

## Annual Report 2008 – Altamont Free Library

### Mission Statement

The Altamont Free Library is a state, town and village funded association library, which provides for the informational, cultural, educational and recreational needs of patrons living within the stated area of the Library charter. To this end, the Library provides print and non-print materials, interlibrary loan, reference services, and programs to its users.

The Altamont Free Library is open fifty-five hours a week with one full time Librarian and six (.9 FTE) Library Assistants.

### Summary

The year 2008 was a year of progress for the Altamont Free Library. The Library added new programs including an adult book discussion group, an evening storytime for children, and a young adult book club. The Library is open an additional six hours on Tuesday and Thursday evening. It also acquired a public performance movie license. The young adult section was expanded and a "New" section was created for children's books. A new roof was put on the train station and the capital campaign council held numerous successful events.

### Train Station Update:

Construction documents were completed for all phases of construction. Phase one was put out to bid and Jameson General Contractors was hired. Carl Schilling was hired as a clerk of the works to oversee the renovation. The train station has a new slate roof and new roof trim. Repairs to the upper portion of the building were made.

### Program Highlights:

- The Library held a candy sushi program for kids and a vegetarian sushi program.
- County Executive Michael Breslin presented a Cat in the Hat story time.
- Dr. Steven Birchak gave a presentation on character education.
- Employees of Sterling Environmental presented *The Incredible, Edible Landfill*.
- The Library presented a Star Wars program.
- Tony Kossmann presented a Car Maintenance for Women workshop.
- Phyllis Schilling presented a program on Container Gardening for kids.
- Master Gardener Pam Taft presented a program on Wildflowers.
- Anita Sanchez gave a talk on dandelions.
- Greg Giorgio presented on the industrial workers of the world.
- Gary Kleppel spoke about eating locally at a local food potluck at the Library.
- Honest Weight Food Coop presented a program on Stone Soup.
- Guilderland Police Officer Lee taught a babysitting class.
- The summer reading program was *Catch the Reading Bug*.
- Christine Carpenter presented *Play with Your Food*.
- The Library held a paper embroidery program.
- The Library sponsored a three part local hike series.
- Linda Gallagher presented an *Itsy Bitsy Yoga* series.
- The Library held a soap making program.

- Linda Cure and Gary and Debbie Robinson presented a raw food program.
- The Cornell Cooperative Extension presented a program on saving energy.
- The Library presented a gingerbread craft program.
- The Library presented a marble magnet program.

**Ongoing programs:** Pre-school story hour, toddler story time, Juice and Jammies story time, three children's book clubs, an adult book club, adult computer classes, Read to a Dog, Center for Disability Services book club, Library affiliated adult book clubs, Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero for kids, summer programs such as Mapping New York, a teen-oriented series of programs, summer crafts, and monthly community use of display case.

**Community Participation:** The Library provided space for the local farmer's market at train station, made visits with area preschools, collaborated on programming with local scout troops, visited the elementary school, provided programming for seniors, worked with Center for Disability Services on programs, and participated in Altamont's Victorian Holidays. .

**Circulation and Holdings**

For the year, 22,589 items were circulated. The total Library holdings are 15,817 items. 1413 items were added to the collection and 226 items were withdrawn.

**Finances**

Primary sources of income were:

Town of Guilderland: \$50,000

Village of Altamont: \$50,000

Town of Knox: \$5,500

LLSA: \$1,500

Fundraising: \$31,739.56

Grants: \$68,469.00

Donations \$43,570/39

2008 Building Fund Balance \$155,026.

A copy of the full financial report is available at the Library.

**2008 Campaign Council**

Joe Rusek served as 2008 Chair of the 20-member Campaign Council. Meeting monthly, the Council planned five new events, participated in three Library-sponsored annual events, promoted items available for donations, and prepared for two new fundraising initiatives for 2009.

The new events in 2008 included the first Annual I Love the Library Dinner, which raised \$17,000, a reading at the Old Stone House Inn, which raised \$740, an Antique Appraisal Day, which raised \$600, an Electronics Recycling Day, which raised \$820, and the Wines a la Arte event, which raised \$3,500. Ongoing events hosted by the Library Board included the Village Garage sale, which generated \$1,000, the annual Chicken BBQ, which raised \$1,000, and the annual Election Day Bake Sale which raised \$910.

Other fundraising efforts included the donation by Carol DuBrin of 200 Altamont prints for fund raising. Plans for fund raising in 2009 include selling the old Train Station Roof slates and the construction of a model of the Train Station to help generate funds.

**Personnel**

Director: Judith Wines, Development Coordinator: Kristin Casey, Library Assistants: Ryan Black, Ann Cartmell, Norma Dean, Ruth Painter, Natalie Schipano (started September 08), Michelle Stevens.

**Board of Trustees**

Dan Capuano, *President* Linda Cure, *Vice-President* Mary Dornbush, *Secretary* Michael Hill, *Treasurer* Rebecca Edwards, *Corresponding Secretary* Elaine Clark, Ron Ginsburg, Ellen Howie, Amy Martin, Barbara Quackenbush, Craig Sargent.

**Future Goals**

The Library Board will continue to pursue ways to increase funding sources with the end goal of providing the community we serve with a modern and accessible Library facility to better meet their needs. We will continue to work with community partners and to extend Library services to our patrons through outreach activities. The Board will seek to recruit members from the community to the end of meeting these goals.