to "go green." If you visit the library from December through March you will see that we have once again closed the main lobby doors resulting in heat savings. You also can see on both our website and in our lobby the kilowatts we have saved with our solar panels. So far we have saved 40,500 kWh or the equivalent of two and one half weeks of electrical use each year.

We continued our outreach and partnerships in the community. Last year 90 seniors a month were served by our homebound outreach volunteers. We held three programs a month at assisted living facilities. We began and will continue a "sensory storytime" for children on the autism spectrum. We held a number of programs where local businesses were our sponsors. Our popular Friday Family Movie Night is just one example of successful partnerships with local Guilderland businesses.

We held 837 programs attended by 22,657 patrons in 2010/2011.



Family Fun Day at the Library



Assemblyman McEneny visited the Library

CHENEY LIBRARY (Hoosick Falls)

Paul Miller, Board President

Carol Gaillard, Director

Jackie Kennedy said, "There are many ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all." Library service to children includes serving the children and their caregivers, usually the parents. This service includes education, health, and well-being. Because literacy skills develop in the first five years of a child's life, children should have equal access to library materials.

For that reason the materials in the children's section at Cheney Library have been arranged into 10 different themes. Stories: adventures about far away lands, magical creatures, princesses and pirates; Favorites: popular series, great read-a-louds, classic picture book authors and illustrators; Folk and Fairy Tales: magic pumpkins, giant beanstalks; Rhymes and Songs: sung stories, nursery rhymes, Mother Goose, poetry picture books; Transportation: trucks, trains, buses, bikes, anything that goes; Celebrations: holidays, parties, special events; Growing Up: body parts, emotions, family situations and relationships; Nature: animals, pets, animals doing animal things, weather, natural world; Concepts: ABCs, numbers, shapes, colors, time, opposites; Learn to Read; and Biographies. All the books have a colored sticker on the spine and are shelved according to their color-coding. There are posters to let patrons know what each color means. Children, parents and teachers are enthusiastic about the way the books are arranged. It has made their searches very independent and exciting.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Kiwanis of Hoosick Falls and the help of Rawdon Cheng at UHLS, we have a computer that is loaded with games for preschool children. It has a child-sized keyboard, mouse and pad and is located near the other computers on a child's desk. Most of the educational games are appropriate for three year olds – six year olds.

Cheney Library also is home to 50 of the 1,000 Book Club bags. These books and bags were purchased with Hoosick Falls Parent Teacher funds. Each bag has 10 preschool books in it, which will be read to the child by the parent or other caregiver. When the child has completed all 100 bags he/she will have read 1000 books. This will make reading special, fun, and a good start to literacy needed for school. One of the Friends of Cheney Library designed a card to help keep track of the bags as they are read.

And speaking of the Friends of Cheney Library, they had their first meeting in September 2011. It is an active group that has already had one successful fundraiser and two programs have been implemented: *Stories Around the World*, for elementary students and *Born to Read* for the just born. 2011 was a great year at Cheney Library.

NASSAU FREE LIBRARY – “The Heart of the Community”

Matt Guinane, Board President

Patricia Sahr, Director



In 2011 the Nassau Free Library was again fortunate to receive grant money for community programs from Rensselaer County, the Hudson River Bank and Trust Company Foundation and the Stewart’s Foundation. Authors, performers, crafts people and health professionals were among those who provided enrichment and entertainment for the 1,914 residents who attended these programs throughout the year.

In May the Friends of the Nassau Library held a Spring Bazaar for the community. Events included sales of plants, jewelry, used books and baked goods. Author Lois Truax attended and signed copies of her children’s books *Grandmother’s Are Magic* and *Grandmother Meets Mr. Brown*. In addition, a beautiful quilt created by Pat Piniasek and the Eastside Quilters was raffled. Throughout the day, Ampersand Heritage entertained with tight vocal harmonies, backed by the lively sound of traditional instruments. It was a tremendously successful event that will be repeated in 2012.

Another highlight of 2011 was the purchase of four new PCs and two new laptops. Thanks to Rawdon Cheng and Nassau trustee Lois Batsios for their hard work on this project! With the new equipment, staff members are able to perform circulation tasks more efficiently, and there are far fewer complaints from users of the public computers.

In the final quarter of 2011, a committee comprised of staff, trustees and community volunteers began to work on improving the marketing of the library. Its first task was to send out a survey to determine the level of customer satisfaction. Responses showed that: staff members get high marks for customer service; residents prefer more author talks and music programs; readers want more input in adult fiction and nonfiction purchases; a few improvements should be made to the building to upgrade the comfort level. Goals for 2012 will focus on addressing these issues, and the next job of the marketing committee will be to expand the library web page.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of trustees, staff and volunteers, the Nassau Free Library continues to grow!

NORTH GREENBUSH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kenneth Bogdan, President

Daryl McCarthy, Director

The North Greenbush Public Library continued its strong tradition of service by loaning more than 104,000 items to community members. Our collections have grown to over 57,000 items available to all patrons in the Capital District. The community requested more items than ever from the library especially DVDs, music CDs & talking books. We continue to expand our collections by adding popular items and we welcome suggestions from the public to improve our collections. Patrons in other libraries requested over 15,000 of our items and our patrons requested over 14,800 items from other System libraries.

Our Town is generous in its support of the library and our dedicated staff and volunteers continue to provide valuable service. Volunteers provided many hours of service to the library allowing the staff to serve the public more efficiently. Our volunteers perform routine duties such as shelving books, book repair, and carry out many small time-consuming projects during the year. Also, our Friends group works tirelessly for the improvement of the library through their on-going book sale. The Friends' efforts in 2011 enabled the library to purchase new shelving for our collections and many new talking books and DVDs.



Our children's room is an active meeting space.



"Southpaw" came for a visit.

Our children's room continues to be a very active meeting place for children of all ages. We have several literacy tutors and community groups that use the children's room for meetings and special programs. Several school groups toured the library in 2011 and received their first library cards. We had over 120 children participate in our Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program was kicked off by a visit from Southpaw, the mascot of the Valley Cats. Players from the team read to the children and answered questions about playing professional baseball. Our Teen Summer Reading Program had a small but dedicated group of readers who wrote book reviews to encourage other teens to read. We hope to reach even more children in 2012 by continuing our efforts to reach out to local elementary schools to keep children reading all year long.

The library board has begun to deal with the possibilities of expanding the library to meet the needs of our growing town. With the dedication and hard work of staff, trustees, Friends of the Library, and volunteers, we look forward to continuing our success as a community meeting place and community resource.

PETERSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dan McCumber, Board President

Sharon Hodges, Director

The end of the year 2011 saw the end of an era with the retirement of Board President, Dan McCumber, after serving 15 years on the board, 11 of those as President. During his tenure the twelve years of renovations to the library were finally concluded. This included doubling the size of the library by renovations to the lower level of the building, complete renovations to the main floor, installation of a lift to provide handicapped accessibility to the lower level, and an addition which provided stairs to the lower level. Due to the town requirement that no local tax funds could be used for renovations the process was done piecemeal as grant-writing and fundraising made each portion of renovations possible. The leadership Dan provided in continuing the process throughout such a long period of time is greatly to be admired. With the support of the entire Board the renovations were finally finished and were greatly appreciated by the community.

In 2011 the Petersburg Public Library continued to provide library services to our community. Programs included a poetry reading, a book discussion group and weekly pre-school story hour programs. The library continued its program of art exhibits featuring local artists. The annual Plant, Book, and Bake Sale was a very successful fundraiser.

The Summer Reading Program included an art program for children, pre-school story hours, craft programs and a series of educational and entertaining programs held in conjunction with the local youth recreational program. The second year of an Adult Summer Reading Program was held with 14 prize baskets awarded at the end of the summer. Adults enthusiastically entered a drawing for the prize baskets by putting in a raffle slip for each book they read over the summer. A Teen Reading Program with prize baskets was also instituted.

POESTENKILL LIBRARY

LouAnne Lundgren, Board President

Margie Morris, Director

Ten years in our library home! That is what the trustees, staff, volunteers, and patrons celebrated in 2011. In honor of the celebration, the history of the past ten years was captured in words and photos by Eva Gemmill (who was awarded the very first **UHLS Advocate of the Year!**) She wrote "The Library Story: 2001-2011" which can be found on its own tab at www.poestenkilllibrary.org. "The Library Story" provides a wonderful walk down memory lane for so many people, especially those who worked to make the move to 9 Plank Road a reality.

We started the year by reworking the hours of operation for more consistency. The library is now open six days and an additional 3.5 hours per week. Patrons were pleased with our new hours right from the start, which was one of our concerns as we made the plans.



Leo Clement Scholarship winner

In the spring of 2011, we offered the first Leo Clement Memorial Scholarship to high school seniors from Poestenkill. A life-long Poestenkill resident and library supporter, Alma Clement approached the trustees to establish this competitive, annual scholarship in her late husband's name. In the photo on the left, Alma and members of her family present a check to the winner.

We were very excited to learn that the Friends of Poestenkill Library had been awarded the 2011 **UHLS Volunteer of the Year Award**. A group of Friends boarded the Capt. JP boat for last year's Annual Dinner to accept the award. The Friends of Poestenkill Library play a key part in the success of the library. The library budget starts each year with a gap of \$15,000 between anticipated expenses and anticipated income. That gap equals the amount of the materials budget. Through the fundraising efforts of the Friends, and through generous donations by patrons, we have managed to meet that gap every year. The Spring and Fall Market Days sponsored by the Friends and their very successful annual Holiday Lights Appeal raise the money to help make ends meet. The Friends are really the key to Poestenkill Library's success.



Volunteer of the Year Award winners

In July, the new shed purchased by the Friends was delivered. Our original shed was made by a Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout award. It served us well for several years but we have been receiving so many wonderful book donations, we decided we needed a shed dedicated to those books. Voila! The Friends came through again!

The dedication of the trustees, staff, volunteers, and the Friends of Poestenkill Library and the support of great patrons help make the library a vital part of the Poestenkill community. Here's to the next ten years!

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Ben Wolfe, Board President
Judith Felsten, Director

The Board of Trustees began the fiscal year confidently by gaining public approval for a budget that included money for development activities, furniture and equipment, in anticipation of the impact of the state tax cap in coming years. Reduction of term length from five to three years convinced more people to run for Trustee this year than any year since the Library's incorporation. Three new members joined the seven-person Board.

During the year, library users settled into its refurbished facility. A local family sweetened the experience by buying a wonderfully comfortable sofa and hassock for the reading lounge. Adult use of the library also increased when new chairs and study tables were added. The Village of Ravena (our landlord) upgraded the library to brighter, warmer-colored lighting with a Central Hudson Gas & Electric grant.

A third Librarian joined the staff in May. He continued the Library's public facelift with website, Facebook, Google+, and Twitter communications. He also regularly presented technology-instruction programs that attract many adults. People often stopped in for help using newly acquired eReaders. Staff now orders eTitles every month. Statistical reporting has been revamped to include electronic media.



The construction zone

Programming for children, especially middle-graders, has increased. Technology programs introduce them to free creative software. A writing project for this age group has joined the summer writing program line-up. The Summer Reading Program grew with inclusion of the summer reading skills classes at both elementary schools. Early Childhood Outreach added two more local pre-school programs to its monthly rounds, and

the Library produced successful Fun Fairs for the Very Young at both elementary schools. Two new children's programs in addition to the Lego®-driven Construction Zone were wildly successful – the Band Instrument Petting Zoo and the Stuffed Animal Sleepover.



Calling for pizza at the Sleepover



A bedtime story at the Sleepover

The Master Plan Committee received a grant from the Bender Family Foundation to hire consultants for long-range service and facility planning. This project is nearing completion. Recommendations will address the Library's need for sufficient space, its location, and its service mix.

RENSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Johanna Burnham, Board President

Jane Chirgwin, Director

The Library Board drafted a new 5 year plan for 2012-2016, outlining the goals for the library as a community and education hub for the city. Its new mission statement is:

The Rensselaer Public Library serves as a community center for lifelong learning and provides services and materials in a safe and positive environment to meet the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of the City of Rensselaer, NY and its surrounding area.



"Read to me" at the Library

Many of the goals emphasize the efforts we are already making to improve and promote our library services. We also want to strengthen our relationships with schools, community groups and other libraries.

Our public internet computers were used heavily, at about 4.5 uses per registered borrowers. We are helping a lot of people looking for jobs and applying for assistance.

The Summer Reading program theme was "One World, Many Stories." Over 114 children and teens participated in the reading incentive program, and we had great attendance for our "Party around the World" programs. This year our Friends of the Library collaborated with us for our kick-off program, which was a great success.

RENSELAERVILLE LIBRARY

Kristina Tanner, Board President

Kimberly Graff, Director

During 2011 the collaborations between the Director and the Board of Trustees provided for significant growth at the Rensselaerville Library. The Library increased the number of part time staff, resources, grants, public computers, and programs. The most notable program was the *Festival of Writers: A Sense of Place* from July 28th-31st. Over 1,000 tickets were sold or distributed free-of-charge to events that included readings, workshops, a film showing, a large scale photography exhibit, a two-woman play, and a special program for children in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program. In addition, there was a book sale, a gala cocktail party with the authors and other festive food events located around the hamlet, and coordinated by the Library. The Library's Board of Trustees, Staff, Director, and more than thirty volunteers, local businesses, and community organizations, were involved. The Festival raised more than \$10,000 to benefit the Library, a crucial amount, as approximately 50% of the Library's operating budget is dependent on fundraisers and direct donations.

Authors in attendance were Verlyn Klinkenborg (New York Times columnist and author of *Making Hay*), Nick Flynn (whose novel *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*, is now a film starring Robert DeNiro), Francine Prose (author of 16 works of fiction and the New York Times best-seller *Reading Like a Writer*), Mary Morris (author of *Revenge* and *The River Queen*), and other luminaries including: Helen

Benedict, Tim Cahill, Twig George, Barry Kuhar, Suzannah Lessard, Howard Nelson, Stephen O'Connor, Donna Schaper, Mary Tannen, Roderick & Wyatt Townley, Maria Tucci and Andy Rooney via video.

Perhaps the most notable guest of honor at the Festival was Newbury Award-winning author of more than 100 books, Jean Craighead George, who was treated to a staged reading of her work, directed and performed by lovers of her fiction and volunteers from the Library. This free event brought visitors from far and wide to revel in her presence and to honor



Jean Craighead George

the woman who inspired our theme, as *The Far Side of the Mountain* takes place, in part, in Rensselaerville. As part of the Summer Reading Program, the Library worked in conjunction with the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station to provide a free naturalist program for children that featured *The Pocket Guide to the Outdoors* co-authored by Jean Craighead George and her daughter Twig George. The program concluded with a book signing by the authors and free books for the thirty children who participated in the Summer Reading Programs from Rensselaerville, Berne and Westerlo.



Jean Craighead George and fans

SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY

Terrence Dingman, Board President
Melinda Fowler, Director

2011 was a busy year for the Sand Lake Town Library. We welcomed Pegeen Lorusso and Laurie Clark to our staff while saying sad goodbyes to three other staff members. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day students from the Averill Park High School Service Learning Program helped us to continue to enhance our space by painting our lobby and rest rooms. Thanks to CDTA we added a bike rack to the front of the library for our many patrons who enjoy cycling in the warmer months. We also implemented additional recycling initiatives at the library – we have increased our paper recycling and added newspaper bags to the toner cartridge and eyeglass recycling we started last year.



New bike rack from CDTA

Patrons of all ages continued to use our facility in increasing numbers – borrowing library materials, using computers and attending programs and meetings. Computer usage here at SLTL has increased at least 15% over the past two years, with more and more people bringing in their laptops to use the wireless internet connection.

Our Summer Reading Program was an ambitious six weeks of programs ranging from crafts and movies to journaling and anime. This year's Library Fair to kick off the Summer Reading Program included a very popular Victorian Tea, organized and sponsored by the Sand Lake Bicentennial Planning Committee. To help advertise the Tea, one of our young patrons set up a creative display using American girl dolls. Local Magician extraordinaire Jim Snack provided the afternoon's entertainment to a packed house.

SLTL offered a total of 117 programs this year including a seed swap, a presentation on vegan awareness, making beaded jewelry, and visits by local authors. We had a highly attended presentation by Professor Warren Roberts about his book, *A Place in History: Albany in the Age of Revolution*. Attendance at programs has increased by 16% over the last two years.



The very popular Victorian Tea

SLTL continues to function as a gathering place for the community, providing space for tutoring, individual work on projects, and meeting space for individuals and other community groups. This year we began hosting three Cub Scout Dens when their usual meeting place became unfeasible.

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

DIVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Schaghticoke)

MaryLou Pudiak-Town, Board President

Jessica Lewis, Director

On a typical day in the Diver Library last year, you would be likely to see village residents young and old browsing for books, reading to their grandchildren, doing homework on the public computers, or chatting with each other about last week's basketball game. Amidst all of this activity, the Library added new programs including a Tech Series of instruction workshops, and enjoyed a thoroughly successful Summer Reading Program with an emphasis on foreign language literacy. Diver Library hosted a Knitting Club for friends and neighbors to sit and chat while they worked on their projects, and hosted another fun edition of our annual Strawberry Social.

The Library managed to sustain and improve operations during lean economic times, and added nearly 500 items to the library's collection in 2011, bringing the total to more than 7,800. The number of summer activities offered increased from eight in 2010 to twenty in 2011 with attendance increasing by more than 100 from the previous year. We also upgraded our public computers with three new terminals.

In 2011, the Library also began the process of legally revising the charter to lift restrictions on board member participation and redefine the composition of the board.

In all, the Diver Library enjoyed a successful year of growth and change in 2011, and we look forward to continuing the expansion of our collection, programs, and services in 2012.

STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Susan Brissette, Board President

Laurenne Teachout, Director

Stephentown Memorial Library soared to new heights in 2011. The year began with the formation of the Friends of the Library. This has been a long-time dream at SML. Under the guidance of dedicated Board members, the group emerged in January 2011 and charged forward with determination. They focused on fundraising, making over \$7,000 with several great events, including Bake Sales, Soup and Subs Sale, Holiday Pie Sale and more. This group is small, but mighty and they are great cooks. The Friends jokingly refer to SML as “the library built on cookies.” Another initiative was the formation of a Small Business Group to bring local entrepreneurs, artisans, and home-based businesses together and provide them with a way to exchange ideas, and work together. This cooperative spirit led the group to merge with a similar group in New Lebanon.



At the Library's Plant Sale

Being in a rural community, SML often serves the community in non-traditional ways. This year we introduced a federally-funded free lunch program for kids during the summer months. Together with Rensselaer County Unified Family Services and the Berlin School district, SML provided much needed nutrition by serving a daily lunch and snack to children and teens over an eight-week period. Over 1,100 meals were served. Besides filling a need in the community, this service brought children and their parents to the library and led them to apply for library cards.

The sense of community spirit and goodwill towards the library is everywhere in Stephentown. Townspeople often proudly comment that the library always has something happening. Our parking lot is often overflowing, even during hours when the library is not regularly open. Community groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, TRACS and the Girl Scouts meet in our lovely community room. Another popular use is health and fitness classes. Stephentown is more than 20 miles from a gym, so local residents have embraced the yoga classes, Zumba, and Tai Chi Qigong held at the library.

We offered an array of regular programs: holding 300 programs attended by 2,500 people. In April, we offered a Longfellow poetry evening that drew over 30 people. In September, we had our first *International Observe the Moon Night* using a powerful set of binoculars to gaze at the moon and enjoy moon-related crafts and snacks.

The library participated in *Tell Me About It*, an LSTA grant project administered by UHLS. The grant enabled us to work with local storytellers, Dee & Frank Wind, and our senior citizens to produce a book entitled *Stephentown Stories*. The book highlights the lives of eight Stephentown residents. We held a book launching in October and each participant received a copy, along with copies for the High School and the Historical Society. Our copy is available for circulation and is constantly checked out. This book honors our past as we move toward a bright future for Stephentown.

TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Muller, Board President

Paul Hicok, Director

2011 saw an across the board increase for adult programs and services offered at the Troy Public Library. Program attendance more than doubled, with over 1600 people attending programs such as our weekly computer classes, monthly Legal Clinic, and special events and workshops throughout the year. The Lansingburgh Branch offered numerous sessions of Tai Chi, Zumba and Chair Yoga during this past year as well. Other popular offerings included our *Adult Summer Reading Program* and *Shorts Out Loud*, with weekly musical and literary offerings. Use of public computers also increased significantly in 2011. And of course the Troy Room, the center of our Genealogy and Local History department, was visited by over 1,200 people in 2011.



Comics Grant participants

In 2011 we received a Comics Grant through the Upper Hudson Library System which allowed us to purchase a great number of graphic novels for children while partnering with Troy School 2 along with the school's librarian. While primarily aimed at boys, the grant also provided for training on how to use graphic novels to reach reluctant readers. We also received a grant for a series of children's yoga classes through the Junior League of Troy. Our summer reading enrollment jumped by 38%

from last year. We provided more programs to more children and families than ever before. During the summer our program attendance by children nearly doubled.



More programs than ever before...

Thanks to the generosity of many in the community, our annual fundraising campaign netted the library nearly \$15,000 which was used for books and other library materials as well as for library programs at the Main Library and the Lansingburgh Branch. A special reception for library donors was held at the Main Library on December 4th after the Victorian Stroll. Four local businesses, Market Block Books, Madison Handbags, JK Bloom Jewelers and the Tri-City ValleyCats also held successful fundraising events to benefit the Library this past year.

The library completed the process of registering as a newly formed Special Legislative District Public Library with the New York State Education Department, Division of Library Development in 2011.

This year's annual library district election took place on Tuesday September 27th and resulted in the election of new Trustee Courtney DeNobile who joins the Board for a three year term, but unfortunately the library's 2012 operating budget did not pass. What this means is that the library's tax levy will revert to the 2010 level. Since use of the library has increased and because our operating costs have also increased, we will be facing some service reductions in 2012.

VALLEY FALLS FREE LIBRARY

Dale Akin, Board President
Sandra Goodwin, Director

Valley Falls Library continued to be busy. In 2011, we were chartered to serve a larger area so we are increasing our hours to comply with the Minimum Standards. The patrons are pleased with the new hours open and are looking forward to the additional hours to be added.

We appreciated the monetary donations from Key Bank, Wentorf Foundation, and patrons throughout the year. We also received donations of books, videos, and audios all year, many going to support the book sale in the basement. Patrons enjoyed the \$1.00 a bag sale. Volunteers worked on shelving the items and keeping them in order.

The library usage continued to increase in all areas and programs were offered throughout the year. Skidmore College presented a story telling program through a cone-shaped collage and although attendance was low the program was well-received and interesting. Story times with Nancy Backstrom, Donna Barnhart and a student volunteer were all well attended, as was the Valley Falls/Pittstown Youth Program. The Summer Reading Program had 34 children registered and 18 returned their reading records with a total of 392 books read. The library collected for a food drive for two local food pantries: Pittstown and Schaghticoke. The pantries appreciated our donations.

Our annual Yard Sale, Bake Sale, and Book Sale was a success and we thank all who helped us throughout the year with all sale items, baked goods, and as volunteers.

VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Richard Ramsey, Board President
Gail Sacco, Director

The Voorheesville Public library served as a hub of learning. Young people – babies through high school students – used the library for Babygarten, Toddler Town, story hours, book discussions, arts performances and programs for exploring new topics. Parents used library space for Odyssey of the Mind rehearsals, Boy Scout and Girl Scout meetings, and coaching sessions. Adults came to discuss books, to delve into the American Civil War, to sew, to go on fascinating field trips, and to learn how to use eReaders. Booklovers, readers, researchers, students, and community members of all ages explored our resources.



Collecting for the Cinderella Project

The library was also a support for the community: people and organizations advertised their activities through our calendar; we collected items for the New Scotland food pantry, the New Scotland Seniors, Parsons Child & Family Center, and the Cinderella Project.

We collaborated with elementary, middle and high school teachers, the seniors, the New Scotland Historical Society, and the New Scotland Business Builders.

Of special note were several collaborative programs which reverberated throughout our community. *"Hearts Touched With Fire: Living Through the Civil War,"* brought a scholar from Union College to the library for conversations about the American Civil War. These discussions were enhanced by a blog which listed local events, two trips to the Albany Rural Cemetery, programs on dress and quilts of the time, a film series, and two concerts: one with the Lost Radio Rounders and the second with Kim and Reggie Harris. Voorheesville was one of 60 libraries in the United States to receive funding from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities for the discussions. The program was also supported by the Friends of the Library, an adult education group and the historical society. (<http://civilwarprograms.blogspot.com/>)

In addition to their regular activities, our Family and Youth Services librarians were invited to teach early childhood literacy at the local daycare center. The staff there was eager to learn and used the session to satisfy their continuing education requirement. In another program, the middle school reached out to the library on a Coming of Age project for the sixth grade. Our Head of Youth and Family Services, the Middle School librarian, and the sixth grade teacher collaborated to help the students find and review books on this topic and to understand them. As the project concluded, the students wrote their own reviews. These were posted on the library's website.

This year we added 7,976 items to our collection, including more than 300 eBooks. We offered 427 library programs – including the Summer Reading Program – that reached over 9,300 people and we provided space for 173 community meetings.



Student Art Contest winner

It was a good year at the Voorheesville Public Library.

WATERVLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beth Capitula, Board President
Eugenia (Gene) Schatoff, Director

The Watervliet Public Library saw a lot of growth and many changes in 2011! The Summer Reading Program was the most successful ever with over 300 participants, great partnerships with local schools and summer camps, and a huge End-of-Summer Carnivale. A family environment has taken over at the library and kids of all ages are welcome as we now offer crafts, story times and events for children. A grant from NYSED enabled us to start a Young Adult collection with teen fiction, graphic novels, audio books and ebooks. We also more than tripled our teen programming by offering events such as Anime Club, teen crafts, teen movies and a teen book club that partners with our local high school teachers. Many teens and even the principal attended some of these events.



The Anime Club

Circulation was up by over 20% in 2011 and we expanded our collection to include ebooks and Wii games for the first time.

We explored new sources of funding including partnering with local restaurants, establishing a new Friends Group, and receiving multiple grants. Building upon all of our successes while promoting ourselves to the community has been our biggest focus with a new marketing campaign including tv commercials, a facebook fan page, an e-newsletter and e-mail reference.



Our devoted staff and volunteers supported the library through all of our changes and the dedication and service that they provide to our community have positioned us as a vital part of the City of Watervliet.

TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY (Westerlo)

Laura Tenney, Board President

Sue Hoadley, Director

In June 2011 the Westerlo Public Library marked 25 years of service to the Town of Westerlo. It had long been the hope of many Westerlo residents to have their own library and in 1983, Harold Bell generously donated his historic “Whitford Store” to the Town of Westerlo to be used as a library and historical museum. Mr. Bell made the donation in memory of his beloved wife, Helen Taylor Bell, an ardent reader and history lover, who passed away in 1982.

On June 8, 1986 the Westerlo Public Library had its official opening with Ruth Hannay as Director. For over two years, the Library Committee, along with various community organizations and many volunteers, worked innumerable hours renovating the building which had no central heating or plumbing. Local librarians cataloged the donated books and volunteers typed thousands of catalog cards, sometimes wearing gloves during the cold winter days, to get the books shelf-ready so that the library could obtain a charter and be eligible for State funds.

Since then the library has moved forward into the electronic age with high speed internet access and Wi-Fi while maintaining its friendly service and relaxed atmosphere.

In 2011, the library was open 29 hours per week for over 300 days. Throughout the year, a record 8,826 children and adults entered the building – 575 more than in 2010. We circulated 17,269 items – an increase of 1,272 over 2010. Of those, 5,652 items were borrowed from libraries in the Upper Hudson System. In turn, we loaned 4,575 items to patrons at other System libraries. 762 patrons used our public computers and we offered programs for patrons of all ages.

Children’s programming increased spectacularly. Beginning as a volunteer, Lee Ackerman-Sawyer started presenting monthly drop-in craft programs. After we hired her in May, she added weekly storytimes. Attendance for children’s programs nearly doubled and teen attendance was triple the count for 2010.

The Statewide Summer Reading Program encourages school-aged children to read for pleasure during summer vacation. This year’s theme was “One World Many Stories” for the younger participants and “You Are Here” for teens. Thirty-four children and seven teens read a combined 13,391 minutes. Lee Sawyer, assisted by Shirley Michaels and Amy Powarzynski, planned weekly activities including creative crafts and storytimes with an international theme.

The library trustees held their annual Mother’s Day Bake Sale and participated in the Town Wide Garage Sale with a book sale. Fundraising and donations to the library allow us to offer our patrons a wider variety of services and programs. Thanks to our dedicated trustees, staff and volunteers, we connect the Town of Westerlo to a world of ideas and information. We could not do it without the unwavering support of our Town Board and the community as a whole. Together we have made our library a unique and valuable resource for all.

WILLIAM MEREDITH ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

1995	Berlin Public Library Watervliet Public Library
2000	Malcolm Bell Eva Gemmill
1996	Rensselaerville Library Guiderland Public Library
2002	Michael Borges
1997	Petersburgh Public Library WK Sanford Town Library
2006	Dennis Gaffney

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

1993	Carolyn Durnin, Grafton	1998	Rensselaerville Library Guiderland Public Library
1994	Joyce Hunt Strand, Bethlehem MaryLou Youmans, Ravena	1999	Castleton Public Library WK Sanford Town Library
1995	Pamela Daves, Brunswick Sally Ten Eyck, Voorheesville	2000	Brunswick Community Library Bethlehem Public Library
1996	Janice Brand, Rensselaerville Sally Fox, Stephentown	2001	Brunswick Community Library Guiderland Public Library
1997	Lynne Strnad, Altamont Frank Della Rocca, WK Sanford	2002	Brunswick Community Library Albany Public Library <i>Honorable Mention:</i> WK Sanford Town Library
1998	Susan Birkhead, Bethlehem William Meredith, Albany	2003	Petersburgh Public Library Cohoes Public Library and Watervliet Public Library (joint award)
1999	Sue McLaren, Poestenkill Michael Poost, East Greenbush	2004	RCS Community Library Troy Public Library
2000	Jane Spain Ducatt, Troy Barbara Hahn, Schaghticoke	2005	Albany Public Library Guiderland Public Library
2001	Dorothea Fisher, Poestenkill Judy Rosen, Albany	2006	Castleton Public Library Guiderland Public Library
2002	Patricia Carlson, Brunswick Lester Warren, WK Sanford	2007	Albany Public Library
2003	Ellen Bach, Albany Monica Shupe, Berlin	2008	WK Sanford Town Library Berne Public Library
2004	Susan Zweig, Nassau	2009	WK Sanford Town Library Voorheesville Public Library <i>Honorable Mention:</i> Albany Public Library
2005	No Award presented	2010	Albany Public Library Berne Public Library
2006	David Brown, Albany Francis Hamblin, Nassau	2011	Rensselaerville Library
2007	Anthony Beverly, Stephentown		
2008	Robert E. Ganz, Guiderland		
2009	Mary Muller, Troy		
2010	Julie Dessloch, RCS Tobi Freebern, Rensselaer		
2011	M. Mary Kinnaird, Berne Anthony Kossman, Altamont		

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

1993	Sand Lake Town Library Voorheesville Public Library
1994	Guiderland Public Library <i>Honorable Mention:</i> Berlin Public Library East Greenbush 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
2010	Matthew Graff, Berne The Friends Group, Poestenkill
2011	Gene Damm, Albany

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

BALANCE SHEET

as of 12/31/11 and 12/31/10

	2011	2010
Cash and other current assets	1,852,432	1,887,547
Buildings and equipment, net	820,650	891,593
Other assets	27,793	25,235
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,700,875</u>	<u>2,804,375</u>
Current liabilities	113,767	99,070
Long-term debt	578,620	597,189
Net assets	2,008,488	2,108,116
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>2,700,875</u>	<u>2,804,375</u>

ACTIVITIES

for years ended 12/31/11 and 12/31/10

State, federal, other government aid	1,661,737	1,184,622
Other revenue	<u>395,543</u>	<u>381,406</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	2,057,280	1,566,028
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>2,156,908</u>	<u>1,534,308</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>(99,628)</u>	<u>31,720</u>

2011 STATISTICAL SUMMARIES - MEMBER LIBRARIES

LOCAL SUPPORT, MATERIALS and PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Library	Population	2010 Local Support	2011 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	95,716	\$6,877,148	\$7,050,586	3%	\$73.66	5
Altamont	1,737	\$82,342	\$82,250	0%	\$47.35	9
Berlin	1,901	\$10,250	\$10,350	1%	\$5.44	28
Berne	2,846	\$11,432	\$11,427	0%	\$4.02	29
Bethlehem	25,965	\$3,640,902	\$3,641,444	0%	\$140.24	1
Brunswick	11,664	\$144,164	\$143,794	0%	\$12.33	24
Castleton	1,619	\$107,500	\$108,325	1%	\$66.91	6
Cohoes	15,521	\$283,267	\$230,806	-19%	\$14.87	21
Colonie	79,258	\$2,245,385	\$2,392,815	7%	\$30.19	12
East Greenbush	15,560	\$1,558,682	\$1,609,057	3%	\$103.41	3
Grafton	1,987	\$28,750	\$28,600	-1%	\$14.39	22
Guilderland	33,475	\$2,852,873	\$3,160,417	11%	\$94.41	4
Hoosick Falls	6,759	\$50,200	\$49,940	-1%	\$7.39	27
Menands	3,383	\$120,607	\$122,807	2%	\$36.30	10
Nassau	4,818	\$109,100	\$108,870	0%	\$22.60	16
North Greenbush	10,805	\$269,781	\$282,980	5%	\$26.19	13
Petersburgh	1,563	\$51,417	\$53,698	4%	\$34.36	11
Poestenkill	4,054	\$53,152	\$52,877	-1%	\$13.04	23
RCS	14,505	\$318,541	\$372,093	17%	\$25.65	14
Rensselaer	7,761	\$97,700	\$93,395	-4%	\$12.03	25
Rensselaerville	1,915	\$45,000	\$45,000	0%	\$23.50	15
Sand Lake	7,987	\$117,758	\$123,271	5%	\$15.43	19
Schaghticoke	676	\$24,700	\$33,515	36%	\$49.58	8
Stephentown	2,873	\$46,075	\$43,825	-5%	\$15.25	20
Troy	49,170	\$893,166	\$835,693	-6%	\$17.00	18
Valley Falls	491	\$28,080	\$27,932	-1%	\$56.89	7
Voorheesville	7,131	\$948,133	\$987,935	4%	\$138.54	2
Watervliet	10,207	\$95,800	\$95,800	0%	\$9.39	26
Westerlo	3,466	\$73,213	\$74,017	1%	\$21.36	17
AVERAGES	14,649	\$730,521	\$754,259	3%	\$39.02	

Library	2010 Total Expenses	2011 Total Expenses	Percent Change Total Expenses	2011 Materials Expenses	Percent Materials of Total \$	Percent Staff of Total \$	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$8,687,708	\$8,431,186	-3%	\$1,085,976	13%	46%	\$11.35	3
Altamont	\$215,595	\$103,429	-52%	\$4,746	2%	71%	\$2.73	17
Berlin	\$52,090	\$57,750	11%	\$4,074	8%	53%	\$2.14	21
Berne	\$15,627	\$15,901	2%	\$4,952	32%	9%	\$1.74	22
Bethlehem	\$3,412,994	\$3,326,955	-3%	\$326,135	10%	77%	\$12.56	1
Brunswick	\$161,509	\$166,717	3%	\$16,657	10%	60%	\$1.43	26
Castleton	\$38,341	\$115,827	202%	\$5,103	13%	86%	\$3.15	16
Cohoes	\$299,497	\$232,872	-22%	\$21,992	7%	70%	\$1.42	27
Colonie	\$2,642,328	\$2,489,726	-6%	\$273,229	10%	78%	\$3.45	14
East Greenbush	\$1,835,253	\$1,564,821	-15%	\$131,468	7%	57%	\$8.45	5
Grafton	\$42,602	\$37,086	-13%	\$2,684	6%	58%	\$1.35	28
Guilderland	\$2,951,395	\$3,429,771	16%	\$364,571	12%	67%	\$10.89	4
Hoosick Falls	\$74,694	\$78,278	5%	\$3,854	5%	70%	\$0.57	29
Menands	\$127,048	\$119,052	-6%	\$26,924	21%	54%	\$7.96	6
Nassau	\$118,049	\$106,683	-10%	\$11,872	10%	60%	\$2.46	18
North Greenbush	\$230,490	\$231,910	1%	\$71,253	31%	54%	\$6.59	9
Petersburgh	\$62,114	\$57,939	-7%	\$9,812	16%	67%	\$6.28	10
Poestenkill	\$74,845	\$72,093	-4%	\$16,267	22%	56%	\$4.01	11
RCS	\$352,004	\$371,189	5%	\$21,685	6%	69%	\$1.50	25
Rensselaer	\$99,983	\$99,486	0%	\$17,185	17%	77%	\$2.21	20
Rensselaerville	\$118,980	\$92,088	-23%	\$7,564	6%	48%	\$3.95	12
Sand Lake	\$149,407	\$140,587	-6%	\$30,889	21%	69%	\$3.87	13
Schaghticoke	\$43,262	\$52,305	21%	\$4,646	11%	19%	\$6.87	8
Stephentown	\$72,016	\$78,308	9%	\$9,287	13%	52%	\$3.23	15
Troy	\$974,093	\$1,020,701	5%	\$77,312	8%	65%	\$1.57	23
Valley Falls	\$34,431	\$32,445	-6%	\$3,675	11%	63%	\$7.48	7
Voorheesville	\$961,229	\$1,033,011	7%	\$87,992	9%	73%	\$12.34	2
Watervliet	\$121,426	\$142,704	18%	\$15,545	13%	34%	\$1.52	24
Westerlo	\$68,879	\$64,501	-6%	\$8,058	12%	68%	\$2.32	19
AVERAGES	\$828,893	\$819,494	-1%	\$91,911	11%	61%	\$4.67	

HOLDINGS and CIRCULATION

Library	Population	2010 Holdings	2011 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2011 Per Capita Holdings	2011 Reference Transactions
Albany	95,716	322,737	334,185	4%	3	147,362
Altamont	1,737	17,458	23,202	33%	13	1,500
Berlin	1,901	11,677	19,273	65%	10	332
Berne	2,846	14,983	22,205	48%	8	520
Bethlehem	25,965	130,938	134,519	3%	5	78,107
Brunswick	11,664	10,769	17,652	64%	2	4,427
Castleton	1,619	19,211	26,308	37%	16	2,340
Cohoes	15,521	50,041	54,859	10%	4	2,080
Colonie	79,258	216,592	226,690	5%	3	42,516
East Greenbush	15,560	94,481	106,306	13%	7	36,098
Grafton	1,987	12,568	19,700	57%	10	423
Guiderland	33,475	194,029	194,988	0%	6	50,198
Hoosick Falls	6,759	17,441	24,768	42%	4	297
Menands	3,383	15,133	22,629	50%	7	368
Nassau	4,818	26,255	33,047	26%	7	580
North Greenbush	10,805	54,763	65,578	20%	6	6,200
Petersburgh	1,563	23,202	31,197	34%	20	820
Poestenkill	4,054	14,510	21,336	47%	5	871
RCS	14,505	26,566	32,703	23%	2	5,717
Rensselaer	7,761	19,938	28,283	42%	4	10,302
Rensselaerville	1,915	12,426	21,978	77%	11	968
Sand Lake	7,987	31,023	39,073	26%	5	2,288
Schaghticoke	676	8,497	15,850	87%	23	282
Stephentown	2,873	14,207	21,892	54%	8	4,268
Troy	49,170	371,556	359,344	-3%	7	28,949
Valley Falls	491	10,248	17,941	75%	37	489
Voorheesville	7,131	43,343	49,768	15%	7	11,456
Watervliet	10,207	16,932	24,009	42%	2	5,552
Westerlo	3,466	12,796	20,413	60%	6	449
AVERAGES	14,649	62,563	69,300	11%	9	15,371

Library	Population	Annual Hours Open	2010 Circulation	2011 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	95,716	3,402	1,323,552	1,331,578	1%	14
Altamont	1,737	2,932	34,748	29,516	-15%	17
Berlin	1,901	1,120	9,122	11,059	21%	6
Berne	2,846	1,300	13,574	13,464	-1%	5
Bethlehem	25,965	3,692	768,141	769,106	0%	30
Brunswick	11,664	2,184	44,369	38,191	-14%	3
Castleton	1,619	2,392	20,806	20,777	0%	13
Cohoes	15,521	2,428	46,837	42,587	-9%	3
Colonie	79,258	3,550	729,953	700,398	-4%	9
East Greenbush	15,560	3,383	438,571	425,717	-3%	27
Grafton	1,987	1,144	29,164	26,364	-10%	13
Guiderland	33,475	3,400	596,630	640,253	7%	19
Hoosick Falls	6,759	1,976	23,089	21,629	-6%	3
Menands	3,383	1,534	41,311	41,760	1%	12
Nassau	4,818	1,820	30,614	28,743	-6%	6
North Greenbush	10,805	2,440	104,118	104,827	1%	10
Petersburgh	1,563	1,144	35,313	22,627	-36%	14
Poestenkill	4,054	1,638	23,746	24,053	1%	6
RCS	14,505	2,868	53,050	51,005	-4%	4
Rensselaer	7,761	2,244	19,678	20,761	6%	3
Rensselaerville	1,915	1,456	11,018	10,747	-2%	6
Sand Lake	7,987	2,487	49,153	44,997	-8%	6
Schaghticoke	676	1,404	14,061	13,211	-6%	20
Stephentown	2,873	1,872	20,673	20,647	0%	7
Troy	49,170	3,120	222,392	278,453	25%	6
Valley Falls	491	1,352	12,596	10,396	-17%	21
Voorheesville	7,131	3,164	125,741	128,006	2%	18
Watervliet	10,207	1,996	29,141	35,418	22%	3
Westerlo	3,466	1,508	15,997	17,268	8%	5
AVERAGES	14,649	2,240	168,523	169,778	1%	

BORROWERS, INTERNET USE and PROGRAMS

Library	Population	2010	2011	2011	Internet Filtering	# Public Internet Terminals	# Users of Public Terminals	Total Annual Attendance
		Resident Borrowers	Resident Borrowers	Non-Resident Borrowers				
Albany	95,716	91,670	92,453	587	No	127	205,393	1,120,522
Altamont	1,737	1,673	1,157	389	Yes	5	4,300	17,000
Berlin	1,901	997	792	119	No	4	2,925	6,252
Berne	2,846	761	799	249	No	5	2,335	8,015
Bethlehem	25,965	19,723	20,017	38	No	28	55,291	363,517
Brunswick	11,664	2,284	2,442	758	No	4	4,931	18,067
Castleton	1,619	699	596	805	Yes	3	2,198	10,608
Cohoes	15,521	7,152	3,811	25	No	10	9,350	34,320
Colonie	79,258	45,108	37,013	6,348	Yes	23	51,151	322,817
East Greenbush	15,560	10,149	10,847	6,409	No	21	41,252	228,146
Grafton	1,987	843	845	94	No	3	780	7,274
Guiderland	33,475	22,631	22,172	6,453	Yes	40	32,177	326,444
Hoosick Falls	6,759	2,472	2,072	41	No	2	700	10,265
Menands	3,383	1,044	929	172	No	2	2,425	16,660
Nassau	4,818	1,219	1,040	602	No	2	2,388	12,015
North Greenbush	10,805	2,809	3,734	1,975	No	2	900	46,550
Petersburgh	1,563	925	939	112	Yes	4	1,347	7,280
Poestenkill	4,054	1,477	1,131	193	No	3	1,446	12,452
RCS	14,505	3,819	3,981	459	No	5	10,772	43,004
Rensselaer	7,761	3,232	3,429	7	No	9	15,543	25,220
Rensselaerville	1,915	545	600	2	No	6	1,547	6,254
Sand Lake	7,987	4,029	3,197	1,074	Yes	6	3,425	21,856
Schaghticoke	676	215	159	762	No	3	959	6,516
Stephentown	2,873	1,029	931	60	No	8	5,304	13,503
Troy	49,170	19,887	17,531	3,580	No	26	41,117	93,995
Valley Falls	491	680	677	6	No	3	1,297	7,198
Voorheesville	7,131	5,169	5,359	519	No	6	8,102	71,318
Watervliet	10,207	4,762	3,407	574	No	14	5,781	41,051
Westerlo	3,466	953	736	176	No	2	762	8,826
AVERAGES	14,649	8,895	8,372	1,124		13	17,790	100,239

Library	Adult		Young Adult		Childrens		Other	
	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance
Albany	511	8,581	180	1,383	852	19,705	1,200	8,598
Altamont	40	500	15	150	290	3,000	0	0
Berlin	15	226	2	4	22	202	0	0
Berne	34	342	8	56	98	1,519	5	182
Bethlehem	142	3,481	125	2,591	687	15,170	1	92
Brunswick	88	519	1	16	57	1,132	0	0
Castleton	8	28	13	81	94	655	3	115
Cohoes	40	230	5	0	10	191	4	8
Colonie	339	8,112	103	1,000	437	15,556	0	0
East Greenbush	210	3,286	82	1,916	278	10,155	220	4,310
Grafton	21	197	0	0	40	475	3	21
Guiderland	343	6,254	28	440	444	14,369	22	1,594
Hoosick Falls	98	732	0	0	42	670	0	0
Menands	26	107	20	80	40	277	0	0
Nassau	20	178	5	35	89	1,285	22	476
North Greenbush	13	157	1	30	49	730	0	0
Petersburgh	16	124	4	25	47	566	0	0
Poestenkill	22	222	1	37	63	1,170	0	0
RCS	12	15	33	159	240	866	11	80
Rensselaer	13	260	6	66	44	984	0	0
Rensselaerville	98	1,153	13	41	27	153	0	0
Sand Lake	34	310	3	17	79	1,571	1	129
Schaghticoke	14	251	0	0	34	301	2	0
Stephentown	90	636	132	685	117	1,417	3	52
Troy	255	1,608	145	1,523	270	4,762	0	0
Valley Falls	0	0	0	0	27	552	0	0
Voorheesville	113	1,441	50	839	234	5,738	30	1,316
Watervliet	62	1,109	45	639	160	3,424	0	0
Westerlo	9	57	4	36	43	282	0	0
AVERAGES	93	1,383	35	409	169	3,685	53	585

INTERLIBRARY LOAN, ACCESS and POLICIES

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Albany	98,533	102,279	101,348	106,554
Altamont	9,974	8,549	8,188	6,807
Berlin	3,312	4,092	3,220	3,097
Berne	4,784	5,055	4,298	4,624
Bethlehem	79,777	81,147	62,341	64,005
Brunswick	14,057	12,821	4,221	4,293
Castleton	7,042	6,733	7,194	6,678
Cohoes	7,742	7,166	6,874	5,991
Colonie	80,840	76,171	73,193	72,128
East Greenbush	54,750	51,855	45,951	42,405
Grafton	6,599	5,835	5,574	5,965
Guilderland	59,891	63,923	95,788	92,326
Hoosick Falls	8,839	7,315	4,305	4,275
Menands	7,987	5,451	5,296	8,242
Nassau	10,807	12,002	8,012	8,139
North Greenbush	14,456	14,855	13,663	14,443
Petersburgh	5,702	4,920	8,928	9,147
Poestenkill	4,621	4,048	8,105	7,407
RCS	10,666	10,312	6,640	5,743
Rensselaer	6,529	5,957	3,752	4,126
Rensselaerville	3,503	2,917	4,465	5,629
Sand Lake	13,916	12,090	11,460	11,100
Schaghticoke	5,798	4,202	1,946	2,083
Stephentown	5,100	5,610	4,274	4,775
Troy	40,097	46,713	31,284	34,754
Valley Falls	5,930	4,391	3,225	3,278
Voorheesville	15,888	18,903	27,164	25,621
Watervliet	8,971	8,716	4,834	3,933
Westerlo	4,369	5,650	3,260	4,575
AVERAGES	20,706	20,679	19,614	19,729

Library	Provide Services to Homebound	Open Meeting Policy	Disaster Policy	Confidentiality Policy
Albany	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Altamont	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Berlin	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Berne	No	Yes	No	Yes
Bethlehem	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brunswick	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Castleton	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Cohoes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Colonie	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	Yes	Yes
Rensselaer	No	Yes	No	Yes
Rensselaerville	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Sand Lake	No	Yes	No	Yes
Schaghticoke	No	Yes	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	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

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