

UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

2014 Annual Report



2014 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Philip Erlich

All of our Trustees support public libraries. In order to be eligible to serve on the UHLS Board, they start as Trustees at one of our member libraries. 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 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 UHLS and our member libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

We had several turnovers in Board members in 2014 but in spite of that, managed to complete all of the business brought before us. We welcomed several members to the Board: Alison Calacone representing the Albany Public Library; Ron Ginsburg representing small Albany County libraries; Carol Rosenthal representing the William K. Sanford Town Library; and Judith Wines representing the UHLS Directors Association (DA). We bid “adieu” to Dan Curtis, Rosemary Armao and Evelyn Neale.

(Our Trustees) have proven, time and again, that they really care about UHLS and our member libraries.

In order to help our Board become better acquainted with our libraries, we started holding one or two Board meetings a year in the member libraries. In September we met at the East Greenbush Public Library. Following the meeting, the Board members were treated to a tour by the Library Director.

Compared to previous years, we had a fairly quiet year, handling normal decisions. In compliance with the new Non Profit Revitalization Act, all of the trustees accepted and signed both the Conflict of Interest policy statement and the Whistleblower Policy (although that policy is not mandatory for a small organization.) The major topic of concern throughout the year was the selection of a new automation system and we received monthly reports on the training and preparation for migration to that new system in 2015.

It was a relatively easy time for our Board Committees which met on an as- needed basis (except for the Finance Committee which met monthly.) One item of note regarding the make-up of these Committees: there is a representative from the UHLS

Directors Association (DA) on each Committee. That representative is a full voting member. This helps to ensure that there is an open line of communication from the member libraries direct to these Committees and to the UHLS Board. In addition, for the last 12 years, a DA representative has also been a full member of the UHLS Board of Trustees; UHLS was one of the first Public Library Systems to add this position to the Board.

Administration Committee

Antonio Booth, Chair
Jeremy Martelle, Mary Muller, Carol Rosenthal, Matthew Graff (DA representative), Philip Erlich (*ex-officio*)

One responsibility of the Committee is to oversee the UHLS building and in the beginning of the year Committee members reviewed proposals for complete upgrades to the security and fire alarm systems. After reviewing those proposals, the Committee recommended that the Board accept the Stanley Convergent Solutions proposals and undertake the projects. The extensive work began in the Fall and was finally completed early in 2015.

Another Committee responsibility is the UHLS Annual meeting. In 2014, the meeting was held at the Century House in Latham. Several displays were organized by the UHLS staff and member libraries to demonstrate new technologies and ongoing programs and were very popular with the attendees. The after-dinner Awards program was enjoyable and to cap off the evening, there was a contest to match certain descriptions/historical features to each of the member libraries. Perhaps one of the most popular items in the evening, however, was the Chocolate Fountain! The Committee and UHLS staff work together each year to select a site that will be more or less accessible to people coming from either County. In addition, they want the dinner to be an enjoyable time for trustees and staff - giving them a venue for the pleasant and easy exchange of information and ideas.

Finance Committee

MaryAlice Molgard, Chair
Ron Ginsburg, Janet Ivory, Tara Ricard, Judith Wines (DA representative), Philip Erlich (*ex-officio*)

The Finance Committee met every month since it is their job to oversee the UHLS income and expenses. Several major expenditures were approved during the year including the upgrade of the security and fire alarm systems, and the purchase of a new integrated library system. The cost of these projects was partially covered from reserve accounts set aside for significant building and automation expenditures.

The Committee directed the staff to look into the possibility that UHLS is not required to submit an annual 990 tax form. After the submission of the correct documents, forms and fees to the IRS, we received an exemption. This exemption represents a yearly savings of over \$2,500 in audit fees.

Services Committee

LouAnne Lundgren, Chair
Alison Calacone, Brian Hartson, Marie Stasiak, Richard Naylor (DA representative), Philip Erlich (*ex-officio*)

This Committee was only required to meet twice in 2014, however each meeting was chock full of important decisions to be made: the distribution of the Construction Grant funds; the approval of the Outreach mini-grants/Adult Literacy Workforce Development grants; selection of the Volunteer and Program of the Year Award winners; and the review of the Central Library Budget allocating the Central Library Development Aid.

2014 UHLS STAFF

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

Together. For better libraries.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Timothy Burke

Whether you are thinking about a building, an organization, a team, or a cooperative library system, a strong foundation is a critical element required to ensure success. All of the groups that are invested in the success of the Upper Hudson Library System - our Board, the member libraries, and the UHLS staff, each make a significant contribution to creating our very strong foundation. This robust foundation enabled UHLS to become a true exemplar of what a successful library system can be and will allow us to continue our growth and development.

The UHLS foundation is built on a commitment to several key values that define us. As a cooperative library system, we have a clear commitment to resource sharing. Over 90% of all library collections at UHLS member libraries are available to all users within Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Our members understand and appreciate the power of a truly shared collection. The successful growth and development of the e-content collection further reflects this resource sharing commitment. In this virtual environment, we have a true communal collection with every library's contributions being instantly available for all users. The use statistics for the UHLS e-content collection when compared to other public library systems demonstrate that a truly shared

collection performs significantly better than a "silo based" model of individual member library collections each with their own access point. A collection that is available to all users makes every library stronger and more responsive to needs in their own community.

Commitment to customer service is key to any successful organization - because everyone has customers! The staff and trustees of our

member libraries are committed to serving their communities; and UHLS serves the member libraries. Our only job is to help our customers - the member libraries - provide the best library service possible and we are committed to that principle.

Perhaps the most important building block for our foundation is a commitment to collaboration. All of our members recognize that working together brings more resources, ideas, and talents to the table. Together we can make UHLS, the member libraries, and the communities they serve, better places.

Another essential part of our strong foundation is the talented, resourceful, and dedicated staff at UHLS. The following departmental reports detail the accomplishments in each major functional area in 2014.

Perhaps the most important building block for our foundation is a commitment to collaboration.

Automation Services

Joe Thornton, Manager

One interesting way to describe the work the UHLS Automation Department does is by looking at the numbers: we processed more than 4,000,000 loans and 600,000 requests, and added 40,924 bibliographic records and 141,810 items. We sent out 505,109 hold and overdue notices: 14,972 in print, 102,543 by automated phone calls, and 387,594 by email. We also sent 67,876 email notices to warn patrons that their holds were about to expire, and 385,794 email courtesy notices to remind borrowers that their loans were due in two days. We sent 15,333 email courtesy reminders to patrons whose accounts were set to expire in two weeks. Many of these numbers are declining due to the shift to econtent, the loans of which do not show in our circulation, request, or notices statistics. Patron activity is steady but the trend toward e-content continues. In addition to our every day support of the following – 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 2014 we accomplished the following additional projects:

- We were occupied for most of 2014 with the selection of a new integrated library system (ILS) and preparation for migration to it. We made extensive use of interactive Google Docs to gather and organize our libraries' data and preferences, uploaded many large files to the new system vendor, met regularly with the UHLS advisory councils and the Ad Hoc Parameter Review committee, cleaned up many parts of our Horizon database, helped to negotiate the contract with ILL, and made site visits to several other library systems.
- Although our efforts were focused on the new system, we still had an “old” one to maintain. We performed a major upgrade to our SirsiDynix applications. As always, SirsiDynix rewarded our past upgrade successes by permitting us to do the

upgrade ourselves, which saved many hours of downtime for the libraries. And although it's moot now, we completed a difficult and important major project to simplify a big part of the *Horizon* system – ITypes. Even though we were planning to leave *Horizon* behind, the work done on this project helped to simplify the migration to the new system.

- We tested, approved, negotiated a contract for, and installed the *iTeam* software at several libraries. This is a cost effective tool for managing public PC usage and printing.
- Last but not least, we worked with Mary Fellows and the Youth Services librarians to install a shared calendar for Youth Services. We chose *Bedework* – an open source calendar application developed at RPI. After a difficult installation, aided by our close relationship with RPI, the system is up and running and evidently a big success.

Information & Outreach Services

Jo-Ann Benedetti, Manager

Our Digital Collection continues to grow steadily, as usage increases. In 2014, we added Spanish books, Chinese books, and streaming video to our digital offerings. We now have over 33,000 items in our digital catalog and an average of 25,000 of these items circulate each month. That means 75% of our collection goes out each month! Our success is a direct result of each and every library contributing to the collection and making thoughtful purchases. The most circulated titles continue to be popular fiction and narrative non-fiction.

Physical delivery continues to be an essential service that we provides to our members. In 2014, our three drivers made 200 stops per week and sorted about 2.5 million books, moving them in and out of our shipping room with a high degree of accuracy and timeliness. The drivers start their routes shortly after 6:00 am and by 2:00 pm each weekday, all is sorted, labeled, and loaded for the next day's

delivery. We are fortunate to have such an efficient and effective delivery system for our members.

In addition to facilitating the loan of material among our member libraries, UHLS also provides books to and from other libraries worldwide through our interlibrary loan service. This year, we requested more than 200 books from outside the System to satisfy the needs of our member library users.

The Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council met to review adult literacy applications and make recommendations regarding the distribution of the outreach grant funding. UHLS awarded \$7,629 for programs that were created to enhance workforce literacy. The seven libraries receiving funding in 2014 provided services and programs related to English as a second language, GED preparation, computer skills, interviewing skills and other job-seeking skills.

UHLS applies for e-rate reimbursement from the FCC each year on behalf of our member libraries. In 2014, we were able to get over \$20,000 back for our members from their telecommunications expenses.

We continue to maintain collections of large print books, music CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks that rotate among our libraries six times per year. These materials augment the libraries' collections, providing more choices to their users. In addition, the depth, breadth and use of the UHLS book discussion collections continues to grow. We currently have 140 adult book titles and 64 kids' and tween titles. These can be requested by individuals and libraries to provide enough copies for book discussion groups.

Youth and Family Services

Mary Fellows, Manager

Serving youth in libraries means more than serving kids, tweens, and teens. A story from Nick Matulis at the Arvilla E. Diver Library in Schaghticoke illustrates just how much more.

At a summer program, the staff used ice cubes, food coloring, and a tank full of warm water to demonstrate how wind works with convection currents. Most of the program's participants were in elementary school, and because of the hands-on aspects of project, they grasped the complex concept quickly. They were also mightily amused by the sound of the cloud-making apparatus: shaving cream squirted from a can. Drawn in by the laughter, a few middle school kids actually left the computers to find out what was going on. One, a self-declared "science hater," joined the fun, making her own homemade anemometer as well as helping the younger kids with theirs. But that wasn't the end of it. The director describes what happened next:

"After the kids left, and we waded in post-science-project wreckage, an older gentleman (probably late 70's) strolled in and asked what we were doing. We explained to him what the project was and he pulled up a chair and said, 'You know, I hope you don't think I'm joking, but I don't really understand how wind works either.' So we set up the experiment again, and we drew a few diagrams."

This older gentleman came to the library perhaps expecting a quiet perusal of the shelves. Instead, he found community and learning, and possibly a new perspective on his small town library.

Youth services, in any size library, builds community connections. UHLS built connections with our community – member libraries – through growth opportunities for staff serving youth and families. Early literacy, connecting with teens, and working with underserved populations were areas of focus. A current concentration in the world of education, as well as the library world, is early literacy. New York State launched *Ready to Read (RTR) at New York Libraries*, a multi-year initiative to help public libraries improve the quality of early learning services. As a member of both the advisory group and the training cohort, I'm well-embedded in the project, which helps me bring back the most value for UHLS libraries.

Our approach to *RTR* involves offering the five initiative trainings to all UHLS members, and working in-depth with three libraries on an early literacy prototype project. *ProPEL* (*Prototype Project on Early Literacy*) benefits one UHLS library of each size - Westerlo, RCS, and Albany – through additional training, personal assistance, and more resources. The goal of *ProPEL* is to develop methods of improving libraries' approach to early literacy, and then to share these methods with all UHLS libraries.

Teens are the focus of an unusual initiative started this year. *Read It Forward (RIF)* is an informal program where teens read a featured title and pass the book to their peers who continue the cycle of reading and sharing. The books are “free agents,” not catalogued or expected to return to the library. The purpose of RIF was to foster teen reading and communication about books, promote collaboration with schools, call attention to quality teen literature, and encourage parents to read and discuss books with teens. The *RIF* project ran April through October. Eleven libraries participated. We tracked readers and feedback in various ways, including social media and a survey. Libraries found RIF worthwhile from a cost and benefit perspective, and the program will continue in 2015.

Youth-related continuing education this year included annual favorites like the Summer Reading Program Planning workshop and Storytime Skills workshop, but also a daylong focus on a nontraditional population. “Beyond A Rainbow Booklist: Serving LGBTQ Youth in Your Library” brought 38 people together to learn how to effectively serve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young patrons and their parents. The workshop, held in collaboration with the Mohawk Valley Library Association, was an important learning experience for library staff. The day featured two excellent LGBTQ speakers in the morning, and booktalks and book discussions in the afternoon. Motivating attendees to read the books to be discussed was a value in itself,

and the conversation during the discussion was thoughtful. I'm particularly proud of our work in creating this learning experience.

Guests at the UHLS Annual Dinner had a hands-on opportunity to learn about the Squishy Circuits, iPads, and Makey Makey kits that libraries can borrow to bring technology-based learning fun to kids and teens. The kits are popular with UHLS libraries, and the guests enjoyed them too!

Like all of our libraries and the other UHLS departments, we had migration work to do this year. We formed a Kids Catalog Task Force and began work on customizing for our Kids Catalog as well as advocacy for program changes at the Sierra user's level.

Our three-year Family Literacy grant, *STEM-Sell*, helps libraries deliver STEM-related activities for families and hones staff skills. This year's activities included STEM marketing assistance, distribution of a book for babies and toddlers and another book for K-Gr. 1 to use in STEM programming and give to families, and a subsidized engineering/inventing program.

An exciting new service developed as part of this grant is our joint youth services programs calendar. Working collaboratively, Joe Thornton and I developed a website where libraries enter their own programs and the public can see what is happening at any of the UHLS libraries participating, or at all of them. A highlight of the summer was the long daily list of programs our member libraries offer for youth. The many, multi-faceted choices are an affirmation of the time, talent, and effort our member library youth services staff puts into fostering kids' and teens' curiosity, and keeping them connected to libraries.

DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Sue Hoadley, President

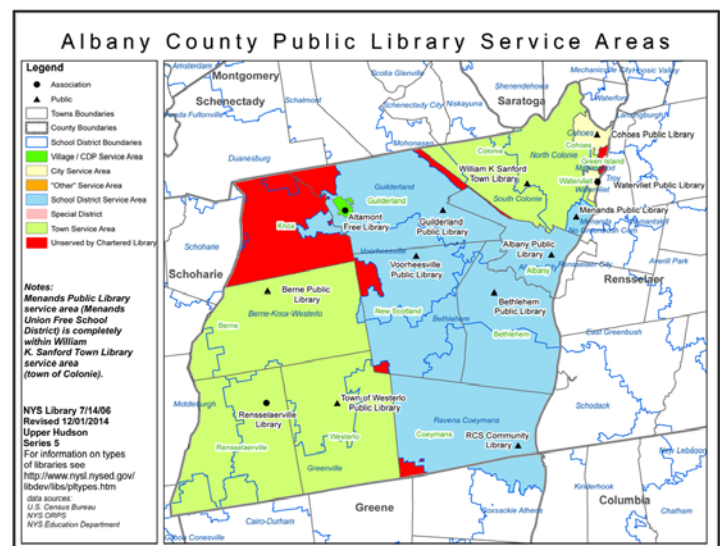
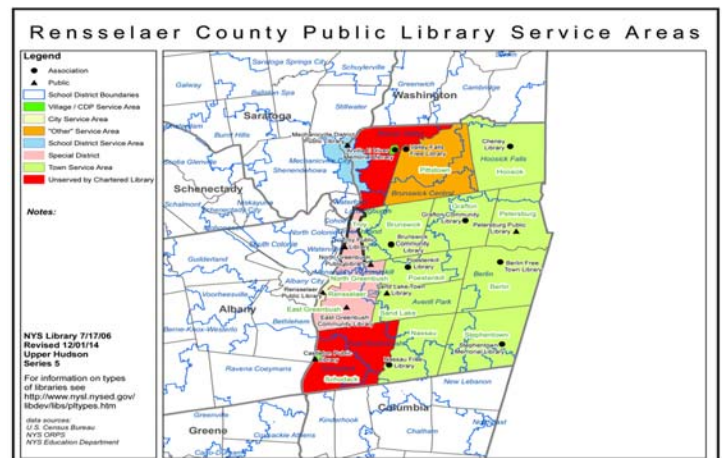
The Directors Association met ten times in 2014 and we dealt with a variety of issues. The number one issue was, of course, the planned migration to a new integrated library automation system in early 2015. To this end, we created a Parameters Study Group to review such things as all of our loan and renewal policies to try and minimize the differences in preparation for moving to the new system. Led by Evelyn Neale (EGRN), the Study Group was extremely effective and we found that agreement on many issues was actually quite easy and painless! Staff training for the new Sierra/Encore system began in the fall and several libraries volunteered to serve as training hubs. We all really pulled together during the year and almost every DA meeting accomplished something.

The other active group was our e-Content Committee. As e-content use in our libraries continued to increase, we found that it was necessary to increase the size of the Committee and added new members, all of whom worked hard in developing guidelines and policies for the collection. The e-content work is rather exciting since we are all pioneers in this - our new frontier. In recognition of the value and increasing use of the e-content materials, we greatly expanded our mutual collection to include foreign language materials: Spanish and Chinese to begin with and we will be adding other languages as time goes by.

Although the automation system migration and e-content were our primary concerns throughout the year, there were other projects in which various libraries collaborated. One of these was the "Art & Climate: Intersections" project introduced by Richard Naylor (COLN) in conjunction with SUNY Albany. This project will continue into 2015. Several partnerships between libraries and other agencies were started or enhanced as a result of this project.

Speaking of new.... we welcomed several new Directors over the course of the year: Joe Burke (Altamont), Samantha Fagan (Watervliet), Scott Jarzombek (Albany), Nick Matulis (Schaghticoke), Natalie Schipano (Brunswick) and Judith Wines, who moved to RCS after 10 years at Altamont. We bid "adios" to Judy Felsten, Carol Nersinger, Jessica Lewis Stevens and Julie Zelman.

The past year, 2014, saw even more cooperation and collaboration among our libraries than the year before. We discussed, argued, exchanged views, ideas and creative suggestions. We are very fortunate to have a strong network of colleagues who enjoy coming together once a month to work on something that we all care about strongly: public libraries.



ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary-Ellen Piché, Board President
Scott Jarzombek and Carol Nersinger,
Executive Directors

A change in leadership often means a change in an organization's priorities and initiatives. While Albany Public Library welcomed a new executive director halfway through the year, the library remained committed to its mission of educating, entertaining, and empowering the community.



Art Show at APL Main

This past year, the library made incredible inroads in connecting with the community by creating deep working relationships and cooperative programming with government, nonprofit, and civic organizations. Through these partnerships APL helped more than 50,000 people find employment, receive tax assistance, become citizens, learn more about the history of their community, enjoy music and literature, and educate themselves about health and wellness.

Every day 3,250 books leave APL buildings, promoting literacy to both the young and old. The library provides a digital safety net for many, with Wi-Fi being used more than 1,300 times, and public computers 500 times, a day. Almost 2,600 people visit Albany's libraries each day for information and entertainment.

With a continued focus on early literacy, the library launched MyCARD, a fine-free card for

children and teens. Empowered with the ability to sign up on their own for a library card, about 2,500 youngsters did so in less than six months. The Summer Reading Program, an important community tool for keeping up reading scores of school-age residents, had almost 12,000 participants city-wide. The children's room at the flagship Washington Ave. Branch was overhauled to better serve this important population. Outreach to youth through the city's schools, and community centers, was on the upswing again as well.

The library made minor tweaks at all seven branches, which have been very well received. These initiatives include: after-hours Wi-Fi to the public, extra day for DVD circulation, more timely program guide, modernized eContent collection, ongoing re-institution of Dewey at all locations, and a more functional website. APL will continue to improve services, spaces, and programs in the year ahead.

While the future of libraries is bright, the path ahead will have many twists and turns. Albany Public Library's team is ready for the challenge.



MyCard kids at the Library

ALTAMONT FREE LIBRARY

Sally Dague, Board President
Judith Wines, Director
Mary Beth Mulligan, Interim Director

2014 was a banner year for Altamont Free Library. Circulation held steady after a 25 percent increase from 2012 to 2013, a remarkable achievement. We had a tremendously successful Summer Reading Program, and received an Excellence in Historic Preservation Award from the Preservation League of New York State for the renovation and stewardship of our home in the historic Altamont Train Station.

In 2014, AFL held nearly 300 program sessions, drawing in over 4,500 library users. Programming highlights included a series of six well attended summer concerts, Eat Around the World potlucks featuring cuisines from 10 different countries, book clubs, over a hundred storytimes, author visits, teen and adult trivia nights, open mics, craft nights, World Cup viewing parties, a couch to 5k training program and much more. We collaborated with numerous community organizations, including Altamont Elementary School, the Center for Disability Services, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Altamont Community Traditions and many others to create exciting programs for our library community. AFL also ran several successful fundraisers, including our annual barbecue, book sale and the *I Love my Library!* Gala.

The AFL Board of Trustees began a long-term planning process, aided by UHLS Executive Director Tim Burke. Through this process, we solicited input from stakeholders throughout the library's service area and received valuable feedback from our community members that we will use to determine our institutional goals for the next several years.

In October, our longtime Director Judith Wines left us to become Director of the RCS Community Library. Mary Beth Mulligan ably served as Interim Director until the end of 2014, while the Board of Trustees sought Judith's permanent replacement.



Judith Wines and SRP participants



Winner of the egg-drop competition



Trustee Tony Kossman receives the National Register of Historic Places plaque from Albany County Executive Dan McCoy



BERLIN FREE TOWN LIBRARY

Martha von Schilgen, Board President
Sharon Vogel, Director

2014 proved to be another steady year at our library. The Board of Trustees successfully continued their fundraising efforts throughout the year, including their annual Maple Syrup Sale in April, Pie à la mode café in July and the Book and Bake Sale in August.

The months of July and August were humming and bustling with activity with 13 programs scheduled for youth of all ages during the Summer Reading Program. This year we decided to formally implement an additional reading program for our adult patrons and had over 40 participants. Our young adult programs were designed to include adults and were quite well-attended. As in 2013, we scheduled some of our programs in the evening hours so that working parents could participate with their children. Again this worked out well, and we plan to continue evening programming in the summer of 2015.

Our highlight of 2014 was an outdoor stone patio project designed by local Eagle Scout Timothy Shupe. Tim presented his idea to the Board in late 2013, gained approval and began to put his plan into action at the beginning of the year. He was responsible for all aspects of the project: fundraising, soliciting donations of materials, overseeing the budget, building plans, organizing and scheduling work crews, lugging stone and gravel, as well as implementing his ambitious project design and documenting the process.

He began in late June, worked many hours during the summer and fall months and completed the project in October. The Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony took place in early November, and Tim was presented with two commendatory plaques for his outstanding work, one from Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen Jimino and one from Rensselaer County Legislator Stan Brownell. We look forward to begin using our new stone patio in the spring of 2015. It will not only give our patrons a tranquil, outside space to read and relax but also give the library an excellent space to host outdoor activities and programs.

We thank our staff, volunteers, and trustees for all of their efforts during 2014.

BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Marion Burghart, Board President
Judy Petrosillo, Library Manager

2014 was the first full year at our present location and the library was bustling. The number of people visiting the library increased by 42% and our circulation also increased. The new community room was actively used for programs, community group meetings, and tutoring.



Reading to Ariel, the tail waggin' tutor

Children were able to participate at the library in many ways. Our weekly story time developed pre-literacy skills in young children. Classes from the elementary school walked across the street for programs during the school day. Young children were able to read to Ariel, our tail waggin' tutor. Makerspace programs on coding, woodworking, and marshmallow shooters enticed the intermediate level readers during school vacations. The Lego League met monthly. Teens also had a monthly night for activities at the library. During their winter meetings, the teens produced a Summer Reading Program video which placed in the top three finalists for New York State.

The Summer Reading Program included wee readers, intermediate readers, teen readers, and adults. The kick-off program sponsored Ms. Butterfly, aka Carol Ann Margolis, who introduced



Brian Hildreth, Judy Petrosillo, Kathy Stempel and Sara Dallas - the PLS Building Award presentation

the children to silk worms. The finale included a field trip to the Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady. Of course there were many interesting programs in between on the Fizz, Boom, Read theme.

Three Girl Scouts earned their silver badge with projects in the library. Marcy demonstrated a salad in a bag to adults while Maddi and Emily designed felt board stories to be used during Storytime. Additionally, six Girl Scouts earned their book artist badge by learning the parts of a book, making a cloth covered journal, and sewing cloth baby books.

Monthly programs for adults included Book Club, Knit Wits, Memoir Writing, and Game Night. Continuing education programs for adults included artistic programs such as oil painting and poetry; craft programs such as beading and basket weaving; financial programs such as planning trusts and e-bay use; and self-improvement programs such as aromatherapy and disaster planning.

We were fortunate to receive three grants in 2014. The Together Book Talk for Kids and Parents from the New York Council of Humanities guided book discussions among families. We received \$102,988 from the New York State Library Construction Grant Program to partially pay for renovations of the new library building. The STEM grant helped pay for Jeff Boyer to present *Bubble Trouble* to a large audience and provided books for the *Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs* program.

In November at the NYLA conference, the Berne Public Library received the Public Library Section's 2014 Building Award for a library serving fewer than 20,000. We were pleased to see our efforts recognized and plan to continue improving our service to the community in 2015.

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jeremy Martelle, Board President
Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director

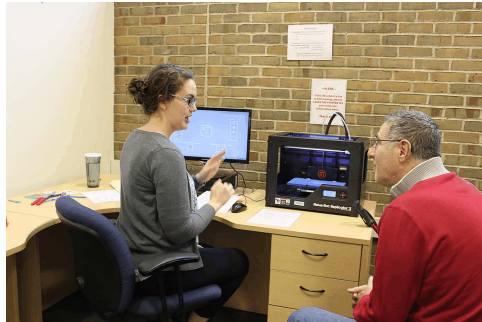
Fresh off of our centennial celebration, the Bethlehem Public Library welcomed the next 100 years by embracing the services, technologies and programs that keep an eye on the future while remaining relevant to our community.

No longer the stuff of science fiction, 3D printing has come a long way. Our MakerBot 3D printer was the first in the area available

to the public. It has since seen steady use and is the star of the show in school outreach programs, as well as vacation programming for kids. Not only is the 3D printer a creative tool for patrons; it has a practical side, too. Our staff uses it to make Braille library cards – a service that has been welcomed by the visually impaired community.

We understand it is not enough to simply put new technology in front of people and expect them to know how to use it. We have gone the extra step and scheduled group and one-on-one tech help sessions to familiarize our patrons with the digital world we live in.

We've also found that technology doesn't have to be new or cutting edge to be relevant. Our teen and adult sewing programs are always filled to capacity, prompting us to expand our collection of sewing machines available for patron use.



Library staff Stephanie Kogler shows a patron how to use the 3D printer

As always, the programs we offer span all ages and interests. Our Summer Reading Program launched with a bang with Robert Rivest's Science In Motion, a comedy and science show for children and adults. The rest of the summer, we celebrated all things science with family programs that explored gravity, gigabytes and geothermal energy. Musical programming continues to be a big draw, with our winter series – A Little Sunday Music – bringing in Nina Fine and Steve Dahlin, Spiral Tango, Mendelssohn Club, and Zephyr Wind Quintet. In summer, our outdoor concerts on the Green were a time for young and old to gather and enjoy local favorites Marty Wendell, Lustre Kings, Dyer Switch and more.

Early in the year, author Carol Wallace dropped by to discuss her book *To Marry an English Lord*, which provided the inspiration for Lord Grantham's wealthy American wife, Lady Cora, in the popular "Downton Abbey" television series.

With funding from our Friends and many volunteer hours, we were able to create a digital archive of *The Spotlight*, our local newspaper. The issues date back to 1955 and are online and searchable through our website. Preserving this historical record will benefit the community for many years to come.

During this flurry of activity, we also opened our doors to auditors from the Office of the State Comptroller who put our fiscal

procedures under a microscope and found we were right on the money.

On any given afternoon, a look out over the library shows a cross-section of our community. We are proud to be so many things to so many people, and we will continue to uphold our mission to provide the best in library resources and service to our patrons.



Young designers in the Project Runway series pose in their inspired outfits

BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY (BCL)

Marie Stasiak, Board President

Natalie Schipano, Director

2014 was a year of change for our library and its community. In June we said goodbye to former Director, Julie Zelman and in September welcomed our new Director, Natalie Schipano. The Board, the staff and the Director worked together to refresh the library's position in the community and to truly become the community living-room for Brunswick.

In September, for the first time in BCL history, the library started a monthly program for teens and tweens. T/ween Club, a program just for children ages 10-14, started meeting monthly for a book and movie discussion. The first session attracted over 20 kids and out of those 20, five core library t/weens developed their own spin off group called VolunTween Council, (VTC). VTC met and continues to meet weekly to choose the upcoming book and movie for the T/ween Club discussion, assists with weeding and preps story time crafts for our story time tellers. A year ago we offered zero programs for t/weens; this year we offered 10 with over 60 in attendance.

In October, the library made history again by hosting a Children's Halloween Parade and a HalloTween Library-Lock In. Staff was more than eager to stay later hours to help decorate, dress up and participate in both programs. Long time Library Assistant, Karen Strang, has stated that "It's now fun to come into work." Our patrons seem to agree with Karen, as we shepherded in over 60 parents and kids in costume for our Halloween Parade, led by Scaredy Squirrel. Later that night we transformed the library into a haunted house for 13 t/weens, giving them a safe, fun alternative for Halloween night.



Scaredy Squirrel led the Halloween Parade

In November, we welcomed an energetic community member and volunteer, to start a second story time on Thursdays. Story times easily pull in a crowd of 20 parents, grandparents and children. The additions of a second story hour, family programs and t/ween programs were a much-needed service. We also held a Food for Fines amnesty during the month and donated five boxes of food to the Brunswick Cares Food Pantry. We saw a total of 1,553 program attendees; most of which were from the last 6 months of the year.

Last but not least, we received a tremendous nod of approval from the Town of Brunswick. BCL had not received an increase in town support in seven years and our Board President, Marie Stasiak, wrote a very compelling letter to the Town Board requesting an increase. With the departure of our former director, we also had to say goodbye to our ability to provide passport services to our patrons. Not only was this a service we could no longer provide for the patrons, it was also a source of income we would no longer be receiving. We were asking

for any amount of an increase and were simply overjoyed when we learned that we would be receiving an additional \$2,500.00. We agreed with Supervisor Herrington when he said, "it was time."

Moving forward, the director and staff continue to have fun and work hard together to provide services to all patrons of all ages, including an Adult Trivia Night, a Monthly Library Cook-off and a new Crafternoon program for ages 5-10. We are working hard to collaborate with other community services like the

YMCA, Red Cross, schools and local day cares. We truly have become Brunswick's Community living-room. We are keeping the library doors open so our patrons' doors never close.

CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Olivia Karis-Nix, Board President
Melissa Tacke, Director

A Year of Change

2014 was a year of change for the Castleton Public Library. In addition to a renovation of our physical space, we also upgraded our website and experienced staff changes. All the while, we continued to collaborate with Upper Hudson Library System to provide exceptional service, programs, and a robust collection of printed and electronic resources. We are pleased to celebrate our 105th year of service to our community. We provide services to the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson and extend services to residents of the Town of Schodack.

Building Renovation

The Library's most significant undertaking in 2014 was a full renovation of the library's space in the Village Hall. An existing drop ceiling was removed and a new insulated ceiling was



The renovation made the Library more open, brighter and welcoming



An exposed-brick wall enhances the building's 19th century character

bookcases, shelving, and furniture were removed, custom affixed and mobile shelving were installed, allowing us to maximize our

shelf space and create programming space accessible to all of our users, including those with physical disabilities. A custom circulation area with an ergonomic design was installed, improving efficiency and comfort for staff. In contrast with the modern feel of the new shelving, circulation area, and furniture, an exposed-brick accent wall provides a touch of the building's nineteenth-century character. As a result of the renovation, the Library is more open, brighter, and welcoming to our users.

New Website

Prior to our building's renovation, we launched our new website. The website offers a mobile-friendly design to allow easy navigation across multiple devices, employs a user-friendly layout, and offers up-to-date information about our programs.

Programs for Youth and Adults

Although we experienced a decline in programming due to our renovation, the Castleton Public Library offered a number of programs for children, teens, and adults. Our weekly Story Hour with Miss Linda, which gathers young children for storytime and simple crafts, was popular. Our part-time Librarian for Youth Services organized a number of successful programs for teens and tweens, including a teen book and pizza club and "crafternoons" for teen to create craft projects. The Friends of the Castleton Public Library organized a successful Family Movie Night each month. We also offered several programs for adults, including yoga, health and fitness programs, and book discussions. Our outreach services to the Riverside Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing and to Castle Hill senior housing expanded the reach of our library to those who might not otherwise be able to visit us.

New Director

In November, our Library Director, Amy Peker, departed to accept a position at Voorheesville Public Library, where we wish her much success. The Board of Trustees then began the search for a new director, and ultimately chose Melissa Tacke for the position. Melissa,

who began her work at Castleton Public Library in March 2015, came to us from Schenectady County Historical Society, where she was Librarian/Archivist. Melissa has also worked for Albany Public Library, Bennington College, and the Adirondack Museum.

Looking Forward

We look forward to new opportunities in the coming year. Our Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers, and the Friends of the Castleton Public Library all work together to meet the needs of our patrons and offer outstanding service to the community. We thank all of our Trustees, Friends, staff, and volunteers for providing the energy, dedication, and care that makes Castleton Public Library such a special place.

COHOES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Carol Clingan, Board President
Matthew Graff, Director

In my short tenure here at Cohoes we have worked hard to support the Cohoes Public Library and create a consistent and stable environment. Capitalizing on this stability we have moved forward and made significant improvements. We've advanced our relations with the City of Cohoes, been approved for two construction grants, one of which - a new boiler - has been installed in our basement and is working to keep us comfortable at work, and held numerous programs, some fun and entertaining, some helpful and educational. As we have strived for our own consistency our patrons continue to surge through our doors as they've always done, seeking help for both ordinary and critical matters.

But all was not wine and roses; some unflinching soul-searching in 2014 highlighted a few inescapable facts: our funding has been decreasing for years and our future fiscal security and the future of the Library looked bleak. Reacting to this stark reality and acknowledging the vital roll of the Library in the Community, our Trustees have elected to re-charter the Cohoes Public Library from a

Municipal Library to a School District Library.

This decision was not an easy one to make, and stimulated numerous passionate discussions within our Board over the course of many months. This is an expensive and time-intensive process, and there is no guarantee of success, but it is also an opportunity for us to establish our autonomy from the City government, and introduce a stable and secure budget from which we can plan a future.

The process started with numerous focus groups to learn the public's perception of the Library, and what we are doing right and wrong. This data laid a base for us to determine what the Library would look like in the future. A working budget and staffing model soon followed, as did hiring professionals to help guide us through this process.

We've scheduled National Library Week in April 2015 to kick off our public education campaign, and have set numerous appointments to meet with patrons and community leaders. We've asked the Cohoes Common Council to vote on a resolution in support of re-districting and at the behest of the local school board we've agreed to delay our vote from the traditional May 19th to June 9th.

There are no guarantees, of course, but we are cautiously optimistic about our chances. We have the support of many talented and passionate people and we believe deeply in our cause, and look forward to June 10th to begin the Library's next chapter.

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

Rosemary Armao, Board President
Richard Naylor, Director

Circulation in 2014 continued a national trend with paper book circulation down and ebook circulation up but not enough to make up the shortfall. Nonetheless the library parking lot was generally full of cars and program attendance was up. During 2014 database use increased again, this time from 3,622 to 4,206 log-ons. Wireless internet use passed wired use for the first time with overall use increasing from 73,886 to 75,214.

In 2014 a total of 8,815 attended 513 adult programs and 21,056 children attended 636 children's programs. Librarians created the content for and provided a range of computer classes (204 classes with 734 attendees). The Summer Reading Program was again a success with 956 readers reporting reading 414,692 minutes. Youth Services staff collaborated with over 50 community groups during the year. In addition, 120 new TV programs were produced for Colonie TV bringing the total shows produced to 1,097 since going "on the air" in late 2006. We also began uploading shows for Albany and Bethlehem public access.

A featured library program series was our Noon Book Reviews, arranged by Joe Nash. Each month one or more area notables, such as Steve Coffey, Don Levy, Paul Grondahl, or David Pietrusza reviewed a recent best seller. There were also two film series with discussions; a Chinese series lead by Professor I-Hsin Wu from UAlbany and an American cinema and WWII series lead by Lenny Zapala, film expert and Director of the Menands Public Library.



Richard Naylor (center) accepts the US-China Peoples Friendship Award

In April the Library was honored with the 2014 "US-China Peoples Friendship Award" for presenting programs to promote global understanding and friendship with China and in the summer the Teen Room received a YALSA grant sponsored by Dollar General providing new ESL resources for teens.

Library Assistant and MLS Student Elissa Valente started a Teen "Pay It Forward" program, based on the movie and book that started a goodwill movement. This was expanded by two teens into the Kindness Club. Club

activities included assembling 200 craft kits for pediatric patients at Albany Medical Center Hospital, spearheading a collection of donated books for Lansingburgh Elementary School, collecting canned goods for Thanksgiving meals for needy families and organizing a giving tree to purchase holiday gifts for children in need.

Our August photography contest and exhibit grew larger than ever with 168 entries and many excellent photos.



The new training alcove

Thanks to a second year of the Workforce Development grant from UHLS, we completed work on the training alcove and added equipment such as a ceiling mounted projector and whiteboard system. Regular ESL and HSE classes were held throughout the year in addition to job preparation sessions.

EAST GREENBUSH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Michael Poost, Board President
Evelyn Neale, Director

2014 was a great year for the East Greenbush Community Library.

In early summer the outdoor multi-purpose space and patio was completed and unveiled. Many of our State officials including Senator Marchione and Assemblyman McLaughlin attended the unveiling and we received a Senate Proclamation for the project. The project was supported by a NYS construction grant, fundraising and a grant from the Friends.



The ribbon cutting for the new outdoor space

From June through October the library partnered with the YMCA to host a weekly Farmer's Market. We had 14 vendors including 4 farms and 10 various other vendors.

The library partnered with the YMCA again on providing Capital Community Gardens (now Capital Roots) with a space to set up a community garden. The space was established, a fence installed and soil brought in. Capital Roots will begin with gardeners in 2015. Trusted Roots Farms distributed to their CSA members in the Library parking lot from June-October.

Inside the library saw some changes as well. Another construction grant project was completed. This project included a

reorganization of the back office space for better workflow and the replacement of the library's online catalog stations for better access. In addition the Picture Book, Teen and Parenting collections have been reorganized into categories for easier browsing and use. We are happy to see that circulation has already shown an increase from this re-organization.



Picture Book Garden Party

We had a great summer with a Youth, a Teen and an Adult Summer Reading program. Overall there were 1,127 patrons who participated. In addition to the reading program the library held its annual music series with four concerts and 191 patrons in attendance.

There are many that help the library to live up to the Community in our name. We could not put on as many great programs without the community groups that we partner with like the Greenbush Historical Society and the Greenbush Garden Club. The generosity and support of the Friends of the East Greenbush Library make so much possible and the annual Children's Book Sale and Festival is enjoyed by so many.

In addition the library clocked 750 volunteer hours and more than 1,000 volunteer hours. Some of our special volunteers include members of the Living Resources community who have successfully, with the support of our volunteer manager and their Aids, become regular volunteers.

GRAFTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Robin Carlson, Board President
Christian Collins, Director

2014 saw Grafton Community Library continue as a dynamic presence in the community, offering a wide array of free programs and services to the town. With 6,609 library visits and a 141% increase in program attendance from the year before, the library feels more than ever like the place where Grafton gathers to meet, welcome, learn, and share.



Sing-along for kids

Program highlights included *Take Your Child to the Library Day*, monthly programs on Native American Folkways with local storyteller Gil Payette, a “Games Tournament Extravaganza” presented in collaboration with Rensselaer County Everett Wagar Senior Center, Grow Food in Grafton, Lyme Disease Awareness, First-Time Homebuyer’s Workshop, and Ecology of the Rensselaer Plateau. Responding to a clear need, the library also partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County to offer monthly computer and digital literacy programs, drawing a steady crowd for programs such as Computer Basics, Staying Safe Online, and Social Media 101.

The Library was honored once again with an Arts Grant from the Arts Center of the Capital Region that allowed residents of Grafton to access high quality art and craft workshops

taught by professional artists. These included Wire Wrapped Jewelry Making, Basket Weaving, Shambala Bracelet Making, Let’s Drum, Shape-it Clay Pictures, and Stained Glass Ornament Making.

Summer Reading 2014 was another success, with 57 children and teens taking part. Programs such as Animal Ambassadors and Jeff Boyer’s *Bubble Trouble* drew substantial crowds of young and old alike. A number of programs were held in conjunction with Grafton Summer Youth Program. A first for Grafton was the Community-Wide Geocaching Challenge that partnered with five Grafton organizations to make a town-wide scavenger hunt using GPS units that could be checked out from the library.

In 2014 Grafton Community Library remained committed to providing core library services, giving the community access to its carefully chosen collections, as well as the collections of all the UHLS member libraries, including ebooks, downloadable audiobooks, and streaming video. Thanks to grants from the Stewart’s Holiday Match and WGY Christmas Wish, the library was able to make crucial improvements to the children’s section, making it more comfortable and inviting for kids and their parents.



Ornament making workshop

Special acknowledgment goes to the library’s Board of Trustees who worked tirelessly, assuming responsibility for crucial fundraising efforts. This year the Board secured Construction Grant funding to undertake crucial projects that will make the basement program area more functional and lay the groundwork for a future expansion that is much needed.

The success of the library is a reflection of the individuals in the community and their desire to see their library thrive and grow. Thanks to all the friends of Grafton Community Library who made 2014 such a great year!

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Chris Aldrich, Board President
Tim Wiles, Director

It was a year of exciting new directions for GPL. Tim Wiles came on board as Director in January, and immediately got to work listening to community groups, staff, and trustees, in order to set a course that would keep “Guilderland’s Gathering Place” vital and relevant in changing times.

The GPL staff implemented some new activities including a National Anthem Sing, and a Community Forum on Heroin. The National Anthem Sing was held on Flag Day. Over 60 people clad in various combinations of red, white, and blue joined together as part of the nation’s largest Anthem Sing-Along to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of The Star-Spangled Banner. At the stroke of 4:00 PM, our singers joined thousands upon thousands across the country to raise their voices and celebrate E Pluribus Unum, “out of many, one.” Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy served as our group’s conductor.

The Community Forum on Heroin brought together community leaders from throughout Albany County. Moderated by Assemblywoman Fahy, panelists included Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple, Guilderland Principal Tom Lutsic, Police Chief Carol Lawlor, Keith Stack, executive director of Addictions Care Center, and Dr. Don Doynow, an emergency room physician. A capacity crowd peppered the panelists with questions.

Our Consumer Health Librarians supplemented their ever-popular health programs by partnering with the Guilderland YMCA to hold a “Be the Match Bone Marrow Donor Drive” in August. The drive was a success. The need is great, and donors few, so this was a highly worthwhile effort. Mr. Robert MacNeil, journalist and cofounder of PBS’ MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour, spoke to a capacity crowd at GPL in May as part of the Carol J. Hamblin Notable Author Speakers Series. He discussed his latest novel, *Portrait*

of Julia, a sequel to his 1992 book, *Burden of Desire*, set at the time of the Halifax Explosion in 1917 in which a cargo ship loaded with wartime explosives and munitions exploded devastating the Richmond District of the city. Mr. MacNeil is a Nova Scotia native and is well-versed in the province’s history.

Teen Books Buddies, a program where middle school and high school students spend time listening and coaching as a “Buddy” to younger readers, opened the year with near-record attendance. That, the Summer Reading Club, and a series of other fun, kid-focused events brought new readers to the Library.

GPL took a novel tack to a fine-forgiveness campaign. Called “Can Your Fines,” customers were offered the opportunity to have their overdue fines cleared in exchange for non-perishable foodstuffs. The effort was a huge success as people returned overdue materials and donated hundreds of items.

The Library staff was very active in supporting charities throughout the region. If you visited GPL on a Friday, you might have noticed the staff participating in “Blue-Jeans Fridays” - a charitable drive where staffers could wear blue jeans if they made a nominal donation to the day’s charity. A total of more than \$1,000 was donated; recipients ranged from the Alzheimer’s Association to The Smith Center for the Disabled.

Tim Wiles leveraged his baseball connections to create an October series devoted to the national pastime. Some highlights: In conjunction with the 75th Anniversary of the Baseball Hall of Fame, Jim Gates, the Hall’s Librarian, talked about the museum and its history; Baseball historian Frank Keetz shared his knowledge of Babe Ruth; and New York Yankees pr director and author Marty Appel talked about *Pinstripe Empire: The New York Yankees from Before the Babe to After the Boss*, his recent book about baseball.

CHENEY LIBRARY (Hoosick Falls)

Mary Haynes, Board President
Carol Gaillard, Director

Cheney Library was able to open up one of the basement rooms as a story/play room. After a winter of work by our contractor, Eric Amidon of Stateline Builders, we had a grand opening in the spring with local dignitaries, plus Tim Burke and Mary Fellows from UHLS. We were able to use the room for our Spring Preschool Story time and the Summer Reading Program. It is a cheery spot, cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Children eagerly run into the library and go downstairs to play with the blocks, puzzles, farm building with animals, kitchen center (put together by a trustee, Susan Hoffman and her husband), and other educational toys; plus there is a wonderful reading nook. Children use the tables to do crafts on or their homework.

MENANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY (report not available)

NASSAU FREE LIBRARY

Samuel B. Whaley, Board President
Katherine Chansky, Director

Nassau Free Library in 2014 was busy with readers of all ages visiting to browse for books, DVDs and other library material. Visitors came in to use the public computers, to attend a program or a community meeting, or to pick up or drop off library materials borrowed through interlibrary loan. Over 1,900 new items were added to our shelves including popular print and audio/visual materials. A monthly average of 15 programs and 6 community groups was another indicator that the library continues to be “the heart of the community.”

Library visitors of all ages participated in programs on a wide range of topics: book groups, live folk music, art and nature programs, kite making, stargazing, and the ever-popular Lego club.

There were 9,748 library visits throughout the year with a marked increase in the summer months. July and early August were busy when the Summer Reading Program drew 824 adults and children to the library to collect new reading materials and to attend 60 programs designed to encourage summer reading.

The Board of Trustees responded to the increased program with a long range plan to renovate the basement for improved meeting space and storage. The plan includes researching additional parking and meeting space options during 2015.

Support for the library came from the Towns of Nassau and Schodack and Rensselaer County as well as from generous grants and The Friends of the Library, a small and dedicated group, who held book sales and a popular fall fundraising dinner in order to support the library programs. 2014 saw the Nassau Free Library continue to grow and flourish thanks to the generous, involvement of trustees, staff, volunteers, donors, and Friends of the Library.



The ever-popular Lego Club

NORTH GREENBUSH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Martin Carbone, President

Daryl McCarthy, Director

In 2014 the North Greenbush Public Library was a busy place. The library loaned over 106,000 items to community members. The community requested more items than ever from the library especially talking books, DVDs, music CDs and downloadable books. The library held a hugely successful program on using eBooks presented by Jo-Ann Benedetti. The interest in using downloadable materials grows every year.

Patrons in other libraries requested 13,460 of our items, and our patrons requested 12,288 items from other UHLS libraries. We continue to expand the collections by adding popular items and welcome suggestions from the public.

The residents of the Town of North Greenbush are generous in their support of the library and our dedicated staff and volunteers continued to provide valuable service. Volunteers provided many hours of service to the library allowing the staff to serve the public more efficiently. Our Friends Group remains active in keeping our on-going book sale in order. The Friends provide the library with funds to purchase items as needed.

The Summer Reading Program was very successful. We had over 100 children participate reading books and earning prizes. The highlight of the program was its kick-off with players from the Tri City Valley Cats and Southpaw conducting a reading session. The children earned tickets to a Valley Cats game as one of their prizes. Our Teen Summer Reading Program had a small but dedicated group of readers who read for prizes all summer.

The library looks forward to more growth and continued community support. The Board of Trustees and staff are working hard to provide the best service possible. The library continues to be the busiest place in town.



Southpaw at the Library

PETERSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lori Hamm, Board President

Sharon Hodges, Director

The library is a center of activity for our community. The program committee began a series of events focused on “Vanishing Skills.” The programs included a field trip to forage for fiddleheads and other wild greens and then a return to the kitchen to learn how to cook them, a dowsing workshop, and a morning of learning to make cheese. There was also a visit from author Jon Katz who discussed his new book *Saving Simon*. The book discussion group continues to meet monthly and a knitting group meets weekly with attendance from ages 10 to 70.

Children’s programs remain very popular. The weekly preschool story hour continues with a variety of children in attendance. The Summer Reading Program saw many activities and readers all enthusiastic about the library and reading.

Thanks to a 2013 Construction Grant the library was able to install a generator for the frequent times when power is lost. Using the lower level of the library requires two sump pumps which could cause major difficulties if power is lost during any bad storm or spring thaws.

POESTENKILL LIBRARY

LouAnne Lundgren, Board President
Margie Morris, Director

The biggest news at Poestenkill Library in 2014 was the purchase of a 3D printer. The printer runs almost continuously on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings when our two 3D printer experts are on duty. Patrons have been having a great time watching the printer and thinking of things they might want to print. We printed out a favorite—the little elephant—in all the colors we offer in order to make an interesting display and a conversation



Elephants made by the 3D printer

starter. Patrons have printed pieces for a game they have designed, parts for drones, and even some school projects.

The Poestenkill Library is the social center of the Town. As the borrowing habits of patrons change, such as taking out fewer items, it is important to remember that libraries are more than just books. To remain viable, libraries must look at different ways to serve the needs of their community. The purchase of the 3D printer was a step in that direction.

In the spring, the Library received grants from Stewart's and WGY which were used for summer programs for children. We were able to collaborate with Brunswick Library and the Poestenkill Summer Camp for a Bubble Program and had a great audience for this entertaining program. The annual tie-dye program kicked off summer reading with 80 people out on the lawn dyeing t-shirts, towels, socks, pillowcases, shorts, and more!

Throughout the year we were able to offer the very popular beginner crochet and knitting

classes. Most of our programs are planned by the program coordinator, who is sponsored by the Friends of Poestenkill Library.

The preparation for the new automation system took up some staff time but resulted in cleaning up collections and codes and making sure all our records were ready to be migrated to the new system in 2015.

The Friends of Poestenkill Library held their two, always successful, Market Days which generate a sense of community, along with much needed funds. The annual Holiday Lights Appeal was

the most successful ever and 2015 will mark the 15th year of the Appeal. We were fortunate to be featured on the UHLS website during the Appeal and everyone was able to see how beautiful the library looks when it is lit up with the colorful lights, candles, and wreaths.



Market Day

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Antonio Booth, Board President
Judith Wines, Director

In 2014, the RCS Community celebrated its 20th anniversary as a School District Public Library.

Program highlights included “Frozen at the Library,” which broke all previous attendance records, and a Freedom to Read Night during Banned Books Week in August. The Acoustic Doorways concert series had its sixth successful season. The Library started new book clubs and adult craft hours, and implemented volunteer opportunities for the community.

The Library doubled the number of computers available to the public, adding computers in the children and teen areas. We organized our picture book collection into content neighborhoods and doubled our periodical collection. The Library circulated 57,178 items, a 3% increase over the previous year.

Judy Felsten retired in September after 20 years as director and Judith Wines started in the position in October.



Banned Books Week



New digital sign

RENSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annette Sebuyira, Board President
Jane Chirgwin, Director

In 2014 we reached out to the community more than ever. In the spring we received a small grant from the Greenbush Garden club to put in a raised vegetable bed behind the library. Donations from the Zappala Block Company and the hard work of staff member Patricia Dolton helped us create a garden to share with the children all summer. The Library participated as a satellite site for the Rensselaer City School's summer food program, and we provided lunches to children 6 days a week during the summer. In the fall, the Friends of the Library purchased a digital sign to help us advertise our programs.

Our teen anime club, R.A.M.C.S. took a field trip to New York City and visited Kinokuniya, a Japanese book store. This trip was funded by the Friends. The Friends also collaborated with Van Rensselaer Elementary, funding a science performance at the school. We had story-time visits at the Rensselaer CEO headstart program.

The Library received a Workforce Development grant and purchased new materials for job seekers, and collaborated with Rensselaer County One-stop Employment Center to provide classes at the library and referral services.

We continued to work with Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County, Living Resources and Rensselaer City School District tutors to provide space for educational assistance.

RENSELAERVILLE LIBRARY

Dale Dorner & Connie Kudlack, Board Co-Presidents

Kimberly Graff, Director

During 2014 the Rensselaerville Library Board and Staff continued to focus on improving the access to the building, new programming and a unique fundraising opportunity.

The Library completed the installation of a covered handicap access ramp with support from the NYS Department of Library Development Construction Grant program. The existing access to the building was difficult for mobility challenged patrons. The challenge to this installation was keeping with the historic nature of the building and community. This project has transformed the Library into a more inviting and recognizable library building.

During July the Library offered a unique camp program for kids between the ages of 7 and 13. Collaborating with a local horse farm, Painted Meadows, and Janet Botaish, an equine assisted therapist, we were able to offer a week long program of horse instruction and management, writing, reading and crafts. Seven children participated in this day long fantastic program. The program included no riding of horses but the development of team work to conclude the program by guiding their horse through an obstacle course. The children read stories about horses and cowboys and learned to instruct and care for horses.

A local resident, author and film director, Tom Gilroy, curated the 2013 Haiku Project where five writers: 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 2013. The original notebooks were auctioned off during the 2013 Festival of Writers. Tom continued the effort by taking individual Haikus from each writer and creating an Indie GoGo campaign around a special Haiku broadside package and raised over \$2,000 for the

Library. The project was repeated in 2014 with authors Lisa Gill, Tom Gilroy, Steve Peters, Shelley Silver and Shin Yu Pai and the 2014 Indie GoGo campaign will go live in 2015.



A covered access ramp was installed



The horse camp program provided a unique learning experience



SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY

Robbin Colandrea, Board President
Melinda Fowler, Director

It was a busy and productive year for the Sand Lake Town Library in 2014. We continued to serve as a center of learning and community with usage of our program room by community groups more than tripling from 96 meetings in 2013 to 305 in 2014.

The Sand Lake Town Library Board of Trustees completed a long range plan for the Library covering the next three years. Groundwork for one aspect of that plan – a renovation of our main room and circulation area started in 2014. Plans for the renovation were drafted and the Library applied for a NYS Library Construction Grant to help fund the project.

The BEST (Bringing Educators and Students Together) Program met weekly during the school year to help students in grades 3 – 10 with homework, organization, research and time management. Some comments from the BEST participants include: “The BEST program has helped me;” BEST has “...helped my grandchildren, ages 8 and 9, approach their homework obligations in an organized way. They rely on my assistance less and homework has become their own work. My grandchildren have truly benefitted from the BEST program.”

Adult programs during 2014 included learning about computers, how to become a “Second Career Volunteer” and How to Talk to your Pet. Programs for May Day and redesigning old or

broken jewelry were also offered during the year.

We opened the summer with our annual Library Fair featuring bubble making, a tea party, and traditional dances. Attendance at twenty-eight summer youth programs, including medieval machines, kitchen science, and a traveling pond was up by 50%.

We are very grateful for the monetary donations from Senator Kathy Marchione and from patrons throughout the year. This year we were able to replace our old black and white photocopier with a color copier/scanner. We also replaced a worn out DVD drop box and two children’s computers.

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.



How to Talk to Your Pet was one of the Library’s programs

ARVILLA E. DIVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Schaghticoke)

Marilou Pudiak-Town, Board President
Nicholas Matulis, Director

In 2014 Diver Library continued to grow and evolve. Invigorated by the arrival of new director Nicholas Matulis and associate director Donna Baird, the library saw significant positive change in the past year.

Aiming to be more cost and energy efficient, “green” improvements were made to the building. Twenty-two damaged, drafty windows were replaced; and our attic and exterior walls were insulated, reducing both our fuel cost and carbon footprint.

The physical changes the building underwent were mirrored by a shift in philosophy. The library became more active in 2014. Diver held more programs than in any year prior. We hosted a soup swap, a soap making workshop, a fabric dying class and much more. Monthly programs included Writers Group, Teen Night, and Learn & Play (a toddler activity-hour). Our *Why We Sing* concert series brought musicians from around the area and as far away as Tucson, Arizona to the library to share both their music and the experiences that inspired it.



Exploding popsicle sticks!

their hands into shaving cream clouds, and tiny architects built towers out of marshmallows and grapes and spaghetti. The

Nowhere was the library’s growth and increased focus on *activity* more evident than in our Summer Reading Program. We held twenty-seven science based activities from June to September, the most we’ve ever had! Attendance at these programs (332) was another Diver record! All summer long tiny meteorologists dipped

Summer Reading Program, as well as being a lot of fun, was emblematic of the sort of hands-on, active, educational programming that we at Diver are striving to provide more of in the coming year.

STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Thomas Quimby, Board President
Laurenne Teachout, Director



Summer Camp participants

This year we embarked on an exciting challenge to provide a Summer Camp program that incorporated literacy and STEM components for area children. Generously funded by the Town of Stephentown, the Camp ran weekdays from 9 am to 2 pm, with the option of an 8 am early drop off, for 4 weeks in July under the supervision of Camp Director Laura Hunt and Assistant Camp Director Libby Cass and overseen by the library director and several Board members. Sixteen local teens were hired to serve as Camp counselors, assistant counselors and volunteers. Activities included Social Robotics presented by University of Albany students, a trip to a local stable, printmaking and sculpture with local artists, kitchen and backyard science with teachers from nearby Darrow School, science/engineering fun including constructing a marble run to demonstrate momentum, and programs about bees and other animals. The programs took place at the library, the Town Hall and in the community. We also continued to serve meals to children 18 and under, this year expanding to include breakfast along with lunch. We

received a great response to the Summer Camp from parents and their kids. We are in process of firming up our plans for Camp again this year. We are grateful to the Town of Stephentown for its support and also to the many volunteers who presented programs and worked to make the Camp a success.

Another new program this past year was the introduction of our local seed exchange. We asked for donations of viable fruit, vegetable, and herb seeds and alphabetized them in a former card catalog. Community members were encouraged to help themselves to seeds, using small envelopes provided for them. Response was positive, with one family stating, "We would not have been able to have a garden this year without the SML Seed Exchange." We are grateful to local gardener and library volunteer, Joan-Claire Veriditas, who coordinated the Seed Exchange program and publicized it to the community. We are also grateful to Tony Beverly, a local craftsman and former Board member, who lovingly restored the beautiful wooden card catalog used to house the Seed Exchange. The Seed Exchange is now open for the 2015 growing season.



The Lego Club encourages creativity

Lego Club began in October! This new program is very popular and allows children to get together and let their creativity run wild. Thanks to several donations and some grant funding, we were able to provide 2 large bins of Lego bricks for kids to use during the club time. Their creations are often displayed at the library for the month following the meeting. Usually 10 or more children attend each month. Donations of Lego bricks are always welcome!

Our library continues to grow and flourish, as we serve our community in innovative ways. We have many exciting plans for the coming year and are always open to suggestions and feedback.

TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Muller, Board President
Paul Hicok, Director

Our two buildings, both of which are on the National Historic Register, have been very much in focus this past year. As part of a series of building issues, highlighted in our recently completed existing facilities study, the two large balustrades along the front and South sides of the building's parapet walls were removed along with a cornice stone on the Northwest corner at the Main Library. After a brief suspension, the Board approved continuing the library's effort to complete a full master plan for the library with the help of Butler Rowland Mays of Ballston Spa.

In 2014 the library held a series of local history presentations that drew over 245 people. Topics included, The Draft Riots, Troy in the Civil War, The Anti-Rent War and our most popular program the Dutch History of the Area presented by Janny Venema of the New Netherland Institute.

We expanded our Arts and Crafts Series, supported by a Community Arts Grant, a program funded by the Arts Center of the Capital Region through the New York State Council on the Arts. We had over 374 people participate in classes such as: Beginning Embroidery, Intro to Watercolor Painting, Zentangle, Paper Crafting, Pottery, Candy Making and Basic Drawing. Another staple of our library programming, Computer Instruction, had strong attendance with more than 150 people learning how to use email, eReaders, Microsoft Word, Excel and basic computing skills. Our Book Discussion groups continue to grow and thrive, with the library adding themed book discussions that have proven very popular, such as Understanding Shakespeare and an India study session. We expanded and developed a "Meet the Musicians of the Albany Symphony" program with musician talks at the library every Wednesday prior to the ASO performances at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Also we began a series of guided meditation drop-in

sessions that have proven to be very popular at both branches. And, of course, staff, board members and friends once again marched this year in the Uncle Sam Parade in Lansingburgh. Featured in our group was the Magic School Bus loaned to us by Fagan associates and Spiderman and Elsa from *Frozen*. A good time was had by all.

Storytime attendance more than doubled at our Main branch and continues to thrive at our Lansingburgh location. Ongoing Lego Club and Family Science Nights which began this past fall are increasing in popularity. A meet and greet with the character Elsa from the movie *Frozen* drew more than 60 children and families who were thrilled to meet this Disney heroine.

Recently we received a Diversity in Action grant from ALA's children's division to increase diversity as well as STEM components in programming and materials for young people. This provided staff training, funding for several intercultural events for families, and books focused on common core mathematics for children, parents, and teachers.

VALLEY FALLS FREE LIBRARY

Ralph Marino, Board President
Sandi Goodwin, Director

The Valley Falls Library had a busy year: Summer Reading Program, story times, annual yard sale, Memorial Day service, Pumpkin Festival, and more. We had two adult programs: Defensive Driving Class and an Anti-Bullying program. We had a booth at the Schaghticoke Fair where the children and parents could stop by read, color, or play with Legos. These programs were well attended and the community enjoyed each of them.

Also the "Library in Motion" program has moved forward this year with a few patrons taking advantage of bringing the library to them by delivering the items they request. The Museum Pass Program attracts many patrons.

The staff maintains an on-line Community

Calendar for the Pittstown-Schaghticoke area. We communicated with the patrons of our service area via a newsletter in the fall. An Eagle Scout project consisting of a perennial flower garden, bike rack and donation to the library came to completion.

There are two new people, both Board members, doing our story time program this year: Marcia Geren and Seema Chaudhari. Donna Barnhart also still helps and fills in when needed. The children enjoy the stories and crafts.

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. 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.

The Board received training in duties and responsibilities through UHLS. One specific outcome from the training was the creation of a mission statement: The mission of the Valley Falls Free Library is to inspire learning, advance education, and help our community live, learn and grown through books, movies, media and technology.

VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Janna Shillinglaw, Board President
Gail Alter Sacco, Director

The Voorheesville Public Library is celebrating 100 years of Lifelong Learning 1915-2015.

In 1915, a very astute group of community leaders, led by E. Dayton Joslin, established the Voorheesville Free Library. It was open for 5 hours a week and had a collection of 700 books. A Home Talent Show held in Odd Fellows Hall raised money to support the library.

This year, the library was open 3,012 hours, 7 days each week (6 in the summer). Our 77,213 item collection includes 37,351 print items, 32,864 digital items and 6,997 DVDs and audiobooks. We have 9 public computers including one iPad station, and search expertise available every hour the library is open. Librarians teach individuals about

technology and the use of digital resources and we offer programs to members from 6 months through old age.

With the support of the Friends of the Library, New Scotland Kiwanis, and other grant funds, we offered the community a rich variety of experiences this year. We brought Iraq war veteran, Luis Carlos Montalvan, author of the best-seller, *Until*

Tuesday. We offered a scholar-led discussion of *12 Years a Slave* to the public and VCSD American History and Literature students. Our Resolution Revolution Series included yoga, meditation, and memoir writing. The "Foodies" series had members sharing recipes, food and books. The Summer Reading Program's science theme inspired the addition of STEM activities to our youth programs. Through our outreach efforts, we offered Early Literacy Storytimes to local daycare centers, assisted scout troops with online research, and presented afterschool enrichment opportunities.

Librarians collaborated with community initiatives, such as the Voorheesville Community Alliance for Healthy Choices. We are happy to report that the Village of



Luis Montalvan and his service dog, Tuesday, at Voorheesville

Voorheesville has entrusted us with the preservation of their historic documents.

The Future: We have been examining the library's collaborative partnerships, programs and services and will be having conversations with members concerning their aspirations for our community. We are developing a technology lab which will include laptop computers, a 3D scanner, and a 3D printer, made possible by grants from the Voorheesville Community & School Foundation and Albany County. We are proud to serve a community that appreciates the power of literacy and the value of libraries.



Albany County Legislators Herb Reilly and Michael Mackey presented Director Gail Sacco with funds for a 3D printer



Village Deputy-Clerk Karen Finnessey and Town Historian Dennis Sullivan presented historic documents to Archivist Jim Corsaro.

WATERVLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beth Capitula, Board President
Samantha Fagan, Director

2014 was an exciting year for the Watervliet Public Library. In March the library hired new Director, Samantha Fagan. The 2014 hosted its 11th Annual "I Love My Library" dinner, which honored Albany County Legislator and library supporter, Bob Beston. The "I Love My Library" dinner is the library's largest annual fundraiser and 2014 was no exception. The 2014 dinner sold 203 sets and raised \$5,400. The money raised from the fundraiser goes towards purchasing new materials and scheduling programs for Watervliet Library patrons.

The Watervliet Public Library celebrated 2014 Summer Reading Program "Fizz! Boom! Read!" with some fantastic programs. The Museum of Innovation and Science paid a visit to the library patrons with their inflatable planetarium. We had 70 children attend the program that day and the excited looks on their faces was great. We also had visits from the Tang Museum and the TriCity Valley Cats as a part of our summer reading program.

One of our biggest Adult programs of the year was a visit from the Albany Paranormal Research Society in October. The APRS spoke to our patrons about some of their investigations, played audio evidence gathered and answered any questions our patrons had about the paranormal.

2014 was a fun and exciting year for the Watervliet Public Library. We are looking forward to the changes coming in 2015, including a brand new addition to the library!

**TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Westerlo)**

Laura Tenney, Board President
Sue Hoadley, Director



The icing on the cake!

2014 brought the finishing touch – the icing on the cake! – to the transformation we began two years ago to stabilize and maintain our building with State Library Construction Grants. After the last traces of lead were mitigated, and the old peeling paint was scraped away, repairs were made to the wood siding and trim, and a fresh coat of paint was applied.

To further our stewardship of the building, we had the great honor of receiving an \$8,400 grant from the Preservation League of New York. In the past decade, only two public libraries have received Preserve NY grants. The grant will be used to produce a Historic Structure Report to document the historic development of the building, assess its current condition, and plan for the challenge of meeting modern needs in a historic facility.

In 2014, the library was open to the public 29 hours per week for 300 days. 9,001 children and adults entered the building. We circulated 16,866 items. Of those, 5,910 items were borrowed from member libraries in the Upper Hudson system. In turn, we loaned 5,250 items from our collection to patrons at the other member libraries. In addition to books, audios and movies, our patrons downloaded 791 items of e-content from Overdrive: e-books, audiobooks and videos. Our two public computers were used 762

times and many more took advantage of our 24/7 WiFi service.

Our outreach to children increased again in 2014. We offered 78 programs attended by 409 children and young adults. In 2014 we introduced “Read to Angus,” a certified therapy dog. Our adult book and quilting groups met 36 times with attendance of 157. 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 “Fizz, Boom Read!”



Reading to Angus

The trustees held their annual Mother’s Day Bake Sale in May. The library received a third \$500 grant from the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation and \$350 from Stewart’s Charitable Foundation. At the close of the year we were very surprised and delighted by an unanticipated anonymous gift of \$5,000 to our Capital Fund.

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 are building a richer quality of life for all of the citizens of Westerlo.

2014 AWARDS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR	Marion Burghart, Berne Public Library
YOUTH PROGRAM OF THE YEAR ADULT PROGRAM OF THE YEAR	Brunswick Community Library Albany Public Library
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	Donna Gwin, Berne Public Library

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

1993	Carolyn Durnin, Grafton	2010	Julie Dessloch, RCS Tobi Freebern, Rensselaer
1994	Joyce Hunt Strand, Bethlehem MaryLou Youmans, Ravena	2011	M. Mary Kinnaird, Berne Anthony Kossman, Altamont
1995	Pamela Daves, Brunswick Sally Ten Eyck, Voorheesville	2012	Marilou Pudiak-Town, Schaghticoke Rebecca Pahl & Rita Stein, Voorheesville
1996	Janice Brand, Rensselaerville Sally Fox, Stephentown	2013	Nancy Lendrum, Berne
1997	Lynne Strnad, Altamont Frank Della Rocca, WK Sanford		
1998	Susan Birkhead, Bethlehem William Meredith, Albany		
1999	Sue McLaren, Poestenkill Michael Poost, East Greenbush		
2000	Jane Spain Ducatt, Troy Barbara Hahn, Schaghticoke		
2001	Dorothea Fisher, Poestenkill Judy Rosen, Albany		
2002	Patricia Carlson, Brunswick Lester Warren, WK Sanford		
2003	Ellen Bach, Albany Monica Shupe, Berlin		
2004	Susan Zweig, Nassau		
2005	No Award presented		
2006	David Brown, Albany Francis Hamblin, Nassau		
2007	Anthony Beverly, Stephentown		
2008	Robert E. Ganz, Guilderland		
2009	Mary Muller, Troy		

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

1993	Sand Lake Town Library Voorheesville Public Library
1994	Guiderland Public Library <i>Honorable Mention:</i> <i>Berlin Public Library</i> <i>East Greenbush Library</i>
1995	Berlin Public Library Watervliet Public Library
1996	Rensselaerville Library Guiderland Public Library
1997	Petersburgh Public Library WK Sanford Town Library
1998	Rensselaerville Library Guiderland Public Library
1999	Castleton Public Library WK Sanford Town Library
2000	Brunswick Community Library Bethlehem Public Library
2001	Brunswick Community Library Guiderland Public Library

- 2002 Brunswick Community Library
Albany Public Library
Honorable Mention:
WK Sanford Town Library
- 2003 Petersburg Public Library
Cohoes Public Library and
Watervliet Public Library (joint award)
- 2004 RCS Community Library
Troy Public Library
- 2005 Albany Public Library
Guilderland Public Library
- 2006 Castleton Public Library
Guilderland Public Library
- 2007 Albany Public Library
- 2008 WK Sanford Town Library
Berne Public Library
- 2009 WK Sanford Town Library
Voorheesville Public Library
Honorable Mention:
Albany Public Library
- 2010 Albany Public Library
Berne Public Library
- 2011 Rensselaerville Library
- 2012 East Greenbush Community Library
Rensselaerville Library
- 2013 Albany Public Library
Altamont Free Library

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

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

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- 2006 Tanner Williamson, Cheney
Maggie Oldendorf, Guilderland
- 2007 Dan Cornman, Reed Dawley,
Ed Evans, East Greenbush
- 2008 Stephanie Sampsen, Berne
- 2009 Michele Reilly, Voorheesville
- 2010 Matthew Graff, Berne
The Friends Group, Poestenkill
- 2011 Gene Damm, Albany
- 2012 John Madlin, Cohoes
- 2013 Berneata Barger, WK Sanford

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

BALANCE SHEET

as of 12/31/14 and 12/31/13

	2014	2013
Cash and other current assets	1,741,230	1,795,456
Buildings and equipment, net	825,944	783,464
Other assets	18,781	22,475
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,585,955</u>	<u>2,601,395</u>
Current liabilities	110,280	124,199
Long-term debt	482,789	516,346
Net assets	1,992,886	1,960,850
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>2,585,955</u>	<u>2,601,395</u>

ACTIVITIES

for years ended 12/31/14 and 12/31/13

State, federal, other government aid	1,478,874	1,517,003
Other revenue	<u>436,037</u>	<u>422,755</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	1,914,911	1,939,758
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,882,875</u>	<u>1,954,123</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>32,036</u>	<u>(14,365)</u>

2014 STATISTICAL SUMMARIES - MEMBER LIBRARIES

LOCAL SUPPORT, MATERIALS and PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Library	Population	2013 Local Support	2014 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking	
Albany	97,839	\$6,434,760	\$8,289,073	★ 29%	\$84.72	5	
Altamont	1,720	\$129,764	\$90,971	★ -30%	\$52.89	7	★ Rec'd 2012 & 2013 funds in 2013
Berlin	1,880	\$10,350	\$10,350	0%	\$5.51	26	
Berne	2,794	\$32,753	\$34,290	5%	\$12.27	21	
Bethlehem	27,878	\$3,769,074	\$3,824,085	1%	\$137.17	2	
Brunswick	11,941	\$143,794	\$143,794	0%	\$12.04	22	
Castleton	1,473	\$111,175	\$117,325	6%	\$79.65	6	
Cohoes	16,168	\$171,910	\$219,035	27%	\$13.55	20	
Colonie	81,591	\$2,432,067	\$2,480,709	2%	\$30.40	12	
East Greenbush	16,473	\$1,693,154	\$1,761,078	4%	\$106.91	3	
Grafton	2,130	\$28,600	\$22,538	★ -21%	\$10.58	N/A	★ Balance of 2014 funds not received until 2015
Guiderland	36,131	\$3,309,469	\$3,390,342	2%	\$93.83	4	
Hoosick Falls	6,924	\$50,000	\$49,940	0%	\$7.21	25	
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	\$296,859	\$299,827	1%	\$24.83	13	
Petersburgh	1,525	\$54,957	\$53,467	-3%	\$35.06	10	
Poestenkill	4,530	\$56,349	\$63,400	13%	\$14.00	19	
RCS	14,064	\$493,067	\$520,827	6%	\$37.03	9	
Rensselaer	9,392	\$97,667	\$98,543	1%	\$10.49	24	
Rensselaerville	1,843	\$40,910	\$44,048	8%	\$23.90	14	
Sand Lake	8,530	\$127,549	\$129,297	1%	\$15.16	18	
Schaghticoke	592	\$33,865	\$29,015	-14%	\$49.01	8	
Stephentown	2,903	\$45,825	\$46,675	2%	\$16.08	17	
Troy	50,129	\$1,223,261	\$574,608	★ -53%	\$11.46	23	★ In 2013, City made a mistake sent more funds than tax levy
Valley Falls	5,804	\$27,432	\$27,432	0%	\$4.73	27	
Voorheesville	7,208	\$1,059,122	\$1,123,619	6%	\$155.88	1	
Watervliet	10,254	\$31,000	\$41,000	32%	\$4.00	28	
Westerlo	3,361	\$66,163	\$71,200	8%	\$21.18	16	
AVERAGES	15,373	\$765,733	\$820,408	7%	\$38.79		

Library	2013 Total Expenses	2014 Total Expenses	Percent Change Total Expenses	2014 Materials Expenses	Percent Materials of Total \$	Percent Staff of Total \$	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$8,981,444	\$10,074,947	12%	\$697,668	8%	47%	\$7.13	8
Altamont	\$150,814	\$143,514	-5%	\$13,507	9%	60%	\$7.85	5
Berlin	\$54,512	\$54,817	1%	\$5,654	10%	57%	\$3.01	17
Berne	\$55,889	\$142,675	★ 155%	\$5,443	10%	16%	\$1.95	19
Bethlehem	\$3,643,235	\$3,689,592	1%	\$351,124	10%	79%	\$12.60	1
Brunswick	\$171,725	\$156,004	★ -9%	\$15,444	9%	65%	\$1.29	24
Castleton	\$122,031	\$206,932	★ 70%	\$8,183	7%	44%	\$5.56	11
Cohoes	\$222,280	\$229,130	3%	\$23,850	11%	75%	\$1.48	23
Colonie	\$2,475,131	\$2,543,210	3%	\$293,811	12%	77%	\$3.60	14
East Greenbush	\$1,812,182	\$1,897,836	5%	\$146,848	8%	61%	\$8.91	4
Grafton	\$47,969	\$55,502	16%	\$4,622	★ 10%	59%	\$2.17	N/A
Guiderland	\$3,767,671	\$3,217,336	-15%	\$396,512	11%	74%	\$10.97	3
Hoosick Falls	\$99,209	\$89,388	-10%	\$5,320	5%	64%	\$0.77	27
Menands	\$116,875	\$133,987	15%	\$27,921	24%	54%	\$7.19	6
Nassau	\$122,374	\$119,213	-3%	\$8,428	7%	65%	\$1.76	21
North Greenbush	\$239,186	\$242,834	2%	\$75,554	32%	57%	\$6.26	9
Petersburgh	\$63,902	\$73,741	15%	\$10,936	17%	54%	\$7.17	7
Poestenkill	\$79,476	\$78,473	-1%	\$14,132	18%	56%	\$3.12	16
RCS	\$520,897	\$543,599	4%	\$25,478	5%	66%	\$1.81	20
Rensselaer	\$104,131	\$105,326	1%	\$16,114	15%	77%	\$1.72	22
Rensselaerville	\$168,878	\$156,885	-7%	\$9,965	6%	34%	\$5.41	12
Sand Lake	\$148,373	\$148,010	0%	\$31,208	21%	71%	\$3.66	13
Schaghticoke	\$50,905	\$62,202	22%	\$3,530	7%	17%	\$5.96	10
Stephentown	\$83,418	\$92,703	11%	\$7,502	9%	45%	\$2.58	18
Troy	\$955,387	\$984,287	3%	\$64,306	7%	72%	\$1.28	25
Valley Falls	\$44,720	\$42,241	-6%	\$4,809	11%	52%	\$0.83	26
Voorheesville	\$983,219	\$1,013,090	3%	\$87,022	9%	74%	\$12.07	2
Watervliet	\$50,533	\$64,685	28%	\$4,597	9%	77%	\$0.45	28
Westerlo	\$72,999	\$78,202	7%	\$11,133	15%	67%	\$3.31	15
AVERAGES	\$876,185	\$911,737	4%	\$81,746	9%	62%	\$4.55	

★ Capital improvement project

★ Capital improvement project

★ 2014 materials purchases paid in 2015

CIRCULATION and HOLDINGS

Library	Population	2013 Circulation	2014 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	97,839	1,094,737	1,119,705	2%	11
Altamont	1,720	34,553	26,388	-24%	15
Berlin	1,880	10,285	10,116	-2%	5
Berne	2,794	14,347	15,623	9%	6
Bethlehem	27,878	743,298	713,998	-4%	26
Brunswick	11,941	36,208	34,897	-4%	3
Castleton	1,473	21,530	17,664	-18%	12
Cohoes	16,168	43,541	37,737	-13%	2
Colonie	81,591	713,783	686,545	-4%	8
East Greenbush	16,473	414,196	392,324	-5%	24
Grafton	2,130	20,356	20,256	0%	10
Guiderland	36,131	498,188	504,704	1%	14
Hoosick Falls	6,924	21,405	18,856	-12%	3
Menands	3,883	32,865	28,959	-12%	7
Nassau	4,789	25,847	22,615	-13%	5
North Greenbush	12,075	113,713	108,387	-5%	9
Petersburgh	1,525	21,915	20,710	-5%	14
Poestenkill	4,530	20,589	18,260	-11%	4
RCS	14,064	55,928	63,526	14%	5
Rensselaer	9,392	23,712	20,187	-15%	2
Rensselaerville	1,843	10,555	10,753	2%	6
Sand Lake	8,530	43,696	43,291	-1%	5
Schaghticoke	592	13,566	10,613	-22%	18
Stephentown	2,903	22,319	19,906	-11%	7
Troy	50,129	237,481	224,446	-5%	4
Valley Falls	5,804	9,552	7,831	-18%	1
Voorheesville	7,208	110,320	107,913	-2%	15
Watervliet	10,254	27,569	20,782	-25%	2
Westerlo	3,361	17,739	17,646	-1%	5
AVERAGES	15,373	153,579	149,815	-7%	9

Library	Population	2013 Holdings	2014 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2014 Per Capita Holdings
Albany	97,839	326,705	333,892	2%	3
Altamont	1,720	35,142	43,448	24%	25
Berlin	1,880	33,858	42,298	25%	22
Berne	2,794	36,244	44,690	23%	16
Bethlehem	27,878	141,619	149,010	5%	5
Brunswick	11,941	31,924	40,833	28%	3
Castleton	1,473	39,484	44,065	12%	30
Cohoes	16,168	58,259	64,669	11%	4
Colonie	81,591	230,322	237,407	3%	3
East Greenbush	16,473	117,655	126,826	8%	8
Grafton	2,130	34,624	42,388	22%	20
Guiderland	36,131	201,278	206,246	2%	6
Hoosick Falls	6,924	38,905	47,011	21%	7
Menands	3,883	36,156	47,426	31%	12
Nassau	4,789	47,614	57,586	21%	12
North Greenbush	12,075	85,376	96,978	14%	8
Petersburgh	1,525	46,687	55,869	20%	37
Poestenkill	4,530	35,299	43,650	24%	10
RCS	14,064	45,195	58,010	28%	4
Rensselaer	9,392	44,128	51,454	17%	5
Rensselaerville	1,843	39,280	48,425	23%	26
Sand Lake	8,530	54,044	62,202	15%	7
Schaghticoke	592	29,315	38,296	31%	65
Stephentown	2,903	37,155	46,546	25%	16
Troy	50,129	283,197	200,377	-29%	4
Valley Falls	5,804	32,578	41,021	26%	7
Voorheesville	7,208	66,120	77,213	17%	11
Watervliet	10,254	38,270	46,326	21%	5
Westerlo	3,361	33,873	41,889	24%	12
AVERAGES	15,373	78,631	84,002	7%	14

LIBRARY USE and PROGRAMS

Library	2014		Internet Filtering	# Public Computers	# Public Computer Sessions	2014		Total Annual Attendance
	Resident Borrowers	Non-Resident Borrowers				Reference Transactions	Annual Hours Open	
Albany	74,464	413	No	36	185,109	142,796	15,193	890,421
Altamont	1,935	62	No	3	3,060	1,455	2,932	13,464
Berlin	885	153	No	4	2,860	347	1,120	6,132
Berne	919	313	No	7	1,444	518	1,386	13,652
Bethlehem	19,844	41	No	46	37,623	59,893	3,704	385,962
Brunswick	2,348	816	No	4	2,162	5,301	2,080	16,172
Castleton	671	911	No	3	1,176	3,536	2,392	11,908
Cohoes	7,682	620	No	10	13,441	2,300	2,428	70,412
Colonie	33,453	119	No	26	31,464	39,429	3,380	297,323
East Greenbush	10,339	2,575	No	20	30,458	40,340	3,330	202,338
Grafton	530	2	No	3	1,067	936	1,248	6,609
Guiderland	15,528	5,120	Yes	36	30,833	45,945	3,376	217,676
Hoosick Falls	2,393	99	No	3	806	220	1,976	10,562
Menands	1,322	282	No	3	2,419	3,950	1,612	10,900
Nassau	1,668	258	No	2	1,775	948	1,820	9,748
North Greenbush	3,523	1,943	No	2	1,200	5,790	2,440	45,200
Petersburgh	793	119	Yes	4	1,138	742	1,248	6,240
Poestenkill	1,297	244	No	3	1,118	827	1,638	9,850
RCS	3,500	319	No	14	10,519	6,556	1,887	45,240
Rensselaer	5,985	11	No	8	8,506	6,760	2,288	24,960
Rensselaerville	771	5	No	6	781	576	1,456	5,422
Sand Lake	3,411	908	Yes	4	3,219	2,054	2,475	21,003
Schaghticoke	573	366	No	6	1,065	752	1,352	5,303
Stephentown	1,113	101	Yes	11	6,192	3,598	1,872	15,117
Troy	21,412	4,156	No	19	35,824	25,858	5,200	81,128
Valley Falls	750	56	No	3	1,082	330	1,820	6,304
Voorheesville	4,900	577	No	7	5,429	19,819	3,012	53,904
Watervliet	3,620	655	No	11	3,709	2,652	1,976	14,976
Westerlo	664	14	No	2	762	450	1,508	9,001
AVERAGES	7,803	733		11	14,698	14,644	2,695	86,446

Library	Adult		Young Adult		Childrens		Other	
	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance
Albany	1,043	13,438	305	4,133	1,454	32,068	0	0
Altamont	104	2,400	30	180	146	1,918	0	0
Berlin	42	291	2	15	16	86	0	0
Berne	55	409	15	90	114	2,093	13	267
Bethlehem	133	2,957	129	2,401	801	21,827	29	3,292
Brunswick	110	870	10	63	62	620	0	0
Castleton	31	116	17	55	40	462	7	43
Cohoes	93	758	1	10	18	300	1	8
Colonie	513	8,815	100	2,158	636	21,056	0	0
East Greenbush	188	3,953	56	1,322	308	12,698	74	74
Grafton	89	403	4	115	67	654	0	0
Guiderland	357	6,747	28	295	286	5,106	20	1,493
Hoosick Falls	72	468	0	0	55	1,545	0	0
Menands	36	216	13	94	68	253	1	8
Nassau	62	491	19	66	101	1,479	28	514
North Greenbush	11	175	0	0	48	725	0	0
Petersburgh	35	211	3	19	62	931	0	0
Poestenkill	26	163	0	0	51	697	0	0
RCS	238	694	4	18	371	4,329	6	83
Rensselaer	32	261	59	637	82	1,519	0	0
Rensselaerville	82	713	3	15	6	43	0	0
Sand Lake	46	400	1	2	91	901	35	843
Schaghticoke	18	95	12	112	46	599	0	0
Stephentown	125	863	78	442	126	1,867	2	42
Troy	266	2,658	94	749	187	5,626	0	0
Valley Falls	5	75	0	0	40	1,038	0	0
Voorheesville	123	1,367	44	458	181	5,001	98	416
Watervliet	42	324	0	0	29	951	0	0
Westerlo	36	157	2	5	76	404	0	0
AVERAGES	138	1,741	35	464	192	4,372	11	244

RESOURCE SHARING

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Albany	97,866	99,998	107,779	117,481
Altamont	7,787	7,459	6,531	5,985
Berlin	2,515	2,554	3,353	3,356
Berne	4,888	4,261	5,259	4,535
Bethlehem	75,940	73,431	57,755	52,516
Brunswick	11,431	10,732	5,007	4,252
Castleton	5,775	4,967	6,656	4,955
Cohoes	8,090	7,325	5,796	5,134
Colonie	74,254	71,283	67,012	60,878
East Greenbush	43,513	40,787	40,620	36,007
Grafton	5,888	6,542	5,174	4,678
Guilderland	56,286	51,606	63,744	57,736
Hoosick Falls	6,685	6,412	4,418	4,336
Menands	3,319	2,606	10,130	10,831
Nassau	10,888	10,430	7,365	6,515
North Greenbush	13,715	12,228	13,835	13,460
Petersburgh	4,896	5,357	8,599	7,902
Poestenkill	3,883	3,064	6,950	5,930
RCS	9,146	12,609	5,910	8,654
Rensselaer	5,477	4,343	5,962	5,787
Rensselaerville	3,322	2,554	6,476	5,729
Sand Lake	12,083	10,490	11,007	10,043
Schaghticoke	3,482	4,240	2,151	2,048
Stephentown	5,909	5,120	5,644	5,208
Troy	37,190	35,114	28,070	26,011
Valley Falls	3,332	2,519	3,496	3,649
Voorheesville	15,735	16,365	21,975	20,977
Watervliet	9,363	7,867	3,176	3,147
Westerlo	5,632	5,899	5,564	5,231
AVERAGES	18,907	18,212	18,118	17,344

UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

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