

ALTAMONT FREE LIBRARY  
1994 Annual Report

Altamont Free Library completed its 78th year in 1994. It was a productive year involving a variety of programs, enhancements to the library collection, and laying the groundwork for a more secure future, all under the capable leadership of Board president Yvette Terplak and Library Director Helen King.

TRUSTEES

The Library Board met 12 times during 1994. Members serving on the Board were as follows:

Executive Board	Name
President	Yvette Terplak
Vice President	Nancy McNiven
Corresponding Secretary	Rose Cooper
Recording Secretary	Barbara Sargent
Treasurer	Tom Gessick
Assistant Treasurer	Betty Tomasik

Members

Debra Barnes Breitenbach  
Tom Gessick  
Merritt Glennon  
Esther Goodfellow  
Deb Katz  
Stewart Linendoll  
Regina McCutcheon  
Pat Spohr  
Susan Zucker

*Mary [unclear]*

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publicity: Helen King  
Adult Book Selection: Helen King, Martha Gallup  
Children's Book Selection: Helen King, Sue Zucker  
Building and Maintenance: Stewart Linendoll, Tom Gessick  
Activities and Programs, Barb Sargent, Nancy McNiven, Sue Zucker, Dick Address,  
Regina McCutcheon, Deb Katz  
Computer: Stewart Linendoll, Yvette Terplak, Tom Breitenbach  
Policy: Debra Barnes Breitenbach, Stewart Linendoll, Sue Zucker

Finance: Tom Gessick, Betty Tomasik, Stewart Linendoll, Yvette Terplak  
Fair Display: Regina McCutcheon, Barb Sargent, Pat Spohr  
Historian: Barb Sargent  
Memorials: Pat Spohr  
Summer Reading Club: Betty Tomasik, Helen King  
Sponsorships: Merritt Glennon, Pat Spohr, Yvette Terplak

## FINANCES

The library received \$23,705.00 from the Town of Guilderland which represents the major portion of its funding. The Village of Altamont appropriated funding of \$13,770.00. Due to the reduction in grant money and the rising cost of doing business as a library, it was necessary to appeal to the Town of Knox for funding. \$1,000.00 was appropriated for the 1995 budget. The rest of our revenues come from the Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS), interest, fines, book sales, and the Xerox machine. \$350.00 was received as a memorial to Paul Goodfellow. Altamont Free Library was the recipient of a bequest totalling almost \$10,000.00 from Roger Keenholts. These monies were received in 1993 and 1994.

The annual financial report showed receipts of \$55,152.37 and expenditures of \$47,450.09.

## CIRCULATION

Librarian Helen King reported 22,894 items were circulated in 1994. The library's book collection was increased by 495 books. Money from the Keenholts bequest was used to upgrade the children's collection, reference materials, adult fiction, and classics.

Thursday and Friday story hours for pre-schoolers were continued throughout the year.

## AFFILIATIONS

The library belongs to the Upper Hudson Library System, which offers financial and technical support, consultant support, and inter-library loan services. For example, UHLS has made available grant money for fax machines and other measures needed to give us electronic doorway library status. The Board has also continued its membership with the New York Libraries Association, which keeps us updated on pertinent legislative issues.

## PROGRAMS

It is the intention of the Program Committee to offer a cultural arts program every month aimed at young and old alike. Scotia-Glenville Youth Workshop presented three well received programs on film, wood painting, and mask making for elementary aged children.

A family presentation featuring Those Amazing Reptiles was held during the February school break.

UHLS sponsored Jim Snack, the magician, at the elementary school in November. This was attended by over 300 people and proved to be a great promotion for reading and the library.

The theme of the kids' summer reading program was "Read Around the Clock". 55 children participated in this program, which encouraged greater usage of the library by families and resulted in a significant number of new library cards issued.

Our summer Arts in the Park series offered programs for all interests: a magician in June, a brass quintet in July, and a puppet show in August. A lecture on local history is held every September in memory of Roger Keenholtz.

These programs offer a rare opportunity for community fellowship and are free to the public.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A "Welcome to Altamont Free Library" was developed which outlined our hours, services, and policies. This was hand delivered to village residents and can be obtained at the library.

An official Circulation Policy was established, available upon request at the library.

Altamont Free Library participated in an adult literacy project funded by a state grant. The library's role was to house literacy materials and to publicize this opportunity to prospective tutors and adults wishing to participate. As an adjunct to this grant, the library will receive a computer and software for use in promoting adult literacy.

The Altamont Free Library By-laws and Long Range Plan were approved. The purpose of these documents was to establish official guidelines concerning the administration of the library and to define the library's present and future role in the community.

An outside drop box was built, scheduled to be installed in 1995.

An outreach service to Guilderland Center Nursing Home was established. This involves delivery of large print books to the nursing home twice a month, using the services of a paid staff person.

#### FUTURE

Altamont Free Library has been presented with the exciting possibility of building a new library on Maple Avenue, leasing the property from the village. This could be a real

solution to the never-ending problems of too little space for a collection and technology that must keep pace with the times. The Minimum Standards for Public Libraries adopted by the NYS Board of Regents and required of us New York State has mandated improvements in electronic services and our physical plant. Our facility must be handicapped accessible by 1999.

At this time, a Feasibility Committee has been established for purposes of information gathering. A project of this magnitude will require the input and participation of more than just Board members. We appeal to all library supporters, patrons, and residents of our service area to consider getting involved with this effort. If interested, please contact Stewart Linendoll at 861-6847 or the library at 861-7239.

The Board expresses to Helen King our deep gratitude and appreciation for the professionalism, dedication, and vitality she brings to our library. In addition to serving as library director, Helen is vice president of the Library Director's Association and serves on the UHLS committee that evaluates accountability in library systems. <sup>of Upper Meriden</sup> As we look forward to a future that may include a bigger, more technologically advanced library, Helen's expertise and competence will be an invaluable guide.

Thanks also go to Thelma Elgie Alice Parks, and Margaret Gardam, our library clerks, and to Anthony Gagliotti, our custodian, for their cheerful and dependable service.

The Board wishes to extend to the community an open invitation to attend our meetings and to consider the possibility of serving as a Board member. Our library should meet the needs of the community and only community members can make that happen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Sargent  
Recording Secretary  
Altamont Free Library