



SCPL

Schenectady County Public Library



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

CREATING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

The scientific man does not aim at an immediate result. He does not expect that his advanced ideas will be readily taken up. His work is like that of the planter - for the future.

His duty is to lay the foundation for those who are to come, and point the way.
- Nikola Tesla

2014 brought some significant physical and operational changes to the Schenectady County Public Library System. The renovation of the Central Library Circulation and Reference service areas, made possible in part by a New York State Construction Grant, included the installation of a self-checkout system and material handling unit at Central. In preparation for the completion of this project, a team of volunteers and staff took on the arduous task of tagging half a million items with RFID chips in all nine of our libraries. Our new system creates greater efficiencies in the circulation of library materials and enhanced security.

In the Fall of 2014 the sidewalk of the Central Library was replaced, thanks to a New York State Construction Grant, along with assistance from Metroplex. Planning for physical improvements at the Quaker, Glenville and Niskayuna Branch libraries was begun, with projects slated for completion in 2015.

A major emphasis during 2014 was the planning for the construction of the new Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center, which merges the Duane Branch and the closed Hamilton Hill Branch. Site work was completed late in the year. This library will have an increased focus on literacy in all its forms, with an intense focus on early literacy. Program partnerships are being developed and strengthened with many community agencies in support of our literacy initiative. Construction is slated to be completed in late 2015.



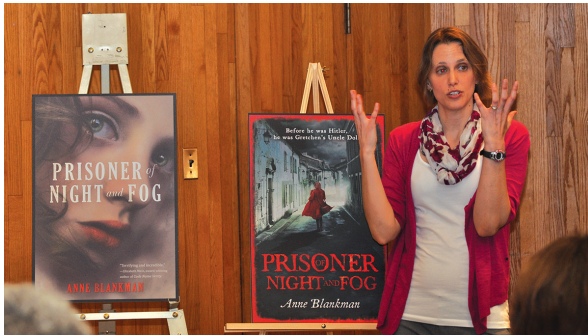
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Schenectady County Public Library
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The eighth One County, One Book program kicked off in March of 2014 featuring author Kristin Kimball's non-fiction book, **The Dirty Life**. Once again a community committee planned a series of related programs which included a film series, a writing workshop, book discussions, educational programs on eating locally and community gardens, and gardening programs for children. The highlight of the program was author Kristin Kimball's program held at SCCC.



Author, author, author! During 2014, we were fortunate to have additional author visits, two with local connections. In the Spring, Anne Blankman, a graduate of Niskayuna High School spoke about her first novel, **Prisoner of Night and Fog** and in the Fall we welcomed Schenectady native Elizabeth Rosner, author of **The Speed of Light** and **Blue Nude**. She discussed her new historical fiction novel **Electric City**, set in Schenectady, featuring Thomas Edison and Charles Steinmetz.



In the Spring we also hosted Eleanor Stinson, author of **Mud Season**. In the Fall, author Marion Blumenthal Lazan discussed **Four Perfect Pebbles**, her unforgettable memoir about the horror and hardship as a young Holocaust survivor; a story of courage, hope, and the will to survive. Just in time for Veteran's Day, Iraq War Veteran and author of the New York Times bestselling book **Until Tuesday**, and his newly released children's book **Tuesday Tucks Me In**, Luis Carlos Montalvan presented an afternoon program for children and an evening one for adults.



We offered a huge variety of programs at every location to attract children and families. STEM programming was in abundance throughout our libraries. There was also yoga, Lego building, Dad and Me sessions, literacy support, writing workshops, live drama, animal programs, arts and crafts and much more for children of all ages. We also continued our fruitful relationships with several community partners who provide wonderful, professional programs that supplement our own efforts. These partners included Capital District Child Care Council, Parsons Early Head Start, County and City school districts, Tang Museum, MiSci, Open Door Bookstore, WMHT and others.

Outreach efforts included participating in large community events such as the Jay Street Arts Festival, class visits and literacy nights at local elementary schools and visits to early education sites. SICM once again used the library as a free lunch site for six weeks during the summer. To invite some of those families into the library, weekly drop-in crafts were offered, and the CDCCC did some fun programs on family nutrition.

The New York State Department of Library Development chose our Library to be the kick off site for the statewide summer reading program. On hand were State Librarian Bernard Margolis, State and Local Government Officials, excited Youth Services Librarians, and State Education Commissioner John King, who gave a great talk about the importance of reading, and entertained Schenectady Day Nursery with a story time.



We promoted Take Your Child to the Library Day in February and declared March as Family Literacy Month, with special programs and incentives to read together as a family. In December, we joined the festivities downtown and hosted an open house, with treats and crafts for the kids. We owe a special thank you to our Friends of the Library for their financial support of our Youth and Adult Programs!

GRANTS • AWARDS • HONORS



GRANT PROGRAMS

DREAM BIG, READ

Awarded by the Schenectady Foundation to support emergent readers. BERKSHIRE BANK and GOLUB were also supporters of the DREAM BIG, READ program.

GETTING AHEAD WORKFORCE LITERACY GRANT

Awarded by MVLS

AUTHORS AMONG US

Awarded by MVLS

AWARDS

Community Collaborator of the Year

Awarded by the Capital District Child Care Council for DREAM BIG, READ

HONORS

Host site for the
NYS SUMMER READING KICKOFF



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Schenectady County Library System offers community members the opportunity to explore resources of all types and attend informative programs provided by generous funding from the SCPL Friends of the Library. Because of this institution, all citizens can sustain life-long learning interests and enjoy free cultural and recreational programs. Thank you to Director Karen Bradley, Assistant Director Serena Butch, and the dedicated staff for their tireless, committed work in these areas and to the volunteers in our Friends organization. In 2014, we had a total of 11,842 volunteer hours!

The Board of Trustees worked with and supported Director Karen Bradley as the Restructuring Action Plan moved forward. A significant upgrade to branch computers was done, a continued focus on literacy activities for all ages, a successful, informative One County, One Book program, and implementation of the RFID self-checkout system as examples. Work was begun by the Trustees on updating and expanding library policies.

We said good-bye to Trustee Lisa McHugh who conscientiously devoted time to chairing the Branch Committee. Welcome to new Trustees Donna Phillips, Jamaica Miles, Carmel Patrick, and Cori Hoffman, who will be sharing their expertise as the Board of Trustees looks to the future work of SCPL.



Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl H. Cufari, President
Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY INITIATIVE



Over the past several years, City Mission of Schenectady has promoted a community service philosophy, Bridges Out of Poverty, within Schenectady county. SCPL is particularly interested in and enthusiastic about the concepts it promotes as we are uniquely positioned to assist the members of our community who are most in need.

Library staff have been attending the two day introduction to Bridges principles along with a poverty simulation. Afterwards, they were encouraged to introduce new services or adapt current services to alleviate barriers preventing patrons from making full use of our resources. We have established a Bridges Implementation Team to continue to identify ways of implementing this program into our library system and look forward to changes in 2015.

STATISTICS



Location	2013	2014	%Change
Central	438,965	443,165	0.01
Duane	37,864	32,218	-14.9
Glenville	114,201	105,188	-7.9
Hamilton Hill	9,923	8 (CLOSED)	N/A
Mont Pleasant	41,499	40,201	-3.13
Niskayuna	198,150	197,953	-0.01
QS/Duanesburg	42,179	43,113	+2.21
Rotterdam	158,242	152,916	-3.37
Scotia	39,293	36,790	-6.37
Woodlawn	56,421	54,725	-3.0
Subtotals	1,136,737	1,106,277	-2.7
Electronic Materials	37,410	46,636	+24.66
Totals	1,174,174	1,152,913	-1.8

Programs

Adult	2013	2014
Number	324	395
Attendance	6,617	6,428
Children's	2013	2014
Number	1,337	1,329
Attendance	27,210	24,675

Specifics	2013	2014
Circulation	1,174,147	1,152,913
Inter-Library Loan	114,925	117,160
Registered Borrowers	95,137	95,709
Reference Questions	108,247	95,067

Fun Fact: Patrons logged in over 4,000,000 minutes of computer use in 2014. That calculates to over 7.6 years!

