

Annual Report 2010 – 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 six (1.4 FTE) Library Assistants.

Summary: 2010 was a year in which the Library maintained its central role in the community. Partnering with the Village of Altamont and with support from the New York State Council for the Arts, the Library hosted 5 summer concerts. The second annual Altamont Circuit Bike Race raised the profile of the Library and engaged new members of our community. The Library, with help from the Village and support from KeyBank and an Outreach mini-grant, set up a wireless network in Orsini park to extend the community's access to the internet. The Library offered hundreds of programs and circulated 25,000 items in the community.

Train Station Update:

Work on the renovation of the Altamont Train Station to provide an accessible facility for the Library continued in 2010. The work included the demolition of the interior by Library volunteers; structural reinforcements, handicapped access ramp and framing by M.A. Schafer; the insulation of the crawl space by Zero Draft and the completion of construction documents by Argus and others.

Program Highlights:

- The year started off with creations and cleaning out. Kids made clay creatures and adults participated in a Yankee swap.
- We shadowed events in Vancouver with an indoor Library Olympics for kids.
- The Library held a workshop for parents and teens on the college selection process.
- Kids created slithering snakes and and fulsome flowers out of paper.
- The Library went tie-dye crazy in April – transforming everything from eggs to shoes.
- Orsini Park was taken over by four-leggers with a pet parade and agility exercises.
- An indigo bunting was the highlight of a birding jaunt on Brandle Road.
- A program attended only by boys featured the creation of marshmallow catapults.
- Flip Flops were transformed into fine footwear in preparation for the summer months.
- Author Nancy Forster presented her book *Encounters: A lifetime spent crossing Cultural Frontiers*.

- The summer reading program started off with a water carnival and ended with a magic show. The 6 weeks in between featured all sorts of aquatic activities.
- The Library held a Spanish-English bilingual storytime.
- Kids created corn lanterns from soda bottles.
- A decorator from Design on Twenty presented ideas for holiday decorating.
- Kids decked out Gingerbread Houses for display at Victorian Holidays.

Ongoing programs: Pre-school story hour, toddler story time, Juice and Jammies story time, three children's book clubs, two adult book club, adult computer classes, Read to a Dog, Library affiliated adult book clubs, family movies, summer programs on the *Splish Splash Read!* 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 created a wi-fi hotspot in Orsini Park.

Circulation and Holdings

For the year 24,868 items were circulated in Altamont, 8,188 items were loaned to other Libraries and 9,974 items were borrowed from other libraries.

The total Library holdings are 17,454 items. 1030 items were added to the collection and 394 items were withdrawn.

Finances

Primary sources of income were:

Town of Guilderland: \$50,000

Village of Altamont: \$45,000

Town of Knox: \$6,000

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

Personnel

Director: Judith Wines, Development Coordinator: Kristin Casey (resigned in April) Vicki Vattimo (began in May), Library Assistants: Ryan Black, Ann Cartmell, Norma Dean (Retired in November), Mary Beth Mulligan (began in November) Natalie Schipano, Michelle Stevens, David Warner.

Board of Trustees

Linda Cure, *President*; Anthony Kossmann, *Vice-President*; Mary Dornbush, *Secretary*; Betty Ketcham, *Treasurer*; Rebecca Edwards, *Corresponding Secretary*; Christine Capuano, Ron Ginsburg, Michael Hill, Ellen Howie, Tony Kossmann, Christine Lennard, Amy Martin, Craig Sargent, Pat Spohr

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.