



Altamont Free Library 2015 Annual Report

Mission

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 Year in Summary

2015 was a year of transition for Altamont Free Library. Changes in the Library's leadership occurred at both the Board and administrative levels. Throughout 2014 and into the beginning of 2015, several longtime library community members including David Warner, Ryan Black, Tony Kossman, Betty Ketcham and Pat Spohr among others transitioned into emeritus members. More notable still was the departure of longtime Library Director Judith Wines to the RCS Community Library at the end of 2014. Incoming Director Joseph Burke began work in January 2015.

In April, the Upper Hudson Library System migrated to a new Integrated Library System called Sierra. The changeover process was not without hiccups, but in large part it went smoothly and what might have been a disruptive event was handled extremely well by both the library staff and patrons. The Library staff deserves enormous credit for their willingness to adapt to the new system.

Throughout the year, the Library leadership team took part in numerous meetings and discussions to create the Library's Long Range Plan. This process was ably led by Christine Carpenter and facilitated by UHLS Executive Director Tim Burke. The three-year Long Range Plan was formally adopted by the Board in November.

From May through the end of 2015, the Library completed an extraordinary number of small construction projects, financed in part by our 2013 New York State Construction Grant. Notable projects include the construction of a safety fence along the railroad tracks, the installation of ceiling fans, attic insulation and interior storm windows to increase the energy efficiency of the building and a new back door to increase the safety of the building. The Building Committee led by Bob Haggerty and assisted by Betty Ketcham and Steve Terplak did phenomenal work to bring all of these projects to fruition.

The Library received a number of notable grants and program-related donations throughout 2015. Notably, we received a \$10,000 Bullet Aid appropriation from Senator George Amedore which we used to finance a portion of the 2013 NYS Construction Grant projects. We also received welcome contributions from the Stewart's Holiday Match Program, the Altamont High School Alumni Association, County Executive Dan McCoy, Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple, CDPHP, Tom Sands and the loved ones of Richard Spadaro.

Circulation and Usage Statistics

Circulation was up very substantially throughout 2015. For every month in 2015 for which we had reliable statistics (see below) circulation was up compared to the same month in 2014. The Altamont Free Library

circulated 31,019 items in 2015, up over 24 percent over 2014. Particularly notable increases were in adult audiobooks (53%), adult fiction and adult non-fiction (both up by over 31%) and children's videos (35%).

An important caveat to the 2015 circulation statistics: Due to the changeover from Horizon to the Sierra Integrated Library System in early April, there was a two month period in April and May for which circulation statistics were not recorded in a manner that allows for easy comparison with earlier year statistics. UHLS Automation have tried to account for this by taking a three year average of the percentage of the whole year's circulation was recorded in April and May 2012 to 2014 and used that multiplier to fill in the gap in our known statistics. For that reason, the 2015 numbers cited in the charts accompanying this report are not direct measurements, but the product of an equation used by all of the UHLS libraries.

Over the course of the past year, Altamont Free Library added 119 new library members, crossing the 2,000 member threshold for an overall total of 2,093 patrons.

In 2015, we expanded our social media reach significantly, with 140 new Facebook followers for a total 481, a 41% increase. Less impressively, we increased from 453 to 458 Mailchimp email subscribers to our monthly newsletter. Our website, altamontfreelibrary.org, received 78,211 visits.

Ongoing Programs

Toddler & Pre-School Storytimes, Eat Around the World potlucks, two adult book clubs, one-on-one computer tutorials, kids & adult crafts, movies, financial literacy programs, and community use of display case and meeting room art displays.

Programming Highlights

- Take Your Child to the Library Day, February 7
- Valentine's Day Craft, February 13
- Teen Trivia, February 19
- Pinterest Craft Night in February
- The Dojo Teen gaming club
- eReaders 101, March 16
- Adult Trivia, March 19
- Bird feeder building craft, March 21
- Easter Basket craft, April 3
- Million Pillowcase Project, April 7
- Spring Birdwalk, April 9
- Encore Orientation, April 16 & May 14
- Children's Stop Motion Animation Workshop, April 18
- Terrarium Building Craft, April 25
- Spring Bird walk, May 7
- Mother's Day Card Craft, May 7
- Grow Your Own Salsa, May 18 & 21
- Tai Chi Classes in Orsini Park
- Summer Reading Program Kickoff, July 8
- Summer Reading Program, July 8 to August 19
 - Maker Monday's
 - Superhero School, Guests, Games, Stories and Crafts
 - Community Service Project, garden bed building project
 - Comics Drawing Classes
 - Friday Matinee Movies

- Make Your own Cape with the Tang Teaching Museum, August 5
- Homemade Pine Car Derby, August 6
- Ice Cream with Veterans at the Home Front Cafe, August 18
- Summer Reading Celebration, August 19
- Summer Concerts in the Park, June 30 to August 4
- Adult Trivia, July 15
- Author Talk and Book Signing with James Schlett, September 17
- Adult Team Trivia, September 10
- Financial Literacy Seminars
 - Estate Planning with Ronnie Lindberg, September 15
 - Making the Most of Social Security, September 29
- Guatemala Stove Project Discussion with Tom Doyle, November 12
- Teen Lock-In, November 13
- Community Conversation with Assemblymember Pat Fahy, November 17
- The Legacy of Joe Hill Discussion and Sing along, November 19
- Library Lights, December 6
- Gingerbread House Decoration, December 9
- Victorian Holiday Celebration, December 13
- Trivia and Booktalks with Altamont Seniors
- Drop-ins at Altamont Elementary School and nursery schools

Finances

Primary sources of income were: Town of Guilderland: \$53,000, Village of Altamont: \$50,000, Town of Knox, \$7,500. A full copy of the report is available at the Library.

Personnel:

Director: Joseph Burke

Assistant Director: Mary Beth Mulligan

Library Assistants: Ryan Black, Ann Cartmell, Jo Ann Mulligan, Mary Jean Mulligan, Albert Rusch,

Regular Volunteers: Sarah Killen, Mary Shands, Kevin Swintek, Lisa Nissenbaum, Crystal Pohl, Anneka Kuck, Etaseme Elonge, Nick Mawson, Betty Ketcham, Elfie Erickson and many others who helped in ways large and small throughout the year.

Trustees:

President: Yvette Terplak

Vice President: Sally Dague

Secretary: Tracy Russell

Treasurer: Michelle Stevens

Trustees: Christine Capuano, Christine Carpenter, Megan Connolly, Ruth Dickinson, Ron Ginsburg, Bob Haggerty, Eric Kuck, Christine Lennard, Lori McCutcheon, Mike Seinberg