

ALTAMONT FREE LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT for 2002

2002 concluded the 86th year of the Altamont Free Library. In January we welcomed new library director Ginny La Juene. We continued our tradition of service to ALL, children, and young adults, adults, home bound. We greatly expanded our programs including outreach at Altamont Senior Citizens, and collaborating on projects with many organizations in the community.

Library Trustees for 2002: President Pat Spohr, Vice Pres Anne Linendoll, Treasurer Betty Ketcham, Secretary Jean Forti, Corresponding Secretary Tony Kossmann, and Anita Burock, Daniel Capuano, Peg Jones, and Lynne Strnad.

Programs for 2002: Programs included weekly Preschool Story Times, two monthly Book Groups; bi-weekly visits from Altamont Cooperative Preschool, and visits from Schenectady Head Start. The display case was full of interesting collections rotating monthly. The library helped organize programs at the Altamont Senior Citizens from making your own box garden, to WWII Moments and Memories book signing, to a Wellness Series. In March the Albany Berkshire Ballet gave a performance at Berne Knox Westerlo high school made possible with funds from Albany Schenectady League of Arts Community Arts Connection grant, BKW PTA, the library, and the Knox youth Committee. The Annual Chicken BBQ with music by Traditional Strings of Knox was a sell out even in the rain. Summer Reading programs had 439 children and the weekly programs included a Visit to Lilipad Pond, Mother Goose Jazz Band, and storyteller Beth Jacobs. Monthly specials included Music That Moved Armies, Native American Stories and Crafts, and visits from Beatrix Potter, the Cat in the Hat, and Laura Ingalls! We were glad to participate with ACT and Community Caregivers in the Altamont Victorian Holiday. We look forward to expanding the Wellness Series and organizing a Local Authors Book Series. We are continuing the Imagination River Storytelling Camp grant in partnership with Farnsworth Middle School in April 2003. This Library Services and Technology Act Grant was received in September 2002. In total we had 100 Children Programs with 1699 participants; 10 Young Adult Programs with 251; 12 Adult with 306; and 2 Family with 382.

Circulation and Holdings: For the year, 26,655 items were circulated. Our holdings include 15,357 books, videos and tapes. Many new items were donated to add to our collections, thank you!

Finances: For 2002 the library received \$23,000 from the Village of Altamont, \$32,000 from the Town of Guilderland, and \$2,800 from the Town of Knox. The remainder of the library funding came from the Upper Hudson Library System, interest, fines, book sales, copy machine use, and fundraisers including the Annual Chicken BBQ and the Gazebo Lights. A copy of the full Financial Report is available at the library.

Future: In an effort to better serve the community the Altamont Free Library continues its search for more accessible space, as well as ways to increase our fund raising efforts and sources. We thank and hope to continue to collaborate with local community organizations like Altamont Community Trust, PTA's, village and town governments, Altamont Senior Citizens, Altamont Fair, and many Altamont businesses. We thank library Assistants Thelma Elgie, Ann Cartmell, Susan Thompson, Ruth Painter, Andrea Dean and Director Ginny La Juene for providing top service and energizing our library. We encourage the community to attend our meetings and consider becoming a Library Trustee. The success of our library depends on community use and input. Jean Forti, secretary