

Annual Report 2009 – 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-eight hours a week with one full time Librarian and five (.9 FTE) Library Assistants.

Summary: 2009 was a year in which the Library expanded its role in the community. Partnering with Altamont Community Traditions and with support from the New York State Council for the Arts, the Library hosted 3 summer concerts. The first inaugural Altamont Circuit Bike Race expanded Library activities to the world of sports and, in doing so, engaged new members of our community. The Library added hours on Sunday afternoons, expanding access for those who work full time. The Library also continued to expand its program offerings with new adult fiction and mother-daughter book clubs, and a variety of special programs that strive to meet the needs of our community.

Train Station Update:

Work on the renovation of the Altamont Train Station to provide an accessible facility for the Library proceeded in 2009, following completion of the new slate roof in 2008. The electric power supply was upgraded, photovoltaic (solar) panels were added, and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning work is underway. In addition, major interior demolition work is nearing completion in preparation for the next phases of construction, through a combined Library and community volunteer effort

Program Highlights:

- The Library started the year with a workshop on getting organized.
- Valentines' Day was celebrated with a chocolate making program.
- A crockpot potluck drew warm food on a cold night.
- Kids recycled soda bottles into piggy banks.
- The Library hosted a workshop on life coaching.
- Tweens solved a murder mystery over dinner.
- Two local artists helped Library kids construct an Altamont Anchor.
- The Library hosted a program called *Ahh, my Aching Back*.
- Tony Kossmann presented a Car Maintenance for Women workshop.
- Dogs and their humans met in the library for Doga with Christine Carpenter.
- Christine Capuano taught tweens how to create optical illusions with digital cameras.
- Edna Litten coordinated a trip to the Clark Art Institute.
- The Library celebrated the end of summer reading with a ventriloquist's performance.
- Kids made mosaics out of tile from both Tile and M&Ms
- The Library held a middle-eastern potluck and screened Persepolis.
- Tweens wrote and shot a short film called Gary and the Gnomes
- Rowdy the River Rat and two of his players visited the Library
- Sunday afternoons, once a month, starting in October featured a family movie.
- The Library hosted a Day of the Dead celebration.

Ongoing programs: Pre-school story hour, toddler story time, Juice and Jammies story time, three children's book clubs, three adult book club, adult computer classes, Read to a Dog,- Library affiliated adult book clubs, Dance Dance Revolution and Guitar Hero for kids, summer programs on the *Be Creative at your Library* theme, 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 the 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 to provide volunteer opportunities, and participated in Altamont's Victorian Holidays. We co-sponsored, with the Village of Altamont, Dogs in the Park, and worked with the Village on creating a wi-fi hotspot in Orsini Park.

Circulation and Holdings

For the year, ~25674 items were circulated in Altamont, 9083 items were loaned to other Libraries and 7737 items were borrowed from other libraries.

The total Library holdings are 16,797 items. 1624 items were added to the collection and 667 items were withdrawn.

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Finances

Primary sources of income were:

Town of Guilderland: \$50,000

Village of Altamont: \$50,000

Town of Knox: \$6,000

LLSA: \$1,220

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

Capital Campaign

By year end, donations and pledges totaled over \$600,000 of the \$1 million capital campaign goal to fund the Train Station renovation for the Library. Major commitments included announcement of a \$112,000 matching grant from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) administered through the Office of Historic Preservation, a \$30,000 member item from State Senator Neil Breslin, a \$42,000 grant from the Department of Education, a \$4000 pledge from the Golub Foundation, as well as a number of memorial and naming gifts from individuals. Fundraising activities generating over \$20,000 included \$14,000 from the I Love the Library Gala, \$4000 from the first annual bike race, and proceeds from the chicken BBQ, the Altamont Garage Sale, and several successful bake sales. The Capital Campaign Council also initiated the sale of new etched and used roof slates and model Train Station kits. Because the Campaign Council had achieved its primary goal of raising community awareness of and support for the Train Station project, a decision was made to disband the Council and replace it with the two major event committees, one for the annual Gala, and one for the annual Bike Race.

Personnel

Director: Judith Wines, Development Coordinator: Kristin Casey, Library Assistants: Ryan Black, Ann Cartmell, Caitlyn Dean (resigned in October), Norma Dean, Natalie Schipano, Michelle Stevens.

Board of Trustees

Dan Capuano, *President*; Linda Curé, *Vice-President*; Mary Dornbush, *Secretary*; Betty Ketcham, *Treasurer*; Rebecca Edwards, *Corresponding Secretary*; Elaine Clark (resigned in November), Ron Ginsburg, Michael Hill, Ellen Howie, Tony Kossmann, Amy Martin, 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.