



UPPER HUDSON
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

2012 Annual Report

Copies of this report are available at: www.uhls.org

2012 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT:	Mary Muller	
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Philip Erlich	
TREASURER:	MaryAlice Molgard	
SECRETARY:	James Reilly	
	Rosemary Armao	Brian Hartson
	Judy Brown	Janet Ivory
	Evelyn Butrico	Lou Anne Lundgren
	Daniel Curtis	Jeremy Martelle
	Ronald Ginsburg	Tara Ricard

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Muller

2012 was a busy year for the Upper Hudson Library System. Even though we had a 45% turnover in our Board membership, we were still able to accomplish several big projects. During the course of the year, we said "adieu" to the following trustees: Erin Apostol, William Colgan, Yolanda Caldwell, Anne Kuthy and Celeste Steinke. Erin had served as the representative from the Albany Public Library since 2001. She was also the Board representative to the Outreach Advisory Council and chaired the Services Committee for many years. We were sorry to lose her expertise and appreciate all of her hard work for more than a decade.

We welcomed new trustees Rosemary Armao, Judy Brown, Daniel Curtis, Jeremy Martelle and Tara Ricard and put them immediately to work. One of the most important projects was the development and acceptance of a new Plan of Service, which also included a new Mission Statement and Free Direct Access Plan. Work began on this early in the year with several focus meetings guided by an outside facilitator. The finished Plan of Service was accepted by the Board in September.

As usual, our Board Committees handled the bulk of the detail work during the year, bringing their recommendations to the full Board for discussion and decisions.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chair: James Reilly

Rosemary Armao, Yolanda Caldwell, Philip Erlich, Anne Kuthy, Jeremy Martelle, Julie Zelman

The Administration Committee met four times in 2012 and managed to fit in a lot of work. The Committee oversaw the plans for the Annual Dinner, which featured a special dessert reception at the newly-opened Altamont Free Library. The reception was very popular and almost all of the people at the dinner at the Albany Country Club willingly drove over to admire the new Library. The cost of the Annual Dinner was subsidized through a generous grant from NBT Bank.

In 2011, the Committee approved the submission of a NYS Construction Grant for a new roof on the UHLS building. The grant was accepted by the State and the roofing project took place in the Fall of 2012. The 17 year-old roof was removed, along with several other layers, and new insulation and a new roof laid down.

Late in the year, the Committee heard a report regarding the feasibility and desirability of using solar energy. Following extensive investigation and discussion, it was decided to enter into an agreement with New York Light Energy for the installation of a solar array. The array will produce approximately 25% of the electricity needed for the building at a projected savings of \$4,000 per year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: MaryAlice Molgard

Evelyn Butrico, William Colgan, Ron Ginsburg, Janet Ivory, Tara Ricard

The Finance Committee met monthly and kept a close eye on income and expenses - especially in light of the projects happening in the building. The acceptance of the Construction Grant application by the State required matching funds from UHLS. The Finance Committee recommended the use of funds that had been set aside specifically for building purposes. Through the use of those funds, UHLS was able to meet its 50% match and obtain the grant for the new roof. In addition to the costs for the new roof, a complete HVAC upgrade was proposed. Fortunately, a portion of the costs for the \$15,000 upgrade was eligible for funding under the Construction grant.

SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairs: Erin Apostol, LouAnne Lundgren

Judy Brown, Daniel Curtis, Brian Hartson, Richard Naylor, Celeste Steinke

The Services Committee had three major jobs during the year: creating the UHLS Mission Statement which was a required part of the Plan of Service, recommending the approval of a new Free Direct Access Plan, and revising the UHLS guidelines to be used in determining what libraries will qualify for the 75% Construction Grant match. The Mission Statement was created in one intensive brainstorming session. The Construction Grant guidelines required several meetings to develop an equitable and understandable framework. The discussion of the Free Direct Access Plan was carried over into 2013.

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.

2012 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

If I were to choose a theme for 2012 within the Upper Hudson Library System, it would be something like “charting the course.” The System staff and the member libraries put a great deal of creative energy into the process of developing our new Plan of Service. The new plan will serve as a roadmap for UHLS as we move forward, but the real strength of the Plan of Service process was the input gathered from the member library staff and trustees and the UHLS staff and trustees. This feedback was vital in helping us create the Plan, but it also resulted in the establishment of a series of service themes which will be “core values” for UHLS:

- **Encourage resource sharing** to help member libraries improve and expand library service.
- **Foster interdependence** among the member libraries to help them offer maximum resource and service levels to library users.
- **Support technology** and promote innovation to help member libraries provide progressive programs and services.
- **Inspire excellence** in library service through continuing education and training for member library staff and trustees.
- **Connect member libraries** to each other and to UHLS through effective and efficient communication strategies.
- **Provide leadership** to effectively communicate the value of public libraries to elected officials and local communities.

UHLS also adopted a new mission statement for the organization as part of the Plan of Service process. The new mission statement is a very clear, yet elegant description of what we are all about:

We strengthen the public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, providing essential services to connect people and information.

As a result of all of our collective planning efforts over the last year, UHLS has indeed “charted a course” that will ensure that we continue to provide the essential support necessary to help the member libraries provide the best possible services and programs to their communities.

Every day I enjoy working with the talented, resourceful and dedicated staff at UHLS. The Department reports that follow detail the accomplishments and initiatives in each major functional area in 2012.

Automation Services

Joe Thornton

Along with the Automation Department's everyday responsibilities supporting servers, training, 24x7 helpdesk, UHLS website, networking, desktop repair, library websites, cataloging, Riverway website, online databases, system backups, reports, three advisory councils, and email (including mailing lists) – in 2012 we also accomplished the following: our system processed more than 4,000,000 loans and 600,000 requests, and added 41,956 bibliographic records and 149,934 items. We sent out 475,741 hold and overdue notices: 19,150 in print, 133,950 by automated phone calls, and 322,641 by email. We also sent 70,811 email notices to warn patrons that their holds were about to expire, and 357,978 email courtesy notices to remind borrowers that their loans were due in two days. We sent 14,195 email courtesy reminders to patrons whose accounts were set to expire in two weeks.

In an on-going effort to maintain the quality and usability of the UHLS catalog, we sent our entire bibliographic database to LTI for authority control processing in the Spring. We were also pleased to be able to switch from OCLC to TLC's *eBiblioFile* service as our supplier of MARC records for Overdrive titles. OCLC charged us \$1.50/record and TLC charges \$1.00. At the current level of OverDrive purchases we'll save more than \$3,000 a year, and obviously more as our use of OverDrive increases. In order to improve the UHLS catalog experience for both users and staff, we experimented with two new searching tools developed by SirsiDynix and found them wanting at this time. We're monitoring their progress and will use them when we determine that they are usable. The first was *BookMyne*, their free mobile client for Horizon, which worked very well on iPhones but hardly at all on Android phones. The other was the *SirsiDynix Social Library*, a Facebook application that enabled patrons to search the catalog and place holds on items without leaving their Facebook pages. We determined that this product was too expensive for the little value it added to the user experience.

We continued supporting the activities and projects of our member libraries in any way that we can. In response to numerous requests for help getting special messages out to library users, we developed a method to send HTML messages (with images, links, formatting, etc.) directly from our Horizon server. Using this method we sent mass mailings to thousands of individual member library patrons to publicize library events, voting initiatives, and system problems. Specialized assistance for libraries is also available - from providing use statistics to Albany Public Library to assist their marketing study with the consultant firm Orange Boy, to helping East Greenbush update their OCLC holdings records, to working side by side with the staff at the Altamont Free Library on their newly renovated building. The UHLS Automation team does what is needed to help each library to provide the highest quality library service possible.

Outreach and Adult Services

Jo-Ann Benedetti

This year has been a big growth year for downloadable books! UHLS has had downloadable content since January, 2006, but this year has seen vast growth in their usage. Throughout the year, I taught hundreds of library staff and patrons how to use and enjoy downloadable books on their Kindles, Nooks, iPods and other devices. In August of this year, UHLS arranged for a “Digital Bookmobile” to visit two of our member libraries: William K. Sanford Town Library in Colonie and East Greenbush Community Library. These visits received significant media coverage and hundreds of people visited the bookmobile to learn about digital e-books, audiobooks and more.

This increased e-content usage necessitated an enhanced focus on this collection. In 2012, the Directors Association created a permanent e-content advisory committee in order to facilitate System-wide focus on e-content issues. Because our member libraries see the importance of contributing to the collection, we are now able to boast a collection of over 16,000 items. Our collection grew 85% in just one year, and circulation of electronic content increased 107% in one year! By the end of 2012, UHLS was circulating about 12,000 e-books and audiobooks each month. This is particularly noteworthy at a time when the six largest book publishers (Macmillan, HarperCollins, Penguin, Simon and Schuster, Random House, and Hachette) are increasingly restricting library access to e-books.

Our Coordinated Outreach mini-grant program was able to help five of our libraries serve teens, learning disabled students, seniors and the unemployed. Each library that was awarded funds found creative ways to provide library services to these populations, including skateboarding contests, electronic books and one-on-one tutoring.

Interlibrary Loan continues at a steady pace. We facilitated the borrowing of approximately 2,300 items on behalf of our patrons and lent an equal number to out-of-System libraries each of the past three years. This ensures that our patrons have access to the materials that serve their informational needs, regardless of where the materials are housed. Due to reduced funding, we have had to make some tough choices about what materials we are able to send out of the immediate area.

Our delivery volume showed a slight downward trend this year. In 2012 we delivered about 1.4 million books System-wide which is about 100,000 fewer books than 2011. This may well be because of the increased use of e-content and perhaps also because of the reduced number of delivery days (12 holidays and weather-related delays) in the last year.

Youth and Family Services

Mary Fellows

The variety of work is one of the most fun aspects of being a System Youth Services Manager. As usual, 2012 offered interesting opportunities and excellent challenges.

The administration and management of grant programs significantly shaped Youth Services this year. **Comics Connect: Using Graphic Novels to Boost Reading**, is a collaborative project with Mohawk Valley Library System spanning two years. The grant pairs member libraries with partner schools to educate teachers and parents about the educational value of comics, and to offer programs and books to interest kids (especially boys) in reading comics. This grant included training, money for materials, presentations to parent-teacher organizations, assembling teaching/programming kits for schools and libraries, and funding for programming. The grant continues through June 2013. **Beyond Storytime: Positioning Libraries As Early Literacy Centers** is another grant that offered libraries multiple opportunities to improve their services. This project included training on early literacy principles through workshops, screencasts, and observation. Money for early literacy supplies and mileage reimbursement made participation by libraries especially worthwhile. **Best Practices Challenge** offered member libraries the opportunity to “earn” funds for programming by completing activities related to marketing, inclusiveness, and cooperation with their local schools throughout Summer Reading Program season. Finally, a fourth grant involved planning for future museum-library collaborations and is ongoing. **Traveling History Exhibits/Programs for Young Learners and Their Families** is a planning grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). UHLS was asked to participate, and provide expertise in how libraries deliver early literacy services. An unexpected invitation this year led to a terrific opportunity to increase UHLS expertise in grant writing. Our federal library agency, IMLS, invited me to be a grant reviewer for a national project. Reading, judging, and discussing these complex grants has had a valuable impact on my own grant writing and reviewing skills.

UHLS coordinated another activity-filled Summer Reading Program at the member libraries, providing ideas, expertise, and supplies and facilitating use of online registration software. Final statistics from 2012 show a significant increase in participation over 2011. Both participation by kids and teens and amount read by both groups was up. Teen reading increased a whopping 30% over 2011. The effectiveness of Youth Services staff in our member libraries is top-notch, and they deserve commendation for their hard work and creativity.

The ten-year run of Riverway Storytelling Festival ended on April 21 with our last Laughin’ Night concert. Total attendance was 1,008, spread over 16 events. The decision to sunset this successful project was made after thorough analysis and respectful deliberation. For more on Riverway’s impact, see “In Celebration: Ten Years of Riverway Storytelling Festival” later in the annual report.

In addition to the items mentioned above, our many ongoing activities shaped our year. We held five Youth Services Advisory Council meetings, plus multiple

teen services discussions, small library concerns discussion groups, and large library concerns discussion groups. Several new directors joined UHLS libraries in 2012, and with Jo-Ann and Tim, I helped orient them to UHLS opportunities. We held five CORE trustee training sessions with local library trustees in 2012, and presented a staff development day training at Bethlehem. I also co-presented an early literacy workshop for Pioneer Library System.

Advocacy activities this year included representing libraries and Youth Services at the national Library Advocacy Day in Washington DC, as well as representing Youth Services in meetings with State legislators here in New York. Additionally, I spearheaded System Youth Services input for the New York State Vision 2020 plan.

Diane Riganti participated in most of the projects detailed above, and was an excellent partner, contributing innovative ideas, organizing help, and plenty of old-fashioned elbow grease. Diane also handles interlibrary loan, assists with rotating collections, and cheerfully accomplishes the many other tasks that come her way in a small organization.

In June, I finished my term as president of the Association for Library Services to Children, the children's services division of ALA. This was an experience that deepened my skills in many, many areas. Particular highlights of the presidency included announcing the Newbery and Caldecott awards at the webcast press conference, and presiding over the huge, celebratory awards banquet. Of greatest impact, though, was my connection with hundreds of Youth Services colleagues. Their efforts to create a better future for children through libraries left me awed and humbled, and provided immense inspiration and practical help for my work with our UHLS libraries. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our profession through this position and for Upper Hudson's positive support during my service.

In Celebration: Ten Years of Riverway Storytelling Festival

Brief history:

Riverway Storytelling Festival began in November 2001, when Mary Fellows and Betsy Soares met to brainstorm possible collaborations between Upper Hudson Library System and Albany Public Library. Out of this meeting came an idea for a community storytelling festival centered around public libraries. The first Riverway took place in April 2003.

Riverway Storytelling Festival grew to become a respected regional storytelling festival offering storytelling concerts, workshops, story swaps, and showcases that promoted public libraries and introduced and advanced the art of storytelling to thousands of people of all ages.

By the numbers (over ten years):

- 14,334 attendance
- 28 of 29 UHLS libraries involved as sites
- 56 corporate/organizational relationships developed
- \$246,087 in cash and in-kind services raised, UHLS funds/in-kind not included (\$120,740 cash)
- 234 events
- 28 schools involved

Tricky moments:

The first Riverway happened during the worst Capital Region ice storm in years. The ice began falling the night Riverway began, and stopped the same day as the Festival. Our challenges included deciding whether to cancel a performance (we did), media that announced the whole festival cancelled (it wasn't), performers who couldn't travel to perform (others filled in), and a hearty but small audience (on whose ticket fees we were depending). We lost money that first year – but it was the only year we ever did, and the challenges we met taught us how to put on a storytelling festival.

Wonderful moments:

- Hearing about kids and parents retelling stories heard at the Festival, then sharing their own family stories.
- Enjoying the positive comments of attendees visiting a UHLS library for the first time.
- Reading the dozens of appreciative, enthusiastic, and often touching testimonials from listeners about their Riverway experiences.
- Greeting and getting to know the fans who came every year.
- Watching the ripple effects of “Laughing Boy”: a young boy whose frequent peals of delighted giggles added even more humor to 2010's Laughin' Night for the mostly adult audience.

Lasting impact:

- New users of UHLS libraries
- Renewed public appreciation for the role of libraries in building community and preserving history
- More effective use of stories in library programming
- Strengthened connections between libraries and community partners
- New UHLS partnerships that are benefitting UHLS libraries beyond Riverway
- Skill development in UHLS and member library staff
- Self-confidence, skill building, and connection for dozens of student and adult tellers
- Values that improve our society (such as tolerance and empathy) developed or reinforced in thousands of kids and adults



In Celebration: Ten Years of Riverway Storytelling Festival

A smattering of performers through the years





Where Stories Come Alive!

In Celebration: Ten Years of Riverway Storytelling Festival

Story listeners, all shapes, sizes, and ages



MEMBER LIBRARIES

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

DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Sue Hoadley, President

The Directors Association (DA) membership consists of all of the Directors of the 29 libraries in the Upper Hudson Library System. The DA holds monthly or bi-monthly meetings in which Directors learn about programs under consideration by the UHLS staff as well as hearing reports from the DA representatives on the UHLS Board Committees. 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 2012, the DA met ten times. It was through these meetings that the Directors expressed their needs and concerns to UHLS since the Executive Director, Timothy Burke, and/or UHLS Managers attended all DA meetings. At each meeting, the Executive Director gave an update on UHLS programs. Following the report a free and lively exchange of opinions, advice and suggestions took place.

Two primary topics of discussion threaded throughout the year: the creation of a new UHLS Plan of Service and e-content materials. The Plan of Service was developed through a series of focus meetings guided by an outside consultant. She presented reports to the DA following these meetings. The DA accepted the final document at the September meeting. The ad-hoc e-Content Development Committee recommended the creation of a permanent 7-member e-Content Advisory Committee. This was accepted and the Committee began meeting on a regular basis to help libraries in the selection of materials.

We saw another year of changes in the leadership of several of the member libraries: Stephanie Preston became the Director at Grafton, and Jessica Lewis at Schaghticoke,

The DA provides a forum for open discussion of any issues. It is the venue through which creative ideas and creative solutions can be exchanged. Attendance at the meetings is entirely voluntary but in 2012, attendance averaged 21 libraries represented. Greater participation goes to ensure that the System is aware of the concerns of the member libraries, is responsive and that there is a general sense of shared decision-making.

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Holly McKenna, Board President
Carol Nersinger, Executive Director

2012 at Albany Public Library can best be described as a maintenance year. Usage patterns stabilized at the seven locations, after a massive expansion that ended in the middle of 2010. Customers and staff settled into a flow that is unique to each neighborhood location. Taxpayers signaled their support of APL by approving next year's budget by a healthy margin. Overall, the Library continued delivering quality services, programs, and resources to the people of Albany and surrounding communities.

In 2012, Albany Public Library:

- Circulated close to 1.3 million items
- Recorded more than 1.1 million customer visits
- Had almost 210,000 public computer uses
- Answered just under 140,000 reference queries
- Issued almost 8,000 new library cards
- Hosted close to 4,500 programs (3,200 library programs and another 1,200 for community organizations)

These impressive statistics demonstrate the important role that the Library plays in Albany and in the UHLS service area.

Albany Public Library continued its tradition of beneficial programming and resources. The Working Knowledge Public Computing Center, launched the previous year, continued to provide workshops and one-on-one assistance with job searches and computer skills. The free income tax preparation program grew and saw more than 1,300 people get their taxes prepared for free at the Main Library, resulting in more than \$1.7 million back to them in returns. APL's partnership with Literacy NY expanded and the organization now runs a satellite office in the Main Library. Large-scale family events—including the annual SummerFest outdoor fair for the Summer Reading Program, Halloween in the Hills dance party, Raising a Reader baby shower, and Roll into Reading roller skating party—together attracted thousands of children and their families and showed them the breadth of what is available for them at the library. In an effort to meet customers where they are, the Library expanded into the digital realm with a free mobile application that gives users 24/7 access to many APL services and resources.

For Albany Public Library, 2012 was a year of continuing to operate an expanded library system and delivering quality programs and services. The staff, administration, and board at APL are committed to educating, entertaining, and empowering the Albany community.

ALTAMONT FREE LIBRARY

Anthony Kossman, Board President
Judith Wines, Director

In 2012, the Altamont Free Library moved into the restored Altamont Train Station. As 2012 began, the momentum gained from the loss of our home in KeyBank due to Tropical storm Irene was in full swing. The Library moved rapidly to complete the renovations. A combination of volunteer labor and contractors worked together to have the building ready to open by June 2nd.



Anthony "Tony" Kossman



Monthly potluck at the Library

The Library prepared to leave its temporary home in the Masonic temple by closing for two hours every afternoon in April, and then closing permanently on May 8th. Staff time was entirely directed towards opening the Station and with the help of many volunteers, the shelves were installed, the books moved in and the building was prepared. Our grand opening on June 2nd drew about 200 people. From June through the end of the year, the Library resumed its regular array of programs and services and noticed a sharp spike in attendance and circulation, owing to its more visible, accessible location. Following our opening, the Library re-engaged with the community with programs such as community hikes, a couch to 5k running program, summer concert series, a monthly eat-around-the-world potluck and an array of other programs. The community has embraced the new space and the Library, now in its 10th location in the Village of Altamont, deeply appreciates the support.

BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Nancy Lendrum, Board President
Judy Petrosillo, Library Manager

Fifty years ago, the library in Berne was established. We acknowledged our Golden Anniversary with an Open House where we celebrated the history of the library while we examined our future possibilities. The event took place at the decommissioned Catholic Church that was purchased in 2011 for the new Berne Public Library.



Celebrating the Golden Anniversary

Much of our time was spent preparing for the move to our new location. The building committee worked diligently on the library design and renovation details before forwarding the plans to the architects. The staff and volunteers made progress on the clean-up of our collection. In anticipation of the move, we established a YA fiction and nonfiction category for the future teen section of the library. Picture books were categorized for the switch to face-out book cases and the non-fiction books were checked for accurate information.

While preparing for the future, we continued to provide services and programs to the community. We saw a 5% increase in the number of borrowers and a 12% increase in circulation. For the first time, we were a net loaner in UHLS. Due to our participation in the *Comics Connect* grant, the children had access to an expanded graphic novel collection.

We increased our programs by 9% to 158 programs in 2012. For the adults, Jodi Ebel ran monthly book talks, *Knit Wits* for those who knit or crochet, and game nights for playing board games. Special programs included an e-books workshop and a very successful *Buying and Selling on Ebay Program*. Our adult Summer Reading Program (SRP) included a Spa Night with wonderful massages.

Kathy Stempel is the innovator for our Youth Services. We hosted a ghost hunt and game nights for the teens. Middle readers enjoyed our monthly Lego League and the Summer Reading Program (SRP). The pre-school children participated in weekly story times which incorporated many new ideas from the Early Literacy Grant workshops. Family activities included movie nights, a SRP kickoff with Regi Carpenter, Star Watch with the Dudley Observatory, Music in the Park concerts, a program at the Thatcher Park Nature Center, Halloween costume runway, a float in the Memorial Day Parade, and participation in the Holiday Parade. In addition to our programs, we helped girls in three different scout troops earn their library badges.

With an anticipated move to our larger building, we hope to have an even more successful 2013.

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

John McCarthy, Board President (July 2012 - current)

Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director

Another whirlwind year is on the books, encompassing the new and the tried-and-true. Armchair travels took us to Iceland with longtime Bethlehem resident Richard Hartnett and his son Jeremy, and to Utah with Slingerlands resident and avid mountain hiker Alan Via. We also took a slide-show tour of Capital District diners with author Michael Engle, and learned about the history—and prehistory!—of the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.

Our winter concert series *A Little Sunday Music* featured the Copernicus Duo, the Adirondack Baroque Consort, soprano Jean Leonard and mezzo Katherine Schimmer. Summer fare on the library Green was a music salad that included The All Paul Show—a Paul McCartney tribute band—and the rollicking Irish music of Who's Your Paddy. Our *Listening Parties* series saw its third year of congenial exploration of recorded jazz classics.

In May, our library was the first of only five sites in the State to host “Summer Reading at New York Libraries.” State and local officials came and clearly voiced their support for the empowerment, joy, and cultural richness that reading provides individuals and communities throughout New York. Our own Summer Reading kickoff event followed, with Andy Morse the Music Man regaling a capacity crowd.

Also in May, we partnered with the Albany Institute of History and Art to host “GE Presents: the Mystery of the Albany Mummies,” a preview of the restoration of that famous exhibit slated to open in 2013.

Writers and Friends, a book talk series underwritten by our library Friends, was expanded this year to include performances for children and teens. *Kids and Friends* launched in the summer with performances by magician Jim Snack for kids, an introduction to improv for teens, and the zany Zucchini Brothers for families. We are grateful to the Friends for their generosity.

Our meeting rooms continue to be booked year-round by community groups; more than 400 public meetings were held at the library this year over and above library programming. To help meet this need, we re-purposed an underused local history reading room to accommodate small group meetings of 4-8 people.

“Tech Tuesdays,” launched in September, was popular enough to require appointments—which we initiated two months later. Patrons began signing up for a half-hour of one-on-one coaching in a variety of electronic devices and social media. As our patrons’ interest in ebooks and e-readers grew, we met the challenge, offering more choices, providing hands-on help, and initiating an experimental e-reader loan program.

Other technological service expansions included in-house laptop loans and adding text messaging to the ways folks can get in touch with us.

As another busy year came to a close, we began planning for our Centennial in 2013. We approach this milestone with great respect for the community that has supported and valued their library these many years.



Bethlehem Public Library Director Geoffrey Kirkpatrick greets a distinguished panel at the SRP opening (l. to r.): UHLS Executive Director Timothy Burke, Bethlehem Town Supervisor John Clarkson, Bethlehem Central School District Superintendent Thomas Douglas, NYS Representative Steven McLaughlin, NYS Senator Neil Breslin, and NYS Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education Jeffrey Cannell

BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Judith Brown, Board President

Julie Zelman, Director

- We circulated **37,949 items**, including books, magazines, audio books on CD and tape, movies on tape and DVD, music CDs, and large print books. We registered **453 new patrons** this year.
- We logged **4,047 sessions** on our public computers. Wi-fi Internet connection is available during library hours.
- We are seeing more and more use of digital material. We circulated 1,738 eBooks, up from 465 in 2011, an increase of 374%.
- We added the **Freegal** music downloading service for our patrons. This allows cardholders to download three songs per week. Use of this service has grown steadily.
- We are now sending out a monthly newsletter via email, and are posting additions to our collections to a Pinterest page, and continuing our social media presence on Facebook, and Twitter.
- We supplied passes for free or reduced admission to three museums: the Berkshire Museum, the Clark Art Institute, and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.
- The theme for the 2012 Summer Reading Program (SRP) was **Dream Big–Read**. Programs included Fish Prints, Worm Composting, DIY Hair Ornaments, and Habitat Hunters from the Children’s Museum of Science and Technology. **We had 116 youngsters signed up, who reported reading 535 books.** Special thanks to Sara Hawley for facilitating the SRP.
- Our meeting rooms were busy this year, with the introduction of a monthly **Lego Club**, a monthly **Computing Class for Seniors**, as well as our ongoing monthly book discussion group, book and movie group, and weekly knitting get-togethers. We hosted **146 programs with 1,631 participants**.
- Non library use of our meeting space and study room is strong: there were **140 uses** of these areas by groups or individuals, including homeschoolers, tutoring sessions, and community organizations.



SRP participants



Nesting dolls on display

- **We’re brighter!** We installed lights and a glass shelf to our display case, which has seen displays on Worlds’ Fairs, nesting dolls, art, hats, and bells. We added a second light switch, easel, and podium to our meeting room. We now have a motion detector light on the front of the building, enabling patrons to safely use our book drop 24 hours per day.
- **The Friends of the Brunswick Community Library** now hold regular book sales through the year, a Garden Day fundraiser in the spring, and other events. They purchased two handicapped accessible **picnic tables** which we look forward to using in warmer weather.
- We are an Acceptance facility for U.S. Passports, and processed **58 applications** this year. Our convenient hours and child-friendly atmosphere have made this an especially popular service.

CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Geoffrey Flynn, Board President (until October 2012)

Marge Kehrer, Board President

Amy Peker, Director



Castleton Town Hall - home of the Library

103 Years of Service

The Castleton Public Library provides information services to the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson and residents of the Town of Schodack. During 2012, the library provided the community with a greater number of high quality programs than in years past. This sparked a significant increase in the attendance at events as well as an increase in the number of library visitors. The increased activity resulted in greater circulation of materials, particularly the electronic collection. The Director and Board of Trustees recognize that the needs of the community are changing along with the way information is accessed. We promoted our virtual presence and have seen an increase in the number of reference questions and requests we receive through our website and on Facebook. We are constantly adapting to the latest technology and the changing needs of our patrons. This ensures that we provide high quality, accessible and current information to the community.

Library Materials

The Library provides a broad selection of material including books, periodicals, audiobooks, DVDs and downloadable content (i.e. eBooks, audiobooks and videos). The circulation of the total library collection increased 8% over 2011 while eBook circulation increased 40%. With the increased demand for eBooks, the Upper Hudson Library System and member libraries continue to collaborate to offer a diverse digital collection to their patrons. Since 2010, the eContent collection more than doubled and currently has a total of 16,022 electronic titles that are available to Castleton Public Library users.

Library Programs

The Library hosts a number of regularly scheduled programs for families, teens and adults. Four examples of the programs are listed below:

- *Castleton-on-Healthy* is a weekly program where attendees can share knowledge and develop skills to achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- *Monthly Lego Club* offers a safe environment for families to come and build with Legos.
- *Weekly Story Hours* provide families with tools to promote early literacy.
- *Monthly Family Movie Nights* are hosted by the Friends of the Castleton Public Library.

In addition to these programs, the library hosted financial workshops, digital literacy programs, a scrapbooking event, book discussions, and provided space for other community organizations to meet.

Conclusion

Throughout 2012, staff, volunteers and the Trustees worked hard to improve the community's access to information. The Friends of the Library provided significant financial support and connected the Library with dedicated volunteers who were always willing to help serve the community.

COHOES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Deb Thomas, Board President (until May 2012)

Carol Clingan, Board Present (May - current)

Matthew Graff, Director

2012 was a year of progress, challenges, and insight for the Cohoes Public Library. We started with a stable and established Board of Trustees. This stability made it easier to implement a number of new projects to improve and move the Library forward. We finished 2012 with a stronger volunteer presence, better knowledge of the community, a safer, more secure library and a new Mayor.

Cohoes enjoyed an abundance of volunteer support in 2012. From high school students looking to complete their community service obligation, to MLS students, to seniors who enjoy the Library, we benefitted from the generosity of over 10 volunteers. One young man in pursuit of his Eagle Scout rank chose the Library for his community service project. His efforts yielded handsome new end cap signs that inform patrons of the contents of each book shelf.

In 2012 we made an effort to get to know our patrons better. Our Trustees put together a committee to create a survey to gain insight into the interests, likes and dislikes of respondents. The survey was distributed throughout the City of Cohoes and was sent directly to our Friends members. We received roughly 70 responses and were able to piece together some useful data about our patrons as well as those who do not use our Library.

We took advantage of the State building grant and submitted an application for a new boiler unit. Our current unit can charitably be described as antiquated and can barely moderate the Library's environment. We look forward to the approval of our grant and the installation of the unit. We hope that this represents the first step in improving the Library's energy efficiency.

Sadly all was not wine and roses this year. The Library was the victim of numerous break-ins and thefts. This was a trying and stressful period but I am very proud of our staff, board, and city government for the way in which they reacted to make our building safer and more secure. In response to the crimes, we revised many of our opening and closing protocols, installed new locks throughout the building as well as a state-of-the-art alarm system. We deeply regret the thievery but I am very proud of our measured response and the way that this adversity brought us together.

Finally, 2012 ended with Cohoes swearing in a new mayor, George Primeau. Per Mayor Primeau's online bio, "George Primeau is a lifelong resident of Cohoes and has been a Cohoes business owner for 28 years. George has worked closely with the City of Cohoes and has been president of the council for the last five years." This marks a substantial shift in Cohoes governance; Mayor John McDonald had been in office for roughly the last 12 years. The Library continues to enjoy the support of the City.

2012 was a busy and fulfilling year and 2013 seems to be staying true to that form. We look forward to refining our collection, creating a new children's space, applying for another building grant, building stronger and more effective ties with the local schools and providing useful and entertaining programs.

WILLIAM K. SANFORD TOWN LIBRARY (Colonie)

Rosemary Armao, Board President

Richard Naylor, Director

Budget wise 2012 seems to be the culmination of a budget trimming process necessitated by the recession and the turnaround program of the Town. As part of the process five hours per week were cut from our schedule by closing one hour earlier. As the 2013 budget was developed during 2012, I am pleased to write that the new budget represents a return to full material spending.

Overall circulation increased a little from 700,398 to 703,082. As it did last year, children's materials use again showed an increase. And e-book use more than doubled from 9,529 to 20,916. Also, during 2012 we loaned 73,331 items to other libraries and in turn borrowed 70,326.

In our Access Services Department, as seems to be the case at most libraries, our wireless Internet use jumped about 100% to 29,555, while dedicated PC patron Internet use dropped about 10% to 44,850 visits. In addition, staff answered about 20,000 reference questions, notarized hundreds of documents, and helped more patrons than ever with job related questions, as well as digital reader problems.

Our program attendance was up by 9% over 2011. Highlights included a six part philosophy series entitled "What's the Right Thing to Do" based on Harvard professor Michael Sandel's Justice series. Our Noon Book review series continued apace with fifteen talks by local authors, professors, and community leaders. New programs on using Facebook, Excel and eReaders were offered. All in all the library offered 394 programs during the year.

Children's programs were once again awesome with 15,395 patrons attending 445 programs. There were 998 readers in the Summer Reading Program and Youth Services staff partnered with 23 community organizations during the year.



The Friends of the Library were busy with a "Chair-ity" drive to raise money to have library seating re-upholstered, purchase additional laptops for our computer classes, and provide electronic devices such as an iPad for programs. They continued their book sales at the Crossings and helped with the Spelling Bee, a successful first time fundraiser that filled our program room to bursting with enthusiastic spelling teams of all ages – many thanks to UHLS Executive Director Tim Burke for being the master of ceremonies.

The Spelling Bee filled our program room

During 2012 the Library improved its social media efforts. Our Facebook page was enhanced and had over 1,000 likes by the end of the year. An eNews service was developed and provides an easy way to spread the word about programs and services, and a new calendar was installed to provide patrons another way to find programs of interest.

We continued our programs for Colonie TV with over 850 original shows, 147 of which are on the Internet and have already been watched over 3,700 times. The most popular is Attorney Michael McDermott on the Christopher Porco trial.

EAST GREENBUSH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

William Colgan, Board President
Evelyn Butrico, Director

2012 was about making memories and expanding to the outdoors. We said goodbye to VHS and hello to the Playaway View. In the summer Youth Services received a Community Arts grant for “Building Family Memories at the Library.” The four programs that were part of the grant had families dancing, crafting and building stories together. Also new this summer the Library held its first Adult Summer Reading Program, “Between the Covers.” 173 people participated. Many community businesses like Everybody’s Café, My Place and Co., Home Depot and others donated prizes for incentives. Kathy Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive, came for the finale to pull the raffle tickets and award the prizes.

In December the Library started fundraising for its Multipurpose Outdoor Space. A NYS Construction grant was submitted and we began the sale of bricks. As of the publication of this report, we have raised over \$5,000 with the sale of bricks.



Some statistics to note; in 2012 the Library added 7,508 items to the collection including 382 electronic items. 12,768 items were weeded. Reference transactions were up by 4%. Circulation was steady at 426,286 items. Wireless usage was up by 14%. We saw 93% more Overdrive users and had a 6% increase in visits to the Library website.

In November we worked with our community to create our next Plan of Service. In the previous Plan some of the goals we successfully accomplished included increasing programming for working families, creating a staff picks display and blog, building a storage facility for donations received by the Friends of the Library and replacing the carpet in the meeting rooms. Some goals in our new plan include changing our public access machines to thin clients, increasing and improving communication to our community, collaborating with our neighboring libraries and establishing a long range plan for building repairs.

GRAFTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Cynthia Pulito, Board Co-President

Sandra von Schilgen, Board Co-President

Stephanie Preston, Director

2012 brought many changes to us, including our new director's first year at the library. During the year, we added 699 items to our collection and library visitors increased by 3%, from 7,274 in 2011 to 7,488 in 2012.

The library continued its regular programs such as our Book Discussion Group, Preschool Songs & Rhymes and Story Time. We also tried some new programs including an Earth Day Recycled Art program with the Dyken Pond Environmental Center. During the Summer Reading Program for children, we added a book discussion group, a weekly craft program and partnered with Dyken Pond Environmental Center to create a program about bats.

The Riverway Storytelling Festival visited Grafton in April. Kent Busman and Muriel Horowitz presented "Fools, Fairies and Folktales" and were very well received by the people who attended.

We were again awarded a grant from the Arts Center of the Capital Region, which gave us the opportunity to present eight programs, two of them for the children in our Summer Reading Program.

During the Summer, we held our yearly fundraiser, Run for the Roses, a 5k race. The race starts in Grafton Lakes State Park, loops around Route 2 and finishes on the other side of the Park. This year, we had 212 runners and raised \$3,400.

The library's staff and board of trustees are eager to take on new projects and are excited to see what's in store for them in 2013.

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vishnu Chaturvedi, Board President (until November 2012)

Christopher Aldrich, Board President (November - current)

Barbara Nichols Randall, Director

In June 2012, the Guilderland Public Library marked 20 years in its current building. While the Library's mission to provide "quality library materials and services to our community for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment" has not changed, the format in which those materials are provided certainly has.

Perhaps the most dramatic change in format occurred when the Library – no longer wedded to the printed page – began loaning eReaders the same way it loans books. Kindles, NOOKs, and Sony eReaders started flying off the shelves.

Responding to the needs of the community, the Librarians held introductory classes on eReaders, pairing patrons to the eReader with which they would be most comfortable. The popularity of electronic formats is shown in the number of books the Library loaned over the year: print circulation decreased while the the loaning of ebooks increased to 13,178. Our youngest patrons joined the eReader trend, too, as they were able to borrow iPads – preloaded with kid-friendly content – for use in the Library.

Programs

The year opened with a youth-focused event: Coleen Murtagh Paratore – author of *26 Big Things Small Hands Can Do*, *The Wedding Planner's Daughter* series, and many other books– spoke with children and their families about her books and the joy she gets out of writing. This wonderful event drew a large and enthusiastic crowd and was linked to a book-discussion series.

The sesquicentennial of America's Civil War provided an opportunity to create our first-ever program partnership with a neighboring Library. "Hearts Touched With Fire: Making Sense of the Civil War" was a combination of programs and scholar-led discussions held at Guilderland and Voorheesville. Each Library was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to produce programs about the conflict. The two libraries worked together to produce a series that offered an opportunity for the Capital Region community to learn about this divisive yet seminal time in American history. All programs – such as "Local Stops on the Underground Railroad" and "Father Abraham's Boys: Sending Our Sons to War" – were very well attended and the scholar-led discussions were packed.

For the first time, weather was responsible for cancelling Family Fun Day – a favorite annual event. Weather also played a part in the appearance of rainwater-catching buckets throughout the Library during severe storms in the summer and fall.

The Referendum

Six years of planning, public focus groups, community briefings, hundreds of hours of work by the Library Board, and architects' consultations, all came to a point on June 26th when the Library's proposed expansion went up for a vote. It was the largest turnout for a Library vote. Voters who had ignored May's Library Budget vote came out in force in June to make their voices heard. The referendum was defeated by 3 to 1.

After the referendum, the staff reconfigured the library to maximize available space. Shelves were modified, computers rearranged, and all of the used furniture and shelving in storage was sold or donated to other organizations.

Staffing

Efficiencies in staffing were realized late in the year through combining the Adult Services and Youth Services departments into a single Programming and Public Services Department. This reorganization lends staffing depth to the public services desks, a wealth of cross-training opportunities, and gives the professional staff a better understanding of Library operations as a whole.

CHENEY LIBRARY (Hoosick Falls)

Sue Hyde, Board President

Carol Gaillard, Director

Cheney Library received wonderful support from the Friends group in 2012. They sponsored a Wreath Festival in November, which not only brought in money, but supplied incredible amounts of camaraderie among staff, trustees, and Friends. We raised so much money that we have been able to plan for a children's room in the basement. The Friends group also sponsored a *Dine Out to Help Out* night at the local diner and a Book Fair. Each of these events also raised money. This is the 90th year of the opening of Cheney Library and the Friends have planned a celebration with twelve programs starting in December 2012 and culminating in November 2013.

In June 2012, Margaret Pine retired after many years of service and we hired Silvia Plasse as my assistant. Silvia had volunteered here for over a year, so she knew a lot without much further training. Silvia has been a very valuable person in the library; she is courteous, helpful to all patrons and brought many innovative ideas to her work.

The library sponsored a better- than- average New York State Summer Reading Program. We had many children sign up and follow through. We had Cheney Cash give-a-ways that could be used to purchase books at the monthly book sale and weekly drawings for books.

Grades K, First, Second, and Third from St. Mary's Academy walked down to the library each week when the weather was good. We also had the Hoosick Falls Central School Second grade for their *Walk Around Town*. These are great occasions to show off the library and get books into the hands of children.

NASSAU FREE LIBRARY

Sam Whaley, Board President

Patricia Sahr, Director (2007 – March 2013)



Family Bingo at the Library

More than 11,000 people visited the Nassau Free Library in 2012. Many of them borrowed books, DVDs and audio books, for a grand total of 26,000 items circulated; and as the year went on, increasing numbers of borrowers began downloading eBooks and audio books. A record number of adults, children and teens (2,155) attended the 157 programs that were offered - programs that appealed to a wide range of interests. Highlights included swing and Celtic music concerts in the spring, many children's programs throughout the summer as part of the highly successful Summer Reading Program, and a well-received author series in the fall. In April volunteers and staff were honored at a catered luncheon, and in May the Friends of the Nassau Library sponsored the 2nd Annual Spring Bazaar, the proceeds from which were used to purchase furniture for the newly created teen space.

2012 saw the Nassau Free Library continue to grow and flourish thanks to the generous, enthusiastic involvement of trustees, staff, volunteers and Friends of the Library.

NORTH GREENBUSH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Kenneth Bogdan, Board President

Daryl McCarthy, Director

The North Greenbush Public Library continued its strong tradition of service by loaning more than 113,000 items to community members. Our collections have grown to over 60,000 items available to all patrons in the Capital District. The community requested more items than ever especially DVDs, music CDs, talking books and downloadable books. We continued to expand our collections by adding popular items and we welcomed suggestions from the public. Patrons in other libraries requested 14,300 of our items and our patrons requested 13,687 items from other System libraries.

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 2012 and received their first library cards. We had over 100 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.

The residents of the Town of North Greenbush were generous in their support of the library and our dedicated staff and volunteers continued to provide valuable service. Volunteers provided many hours of service, performing routine tasks such as shelving books and book repair and carrying out many small time-consuming projects. This gave the staff time to serve the public more efficiently. Also, our Friends group worked tirelessly for the improvement of the library through their on-going book sale. The Friends' efforts in 2012 enabled the library to purchase both new shelving and many items requested by patrons.

The library board is continuing 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, and volunteers, we look forward to continuing our success as a community meeting place and community resource.

PETERSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Gordon Batcheller, Board President

Sharon Hodges, Director

In 2012 the Petersburg Public Library continued to provide library services to our community. The interest in ebooks grew dramatically with many more people becoming enthusiastic about this service. Programs included the 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 continued to be one of the highlights of the

year. In 2012 The Puppet People brought their performance of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” to town to help kick-off the program. Other activities 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 library received a grant from The Arts Center of the Capital Region awarded to local artists Barton and Priscilla McLean to make a film entitled “Peter’s People... Creating the dream.” This film featured local artists and artisans and their ties to Petersburg. The music was written by Barton and the videotaping was done by Priscilla. The beauty of our community and the talent of some of the residents was showcased. The DVD was first played to a standing-room-only audience with a reception following. Copies are available in the library system for anyone who would like to get a brief picture of Petersburg.

POESTENKILL LIBRARY

LouAnne Lundgren, Board President

Margie Morris, Director

After spending 2011 celebrating 10 years in our new home, the trustees and staff of the Poestenkill Library looked around and realized things needed to be freshened up. A plan was developed to replace the carpet in one of the rooms and also do some painting. That plan will be implemented during 2013. A long term plan for exterior changes is also in the preliminary stage. Another plan that began in 2012 was for a new 414 vote. That, too, will take place in 2013.

So what did we actually do in 2012 beside plan for the future? Here are some highlights:

- We had two canine friends, Maggie and Goodie, take turns coming for a visit on Thursday evenings so children could read to them. The dogs are therapy dogs and we called our successful program “Wagging Tales.”
- On a beautiful summer evening, we had 60 people, young and old, on the lawn doing tie-dye. They colored shirts, shorts, socks, pajamas, and even fabric to use in a quilt. It was quite a sight to see everyone walking around with dyed hands! All of the participants were thrilled with their final product.
- A wonderful long-time library volunteer/supporter spent many cold winter days in the shed boxing up books for Better World Books to pick up. She went through many, many leftovers from the fall book sale and filled 80 boxes. This allows us to start with a fresh selection for the spring Market Day in 2013.
- We were fortunate to have a couple of residents step forward to offer free programs on health and nutrition and to hold a writing workshop.
- As always the wonderful staff, Joan, Janet, Pat, Annie, Sara, and Nick, along with several long-time volunteers meet and greet each patron through the door and help them with their needs. It is always the friendly atmosphere that patrons comment on and these are the people who make that happen.
- Poestenkill Library continues to be a “net lender” for UHLS. In 2012, we sent 7,467 items to other libraries. Our patrons requested 4,016 items from other libraries.
- In October, we began using Facebook on a more regular basis. The Board President does a great job of finding great library-related content to post.

The Friends of Poestenkill Library continued to raise much-needed funds for library expenses. The community support for Market Day held in May and September remains strong and everyone enjoys the great bargains and baked goods they bring home.

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.

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Rev. Antonio Booth, Board President

Judy Felsten, Director

This was a year of tumultuous change. With support from the Bender Family Foundation, senior staff and architectural consultants prepared a building program and conceptual plans for a larger facility. Following passage of a budget to fund such operating expenses, lease negotiations and more refined planning for our preferred site began. There followed a dizzying ride through the Rapids of Politics in a canoe called *The Resolute*. A lease/purchase agreement was signed in early February of 2013, and renovation of the new building began. Capital fundraising, still underway, began in the fall of 2012 with a dinner and raffle at Yanni's Too. By the time you read this, the Library will have relocated to a well-appointed space more than twice its current size, fronting on Main Street in the Village of Ravena.

Library programs held their own despite uncertainties about relocation. Acoustic Doorways' concert series completed its fourth season. Summer programs in reading, writing, and media production remained robust despite shifting playground schedules. Early childhood staff integrated practices from the LSTA grant *Beyond Story Time* into their work, but their success was somewhat undercut after our current landlord denied the Library access to its program room from mid-November on. Online activity increased on all fronts, and demand for computer instruction continued. Circulation exceeded 61,000 items, and estimated visits to the library were nearly 40,000 for the year!

RENSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Johanna Burnham, Board President

Jane Chirgwin, Director

Our circulation and usage continued to increase as our community became more aware of the services we offer at Rensselaer Public Library.

Jane Chirgwin was chosen as a medium-sized library representative for UHLS' e-content committee, helping to determine best practices for digital content development.

Rensselaer is participating in several grants in collaboration with Upper Hudson. The *Beyond Storytime* Grant provided funds for toys and furnishings for our children's area, as well as training on creating great story-times. The *Comics*

Connect Grant is helping the Van Rensselaer Elementary school with materials, collections and training, and is providing materials and programs to the library.

The Summer Reading Program theme was “Dream Big, Read!” 132 children and teens participated in the reading incentive program. We had 42 programs with an attendance of 480 children. Our Friends of the Library collaborated with us for our kick-off program, and made book pillows for all of our participants.



RENSELAERVILLE LIBRARY

Kristina Tanner, Board President

Kimberly Graff, Director



Newly remodeled community room

During 2012, thanks in part to a NYS Department of Library Development Construction Grant, the Library was able to increase our useable space as well as improve comfort and safety. The Library underwent remodeling of the under-utilized basement level to provide a community room, a second bathroom and a children’s area. The basement was mostly inaccessible to our patrons due to storage practices, an unfinished utility area and a bathroom that had not functioned in years. The grant also provided for the addition of sturdier shelving units in the children’s area to accommodate the growing collection. Overall this project has increased our usable space and organization that has resulted in increased library usage, patron comfort and safety.



Storage area converted to an activity space

In addition to increasing usable space, Linda Miller, who served her last year on the Board of Trustees in 2012, created the largest National Poetry Month event schedule since starting the annual event in 2005. During April 2012, the Rensselaerville Library hosted five poetry events. Over 100 participants went to events that included readings by Linda Miller and Tom Gilroy; a Haiku workshop with Tom Gilroy; the Favorite Poem Project that included readings by Mimi Moriarty, Cecele Kraus and neighbors and friends of all ages from the community; and Spoken and Sung: an afternoon with Walt Whitman with readings by Howard Nelson and singing by Sarah Nelson Weiss. The five events raised more than \$300 in donations to benefit the library.

SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY

Terrence Dingman, Board President

Melinda Fowler, Director

2012 was a year of celebrations in Sand Lake. The Library marked 25 years of service to the Town of Sand Lake while the Town itself celebrated its bicentennial. The Library worked with the Bicentennial Committee on a variety of displays including the display of a quilt made by town residents and organizations for the nation's bicentennial in 1976.

From participation in the parade and festival for the Sand Lake Bicentennial to the local Earth Day festival at Zion Church, to the annual Kiwanis Summerfest weekend, and the first Trunk – or – Treat at Miller Hill Elementary, we kept on the move.

The Library served as a center of learning and community throughout the year - Cub Scouts and Daisy Scouts, tutors, and various community groups met at the library to plan and learn. Authors, performers, educators, and health professionals provided enrichment and entertainment for the 1,536 individuals who attended the 131 programs during the year. Two sessions on using e-readers were well attended and a visit from local author William Kennedy to discuss his new book filled our program room to capacity. A local astronomy enthusiast even brought his telescope to the library to show patrons the transit of Venus.



Library supporters in the Bicentennial Parade

The theme for the Summer Reading Program was *Dream Big - READ*. We opened the summer with our annual Library Fair featuring a Wildlife Show attended by 78 parents, teens and children. Summer programs included drum-ming, making Cake Pops, and Duct Tape Wallets & Flip Flops. The Duct Tape program was a big hit and participants expanded their creativity with caps and roses, finding the instructions online.

New opportunities arose with a collaborative project with the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance; the Library will house a new collection of materials related to the Rensselaer Plateau. A large donation of paperbacks encouraged us to start a paperback Romance collection. And a staff suggestion resulted in “Staff Picks” to promote books by displaying them with brief comments posted on the shelf nearby.

We appreciated the monetary donations from Key Bank's “You Choose” program, from Senator Roy McDonald, and from patrons throughout the year. Those donations allowed us to purchase a new book drop and will allow future purchases of new shelving and a replacement AV cart.

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.

ARVILLA E. DIVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Schaghticoke)

Marilou Pudiak-Town, Board President

Jessica Lewis, Director

2012 was an eventful year. The library hosted several new program series, including a Documentary Film Series, and continued a popular series of workshops on book arts for kids and adults called *read/fold/make*. We celebrated summer with our annual Strawberry Social, and saw record numbers participating in our Summer Reading Program.

We completed the process of having our Library charter successfully amended to remove restrictions on board participation and other outdated requirements. As a result, Diver will be able to enter 2013 with a larger, more diverse board capable of accomplishing great things in the coming years.

At the end of 2012, with some aid from the State, Diver Library was able to plan an update of the library space that included an additional public computer terminal, furniture and décor updates, and an improved children's area with increased program space.

2012 was a productive and important year for Diver, and we look forward to enjoying the fruits of that labor in 2013 and beyond.

STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Sue Brissette, Board President

Laurenne Teachout, Director

One of the biggest changes at Stephentown Memorial Library in 2012 was the change from old carpeting to wood flooring in the older part of the library. We also reorganized our collection and added contemporary furnishings and 3 laptop stations to make a designated Teen Space for our young adult patrons. In our Children's Area, we transformed unused space (from an old closet and bathroom) into a cozy nook for our youngest patrons to read with parents, explore a new early literacy computer, and play with soft toys. Funding for these projects came from a NYS Construction Grant and public response to the changes has been very positive. We see more young children and their families using the library and staying longer. We also have a regular group of teens who use the Teen Space to work on homework after school. Circulation of young adult materials has increased 10% since the Teen Space was completed in August 2012 and we expect this increase to continue as we expand and enhance our offerings for teens.

Library usage continues to be strong, with over 13,000 people visiting SML in 2012 and over 5,000 visitors using the 10 public computers that the library provides and countless others using the wireless internet access. Even when the library is closed, there are cars in the parking lot or folks gathered on our patio with their laptops. SML continues to see an encouraging number of new borrower registrations each month, including borrowers who are renewing their expired registrations and those who are discovering SML for the first time. The library is the first spot that people come to when they move to the area.

In November, we hosted a public rededication of the library to the local veterans. The present library had its origin at a meeting of the Stephentown War Council in May, 1946 when Lewis Griffin presented plans for the formation of a library to honor the local men and women who had served in the armed forces in the two World Wars. These plans were formalized on Sept. 9, 1946 when a group met to organize the Stephentown Memorial Library. The names of the 50 men and women who served in W.W.I and the 104 W.W.II veterans to whom the



Public rededication of the library to the local veterans

library is dedicated are listed on plaques which hung in the vestibule of the library until the recent expansion. During this special celebration, the refurbished plaques were hung in our Community Room to honor our veterans. It was a very special event for our town, with over 50 people attending.



Book Sale fundraiser

Our Friends group continues to be very active and raised an amazing \$30,000 in 2012. This was accomplished with herculean effort on the part of a core group of volunteers who planned and executed one fundraiser every month, including bake sales, lasagna dinner, dessert & dancing event, and a spectacular musical cabaret.

We continue to work toward enhancing our space and holdings and honoring our commitment to serve the community.

TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Muller, Board President

Paul Hicok, Director

The Board of Trustees of the Troy Public Library voted to adopt a very lean operating budget for the library in 2012. Since voters rejected the proposed budget back in September, 2011, revenue for the library reverted to the funding level approved by voters in 2009. This, along with additional pressures on the budget due to the elimination of Rensselaer County support, led the Board to make the decision to close the Sycaway Branch Library in School 18 on Hoosick Street at the end of January in an effort to concentrate the library's services at its two remaining locations in Lansingburgh and downtown Troy.

The good news is that our 2013 budget which incorporated a 3% increase over last year passed in September allowing us to increase the books and materials budget and to provide for much needed repairs to our two buildings.

In 2012, there was about a 28% increase in attendance at the main library for adult programs over those held in 2011. Lisa Dougherty, a professional genealogist and volunteer at the Irish-American Heritage Museum, presented several popular genealogy workshops. The group *Transition Troy* showed several

movies and often had a large audience. Margaret Steele, historian, magician and editor of Adelaide Herrmann's ("The Queen of Magic") memoirs, spoke about Ms. Herrmann's life and demonstrated several of her magic tricks. Other popular programs included presentations by the Albany Paranormal Research Society, by Steve Kulls, the "Sasquatch Detective," and by Oded Ben-Ami, who talked about self-healing. The main library also continued to hold weekly computer classes, and in the fall, Joanne Fortunato, who used to teach computer skills to middle school students, began teaching the classes, which filled up quickly. We had several local businesses provide prizes for our Adult Summer Reading Program for the first time, and many that have supported the program through donations in the past have continued to do so. We are grateful for their support. Our *Shorts Out Loud* series was held this summer in the courtyard, when the weather cooperated, and we had several new readers share with us.

Our young people's department partnered again with the Troy City School District and local children's author Coleen Paratore to boost participation in our Summer Reading Program. Summer Reading enrollment increased dramatically by 56%. We received more funds for children's programs through grants from Upper Hudson Library System and we were able to secure additional programming funds through *Comics Connect*, a collaborative project of the Mohawk Valley Library System and Upper Hudson supported by funds from the New York State Library's Family Literacy Library Services grant program. These allowed us to provide workshops for children and teens on writing and illustrating their own graphic novels as well as introducing them to digital illustration. And, of course, we received grant support from our own Friends group which made possible a variety of programs for children throughout the year. The department also published a colorful 2013 calendar featuring art created by local children who were inspired by their favorite books.

VALLEY FALLS LIBRARY

Ralph Marino, Board President

Sandra Goodwin, Director

Valley Falls Library continued to be busy. Our increased hours were appreciated by the patrons. We added a new employee, Debbie Bevevino, to help with the increased hours. The computers were updated with Rawdon Cheng's help and are all working well.

We appreciated the monetary donations received from Key Bank, Wentorf Foundation, GE employee matching grant, and patrons throughout the year. We also received donations of books, videos, and audios. Many were new items so we added them to our collection and the rest went to the book sale in the basement. We extend thanks to the volunteers who got the items on the shelves and worked on keeping some order to them. Patrons continued to enjoy the bag sale. There were two items donated by patrons that we used to raffle for fundraisers this year.

Programs continued to be enjoyed throughout the year. Skidmore College presented a *Dream Pillow* program that was interesting and imaginative. We also had Magicman "Dream Big." Nancy Backstrom's Storytime for preschoolers,

with Donna Barnhart and a home school student volunteering, were well attended, as well as the Valley Falls/Pittstown Youth Program. The Summer Reading Program had 20 children registered and 19 returned their reading records with those children reading 496 books. We had an E-Reader class with Jo-Ann Benedetti that was well received by both adults and children. The library had a Memorial Day Service to honor all military past and present and a “Memories of War” Exhibit for the month of May that was special to the community. We had a Pumpkin Festival where any age could carve or decorate a pumpkin and bring it to the library where they were judged and given prizes in different categories. Then they were lighted for all to see. It was well received with 27 entries and 45 people attending. The library participated in 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

Robert Kent, Board President

Gail Alter Sacco, Director

Community residents kept us busy last year, using our services in many ways. Borrowers took out 113,598 books, magazines and other materials – about 16 items per resident, which is 45% more than the national average for a library our size. The books alone would have cost \$770,000 if purchased directly.*

Readers put whole sections of novels, mysteries, non-fiction and picture books in their pockets by borrowing one of our 23 Nook eReader collections. Community members met with our staff and learned how to use Kindles, Nooks, iPads and Droids.

Explorers and fun lovers attended 369 library programs, including a personal history session, a guided tour of the Albany Rural Cemetery; a concert featuring the music of the Underground Railroad, our Summer Reading Program; griddlecakes and kite-flying, and workshops with authors and illustrators. Over 8,000 people attended our programs, and 86 community groups – scout troops, artists, hobbyists, professionals and civic groups – used our Community Room. Of special note was our program “Hearts Touched with Fire: Living through the Civil War.” The sesquicentennial of America’s Civil War provided a grant-funded opportunity and partnership with our neighbor, the Guilderland Public Library. Each library was awarded a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association to produce comprehensive programming about the conflict. The synergy created by the two staffs working together produced a series that offered an opportunity for the Capital Region community to learn about this divisive yet seminal time in American history. All programs were very well attended; the scholar-led discussions were packed.



Taking the tour

Researchers made 38,813 visits to our website, using their library cards to mine our online information, learning any of 48 languages using Mango, researching school papers with our online encyclopedias and making informed medical decisions by going to the same reference site used by hospitals. They asked our librarians 12,730 questions, ranging from “I need information on the Rosenberg Trial” to “Can you direct me to good diabetes resources?” to “Can you recommend a good sports book for my 4th grader?” As they used to say at Home Depot: “You can do it. We can help.”



A foundation for a lifetime of learning

Parents provided their children with a foundation for a lifetime of reading and learning by coming to our early literacy programs – Babygarten, Toddler Town and Preschool Storytime. Their older children continued reading and exploring in our Kids Book Discussions and Teen Book Club.

The year had its challenges, but our community found support with their library.

**Library Journal, November 8, 2012 and School Library Journal, March 2012*

TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY (Westerlo)

Laura Tenney, Board President

Sue Hoadley, Director

2012 was a year of renewal for the library. Thanks to the hands-on efforts of the Board of Trustees, the library was awarded a \$12,342 NYS Library Construction Grant. The grant was made possible by memorial donations and gifts to the library’s Capital Fund, which allowed us to provide the 50% matching funds required by the State. The construction project was done in two phases. Phase One replaced the entire roof – including new plywood decking – with architectural grade asphalt shingles. Phase Two provided a facelift to our storefront. All of the original bluestone was re-set to reconstruct the front porch and new wood columns were built to support the porch roof.



Porch under construction



Porch completed with new wood columns

Throughout the year, the library was open to the public 29 hours per week for over 300 days. 8,360 children and adults entered the building. We circulated 16,136 items. Of those, 5,207 items were borrowed from member libraries in the Upper Hudson System. In turn, we loaned 5,220 items to patrons at other

Upper Hudson libraries, making us a “net lender.” 549 patrons used our public computers and many more took advantage of our 24/7 wifi.

Children’s programming increased again in 2012. We offered 67 programs attended by 347 children, and 8 programs attended by 39 young adults.

The New York Statewide Summer Reading Program is held annually to encourage school-aged children to read for pleasure during summer vacation. This year’s theme was “Dream Big.” We hosted a special “kick-off” program jointly with the Berne and Rensselaerville public libraries featuring award-winning storyteller Regi Carpenter’s Soaring Stories.

In March we launched a Facebook page to add another dimension to our community outreach.

The library trustees held their annual Mother’s Day Bake Sale in May and also received a \$500 grant from the Bank of Greene County to purchase a new book return. Fundraising and donations to the library allow us to stretch our budget just a little bit further and 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.

2012 AWARDS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

Marilou Pudiak-Town, Schaghticoke
Rebecca Pahl & Rita Stein, Voorheesville

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

East Greenbush Community Library - *"Building Family Memories"*
Rensselaerville Library - *"National Poetry Month"*

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

John Madlin, Cohoes

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

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

2006 David Brown, Albany
Francis Hamblin, Nassau

2007 Anthony Beverly, Stephentown

2008 Robert E. Ganz, Guilderland

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 Guilderland Public Library
Honorable Mention:
Berlin Public Library
East Greenbush Library

1995 Berlin Public Library
Watervliet Public Library

1996 Rensselaerville Library
Guilderland Public Library

1997 Petersburg Public Library
WK Sanford Town Library

1998 Rensselaerville Library
Guilderland Public Library

- 1999 Castleton Public Library
WK Sanford Town Library
- 2000 Brunswick Community Library
Bethlehem Public Library
- 2001 Brunswick Community Library
Guilderland Public Library
- 2002 Brunswick Community Library
Albany Public Library
Honorable Mention:
WK Sanford Town Library
- 2003 Petersburg Public Library
Cohoes Public Library and
Watervliet Public Library (joint award)
- 2004 RCS Community Library
Troy Public Library
- 2005 Albany Public Library
Guilderland Public Library
- 2006 Castleton Public Library
Guilderland Public Library
- 2007 Albany Public Library
- 2008 WK Sanford Town Library
Berne Public Library
- 2009 WK Sanford Town Library
Voorheesville Public Library
Honorable Mention:
Albany Public Library
- 2010 Albany Public Library
Berne Public Library
- 2011 Rensselaerville Library

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- 2006 Tanner Williamson, Cheney
Maggie Oldendorf, Guilderland
- 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

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

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

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

BALANCE SHEET

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

	2012	2011
Cash and other current assets	1,779,703	1,852,432
Buildings and equipment, net	838,963	820,650
Other assets	23,947	27,793
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,642,613</u>	<u>2,700,875</u>
Current liabilities	119,107	113,767
Long-term debt	548,291	578,620
Net assets	1,975,215	2,008,488
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>2,642,613</u>	<u>2,700,875</u>

ACTIVITIES

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

State, federal, other government aid	1,606,127	1,661,737
Other revenue	<u>423,356</u>	<u>395,543</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	2,029,483	2,057,280
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>2,062,756</u>	<u>2,156,908</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>(33,273)</u>	<u>(99,628)</u>

2012 STATISTICAL SUMMARIES - MEMBER LIBRARIES

LOCAL SUPPORT, MATERIALS and PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Library	Population	2011 Local Support	2012 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	97,839	\$7,050,586	\$6,331,554	-10%	\$64.71	6
Altamont	1,720	\$82,250	\$37,657	-54%	\$21.89	14
Berlin	1,880	\$10,350	\$10,350	0%	\$5.51	27
Berne	2,794	\$11,427	\$30,975	171% ★	\$11.09	25
Bethlehem	27,878	\$3,641,444	\$3,704,268	2%	\$132.87	2
Brunswick	11,941	\$143,794	\$143,798	0%	\$12.04	24
Castleton	1,473	\$108,325	\$108,325	0%	\$73.54	5
Cohoes	16,168	\$230,806	\$197,101	-15%	\$12.19	22
Colonie	81,591	\$2,392,815	\$2,387,826	0%	\$29.27	11
East Greenbush	16,473	\$1,609,057	\$1,678,805	4%	\$101.91	3
Grafton	2,130	\$28,600	\$28,600	0%	\$13.43	20
Guilderland	36,131	\$3,160,417	\$3,220,161	2%	\$89.12	4
Hoosick Falls	6,924	\$49,940	\$49,500	-1%	\$7.15	26
Menands	3,883	\$122,807	\$126,483	3%	\$32.57	8
Nassau	4,789	\$108,870	\$108,870	0%	\$22.73	13
North Greenbush	12,075	\$282,980	\$291,038	3%	\$24.10	12
Petersburgh	1,525	\$53,698	\$54,384	1%	\$35.66	9
Poestenkill	4,530	\$52,877	\$53,852	2%	\$11.89	21
RCS	14,064	\$372,093	\$458,087	23%	\$32.57	10
Rensselaer	9,392	\$93,395	\$96,279	3%	\$10.25	23
Rensselaerville	1,843	\$45,000	\$40,500	-10%	\$21.98	15
Sand Lake	8,530	\$123,271	\$125,665	2%	\$14.73	19
Schaghticoke	592	\$33,515	\$29,015	-13%	\$49.01	7
Stephentown	2,903	\$43,825	\$46,825	7%	\$16.13	18
Troy	50,129	\$835,693	\$847,168	1%	\$16.90	17
Valley Falls	5,804	\$27,932	\$27,432	-2%	\$4.73	28
Voorheesville	7,208	\$987,935	\$1,030,600	4%	\$142.98	1
Watervliet	10,254	\$95,800	\$31,000	-68% ★	\$3.02	29
Westerlo	3,361	\$74,017	\$66,000	-11%	\$19.64	16
AVERAGES	15,373	\$754,259	\$736,625	-2%	\$35.64	

Library	2011 Total Expenses	2012 Total Expenses	Percent Change Total Expenses	2012 Materials Expenses	Percent Materials of Total \$	Percent Staff of Total \$	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$8,431,186	\$8,461,207	0%	\$7,16,514	8%	46%	\$7.32	6
Altamont	\$103,429	\$123,898	20%	\$8,505	8%	63%	\$4.94	11
Berlin	\$57,750	\$53,476	-7%	\$5,725	10%	58%	\$3.05	16
Berne	\$15,901	\$34,711	118%	\$6,105	38%	60%	\$2.19	22
Bethlehem	\$3,326,955	\$3,579,554	8%	\$335,426	10%	80%	\$12.03	1
Brunswick	\$166,717	\$168,052	1%	\$18,144	11%	61%	\$1.52	25
Castleton	\$115,827	\$119,430	3%	\$8,097	7%	84%	\$5.50	10
Cohoes	\$232,872	\$227,216	-2%	\$21,888	9%	72%	\$1.35	26
Colonie	\$2,489,726	\$2,497,902	0%	\$248,846	10%	78%	\$3.05	15
East Greenbush	\$1,564,821	\$1,740,273	11%	\$150,190	10%	60%	\$9.12	4
Grafton	\$37,086	\$46,824	26%	\$4,995	13%	60%	\$2.35	20
Guilderland	\$3,429,771	\$3,405,757	-1%	\$385,952	11%	73%	\$10.68	2
Hoosick Falls	\$78,278	\$82,680	6%	\$3,354	4%	68%	\$0.48	29
Menands	\$119,052	\$124,161	4%	\$29,143	24%	53%	\$7.51	5
Nassau	\$106,683	\$107,778	1%	\$13,303	12%	61%	\$2.78	17
North Greenbush	\$231,910	\$242,765	5%	\$72,990	31%	56%	\$6.04	9
Petersburgh	\$57,939	\$62,047	7%	\$11,019	19%	62%	\$7.23	7
Poestenkill	\$72,093	\$73,524	2%	\$15,257	21%	59%	\$3.37	13
RCS	\$371,189	\$430,931	16%	\$23,645	6%	71%	\$1.68	23
Rensselaer	\$99,486	\$99,082	0%	\$17,658	18%	78%	\$1.88	21
Rensselaerville	\$92,088	\$154,621	68%	\$8,494	9%	34%	\$4.61	12
Sand Lake	\$140,587	\$140,967	0%	\$29,205	21%	69%	\$3.42	14
Schaghticoke	\$52,305	\$41,656	-20%	\$4,588	9%	22%	\$7.75	8
Stephentown	\$78,308	\$89,700	15%	\$7,578	10%	46%	\$2.61	19
Troy	\$1,020,701	\$917,238	-10%	\$77,893	8%	71%	\$1.55	24
Valley Falls	\$32,445	\$35,194	8%	\$4,336	13%	58%	\$0.75	27
Voorheesville	\$1,033,011	\$1,024,600	-1%	\$75,550	7%	75%	\$10.48	3
Watervliet	\$142,704	\$55,167	-61%	\$5,420	4%	80%	\$0.53	28
Westerlo	\$64,501	\$66,372	3%	\$9,314	14%	67%	\$2.77	18
AVERAGES	\$819,494	\$834,717	2%	\$79,970	10%	63%	\$4.43	

★ These libraries changed the way they reported certain income and expenses related to their municipality.

CIRCULATION and HOLDINGS

Library	Population	2011 Circulation	2012 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	97,839	1,331,578	1,271,227	-5%	13
Altamont	1,720	29,516	28,093	-5%	16
Berlin	1,880	11,059	13,246	20%	7
Berne	2,794	13,464	15,059	12%	5
Bethlehem	27,878	769,106	764,919	-1%	27
Brunswick	11,941	38,191	35,968	-6%	3
Castleton	1,473	20,777	22,517	8%	15
Cohoes	16,168	42,587	44,872	5%	3
Colonie	81,591	700,398	700,669	0%	9
East Greenbush	16,473	425,717	426,370	0%	26
Grafton	2,130	26,364	20,636	-22%	10
Guilderland	36,131	640,253	589,251	-8%	16
Hoosick Falls	6,924	21,629	20,379	-6%	3
Menands	3,883	41,760	39,855	-5%	10
Nassau	4,789	28,743	27,100	-6%	6
North Greenbush	12,075	104,827	113,791	9%	9
Petersburgh	1,525	22,627	23,826	5%	16
Poestenkill	4,530	24,053	20,968	-13%	5
RCS	14,064	51,005	61,047	20%	4
Rensselaer	9,392	20,761	22,495	8%	2
Rensselaerville	1,843	10,747	9,734	-9%	5
Sand Lake	8,530	44,997	43,695	-3%	5
Schaghticoke	592	13,211	15,920	21%	27
Stephentown	2,903	20,647	20,056	-3%	7
Troy	50,129	278,453	269,129	-3%	5
Valley Falls	5,804	10,396	10,429	0%	2
Voorheesville	7,208	128,006	113,598	-11%	16
Watervliet	10,254	35,418	35,945	1%	4
Westerlo	3,361	17,268	16,136	-7%	5
AVERAGES	15,373	169,778	165,411	-3%	

Library	Population	2011 Holdings	2012 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2012 Per Capita Holdings
Albany	97,839	334,185	339,242	2%	3
Altamont	1,720	23,202	13,745	-41%	8
Berlin	1,880	19,273	11,715	-39%	6
Berne	2,794	22,205	15,200	-32%	5
Bethlehem	27,878	134,519	123,822	-8%	4
Brunswick	11,941	17,652	10,415	-41%	1
Castleton	1,473	26,308	18,878	-28%	13
Cohoes	16,168	54,859	36,637	-33%	2
Colonie	81,591	226,690	213,333	-6%	3
East Greenbush	16,473	106,306	99,002	-7%	6
Grafton	2,130	19,700	12,745	-35%	6
Guilderland	36,131	194,988	184,655	-5%	5
Hoosick Falls	6,924	24,768	17,370	-30%	3
Menands	3,883	22,629	15,502	-31%	4
Nassau	4,789	33,047	26,823	-19%	6
North Greenbush	12,075	65,578	60,581	-8%	5
Petersburgh	1,525	31,197	24,511	-21%	16
Poestenkill	4,530	21,336	13,597	-36%	3
RCS	14,064	32,703	24,604	-25%	2
Rensselaer	9,392	28,283	21,551	-24%	2
Rensselaerville	1,843	21,978	17,659	-20%	10
Sand Lake	8,530	39,073	32,354	-17%	4
Schaghticoke	592	15,850	7,917	-50%	13
Stephentown	2,903	21,892	14,690	-33%	5
Troy	50,129	359,344	282,937	-21%	6
Valley Falls	5,804	17,941	14,596	-19%	3
Voorheesville	7,208	49,768	43,530	-13%	6
Watervliet	10,254	24,009	16,300	-32%	2
Westerlo	3,361	20,413	12,646	-38%	4
AVERAGES	15,373	69,300	59,536	-14% ★	5

★ The decrease in holdings is due to a change in the reporting of downloadables. In 2011, all downloadables in the entire System were reported by all of the libraries. In 2012, they only reported those that they owned.

LIBRARY USE and PROGRAMS

Library	2012 Resident Borrowers	2012 Non-Resident Borrowers	Internet Filtering	# Public Computers	# Public Computer Sessions	2012 Reference Transactions	Annual Hours Open	Total Annual Attendance
Albany	71,824	454	No	32	208,408	138,218	3,111	1,140,157
Altamont	1,881	323	No	3	4,400	1,555	2,932	17,500
Berlin	844	129	No	4	3,001	321	1,120	6,245
Berne	833	267	No	4	1,581	525	1,300	7,718
Bethlehem	19,765	30	No	16	42,451	82,594	3,704	379,007
Brunswick	2,290	611	No	6	4,047	5,876	2,184	17,848
Castleton	1,337	1,494	No	4	1,638	3,848	2,392	14,248
Cohoes	6,939	573	No	3	12,990	2,496	2,428	31,200
Colonie	45,506	410	No	3	42,498	39,917	3,380	307,377
East Greenbush	8,482	3,984	No	10	37,772	37,717	3,383	236,756
Grafton	683	2	No	22	1,440	433	1,144	7,488
Guiderland	17,017	2,116	Yes	41	30,043	43,818	3,400	287,780
Hoosick Falls	2,033	87	No	3	750	256	1,976	10,337
Menands	1,003	188	No	3	1,971	2,246	1,534	8,965
Nassau	1,108	663	No	2	1,713	577	1,820	11,352
North Greenbush	3,536	1,775	No	2	950	6,000	2,440	46,575
Petersburgh	854	108	Yes	4	1,646	782	1,248	7,160
Poestenkill	1,209	214	No	3	1,519	859	1,638	11,449
RCS	4,296	321	No	5	10,597	6,709	2,868	39,884
Rensselaer	5,393	35	No	8	13,103	10,660	2,288	34,112
Rensselaerville	728	2	No	6	1,199	829	1,456	6,331
Sand Lake	3,590	909	Yes	4	3,646	2,184	2,455	22,025
Schaghticoke	192	763	No	11	1,021	364	1,404	5,286
Stephentown	950	142	Yes	2	5,561	3,462	1,872	13,967
Troy	19,100	3,851	No	19	41,464	27,013	4,992	91,645
Valley Falls	653	85	No	3	1,134	340	1,820	7,348
Voorheesville	4,496	488	No	6	6,865	12,730	3,057	68,680
Watervliet	3,519	621	No	14	5,928	5,984	1,820	43,579
Westerlo	710	10	No	27	549	447	1,508	8,360
AVERAGES	7,958	712		9	16,893	15,130	2,299	99,668

Library	Adult		Young Adult		Childrens		Other	
	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance	# Programs	Attendance
Albany	399	8,641	295	1,538	1,252	23,323	1,291	9,126
Altamont	40	500	15	150	300	3,100	0	0
Berlin	23	281	2	6	32	152	0	0
Berne	31	228	7	372	105	2,433	15	393
Bethlehem	129	3,042	144	2,578	735	19,470	2	137
Brunswick	83	465	2	20	63	1,166	0	0
Castleton	54	275	10	39	85	1,099	19	90
Cohoes	73	588	1	28	27	301	3	25
Colonie	394	8,815	12	510	448	16,409	0	0
East Greenbush	164	3,273	79	1,929	303	11,287	187	465
Grafton	21	220	2	12	50	176	0	0
Guiderland	345	5,939	26	321	388	11,218	2	74
Hoosick Falls	98	745	0	0	98	520	0	0
Menands	30	153	8	45	44	350	0	0
Nassau	46	378	1	13	94	1,335	16	429
North Greenbush	10	150	0	0	49	735	0	0
Petersburgh	11	81	4	25	47	749	0	0
Poestenkill	30	246	0	0	97	1,051	0	0
RCS	106	258	7	12	433	5,321	23	619
Rensselaer	61	539	14	153	52	613	0	0
Rensselaerville	76	558	3	29	12	146	0	0
Sand Lake	42	334	3	12	83	1,003	3	187
Schaghticoke	19	186	2	10	33	325	0	0
Stephentown	142	1,138	97	500	126	1,466	2	60
Troy	245	1,797	132	1,256	194	4,706	0	0
Valley Falls	9	267	0	0	31	555	0	0
Voorheesville	95	1,272	38	763	236	5,432	86	938
Watervliet	72	1,182	54	652	121	2,772	0	0
Westerlo	9	52	8	39	67	347	0	0
AVERAGES	99	1,435	33	380	193	4,054	57	433

RESOURCE SHARING

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Albany	102,279	102,768	106,554	110,400
Altamont	8,549	7,504	6,807	4,273
Berlin	4,092	3,222	3,097	3,085
Berne	5,055	5,099	4,624	5,226
Bethlehem	81,147	81,352	64,005	58,804
Brunswick	12,821	12,621	4,293	4,705
Castleton	6,733	5,285	6,678	6,689
Cohoes	7,166	7,411	5,991	5,206
Colonie	76,171	73,058	72,128	72,731
East Greenbush	51,855	47,273	42,405	40,304
Grafton	5,835	6,118	5,965	5,373
Guilderland	63,923	57,140	92,326	91,406
Hoosick Falls	7,315	6,758	4,275	4,307
Menands	5,451	4,981	8,242	9,540
Nassau	12,002	11,085	8,139	7,451
North Greenbush	14,855	13,728	14,443	14,125
Petersburgh	4,920	4,861	9,147	8,677
Poestenkill	4,048	4,016	7,407	7,467
RCS	10,312	9,818	5,743	6,210
Rensselaer	5,957	5,489	4,126	5,041
Rensselaerville	2,917	2,908	5,629	5,859
Sand Lake	12,090	12,072	11,100	11,067
Schaghticoke	4,202	3,128	2,083	2,498
Stephentown	5,610	5,051	4,775	4,976
Troy	46,713	44,169	34,754	28,771
Valley Falls	4,391	4,115	3,278	3,541
Voorheesville	18,903	18,462	25,621	25,033
Watervliet	8,716	8,814	3,933	3,532
Westerlo	5,650	5,207	4,575	5,220
AVERAGES	20,679	19,776	19,729	19,363

UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

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