

ALTAMONT

PETERBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE TERRY L. HARRIS MUSEUM

COHOES PUBLIC LIBRARY

BINGHAMTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

NASSAU FREE LIBRARY

WOONESUC PUBLIC LIBRARY

WILLIAM G. BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOWN OF NORTH GREENWICH  
MAYOR JIM CROSBY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

WANDA LEE ORBEN  
MUNICIPAL CENTER

LIBRARY

THE TERRY L. HARRIS MUSEUM

RCS

# UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

## 2013 Annual Report



## 2013 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**PRESIDENT:** Mary Muller  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Philip Erlich  
**TREASURER:** MaryAlice Molgard  
**SECRETARY:** Jeremy Martelle

Rosemary Armao	Janet Ivory
Antonio Booth	Lou Anne Lundgren
Daniel Curtis	Evelyn Neale
Ronald Ginsburg	Tara Ricard
Brian Hartson	Marie Stasiak

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

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mary Muller

We had fairly stable ranks in the UHLS Board of Trustees in 2013, although we did bid a fond farewell to long-time Trustee James Reilly who had served on the Board for 10 years. He held several positions including Chair of the Administration Committee, Chair of the Nominating Committee and Board Secretary. He has now joined the elite ranks of the UHLS Trustee Emeriti. Natalie Schipano and Judy Brown finished their terms on the Board and we welcomed Antonio Booth from RCS, Marie Stasiak from Brunswick and Ronald Ginsburg from Altamont.

All of our Trustees are dedicated supporters of public libraries. In order to serve on the UHLS Board, they must be current members of a local public library Board of Trustees. Their duties are two-fold: to volunteer on their local Boards and then to see the “bigger picture” as members of the UHLS Board. I am proud to say that they have always been willing to put in the necessary time to become completely informed about any issues brought to them. They have proven, time and again, that they really care about the Upper Hudson Library System and also care about our libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

In order to help our Board members become better acquainted with the member libraries, we held two Board meetings in “outside” locations: in May, we met at the Rensselaer Public Library and in September at the Bethlehem Public Library. The Board members were treated to tours of each library by their respective Directors.

Compared to previous years, we had a quiet time in 2013. This was the first full year of our new solar array and we eagerly awaited the results at year-end that showed approximately \$4,000 in savings over 2012. We hummed along through the year handling other normal decisions. The only major topic that riveted our attention for an extensive discussion was e-Rate and CIPA

("Children's Internet Protection Act") filtering. The Board was informed that installing filters on the UHLS office computers would result in a substantial increase in e-rate funding. The Board's unanimous decision not to filter and to forego the additional funding was a resounding affirmation of our belief in what libraries stand for: free access to information for all.

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### **Administration Committee**

Chair: James Reilly/Philip Erlich

Rosemary Armao, Antonio Booth, Jeremy Martell, Julie Zelman

The Administration Committee met twice during the year. The first meeting was to review the Guidelines for the annual awards that are the purview of this Committee, to make decisions regarding the June Annual meeting and its entertainment, and to discuss the results of a National Grid energy audit of the building. At the second meeting, the Committee members reviewed the nominations and selected the Trustee of the Year Award winners and approved the new tile work and painting in the building's entryway.

The Annual meeting was held at the Old Daley Inn on Crooked Lake in Averill Park and musician/singer April Marie entertained during the dinner. The Committee works hard each year to select a feasible location that will be more or less easily accessible for people coming from libraries in either County. In addition, they want the dinner meeting to be an enjoyable time for trustees and staff from all of the member libraries and to give them a chance to learn from one another and to develop contacts that allow for the pleasant and easy exchange of information and ideas.

### **Finance Committee**

Chair: MaryAlice Molgard

Janet Ivory, Evelyn Neale, Tara Ricard, Natalie Schipano

The Finance Committee met almost every month since it is their responsibility to oversee the UHLS income and expenditures. Several major expenditures were approved during the year: including the purchase of a new upgraded photocopier and the installation of energy- efficient lighting fixtures both inside and outside the building.

The Committee issued RFPs for an annual audit or financial review in the belief that to maintain integrity in the financial audit process a change in outside accountants should be explored periodically. As directed by the UHLS Board, the Committee had two decisions to make: an audit versus a review and which company to select for the work. The RFP was issued to ascertain the availability, interest and fees of prospective companies. The Committee members reviewed the proposals that were submitted, and met with and interviewed representatives from three finance companies. It is important for

the Committee to know what other options and companies are available and it was not an easy decision or foregone conclusion. After extensive questioning and discussion, it was decided to continue with our current firm and to have an annual financial review rather than an audit.

### **Services Committee**

Chair: LouAnne Lundgren

Daniel Curtis, Brian Hartson, Richard Naylor, Marie Stasiak

This Committee met five times during the year. Two meetings were devoted almost exclusively to a discussion of the UHLS Free Direct Access Plan and its impact on some of our member libraries. Ultimately it was decided to continue with the current Plan.

Several other items came before the Committee: the selection of the Volunteer and Program of the Year winners; review and recommendations regarding the State Construction Grant applications, and variance requests from the members. As hours or populations change, or as numbers of trustees increase or decrease, these changes cause variations from the NYS Minimum Standards. Libraries must submit requests to be allowed to deviate from these Standards until they can make whatever changes are necessary to bring them back into line. The Services Committee reviews these requests and then passes their recommendations on to the full Board and then the State. The Committee also follows up on these requests to ensure that the situation is corrected.

## 2013 UHLS STAFF

<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>Timothy Burke</b>
<b>MANAGER, AUTOMATION SERVICES:</b>	<b>Joseph Thornton</b>
<b>MANAGER, INFORMATION &amp; OUTREACH SERVICES:</b>	<b>Jo-Ann Benedetti</b>
<b>MANAGER, YOUTH &amp; FAMILY SERVICES:</b>	<b>Mary Fellows</b>
<b>Robert Carle</b>	<b>Lynn Orme</b>
<b>Rawdon Cheng</b>	<b>Diane Riganti</b>
<b>Heidi Fuge</b>	<b>Joseph Sherry</b>

*Together. For better libraries.*

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Timothy Burke

Working with the UHLS staff and the member libraries, in 2013 we were able to check off one of my major goals for the System and do most of the work on another. During this past year we achieved the notable distinction of having 100% of the member library boards receive the CORE Trustee Training program at their libraries. Although this is not a statistic that is tracked by anyone statewide (hard to believe that there is a statistic that libraries DON'T keep track of!) based on my informal investigation I do not think there is another public library system in New York State that can boast 100% participation by their libraries in trustee training. In addition, we have strong regular attendance at our quarterly CORE trainings for new trustees and directors. I am proud that UHLS is one of the few, and perhaps the only library system in New York State that can claim such a strong commitment from trustees and member libraries. This reflects well on the entire system and all its constituent parts - member library trustees, library directors, System trustees and staff. We should all be very proud of this truly noteworthy achievement.

The other major project for the year was the process of exploring the ILS landscape to determine the best option for the future of UHLS. This collaborative effort between System staff and the member libraries used an inclusive, open process to review the options and recommend the choice that was the best fit for our needs. Although the final decision was not made until 2014, this was a major focus of UHLS for 2013 and I am looking forward to working with the new ILS vendor, System staff and the member libraries to make this transition a smooth and positive one for the libraries and their users.

Throughout the year, each day I have the real privilege of working alongside the talented, resourceful and dedicated staff at UHLS. The department reports that follow detail the accomplishments and initiatives in each major functional area in the last year.

## 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, online databases, system backups, reports, three advisory councils, and email (including mailing lists) – in 2013 we also accomplished the following: our system processed more than 4,000,000 loans and 600,000 requests and added 40,993 bibliographic records and 145,575 items. We sent out 525,603 hold and overdue notices: 17,416 in print, 115,659 by automated phone calls and 392,528 by email. We also sent 70,055 email notices to warn patrons that their holds were about to expire, and 380,894 email courtesy notices to remind borrowers that their loans were due in two days. We sent 14,048 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. We also performed two upgrades – one major and one minor – to our SirsiDynix Horizon system. These are potentially disruptive procedures, but due to our experience and our strong track record of successful upgrades, SirsiDynix permits us to do the upgrades ourselves, which saves many hours of downtime for the libraries. Among the benefits of the upgrades was the return of a fully functioning *KidSearch* – our library catalog for kids.

We continue our tradition of supporting the activities and projects of our member libraries as needed and to help the member libraries enhance their services for their users. We continue to host the websites for 22 of our libraries, including William K. Sanford (COLN), which we moved from the Town of Colonie server in 2013 in response to a security breach on the town's server.

In 2013 we invested a lot of energy in an attempt to find a cost effective product to address the PC reservation and printing needs of our small libraries. After investigating and discarding a number of options, we haven't settled on a solution yet but expect to finish this project in 2014. We also made it a high priority in 2013 to come up with a simple and inexpensive way for our libraries to produce mobile web sites. We looked at commercial products and do-it-yourself solutions like jQuery Mobile, responsive design, and WordPress plugins, but didn't find anything (yet) that gives us what we need at the right levels of cost and simplicity. That search will continue in 2014.

We have been developing a shared library program calendar, concentrating on Youth Services for the initial trial. There were several options available – including *Google Calendar* – but the most promising seemed to be *Bedework* – an open source calendar application developed at RPI. We worked on this for much of 2013 and expect it to be in production in 2014.

We are always willing to provide specialized support for member libraries as requested. In 2013 we continued to work with Albany Public Library (APL) and outside firms they have services contracts with - *Boopsie*, *OrangeBoy* and *CollectionHQ* to provide those companies with weekly and monthly reports of APL data, circulation patterns, and collection usage.

As participants in the *ILS Investigation Subcommittee* of ASC, the Department spent a lot of time working with the Committee to actively investigate possible replacements for our *Horizon* integrated library system (ILS). As part of the planning for a new ILS, we also started a major project to simplify a big part of our current system – Itypes. The Resource Sharing and Database Maintenance Advisory Councils worked very hard to implement a proposal by Rob Carle to streamline the way our libraries' circulation parameters are applied. I am happy to say that project was a success and is a great example of the potential efficiencies that can result from member library cooperation.

### **Outreach and Adult Services**

Jo-Ann Benedetti

Our digital collection continues to grow and has become one of the most important services we offer. In 2013, we reached 18,000 circs per month on a collection of 23,000 items which means that nearly 80% of our digital collection goes out every month. This may be due to the ubiquity of devices (e-readers, smart phones, tablets and other media players), it could be due to the quality of the collection, or it could be due to the streamlined interface which makes downloading much easier than it had been in the past. For whatever reason, the service is wildly popular and UHLS staff and the member libraries are working hard to keep the collection current, relevant, and streamlined. We also continue to provide opportunities to assist the patrons of our member libraries learn how they can take full advantage of our outstanding e-content collection through our program on devices and downloading e-content which continues to be a popular offering at member libraries.

2013 was first year of a three-year New York State Adult Literacy Grant. UHLS was awarded \$7,549 to re-grant to our member libraries for projects related to workforce development. We combined this money with UHLS Coordinated Outreach Funds, enabling us to support this important programming area in six of our member libraries:

- **Altamont Free Library** provided professional help in creating a cover letter and resume to those with little/no employment history. They also provided real-life job experience with the application process in which participants submit a cover letter and resume and come in to interview for a temporary part-time job, giving them real work experience.
- **Brunswick Community Library** improved adult learners' ability to speak English, with a focus on job seeking skills.

- **William K. Sanford Town Library** assisted adult library users who are speakers of English as a second language with the acquisition of Rosetta Stone software and materials for citizenship education and one-on-one resume help.
- **East Greenbush Community Library** created an Education and Employment Center to address the needs of new immigrants and job-seekers.
- **Stephentown Memorial Library** offered classes on MS Office applications, the Internet, resume writing and interviewing. The classes were taught by students from Sage College. (The Director of Career Planning at Sage identified students proficient in these areas). The library also updated their collection of materials and books for job-seekers.
- **Troy Public Library (1)** purchased, installed, and trained patrons and staff on using the WinWay Resume Deluxe software. This is the same software used by the Rensselaer County One Stop Employment Center. This fill-in-the-blank software enabled job-seekers with limited computer skills to create a professional resume.
- **Troy Public Library (2)** provided instruction and resources to help individuals pass the Citizenship Interview and Naturalization test.

Delivery continued to run seamlessly thanks to the efforts of our courier, ALDS, and their team of drivers. In 2013, roughly 1.4 million items were routed among our member libraries with an infinitesimally small loss ratio. (Of the 1.4 million items, fewer than 10 items were damaged in transit!)

UHLS also continues to file e-rate reimbursement applications for the member libraries. This federally funded program provides discounts to assist schools and libraries in the United States to reduce the cost of telecommunications. The level of discount for each library is keyed directly to poverty levels in the community's school or library district. In 2013, member libraries received reimbursements totaling \$18,000.

### **Youth and Family Services**

Mary Fellows

Collaboration and advocacy are always key parts of working in youth services, and 2013 saw many opportunities to practice both.

Collaborative efforts to explore common opportunities for public libraries and museums were a big part of our work this year. A particularly interesting collaboration involved co-training around New York State with a museum professional and an early childhood professor. As part of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant Traveling History Exhibits/ Programs for Young Learners and Their Families, we fostered library-museum collaborations through this joint staff training project. I was involved in exploring different approaches to serving families with young children, and the training and grant experience were useful to my other work and a revenue source for UHLS.

Another UHLS/museum collaboration involved the CNSE Children's Museum of Science and Technology (CMOST). After reading about the Wakanheza project, a method for creating more welcoming environments for parents and children, I approached a colleague at CMOST about jointly training library and museum staff on these techniques and we were invited to present the training in May.

UHLS also collaborated once again with the Mohawk Valley Library System. This year we worked together on our 12th annual Summer Reading Program Planning Workshop. We also delved deep into the nitty-gritty of the Common Core Learning Standards and presented a very well-received training about what the Common Core is and opportunities for libraries to adapt services to support students, parents, and teachers.

Another teen-related collaboration was the Read It Forward project. This initiative, which began in the fall, linked 11 libraries in a project to engage teens in reading for fun, sharing a book they have enjoyed with other teens, and connecting with libraries. The main activities will take place in 2014.

Advocacy for service to youth is our daily job. This year, an opportunity to conceive the structure and create content for a national youth services-related advocacy website, Everyday Advocacy, boosted my advocacy skills. On the state front, UHLS trustee and Regents Advisory Committee member Mary Muller and I led a group of "youth services champions" working on the state's Vision 2020 recommendations related to children and teens. After months of work, we offered four specific initiatives to further Vision 2020 at the NYLA Conference last fall. I also coordinated a System youth services staff letter to State Librarian Bernie Margolis and participated in the resulting meeting. Advocacy work on the local arena included legislator visits on and apart from Advocacy Day and promoting youth services to soon-to-be librarians at the University at Albany SUNY. UHLS teen librarians and I collaborated on a "white paper" on teen services, which I delivered to and discussed with member library directors.

Training is another aspect of our work. In addition to more informal trainings at Youth Services Advisory Councils, as part of grants, and in the workshops mentioned above, a presentation at the NYLA Youth Services Section Spring Conference and trustee trainings in partnership with Tim Burke figured into the work year.

Four youth services-related grants began or ended in 2013. Our Beyond Storytime grant (early literacy) and Comics Connect grant (boys & reading) both ended in early 2013. A Summer Reading Program mini-grant offered libraries opportunity to apply for funds for tween technology-related programs. A three-year Family Literacy grant, STEM-Sell, began in July and helps libraries deliver STEM-related activities for families and hone staff skills.

Finally, as the UHLS e-content collection has taken off, I've helped shape our youth content through vendor recommendations, ordering and marketing activities.

In all efforts to boost services to youth in UHLS libraries, I am ably assisted by Diane Riganti. A veritable "Renaissance Employee," Diane's skills and ideas add greatly to our service.

## MEMBER LIBRARIES

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

## DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Sue Hoadley, President

The Directors Association (DA) met nine times in 2013. Our organization gives us a collective, monthly, voice in UHLS. We work closely with the staff, especially the Executive Director, who attends every meeting and presents a comprehensive report on UHLS activities. We also have a DA representative as a full voting member on the UHLS Board of Trustees and on the Board Committees. Our link was further strengthened when a UHLS staff member took over the task of keeping the DA meeting Minutes.

During the year, we bid “adieu” to several Directors: Pat Sahr at Nassau, Stephanie Preston at Grafton and Barbara Nichols Randall at Guilderland. We then welcomed Katherine Chansky, Christian Collins and Tim Wiles to those libraries respectively.

There were three major topics for ongoing discussion: the investigation of a new integrated library automation system(ILS); OverDrive and the ebook collection; and advocacy.

The ILS Investigation Committee was created to spearhead the work in selecting the vendors to be considered and arranging site visits and demos to which the staff from all of the members were invited. This was a lengthy process and required considerable commitment from all of the Committee members who will not see completion of their work until late 2014 or early 2015.

The e-Content Committee, in an unprecedented move, proposed a chart in which each library was expected to contribute a specific amount toward the purchase of e-books that would be shared throughout the System. The Committee proposed that a total of \$100,000 should be spent on e-content and each library’s contribution was figured based on their e-content checkouts. The spirit of cooperation and the participation that followed this proposal was truly phenomenal and ground-breaking.

Advocacy was an ongoing concern of the DA members and always an interesting topic for speculation and conversation. Several libraries reported on their successful contacts with both local and State legislators.

At the end of each meeting, there was an Open Forum session in which ideas were exchanged and new and exciting programs were reported. This provided a valuable opportunity for our Directors to network and establish the connections with colleagues that make our work that much more rewarding.

## ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Holly McKenna, Board President

Carol Nersinger, Director

This has been a year of maintenance and stabilization for the seven libraries in the Albany Public Library system. After the big expansion in 2009-2010 and subsequent shift in usage around the system, the staff and administration are fully adjusted to their libraries, communities, and patrons. The Library's focus was to continue delivering quality services, programs, and resources to the people of Albany and surrounding communities within the changed landscape of the system.

In 2013, Albany Public Library:

- Circulated close to 1.1 million items
- Experienced more than a million visits
- Had more than 190,000 public computer uses and strong WiFi usage at all locations
- Answered just under 140,000 reference queries
- Hosted more than 4,800 programs (for the library and community organizations) that drew over 50,000 people
- Attracted more than 24,000 people (children, adults, and ESOL learners) to literacy programs
- Helped more than 1,500 people get their income taxes prepared for free resulting in more than \$1.8 million in returns back to them
- Continued facility improvements at the Main Library that will result in a more attractive and welcoming building that is better designed to meet patron needs
- Provided job search assistance and skills building to hundreds of users through the Working Knowledge Public Computing Center
- Held the line on spending with a flat budget for 2014 that resulted in no tax levy increase for taxpayers, while maintaining current services, programs, collections, hours, staff, and resources

These items provide just a snapshot of the important resources and assistance Albany Public Library provides, but they demonstrate the vital role that the Library plays in the City of Albany and the wider UHLS service area.

The staff, administration, and board at APL are committed to educating, entertaining, and empowering the Albany community. In the coming year, the Library expects to continue Main Library facility improvements, expand MakerSpace offerings, overhaul the website, and provide more outreach through social media and community partners, among other initiatives.

## ALTAMONT FREE LIBRARY

Sally Dague, Board President

Judith Wines, Director



Haunted Altamont

2013 was Altamont Free Library's first full year in the train station. The Library saw circulation rise 25% over the previous year. Work on the building continued with the construction of an entrance foyer and display cases, and the insulation of the attic. The Library focused on expanding its collection of graphic novels for kids, and its assortment of toys that promote early literacy skills. The library was recognized for its achievements in historic preservation with awards from the Historic Albany Foundation and the Town of Guilderland.



Digging for dinos

Programming highlights included a six-part summer concert series, 10 internationally-themed potlucks, teen Iron Chef events, Create Your Skate - a skateboarding and community service program, a memoir writing project, bird and tree walks, an Altamont Haunted History Ghost Walk and a Pi day cook-off.

The Library continued working to strengthen its community partnerships. In 2013, we collaborated on programming with local scout troops, visited the elementary school, did a presentation for the Altamont Elementary School PTA, provided programming for seniors, worked with Center for Disability Services to provide volunteer opportunities, and partnered on programs with Altamont Community Traditions and the Altamont Museum and Archives.



Eating worms at the Library



Create Your Skate: building skateboards

## **BERLIN FREE TOWN LIBRARY**

Patricia Haywood, Board President

Sharon Vogel, Director

2013 was a steady year for the Berlin Free Town Library thanks to its devoted Board of Trustees whose hard work and organizational abilities guaranteed successful fundraising throughout the year. Highlights of their efforts included the maple syrup and plant sales in the spring, the annual *Pie à la Mode Café* during the town's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and the *Book and Bake Sale* in late August. The year ended with a *Community Holiday Party*, a well-attended fundraising event unhampered by an unexpected snowstorm.

The library hosted another *Student Art Show* in the spring of 2013 where students who were enrolled in art classes at the Berlin High School exhibited paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs created during the year. Many parents, friends and patrons attended the opening reception and viewed the works during its three week showing. This has become a popular annual event anticipated by young artists and patrons of all ages.

Due to competition from other daytime, summer activities for youth in our local area, the library decided to schedule some of the Summer Reading Program's events in the early evenings. This appeared to worked out well and assured good attendance, especially for children whose parents worked during the day. Story Time became *Bedtime Stories* and included such themes as: *An Evening with Peter Rabbit*, and *We Dig Bedtime*. Another event scheduled for early evening and designed for the enjoyment of children and adults was a performance by *The Motion Man: Jody Scalise*, a mime/movement artist who entertained a good-sized audience. We plan to schedule programs in the afternoon and evening again in 2014.

*The Stephanie Flint Book Club* continued their monthly meetings during 2013 as well as *The Berlin Knitting Club* who met at least twice monthly during the year. The library continues to encourage local clubs, organizations and school-related groups to use our facility for their meetings. A Yoga class meets weekly, tutoring sessions are held frequently and local committees and groups use the library's space for meetings on a regular basis.

We thank our staff, volunteers and trustees for all of their efforts during 2013.

## BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Kinnaid, Board President

Judy Petrosillo, Library Manager

Momentous would describe 2013 at the Berne Public Library. After many years of looking for a larger location, the Town of Berne was able to purchase the local decommissioned Catholic Church in 2011 for our new library site. Plans and renovations took two years and we finally moved in on October 19, 2013 and held our Grand Opening on November 17, 2013.



Ribbon cutting at the new Library

This was a labor intensive project that involved an astonishing number of volunteers. From pre-demolition of the building to design work to finishing and installing bookcases to finally moving the contents of the library, it was truly a community project. The highlight of the move was the Picture Book Parade. Parents and children loaded boxes of picture books on to strollers, wagons, and wheelbarrows. They paraded down Helderberg Trail from the old library to the new library and placed the color-coded books on the shelves. The little ones were proud to be a part of the move.



The Picture Book Parade

The new library is almost three times the size of our old one and includes many new spaces. There is a cozy young adult corner, a beautiful pre-school area with face-out picture books, a local history and reference area, and a separate community room. What a change from our previous location! The bright and airy building is perfect for browsing, reading, and working on computers. We were able to offer more programs because of the available space. Consequently, the number of people entering the library and using our services increased significantly after the move.

Although the main focus of 2013 was preparing for the move, we continued to hold programs throughout the year. In addition to our weekly story time, we had monthly events for all age groups. These included Family Movie Night, Lego League, Teen Advisory Group, Knit Wits, Book Club, and Game Night. Special programs were also held throughout 2013. We had three graphic novel illustrators come to Berne through the Comics Connect grant. The STEM grant provided Camp Millionaire, a Magnet Program, and a Robotics Program for teens.

The Summer Reading Program scheduled events for four age groups: preschoolers, intermediate readers, teens, and adults. A family SRP highlight was a field trip to Secret Caverns. The adults were treated to programs on

(BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY)

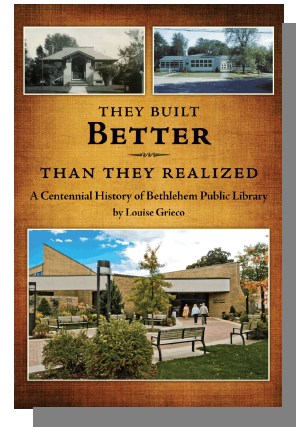
caving, the Underground Railroad, and sustainable living.

With the move to a larger facility, we were able to schedule programs during the week. For adults we had programs on Lyme disease and local history. We had our first Makerspace program for youth in December. The tween/teens took apart electrical appliances to learn how they worked and then put them back together as creative works of art.

The hours were expanded slightly to encourage students to come after school and seniors to come during daylight. We are ecstatic about our new library. We are thrilled at the response from the community and look forward to serving them in the coming years.

**BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
 John McCarthy, Board President  
 Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director

Bethlehem Public Library marked its centennial year in 2013 with special events for all. We celebrated our founders, published a centennial book, put on a family BBQ, played minigolf in the library, restored our charter document, entered a special float in the Memorial Day parade, and more.



Our Centennial Book hit the shelves in June 2013



At the Centennial Book launch: Senator Neil Breslin, Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy & Director Geoffrey Kirkpatrick

And as is our habit, we didn't rest on our laurels. In 2013 we ran one of our biggest Summer Reading Programs ever, welcomed authors Gregory Maguire, Steve Sheinkin, Tess Gerritson and Sue Grafton, launched a Lego club, origami club, knitting club and board-game club, established a Homework Center, and added two new book discussion groups for adults. We expanded our volunteer programs to include a job coach and offered more one-on-one tech help.



Founders Day: Performance by the Uncle Sam Barbershop Chorus

We sponsored our annual blood drive and partnered with the Alzheimers Association and Community Caregivers to run a series of programs for those who care for loved ones with Alzheimers disease. Our youth services librarians continued their steadfast outreach to Bethlehem's schools.

We continue to explore how to help our community in relevant and engaging ways



Founders Day: Delmar Progress Club members read an excerpt from a play performed in a 1916 fundraiser



Charter Celebration: Geoffrey Kirkpatrick and Friends



Charter celebration: an affectionate nose squeeze

*(Photo credits: Mary Trev Thomas)*

## BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Judith Brown, Board President

Julie Zelman, Director

- We circulated 36,429 items, including books, magazines, audio books on CD and tape, movies on tape and DVD, music CDs, and large print books.
- We registered 382 new patrons this year.
- We logged 2,958 sessions on our public computers. Wi-fi is available during library hours.
- We have continued to grow the digital collection of eBooks and eAudiobooks, and added a digital music collection through the Freegal service.
- We circulated passes for free admission to area museums: the Berkshire Museum, the Clark Art Institute, Hancock Shaker Village, and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.
- Through the Upper Hudson Library System, our patrons can request items from the 29 libraries in Albany and Rensselaer counties. Requests arrive by courier five days a week. Patrons can browse the catalog and place their own requests on-line.



Making Fairy Gardens



Games on the Library's lawn

- The theme for the 2013 Summer Reading Program was Dig into Reading. Programs included Making a Fairy Garden, Bats with Dyken Pond, and Dinosaurs with the Scotia/Glenville Traveling Museum. Our youngsters reported reading for 15,250 minutes this summer.
- Our meeting rooms were busy this year, starting with a series of Memoir Writing Workshops (thanks to a grant from Poets & Writers). The class continues to meet on their own. We also hosted a class for Alzheimer's/dementia caregivers, which led to a monthly support group. Our weekly Saturday story-times and Thursday knitting get-togethers continue. We hosted 155 programs with 1,155 participants.
- The Tuesday Book Group met once a month for a spirited and friendly book discussion. Join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Large-print and audio book versions of the selected title are usually available.
- The Book and Movie group meets twice each month to discuss a book and view its film adaptation. Participants can attend one or both sessions, and newcomers are welcome.
- Our Friends group hosted quarterly book sales, and a Garden Day Sale with plants, baked goods, and local vendors. The Friends purchased two picnic tables, and sponsored our beautiful new landscaping.

- We're more energy efficient! Through a National Grid program, we re-fitted our light ballasts and installed motion-sensitive switches in our meeting rooms and offices.
- We are an Acceptance facility for U.S. Passports, and processed 63 applications this year. Our convenient hours and child-friendly atmosphere have made this an especially popular service. See our website for more information, and links to online application forms.
- The Board conducted a survey of our patrons, and used this to formulate a Long Range Plan.

## CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Faith Schottenfeld, Board President

Amy Peker, Director

### 104 Years of Service

The Castleton Public Library is in its 104th year of providing services to the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson and extending services to the residents of the Town of Schodack. During 2013, we improved technology, developed a more user-friendly website design, and employed a part-time Librarian for youth services. We also collaborated with the Upper Hudson Library System and member libraries to provide exceptional library services and a robust collection of printed and electronic informational resources to Albany and Rensselaer County residents.

- **Improved Technology:** In March of 2013, the CPL Board of Trustees approved the purchase of new computer hardware to replace the Library's outdated public access computers. The new hardware was installed in September and provides faster Internet browsing along with up-to-date software. Currently, the Library has three public access computer workstations though the new hardware offers cost effective ways to expand the number of computer workstations that will allow the Library to meet the technology needs of the community as they change.
- **Newly Designed Website:** Our main goal was to build a user-friendly website that provides the most up-to-date information about the Library and its services. It's a mobile friendly design to allow easy navigation across multiple devices. We're excited to announce the launch of the new design in early 2014. We hope it will be a useful tool to access the Library's information and services.
- **Library Programs:** In May 2013, the Board approved adding the position of a Librarian I for youth services. In December 2013, CPL hired a Librarian tasked with organizing and providing programs for children and teens.
- **Library Materials:** The library currently offers a robust selection of informational material to the community including: books, periodicals, audiobooks, DVDs and downloadable content (i.e. eBooks, audiobooks and videos). On the horizon for this coming year, the Library will offer access to a more diverse collection of electronic materials and formats including streaming video.

### Summary and Next Steps

Libraries are an ever-changing community resource especially with so many resources online. The Castleton Public Library will continue to serve our families and patrons by providing access to computers, the Internet, educational programs and workshops, and a constantly growing collection of resources and tools. Nationally, libraries are morphing spaces and adapting services in response to the changing needs of their community. This coming year, we will forge a strong web presence; continue to collaborate with the UHLS and member libraries to offer exceptional services and a robust digital collection; and solicit patron feedback to enhance our programs and maintain a library collection that reflects the community.

### **Annual Usage**

In 2013, use of the public access computers, visits to the library's website, social media activity and the number of reference questions answered increased. While there was an increase in technology and education services, there was a decrease in the circulation of books and library visits. The number of programs offered at the library and the attendance at those programs were comparable to the year before.

- Population: 1,473
- Registered Resident Borrowers: 642
- Registered Non-Resident Borrowers: 942
- Hours Open: 1,820

### **Usage of Public Library Services**

- 13,234 in person visits to the Library, a 7.12% decrease.
- 1,484 attendees at the 165 programs offered at CPL, comparable to 2012 and an increase since 2010.
- 72,204 visits to the Library's website, a 16.31% increase.
- The number of public access computer sessions increased by 29.43%.
- The Library housed a combined collection of 17,190 books, videos, audiobooks and periodicals, a decrease of 8.85% since 2012. Circulation of those materials also decreased by 8.0%.
- Castleton Public Library patrons checked out 52.78% more digital items than in the previous year, a trend we've seen for the past few years. To meet the increasing demand, the digital collection of downloadable eBooks, videos, and audiobooks increased by 35.95%.

## COHOES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Carol Clingan, Board President

Matthew Graff, Director

2013 ended as another constructive and busy year at the Cohoes Public Library marked by continued passionate volunteer support, technological improvements, and strong programming.

Similar to prior years, Cohoes continued to enjoy an abundance of volunteer support in 2013. Of particular note were two high school students and three college students who helped us over the summer. Each volunteer significantly improved the condition of the Library in their own way whether by beautifying the Library's grounds and rearranging our non-fiction collection, or by providing resume and cover letter review, inventorying our collection, or creating operational manuals. Common amongst each one of the volunteers was the personal care and concern with regard to the quality of work and to our patrons.

To my great joy, each one of these volunteers has since moved on, either going back to school, finding a summer job, or finding long term employment. I confess I find the greatest joy in watching these volunteers benefit from their Library experience and leverage that experience to meet their future goals.

I am exceptionally proud to mention our own Carol Edwards and her efforts working with Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County to establish an Everybody Wins! program in Cohoes' Van Schaick Grade School. Everybody Wins! is a reading and mentoring program which pairs elementary school children with volunteer reading partners from the community. Each volunteer spends a half hour a week reading to a child during school lunch to the benefit of both student and volunteer. Currently Carol has seven volunteer mentors reading to seven children.

In 2013 we again took advantage of the State building grants and submitted an application for repairs to some of our most decrepit window frames and to install storm windows. Virtually all of our window frames are in need of significant repair and while the expense of attending to all of them at once was prohibitive we triaged our windows to include the worst six in our grant. We look forward to the approval of our grant and the repairs, and hope that this represents another step in our strategy to improve the Library's energy efficiency and secure its exterior envelope.

I would be negligent were I not to mention the yeoman's job our Friends Group has done in supporting the Library this year – and every year! This dynamic group of people supports the Library through their tireless efforts at fundraising and outreach. Some examples of their help this year: a week-long celebration of the Library beginning with a proclamation by Cohoes' Mayor Primeau and including unique programming and a volunteer and staff appreciation party (Thank you, Friends!). The Friends also generously donated funds to purchase new, locally-sourced computer chairs, and new computer cabling and software, as well as upgrades to our server. These were

necessary and substantial projects and would not have been possible without the efforts of the Friends.

Recent review shows that we circulated over 40,000 resources per year; our Public Access Computers are used over 13,000 times, and that close to 30,000 patrons passed through the Library's doors.

Lots of people use the Cohoes Public Library daily but I should like to close this narrative by remembering one particular patron who visited us almost daily to use our computers to write a cover letter, build his resume, and apply for jobs. This gentleman struggled with these tasks as he was not yet computer literate, and frequently called upon us to help him navigate MS Word, the Internet, suggest proper format for job application documents, and help him print, fax, and email documents. After months of diligent and patient work this gentleman disappeared from the Library for a couple of weeks only to reappear with a grand smile beaming from his face: he had found employment and had come back to the Library to thank us for our help. His parting words the last time I saw him walking out our doors, “. . . and this isn't just a job, it's a career.”

**(Colonie) WILLIAM K. SANFORD TOWN LIBRARY**

Rosemary Armao, Board President

Richard Naylor, Director

Several years of trimming costs, not replacing employees, sharing in the Town's overall good fiscal management, and a little help from a gradually improving economy, have meant that by the beginning of 2013 we had balanced the budget and begun to develop a fund balance – as recommended by the NY State Comptroller using our 2% tax cap budget increase.

Overall circulation for 2013 increased from 703,082 to 713,771 with ebooks up 54% and children's materials up 7%. Our biggest percentage drop was in children's videos at 16%. Comparing ebook circulation and all other materials, ebook circulation went from 20,916 to 32,305 and all other materials dropped slightly from 682,166 to 681,048.

The library was very busy with programs in 2013 with 9,248 patrons attending 497 adult programs and attendance at children's programs rising to 21,522 for 514 programs. The Summer Reading Program was again a success with 972 readers. In addition 112 new TV programs were produced for Colonie TV. Patrons can now also view TV shows on the Internet. One video was particularly popular: "GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies" was watched 2,408 times. The total TV shows produced from October 2006 to the end of 2013 was 980.



The new Training Space

Thanks to a UHLS Workforce Development grant we were able to convert an alcove space into a training space. In addition to resume critiquing and job programs the space also accommodated ESL with HSE classes planned for 2014.

During 2013, database use increased from 5,169 to 7,204 with the biggest increase being with Consumer Reports. Wireless use went from 29,555 to 34,132 while use of the patron PCs dropped from 44,850 to 39,754 offsetting the growth of wireless. Facebook likes increased from 1,044 to 1,304.

2013 was also a good year for the Friends of the Library. Working with Library staff they helped us raise enough money to create a Reading Garden near the entrance to the library. This 50' x 50' space includes benches and tables with a gravel embedded asphalt path and hundreds of flowers and bushes. The garden was finished in the Fall and we look forward to seeing the flowers and bushes mature during 2014.



The Reading Garden waiting for Spring



## EAST GREENBUSH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Michael Poost, Board President

Evelyn Neale, Director

2013 was another great year for the East Greenbush Community Library. The Library received a NYS grant to help support the building of a multi-purpose outdoor space. Fundraising for this project started December. We were able to raise over \$16,000 to match the

grant. The first phase, sidewalk and benches around the flagpole, was completed in November. Construction will continue in April and we hope to have an unveiling this summer.

Our Museum passes continue to be popular, and we are thankful to the Friends of the East Greenbush Library for supporting this wonderful service. New passes that were added in 2013 include the Albany Institute of History and Art and the Hancock Shaker Village. The passes circulated a total of 665 times, a 63% increase from 2012.

A workforce development grant allowed us to expand the purpose of the Literacy Room, creating an Employment and Education Resource Center. GED classes, basic technology skills, resume and cover letter help are just the start of what will be available.

To improve patrons' experience with the Library's public access computers, the library underwent a major project, converting all of the standalone computers to a thin client environment. This allows for quicker updates and better maintenance as well as access to more search engines and a higher quality experience for the user.

As we strive to live up to the "Community" in our name we are truly thankful for all of the usage and support.



Building an outdoor space



New carpeting also helped improve our patrons' experience in the Library

## GRAFTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Sandra VonSchilgen and Cindy Pulito, Co -Board Presidents  
Christian Collins, Director

2013 was another exciting year of transformation and growth at Grafton Community Library. Library visits increased by 4.6% with an average of 25 visitors coming through the door every day to take advantage of the library's offerings, including our 10,430 books and other print materials, our 1,551 DVDs, and our 700 audio CDs including audiobooks and music CDs. Internet access continued to be a crucial service in Grafton where many local residents do not have the option of high-speed internet at home. In 2013, Grafton patrons logged 1,248 sessions on the library's three public computers, and another 1,095 sessions on the free 24/7 Wi-Fi network.

2013 also saw the library continue its commitment to offering a rich array of fun and educational programs and events for all ages. These included regular Storytimes for preschool children, "Legos at the Library," game days for older kids, and our monthly book club for adults. In



Our Holiday Ornament-making Party drew young and old alike

addition to these regular programs, the library was thrilled to offer special programs such as Magician Jim Snack who helped kick off our Summer Reading Program at the Grafton Summer Festival, The Puppet People, "Lucy Larcom, New England Mill Girl" co-sponsored with Grafton Historical Society, and take-home crafts at Grafton Lakes State Park's Winterfest.



Fifty two children and young adults signed up to be part of our six-week Summer Reading Program in July and August. Special events and programs offered as part of Summer Reading drew 199 people. As in previous years, we were excited to work in conjunction with the Grafton Youth Commission to promote literacy and keep our young people engaged and stimulated during the summer months.



Patrons got into the groove at Jonathan Duda's "Let's Drum" program

The library was again awarded the Arts Grant from the Arts Center of the Capital Region in 2013. This allowed us to feature an array of great arts programs including Let's Drum with Jonathan Duda, Silk Scarf Printing, Tote Basket Weaving, Fused Glass Workshop, Meet the Musician with Albany Symphony Orchestra, Fantastic Rainbow Lizards with the Scotia-Glenville Museum, and two programs with Grafton's Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center: Botanical Nature Plaques and Nature Prints.

Another crucial addition to our core funding in 2013 came from State Senator Kathy Marchione who secured \$1600 in bullet aid for the library.

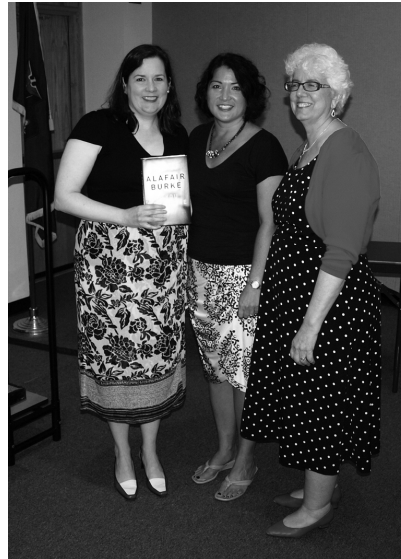
Finally, the library marked a transition in 2013 with the departure of Library Director Stephanie Preston for a position at Albany Public Library where we wish her much success. Her successor, Christian Collins, took over at the end of October. As always, it was thanks to the energy and dedication of our Board of Trustees, our volunteers, and our staff that Grafton Community Library was able to continue to meet our patrons' needs and offer great library service to the community.

## GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Christopher Aldrich, Board President

Barbara Nichols Randall, Director

It was The Year of the Authors at the Guilderland Public Library. From a springtime talk by author Anne Easter Smith and a mid-year event featuring bestselling novelist Alafair Burke, to hosting the Library's first-ever Local Author Book Fair in October and then handling a near-capacity crowd for mystery writer Julia Spencer-Fleming, it was quite the literary year. And it culminated with the hiring of Tim Wiles, a published author himself, as the Library's new director.



Author Alafair Burke is flanked by GPL's Programming and Public Service's Department head, Natalie McDonough (l.) and GPL's then-Director, Barbara Nichols Randall

### Innovative Programming

GPL's history of providing practical Consumer Health Information programming continued with the introduction of the *Tastes Good / Get Healthy* series which helped people make informed food choices and develop sound eating habits. *Money Smart Week*, a series of classes whose aim was to educate people on everything from budgeting to saving, was held in April.

The staff developed some innovative uses for the Library. In April the Library's staff committee held their First Annual Vendor Fair, and played host to 24 vendors who sold everything from finished crafts to cosmetics.



A fan chats with author Joseph Persico as his book is autographed

Another creative use of space was October's Local Author Book Fair where 20 published authors of everything from children's books to non-fiction – people right in the neighborhood – displayed their works to an eager crowd of book lovers.

The Fair kicked off with an opening talk by New York Times bestselling author (and Guilderland's own) Joseph E. Persico. Authors who attended included L.D. Campbell, whose *Confusion on the Farm* and *Who Will Play?* delight young readers, and Dr. Larry Malerba, whose *Green Medicine: Challenging the Assumptions of Conventional*

*Medicine* gives readers a lot to think about. Many of Guilderland's other authors were there, too, as were published writers from Albany, Delmar, Latham, Glenmont, and Slingerlands.

### A Year of Physical Change

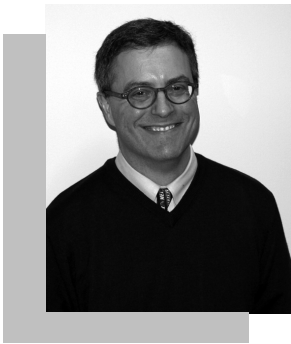
Summer brought a new, expanded parking lot. The old lot – riddled with pits, and extraordinarily poor drainage – was taken down to the dirt, and rebuilt yielding more parking, better drainage, and a drive-up book drop. State grants funded half the cost.

### Getting the Word Out...

GPL continued to complement its print newsletters and postcards with a robust presence on Facebook and Twitter, as well as its emailed eNews alerting subscribers to major events.

### Changes

One change in procedure made a big difference to parents and our younger patrons: most Storytimes were transformed to open events. This has opened the doors to a whole new fleet of readers and boosted attendance as well.



Tim Wiles, new GPL Director

### A New Director

In August, long-time Library Director Barbara Nichols Randall, who shepherded GPL for over a decade, retired. The Trustees then launched a search for a new director. After some time determining requirements and interviewing candidates, the Trustees tapped Tim Wiles, director of research for the Baseball Hall of Fame, to take on the challenge of leading the Library. Tim, who took the reins in January 2014, is the author of two baseball books, *Baseball's Greatest Hit – The Story of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"* (2008), and *Line Drives: 100 Contemporary Baseball Poems* (2002).

### **(Hoosick Falls) CHENEY LIBRARY**

Sue Hyde, Board President

Carol Gaillard, Director

The Friends of Cheney Library, Hoosick Falls, NY have been very busy over the past two years and they amassed enough money to renovate one of our basement rooms into a children's room. A grant was applied for knowing that we had more than half of the requested amount. The room is almost done. The contractor insulated, put up new sheetrock, painted the room a nice shade of yellow and after leveling the cement floor put in a floating floor of dark brown wood. The bookcases are in and I had a college art student do a mural on the south facing wall. Since the room is underground the mural shows vegetables that grow underground and flowers above ground. There are some worms, a Monarch butterfly and a green frog. We are waiting on thermo-pane windows and some upper shelving units. Then it will be time to move all the books and toys into place.



Mural and wood floor in the new Children's room

### **MENANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

No report available

## NASSAU FREE LIBRARY

Samuel B. Whaley, Board President

Katherine Chansky, Director

In 2013 Nassau Free Library was busier than ever with well attended programs for children and adults. Improvements came to the library building in the form of reconstructed building entrances and the addition of solar panels on the roof. A new library website was launched in May of 2013 and with the addition of an electronic newsletter the library news reached a larger population of the library service area.

More than 11,421 people visited the Nassau Free Library in 2013. Total library holdings reached 47,614, a combination of books, audio/visual materials, digitized materials, and a significant portion of this total included the 16,293 electronic titles available through UHLS for download to computers and electronic reading devices. Overall circulation was down a bit from 2012 with a grand total of 25,847 items circulated (compared to 26,000 in 2012). Interlibrary loan (ILL) continued to be heavily used by library patrons with 10,888 library items received at Nassau and 7,365 items loaned out to the UHLS cardholders.



“Southpaw,” the Tri City Valley Cats mascot

The 177 programs for adults, children and teens were designed to appeal to a wide range of interests and were well attended by 2,747 adults and children. Some of the most popular programs included the visit by Tri City Valley Cats mascot and team members, a visit to Story Time by two baby goats raised by a former library trustee, and a program on the Greater Stockport Watershed. The Summer Reading Program had 114 registered young readers. In 2013 the program was expanded to include 45 adults with their own end of summer gathering featuring a book talk by local historian Kurt Vincent.

At times the number of visitors in the library during the summer meant a short wait to be checked out at the circulation desk. To address this problem a refurbished computer from UHLS was paired with a purchased library barcode scanner to create a third staff workspace to better serve patrons at the library’s circulation desk.

A Community Arts Grant awarded by NYSCA and the Arts Center of the Capital District brought three music events to Nassau starting in June with Bob Marcello’s classic songs of the 1950s and 1960s at the new Nassau Ambulance Hall. In July Paul Rosenberg and the band Tamarack entertained at a popular community dance held at the Nassau Reformed Church Hall and the end of the Summer Reading party began with a performance by storyteller and musician Mary Jo Maichack.

The Friends of the Library held their annual Bazaar in May and along with two additional book sales were able to raise funds to purchase new furnishing to make the library’s children’s area colorful and attractive.

## (NASSAU FREE LIBRARY)

Volunteers worked with staff to keep the library materials in order. Lyle Norton completed the Ralph Phillips Genealogy Collection re-housing project begun three years prior. This important local history collection is now easier to use and protected to allow for public access.

The challenge for Nassau Free Library in 2013 has been about library space. The continued success of children and adult programs has meant some crowded areas at times. The most popular programs occur outside the library building at nearby church halls and in the case of the Summer Reading Program kick off –everyone meets outside for this event in the library parking lot.

The library’s motto, “At the Heart of the Community,” tells it all.



Volunteers Jane Visconti and Lyle Norton in front of the Ralph Phillips Genealogy Collection

## **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 112,000 items to community members. Our collections have grown to over 63,000 items available to all patrons in the Capital District. The community requested more items than ever from the library especially DVDs, music CDs, talking books and downloadable books. We continue to expand our collections by adding popular items and we welcome suggestions from the public to improve our collections. Patrons in other libraries requested 13,715 of our items and our patrons requested 13,835 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 2013 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. Southpaw's helpers read to the children and answered questions about baseball. Our Teen Summer Reading Program had a small but dedicated group of readers who read for prizes all summer.

The residents of the Town of North Greenbush are generous in their support of the library and our dedicated staff and volunteers continue to provide valuable service. Volunteers provided many hours of service to the library allowing the staff to serve the public more efficiently. Our volunteers perform routine duties such as shelving books, book repair, and carry out many small time-consuming projects during the year. Also, our Friends group works tirelessly for the improvement of the library through their on-going book sale. The Friends' efforts in 2013 enabled the library to purchase new shelving for our collections and allowed the library to purchase many items requested by patrons.

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

## PETERSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lori Hamm, Board President

Sharon Hodges, Director

The challenge of the year 2013 was to keep a library in Petersburg. Due to some lack of foresight in the past, the town found that it was in dire financial straits. There were some members of the community who felt the solution to the problem would be to eliminate funding to the library for the year so the town could play catch up using funds normally allocated to the library. Fortunately the Town Board did not support this plan, but did feel it was necessary to make a cut in the library budget.



It was a challenge, but there is still a Library in Petersburg. The impressive gardens in front of the building are maintained by volunteers.

The library board immediately undertook a campaign to make up the difference in the budget and successfully raised the \$1,490 that had been cut from the budget. This brings out the point that the Board of Trustees of the Petersburg Public Library for many years has worked diligently to promote library services to our town. Through twelve years of renovations beginning in 1998 and culminating in 2010, with a library that was then double in size, and now weathering the budget crunch experienced in 2013, the board has worked in a unified fashion to bring progress to our library. The board has been a changing board with only two members having been on it for more than five years. We are fortunate to have nine board members who are concerned about the future of the library and willing to work to move the library *forward*.

The Puppet People once again did a wonderful show, *The Firebird*, to kick-off the Summer Reading Program. The turnout was fantastic with 10% of the population of the town attending. For the first time in many years the library sponsored a series of programs for tweens and teens. Through the mini-grant received from UHLS, the teens attended a digital photography workshop taught by instructors from The Photography Center of the Capital District. There was also a session on matting photographs taught by Lorri Parisi from Parisi Designs. The photographs were then printed and framed and displayed at the library for two months. Some of the photographs were then entered into the Schaghticoke Fair and were awarded ribbons in that competition. The adults were so jealous of the digital photography workshop that we offered for the teens that the board supported the idea of offering a session for adults. So, in the fall we had a class for adults with numerous people signed up and on the waiting list.

## POESTENKILL LIBRARY

LouAnne Lundgren, Board President

Margie Morris, Director

The focus for 2013 was a new Chapter 414 ballot vote on Election Day. The Board of Trustees worked hard all year educating the public (and staff) about the need to increase the library budget by \$13,290. It had been six years since our last 414 vote and in that time the library had relied on fundraising between 20-26% of the budget. The successful vote in November 2013 reduced that need to 12-15%. The total budget for 2014 is \$77,876.

Here are some other 2013 highlights:

- In addition to increasing our Facebook posts, we opened Twitter and Pinterest accounts to disseminate information about the library.
- In March, we held a work weekend. In one of the main rooms, volunteers and staff painted the walls a welcoming cornbread color and new carpet was laid. Wheels were installed on two bookcases to make them moveable. The room is now warm and welcoming and can be used as a meeting space.
- Ongoing, regular weeding of the collection keeps it fresh and current. Space is limited in the library and the collection must reflect the current wants and needs of the community.
- 10% of the collection budget for 2013 (\$1500) was allocated to purchasing ebook content for Overdrive. The same amount has been allocated for 2014.
- The Trustees had a booth at the Poestenkill Farmers' Market over the summer to let people know about what the library offers and to educate people about the budget vote. They were able to collect many signatures on the petitions required for the vote. The Trustees plan to have the booth again this summer and will use it to offer information about many aspects of the Town of Poestenkill, in addition to promoting the library.
- The Friends of Poestenkill Library continued to raise much needed funds for library expenses. The community support for the Market Days held in May and September remains strong. Everyone enjoys the great bargains and baked goods they bring home. The Friends' 13<sup>th</sup> Holiday Lights Appeal in December raised over \$5,900 for the library.

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  
Judith Felsten, Director

The Community Library moved into newly renovated, sunny quarters in Mid-May. Staff members had collaboratively planned layout, finishes and furnishing, a new technology network, and move logistics. The facility is twice the size of the previous library, allowing separate early-childhood, school-age, and teen sections, a staff workroom, multiple restrooms, and a fully accessible Community Room. The Trustees hosted a well-attended Open House on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Library introduced its first RCSCSCL-logo Borrower's Card.



The new Library quarters at 95 Main Street, Ravenna



The Trustees hosted an Open House in May

Summer program participation boomed, with an evening Family Story time added and the School District's intensive Summer Reading Adventure at full capacity. Early childhood outreach to local childcare providers increased. Residents of all ages began to spend more time in the library. Monthly circulation topped 5,000 during many months this year.



Making artbots during the summer Teen Tech Program

Computer use has been brisk, with a successful separation of teen work stations from adult. A gift from a local resident in December will help the Library to add five more public computers. Monthly youth programming focused on fun with technology. Adult programming resumed with an emphasis on medical insurance coverage. The book discussion group completed its third year. The Library also began to offer the monthly *Book Pages* review.

Once the new flow of daily operations had stabilized, attention turned to completing interior renovations. With support from the Bender Family Foundation, architect Paul Scoville facilitated planning for submission of a NYS Construction Grant. The final application requested aid to weatherize the main entrance, improve lighting, build study rooms, and add storage and a kitchen to the Community Room.

An AED was donated by a local family, and seven staff members are certified to use it.

The weatherized main entrance with automatic openers was completed this winter. An outdoor sign with changeable messages has also been installed.

The Library qualified to apply for the Construction Grant for large move-in expenditures such as the carpeting and telecommunications network installation. The Trustees continue to raise funds for the full cost of planned interior improvements, while our landlord continues to invest in building improvements, including ventilation and drainage.



The “Wimpy Kid” in front of the Library’s new outdoor sign

## RENSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Johanna Burnham, Board President

Jane Chirgwin, Director



All ready for Summer Reading!

The Library collaborates with Van Rensselaer Elementary school on different events. We are working to make students, parents and teachers aware of the resources we can provide to help students become lifelong learners.

The number of job searchers we have seen has declined, which I am hoping is a good sign for the economy. We are still hosting Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County for many one-on-one English classes, but the volume has decreased there as well.

In 2013 we concentrated on reaching teens, starting by developing our Anime Club, which also acts as our teen advisory group. The Friends of the Library purchased an X-Box 360 and games, and also sponsored special guests at Anime club meetings. During the summer we had a weekly “teen time” that was so popular that we have continued it through the fall and winter.



Fun with frosting on a graham cracker house



Searching for clues on a Scavenger Hunt

## RENSSELAERVILLE LIBRARY

Kristina Tanner, Board President

Kimberly Graff, Director

During 2013 the Rensselaerville Library Board and Staff continued to focus on improving the energy efficiency of the building, access to the building and collection, new programming and a unique fundraising opportunity.

The Library continued to receive support from the NYS Department of Library Development Construction Grant program to improve energy efficiency and access to the building. New windows were installed in the rear of the building and insulation was added to the ceiling and walls that had none as expected in an old building. The access to the building was difficult for mobility challenged patrons. As part of this grant the installation of a covered handicap access ramp was initiated and will be completed in 2014. The challenge to this installation was keeping with the historic nature of the building and community.

The 2012 grant that was used to remodel the under-utilized basement level into a children's play area was supported with a grant from UHLS and Target. The funds were used to purchase educational resources to enhance this room for early literacy activities and storytime programs. The room has been transformed from a dark and cluttered storage area into a vibrant play area that is used on a regular basis by families for birthday parties, play dates and storytime.

During 2012 and 2013 the Library staff moved the entire nonfiction collection to the second floor. Prior to this about 1,000 titles were housed in the inaccessible basement. The majority of our nonfiction collection is not linked and therefore not discoverable in the online catalog. During 2013 staff began reviewing titles and linking with a goal to have the entire nonfiction collection linked by the end of 2014. We are already seeing the impact as our daily pull list requests for nonfiction increased dramatically.



Children's play area: Before remodeling it was just a dark and cluttered storage area.



Children's play area: After remodeling it became a vibrant space that is now used on a regular basis



## (RENSSELAERVILLE LIBRARY)

In 2013 the Library received the Upper Hudson Library System Rural Program of the Year Award for the 2012 Poetry Month programming. As a result a community member requested that we create a Poetry work group. This work group meets in the Library twice a month. This group is in addition to our monthly writing work group. Additionally a special Haiku project was completed during Poetry month and auctioned off at the Festival of Writers. The five writers, included author and film director Tom Gilroy, filmmaker Jim McKay, musician Michael Stipe, writer Patrick So, and poet Shin Yu Pai, each committed to writing one haiku a day for the entire month of April.

A local resident, author and film director, Tom Gilroy, produced and filmed the movie *The Coldlands* ([www.thecoldlands.com](http://www.thecoldlands.com)), in Rensselaerville. An advanced screening of the movie was held at the Carey Conference Center in Rensselaerville. The proceeds from the advanced screening were donated to the Library.

## SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY

Terrence Dingman, Board President

Melinda Fowler, Director

The Sand Lake Town Library served as a center of learning and community throughout 2013 - Cub Scouts and Daisy Scouts, tutors, and various community groups met at the library to plan and learn. Authors, performers, educators, and others provided enrichment and entertainment for the 1,385 individuals who attended the 152 programs (a 14% increase) offered during the year.

At the beginning of the year the Library and the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) introduced a collaborative project to the community with a gallery display of historic photos and information about the Plateau. The Library will house RPA's collection of reference materials related to the Rensselaer Plateau so that anyone interested in this unique area can learn more about it.

Our "Staff Picks" program, where we feature books the staff has enjoyed along with a short description, has been a hit with the community and has increased circulation of the featured titles, both new and old, adding to our overall circulation of 43,696. The collection was reorganized to provide room for our growing DVD collection, and the donation of a new couch added a welcome pop of color as well as a comfortable space to sit and read to youngsters or work on laptops.

We debuted our Facebook page and e-mail newsletter in 2013. Our "likes" have steadily increased over the year; this has been another great way to share information, programs, staff picks and more with the community.



"Beatrix Potter" (aka Carol Johnson) at a Library Tea Party

The theme for the Summer Reading Program was *Dig into Reading*. We opened the summer with our annual Library Fair featuring magician Jim Snack and a special tea party with guest reader "Beatrix Potter," portrayed by volunteer Carol Johnson. Twenty-four summer youth programs, including zentangles, robotics, and medieval machines had an attendance of 173 individuals.

There were author visits by Jenny Milchman, local cookbook author Elizabeth Barbone, and renowned short-story author Lydia Davis. A generous donation of classical music CDs for the collection spurred a series of music discussions starting, of course, with "Who's Afraid of Classical Music."

We are very grateful for the monetary donations from Senator Kathy Marchione and from patrons throughout the year. Those donations allowed us to double our electronic media purchases, add an

(SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY)

additional museum pass, purchase additional new shelves for the teen area, and will help in the future purchase of a much-needed new circulation desk.

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.



"Talk Like A Pirate" Day display on our new shelves

**(Schaghticoke) A.E. DIVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

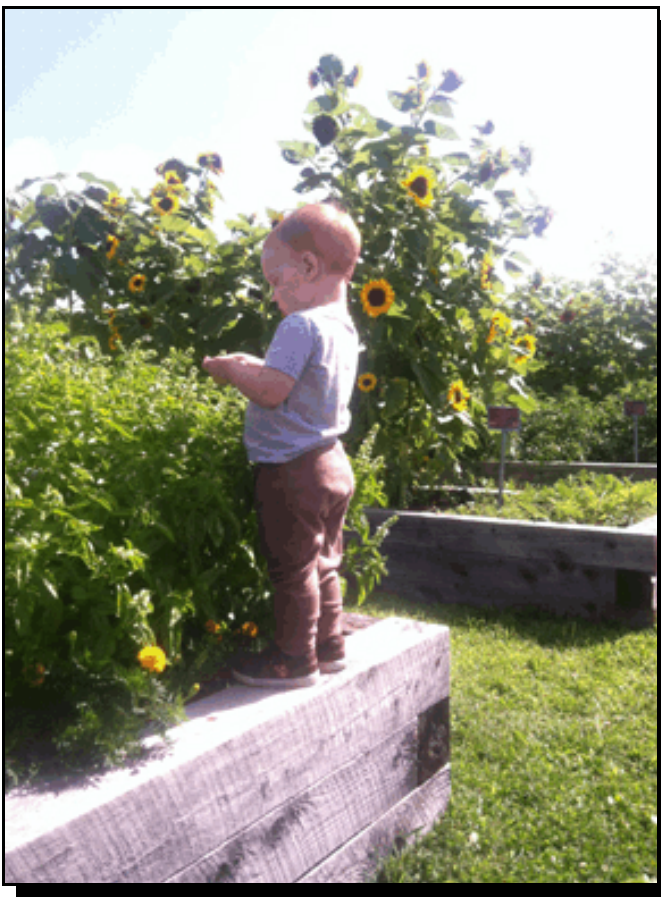
Marilou Pudiak-Town, Board President

Jessica Lewis-Stevens, Director

2013 was an exciting year for the Diver Library. We started the year with a renovation of our children’s room as well as our computer room. Through the renovation we opened up previously crowded spaces making them not only more welcoming to our valued patrons but also more useful.

The new, roomier, reconfigured space allowed us to host 65 programs and special events, which were attended by over 600 local community members! From Yoga and Beekeeping workshops for adults to our monthly Teen Night, to our popular Little Art Class series for toddlers, 2013 was filled with fun and interesting programs for all ages—and we only hope to expand our programming roster in 2014.

In almost every aspect of operations, 2013 was a year of positive and substantive growth for the Diver Library.



Storytime in the Garden

2013 saw a rise in total visits to the library (5067), website views (30,515), and in total circulation (13,566 transactions). We also experienced an improved turnout for our Summer Reading Program. 48 participants Dug Into Reading and enjoyed 18 different programs held at the library and elsewhere in the community. One highlight was *Story-time In The Garden*, which marked the beginning of an exciting new partnership between the Diver Library and the Hoosic Valley School Garden. During these popular events kids enjoyed a story, a garden-fresh snack, and some fun in the sun (and plenty of digging in the dirt as well). It was a great way to encourage young children to think about the food that they eat and where it comes from; and though the initiative was inspired by the *Dig Into Reading* Summer Reading Program theme, we hope to continue working with the Hoosick Valley Garden into 2014 and beyond.

## STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Sue Brissette, Board President

Laurenne Teachout, Director

We began the past year with much preparation for our first special election in March. A great deal of time was spent educating our townspeople, public officials, and library patrons about our current structure as an Association Library and our proposed plan to become a Special Legislative District Library, thereby assuring a stable funding source. The vote was held on March 19, 2013 and, in spite of snowy weather, the voter turnout was quite high. The vote was so close that it took several days to determine the final outcome. In the end, it failed by only 12 votes. The Board, Friends, and library staff took stock of this and decided to hold off on another vote and focus on building awareness and support of the library in our entire community. We kicked off a strong Annual Appeal effort and found that local support was overwhelming. Appreciation of the library and donations rolled in, ensuring continuation of uninterrupted services and showing support for the library as the heart of the community.



Reptile Show at the August Book Sale

The summer months led to a new partnership between the library and the Stephentown Youth Commission. The library offered an extended day summer camp experience to 20 area children, held at the library after lunch. The program, designed by local Girl Scout Libby Cass, ran for 4 weeks from 12 -2:00 and focused on science and art that would be fun and appealing to kids. Local artists contributed their considerable talents and a camp director was hired, along with area teens as counselors, to implement the program. Feedback was positive and showed yet another way that the library serves as a focal point of the community.

Also in 2013, our Story Time program was adopted by retired kindergarten teacher, Jane Halleck, who brought music and a new vision for early literacy to this already successful program. Under Jane's visionary guidance, the program has grown by leaps and bounds. Additionally, the library is enjoying a stronger Facebook presence that is highlighted weekly with Jane's creative content. Local parents are so happy to bring their young children to the library each Wednesday for songs, stories, and a clever craft.

We continue to offer a strong array of programs for adults, teens, and children and library usage is consistently high.

## **TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Mary Muller, Board President

Paul Hicok, Director

For the first time in its history, the Troy Public Library was able to offer full service Sunday hours. Beginning December 8 the library will be open every Sunday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM except July and August for adult and children's programs, book borrowing, reference and local history and genealogy inquiries and, of course, computer and internet access. Sunday hours have long been a goal of the library and with the increase to the library's budget approved by voters in September, that goal has been reached.

The highlight of Adult Programming at the Troy Public Library in 2013 was an inaugural event co-sponsored with our local independent bookstore. Our first annual Troy Author Day was held at the library on October 19<sup>th</sup>. We hosted over 20 local published authors at the event, which consisted of book signings and two author panels. The first panel discussed the creative process, while the afternoon session focused on the publishing process. This event drew over 100 people into the library on a Saturday afternoon.

Our Arts and Crafts Series proved popular again in 2013. We had over 185 people participate in classes such as; Beginning Embroidery, Intro to Watercolor Painting, Zentangle, Jewelry Making, Pottery and Cake Decorating. Exercise classes continued to be popular in 2013 with the library offering Zumba, Yoga and Tai Chi. Another staple of our library programming, Computer Instruction, had strong attendance with more than 300 people utilizing the library to learn how to use email, eReaders, Microsoft Word, Excel and basic computing skills. Our adult book discussion group at the Lansingburgh Branch grew to more than 17 members and we saw the establishment of a book group at our Main location as well.

For our Young People's Department, 2013 was a year focused on creating and strengthening community partnerships which will continue to grow. Through alliances with local organizations the library has expanded the quality and quantity of services offered to young people in our community. We joined with the Junior League to garner hundreds of free books for Troy kids. We partnered again with the Troy schools to promote summer reading opportunities through outreach and a new video we created together. The library was also able to form new partnerships with the Museum of Innovation and Science, WMHT, 4H, and others to provide better free programming for children and families.

## VALLEY FALLS LIBRARY

Ralph Marino, Board President  
Sandra Goodwin, Director

The Valley Falls Library has been busy with all of our usual activities; Summer Reading Program, story times, annual yard sale, Memorial Day service, pumpkin festival, and more. These programs were well attended and the community enjoyed each of them.



Darwin Honsinger, a local boy scout did his Eagle project at the library. He planted a beautiful perennial garden for everyone to enjoy on the side lawn of the library and in the spring he is installing a bike rack for the patrons to use. There was also work done on the World War I monument on the lawn at the library this year. New shrubs and flowers were planted around the monument and a new plaque was installed on the monument with other World War veterans. These two projects have increased the beauty of our library.

We appreciate the continued support that is received by grants and donations from individuals for the library. The Wentorf Foundation, Key Bank, Stewart's Shop, and several patrons that give monetary donation each year are helpful. We also receive donations of books, movies, and audios throughout the year; newer ones are added to the collection and others go into our sale. The patrons enjoy looking through our book sale items and buying them. We appreciate the volunteers that help keep the items organized for the sale.

## VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Robert Kent, Board President

Gail Alter Sacco, Director

This past year was one of fundamental change and incredible opportunity for the Voorheesville Public Library. Library staff and trustees bid farewell to three long time staff members, three trustees, and two Friends' officers. During the past months we have spent time welcoming the new members of our team, showing them all of the supports and services we offer to residents of the Voorheesville School District, and listening to their initial thoughts and ideas about the library. We have been busy building the bridges that will take the library to its future in innovative ways.

During this transition, the staff of the library has continued to bring quality programs to our members, develop and support early literacy and other reading initiatives, and expand our available technology and one-on-one trainings. We are looking forward to the library's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015!



**8,155**  
Number of people  
attending programs



**3,396**  
Number of children  
and parents  
attending early  
literacy programs

**1,948**  
Number of children  
attending the Summer  
Reading Program



**101**  
Number of early literacy programs



## **WATERVLLET PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Beth Capitula, Board President  
Sue Black, Interim Director

This year the Watervliet Public Library went through many changes. After Sue Black's help as Interim Director for nine months, the library hired new director Samantha Fagan in March 2014.



In 2013, we had 88 programs for adults, children and teens with 1, 337 attendees. In addition, we had 181 people participate in the 2013 Summer Reading Program.

In April 2014, the library will hold its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "I Love My Library" Dinner honoring Albany County Legislator and Watervliet resident, Bob Beston. We will have so many great prizes and are flattered by the help we received from the Watervliet community. This year we are looking forward to "Fizz! Boom! Read!" and all the great programs we have in store for the summer!

## (Westerlo) TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Laura Tenney, Board President

Sue Hoadley, Director

2013 was another year of renewal for our library building. Thanks to the hands-on efforts of the Board of Trustees, the library was awarded a \$31,173 Public Library Construction Grant from the New York State Department of Education. The grant was made possible by memorial donations and gifts to the library's Capital Fund, which allowed us to provide the 25% matching funds required by the State grant. As in 2012, the work is being done in phases. Phase One began in October 2013 with installation of a solid concrete floor and new steel jack posts in the cellar. New window wells were installed for each cellar window, and the exterior ground was re-graded to control water runoff. Five worn windows were replaced with energy-efficient units in the style of the historic original windows. Phase Two will begin in the Spring of 2014. That work will include new gutters; extensive repair and replacement of wood siding and trim; and a fresh coat of paint.

In 2013, the library was open to the public 29 hours per week for over 300 days. 9,288 children and adults entered the building. We circulated 17,132 items. Of those, 5,632 items were borrowed from member libraries in the Upper Hudson system. In turn, we loaned 5,564 items from our collection to patrons at other Upper Hudson libraries. In addition to books, audios and movies, our patrons downloaded 607 ebooks – almost double the activity in 2012. Our two public computers were used 688 times and many more took advantage of our 24/7 WiFi service.

Our outreach to children increased again in 2013. We offered 62 programs attended by 375 children, and 8 programs attended by 27 young adults. Adult programming also grew with the introduction of a new quilting group in September.



“Fascinating Gadgets” with Jeff Boyer

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 “Dig Into Science.” Thanks to a grant from UHLS funded by the New York State Family Literacy Library Services, we presented a special program – Fascinating Gadgets: Inventors & Inventions from Around the World with Jeff Boyer. Every child in the audience had a chance to join Jeff on stage and participate in the demonstrations!

The trustees held their annual Mother's Day Bake Sale in May and the library

(TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY)

received a second \$500 grant from the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation.

In November, we purchased our beautiful, new book drop thanks to those grants and our friends and patrons who support our book and bake sales and allow us to “keep the change” when paying for fines or photocopies. Every penny truly makes a difference!

Continuing the theme of renewal, in August we replaced our four aging staff and public computers with free, hand-me-downs from Albany Public, expertly installed by UHLS staff. Our only expense was in new keyboards and barcode scanners (hands-free on stands!) because the newer units have USB connections. This is a clear demonstration of the benefits of our cooperative membership in the Upper Hudson Library System and a very tangible return on investment! *Together. For Better Libraries.*

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 support of our Town Board and the community as a whole. Together we have made our public library a unique and valuable resource for all.



The new book drop on the left side of the porch



## 2013 AWARDS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR	<b>Nancy Lendrum, Berne Public Library</b>
PROGRAM OF THE YEAR	<b>Albany Public Library Altamont Free Library</b>
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	<b>Berneata Barger, WK Sanford Town Library</b>

### **TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR**

2012	Marilou Pudiak-Town, Schaghticoke Rebecca Pahl & Rita Stein, Voorheesville	1996	Janice Brand, Rensselaerville Sally Fox, Stephentown
2011	M. Mary Kinnaird, Berne Anthony Kossman, Altamont	1995	Pamela Daves, Brunswick Sally Ten Eyck, Voorheesville
2010	Julie Dessloch, RCS Tobi Freebern, Rensselaer	1994	Joyce Hunt Strand, Bethlehem MaryLou Youmans, Ravena
2009	Mary Muller, Troy	1993	Carolyn Durnin, Grafton
2008	Robert E. Ganz, Guilderland	<b>PROGRAM OF THE YEAR</b>	
2007	Anthony Beverly, Stephentown	2012	E. Greenbush Community Library Rensselaerville Library
2006	David Brown, Albany Francis Hamblin, Nassau	2011	Rensselaerville Library
2005	No Award presented	2010	Albany Public Library Berne Public Library
2004	Susan Zweig, Nassau	2009	WK Sanford Town Library Voorheesville Public Library <i>Honorable Mention:</i> <i>Albany Public Library</i>
2003	Ellen Bach, Albany Monica Shupe, Berlin	2008	WK Sanford Town Library Berne Public Library
2002	Patricia Carlson, Brunswick Lester Warren, WK Sanford	2007	Albany Public Library
2001	Dorothea Fisher, Poestenkill Judy Rosen, Albany	2006	Castleton Public Library Guilderland Public Library
2000	Jane Spain Ducatt, Troy Barbara Hahn, Schaghticoke	2005	Albany Public Library Guilderland Public Library
1999	Sue McLaren, Poestenkill Michael Poost, East Greenbush	2004	RCS Community Library Troy Public Library
1998	Susan Birkhead, Bethlehem William Meredith, Albany	2003	Petersburgh Public Library Cohoes Public Library and Watervliet Public Library ( <i>joint award</i> )
1997	Lynne Strnad, Altamont Frank Della Rocca, WK Sanford		

- ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR**
- 2002 Brunswick Community Library  
Albany Public Library  
*Honorable Mention:*  
WK Sanford Town Library
- 2001 Brunswick Community Library  
Guilderland Public Library
- 2000 Brunswick Community Library  
Bethlehem Public Library
- 1999 Castleton Public Library  
WK Sanford Town Library
- 1998 Rensselaerville Library  
Guilderland Public Library
- 1997 Petersburgh Public Library  
WK Sanford Town Library
- 1996 Rensselaerville Library  
Guilderland Public Library
- 1995 Berlin Public Library  
Watervliet Public Library
- 1994 Guilderland Public Library  
*Honorable Mention:*  
*Berlin Public Library*  
*East Greenbush Library*
- 1993 Sand Lake Town Library  
Voorheesville Public Library

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

- 2012 John Madlin, Cohoes
- 2011 Gene Damm, Albany
- 2010 Matthew Graff, Berne  
The Friends Group,  
Poestenkill
- 2009 Michele Reilly, Voorheesville
- 2008 Stephanie Sampsen, Berne
- 2007 Dan Cornman, Reed Dawley,  
Ed Evans, East Greenbush
- 2006 Tanner Williamson, Cheney  
Maggie Oldendorf,  
Guilderland

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

### BALANCE SHEET

as of 12/31/13 and 12/31/12

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Cash and other current assets	1,795,456	1,779,703
Buildings and equipment, net	783,464	838,963
Other assets	22,475	23,947
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>2,601,395</u></b>	<b><u>2,642,613</u></b>
Current liabilities	124,199	119,107
Long-term debt	516,346	548,291
Net assets	1,960,850	1,975,215
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>2,601,395</u></b>	<b><u>2,642,613</u></b>

### ACTIVITIES

for years ended 12/31/13 and 12/31/12

State, federal, other government aid	1,517,003	1,606,127
Other revenue	<u>422,755</u>	<u>423,356</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,939,758</b>	<b>2,029,483</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>1,954,123</u></b>	<b><u>2,062,756</u></b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>(14,365)</u></b>	<b><u>(33,273)</u></b>

# 2013 STATISTICAL SUMMARIES - MEMBER LIBRARIES

## LOCAL SUPPORT, MATERIALS and PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Library	Population	2012 Local Support	2013 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	97,839	\$6,331,554	\$6,434,760	2%	\$65.77	7
Altamont	1,720	\$37,657	\$129,764	245% ★	\$75.44	6
Berlin	1,880	\$10,350	\$10,350	0%	\$5.51	27
Berne	2,794	\$30,975	\$32,753	6%	\$11.72	23
Bethlehem	27,878	\$3,704,268	\$3,769,074	2%	\$135.20	2
Brunswick	11,941	\$143,798	\$143,794	0%	\$12.04	22
Castleton	1,473	\$108,325	\$111,175	3%	\$75.48	5
Cohoes	16,168	\$197,101	\$171,910	-13%	\$10.63	24
Colonie	81,591	\$2,387,826	\$2,432,067	2%	\$29.81	12
East Greenbush	16,473	\$1,678,805	\$1,693,154	1%	\$102.78	3
Grafton	2,130	\$28,600	\$28,600	0%	\$13.43	20
Guilderland	36,131	\$3,220,161	\$3,309,469	3%	\$91.60	4
Hoosick Falls	6,924	\$49,500	\$50,000	1%	\$7.22	26
Menands	3,883	\$126,483	\$126,483	0%	\$32.57	11
Nassau	4,789	\$108,870	\$108,870	0%	\$22.73	15
North Greenbush	12,075	\$291,038	\$296,859	2%	\$24.58	13
Petersburgh	1,525	\$54,384	\$54,957	1%	\$36.04	9
Poestenkill	4,530	\$53,852	\$56,349	5%	\$12.44	21
RCS	14,064	\$458,087	\$493,067	8%	\$35.06	10
Rensselaer	9,392	\$96,279	\$97,667	1%	\$10.40	25
Rensselaerville	1,843	\$40,500	\$40,910	1%	\$22.20	16
Sand Lake	8,530	\$125,665	\$127,549	1%	\$14.95	19
Schaghticoke	592	\$29,015	\$33,865	17%	\$57.20	8
Stephentown	2,903	\$46,825	\$45,825	-2%	\$15.79	18
Troy	50,129	\$847,168	\$1,223,261	44%	\$24.40	14
Valley Falls	5,804	\$27,432	\$27,432	0%	\$4.73	28
Voorheesville	7,208	\$1,030,600	\$1,059,122	3%	\$146.94	1
Watervliet	10,254	\$31,000	\$31,000	0%	\$3.02	29
Westerlo	3,361	\$66,000	\$66,163	0%	\$19.69	17
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>15,373</b>	<b>\$736,625</b>	<b>\$765,733</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$38.60</b>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>445,824</b>	<b>\$21,362,118</b>	<b>\$22,206,249</b>		<b>\$1,119.37</b>	

★ Received 2012 & 2013 municipal funds in 2013

Library	2012 Total Expenses	2013 Total Expenses	Percent Change Total Expenses	2013 Materials Expenses	Percent Materials of Total \$	Percent Staff of Total \$	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$8,461,207	\$8,981,444	6%	\$754,612	9%	48%	\$7.71	6
Altamont	\$123,898	\$150,814	22%	\$10,499	8%	52%	\$6.10	9
Berlin	\$53,476	\$54,512	2%	\$5,469	10%	59%	\$2.91	17
Berne	\$34,711	\$55,889	61%	\$6,238	18%	40%	\$2.23	20
Bethlehem	\$3,579,554	\$3,643,235	2%	\$337,418	9%	77%	\$12.10	3
Brunswick	\$168,052	\$171,725	2%	\$21,195	13%	65%	\$1.77	23
Castleton	\$119,430	\$122,031	2%	\$7,528	6%	81%	\$5.11	11
Cohoes	\$227,216	\$222,280	-2%	\$21,841	10%	73%	\$1.35	25
Colonie	\$2,497,902	\$2,475,131	-1%	\$266,111	11%	77%	\$3.26	16
East Greenbush	\$1,740,273	\$1,812,182	4%	\$131,853	8%	61%	\$8.00	5
Grafton	\$46,824	\$47,969	2%	\$5,418	12%	60%	\$2.54	18
Guilderland	\$3,405,757	\$3,767,671	11%	\$499,864	15%	65%	\$13.83	1
Hoosick Falls	\$82,680	\$99,209	20%	\$4,703	6%	61%	\$0.68	27
Menands	\$124,161	\$116,875	-6%	\$27,798	22%	56%	\$7.16	8
Nassau	\$107,778	\$122,374	14%	\$11,212	10%	58%	\$2.34	19
North Greenbush	\$242,765	\$239,186	-1%	\$68,225	28%	55%	\$5.65	10
Petersburgh	\$62,047	\$63,902	3%	\$11,367	18%	62%	\$7.45	7
Poestenkill	\$73,524	\$79,476	8%	\$15,143	21%	53%	\$3.34	14
RCS	\$430,931	\$520,897	21%	\$26,148	6%	65%	\$1.86	22
Rensselaer	\$99,082	\$104,131	5%	\$13,663	14%	78%	\$1.45	24
Rensselaerville	\$154,621	\$168,878	9%	\$7,395	5%	31%	\$4.01	12
Sand Lake	\$140,967	\$148,373	5%	\$28,321	20%	69%	\$3.32	15
Schaghticoke	\$41,656	\$50,905	22%	\$5,479	13%	23%	\$9.26	4
Stephentown	\$89,700	\$83,418	-7%	\$8,451	9%	48%	\$2.91	17
Troy	\$917,238	\$955,387	4%	\$102,975	11%	67%	\$2.05	21
Valley Falls	\$35,194	\$44,720	27%	\$4,770	14%	52%	\$0.82	26
Voorheesville	\$1,024,600	\$983,219	-4%	\$94,327	9%	77%	\$13.09	2
Watervliet	\$55,167	\$50,533	-8%	\$4,719	9%	64%	\$0.46	28
Westerlo	\$66,372	\$72,999	10%	\$11,814	18%	64%	\$3.52	13
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>\$834,717</b>	<b>\$876,185</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>\$86,709</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>\$4.70</b>	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$24,206,783</b>	<b>\$25,409,365</b>		<b>\$2,514,556</b>			<b>\$136.32</b>	

## CIRCULATION and HOLDINGS

Library	Population	2012 Circulation	2013 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	97,839	1,271,227	1,094,737	-14%	11
Altamont	1,720	28,093	34,553	23%	20
Berlin	1,880	13,246	10,285	-22%	5
Berne	2,794	15,059	14,347	-5%	5
Bethlehem	27,878	764,919	743,298	-3%	27
Brunswick	11,941	35,968	36,208	1%	3
Castleton	1,473	22,517	21,530	-4%	15
Cohoes	16,168	44,872	43,541	-3%	3
Colonie	81,591	700,669	713,783	2%	9
East Greenbush	16,473	426,370	414,196	-3%	25
Grafton	2,130	20,636	20,356	-1%	10
Guilderland	36,131	589,251	498,188	-15%	14
Hoosick Falls	6,924	20,379	21,405	5%	3
Menands	3,883	39,855	32,865	-18%	8
Nassau	4,789	27,100	25,847	-5%	5
North Greenbush	12,075	113,791	113,713	0%	9
Petersburgh	1,525	23,826	21,915	-8%	14
Poestenkill	4,530	20,968	20,589	-2%	5
RCS	14,064	61,047	55,928	-8%	4
Rensselaer	9,392	22,495	23,712	5%	3
Rensselaerville	1,843	9,734	10,555	8%	6
Sand Lake	8,530	43,695	43,696	0%	5
Schaghticoke	592	15,920	13,566	-15%	23
Stephentown	2,903	20,056	22,319	11%	8
Troy	50,129	269,129	237,481	-12%	5
Valley Falls	5,804	10,429	9,552	-8%	2
Voorheesville	7,208	113,598	110,320	-3%	15
Watervliet	10,254	35,945	27,569	-23%	3
Westerlo	3,361	16,136	17,739	10%	5
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>15,373</b>	<b>165,411</b>	<b>153,579</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>445,824</b>	<b>4,796,930</b>	<b>4,453,793</b>		

Library	Population	2012 Holdings	2013 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2013 Per Capita Holdings
Albany	97,839	345,150	326,705	-5%	3
Altamont	1,720	26,500	35,142	33%	20
Berlin	1,880	24,494	33,858	38%	18
Berne	2,794	27,968	36,244	30%	13
Bethlehem	27,878	134,414	141,619	5%	5
Brunswick	11,941	23,139	31,924	38%	3
Castleton	1,473	31,656	39,484	25%	27
Cohoes	16,168	49,278	58,259	18%	4
Colonie	81,591	225,156	230,322	2%	3
East Greenbush	16,473	110,979	117,655	6%	7
Grafton	2,130	25,503	34,624	36%	16
Guilderland	36,131	195,511	201,278	3%	6
Hoosick Falls	6,924	30,157	38,905	29%	6
Menands	3,883	28,263	36,156	28%	9
Nassau	4,789	39,599	47,614	20%	10
North Greenbush	12,075	73,368	85,376	16%	7
Petersburgh	1,525	37,267	46,687	25%	31
Poestenkill	4,530	26,282	35,299	34%	8
RCS	14,064	37,290	45,195	21%	3
Rensselaer	9,392	34,313	44,128	29%	5
Rensselaerville	1,843	30,407	39,280	29%	21
Sand Lake	8,530	45,097	54,044	20%	6
Schaghticoke	592	20,694	29,315	42%	50
Stephentown	2,903	27,439	37,155	35%	13
Troy	50,129	295,535	283,197	-4%	6
Valley Falls	5,804	23,169	32,578	41%	6
Voorheesville	7,208	54,996	66,120	20%	9
Watervliet	10,254	29,082	38,270	32%	4
Westerlo	3,361	25,416	33,873	33%	10
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>15,373</b>	<b>71,659</b>	<b>78,631</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>445,824</b>	<b>2,078,122</b>	<b>2,280,306</b>		

# LIBRARY USE and PROGRAMS

Library	2013 Resident Borrowers	2013 Non-Resident Borrowers	Internet Filtering	# Public Computers	# Public Computer Sessions	2013 Reference Transactions	Annual Hours Open	Total Annual Attendance
Albany	75,967	413	No	36	190,339	138,026	15,105	1,112,000
Altamont	1,637	189	No	6	4,500	1,575	2,932	18,000
Berlin	872	142	No	4	2,957	339	1,120	6,156
Berne	861	292	No	6	1,310	532	1,300	7,971
Bethlehem	20,637	43	No	38	39,926	82,050	3,704	367,765
Brunswick	2,399	627	No	4	2,958	5,942	2,112	17,961
Castleton	642	923	No	3	2,120	5,136	2,392	13,234
Cohoes	7,337	611	No	10	13,635	2,400	2,428	30,600
Colonie	47,938	194	No	28	39,753	41,118	3,380	307,896
East Greenbush	8,336	3,953	No	22	36,311	38,225	3,377	214,901
Grafton	683	2	No	3	1,248	624	1,144	7,836
Guiderland	17,365	4,636	Yes	35	36,568	57,527	3,400	225,889
Hoosick Falls	2,209	94	No	3	795	245	1,976	10,452
Menands	1,191	188	No	3	2,114	2,122	1,612	10,305
Nassau	1,167	640	No	2	1,810	876	1,820	11,421
North Greenbush	3,455	1,857	No	2	1,025	5,775	2,440	44,323
Petersburgh	866	128	Yes	4	1,283	760	1,248	6,920
Poestenkill	1,251	229	No	3	1,365	674	1,638	11,134
RCS	3,181	508	No	7	10,439	6,406	1,887	77,748
Rensselaer	5,713	57	No	8	11,330	5,150	2,288	33,852
Rensselaerville	892	6	No	6	833	574	1,456	5,841
Sand Lake	3,747	931	Yes	4	3,084	2,704	2,446	20,563
Schaghticoke	639	95	No	4	1,326	582	1,352	5,067
Stephentown	1,081	70	Yes	11	5,981	3,267	1,872	14,256
Troy	20,486	4,074	No	19	37,991	25,417	4,992	85,397
Valley Falls	681	94	No	3	1,365	423	1,820	6,818
Voorheesville	4,719	525	No	6	6,109	12,504	3,007	55,152
Watervliet	3,575	652	No	14	5,287	5,127	1,820	44,623
Westerlo	688	13	No	2	688	451	1,508	9,288
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>8,283</b>	<b>765</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>16,016</b>	<b>15,398</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>95,978</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>240,215</b>	<b>22,186</b>		<b>296</b>	<b>464,450</b>	<b>446,551</b>	<b>77,576</b>	<b>2,783,369</b>

Library	Adult		Young Adult		Childrens		Other		Total Attendance
	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance	
Albany	2,761	15,152	583	5,524	1,354	26,028	145	1,412	48,116
Altamont	48	500	15	140	310	3,200	0	0	3,840
Berlin	45	286	2	7	20	95	0	0	388
Berne	35	246	13	125	108	2,042	10	352	2,765
Bethlehem	135	3,179	155	2,561	797	19,471	12	978	26,189
Brunswick	96	472	0	0	59	683	0	0	1,155
Castleton	61	236	1	20	80	1,114	23	114	1,484
Cohoes	102	770	1	24	16	250	2	10	1,054
Colonie	497	9,248	14	322	514	21,522	0	0	31,092
East Greenbush	183	3,977	52	986	345	13,218	93	93	18,274
Grafton	19	249	1	8	24	229	0	0	486
Guiderland	312	4,503	28	191	338	10,004	2	80	14,778
Hoosick Falls	110	917	0	0	90	2,177	0	0	3,094
Menands	35	210	5	40	30	300	0	0	550
Nassau	28	249	19	87	104	1,342	26	383	2,061
North Greenbush	10	145	0	0	48	720	0	0	865
Petersburgh	22	105	5	72	56	956	0	0	1,133
Poestenkill	20	160	0	0	82	955	0	0	1,115
RCS	133	266	2	62	325	4,304	15	359	4,991
Rensselaer	25	293	38	338	49	822	0	0	1,453
Rensselaerville	85	756	4	23	12	39	0	0	818
Sand Lake	48	297	2	7	94	889	8	192	1,385
Schaghticoke	14	122	13	25	38	461	0	0	608
Stephentown	139	921	86	474	116	1,429	2	50	2,874
Troy	280	2,108	139	645	191	4,329	0	0	7,082
Valley Falls	5	108	0	0	31	406	0	0	514
Voorheesville	86	1,356	33	798	194	5,695	51	306	8,155
Watervliet	53	368	14	95	21	874	0	0	1,337
Westerlo	18	73	8	27	62	375	0	0	475
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4,273</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>6,487</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,405</b>	<b>47,272</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>12,601</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>123,929</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>188,131</b>

## RESOURCE SHARING

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Albany	102,768	97,866	110,400	107,779
Altamont	7,504	7,787	4,273	6,531
Berlin	3,222	2,515	3,085	3,353
Berne	5,099	4,888	5,226	5,259
Bethlehem	81,352	75,940	58,804	57,755
Brunswick	12,621	11,431	4,705	5,007
Castleton	5,285	5,775	6,689	6,656
Cohoes	7,411	8,090	5,206	5,796
Colonie	73,058	74,254	72,731	67,012
East Greenbush	47,273	43,513	40,304	40,620
Grafton	6,118	5,888	5,373	5,174
Guilderland	57,140	56,286	91,406	63,744
Hoosick Falls	6,758	6,685	4,307	4,418
Menands	4,981	3,319	9,540	10,130
Nassau	11,085	10,888	7,451	7,365
North Greenbush	13,728	13,715	14,125	13,835
Petersburgh	4,861	4,896	8,677	8,599
Poestenkill	4,016	3,883	7,467	6,950
RCS	9,818	9,146	6,210	5,910
Rensselaer	5,489	5,477	5,041	5,962
Rensselaerville	2,908	3,322	5,859	6,476
Sand Lake	12,072	12,083	11,067	11,007
Schaghticoke	3,128	3,482	2,498	2,151
Stephentown	5,051	5,909	4,976	5,644
Troy	44,169	37,190	28,771	28,070
Valley Falls	4,115	3,332	3,541	3,496
Voorheesville	18,462	15,735	25,033	21,975
Watervliet	8,814	9,363	3,532	3,176
Westerlo	5,207	5,632	5,220	5,564
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>19,776</b>	<b>18,907</b>	<b>19,363</b>	<b>18,118</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>573,513</b>	<b>548,290</b>	<b>561,517</b>	<b>525,414</b>

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