



Altamont Free Library 2016 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

2016 was a year of celebration, reflection and growth for Altamont Free Library. The major focal point of our year was the celebration of the library's centennial.

To celebrate the centennial, the library held numerous events throughout the year. We kicked off the centennial celebrations at the I Love My Library Gala in February with the launching of the 100 for 100 campaign, seeking 100 donors to contribute \$100 each in celebration of our 100th anniversary. Over the course of the year, we eventually attracted 133 donations to the newly created Centennial Fund. We held successful fundraisers at Mio Vino in April and November where a portion of the evening's food and drink sales were donated to the library. The highlight of the centennial celebrations was the garden party we held at the home (or castle, rather) of Deb Barnes Breitenbach and Thom Breitenbach on July 16, attracting 100 guests, including many of our elected representatives. We continued our celebrations with cake for the entire village at our July 26th concert in Orsini Park. September 25th saw the official opening of an exhibit at the Altamont Village Museum and Archives celebrating the library's 100 year history featuring historic photos and artifacts. The exhibit was put on by Marijo Dougherty and featured a quilted book made by the Train Station Quilters. The Quilters also participated in the Centennial celebrations by producing a masterpiece of a quilt that was displayed all year and was raffled off at the Victorian Holiday Celebration in December. Sales of raffle tickets raised well over \$1,000 for the library. Toward the end of the year, Kristin Casey took the primary role in researching and writing a hundred-year history of the Altamont Free Library, which was published as a special supplement to the Altamont Enterprise on December 29th. We end our year with nearly \$12,000 in the Centennial Fund, which will be used to secure the long term financial health of the library.

In April we welcomed two new members of the staff, Library Assistants Ann Gainer and Erika Peterson. Ann and Erika took over responsibility for our Tuesday and Wednesday morning storytimes and have brought a new energy to those always popular programs. In November, Erika Peterson brought back 'juice and jammies' evening storytimes twice each month and these have also proven to be highly successful.

In May, the Board of Trustees voted to maintain Sunday hours during the summer. Our summer Sundays were constantly busy and contributed to August 2016 seeing our highest monthly circulation ever. We are one of only a small handful of libraries statewide with Sunday hours in the summer and the only such library in the Upper

Hudson Library System. The Board subsequently voted to budget money to maintain Sunday hours in the summer of 2017.

Over the month of October, we conducted a communications survey to collect feedback on library programming and how people in the community receive news about library events and programs. In total, we had 75 total responses and the information contained in those responses has informed our communications and programming strategies and will continue to do so going forward.

Throughout the year, the Library leadership team began implementing the 3-year Long Range Plan adopted by the board in November 2015. Activities related to the LRP begun this year include the formal adoption of job descriptions for Library Assistants and Clerks, the ongoing review of library policies and the beginning of a charter amendment process, among many others.

The Library received a number of notable grants and program-related donations throughout 2016. Notably, we received a \$3,000 Bullet Aid appropriation from Senator George Amedore which we will use to finance a portion of the planned Spohr Family Centennial Patio, to be built in Spring 2017. We also received notable contributions from the Stewart's Holiday Match Program, Clare Field, Tom Sands, and the loved ones of Edna McCullen. Finally, we were the recipient of an outpouring of generosity following the passing of Tom Spohr. The funds donated in his honor will be used to construct the above mentioned Spohr Family Memorial Patio and suitable memorials will be installed in his honor.

Circulation and Usage Statistics

Circulation was very strong throughout most of 2016. Indeed, in August, we had our highest circulation month ever with 3,089 items lent out. In all, the Altamont Free Library lent out 26,163 items in 2016. This is a 15.7% decrease over last year, but our second highest circulation ever and a return to a fairly normal range after low circulation in 2011 and 2012 and very high circulation in 2015.

Over the course of 2016, Altamont Free Library added 106 new library members, for an overall total of 2,185 patrons. We also added 927 items for a total collection of 13,144 items.

In 2016, we expanded our social media reach significantly, with 104 new Facebook followers for a total 585, a 22% increase. We have 456 Mailchimp email subscribers to our monthly newsletter.

Ongoing Programs

Toddler, Pre-School and Juice and Jammies Storytimes, Eat Around the World potlucks, two adult book clubs, one-on-one computer tutorials, the annual Summer Concert Series, presentations for the Altamont Seniors, kids & adult crafts, movies, financial literacy programs, trivia nights and community use of display case and meeting room art displays.

Programming Highlights

In 2016, we had a number of highly successful programs, a small sample of which includes:

- Energy Efficiency workshop with Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Author Presentation with Laura Shore and Everett Rau
- Financial Wellness 101
- Global Art Project for Peace
- Easter Egg Dying
- Birdfeeder Building

- Plants Feed Me with Cornell Coop and the Master Gardeners
- Memorial Day Parade
- Summer Reading Opening Ceremony featuring Assemblywoman Pat Fahy
- Summer Reading Program, July 8 to August 19
- Owl rehabilitation program
- State Senate Candidates Forum at Guilderland Public Library
- Children's Stop Motion Animation Workshops
- Summer Concerts in the Park, June 30 to August 4
- Library Lights, December 6
- Gingerbread House Decoration
- Victorian Holiday Celebration

Finances

Primary sources of income were: Town of Guilderland: \$53,000, Village of Altamont: \$55,000, Town of Knox, \$7,500. A full copy of the report is available at the Library.

Personnel:

Director: Joseph Burke

Library Assistants: Ann Gainer, Erika Peterson

Library Clerks: Ann Cartmell, Jo Ann Mulligan, Mary Jean Mulligan, Albert Rusch

Regular Volunteers: Sarah Killen, Mary Shands, Lisa Nissenbaum, Anneka Kuck, Etaseme Elonge, Nick Mawson, Elfie Erickson, Janelle Fletcher DuMoulin, Michael Seinberg, Kristin Casey, Keith Lee and many others who helped in ways large and small throughout the year.

Trustees:

President: Yvette Terplak

Vice President: Christine Carpenter

Secretary: Linda Cure & Tracy Russell

Treasurer: Michelle Stevens

Trustees: Dan Capuano, Sharon Forman, Ruth Dickinson, Ron Ginsburg, Bob Haggerty, Dick Howie, Rachel Lane, Robin Love, Lori McCutcheon, Elizabeth Searing and Vicki Vattimo