



# SCPL

Schenectady County Public Library



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020




**ALL LIBRARY LOCATIONS ARE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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[www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)  @SCPLNY



## LOOKING BACK, STAYING STRONG

A new decade began in January, 2020, which provided an opportunity to look back and reflect on all that was accomplished by our library system, which was to become part of our library annual report to the public. We also looked forward to the year ahead with a focus on preparations for the 2020 Census and the dissemination of information in the community to garner widespread participation, along with planning for program support for the new Mont Pleasant branch library. The Beat the Snow music series, noon films and Books Sandwiched In, were well underway and our literacy programs for youth and families were welcomed by our community. Programming from the Adult Services Department was planned through late spring by our outgoing Librarian III and a transition plan was in place for the newly hired librarian who would take her place. The Youth Services Department participated in their annual regional summer reading workshop, where our creative and dynamic staff plan exciting programs for the youth of our community. There were exciting things to look forward to.

While 2020 began like any other year, our lives were swiftly upended as the World Health Organization declared an international Pandemic in March due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus. A state of emergency was declared by Schenectady County and the Governor of New York State issued a lock down order for all residents, other than essential workers relating to the health and safety of all New Yorkers. The libraries closed their doors to the public on March 14, 2020.

## DECADE REVIEW - 2010 thru 2019



The 2010 - 2019 was an exciting and at times a challenging decade for SCPL. Changes in the publishing world and the area of technology greatly impacted libraries across the nation – from the introduction of e-books to an increase in the use of audio books to streaming of content with the addition of Hoopla to our offerings to the community. The proliferation of various social media platforms expanded the reach libraries have to introduce readers to new authors, genres, formats, information resources and cultural, recreational and educational program offerings.

Many exciting changes happened over the past ten years at SCPL:

- 11,537,840 items circulated
- 278,861 children and caregivers attended Youth Services programs
- 92,988 attended Adult Services programs
- \$950,293 was spent by the Friends of the Library, over the decade, to support our libraries.
- \$1,777,326 in New York State construction funds were awarded for library projects.

### 2010

The main focus of 2010 was the final planning for the construction of a new children's addition by the Board of Trustees, Administration and County officials.

### 2011

The ground breaking for the construction of the new children's wing was held on May 12, 2011 after many, many years of planning and fund-raising. Assistant Library Director Wonja Brucker retired.

### 2012

The newly constructed children's wing, entitled The Wright Family Center, opened in July of 2012. The Central Library's public and staff bathrooms were renovated and a new rug was installed on the first floor of the Central Library. Wireless capability was introduced at the Central Library, a Smartboard was purchased for staff and public usage, and 15 laptops were added in order to assist with computer classes which expanded the number of computers available to the general public. The Central Library became a SICM summer meal site. Library Director Andy Kulmatiski retired and Karen Bradley was appointed as the new Library Director in October of 2012. The same month the County Legislature reduced the library budget by \$521,000 and issued a charge to the library Board of Trustees to restructure the library system to meet the new financial parameters.

### 2013

The Board of Trustees convened a Restructuring Work Group to meet the new financial constraints and presented a plan to the County Legislature which included a reduction in hours of operation and a slimmer staff model beginning on July 1, 2013. The Scotia Branch Library porch was renovated and the Mont Pleasant Branch received a mini interior makeover. The Hamilton Hill Branch Library ceased operation in December due to the abrupt closure of the Carver Center. As a result, a decision was made to merge the Duane and Hamilton Hill Branch Libraries and to seek a location for a new branch library. Security cameras were installed at the Central Library.

### 2014

The Central Library construction project included the provision of a new Reference and Circulation service area, the introduction of a self-check system and a material handling unit for the return of library materials utilizing RFID technology, with NYS Construction funds and capital expenditures from the County. In the fall, Phase One of the Central Library Plaza project saw the addition of a new sidewalk at the Central Library. A comprehensive search was undertaken by County officials to identify the site for the construction of a new library to replace the Duane and Hamilton Hill Branch Libraries. The Central Library was honored to be selected as the site for the kickoff of the New York State Summer Reading Program in June.



# DECADE REVIEW - 2010 thru 2019



## 2015

The Central Library Plaza Project was completed which included the replacement of the remaining sidewalk, and the installation of new planters and landscaping. The "Ishmael" sculpture was refurbished thanks to a donation by our original architect of the Central Library, Werner Feibes. A site was located and a ground breaking ceremony was held for the construction of a new library to replace the Duane and Hamilton Hill Branch Libraries, at 948 State St. Fund-raising was held to secure additional funds to supplement County funds and the Trustees Phyllis Bornt bequest funds for the construction of the project. The entrance to the Quaker Street Branch Library was reconstructed. Additional security cameras were installed and WiFi service was expanded to three branch libraries. SCPL held our first-ever Electric City Comic Con, which was such a success that it would run for five years straight until the Pandemic hit in 2020.



## 2016

The Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center opened in February with over 1,000 people in attendance. The Niskayuna branch roof was repaired and exterior work on the back entrance was completed. A glass enclosure was added to the Glenville Branch Library so that the program and community meeting area was separated from the main part of the library. 2016 was an extra special year as we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Friends of the Library.



## 2017

The Phyllis Bornt Branch Library became one of 500 Family Place Libraries in the country, in May 2017. Early literacy community conversations and programming took center stage, thanks to a grant from the Schenectady Foundation and funds from our Friends of the Library. New carpets were installed in the Niskayuna, Scotia, and Glenville Branch Libraries and a series of community conversations were held at the Mont Pleasant Branch Library in preparation for the design of a new library for the neighborhood. The Woodlawn Branch Library's parking lot was repaved and upgrades to technology happened at multiple locations. Assistant Library Director and Youth Services Coordinator Serena Butch retired.



## 2018

The highlight of 2018 was the ground breaking for the new Mont Pleasant Branch Library. Our Quaker Street Branch Library was transformed with a redesign of space, a new circulation desk, new paint and carpet, along with new furniture and book display units. Niskayuna's air conditioning unit was replaced and the Scotia Branch Library underwent a preliminary review and design for a program room addition. Our Central Library saw the installation of an Electrical Vehicle Recharging Station in the parking lot. Paving was enhanced at the Glenville Branch Library.



## 2019

One of several highlights of 2019 was the opening of the new Mont Pleasant Branch Library in May. In addition, the County Legislature renamed the Central Library in honor of beloved Legislator Karen B. Johnson and a dedication ceremony was held in September. The Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library was designated a New York State Literary Landmark in honor of former resident, author Arnold Lobel, who wrote the Frog and Toad series of books. A community committee, comprised of retired Union College professors and local community leaders selected the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library for the installation of a bronze statue, designed and built by Dexter Benedict, of William Seward and Harriet Tubman, with the inscription, "William Seward and Harriet Tubman. Leaders for freedom, diversity and friendship. Gift by the people for the people." A dedication ceremony was held in May.



## 2019 SUMMARY



2019 was a notable year for SCPL for a number of reasons. The Central Library building celebrated its 50th anniversary on April 5, 2019 and is one of the crown jewels of Schenectady County, the city of Schenectady, and for the entire Capital Region.

The major highlight of 2019 was the completion of the construction of the new Mont Pleasant Branch library with a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration on May 4, 2019. Local elected officials, financial supporters, community leaders, members of the Library Board of Trustees and library staff attended along with hundreds of residents of the Mont Pleasant neighborhood.

Since opening in May 2019, the following program improvements were made to Youth Services classes and events at the Mont Pleasant Library:

- Improvements in hours and facilities led to new community partnerships that supported classes for families, new parents, school age children, early literacy learners and teens.
- New offerings included coding classes using the technology lab, large-scale community events such as the harvest festival, and summer performers who require significant space to host family events.
- Baby Café for breast feeding support was established in August at the time of Breast Feeding Awareness month. The series continued with regular offerings by Schenectady County Public Health Services.
- The difference in the physical space, how it affords for better programming and better management of attendees was a crucial improvement for the Mont Pleasant community.

Community partnerships with Cornell Cooperative Extension and My Daughters and Me expanded the range of classes offered to youth since opening the new library, while staple programs like movies and creative courses continue.

Comparing 2018 to the re-opening year for Mont Pleasant, circulation was 30% higher than 2018. Since re-instating regular programming, attendance has jumped with a 96% increase. Use of public computers and the open wireless network was strong, often more than twice the rate seen in 2018. 5,261 logged computer sessions compared with 2,253 by the same time in 2018. We had 2,116 participants attend youth and family programs at MTP. 8 Outreach events to the neighborhood SCAP and Elementary schools were conducted equaling: 853 youth contacts.

The Mont Pleasant Neighborhood Association began to utilize the community space for their monthly meetings and other community groups booked one of the two program rooms.

Youth Services collaborations and partnerships include MiSci, Back to School Nights, new teacher orientation and end of summer block party for Schenectady City School District, SCAP, family events at area public and private school districts, #schenectadyreads bookmobile summer stops, SiCM, SJTA, Maple Leaf Kindercare and Pooh's Corner Childcare Centers, Parson's/Northern Rivers Early Head Start, Ellis Hospital Maternity and Pediatrics Department, Schenectady Healthy Families staff training (new), STARS (Schenectady Takes Action for Reading Success), YWCA after-school program, Cornell Cooperative Extension and 4-H, and Each One, Reach One.

May was indeed a momentous month. On May 18, 2019, the unveiling of the Harriet Tubman and William Seward statue was conducted following a program on the history of the project and the connection that William Seward and Harriet Tubman had. The planning by a dedicated community committee, who worked tirelessly over several years, chose the Hon. Karen B. Johnson library as the location for the placement of it.

Also, in the month of May, the Hon. Karen B. Johnson library received the official designation as a New York State Literary Landmark for Arnold Lobel, formerly of Schenectady, for his most notable work of the children's book series, **Frog and Toad**. A ceremony was held for the unveiling of the plaque in the Wright Family Center, followed by a family program.

On September 6, 2019 the Central library was renamed and dedicated to deceased County Legislator Karen B. Johnson and is forever known as the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library. A beautiful ceremony was held and we were honored to have elected officials, Library Trustees, and Legislator Johnson's family attend.

Many exciting programs were held throughout 2019, for children and adults, attended by 42,362 residents. The addition of a dedicated Adult Programming position brought record breaking, quality programming to all nine library locations. In addition to offerings from Washington Irving ESL classes and the League of Women Voters Citizenship classes, our reinstated Librarian III position provided notable programming highlights such as Electric City Comic Con, Harry Potter Day, Repair Café, Baby Café, and a variety of health and wellness, financial and digital literacy, writing classes, movies, arts and crafts and music programs. Attendance at youth programs increased by 19% and the number of adult programs offered increased by 42% and attendance at adult programs increased by 29%. Our Friends of the Library financially supported all of these programs.

Library staff participated in dozens of community outreach opportunities at County schools and non-profit organizations. Overall, one of our best years ever!

# 2019 PHOTOS



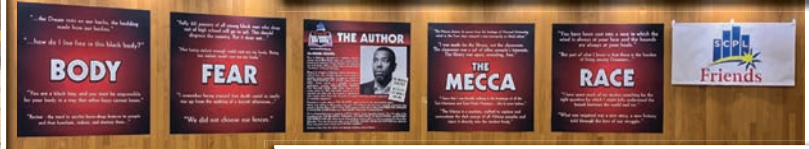
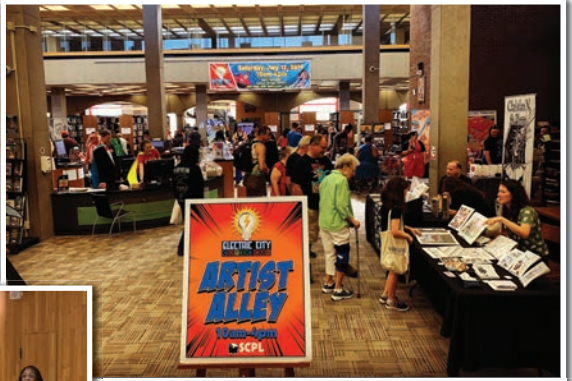
**Honorable Karen B. Johnson**  
**Schenectady County Public Library**

Hon. Karen B. Johnson

The Schenectady County Public Library Central Branch is proud to honor Karen B. Johnson, a community leader and dedicated public servant. Her commitment to the people and the spirit of the City and County of Schenectady has been a source of inspiration for many. Her leadership and vision have helped to build a better and more vibrant community. Her dedication to the library and her passion for reading and learning have made her a true role model for all. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Accompanied by her dear friend, Mrs. Johnson made the visit with her mother, Mrs. Johnson, to the Central Branch of the Library and spent the day with her family. She was accompanied by her husband, Mr. Johnson, and her children, Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Johnson. The family was joined by the Schenectady County Public Library staff and community members. The family was joined by the Schenectady County Public Library staff and community members. The family was joined by the Schenectady County Public Library staff and community members.

In 1973, Mrs. Johnson became the first woman elected to the Schenectady City Council. She served on the Council for 12 years, from 1973 to 1985. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 1985 to 1995. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 1995 to 2005. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2005 to 2015. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2015 to 2019. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 2019 to 2023. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2023 to 2025. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2025 to 2027. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 2027 to 2031. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2031 to 2035. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2035 to 2039. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 2039 to 2043. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2043 to 2047. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2047 to 2051. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 2051 to 2055. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2055 to 2059. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2059 to 2063. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 2063 to 2067. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2067 to 2071. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2071 to 2075. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 2075 to 2079. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2079 to 2083. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2083 to 2087. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Supervisors from 2087 to 2091. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Health from 2091 to 2095. She was a member of the Schenectady County Board of Education from 2095 to 2100.



## 2020 SUMMARY



In dealing with the COVID crisis in the community at the start of 2020, the County Manager reached out to the library to assist with Public Health efforts. Many members of the library staff rose to the occasion and reported to the Public Health Services Department to assist with contact tracing efforts. It was soon clear that food insecurity was going to be a crisis in our County due to the lock down and the financial impact of the loss of jobs. Library staff were called into service on March 23, 2020, to assist in setting up a Call Center at the new Boys and Girls Club, as a part of the Emergency Response Coalition. Library staff handled over 29,000 calls from residents in need of food, sanitizing supplies, information and PPE, from March until mid-June. Many other departments assisted with the complex details of this large-scale undertaking that we were very proud to be a part of.

Our staff had to pivot and develop plans to continue to serve the community virtually. Library service and programs became virtual during lock down. Information service was provided via email and chat and the Youth Services Department established a series of popular virtual programs for our families. The new Adult Services librarian was slated to start working on April 6, 2020, and that was deferred through the end of 2020 and put on hold in the 2021 library budget. We were able to undertake a visual arts program in the communities we serve through social media entitled “#Schenectady Strong 2020.”

As the number of positive cases diminished in June, 50% of the library staff were allowed back to plan for the resumption of limited library services including curbside pickup of library materials, faxes, photocopies, and information services via phone and email. Library days and hours of operation went from 420 to 188 hours a week. With the financial constraints of the Pandemic, we consolidated branch resources by pairing similar libraries together to create staff pods to maintain employee health and wellness. The following staff pods were created: Scotia/Glenville, Quaker/Rotterdam, and Bornt/Mont Pleasant. Niskayuna stood alone due to the high volume as did Woodlawn as we prepared for the renovation and closure of that branch.

Our annual summer reading program for youth and adults was held online, with reading incentives handed out via curbside pickup. Virtual programming for youth continued throughout the summer and fall, showing a notable increase in young adult participation. We were able to collaborate with the Capital Region Anti-Racism Community Training Initiative to sponsor author Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. in October for a reading and discussion on his new book **BEGIN AGAIN: JAMES BALDWIN'S AMERICAN AND ITS URGENT LESSONS FOR OUR OWN.**

The Karen B. Johnson Library served as an early voting site in June and October, and served as a Grand Jury site for the summer of 2020.

Plans were finalized for the renovation of the Woodlawn Branch Library, which was closed in the fall to prepare for the project.

Beginning October 5, 2020, all libraries, with the exception of Woodlawn, opened for limited in-person “Grab and Go” for library materials, fax and photocopy service, and computers by appointment. Community members were thrilled to be able to return to the libraries to select their own materials. The Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library was limited to in-person on Saturday mornings due to serving as a voting site and the potential planning for the distribution of the vaccine. Just as other county departments, non-profit organizations and businesses were faced with staffing shortages, we too had intermittent branch closures due to COVID-19.

The County experienced the beginning of the holiday surge around Thanksgiving and in December all libraries reverted to curbside service once again. The Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library was identified as the first Schenectady County Vaccine POD and preparations were underway in December to open the POD at the end of December, so curbside service ceased at this location. Ten key members of the staff were reassigned to assist the Public Health Services Department in the contact tracing effort to meet the demands of the surge. Administration was asked to undertake support for the Public Health Services “Swab Squad” effort, as library staff set up testing appointments and prepared the testing forms for the nurses. The Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library was converted into a vaccine POD which began the last week of December.

While 2020 began with great promise, we ended the year with a degree of uncertainty. Since we were unable to serve the public in our traditional manner, we were proud of the role we played in responding to the critical Public Health mission that was underway by the County. With vaccines on the horizon at years end, it is too soon to know what the impact on library services and our daily lives will be. One thing was certain as we ended the year – our lives had been dramatically changed in unimaginable ways and would never be the same as it once was. What does this hold for our library system as we head in to 2021? We look forward to hearing from our community and our dedicated library staff, Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library volunteers as we plan for the future.



# 2020 PHOTOS

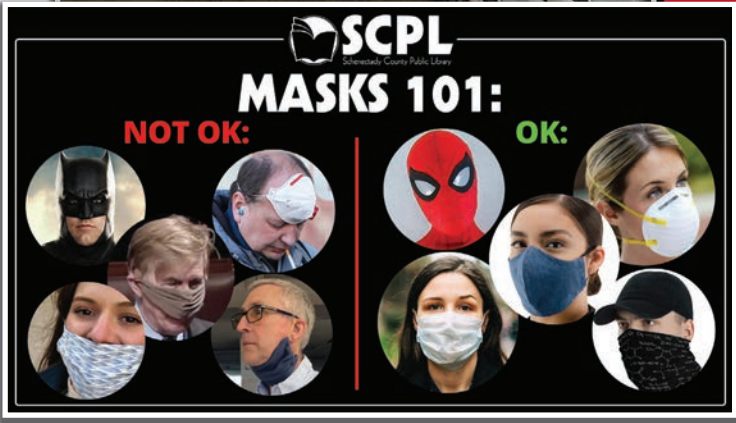


**ALL LOCATIONS ARE  
CLOSED  
TO THE PUBLIC AT THIS TIME.**

Please return your library materials to the book drops outside.

**You can still borrow materials through our** **CURB-SIDE PICKUP TO GO**

Go to [www.SCPL.org](http://www.SCPL.org) for information



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2019



From January 2016 through December 2019, I had the honor to serve as President of the Schenectady County Public Library's (SCPL) Board of Trustees. My first "official" act was welcoming the public to the grand opening of the Phyllis Bornt Family Literacy Center and Branch Library. One of my last was addressing the crowd at the dedication of the Honorable Karen B. Johnson Library this past September. And in between, of course, in May 2019, we celebrated the opening of the beautiful, new Mont Pleasant Branch Library.

The Mont Pleasant project represents an excellent example of a public/private collaboration. Our generous supporters care greatly about Schenectady, our Library, and all the people who comprise the Mont Pleasant community. The branch library has become an important component of the "Corridor of Hope" which is transforming that neighborhood, and the SCPL Board of Trustees are proud to have assisted in its development.

We were also gratified to work with community volunteer Dr. Frank Wicks to unveil statuary of William Seward and Harriet Tubman at the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Central Library, also in May 2019. It's fitting that the statue of two American leaders in the fight against slavery guides people to the doors of our free public library – a place where everyone in our community is welcome. Harriet Tubman, known far and wide as a master storyteller, never learned to read or write. The irony of that hit home because of our core mission - a mission that Karen Johnson understood and embraced – access to literacy. Literacy opens doors for all of us by unchaining our minds and imaginations, opening doors so that our creativity and empathy continues to expand. Karen Johnson knew that all of these values are the cornerstone of a healthy, thriving, sustainable community. She is missed.

Many of the capital projects happening at all of our SCPL branches are thanks to the contributions of Trustee Sharon Jordan, Chair of our Building Committee. We were excited that those achievements were recognized with a "Community Service" award by the Schenectady County Democratic Committee in October 2019.

Indeed, all of our trustees contribute greatly to the Schenectady County Public Library's success. The Planning Committee leads the development of the SCPL's 2020-2023 long-range plan of service; the Branch Committee continues to address constituent concerns and ideas for improvement; the Technology Committee keeps us on track to meet the changing technological needs of our residents; and the Finance Committee spends hours developing Library budgets that will sustain and grow our services. Thank you to them all for their volunteer contributions.

I cannot forget to also thank our Schenectady County Legislators, County Manager, and the Friends of the SCPL. Together with our talented and caring Library staff, led by Director Karen Bradley, they keep all of our branches vibrant.

Finally, I am so delighted that Rev. Dr. William Levering is our new trustee President. I am confident that Bill's vision, his compassion for all our community's residents, and, frankly, his good humor will help guide the Board and staff to meet whatever challenges the Library faces in upcoming years. Thanks, Bill. It has truly been my honor and pleasure to be a part of this dedicated team.

Sincerely,

*Carmel Patrick*

Carmel Patrick

President, SCPL Board of Trustees



*From l-to-r: Carmel Patrick, Sharon Jordan, Karen Bradley, Assemblymember Angelo Santabarbara*



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 2020



From the beginning of human civilization, libraries have been repositories of human culture: sanctuaries, not only of information, but for the richness of life together. For most of human history, libraries were connected to academic or religious institutions or were the hobby of wealthy individuals. Public access to cultural material was particularly championed in America as an expression of its populism, value of learning, and its democratic leanings. Ironically, it was wealthy philanthropists, like Andrew Carnegie, who saw the value of libraries and built thousands of public libraries between 1880 and 1930. By 1930, half of American public libraries had been built in this way. Growing up in the midwest, I remember regular trips to the cathedral that was the downtown library and can recall its impact as much as any other part of life.

In the United States, there are now over 9,000 independent public libraries, over 100,000 school libraries of various types, and about 1,000 libraries that are administratively controlled by a governmental entity. (ALA, 2018) The answer to the question of whether the Schenectady County Public Library System is independent or controlled by a governmental entity depends on who you ask.

In terms of the general 'job description' of public libraries, I think the 2007 list compiled by the Public Library Association is helpful:

1. Be an Informed Citizen: Local, National, and World Affairs
2. Build Successful Enterprises: Business and Nonprofit Support
3. Celebrate Diversity: Cultural Awareness
4. Connect to the Online World: Public Internet Access
5. Create Young Readers: Early Literacy
6. Discover Your Roots: Genealogy and Local History
7. Express Creativity: Create and Share Content
8. Get Facts Fast: Ready Reference
9. Know Your Community: Community Resources and Services
10. Learn to Read and Write: Adults, Teens, and Family Literature
11. Make Career Choices: Job and Career Development
12. Make Informed Decisions: Health, Wealth, and Other Life Choices
13. Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning
14. Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure
15. Succeed in School: Homework Help
16. Understand How to Find, Evaluate, and Use Information: Information Fluency
17. Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces
18. Welcome to the United States: Services for New Immigrants

This list makes a fine evaluative tool as we review the tremendous accomplishments of the SCPL in the last years. Each of these areas has been in the heart of our existence. While in 2020, the pandemic mitigated our ability to provide comfortable places (#17), we have done a remarkable job with the rest.

This annual report outlines many of the particular accomplishments of the library in 2020 and the years preceding it. As you look over it, you will be impressed with the range of activities SCPL has established.

## Board Work

The Trustees met regularly in 2020, supporting the work of our staff and responding to the changing needs of the County for our help with the pandemic. The County Manager invoked emergency powers and we found ourselves performing tasks that librarians never imagined. And we rose to the challenge presented by this unprecedented need.

The committees of the Trustees also met regularly to perform the vital tasks of keeping the organization going in Finance, Branches, Building, Planning, Policy, and our new Bequests Committee. In 2020, the Board established a Personnel Committee to review and assist the work of the Director and the Director's management of library personnel.

## Thanks

No remarks about our libraries would be complete without thanks to many people who make it work. Our Director, Karen Bradley, tops the list with her amazing dedication and perseverance to the work of the SCPL and service to the community. This year in particular, she rose to the many challenges of working with dramatic changes in the services we provide and stepped up in a way that library administrators are rarely called on to do.

The Friends of the Library have been outstanding in providing resources of all types and are a vital part of our mission. You can read their report here outlining their support.

I want to thank our previous President, Carmel Patrick, for the fine work she did on so many groundbreaking issues and Sharon Jordan in helping so many construction issues with our branches get accomplished in a difficult time. We thank those whose service ended in 2020, especially Marsha Mortimer, who served for so many years on the board.

## The Future

The pandemic has shown the flexibility of the SCPL and calls it to greater heights. We have seen the value of providing access to the internet and its resources. We have understood how to provide services in a new way to reach more people. We have seen the value of greater independence in personnel and communication issues to keep the goals of the library primary. All of these things call us to a different future that SCPL is ready to address.

We invite you, dear reader, to open this new chapter of our life together with us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bill Levering  
President, SCPL Board of Trustees



# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The mission of the SCPL Friends of the Library has always been to assist and support our library system in fulfilling its role as an essential institution dedicated to meeting the literacy, technology and cultural needs of our community. Between 2010 and 2019, the Friends of the Library have committed \$950,293 to our library system:

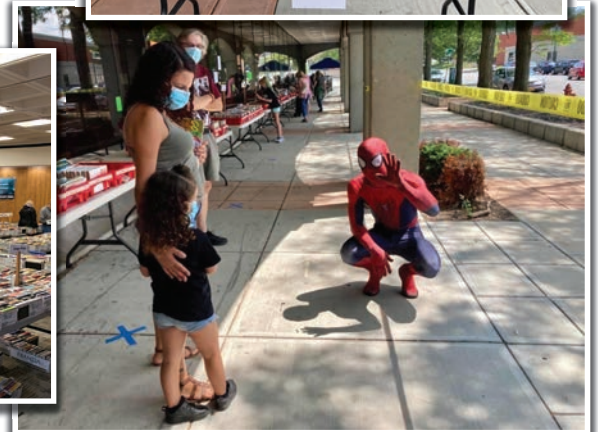
- \$582,469 was spent for programs for youth and adults
- \$195,494 was spent on capital expenditures
- \$129,847 for educational materials
- \$42,483 was spent on staff development.

Thanks to our wonderful, caring and fearless volunteers, and despite the Pandemic, the Friends made it through a challenging 2020 and did not miss a beat! Many programs had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 when the Governor issued a lock down in our state and the libraries closed. Delia Owens, author of **WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING**, was slated to speak at a much-anticipated event that had to be canceled for April, after many months of planning. The ever-popular **Repair Café**, the Annual Dinner, the last few **Beat the Snow** concerts, the **Young Musicians Forum**, the annual **Harry Potter Day**, and the great literary trips were also cancelled. As virtual programming took off around the country, the Friends began successfully utilizing this format for their **Books Sandwiched In** noon programs and planned to use this format for the **2021 Beat the Snow Concert Series**.

When the libraries closed on March 14th, 2020, the online store, the Whitney Book Corner and A Second Look bookstores also had to close. When the libraries began to plan for resumption of limited services in mid-June, online book sales resumed operations and the Friends were anxious to resume their operations. The bookstores followed in early July with limited hours. The Book Sale committee managed to have four outstanding, safe and socially distanced sidewalk sales, that were welcomed by the community.

Volunteer operations at the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library ceased again in early December due to the holiday surge of the COVID-19 virus, and preparations by the County for the library to become the first vaccine POD. That did not stop our Friends volunteers from planning for 2021. This incredible group of volunteers needs additional volunteers to assist in a wide variety of activities - whether you can commit to volunteer on a weekly basis or at the annual book sales, there is something for everyone!

Visit the Friends website <https://friendsofscpl.org> to learn more about how you can become involved.



# STATISTICS



## CIRCULATION

2019: 886,735  
2020: 320,428



## # REFERENCE QUESTIONS:

2019: 50,911  
2020: 24,211



**VISITOR COUNT:**  
2019: 663,882  
2020: 289,644

**# OF REGISTERED RESIDENT BORROWERS:**  
2019: 74,166  
2020: 66,238

**eCONTENT CIRCULATION**

2018: 85,312  
2019: 116,609  
2020: 131,659

Our digital e-content of ebooks, graphic novels, audio books, music, and movies on Hoopla & OverDrive INCREASED year over year.

**+12%**

	2019 # OF ATTENDEES:	2020 # OF ATTENDEES:
ADULTS	14,945	3,491 <b>-77%</b>
CHILDREN'S	36,810	16,050 <b>-56%</b>

**SCPL**  
Schenectady County Public Library  
[www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)

**# WIFI USERS**

2019: 88,937  
2020: 46,159

**# WEBSITE VISITS:**  
2019: 524,787  
2020: 332,995 **-37%**

**# COMPUTER USERS:**  
2019: 83,920  
2020: 14,985 **-82%**

\*COMBINED FROM ALL 9 SCPL LOCATIONS.



# SCPL

Schenectady County Public Library

## **Hon. Karen B. Johnson Library**

99 Clinton Street

518.388.4500

### **Phyllis Bornt Branch Library & Literacy Center**

948 State Street  
518.372.4393

### **Glenville Branch Library**

20 Glenridge Road  
518.386.2243

### **Mont Pleasant Branch Library**

1036 Crane Street  
518.386.2245

### **Niskayuna Branch Library**

2400 Nott Street East  
518.386.2249

### **Quaker Street Branch Library**

133 Bull Street, Delanson  
518.895.2719

### **Rotterdam Branch Library**

1100 N. Westcott Road  
518.356.3440

### **Scotia Branch Library**

14 Mohawk Avenue  
518.386.2247

### **Woodlawn Branch Library**

2 Sanford Street  
518.386.2248

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