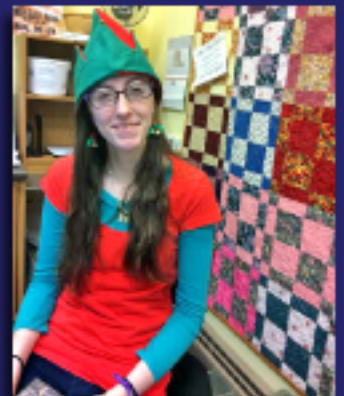




UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

Together. For Better Libraries.

2016 Annual Report



2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Tara Ricard
Vice-President: Antonio Booth
Treasurer: Philip Erlich
Secretary: LouAnne Lundgren

Sarah Goff	Lisa Scoons
Evelyn Greenstein	Yvette Terplak
Herb Hennings	Arlene Way
Janet Ivory	Judith Wines
Susan Keitel	Fred Worbrock, Jr.

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Tara Ricard

I became President of the UHLS Board of Trustees in July 2016. Having been a Board member for 4 years, serving on the Finance Committee, and also as Vice-President, I was very familiar with the functions of the System and the responsibilities of the Trustees. Stepping into a position that had been held for several years by Phil Erlich seemed at first to be a bit daunting, but with the help of Phil, the other Board members, and Tim Burke, UHLS Executive Director, I quickly discovered that it was relatively easy and certainly rewarding.

2016 was an unusual year with a large turnover in Board members. We bid “farewell” to Ron Ginsburg, Marie Stasiak, MaryAlice Molgard, and Mary Muller. Ron and Marie were experienced, hardworking trustees. MaryAlice served as Treasurer for over 10 years and was my guide on the Finance Committee. Mary served as Secretary, Vice-President and President. Both MaryAlice and Mary were honored with Trustee Emerita status. The significant changes mentioned above did not impair the work of the Board. Like “the little engine that could” we chugged steadily onward. As the year progressed, we welcomed several new members: Sarah Goff

joined in March, Arlene Way in April - both are the first members under the new By-Laws that allow someone not sitting on a local library board to serve. Susan Keitel joined us in July and then we added Evelyn Greenstein, Yvette Terplak, and Fred Wobrock. All of these new trustees bring varied experiences that serve to enhance the Board’s expertise.

In 2016, UHLS officially concluded the migration to the new automated library system which began a year and a half ago. While being kept up-to-date on the migration and “settling in” process, the Board was also asked to consider

abolishing the Automated Services Committee (ASC) - which had outlived its usefulness. Originally a Board Committee, the ASC had been important in helping to guide UHLS through several migrations. However, many of its functions have now been taken over by the Directors Association which created its own Automation Advisory Committee.

Early in the year, we agreed to participate in a Non-Profit Board Assessment conducted by students from SUNY Albany - Rockefeller College’s Nonprofit Governance graduate

***Like “the little engine that could”
we chugged steadily onward.***

course. The two students spent a great deal of time reviewing Board Minutes, By-Laws and other official documents as well as meeting with some of the UHLS staff and the Board President. The Board members participated in an online survey about their work and relationship with UHLS. Following the compilation of the survey responses, the graduate students met with the full Board, described the survey process, their methodology and then gave a brief summary of the take-aways from the survey. Some of their suggestions for changes or improvements included:

1. a Board Retreat
2. participation by the Board President in the orientation of new members
3. mentoring new Board members
4. clarification of Board representation
5. a better understanding of each person's skills and knowledge so that they are given appropriate Committee assignments
6. educate Board members on legal responsibilities and liabilities

In an ongoing effort to make the work of UHLS as transparent as possible, and ensure that the Board fulfills its fiduciary responsibility, a change was made in the way that the financial information was distributed. The monthly Purchase Journal (a detailed list of expenditures) is now sent to all of the Board members for their review prior to the meeting. The Purchase Journal is still reviewed in detail by the Finance Committee but it is now brought to the Board for a second review and approval of the expenditures.

One of the most useful parts of our Board meetings are the Trustee Reports. This is a time when trustees can talk about the accomplishments or problems in their local libraries. If anyone has questions or concerns about particular library issues, these can be brought up to the group and there are generally one or two other trustees who can offer advice and suggestions based on their own experience. We all come away from the meetings knowing a little more about both library systems and public libraries and the

ways in which we can help both of these organizations.

I would like to thank all of the UHLS Board members. Each and every one is a volunteer who is willing to spend the time to work TOGETHER with other volunteers to offer our libraries the best service possible. Their dedication to this task is commendable and is appreciated by me, by UHLS and by all of the member libraries.

Administration Committee

Antonio Booth, Chair
Herb Hennings, Arlene Way, Yvette Terplak,
Matthew Graff

Finance Committee

Philip Erlich, Chair
Evelyn Greenstein, Susan Keitel,
Fred Wobrock, Jr. , Judith Wines

Services Committee

LouAnne Lundgren, Chair
Sarah Goff, Janet Ivory, Lisa Scoons,
Scott Jarzombek

To conclude, I would also like to thank the Upper Hudson Library staff for their support and willingness to address questions and issues as they arise both for the Board and the member libraries. Directly or indirectly, we all support an invaluable resource in our community through books, meeting rooms, internet access, specialized programming, online e-content and much more.



Some of the UHLS Trustee Emeriti at the 2016 Annual Meeting (l to r): James Reilly, MaryAlice Molgard, Charles Diamond

2016 UHLS STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
MANAGER, AUTOMATION SERVICES:
MANAGER, ADULT & OUTREACH SERVICES:
MANAGER, YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

Robert Carle
Rawdon Cheng
Heidi Fuge

Timothy Burke
Joe Thornton
Deanna DiCarlo
Mary Fellows

Anne Pitlyk
Diane Riganti
Joseph Sherry

Together. For better libraries.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Timothy Burke

2016 was another active and successful year for both the Upper Hudson Library System and our member libraries. The libraries continued to build their capacity to serve their communities, whether through new and innovative programming; the creation of a long range plan; a facilities improvement project; or some other form of community engagement. Throughout this annual report you will read about the transformational work being done in all of our libraries and by extension, in their communities.

Among the many activities, programs and initiatives we worked on together as a System during the year, perhaps the most important was the adoption of a new five year Plan of Service to guide us into the third decade of the 21st century (2021!). The development of such a plan for a cooperative public library system is a collaborative process designed to ensure that the final plan represents a shared vision with an aspirational, but attainable set of goals. And this describes our new Plan perfectly.

The foundation of the UHLS planning process is the development of the overall service themes for the System. These themes serve as core value statements for the work we do for the member libraries every day. For this new Plan of Service, the UHLS board and staff along with the directors, staff and trustees from the member libraries all agreed on a reaffirmation of the themes that were adopted in the last planning process in 2011.

Those service themes are:

Encourage resource sharing to help member libraries improve and expand library service.

Foster interdependence among the member libraries to help them offer maximum resource and service levels to library users.

Support technology and promote innovation to help member libraries provide progressive programs and services.

Inspire excellence in library service through continuing education and training for member library staff and trustees.

Connect member libraries to each other and to UHLS through effective and efficient communication strategies.

Provide leadership to communicate the value of public libraries to elected officials and local communities.

The fact that these service themes were reaffirmed unchanged for another five years is a testament that they have been carefully crafted to be specific enough to give us clear direction, but broad enough to give us the flexibility to help our members respond to the ever-changing needs of their users and their communities. As you read through the reports from the various UHLS departments please look for these themes to appear regularly in everything UHLS does on behalf of our member libraries.

Adult and Outreach Services

Deanna DiCarlo

2016 was a busy year of growth in our department!

Perhaps the greatest thing to happen to us this year was that Anne Pitlyk joined the UHLS team in January. Anne's commitment to customer service paired with her keen eye for graphics and data visualization, clever skill with all resource sharing operations, and her intelligent humor, fantastic attitude, and sincere enthusiasm for improving services to our libraries have made this year's many tasks a pleasure, and I offer her my heartfelt thanks. In 2016, our department was responsible for supporting services to adults at member libraries, managing New York State Coordinated Outreach Services to the county jails and other under-served populations, facilitating resource sharing via delivery, interlibrary loan, and our circulating collections, managing E-rate telecommunications applications, and managing our digital content collections. We are excited to report on progress made or begun in 2016.

We worked hard in 2016 to elevate our professional discourse around library services to adults in both our advisory councils and continuing education opportunities. The Adult Services Advisory Council (ASAC) met five times in 2016, and our spotlight topics included discussion about programming, reference, community engagement, book groups, and digital content. One of ASAC's popular features is our "Program Go-Round" where attendees share information, challenges, and successes of recent or upcoming programs, and we created a program (b)Log to keep track of everyone's contributions. UHLS also offered a number of formal continuing education opportunities this year, including several on marketing and social media, tech tools for productivity and collaboration, and interlibrary loan (ILL).

The New York State Library's Adult Literacy Grant makes funds available to library systems to aid in the development of adult

literacy programs at our member libraries. This year, the grant's theme was Workforce Development, and we leveraged these state funds to provide opportunities for library patrons and training for library staff. In short, we: contracted with three local, professional trainers to offer a suite of workshops on topics like LinkedIn, interview skills, trends in employment seeking, and entrepreneurship; provided each location with current materials for their career development collections; and partnered with the Capital Region Workforce Development Board to advertise our workshops and provide our librarians with professional training at the Albany County "One Stop" Career Center. Nearly half of our member libraries took advantage of the workshops, and there were 50 workshops scheduled across our two counties.

UHLS receives Coordinated Outreach Services grants to serve New Yorkers who are most in need and who often are not regular library users. In 2016, we offered several continuing education opportunities for member libraries to network with and learn from community organizations and agencies who serve seniors and LGBTQ communities, and we funded two Mental Health First Aid workshops. UHLS also provided services to both Albany & Rensselaer County Jails by purchasing books for their collections via the NYS County Jail Aid.

In December, we convened the Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council which is made up of community members who work with underserved populations, including Albany Guardian Society, Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County, Northeast Association of the Blind at Albany, Pride Center of the Capital Region, and Parsons Child & Family Center. Finally, New York State public library system outreach coordinators met at UHLS for a two-day conference where we increased our understanding of statewide library services to correctional facilities, and to the visually impaired via digital services.

Project management and support comprise the bulk of what we do and 2016 was no exception! Usage of our OverDrive collection

continued to grow. We added over 9,000 items, bringing our total holdings up to nearly 50,000 items with a circulation of over 370,000. The success of our collection rests upon how cooperatively it is developed, maintained, and supported system-wide. All member libraries contributed to OverDrive's content, and the thoughtful selection by our members and at the Central Library has truly demonstrated what great heights we can reach if we work together as a team.

Because all member libraries continue to invest in our OverDrive collection, in 2016, we developed quarterly reports so they can better gauge their return on investment. OverDrive updated our public site this year to include "featured collections," and Anne Pitlyk spearheaded our efforts to curate and market virtual displays for all ages to increase circulation of our digital content. UHLS conducted OverDrive training for front line staff and selectors at several member libraries, and we developed a continuing education workshop entitled "OverDrive: Confident Customer Service" that was filled to capacity.

The eContent Advisory Committee continued to address the need for a new digital magazine service, strategizing purchases of in-demand digital content with large waiting lists or expiring licenses, and overall collection maintenance and usage analysis. The Central Library Advisory Committee recommended the purchase Ancestry, Mango Languages, Flipster digital magazines, and the Boopsie mobile app for 2017, so our very exciting fourth quarter provided us with an opportunity to partner with our IT Department to roll out these four new services. I sincerely thank Joe Thornton, Rob Carle, and Rawdon Cheng for their skillful collaboration, and we look forward to hearing how these new products created opportunities for better digital services in the upcoming year!

Library systems were chartered in large part to facilitate resource sharing among regional libraries, and we play a big role in ensuring

equitable access to materials by all size libraries. Both Diane Riganti and Anne Pitlyk are invaluable in supporting delivery, interlibrary loan, coordinated purchases, E-rate, and our rotating and circulating collections—the gears would not turn smoothly without them!

Physical delivery remains an essential daily service - our three drivers stop at every member library and UHLS every weekday (that's nearly 200 stops per week), and in 2016, our three drivers picked up, sorted, and delivered 2,614,400 items. In addition to facilitating the lending of materials across member library locations via our delivery service, UHLS also provides books and articles to and from other libraries nationwide via our interlibrary loan service. In 2016, UHLS filled over 235 requests for our member library patrons who needed access to materials located outside of UHLS. We also hosted a system-wide interlibrary loan training and, with great contributions from Diane and Anne, developed new ILL guidelines for directors and staff.

UHLS also facilitates resource sharing with our circulating collections. We manage four collections of large print books, CDs (music and audiobooks), and DVDs that rotate among our libraries six times per year. We continue to maintain both a professional book collection and a book discussion collection that any patron or library staff member can request. Finally, our Department manages E-rate telecommunications reimbursements for most of our libraries, and in 2016, we were able to get \$11,300 back from service providers and into the coffers of our members.

Sharing skills and connecting with colleagues who care deeply about public libraries is one of the greatest joys of my job, and in 2016, I was delighted to present "Facebook Friends of the Library" to a UHLS gathering of our libraries' friends groups—and was honored to be invited to give an encore presentation at the Cohoes Public Library. Our colleagues at the Southern Tier Library System invited me to

present “Connect with your Community through Social Media” at their System-wide staff development day, and it was a great opportunity to learn how another System manages continuing education.

I am grateful to our staff and our members for bringing innovation, interesting challenges, and comradery each day as we navigate this library life together, and I look forward to what 2017 has in store for us all!

Automation Services

Joseph Thornton

In addition to our routine 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) – below please find a description of other activities.

Our system processed 3,529,063 loans and 617,482 hold requests, and added 51,840 bibliographic records and 131,403 items. Many of these numbers are declining due to the shift to eBooks, the loans of which do not show in our *Sierra* circulation, request, or notices statistics. Patron activity is steady but the trend toward e-content continues. We added 9,077 e-content items in 2016.

We were busy, as always, supporting computing in the libraries, consulting on building renovations, wiring, and wireless access, often performing the work ourselves. We continued to manage staff and public PC security, updates, and troubleshooting for any library that asked, and we were gratified that we were able to continue this valuable service to the libraries with our small staff. At the libraries this year we managed firewalls, virtualization, thin clients, remodeling, technology plans, network wiring, printers, servers, domain names, and DNS.

Administering *Sierra* is one of our biggest responsibilities, and here’s a bulleted list of our major activities related to the ILS in 2016:

- Managed the move of our *Sierra* instance from the Oakland to the Syracuse data center.
- Rewrote our annual reports to accommodate the database changes from *Horizon* to *Sierra*.
- Configured, learned, and trained library staff on the use of *Decision Center*, an important reporting tool for *Sierra*.
- Made several major improvements to the *Kids’ Search* interface.
- Enabled SMS alerts (text messaging) for *Sierra* hold and overdue notices.
- Upgraded *Sierra* to version 2.2. We also managed two upgrades to *Encore*, *Sierra’s* discovery interface.
- Enabled Online Patron Self registration.
- Wrote a program to send email reminders to patrons when their library cards are near expiration.
- Made many other changes in *Sierra*, e.g. to the SCAT and pcode4 tables (don’t ask!), and implemented “local request” for several libraries (where only their patrons are allowed to place holds on some items).

We hosted several training workshops – on *Serials*, *Decision Center*, and other *Sierra* applications – and visited all new library directors to provide an overview of our Department’s services and to train them on *Sierra*.

We worked with Deanna DiCarlo to manage authentication for our new databases: *Ancestry*, *Mango Languages*, and *Flipster*. We also worked with Deanna on the implementation of *Boopsie*, our newly acquired mobile interface.

We made major changes to the UHLS Calendar, joined the newly formed Automation Advisory Committee, installed new Helpdesk software, and redesigned Upper Hudson’s meeting presentation system.

Youth and Family Services

Mary Fellows

The six UHLS service priorities offer words that aptly describe this year in Youth and Family Services: inspire, innovate, connect, leadership and interdependence. It was, as always, a year full of opportunities for service, growth, and fun!

Inspiring excellence in library service through education is a vein that runs deeply through our work. In early 2016, the “Public Speaking: Get Better At It” training series concluded.

While “fun” might not be the exact term they used at the time, the ten participating staff members did grow, getting measurably better at public speaking over the five-

session class. Evaluation data proves the value of repeating the series. Other training this year included a double-header early literacy training covering spaces, partnerships and outreach; a “Best of the Best” Youth Books of 2016, and motivating 67 staff and volunteers (some in costumes) to plan summer activities at our annual Summer Reading Program Planning Workshop.

We’re fortunate to have family literacy grants from the State that aid us in the work of inspiring excellence in library service. Our three-year “STEM-Sell” grant ended in June. Among other activities, a total of 9,874 books went to 19 participating libraries to help them strengthen their programming around STEM. Visibility of STEM programs to the public, and stronger school – public library connections were other outcomes of the project. In this initiative, as in all our Department’s work, Senior Support Associate Diane Riganti was invaluable.

Launching this year is a new family literacy grant, Benchmarking Early Literacy Library Services (BELLS). Twenty-six of our 29 libraries have committed to full participation, which gives us an exciting opportunity to make real strides in serving our youngest

UHLS library learners! BELLS libraries will benefit from financial resources, training, assessment and feedback, mentorship, and more. Initiated this year: a class for all volunteers and staff without formal library youth services training who present early literacy programming. We also kicked off a mentoring program pairing these volunteers and staff with librarians with deep early literacy experience. This mentoring role gives our experienced staff an opportunity to grow through teaching, and their mentees some excellent and practical guidance!

Inspiring excellence in library service through education is a vein that runs deeply through our work.

Another aspect of the BELLS grant is Beanstack, an opportunity for innovation in connecting libraries with patrons. Beanstack offers digital reading program

management and patron emails with customized book recommendations linked to our catalog. It is adaptable for patrons of any age. For parents of young children, the weekly email also includes a learning tip for the recommended book and can include information on local library programs. It’s a powerful and versatile tool for libraries.

An earlier innovation in reaching patrons gained a broader market this year. The shared Youth Services Programs calendar (<http://events-ys.uhls.org>) launched in 2014 was expanded this year to include adult programs, at the request of the adult services group. We know that many patrons library-hop; this broader program listing promotes even more library usage and is a terrific step forward in service. It’s also impressive to see how much is being offered at our UHLS libraries on a given day, especially in the summer!

Connection is threaded throughout UHLS work. Our second Legislator/ Summer Reading Program partnership connected thirteen library locations with their district’s State Assembly Member. Legislators John McDonald and Pat Fahy attended numerous programs, highlighted the libraries’ events in email blasts to constituents, and provided

completion certificates. We appreciated the opportunity to work with our Assembly Members on boosting a library service so key to our education role. We hope to expand the partnership to other legislators in 2017.

Partnerships were also a focus this year for our pilot early literacy project, Prototype Project on Early Literacy (ProPEL), along with outreach and spaces. Our three ProPEL libraries – Albany, RCS and Westerlo – identified partners, presented training to adult groups in the community and began to assess their spaces.

Our DIY teen program, Read It Forward (RIF), in its third year, is now a partnership with Mohawk Valley Library System. The 2016 RIF involved 16 locations in UHLS. Youth services staff book talked and passed out 255 books to teens, who were asked to take the book and “read it forward” with their friends. The result? A low-cost way to connect with teens and inspire them to view the library more positively. Commented one librarian, “This is one of the easiest ways to connect with people so that they associate the library with joy.”

The State Library leveraged UHLS staff leadership in early literacy in 2016 by contracting with us to develop and deliver early literacy training and an accompanying toolkit. In November, I delivered the half day train-the-trainer workshop to 30 of my colleagues from across the State. The training, “Everyone Serves Families with Young Children,” is being presented to BELLS grant libraries at the libraries’ staff development days over the three year grant cycle. It often includes “The Brain Architecture Game,” a fun and powerful team competition to build the strongest brain.

Summer reading program is recognized as a significant library service in the NYS Education Department, and in June I was asked to present to the Board of Regents on summer reading in public libraries. I was pleased to highlight the innovative work of our UHLS libraries, especially in their STEM programs.

My talented member library youth services colleagues make it easy to promote our shared work!

Last, we hope that more trees are standing this year as a result of a change in the UHLS rotating collections process. Support Staff Associate Anne Pitlyk ably organized and facilitated a change from paper to digital notices, first approved and then embraced by member library staff. We appreciate the collaboration that makes this shared service work smoothly. Our interdependence strengthens all libraries – and made the service, growth, and fun of 2016 all possible!

UHLS MEMBER LIBRARIES

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

DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

Sue Hoadley, President

2016 was our first full year with Sierra, the new integrated library automation system from Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (familarly known as Triple-I). In the end of January, we finally moved to the “completed” phase of the migration and were sent forth to stand on our own. We are, however, still in contact with the vendor and continue to work on various projects that will make the automation system even more “ours.” As part of the whole automation transition, the UHLS Board of Trustees approved dissolving the staff-run Automated Services Committee and the establishment of an Automation Advisory Council (AAC) under the auspices of the Directors Association. The AAC, chaired by a Director, works with the UHLS Automation Department to make recommendations for improvements in the system.

Another major task for our Association was the revision of our By-Laws. The By-Laws were updated to include the existence of the new AAC and also to express our strongly-held belief in the value of Continuing Education programs on various professional issues. In support of this belief, we had several programs including: “The Politics of Library Advocacy” by NYLA and a UHLS-organized

presentation by a staff member from the State Comptrollers Office who spoke on what could be expected from an audit by that Department. Another part of the continuing education program is simply the way that we share information at our meetings. If someone has a question about something in our profession, there is almost always someone who has a good answer - or knows where to find the answer. And this is, perhaps, one of the greatest benefits of our Association. We are very fortunate in having many experienced Directors who are always ready to help one another.

Major themes for the year swirled around: patron online registration; a shared mobile library van; the continuing increase in the use of shared econtent material and what we are all doing to meet the demand; the change in the use of Central Library funds and how libraries will meet “the gap” in the purchase of econtent fiction in the future.

Halfway through the year, we welcomed a new Director to our midst: Michelle Fernandez took over as Director of the Watervliet Public Library and jumped right into Committee work as a member of the Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council.

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary-Ellen Piché, Board President
Scott Jarzombek, Executive Director

A comment made by one Albany Public Library (APL) patron sums up what this seven-branch system is to its community – “One of the best opportunities for anyone to continue learning and growing.” The successes of 2016 highlight these efforts:

Last year, APL added a number of resources to its menu of services and programs, including:

- WiFi hotspots for in-home use, expanding internet access to residents;



Bicycle repair stations are available at APL branches

- Bicycle repair stations at five branches available to all recreational and commuter bike riders;
- Laptops for in-library use, growing the number of public computers available and allowing patrons to use them anywhere in the library;
- Sunday hours at the Bach Branch, expanding service to seven days a week;
- Albany Made podcast highlighting the City of Albany and the library’s place in it;
- Building improvements at the Washington Ave. Branch, with additional public seating and a central Technology Commons area;
- Partnerships with local organizations to bring book delivery to home-bound seniors, special storytimes to Albany parks, and filmmaking and digital production skills to teens;

- Library card registration process that is streamlined, making it easier and quicker to get a card;
- Library Board of Trustees meeting videos on YouTube, enhancing transparency of the library’s governing body;
- Garden and outdoor reading space at the Howe Branch, which is available to all in the community.

“Libraries [are] vital places of learning and development in the community. It’s about so much more than books...kids hanging out after school...people using the internet to look for jobs...people of all backgrounds chatting with each other...truly an amazing resource,” as one patron said. APL is proud to serve the Albany community, and strives to live up to the expectations of its users.

Altamont Free Library

Yvette Terplak, Board President
Joe Burke, Director

2016 was a year of celebration, reflection and growth for Altamont Free Library. ***The focal point of our year was the celebration of the library’s centennial.***

To celebrate the centennial, the library held numerous events throughout the year. We kicked off with the ninth annual *I Love My Library!* Gala in February. We also launched our 100 for 100 campaign, seeking 100 donors to contribute \$100 each in celebration of our 100th anniversary. Over the course of the year, we attracted 133 donations to the newly created Centennial Fund. The highlight of the celebrations was the garden party held at the home (or, rather, castle) of Deb Barnes Breitenbach and Thom Breitenbach on July 16. 100 guests, including many of our elected representatives, attended. We continued our celebrations with cake for the entire village at our July 26 concert in Orsini Park. September 25 saw the official opening of an exhibit at the Altamont Village Museum and Archives celebrating the library’s history and featuring photos and artifacts. Toward the end of the

year, volunteer extraordinaire Kristin Casey took the primary role in researching and writing a hundred-year history of the Altamont Free Library, which was published as a special supplement to the Altamont Enterprise in December.



Garden party at the Breitenbach's

In May 2016, the Board of Trustees voted to maintain Sunday hours during the summer. Our summer Sundays were constantly busy and contributed to August 2016 seeing our highest monthly circulation in our remembered history. We are one of only a small handful of libraries statewide with Sunday hours in the summer and the only such library in the Upper Hudson Library System. The Board voted to maintain Sunday hours in the summer of 2017.

Throughout the early part of the year, AFL completed two construction projects, financed in part by a NYS Construction Grant, including the installation of interior storm windows to increase the energy efficiency of the building, as well as work on the building's slate roof. The Building Committee, led by Bob Haggerty, did phenomenal work to bring these projects to fruition.

2016 was the first year of our three-year Long Range Plan, which we adopted in December 2015. Throughout the year, the AFL leadership team tackled numerous action items including a policy review. In October, we conducted a communications survey to collect feedback on library programming and how people in the community receive news about library events and programs. The responses

we collected have informed our communications and programming strategies and will continue to do so going forward.

Programming highlights included six well attended summer concerts, *Eat Around the World* potlucks featuring cuisines from 12 different cultures, book clubs, over 120 storytimes, author visits, trivia nights, craft nights, and much more. We collaborated with numerous community organizations, including Altamont Elementary School, the Center for Disability Services, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Boy Scouts, Altamont Seniors, the Train Station Quilters, Altamont Community Traditions and others to create exciting programs for our library community.

In 2017, we look forward to the installation of a new bicycle repair station and the construction of a new outdoor programming and recreation space to be called the Spohr Family Centennial Patio, in honor of some of our most dedicated volunteers and supporters, Tom and Pat Spohr. We received a significant Bullet Aid award from Senator George Amedore for the construction. We invite the entire Upper Hudson Library System community to come check it out!

BERLIN FREE TOWN LIBRARY

David Theriault, Board President
Sharon Vogel, Director

2016 proved to be a record fundraising year for the Berlin Free Town Library. We reached our \$10,000 goal through the solid team effort and determination of our dedicated Board of Trustees. They are to be commended for their hours of planning and hard work. We also thank our patrons for their generous monetary contributions and their faithful support of our fundraising events.

The library presented several programs during the year for patrons of all ages: adult coloring nights, family game nights, story hours, craft programs, art/photography exhibits, Irish night, summer reading programs for children,

teens and adults, and our Holiday Open House at year's end. Our programming highlight of the year was the transformation of our library at 47 South Main Street into *CLUB 47*, a posh night club scene designed for hosting music events. The musician *Jeff Przech* and his group opened the season with a concert in January, and *Toss the Feathers*, an Irish traditional music and song ensemble, closed the season with a performance in November. The library looks forward to more *CLUB 47* events during 2017.



Craft programs for all ages at Berlin

The *Stephanie Flint Book Club* met monthly during 2016, and the Yoga Group held their weekly classes. The library continues to provide space for tutoring sessions and encourages local clubs, committees and groups to use the library for a meeting space.

The library placed a special emphasis on patron appreciation this year, beginning with a New Membership Drive early in the year and continuing with one patron being honored each month. A written tribute and photo for each "Patron of the Month" was prominently displayed at the circulation desk and published on the library's website. We will continue this in 2017 and have hopes of it becoming a tradition.

We thank our staff, volunteers, Board of Trustees and patrons for their loyal support during 2016.

BERNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

JoAnne Brady, Board President

Judy Petrosillo, Director

It has been three years since we moved to our new building and we still appreciate the space. We are pleased to report that the circulation and visitation numbers continue to increase. These statistics helped the Board of Trustees muster support for four more library hours, a goal in our Strategic Plan. The trustees worked diligently on increasing hours, developing policies, and having our first official evaluation of the library director.

Monies from our fourth NYS library construction grant were used for energy efficient windows and repair of the exterior brickwork. A special legislative grant, sponsored by Senator George Amedore, was used to purchase and install a new thru-wall book return. The building renovations are now considered complete, until the roof needs replacing!

A wave of disappointment occurred over Memorial Day Weekend when a heavy downpour caused water to flow into the library building. No books were affected but the drying process required ripping off baseboard molding. A contribution from the NYLA Disaster Relief Fund helped with the unexpected expenses. The building quickly returned to normal but it did remind us of why we need a disaster plan.

Some of our regularly scheduled programs flourished over this year. These included our monthly Book Club and Knit Wits for adults; TAG for teens; and a weekly story time for preschoolers. Storytime continues to be our most popular program with an average attendance of seventeen children and adults.

Of the fifty-one programs for adults, people especially enjoyed the Care and Feeding of the Antique Clock, Glazing Pottery, Low Maintenance Gardening, and Wreath Making programs. The summer reading program for

adults focused on a healthy body and mind with a series of programs including spa night, zentangle, yoga, and coloring.



Wreath making was a popular program

The teens must have enjoyed their monthly Friday night at the library because they kept coming back. It might have something to do with the fun activities which included solving an escape room, water bottle tossing, gaming, oil painting, orienteering, making zen gardens, and music jamming. These represent the creative efforts of Kathy Stempel, our youth services library assistant. Makerspace programs for middle readers took place over each school vacation. The offerings for 2016 included the Jr. Chef Challenge with cupcakes, remote controlled vehicles, and doodlebots. The children discovered many ways to stay healthy throughout the six week summer reading program. The grand finale was a trip to Funplex in East Greenbush

The highlight of our family programs included an author visit in October. Abbie Bowker discussed her book about woolly bears and helped participants write and illustrate nature poetry. Five summer evenings of Music in the Park provided another reason for the community to come together.

With our limited budget, the support from the Friends of the Berne Library was essential. We thank all the hard-working members for their help and look forward to accomplishing even more in 2017.

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mary Redmond, Board President
Geoffrey Kirkpatrick, Director

In 2016, Bethlehem Public Library embraced the American Library Association's "Libraries Transform" campaign by offering programs and services that inspire, entertain and enhance our community's quality of life.

As we strive to serve a population with evolving needs, we aim to strike a balance between the collections that support our core literacy goals and a growing interest in new technology among our patrons.

Our perennially popular music series and book talks for adults were complemented by a Coffee and Conversation lecture series that packed the house on Fridays, as well as sewing, trivia and creative coloring and drawing activities for the young at heart. Adults were even encouraged to take part in the annual Summer Reading Program with their very own Bingo reading challenge.

Our librarians continued to provide a vital school-library link through their districtwide outreach, which brings the library's technology, such as the 3D printer and WiiU, out and about in the community. In the fall, we partnered with local fire departments and surrounding libraries to offer a special fire safety storytime at participating stations. Other large-scale events included a Beatles tribute concert at the middle school, in partnership with the Town of Bethlehem, as well as a special library indoor miniature golf event that was free and open to the community.



Indoor miniature golf was a hit, with thousands of patrons dropping by for a round

In an ongoing effort to provide access to information for everyone in our community, we began offering portable wifi hotspots that can be checked out and used anywhere in the Sprint network.

Looking ahead, the library is putting the final pieces into place for a major HVAC update, which will ensure our building's viability in the years to come so that we may continue to grow and transform with our community.

Additional highlights from 2016:

- We added telescopes and metal detectors to our special collections shelf, or “library of things.”
- Storyteller and author Joe Bruchac joined us for an afternoon of storytelling as part of our Ann Seegal Memorial series.
- With the 2016 board and budget vote, we hosted our first-ever “get to know you” forum for trustee candidates. Longtime board member Tamra Wright stepped down after two terms, and voters elected Paula Rice to fill her seat in May.
- We held a volunteer fair to connect the community with volunteer opportunities, and followed up with a local author event that highlighted the work of writers in our area and featured novelist Lisa Lutz as the keynote speaker.
- Beloved book characters Frog and Toad entertained the crowd at the library mini-golf event.
- Summer Reading was a huge hit, with activities that echoed the “On your mark, get set ... Read!” theme. Teen volunteers kept everything running smoothly.
- Evenings on the Green featured a special family concert with Andy the Music Man and an ice cream social hosted by the library Friends.
- We added two American Sign Language storytimes to our early literacy lineup and celebrated the conclusion of spring storytimes with a Preschool Prom that was featured on several news outlets.



A father and daughter practice “butterfly” in the American Sign Language class at Bethlehem

BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Marie Stasiak, Board President

Natalie Hurteau, Director

2016 was a great year for Brunswick Community Library! We continued to host multiple programs for all ages, welcomed back a beloved employee, were granted the funds for an electronic sign from the NYS Construction Grant, installed Free Little Libraries and held another very successful summer reading program.

In 2014, we had put two of the Library's bookcases on castors to open up our “community living-room” just a bit more and enhance our programming. Since we welcomed back our Youth Services Librarian, Sara Hopkins, we have continued to use this space to do our monthly Paint and Sips fully in-house, as a fundraiser for the library, resulting in \$180-\$600 in donations per class. Sara is a certified yoga instructor, and also uses the new space to provide two yoga programs per week to the community, which draws an average 20 patrons or more. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback about these programs.

In April, the library hosted its second Egg Hunt outdoors, which was another huge success. We saw over 200 patrons that day, a few of whom had never been to the library before and have continued to come back. We plan to

host our third hunt in 2017 with volunteers from the Brittonkill PTSA. The relationship with the school continues to grow and blossom. We have been doing much more outreach to the school: volunteering at school dances, making open house appearances, and collaborating on education projects like the 5th grade Newbery Book Club. The school has been very helpful in terms of library PR: sharing our posts and pictures on Facebook, sharing fliers with students and placing ads in the school playbill.

2016 also saw the completion of the Free Little Libraries project from Eagle Scout Candidate Nick Fisk in mid-September. The Free Little Libraries are maintained by the local ARC and are located at the Capital Agway, the Town Offices and the Brunswick Center Services. We have received positive feedback from the project, and hope they remain active in the community.

Our story time attendance continues to be high, averaging about 25-35 participants. We continue to collaborate with our local pre-school and our hope is to do some outreach by bringing story time to the Summer Camp at the Town Beach this summer.

Our Summer Reading Program for 2016 was another great success. We had 158 children registered, hosted over 40 programs, and had an overall attendance of 1,072.

The rest of the year was very busy! We hosted 197 adult programs, 17 t/ween programs, 108 children's programs and 8 family programs resulting in 4,057 total patron attendance. Thanks to our Friends group, we were able to purchase a patron counter last year and have seen 17,953 patrons, from April until December.

Our Library circulation statistics yielded a decent year. We circulated 38,407 items showing a large increase in DVDs this year; 20% of our circulation is DVDs. We have altered loan periods and loan rules to

increase circulation stats and provide better service to our local card holders. Going into 2017, we will be seeing a decrease in the amount of print magazines we catalog, and will be looking to use that space for DVDs or new fiction. We are also hoping to update all of our nonfiction collections, especially the Children's and Junior section.

In June of 2016 we also applied for the New York State Construction grant to replace our public street sign, with a new electronic version. We were awarded 50% of the amount requested, which was enough to fund the project. The sign was installed in early 2017 and has been positively received by the community.

CASTLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Olivia Karis-Nix, Board President

Melissa Tacke, Director

2016 was a busy year at the Castleton Public Library! We increased programming for children, teens, and adults, added new services and features, expanded our community collaboration and outreach, and worked on building and refining our collections. We continued to collaborate with Upper Hudson Library System to provide exceptional service, programs, and a robust collection of printed and electronic resources.



Water balloon baseball at Castleton

Programs: We increased the number of programs we offered for children, teens, and adults, and attendance continued to grow!

Child, family, and teen programs included our weekly storytimes, monthly Family Movie Nights, water balloon baseball, a pool noodle obstacle course, a Halloween costume swap and Halloween fun day/ parade, STEM programs such as astronomy and making slime, and creative expression programs such as tie dye, flipbooks, and duct tape crafts. Adult programs included book and discussion clubs, computer/device help, yoga, a holiday cookie swap, and presentations about genealogy, aging, and photography. We were also able to offer entrepreneurial and job seeker programs thanks to the NYS Adult Literacy Library Services Program, and we established a monthly Legal Clinic for free, confidential consultations, provided by The Legal Project.

CPL hosted a very successful Summer Reading Program in 2016, reaching more children, teens, and adults than ever before. 123 children, 37 teens, and 83 adults registered for our 2016 Program, a 48% increase over 2015. We kicked off the season with an ice cream party, offered a variety of fun, hands-on programs to keep children and teens engaged throughout the summer, and wrapped up with a pizza party.

Community Connections: We strive to be a dynamic presence in our community, and continue to increase our outreach and our collaboration with other local organizations. Beginning in 2016, we partnered with Schodack Island State Park to present a StoryWalk in the Park. A StoryWalk uses pages from a children's picture book along a walking path for families to enjoy a story and the outdoors at the same time. In addition to the StoryWalk, we also collaborated with the Park to present a summer family movie series and family entertainment at the Park's annual Haunted Hayride. We also greatly increased our visits to local schools and preschools, and participated in a new Farmers' and Artisan Market in Castleton.

Part of being good community members is giving back. Our month-long Food for Fines program allowed patrons to "pay" overdue fines with donations of canned goods, which were donated to the Anchor Food Pantry. CPL also hosted a blood drive in partnership with the American Red Cross, and sponsored a letter-writing campaign to military service people and veterans through Operation Gratitude.



Exploring electronics in the activity center

More Fun at the Library! This year, we established a play area, game/blocks shelf, and early literacy activity center in our children's department. Very young children can learn color recognition, hand-eye coordination, and counting, while older children can explore electronics, build with wooden blocks and Lego, and play classic games such as chess, checkers, dominoes, Uno, and Connect 4.

Looking Ahead: We thank all of our Trustees, Friends, staff, and volunteers for providing the enthusiasm, dedication, and care that makes CPL a special place. In the coming year, we look forward to continuing to improve services and to strengthening our connections with people and organizations in the community.

COHOES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Carol Clingan, Board President
Matthew Graff, Director

Some thoughts on 2016 . . .

2016 was an active year for the Cohoes Public Library, with significant improvements made to our facility and tech resources.

I'd like to first talk about the significant repair work we had done at the Library. The Cohoes Public Library makes its home in an old Episcopal Church built in 1895 and most recently renovated over 30 years ago. Over the years our windows have taken a beating. Some of the glass had slipped from its frames, and many frames had rotted, some sporting holes clear through to the wood. This significantly affected the environment in the library, raised our energy bills, and created a considerable safety issue. In response to this disrepair we had seven of our windows completely refurbished during the spring and summer of 2016. We are delighted to report that our "new" windows and frames are not only safer, but they do the job of keeping the outside out, and they look great! A big thank you to UHLS, DLD, and the City of Cohoes for making this happen.

I'd also like to highlight UHLS' Rawdon Cheng for the tireless help he provided to improve our IT presence. For years Rawdon has been keeping our fat client PCs working using ingenuity, bailing wire, and tape. In 2016 Rawdon helped us plan and implement a major technological upgrade for our PCs. He began by staging and installing a new server for us. He then replaced all of our public computers with thin clients. The benefits of this are numerous including a smaller footprint, easier updates, and cheaper to replace than a PC. We look forward to replacing the rest of our PCs with new thin clients as well. Thank you, Rawdon, for the yeoman's job you did and continue to do, and thank you to the Friends of the Cohoes Public

Library for your financial support with this project.

The Library is very fortunate to have such strong support to help make these projects come to fruition and I look forward to 2017 to see what more we can accomplish.

WILLIAM K. SANFORD TOWN LIBRARY (Colonie)

Rosemary Armao, Board President
Evelyn Neale, Director

It has been an exciting year for the library celebrating its 40th anniversary in our building at 629 Albany Shaker Road. We sought out community feedback, created a new Mission Statement and Strategic Plan and of course we celebrated! The Friends of the Library, to help reach their goal of \$40,000, held many events including a Great Gatsby Gala, Mini-Golf in the Library, a Giffy's BBQ and the Supervisor and Town Officials threw the library a wonderful Pasta Dinner. In addition many of the events were supported by local area business donations or sponsorships.



Enjoying the Great Gatsby Gala

The Friends wrapped up the year with a fundraising campaign, bringing the total raised through all of the events to \$54,533.00. The Friends reached their goal of 400 Friends and the library issued over 3,000 new library cards getting us closer to our goal of 40,000. Statistically we had 240,787 visits and

circulated 630,157 items. The Library had 1,459 programs sessions with a total attendance of 35,535. The collection underwent a huge weeding and shifting project, refreshing the collection and making the shelves more user-friendly. Both the library's website and newsletter received a redesign. We look forward to 2017 with more changes to come!

EAST GREENBUSH COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Michael Poost, Board President

Jill Dugas Hughes, Library Director

Inspiring Ideas, Strengthening Community, Enriching Lives

The East Greenbush Community Library is more than just a building filled with books. Everyone is welcome here; we have a playroom to encourage early literacy for preschoolers, a busy children's room, a dedicated teen area, as well as study spaces and relaxed reading areas for adults. When our four community rooms are not being used to host a full calendar of library events for all ages, they are in high demand for local community groups and gatherings. Our online presence continues to grow with our updated website and increased online patron service capabilities. The books, services, and programs are possible with the dynamic ingredient of people- our staff, patrons, volunteers, and trustees all bring their needs, ideas, and creativity to our doors

Library Visits & Circulation: Overall, circulation and usage of our library increased in 2016. Visits were up by 2% (218,633) and circulation increased by 1% (404,136). We continued to rely heavily on the Upper Hudson Library System for delivery of materials, seeing a 13% increase in the number of materials delivered to our library. There was also a 10% increase in materials sent from East Greenbush to other libraries. We were open for 3,433 hours and our average circulation per hour was 118 items.

Programming Highlights: Children's programs continue to be very popular with a focus on storytimes, STEAM programming, and our annual summer reading program. Participation at our 357 youth programs rose 18% in 2016, for a total attendance of 15,983. The library also began the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten early literacy program, and registered 157 children.

Teen programs continue to grow with a 6% increase in attendance, with a focus on expanding the reach of our summer volunteer program.

Adult program attendance increased by 21%. We held our popular "Celebrate!" winter reading challenge with 71 adult participants and "Exercise Your Mind" summer reading program, which had 155 participants. Our annual "Day Before the Awards Film Festival" continued to draw a large crowd of 350+ for six Oscar-nominated films. We added the JobNow online resource for patrons. Regular popular programs included AARP tax prep, AARP driving classes, Red Cross blood drives, monthly movie nights, book clubs, music series, and monthly programs in partnership with the Greenbush Historical Society and Greenbush Garden Club. The library was a local site for two international programs: International Indie Author Day and International Games Day.

New Partnerships: New partnerships in 2016 included:

- Monthly program called LOOK (Loving Ourselves & Our Kids) with the Pride Center of the Capital Region
- One-on-one high school/college student volunteer- led technology assistance program for older adults in partnership with Digital Grandparents, Inc., Columbia High School, and Russell Sage College
- Capital Region Chapter of Romance Writers

Farmers' Market: The Farmers' Market grew in popularity in its third season and is certified with the New York State Department Agriculture and Markets. Farmers can now

GRAFTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Estella Hovnanian, Board President
Leanna Sweet, Co-President
Ronnie Tatro, Library Director

The Grafton Community Library strives to provide materials and services to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the community. In 2016 we held true to this, believing that every member of our community should have free access to knowledge, culture, and entertainment regardless of age, culture, race, or socioeconomic level.

Over the course of 2016 we featured a variety of programs for all ages, while also providing targeted activities and learning opportunities for specific age groups. Programs for our children such as Storytime help foster an early love for reading, encourage positive relationships between child and caregiver, and help to enhance early literacy skills. Teens love our Family Game Nights where we use games such as “Knit Wit” where they learn to use creative language skills and enhance vocabulary in a fun engaging way among their peers. These programs helped increase active involvement in our Summer Reading Program and we look forward to continuing this energy with 2017. Our Adult community also took advantage of our education programs such as our App workshops, computer help class, and our new “Book Our Time” where our community members are able to reserve our undivided attention for their tech device questions.

A series of popular programs that focus on the arts are provided to us with tireless work by our board and awards from the Community Arts Grant. The workshops in 2016 included blacksmithing, basket weaving, forging sterling bracelets, and more. These hands-on workshops teach a new skill and encourage community involvement.

Special acknowledgment goes to the library’s Board of Trustees who help to continue the development of the library. The trustees

assumed a vital responsibility in fundraising that further enhanced the library with funds for many crucial projects.



The basket weaving workshop taught a new skill

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 community members who contributed in making 2016 an amazing year.

GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Daniel Centi, Board President
Tim Wiles, Director

“It was a fantastic year for GPL!” exclaimed Guilderland Public Library Director Tim Wiles, when asked to sum up 2016. “Program attendance was up 48% over the previous year, we held 13% more programs, and ... my favorite stat: We had a 23% jump in the number of young readers in the Summer Reading Club! Plus, we got a new roof.”

Those statistics are a reflection of the innovative and captivating programs in 2016. Among them: “The Teen Winter Writing Contest,” in which young authors and poets were encouraged to submit original writings for a chance to win prizes, and be published in a book. The program proved so popular, and the entries so outstanding, that every entry was published.

“Albany Distilling: A Spirited History” was a talk – and tasting! – hosted by the Albany Distilling Company that explored the rich

tradition of spirits in the Capital Region. Participants over age 21 were able to sample Ironweed whiskey, which pays tribute to the William Kennedy novel of the same name.

Concerts, as always, were very popular, with performances by The Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet, The Electric City Chorus, and The Sonny & Perley Trio attracting crowds well in excess of 100, straining the capacity of the library's largest meeting room.

One program that had an immediate, practical, and lasting benefit was April's "Drug Take-Back Day." The library and the Guilderland Police Department teamed up to use the library's parking lot as a collection point for this nationwide, one-day effort to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from our medicine cabinets. Just drop them off; no questions asked. It was unknown how successful Drug Take-Back Day would be. The worries were misplaced: Over 800 pounds of controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter medications were collected and turned over to the authorities for destruction.

Outreach: Outreach was a major activity. Along with exhibiting at community events such as the Capital Region's Apple & Wine Festival at the Altamont Fairgrounds and Guilderland Little League's Opening Day, GPL conducted 30 visits within the community. GPL has built great partnerships with Christ the King Nursery School, Lynwood Cooperative Nursery School, the Marillac Center, and Crossgates Kids Club. Through the year, more than 600 adults and children have been reached through these efforts.

A New Collection : The library launched "GPL Gadgets," a collection that gives customers the ability to borrow GoPro cameras, metal

detectors, WiFi hotspots, fishing rods, folding tables, and bake ware. A popular item is a collection of Birthday Backpacks; these give parents an assortment of themed items and activities to create fun little parties!

Promotion and Marketing : Promoting library events and services took a marked turn to the electronic. Gone are mailed print newsletters; library promotion is now done primarily through email, social media, third-party event websites, and columns in local newspapers.

Drive by the library someday, and you will see the device that has dramatically improved the library's visibility and program attendance: A digital sign. Using pithy copy and the occasional graphic, this digital billboard promotes everything from concerts and

storytimes to adult programs and book sales. The sign was underwritten by a grant from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust, and support from the Guilderland Library Foundation.

Facebook "Live" has come in handy for increasing public awareness of the library board meetings and major events. This social media platform has put library events on the smartphones, tablets, and computer screens of hundreds of people.



*Baseball Star and acclaimed author
Ron Darling*

Library Foundation Events :

The Foundation had two signal events in 2016. In September it held a very successful fundraising Gala at the Albany Country Club. The Gala was a celebration of the library, and honored the Robinson family – owners of Robinson's Hardware – for their many years of service to the community. (Note to other libraries: Your old card catalog is the ideal piece of library furniture for raffling bottles of wine.)

This was followed in November when Mets former star pitcher, sports commentator, and acclaimed author Ron Darling spoke as part of the Foundation's Carol J. Hamblin Notable Author Speakers Series. An author's reception at the library opened the evening, but the author talk was so popular – *more than 500 attendees* – that the Foundation held the talk in the “Cafetorium” of the nearby Farnsworth Middle School. (Thanks go to Farnsworth's Principal – and Foundation Vice President – Michael Laster.)

As to the new roof: The library is marking a quarter-century in its current building, and the roof was beginning to show its age. Thanks to grants from State Senator George A. Amedore, Jr. and the Upper Hudson Library System, customers, staff, and the collections are now safe from leaks from above.

The Library Staff, Board, and Foundation are all taking a hard look at the library. It's a great building, but they wonder if it's organized properly. But that's for next year's report.

MENANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

(report not available)

NASSAU FREE LIBRARY

Sam Whaley, Board President
Laurenne Teachout, Director

Starting 2016 on a high note, Nassau Free Library received a \$1,000 grant from Stewart's in January. This enabled us to buy iPads and accessories to use for our newly launched Minecraft club. The club meets monthly and has been a great success. Organized by Tracey Clague, Assistant Director, Minecraft Club joins our regular monthly offerings of Lego Club, Family Movie Night, and VolunTeen Meetup.

In April, Nassau Free Library was one of 75 libraries in the country to be selected by the American Library Association for a Great Stories Club grant. The grant paid for library director Laurenne Teachout to travel to ALA's

annual conference in June in Orlando, FL and attend a special training to help her work with groups of students at the Berkshire Jr.-Sr. High School to read and discuss three books in which young adult narrators use the creative arts to move past challenges. The grant program began in September and continued through December. This was a wonderful opportunity for Nassau Free Library to reach out to the community and serve young people who are not able to come to the library.

We had a very successful Summer Reading Program with many fun programs including Rhonda's Reptiles at our Kick-off event, our innovative Teen Chef program, geocaching, a kid's garden club, and a fairy house-making workshop. It was a great summer with many smiling faces!

The Friends of the Nassau Free Library did a local mailing in April to solicit funds and add to their membership. This was a successful endeavor and funds raised were used to print our monthly newsletter, to purchase museum passes, and to purchase a new outdoor sign to advertise our programs. The library is fortunate to have the strong support of this active group.

NORTH GREENBUSH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Midge Rogers, Board President
Daryl McCarthy, Director

The North Greenbush Public Library was a very busy place in 2016. The mission of the library is to provide the highest level of service in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. The library currently has over 118,000 items to lend to patrons. This includes over 38,000 eBooks available through the Upper Hudson Library System. Patrons borrowed over 100,400 items from the library in 2016. The community requested more items than ever especially talking books, dvds, music cds, and downloadable books. Patrons in other libraries requested 14,018 of our items, and our patrons requested 13,411 items from other UHLS libraries.



Dr. Seuss Birthday party participants at N. Greenbush

The 2016 Summer Reading Program was very successful. We had over 75 children participate reading books and earning prizes. Our Teen Summer Reading Program had 10 dedicated readers who read for prizes all summer. Our Adult Summer Reading Program encouraged over 70 adults to read and earn a chance to win great prizes. The library holds weekly story hours for children. Fun for the whole family and the library is always ready to host a children's party with stories, crafts, and good snacks.

The interest in using downloadable materials grows every year. Working together with other Upper Hudson libraries, our library is developing a wonderful collection of eBooks. The library continues to expand its collections by adding popular items and we welcome all suggestions from the public to improve our growing collections.

The library conducted a survey of its patrons during September 2016. 284 patrons took part in our survey. The survey asked questions about current service and facilities, and questions about what services and

facilities patrons would like to see in the future. We are proud to share one of the survey results—94% on the respondents rated the library's customer service as "excellent" and 6% rated it as "good." If you noticed that the sum of the two percentages is 100%, you are right! Only 1 respondent (less the 0.5% of respondents) rated the service "fair," and no one rated the service as "poor." The Board of Trustees recognizes that such high ratings clearly reflect the courtesy and dedication of the library's staff.

The residents of the Town of North Greenbush are generous in their support of the library and our dedicated staff and volunteers continue to be a valuable resource for the community. Volunteers provided many hours of hard work allowing the library staff to serve the public more efficiently. The library looks forward to more growth and continued community support in the future. The library continues to be the busiest place in town.

PETERSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Christina Hibbs, Board President

Sharon Hodges, Director

2016 was the 225th anniversary of the founding of the town of Petersburg and the 60th anniversary of our becoming a chartered library. The library has documents from 1813 and earlier when there was a subscription library in Petersburg.

The library participated throughout the year in the celebration of the 225th. At one event the library showed the video of the 1991 parade held in Petersburg and then made copies available to the interested public.

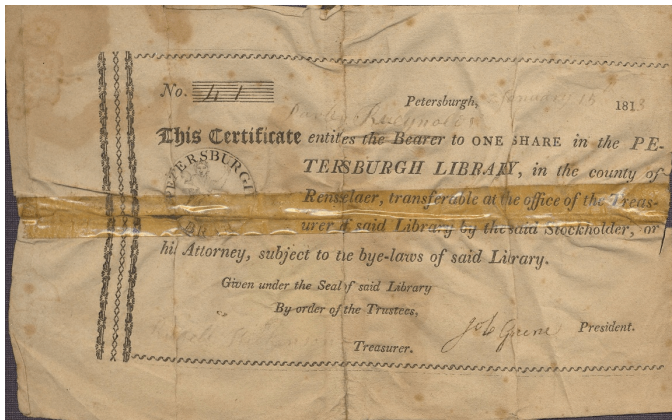
The library has put much local information on our website. This includes photographs, cemetery information, local history and genealogies.

The library continues to sponsor quarterly art exhibits in the library as well as summer art programs for teens and children. The library borrowed from the Rensselaer Public Library a 3D printer and a local student at Tech Valle

High demonstrated the use of it. Many people, young and old, who had never seen one were able to see some of the capabilities of the printer.

The regular activities of the library continued with a very successful summer reading program, monthly book group, weekly story hour and weekly knitting group. The knitting group and library staff were able to help a family in need as well.

2017 will see many changes in the library with a new library director beginning in April.



Subscription certificate for the Petersburg Library, 1813

POESTENKILL LIBRARY

LouAnne Lundgren, Board President
Margie Morris, Director

During 2016, the Board of Trustees began work on a strategic plan for the library. Tim Burke did a great presentation for the trustees, laying out the steps for a successful long-range plan. One of the issues that the trustees believe needs to be addressed is the lack of community meeting space. In the trustees' view, community use of the library building is an important part of a strategic plan and an additional large space seemed to be an important piece of that. As part of this beginning phase, it was decided to contact the architect who had previously drawn up a plan for a renovation of the front porch and ask him to design a community room off the back of the library. The trustees wanted to know how far into the future the long-range plan needed to go to support the cost of such

a large project. As other parts of the strategic plan are being developed, that step in the plan is still being considered and designs are being revised.

The summer of 2016 saw a tremendous spike in participation in the reading program. For several years, the statistics have been basically the same (low) regardless of what we plan. But in 2016, we went back to simple old-fashioned paper registration and filling out raffle tickets for hours read. This was for every level - children, teens, and adults. And to entice them (ok - bribe them) the grand prize at each level was a Kindle Fire. No more little trinkets to earn, we went for a big bang! It was a great success and a plan that will be repeated for the summer of 2017. And the annual event which kicked off the summer reading program was family tie-dye night. Once again, over 60 people filled the lawn at the library tie-dyeing shirts, shorts, socks, and such!

The Friends of Poestenkill Library held their Spring Market Day in May which generates a sense of community, along with much needed funds. Their other big fundraiser, the annual Holiday Lights Appeal, was the most successful ever raising over \$8,000 in the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. We were fortunate to still 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.

Overall, we continue to see a modest increase in circulation. Unavailability of cable and high speed internet service in some parts our rural community has led to a large increase in the use of the library's Wi-Fi. There are often cars in the parking lot when the library is closed and you can see the glow of screens as residents surf the web, check Facebook, or watch a movie. As the Town Board works on getting better internet services, the Library provides a beneficial alternative to town residents. In addition, there is a lot more use

of personal devices within the library while it is open.

The dedication of the Trustees, staff, volunteers, and the Friends of Poestenkill Library and the support of great patrons continue to make the library a vital part of the Poestenkill community.

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Antonio Booth, Board President
Marie Sturges, Board President
Judith Wines, Director

In 2016, the RCS Community Library expanded its role in the community and took ownership of its space.

We started the year by taking a leadership role in a new community venture: the RCS Community Business Association. The Library and five other community representatives plan monthly events intended to strengthen and inform the public and private sectors of our community. We also expanded our reach by installing four Little Free Libraries around the community. We collaborated with the school district technology teacher for the construction of the LFLs. The Library partnered with an elementary school, an historical society, a mobile home park and a town park to host the Libraries.

We responded to a community desire for an events calendar that provided a central location for public events, and added one to our website that members of any local organization are able to submit to.

With support from a New York State Historic Newspapers Digitization Grant, we sent our microfilm of the Ravena News Herald out for digitization, with the goal of making it accessible to all interested parties inside or outside the Library.

The Library promoted reading through a number of new ventures. We started a 1000 Books before Kindergarten program for our youngest readers, a cookie club to incentivize

picture book checkouts, began issuing MYCARDS to remove barriers to kids being able to get library cards and instituted a year-long reading challenge for adults.



New MYCARD users at RCS

The Library offered programming that reflected the diverse interests of the community. Ongoing programs that started in 2016 include Early Explorers, a preschool age targeted program that introduced kids to music, math and science in month long programming series; Lego Mindstorms; family fortnights; open mic nights; Library science lab; Library art lab; and Couch to 5k. For our summer reading program, we switched from one-off programs to week long mini-camps and added a Volunteens component. Adult programming highlights include Meet a Muslim, with Imam Yaki from the Islamic Center of the Capital Region, and an Etsy workshop, supported by a UHLS mini-grant.

The Library closed on the purchase of its building in October, following a May voter proposition to buy the building that passed with 76% of the vote. We brightened the Library by doubling the amount of light fixtures and installed an overhead projector to facilitate programs. With support from Senator Amedore, we installed a Bike Repair Station outside the Library. The Library began accepting credit cards, including payments by NFC technologies such as Apple Pay. We helped ensure the future of our building with a

major update of its disaster plan with help from New York Capital Region Alliance for Response. We installed a decal in our entry way that showcases our mission: Enrich Lives, Celebrate Community, Inspire Creativity.

RENSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annette Sebuyira, Board President
Jane Chirgwin, Director

As part of the NY Library Development Construction grant, we installed a new bi-fold door in our front entrance, making it much more accessible, as the prior door kept getting caught in the wind.



New bi-fold doors at the entrance

Our Summer Reading theme prompted us to have Library Olympics, with events including a book cart race, indoor badminton and an obstacle course. We held many great programs, our most popular children's program was a Pokémon party, and that was before Pokémon Go came out! Our most popular teen programs were a zombie movie workshop and a Doctor Who party.

The Rensselaer Public Library hosted Literacy Volunteers, Living Resources, T.O.P.S. and tutors from the Rensselaer City School district.

RENSELAERVILLE LIBRARY

Janet Acker, Board President
Kimberly Graff, Director

During 2016 the Rensselaerville Library Board and Staff continued to focus on supporting the community, enhancing programming and offering unique fundraising opportunities.

Early in 2016 we put out a request to the community that we could use their help for new programming ideas. We asked if they would share their interests, passion, travels etc. We had three people come forward to create programs. A local breeder of ball pythons provided a program on genetics and color morphs of the snakes he raises and sells. A local home mortgage consultant offered a home buyer workshop to provide guidance on finding, financing and owning a home. Lastly, a retired physics teacher provided a four part cosmology and astronomy primer for all ages that packed in a crowd each week to learn about red giants, white dwarfs, super nova's, women in astronomy and so much more. The local connections have been a huge success and participants have asked for more.

In April of 2016 we hired a youth coordinator, Lee Ackerman-Sawyer. We have had a recent increase in young families moving into Rensselaerville and regular children's programming was a necessity. Ms. Lee has scheduled regular STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, Math) and StoryTime programs attracting 100s of children and their caregivers to programs.

The Library collaborated with the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve to provide the first annual Rensselaerville Ramble Trail Run/Walk fundraiser. The event kicked off the 2016 Summer Reading Program encouraging everyone to go outside, exercise and get your nature fix.

2016 was another busy year for Rensselaerville. We continued to make improvements to the building, collaborated

with other community organizations, and enhanced services to meet the interests and needs of the community. The continued local support and collaborations have demonstrated the importance of the Library in this Hilltown community.

SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY

Kathy Gundrum, Board President
Melinda Fowler, Director

Sand Lake Town Library both started and ended the year 2016 with a major project. The first three months of the year were spent renovating the main room of our library. Fresh paint, updated energy-saving lighting, wider spacing of the shelves and the removal of two old study carrels have made the room look brighter and feel more spacious. A new circulation desk allows us to serve our patrons more efficiently and without a tangle of electrical and computer wires underfoot. It is a much more pleasant space to work in.

Our second big project wrapped up in October when the Amazing Graves fundraiser took place. A committee headed by two of our trustees and made up of a number of volunteers from various community organizations planned and orchestrated this two-day event featuring tours of the Sand Lake Union Cemetery and presentations by volunteers portraying various occupants of the cemetery. The program was well received and prompted inquiries for when the next one would be held.

Some of our favorite programs of the year included the Star Wars Training Academy, a Fancy Nancy Tea, and DIY wine bottle citronella torches. Firsts for us this year were participation in a Library booth at the Schaghticoke Fair and celebrating a Day of Peace by making peace flags, pinwheels and chalk drawings. A big hit at our annual Library Fair was Uncharted Wild's reptile show – the kids loved it!

The BEST (Bringing Educators and Students Together) Program continued to meet weekly

during the school year to help students with homework, organization, research and more. Other groups from Girl Scouts to Seniors used our program room for meetings, on-line and in-person interviews and so much more

We are grateful for the donations from Sen. Kathy Marchione, Stewarts' Holiday Match, and our community. These funds help with programming, museum passes and so much more.

And 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.



Star Wars Training Academy at Sand Lake

ARVILLA E. DIVER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (Schaghticoke)

Teresa Beamish, Board President
Nicholas Matulis, Director

If you've never been to the Diver library in Schaghticoke, my biased opinion is that you're missing out on something.

My wife, Donna, and I (and our perfect cat, Gloria!) live in a beautiful apartment above the library in an historic old building. The building was once the home of Arvilla E Diver and her husband, Alexander. Their pictures hang on the wall across from my desk, unsmiling but not too stern. I talk to them sometimes.

The people who come to the library, who have come through our door since we moved here, circa 2014—some of them descendants of the Divers' own neighbors—are our neighbors, and they have become our friends. Sounds cliché, but that's the truth.

We provide an odd variety of services at Diver, from book lending, to best-of-our-ability computer help, to impromptu piano concerts, to the occasional ride home. None of which feels like a service, but more like an assigned duty, like how a family might divide up chores. The schools provide something, the businesses provide something, the churches provide something, the library provides something, and on and on.

Based on my experience as a library patron in the region I know that this feeling of community pervading a library is not unique to Diver. Actually I think that our rare and

beautiful little library is emblematic of how libraries as organizations are so different from many other types of organizations. If you imagine a community as a home, I think of the local library as the living room. There simply

aren't very many places within a community, especially a small community like Schaghticoke, that are absolutely, with virtually no caveats, open to all.

Schaghticoke is a relatively poor, relatively isolated, rural town. Sometimes I think I can feel the symptomatic despair of people's financial struggles (which lead to so many other struggles) in the atmosphere. It's a bad feeling, and yet there's no shortage of inspiring people, no shortage of happy children full of potential. It's a challenging place to sum up in a few lines. So I won't try.

In 2016, despite a decade of static population figures in Schaghticoke, Diver library again served more people

than in the prior year. We've had more visits to the library each year that I've been here. The engine of this, I'm fairly certain, is our commitment to becoming an increasingly "active" library. Conversation is welcome, laughter is encouraged, piano playing is tolerated (but *please* no "chopsticks").

The most tangible aspect of our "active" approach is an increased focus on programming—both inside and outside of the library. Since 2013 we've added seven recurring programs to Diver's roster: Learn & Play, Yoga, Book Club, Writers Group, Computer Basics, Why We Sing, and Piano A-La-Mode. We've also hosted a variety of single or short run programs ranging from songwriting to soap making. Since 2013, we have doubled the number of annual programs



**Laughter is encouraged at
the Diver Library**

hosted by Diver, and attendance at these programs has more than doubled. Summer Reading sign-ups have risen 85%, and both SRP related events and total attendance at these events have doubled as well.

If I had to pick, my favorite program of 2016 was an open-mic/ variety show organized entirely by Hoosic Valley High student volunteers. Students solicited refreshments, promoted the event, performed, served as MC, and operated the PA system (they even cleaned up after themselves!). It was a blast, and there were lots of great moments, including an after-hours karaoke version of Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.” But there’s always one thing that stands out, and that night it was a young man who did Looney Tunes impressions—Porky Pig, Foghorn Leghorn, Bugs Bunny.

Just imagine, it’s 2016 and a high school student is delighting other high school students with a spot-on impression of Bugs Bunny (who, for the record, was born in 1940, the same year that Diver library was founded). Unsmiling portraits of Mrs. and Mr. Diver looking on, expressions softening. Kids laughing. Adults laughing. Pretty amazing, 76 years old and that impression can still get a laugh.

STEPHENTOWN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Tom Quimby, Board President
Laurenne Teachout, Director

Stephentown Memorial Library continued to serve as a vital part of the local community in 2016. In March, we hosted local group Shoni for a wonderful evening of Celtic music. This was a warm respite in the cold of winter and was enjoyed by many local folks. We were honored to receive a Libri Foundation grant in April, which boosted our children’s collection by adding \$1300 worth of great new books. The grant also included a wide selection of science books that will be very relevant and timely for our curious young people. In June, we launched our innovative new collection of cake pans, offering a kick-off event of a cake

decorating class. This was very well attended and many pans have been circulating to local families. The pans were donated by a generous local friend of the library.

Summer was a busy and happy blur, highlighted by our Summer Camp program which included a swimming lesson option this year. Local children spent four weeks happily engaged in various educational and outdoor activities including learning about Native American artifacts, cupcake decorating, hula hooping, field trips to local museums, and more. Hosting the Summer Camp in partnership with the Town of Stephentown has increased participation in our Summer Reading program at SML. This year we had 52 participants and they read a total of over 750 books! We are so proud that our local kids love reading and coming to the library.

In September, we launched a special fundraising campaign to recognize our regular supporters. Donors were thanked for their support with commemorative mugs, tee shirts, and hoodies. This engaged our donors and emphasized our place in the Stephentown community. In November, we hosted a Veteran’s appreciation evening to honor our local veterans and highlight their importance to the history and continuation of the Stephentown Memorial Library.

The respect and support of our community is what makes Stephentown Memorial Library a truly remarkable small library.

TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Evelyn Greenstein, Board President
Paul Hicok, Director

In 2016 the Troy Public Library expanded its programming to include events held during Troy Night Out, a city-wide celebration of the city of Troy. These programs brought over 225 people to the library for Friday evening programs that ranged from local history lectures, to several concerts and to a steampunk fashion show that supported the local Enchanted City Celebration.

The library continued to successfully host a number of reading and book discussion groups. In addition to our traditional monthly book groups, we continued and expanded on our success from last year of hosting themed reading groups. Two themes used; Muslim Journeys and American Politics and Citizenship Today, were supported by grants from The NY Council for the Humanities. The popularity of the Muslim Journeys group prompted us to expand this program and we offered an Introduction to Islam program in the fall that included sessions held at the Al-Hidaya Mosque in Latham.

Additionally we continued our Understanding Shakespeare Group which read and discussed “As You Like It,” “The Taming of the Shrew” and started on the history plays with “Richard II.”

Another staple of our library programming, Computer Instruction, had strong attendance with more than 110 people utilizing the library to learn how to use email, eReaders, Microsoft Word, Excel, basic computing skills and computer game design.

Ira Marcks’ Comic Jam sessions, open to all ages, continues to be popular with over 100 participants. Both programs we offered with the support of the Community Arts Grant Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts.

We offered a writing workshop led by local author Amy Halloran entitled *Rewriting History*. This program explored Troy’s history in an eight-part writing and three-part drawing series of stand-alone sessions based on Troy’s history of the Industrial Revolution. We used the many resources available at the Library, Rensselaer County Historical Society and The Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway.

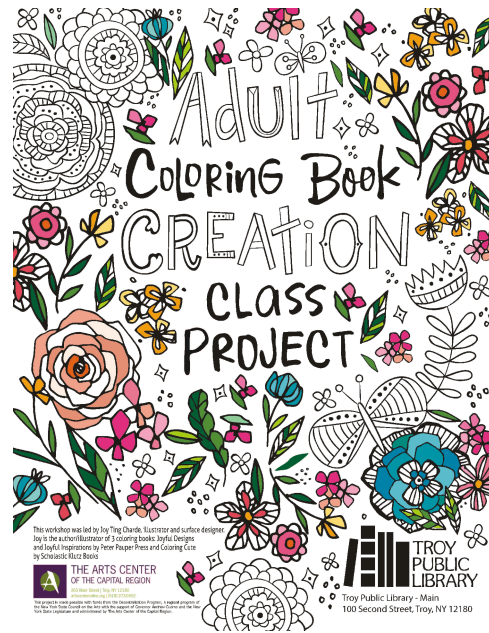
Exercising our minds and bodies continues to be actively pursued by patrons. Yoga, Zumba and meditation groups remain popular.

We also offered an Adult Coloring Book Creation Workshop, led by illustrator and surface designer Joy Ting Charde. Participants created pages for an Adult Coloring Book that can be found on our website!

Finally, the Victorian Stroll classical guitar concert proved to be immensely popular again this year with over 75 people attending.

Overall we saw over 3,500 people attend programming at both of our locations; this represents a significant increase from 2015 of 29%.

For young people, the library held a number of unique events featuring a fairy tea party with Queen Mab of the Enchanted City, a Watercolor class for beginning painters, and ongoing Teen Art Nights run by professional Artist Sarah Bowen - Teens created frameable original art, sweater mittens, and ceramic mugs which they sculpted from clay.



We had our first finisher in our 1000 Books before Kindergarten program, 3 year old Hazel. Children explored the art of puppetry with the Helderberg Marionettes after enjoying a free production of "Jog with a Frog." Young people also learned all about chickens and how to "Walk like a Hen" in a workshop combining science, dance and a live chicken. The high point of our programs this year was Birds of Prey presented by the Wildlife Institute of Eastern New York which featured wildlife education and the chance to see live owls, raptors, and falcons up close.

VALLEY FALLS FREE LIBRARY

Ralph Marino, Board President
Kelly Akin, Director

Throughout the year, we were fortunate to have enthusiastic volunteers, a hard-working staff, and dedicated Board members who worked very hard to make Valley Falls Free Library the special place that it is.

For 2016, our numbers were up:

- Attendance up 20% (6006 to 7223)
- Circulation up 56% (7129 to 11119)
- Computer/Wireless Usage up 7% (1221 to 1309)
- Website visits up 18% (118,749 to 139,425)
- Facebook Likes up 32% (222 to 294)
- Twitter (Fledgling venture) 18 followers
- OverDrive (highest increase in total checkouts (80%) in UHLS)

Programming this year was a wonderful adventure in trying some things new and tweaking some things old. We started the year with a bi-monthly "Window of Opportunity" with topics like "Your Old House," "How Sweet It is," "How Does Your Garden Grow?" "Keeping It Local," and "Home for the Holidays." Some displays were successful, some not so much, but it was a fun project with some programs and raffles involved.

In other programming, we had our Annual Memorial Day Service in conjunction with the area Memorial Day Parade. It was well

attended, with over 200 people there to witness a very moving ceremony. We also had our Annual Village Yard Sale, and netted \$1,335.95 for the library. Two of our Board members, Janet Weber and Susan Stover, joined me in assisting Diver Library with their Annual Strawberry Festival in Schaghticoke. We served about 120 people and split the profits with Diver Library, netting our library \$138.74. We sponsored an Author's Night with Gloria Waldron Hukle with 14 adults attending the program. As a fundraiser, we attempted two Basket Raffles: "How Sweet It Is" and the Yard Sale Basket Raffle. The two Basket Raffles netted the library a total of \$299.

This year, the Wentorf Grant money purchased 2 laptops, a projector, a large outdoor screen, and a goPro Hero4 with accessories. The boost to our technological offerings will hopefully spur an increase in library foot traffic. On that note, the addition of board games, crafts and an ongoing puzzle have not only increased foot traffic, but encouraged patrons to linger in the library longer than just grabbing a book or movie would do.



Wentorf grant funds purchased new laptops for library users

I was able to get permission for Rensselaer County libraries to be represented at the 2016 Rensselaer County Fair. The participating libraries were Hoosick Falls, East Greenbush, West Sand Lake, Nassau, Stephentown, Petersburg, Valley Falls and Schaghticoke (Diver). On the day that our library and Diver library hosted the Library Corner, we had 42 young people, 5 teens and

41 adults sit and color, read books and make cards of thanks for the Hoosic Valley Fire Department. Our Annual Pumpkin Festival included a new incentive of a movie, but attendance was still low, so the decision has been made to suspend the festival. A new venture, “Hobo Convention,” the creation of Janet Weber and Lynn Keyes Brown, was a success, with 13 young people and a surprising 27 adults.

Our Summer Reading Program was a huge success, with collaboration with Diver Library, the Hoosic Valley School Garden, and the Valley Falls Summer Program. This year, participants could record their reading on paper, or using Wandoo Reader online. Jointly with Diver, we had 76 children, 5 teens and 15 adults sign up for the program. We sponsored 22 programs, with 339 children, 109 parents/caregivers and 36 adults at adult programming. No teens participated in the programs geared for teens. However, teens did participate in the “Read It Forward” program. This initiative offered multiple copies of the novel “The Raft” by S.A. Bodeen for teens in Hoosic Valley ELA classes to read and pass on, and participate in an online survey if they wanted. I ended up purchasing more books because demand in the high school was enthusiastic.

For Library Operations: Carolyn Stover left to pursue a job within her field of study, Deb Bevevino rejoined the staff, and we hired two teens, Emma Caccia and Carol McGreevy.

Our physical space in the library got a few upgrades, namely wheels on the bookcases, repositioning of shelves and new, kid-friendly tables in the children’s area, courtesy of Ralph Marino and Bill Weber. Their generosity and willingness has made my job that much easier!

Financially, a very successful Hoosic Valley budget push with Diver Library has increased our funding, allowing the library to figuratively breathe a sigh of relief. Also of note, this year the state Bullet Aid, with the concerted efforts

of Senator Kathy Marchione, awarded our library \$12,000, earmarked for our ongoing plans for handicapped access.

Overall, the library flourished, because of all of you. I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all our trustees who so willingly volunteered their time and expertise. In the coming year, I look forward to continuing to improve service at the library and to strengthening our connections with people and organizations in the community.

VOORHEESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Janna Shillinglaw, Board President

Gail Alter Sacco, Director

val•ue (val’yoo), *n.*, *v.*, *-ued.* *-u•ing.* *-n.* *1. prize, treasure, cherish. 2. to hold in high estimation. 3. value implies rating a thing highly for its intrinsic worth.*

The Voorheesville school district area is in transition. We have several new housing developments. The Rail Trail was finished and the area’s reputation as an outdoor destination has increased. The Town of New Scotland moved the Hilton Barn, built in 1898, to a new location and created a 15 acre park. As you would expect, these changes have caused a great deal of conversation and planning for the area’s future. The Voorheesville Library is an active partner helping to meet the challenges these



Author Matthew Rozell described the process that led to his book “The Things our Fathers Saw”

changes pose. We are invited to community conversations and convene the Voorheesville Roundtable where participants share project news, discuss future community needs, and explore the impact of increasing diversity. This year, we continued to provide value with expanded and cost-effective programs and services. We added a midday adult book discussion. Library members made kimchi and stews, and learned about tea at our Foodie Series programs. We began offering computer classes for adults and are making online courses available in members' homes through Lynda.com. We offered a lecture series on Thomas Merton, collected historical photos of Indian Ladder Farms, and received records from the Village of Voorheesville to safe keep. Our Summer Reading Program was presented in partnership with the NYS Assembly Summer Reading Challenge, brought to us by Pat Fahy. Teen volunteers assisted at programs, developing job skills, and we initiated the *One Thousand Books Before Kindergarten* program which supports early literacy development.

Both the Library Trustees and the Friends have been very active on our behalf. The Trustees approved building improvements including new sidewalks and automatic doors as well as the addition of a bicycle Fixit which will be walking distance from the beginning of the Rail Trail. Financial help for the sidewalks and doors came from a NYS Construction Grant. We appreciate the support of the UHLS Board for helping us get these funds.

The Friends of the Library worked diligently to fundraise. They opened Encore! Books, a used book shed. This new endeavor has not only increased their funds, but energized the volunteers and community. Our President, Sherry Burgoon, and Shed Manager, Patty Miller, are constant supports for the library's goals and diligent in their efforts.

We are grateful for the support our residents show to us and work hard to provide them with quality services and programs.

WATERVLIET PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dave Wheatley, Board President
Michelle Fernandez, Director

2016 saw many changes for the Watervliet Public Library, from aesthetic improvements to personnel transitions. Director Samantha Fagan departed in May 2016, and incoming director Michelle Fernandez began work in June, just in time to launch a well-attended Summer Reading Program. Shortly thereafter, the library suffered the tragic loss of longtime Board Treasurer and benefactor Bob Fahr, who had been instrumental in acquiring the funds for the library's recent expansion. The massive renovation project, undertaken in late 2015, was completed in early February of 2016. The total cost for this 1,365 square foot expansion project was \$660,000, of which over \$296,000 in construction grant funding was received from the NYS Education Department through the New York State Library. The remainder of the funding came from private donors. The expansion was undertaken with three goals in mind: expansion and improvement of our existing space to better serve the community, expansion of the programming offered to our patrons, and creating more flexibility within the library to meet the scholastic and programming needs of the community. The addition is the new home to the Mary P. O'Brien Quiet Reading Room and the Bill and Judy Fahr Children's Area.

The Library's existing space was completely renovated, incorporating new technologies and allowing us to better serve our community

The library website was redesigned, to provide a current and frequently updated resource about library events, new materials and services. Our social media presence was revived, and we began offering a monthly e-newsletter. New programs in 2016 included a local history talk series in collaboration with the Watervliet Historical Society and a Science

Café lecture series featuring scholars of the hard sciences at SUNY Albany. Noting that technology instruction sessions were poorly attended, but patrons consistently requested assistance with a wide array of subjects beyond the scope of traditional reference interactions, we began offering half-hour to hour-long librarian appointments for individualized tech, job search, writing and research help.

In 2016, we increased outreach efforts to the library's service population, including readings and appearances at Watervliet's Halloween parade and Christmas tree-lighting ceremony. We also held a library card enrollment drive in September which resulted in 127 new patron registrations, and established a monthly read-aloud at Watervliet Elementary School, which has reinforced the relationship between the Watervliet City School District and library and brought more children to the library.

We thank our trustees for their tireless work, our staff and volunteers for making the library the warm and welcoming facility it is, and our patrons for reminding us on a daily basis why we do what we do.

TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY (Westerlo)

Laura Tenney, Board President
Sue Hoadley, Director

This year the Library marked its 30th Anniversary of service to the Town of Westerlo. Our grand opening was held on June 8, 1986. The journey began in earnest ten years earlier when the town's national Bicentennial Committee established a public library fund with monies left over from the bicentennial celebrations. But, the big breakthrough came in December 1983, when Harold Bell donated his general store building to the Town in memory of his wife, Helen Taylor Bell.

For two and a half years, a variety of community organizations and individual

volunteers dedicated innumerable hours renovating the building, which had no plumbing or central heating. Local librarians volunteered to catalog the books, most which had been donated. More volunteers typed thousands of catalog cards (sometimes wearing gloves in the unheated building during the winter) to get the books shelf-ready for the public.



The Grand Opening - June 8, 1986

Since then the Library has moved forward into the electronic age with high speed internet access, Wi-Fi, an on-line catalog and account management, all while maintaining our friendly personalized service, relaxed atmosphere and providing an ample selection of new items on the shelves for our browsing patrons.

This Library has been a community project from the beginning. We are committed to providing the highest level of library services to the people of Westerlo for many years to come!

In 2016, the Library was open to the public 29 hours per week, six days a week, for 303 days. 8375 children and adults entered the building. We circulated 16,827 items. Of those, 5857 items were borrowed from member libraries in the Upper Hudson system. In turn, we loaned 5783 items from our collection to patrons at the other member libraries. In addition to physical books, audios

and movies, our patrons downloaded 1079 items of e-content from Overdrive in the form of e-books, audiobooks, videos and magazines. Our two public computers were used 1004 times and many more took advantage of our 24/7 WiFi service.

Library service to adults expanded with the creation of a new Memoir Writing Group in October. This group provides its members a supportive and accepting place to learn about the practice of remembering and writing. Led by Lila Hollister Smith, this group is open to all who are interested in self-expression through the art of writing. The group meets once a month on the second Saturday of each month.

We offered 76 programs attended by 364 children and young adults. “Read to Angus,” the certified therapy dog, continued on a monthly basis. We participated in the State Summer Reading Program, held annually to encourage school-aged children to read for pleasure during summer vacation, with the theme “On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!” Our adult book discussion and quilting groups met 29 times with attendance of 101.

The trustees raised \$345 at their annual Mother’s Day Book & Bake Sale in May. The Library received a \$500 grant from Stewart’s Charitable Foundation. We also raised \$950 in our Memorial Brick fundraising program for capital projects. And over the course of the year we received two major gifts totaling \$30,000 for our Capital Fund.

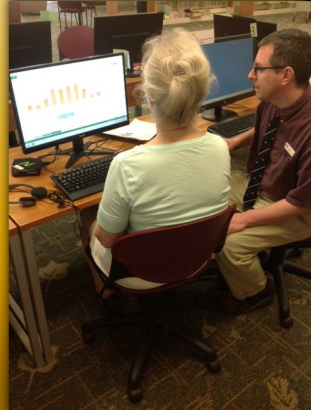
In 2016, the Library was awarded a 75% Public Library Construction Grant in the amount of \$75,000. The grant was matched by \$25,000 in library capital funds for a total project budget of \$100,000. The major focus of this project will be the creation of a new 600 square-foot program and community room in the space formerly occupied by the Town Museum. Construction will begin in early 2017.

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



“Read to Angus”

The music fades, the lights come up, time for the Outtakes.....



The music fades, the lights come up, time for the Outtakes.....



2016 AWARDS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR:	Antonio Booth, RCS
YOUTH PROGRAM OF THE YEAR:	Albany Public Library
ADULT PROGRAM OF THE YEAR:	Troy Public Library
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:	Alan Dai, WK Sanford Town Library (Colonie)
ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR:	Senator Hugh Farley

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

1993 Carolyn Durnin, Grafton	2009 Mary Muller, Troy
1994 Joyce Hunt Strand, Bethlehem MaryLou Youmans, Ravena	2010 Julie Dessloch, RCS Tobi Freebern, Rensselaer
1995 Pamela Daves, Brunswick Sally Ten Eyck, Voorheesville	2011 M. Mary Kinnaird, Berne Anthony Kossman, Altamont
1996 Janice Brand, Rensselaerville Sally Fox, Stephentown	2012 Marilou Pudiak-Town, Schaghticoke Rebecca Pahl & Rita Stein, Voorheesville
1997 Lynne Strnad, Altamont Frank Della Rocca, WK Sanford	2013 Nancy Lendrum, Berne
1998 Susan Birkhead, Bethlehem William Meredith, Albany	2014 Marion Burghart, Berne
1999 Sue McLaren, Poestenkill Michael Poost, East Greenbush	2015 Ralph Marino, Valley Falls David Wheatley, Watervliet
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	

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

1993 Sand Lake Town Library Voorheesville Public Library
1994 Guilderland 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 Guilderland Public Library
1997 Petersburg Public Library WK Sanford Town Library
1998 Rensselaerville Library Guilderland Public Library
1999 Castleton Public Library WK Sanford Town Library

2000 Brunswick Community Library
Bethlehem Public Library

2001 Brunswick Community Library
Guilderland Public Library

2002 Brunswick Community Library
Albany Public Library
Honorable Mention:
WK Sanford Town Library

2003 Petersburg Public Library
Cohoes Public Library and
Watervliet Public Library (joint award)

2004 RCS Community Library
Troy Public Library

2005 Albany Public Library
Guilderland Public Library

2006 Castleton Public Library
Guilderland Public Library

2007 Albany Public Library

2008 WK Sanford Town Library
Berne Public Library

2009 WK Sanford Town Library
Voorheesville Public Library
Honorable Mention:
Albany Public Library

2010 Albany Public Library
Berne Public Library

2011 Rensselaerville Library

2012 East Greenbush Community Library
Rensselaerville Library

2013 Albany Public Library
Altamont Free Library

2014 Albany - Adult Program
Brunswick - Youth Program

2015 Guilderland - Adult Program
WK Sanford - Youth Program

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

2014 Donna Gwin, Berne

2015 Nancy Bush, Sand Lake
Holly McKenna, Albany

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

2000 Malcolm Bell
Eva Gemmill

2002 Michael Borges

2006 Dennis Gaffney

2016 STATISTICAL SUMMARIES - MEMBER LIBRARIES

LOCAL SUPPORT, MATERIALS and PERSONNEL EXPENSES

Library	Population	2015 Local Support	2016 Local Support	Change in Local Support	Per Capita Support	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	97,839	\$8,354,377	\$8,460,788	1%	\$86.48	5
Altamont	1,720	\$93,278	\$98,785	6%	\$57.43	8
Berlin	1,880	\$10,350	\$10,350	0%	\$5.51	28
Berne	2,794	\$36,443	\$42,030	15%	\$15.04	20
Bethlehem	27,878	\$3,859,301	\$3,906,500	1%	\$140.13	2
Brunswick	11,941	\$146,294	\$146,294	0%	\$12.25	23
Castleton	1,473	\$117,325	\$119,325	2%	\$81.01	6
Cohoes	16,168	\$229,295	\$181,570	-21%	\$11.23	24
Colonie	81,591	\$2,530,323	\$2,580,929	2%	\$31.63	12
East Greenbush	16,473	\$1,813,037	\$1,833,895	1%	\$111.33	3
Grafton	2,130	\$23,788	\$31,600	33%	\$14.84	21
Guilderland	36,131	\$3,430,942	\$3,531,819	3%	\$97.75	4
Hoosick Falls	6,924	\$49,940	\$49,940	0%	\$7.21	26
Menands	3,883	\$126,483	\$129,006	2%	\$33.22	11
Nassau	4,789	\$108,870	\$108,870	0%	\$22.73	14
North Greenbush	12,075	\$302,825	\$304,341	1%	\$25.20	15
Petersburgh	1,525	\$56,562	\$58,137	3%	\$38.12	10
Poestenkill	4,530	\$65,034	\$64,984	0%	\$14.35	22
RCS	14,064	\$538,108	\$548,870	2%	\$39.03	9
Rensselaer	9,392	\$102,530	\$97,695	-5%	\$10.40	25
Rensselaerville	1,843	\$45,794	\$47,296	3%	\$25.66	13
Sand Lake	8,530	\$131,812	\$134,342	2%	\$15.75	19
Schaghticoke	592	\$29,015	\$36,515	26%	\$61.68	7
Stephentown	2,903	\$47,109	\$47,722	1%	\$16.44	18
Troy	50,129	\$952,432	\$971,783	2%	\$19.39	17
Valley Falls	5,804	\$27,432	\$34,432	26%	\$5.93	27
Voorheesville	7,208	\$1,112,674	\$1,115,716	0%	\$154.79	1
Watervliet	10,254	\$41,000	\$41,000	0%	\$4.00	29
Westerlo	3,361	\$73,474	\$76,234	4%	\$22.68	16
AVERAGES	15,373	\$843,305	\$855,544	1%	\$40.73	

Library	2015 Total Expenses	2016 Total Expenses	Percent Change Total Expenses	2016 Materials Expenses	Percent Materials of Total Expenses	Percent Staff of Total Expenses	Per Capita Materials Expenses	Per Capita Ranking
Albany	\$8,817,657	\$8,766,290	-1%	\$645,397	7%	56%	\$6.60	8
Altamont	\$157,341	\$120,177	-24%	\$12,169	8%	57%	\$7.08	7
Berlin	\$55,770	\$56,300	1%	\$3,302	6%	58%	\$1.76	20
Berne	\$40,961	\$50,920	24%	\$6,539	16%	57%	\$2.34	17
Bethlehem	\$3,589,043	\$3,633,392	1%	\$398,594	11%	76%	\$14.30	1
Brunswick	\$181,533	\$173,287	-5%	\$16,648	9%	67%	\$1.39	23
Castleton	\$98,222	\$133,058	35%	\$14,021	14%	74%	\$9.52	3
Cohoes	\$247,765	\$194,039	-22%	\$27,015	11%	67%	\$1.67	22
Colonie	\$2,595,313	\$2,619,349	1%	\$225,697	9%	80%	\$2.77	16
East Greenbush	\$1,833,590	\$1,845,578	1%	\$130,073	7%	63%	\$7.90	5
Grafton	\$55,616	\$67,677	22%	\$2,561	5%	52%	\$1.20	25
Guilderland	\$2,887,315	\$3,032,349	5%	\$326,753	11%	76%	\$9.04	4
Hoosick Falls	\$82,169	\$82,875	1%	\$5,332	6%	67%	\$0.77	27
Menands	\$130,041	\$136,766	5%	\$21,303	16%	59%	\$5.49	11
Nassau	\$105,577	\$134,623	28%	\$10,534	10%	57%	\$2.20	19
North Greenbush	\$253,747	\$316,662	25%	\$72,021	28%	51%	\$5.96	10
Petersburgh	\$71,172	\$68,355	-4%	\$11,815	17%	63%	\$7.75	6
Poestenkill	\$80,215	\$79,289	-1%	\$14,573	18%	58%	\$3.22	15
RCS	\$621,599	\$665,747	7%	\$25,003	4%	61%	\$1.78	21
Rensselaer	\$108,620	\$114,249	5%	\$13,018	12%	73%	\$1.39	23
Rensselaerville	\$113,128	\$125,855	11%	\$9,718	9%	47%	\$5.27	12
Sand Lake	\$155,558	\$218,656	41%	\$27,524	18%	49%	\$3.23	14
Schaghticoke	\$49,559	\$48,467	-2%	\$3,560	7%	53%	\$6.01	9
Stephentown	\$103,024	\$77,693	-25%	\$6,557	6%	59%	\$2.26	18
Troy	\$1,006,132	\$950,794	-6%	\$65,588	7%	77%	\$1.31	24
Valley Falls	\$49,097	\$52,864	8%	\$4,705	10%	55%	\$0.81	26
Voorheesville	\$1,000,644	\$1,018,390	2%	\$98,029	10%	76%	\$13.60	2
Watervliet	\$69,513	\$127,630	84%	\$6,083	9%	40%	\$0.59	28
Westerlo	\$76,236	\$76,177	0%	\$12,076	16%	69%	\$3.59	13
AVERAGES	\$849,523	\$861,638	1%	\$76,421	9%	66%	\$4.51	

CIRCULATION and HOLDINGS

Library	Population	2015 Circulation	2016 Circulation	Change in Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Albany	97,839	1,022,420	1,511,199	48%	15
Altamont	1,720	32,580	31,137	-4%	18
Berlin	1,880	10,434	9,450	-9%	5
Berne	2,794	16,641	18,641	12%	7
Bethlehem	27,878	684,835	670,393	-2%	24
Brunswick	11,941	42,659	38,407	-10%	3
Castleton	1,473	20,146	23,185	15%	16
Cohoes	16,168	38,191	37,936	-1%	2
Colonie	81,591	646,682	628,042	-3%	8
East Greenbush	16,473	398,781	404,136	1%	25
Grafton	2,130	18,639	10,649	-43%	5
Guilderland	36,131	501,721	776,942	55%	22
Hoosick Falls	6,924	16,070	22,557	40%	3
Menands	3,883	27,704	27,727	0%	7
Nassau	4,789	20,767	20,237	-3%	4
North Greenbush	12,075	101,605	100,435	-1%	8
Petersburgh	1,525	19,177	19,320	1%	13
Poestenkill	4,530	17,937	17,449	-3%	4
RCS	14,064	65,146	63,930	-2%	5
Rensselaer	9,392	22,432	22,475	0%	2
Rensselaerville	1,843	12,392	12,878	4%	7
Sand Lake	8,530	42,401	38,380	-9%	4
Schaghticoke	592	9,853	8,841	-10%	15
Stephentown	2,903	20,632	21,726	5%	7
Troy	50,129	194,996	166,946	-14%	3
Valley Falls	5,804	8,232	8,563	4%	1
Voorheesville	7,208	101,023	107,504	6%	15
Watervliet	10,254	30,014	20,556	-32%	2
Westerlo	3,361	16,189	17,908	11%	5
AVERAGES	15,373	143,459	167,502	2%	9

Library	Population	2015 Holdings	2016 Holdings	Change in Holdings	2016 Per Capita Holdings
Albany	97,839	335,792	337,766	1%	3
Altamont	1,720	51,284	58,317	14%	34
Berlin	1,880	50,831	61,658	21%	33
Berne	2,794	53,278	64,399	21%	23
Bethlehem	27,878	164,069	167,603	2%	6
Brunswick	11,941	48,887	60,077	23%	5
Castleton	1,473	50,360	60,581	20%	41
Cohoes	16,168	67,841	78,058	15%	5
Colonie	81,591	238,971	232,110	-3%	3
East Greenbush	16,473	136,508	146,961	8%	9
Grafton	2,130	50,517	61,087	21%	29
Guilderland	36,131	218,645	224,708	3%	6
Hoosick Falls	6,924	54,083	65,586	21%	9
Menands	3,883	56,427	66,478	18%	17
Nassau	4,789	65,412	75,297	15%	16
North Greenbush	12,075	106,937	118,863	11%	10
Petersburgh	1,525	64,886	76,008	17%	50
Poestenkill	4,530	52,051	62,112	19%	14
RCS	14,064	66,716	71,540	7%	5
Rensselaer	9,392	60,577	71,944	19%	8
Rensselaerville	1,843	56,255	67,108	19%	36
Sand Lake	8,530	68,432	79,190	16%	9
Schaghticoke	592	46,709	57,536	23%	97
Stephentown	2,903	54,692	65,658	20%	23
Troy	50,129	184,694	191,635	4%	4
Valley Falls	5,804	47,485	57,650	21%	10
Voorheesville	7,208	87,677	95,844	9%	13
Watervliet	10,254	53,154	61,487	16%	6
Westerlo	3,361	50,183	60,271	20%	18
AVERAGES	15,373	91,150	99,915	10%	19

LIBRARY USE and PROGRAMS

Library	2016 Resident Borrowers	2016 Non-Resident Borrowers	Internet Filtering	# Public Computers	# Public Computer Sessions	2016 Reference Transactions	Annual Hours Open	Total Annual Attendance
Albany	91,222	424	N	178	154,779	147,809	15,593.00	807,487
Altamont	2,155	63	N	5	8,500	1,350	2,946.00	16,575
Berlin	377	39	N	4	2,101	334	1,120.00	7,784
Berne	820	400	N	7	1,809	265	1,456.00	14,950
Bethlehem	20,865	59	N	68	44,772	79,970	3,704.00	339,120
Brunswick	4,098	916	N	6	1,660	6,356	2,210.00	21,684
Castleton	556	609	N	4	1,827	4,485	2,392.00	12,917
Cohoes	3,068	188	N	10	12,000	2,500	2,132.00	71,032
Colonie	31,031	264	N	17	35,587	49,487	3,380.00	240,787
East Greenbush	6,077	2,346	N	30	25,000	39,891	3,433.00	218,633
Grafton	1,256	9	Y	3	1,180	837	1,248.00	6,425
Guilderland	11,084	125	Y	40	31,999	39,675	3,396.00	217,912
Hoosick Falls	1,234	92	N	5	5,828	225	1,976.00	12,557
Menands	1,435	48	N	3	960	3,375	1,612.00	10,735
Nassau	1,047	247	N	5	729	791	1,820.00	9,579
North Greenbush	3,224	1,943	N	2	325	5,500	2,440.00	42,500
Petersburgh	969	4	N	4	972	716	1,248.00	5,650
Poestenkill	1,022	56	N	3	775	889	1,638.00	10,250
RCS	4,068	208	N	12	7,392	6,705	2,772.00	40,768
Rensselaer	6,539	10	N	9	7,220	4,131	2,288.00	26,469
Rensselaerville	875	8	N	6	834	437	1,456.00	6,029
Sand Lake	2,591	1	Y	4	2,270	2,537	2,479.00	20,045
Schaghticoke	312	198	N	6	934	1,215	1,352.00	5,995
Stephentown	847	28	Y	11	2,652	4,767	1,872.00	15,106
Troy	28,661	797	N	30	27,534	26,535	5,200.00	71,289
Valley Falls	419	2	N	6	1,084	247	1,820.00	7,223
Voorheesville	2,925	194	N	7	5,866	18,807	3,169.00	59,985
Watervliet	6,743	10	N	9	4,671	4,522	1,976.00	16,256
Westerlo	623	14	N	2	1,004	453	1,508.00	8,375
AVERAGES	8,143	321		17	13,526	15,683	2,746	80,832

Library	Adult		Young Adult		Childrens		Other	
	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance	Programs	Attendance
Albany	1,723	19,756	742		1,826	28,338	0	0
Altamont	68	3,282	9		159	2,125	0	0
Berlin	13	196	7		14	53	8	45
Berne	51	412	14	86	93	1,228	18	508
Bethlehem	207	3,728	148	3,370	886	20,551	27	4,211
Brunswick	197	1,439	17	142	102	2,218	8	258
Castleton	81	344	12	102	210	1,678	11	413
Cohoes	75	765	0	0	16	358	2	15
Colonie	573	8,350	131	2,605	674	24,499	0	0
East Greenbush	186	4,833	55	1,212	357	15,983	132	525
Grafton	96	397	12	82	96	428	0	0
Guilderland	351	5,767	67	881	433	10,284	0	0
Hoosick Falls	126	814	42	336	139	963	0	0
Menands	33	207	51	408	57	501	0	0
Nassau	42	573	12	110	103	1,532	15	482
North Greenbush	10	180	0	0	53	750	0	0
Petersburgh	68	357	1	13	90	802	0	0
Poestenkill	18	134	0	0	46	404	0	0
RCS	109	540	39	173	438	6,201	0	0
Rensselaer	66	353	45	302	45	1,045	0	0
Rensselaerville	133	893	34	47	54	247	0	0
Sand Lake	31	232	9	60	77	1,140	33	725
Schaghticoke	45	164	5	25	62	670	6	458
Stephentown	102	502	4	44	97	1,785	2	34
Troy	384	3,530	91	1,472	201	2,212	0	0
Valley Falls	18	563	0	39	46	482	0	0
Voorheesville	159	1,651	67	1,206	223	7,638	0	0
Watervliet	115	592	4	52	49	1,752	0	0
Westerlo	29	101	10	38	56	326	0	0
AVERAGES	176	2,092	56	442	231	4,696	9	265

RESOURCE SHARING

Library	MATERIALS RECEIVED		MATERIALS LOANED	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Albany	110,860	119,540	124,929	143,611
Altamont	9,586	10,742	6,789	7,033
Berlin	2,446	1,889	2,977	3,219
Berne	4,134	5,549	4,307	5,089
Bethlehem	81,452	88,613	56,378	67,737
Brunswick	13,056	12,160	4,418	4,950
Castleton	5,472	8,214	5,046	5,415
Cohoes	7,715	8,933	5,551	5,337
Colonie	75,478	51,051	68,473	34,715
East Greenbush	43,279	39,132	41,698	28,505
Grafton	5,694	5,470	4,243	4,175
Guilderland	51,693	54,791	57,702	90,467
Hoosick Falls	6,627	7,967	4,279	4,327
Menands	3,028	3,478	8,075	8,052
Nassau	8,647	8,698	5,753	5,883
North Greenbush	11,775	13,411	12,723	14,018
Petersburgh	5,554	5,766	8,034	7,551
Poestenkill	2,913	3,561	6,025	6,616
RCS	14,290	15,607	10,326	11,611
Rensselaer	5,277	6,154	6,907	7,157
Rensselaerville	3,332	4,140	5,390	5,138
Sand Lake	10,029	11,084	10,146	11,055
Schaghticoke	2,579	2,575	2,010	1,487
Stephentown	4,807	5,433	5,139	5,140
Troy	30,836	36,495	26,815	30,320
Valley Falls	2,764	5,538	3,198	3,237
Voorheesville	11,983	16,617	18,435	22,677
Watervliet	7,717	8,340	3,797	3,392
Westerlo	4,116	5,857	4,503	5,783
AVERAGES	18,867	19,545	18,071	19,093

UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
28 Essex Street
Albany, NY 12206
Telephone: 518.437.9880
Fax: 518.437.9884
www.uhls.org

Executive Director: Timothy G. Burke
tim.burke@uhls.lib.ny.us

Editor: Heidi A. Fuge
heidi@uhls.lib.ny.us