

Poughkeepsie Public Library District

2008 Annual Report

Renovated Library Turns Green!

Throughout the year, patrons and staff were able to follow the progress of the expansion of Adriance Memorial Library on Market Street. As fuel prices continued to soar, the Library District's Board and administration were especially relieved at the decision to include geothermal heat pumps (GHP's) in the design of the new addition. In January 2008, more than 35 wells were drilled at the rear of the building to take advantage of the earth's relatively constant temperature to both cool and heat the building. While the Hudson Valley experiences seasonal temperature extremes, below the earth's surface the ground remains at 57 degrees Fahrenheit. GHP's move the heat from the earth into the building in the winter, and pull the heat from the building and discharge it into the ground in the summer. In other words, the underground piping loops serve as a heat source in the winter and a heat sink in the summer.

"We knew this was a good decision when the Board first made it three years ago," said Library District Director Tom Lawrence, "but in light of those energy prices, it was a very significant decision for the community. This could save us tens of thousands of dollars in the long term."

Recession Brings Increase in Library Usage

2008 proved to be a difficult year for the economy, but one thing that is not on the decline during this recession is library usage. Public libraries throughout the country experienced a surge in demand for their services during the latter months of the year. According to the Wall Street Journal, "Libraries across the country are reporting jumps in attendance of as much as 65% over the past year, as newly unemployed people flock to branches to fill out resumes and scan ads for job listings."

The Library District quickly responded to the increased demand for computers. According to executive director Tom Lawrence, "We increased the number of public computers at the Arlington Branch Library and increased the bandwidth at both libraries." The Library District is changing the way we serve the public to ensure that, as hard economic times continue, we can provide a "soft spot" for the public to land and uncover new strategies to get through the recession.

Battle of the Books

In September, the Library District's team took second place at the annual Mid-Hudson Library System's Regional *Battle of the Books*. This is a nationally recognized literature contest in which students in grades 6-9 answer trivia questions based on specific books they have read. Fifteen area libraries competed this year. Youth Services Librarian Beth Zambito congratulated the *Book Talkers* on their amazing performance and hoped that these and more eligible tweens will join her in 2009 for another battle!



New Family Reading Program is a Great Success

"My child looks forward to coming each week to see which new books will be handed out. She asks me more questions and tells me more about what she has read."

"I learned how to read to my grandchildren and talk about books with them more effectively by watching the storyteller and doing it that way."

These were just two of the rave reviews given to a six-week reading program launched by the Library District in the fall of 2008. Prime Time Family Reading is designed to help families help their children improve their reading skills and enjoy reading. The program, conducted at Morse Young Child Magnet School, included storytelling, reading, and book discussion for children in grades 1-3 and their families. Each session began with all of the families sharing a meal together. The storyteller and scholar then presented award-winning children's picture books to encourage participants to read together and talk about books as a family activity. Librarian Beth Zambito also gave tips on how to choose books and use library resources, and made library card registration available to participants on a weekly basis. The Library District plans to expand the program to other schools.



Seniors to Benefit from Generous Gift

In May of 2008, the Library District was saddened by the news that Mabel "Candee" Marcotte had passed away. Ms. Marcotte was a former librarian who supported our local libraries throughout her life and who, thanks to a provision in her will, had ensured that her support will continue for years to come. In October, the Library District was informed that Ms. Marcotte had included PPLD in her will and that the interim distribution from her estate would be the very generous sum of \$157,500.

Since Mrs. Marcotte has especially enjoyed the library through her later years, she requested that this gift should be used to benefit seniors in particular. PPLD director Tom Lawrence expressed his profound gratitude to Gregory Marcotte, Mrs. Marcotte's son and the executor of her estate.



Libraries, Schools and Colleges Work Together to Promote Reading

When the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) announced a marked increase in reading among young adults aged 18-24, the chairman of the NEA cited programs like The Big Read as a contributing factor. According to the study, "Reading on the Rise," a definitive increase has been seen in the rates and numbers of American adults who read literature, with the biggest increase among young adults.

Here in Poughkeepsie, the Library District and its many community partners launched its second annual Big Read in September 2008, this time featuring F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. The successful, month-long program involved a close cooperation between local schools, colleges, libraries and bookstores.

The Big Read is just one example of the growing cooperation between the schools, colleges, and libraries in the area. "We all share the same commitment to reading and to our community," said PPLD Executive Director Tom Lawrence. "It just makes a lot of sense for us to work together on our common goals."

Annual Fund Contributors

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District and the Friends of PPLD are grateful to the individuals, businesses and organizations who contributed to the 2008 Annual Fund. These lists reflect gifts received between April 15, 2008 and April 15, 2009, including gifts in response to the Annual Appeal.



Goldleaf Volume: \$2,000-

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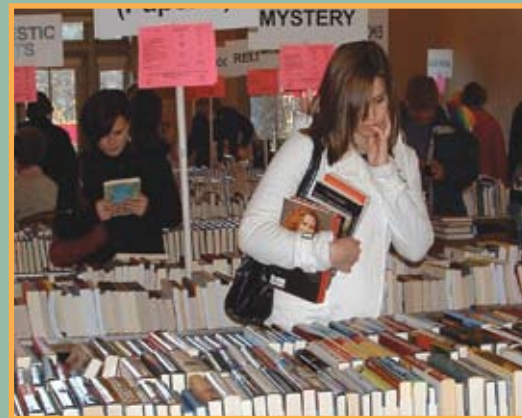
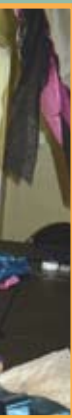
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J. Edwin Hostetter
 Helen Turek

* Deceased

Thank You!

Poughkeepsie Public Library District



2008 Financials Revenue

Real Property Taxes & PILOT Payments	\$3,376,772
Dutchess County	152,790
Library Charges	52,084
Annual Fund	31,150
Grants	76,487
State Aid	286,239
Interest and Earnings	30,407
Miscellaneous	171,856
Interfund Transfers	38,000
Total Revenue	\$4,114,688

Expenditures

Salaries & Wages	\$2,160,050
Benefits	769,006
Equipment	60,665
Library Materials	299,342
Information Services	220,507
Operations	624,238
Total Expenditures	\$4,133,811

Major Gifts, Grants, Endowments

Arts Midwest/National Endowment for the Arts
Bentley-Holden Fund
Fanny V.W. Boos Charitable Trust Donor Advised Fund
Community Foundation of Dutchess County
JRS Dryfoos Charitable Lead Trust
Dutchess County
Dutchess County Arts Council
Dutchess County Office of the Aging
Ann & Abe Effron Fund
Bertha Effron Fund of the Community Foundation of DC
Friends of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District
Gannett Foundation
Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
Mabel F. Marcotte Estate
New York Council For The Humanities
Riverside Bank
Jeannette F. Schlobach Charitable Trust
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Robert S. & Geraldine Cugin Schwartz Fund
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Tomas & Linda Jones
Gino & Lorraine Milanese
Karen & Jim Miscedra
Charles & Jacqueline Nichols

In Memory of Mary Dietz

Anne Constantinople
Scott & Colleen Misner
The Stonebridge Book Club

In Memory of Vivian Erdreich

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In Memory of Agnes Foote

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Selig & Martha Landsman & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Palumbo and children,
Vincent, Jr. & Theresa

In Memory of Frances June

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In Memory of Hans Rottmann

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The Friends of CASA
The McCarthy Family
The Veraskas, Miller & Boyd Families
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In Memory of Helene Wall

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In Memory of Vickie Zysk

Louis P. Zysk

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Sylvia F. Kurkhill

In Honor of Dr. & Mrs. J. Stuart Fishler

Claudia & Stuart Fishler

In Honor of Ted Luty

Helen W. Lackaye
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Message from the President of the Board

2008 was a year of transition for our Library District, but that did not mean that things were standing still. Even as increasing numbers of patrons visited the temporary location at Bancroft Road and the Arlington Branch Library, the new wing of the Market Street location was gradually rising to its current impressive size. We look forward to the opening of the renewed Adriance Memorial Library in the fall of 2009.

Despite the demands of the construction project, the Library District continued its proactive approach to the promotion of reading in our community. The launch of the new Prime Time Family Reading program, designed specifically for under-served families with children aged 6 to 10, was particularly successful. The program helps low-income, low-literacy families bond around the act of reading and talking about books.

For older students and adults, The Big Read is now established as an annual fixture in the calendar of our community. With all of the local school districts and three colleges involved, the month-long program does a wonderful job of creating a sense of excitement around great works of American literature.

Throughout the year, there were several well-attended book discussions featuring local professors who addressed both historical and literary themes. The District is finding that its cooperation with local colleges and schools is proving to be a very effective way of actively promoting reading in the community.

The public library as a passive repository of books is a thing of the past. With their increased circulation and attendance figures and their wide array of programs and services, our public libraries continue to confound those who predicted their demise in this increasingly technological age.

Finally, the Annual Report would not be complete without a word of congratulations to the Friends of the Library District. The Friends, under the leadership of Jackie Klein, continued to provide an astonishing level of support for the Library District, breaking records with their massive book sales. All of the programs mentioned above depend on the support of the Friends and, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, and our community, I want to offer them our thanks and congratulations on another year of great success.

Clare Graham

Support our Libraries

The Library District is fortunate in having many supporters who are memorialized through gifts from their friends and loved ones. Honoring someone by supporting an institution they loved is truly a gift that keeps on giving. For example, we were very grateful that in August, 24 people made donations in memory of Hans Rottmann, an active member of the Friends of the Library District for many years. In addition to many local donations, gifts came in from Canada, Arizona, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

For more information on ways in which you can support your local libraries, call Gareth Davies in the Advancement Office at 485-3445 x 3314.

Poughkeepsie Public Library District

Adriance Memorial Library

18 Bancroft Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 485-3445

Arlington Branch Library

504 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(845) 454-9301

Preschooler Learning Center

Family Partnership Center, 29 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie
(845) 790-5916

www.poklib.org

E-mail: administration@poklib.org