



SCPL

Schenectady County Public Library



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

2016 was a memorable year. The new year began with the completion of the long awaited Phyllis Bornt Branch Library & Literacy Center at 948 State St. The construction of the new library was made possible by a bequest to our Board of Trustees from retired librarian, Phyllis Bornt, which laid the foundation for the Schenectady County Legislature to match the funds. We also had assistance from the Metroplex Development Authority, the City of Schenectady IDA, three New York State Construction grants awarded by the Mohawk Valley Library System, a \$150,000 donation from our Friends of the Library, a grant from the Wright Family Foundation for technology, and a grant from the Schenectady Foundation to enable us to become a Family Place Library.



Phyllis Bornt
September 14, 1929 - March 10, 2010
Thank you for your generosity.
Without you, none of this would have been possible.

On February 27, 2016 a ribbon cutting and community Open House was held with over 1,000 people in attendance! The first year of operation far exceeded our expectations with 82,150 residents coming through our doors, many in disbelief that such a modern, bright and beautiful 21st century library was built in the neighborhood. 1,047 residents received a library card for the first time. With an enhanced focus on literacy in all its forms - from early literacy, to digital literacy, financial literacy, health literacy, English as a Second Language classes, and writing programs - a total of 469 programs were offered, with 4,906 in attendance. With the great digital divide that exists in the neighborhood, the Bornt branch had 20,163 computer users and 13,737 free wireless users. With an enhanced collection of library materials in all formats, 61,169 items were circulated. With 51 hours of operation we have been able to better meet the needs of the community.

Library improvements did not stop here! Construction projects were successfully completed at several branches, including the repair of Niskayuna's roof and exterior back entrance; and the glass enclosure of Glenville's program room.





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Early literacy classes for pre-school children and families remain a priority of library programming, with nearly 600 classes given throughout the year.

Through our partnership with miSci, every branch received three STEM programs for school aged children. In addition, the museum received a grant from Glasko-Smith Kline (GSK) to provide summer classes at Central and branches on electricity, magnetism and sound for 1st-5th graders. Friends of SCPL funded a huge variety of professional quality programs, from High Peaks Juggling, Birds of Prey and other animal and nature adventures, to live theater and puppet shows. We also offered Lego club, cooking club, yoga story times and many other unique opportunities to create art, crafts and music at the library.



SCPL held a Bookface photo contest and social media campaign, involving book covers- for Library Lover's Month in February.

Local, award winning author Anne Blankman returned to SCPL to introduce her newest historical fiction book called **Traitor Angels**.

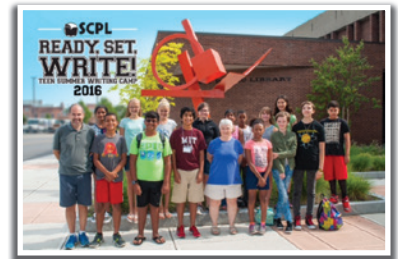
We started the summer season off with a special event at the Bornt Branch library. The New York State Summer Reading kick-off brought local dignitaries, as well as the Commissioner of Education Mary Ellen Elia, to the library to encourage summer reading and participation in the state wide effort to reduce summer slide. Over 1,300 children and teens were summer readers at our libraries, and over 7,000 attended summer programs.



We jumped on the popular Pokémon GO bandwagon during the summer by having libraries be Poké Stops and Poké Gyms.

Comic Con attracted a large crowd of children, teens and families who enjoyed presentations by graphic novelists and artists, including Dave Roman and Greg Capullo.

We once again had a great group of teen writers for a week of summer writing camp with instructors Marni



Gillard and Jack Rightmyer.

The Bornt Branch introduced programming specific to Family Place Libraries, including Stay & Play, which emphasizes early literacy support through play. They also provided a series of workshops to provide support to Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers, so they could learn how to incorporate early literacy skills to the children in their care.

SICM provided free lunches all summer to youth at Central and Mont Pleasant.

We were honored to have NYS Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli, visit the Bornt Branch during the school spring break week, as part of a citywide visit. He was able to spend some time with the children who were receiving free lunches during the week, thanks to Schenectady Rotary volunteers.



In December, Reference staff held a promotion of Mango, our language learning service, and distributed more than 150 Mango smoothies at Central and the Bornt Branch. Usage of Mango nearly quadrupled over the year before to 475 sessions for the month.



The Central Library hosted the Housing is a Human Right: 28th art exhibit by Rachel Falcone and Michael Premo, as part of Schenectady's participation in the Breathing Lights project for the month of November.

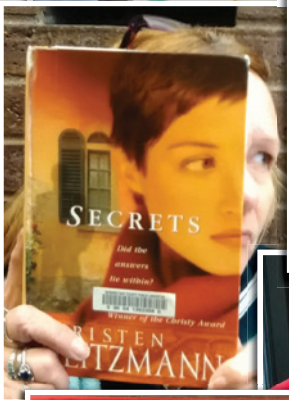
Thanks to the County's support of our Long Range Technology Plan, many libraries received updated computers and we were able to replace our aging microfilm readers with new computerized units which greatly enhanced the services we are able to provide to researchers.

In collaboration with the Schenectady County Historical Society, we received a grant to jointly send two dozen reels of microfilm of the Schenectady Reflector (one of our major nineteenth-century papers) to be scanned and made searchable by the New York State Historic Newspapers Project.

OUR STORY



MY LIBRARY IS IMPORTANT
BECAUSE...
It Feeds the Soul



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



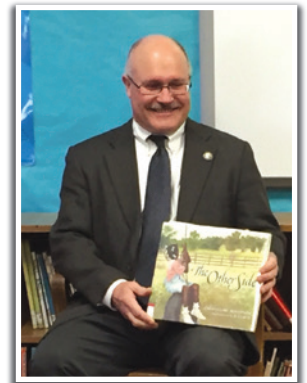
No matter what else is happening in the world beyond our doors, all of us value our libraries for different reasons. For me, the library has always been a refuge, a place to leave my worries behind for a bit while I escape into the stacks. For many of its patrons, however, the Schenectady County Public Library (SCPL) provides the chance to use a computer for a job search, be tutored in English, learn to manage their finances, or spend quality time as a family in a safe, warm space. In 2016, the SCPL provided all of that to its patrons and more, and I am proud to highlight a few of those achievements.

In February, we celebrated the opening of the SCPL's newest branch, the Phyllis Bornt Library Branch and Literacy Center. Throughout its first year, the Bornt exceeded all expectations. Its success may be measured not only by tremendous circulation statistics and program attendance, including over a thousand new patrons who got their very first library cards, but also through the enthusiastic responses from the community it serves. The project received tremendous support from Schenectady County legislators, the County Manager and other community partners, and we are thankful not only for their funding support, but for the time, counsel and caring that all brought to its completion. We are also grateful to the many other funders who made this beautiful new space possible, including the incredibly generous support of The Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library, The Mohawk Valley Library System, The State of New York Public Library Construction Grants, The Wright Family Foundation, The Schenectady Foundation, and, of course, former Schenectady County librarian, Miss Phyllis Bornt, and The Bornt Bequest through the SCPL Board of Trustees. Miss Bornt's love of reading – and her desire to inspire others to share her passion – truly made the vision for this branch a reality.

The Friends of the SCPL celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a series of successful events throughout 2016. We salute the Friends for all their support and look forward to the next 50 years of working together to strengthen the Library and grow its services in our community.

Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson, winner of the 2014 National Book Award for Young People's Literature, was chosen for the SCPL's "One County, One Book" community read. Events included a discussion of the book, a film series, memoir writing workshop, guest readers in the schools, a poetry writing contest, the "Grow A Reader" book drive, a visit with award-winning children's illustrator Bryan Collier, and an author visit with Ms. Woodson.

The Trustee's Planning Committee worked diligently to finalize and receive approval of the SCPL's Long Range Plan of Service for 2017-2019. Input from a community forum hosted in June helped to inform the committee in preparing the plan. You can review this plan on the library website at www.scpl.org.



Thanks to the advocacy efforts of the trustees, SCPL's 2017 budget included restoring a Librarian IV position to head Youth Services, an increase in security hours, and several capital projects. Thank you to the Schenectady County Legislature, as well as our County Manager and Budget Director, for supporting these budgetary initiatives.

2016 marked my first year as president of the Schenectady County Public Library's Board of Trustees. My learning curve was steep, so it was lucky for me that my fellow trustees shared their experience and knowledge with me throughout the year. Our community benefits greatly from their dedicated service.



And, finally, we are so fortunate to have the talented staff members of the Schenectady County Public Library, led by our Director, Karen Bradley, who make all this excitement happen throughout all of our branches. I thank them all for their creative and energetic work.

Sincerely,

Carmel Patrick

Carmel Patrick, President
Schenectady County Public Library Board of Trustees

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

2016 was a very special year as we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Friends of the Library organization.

Our Friends have contributed so much time, energy, expertise and a great deal of physical labor, to significantly enhance our library resources, programming and services over the years. The funds from the annual book sales, the operation of the Whitney Book Corner and the official online Amazon and eBay book sales, have been wisely spent to support our library system.

Our Junior Friends of the Library played a key role at many of our special events during 2016 - from opening day of the Bornt branch, to the spectacular 50th anniversary dinner, Comic Con, Harry Potter day, the annual family holiday event and numerous other activities and behind the scenes help!

Friends provided the rich cultural and educational programming for children and adults throughout 2016, including Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder; our One County, One Book, National Book Award author Jacqueline Woodson; award winning children's book illustrator Bryan Collier and programs such as Comic Con and Harry Potter Day. The installation of a new audio-visual system in the McChesney Room, and the \$150,000 financial commitment to the new Phyllis Bornt Branch Library and Literacy Center were significant contributions to our library. Thanks to the Friends 50th Anniversary Committee, Chaired by Rita Moore, for their hard work over two years to make this an extra special year for SCPL!



GRANTS & AWARDS

GRANT PROGRAMS

DREAM BIG, READ

Awarded by the Schenectady City School District

ADULT LITERACY GRANT

Awarded by the Mohawk Valley Library System

AUTHORS AMONG US

Awarded by the Mohawk Valley Library System

FAMILY PLACE LIBRARY GRANT

Awarded by the Schenectady Foundation

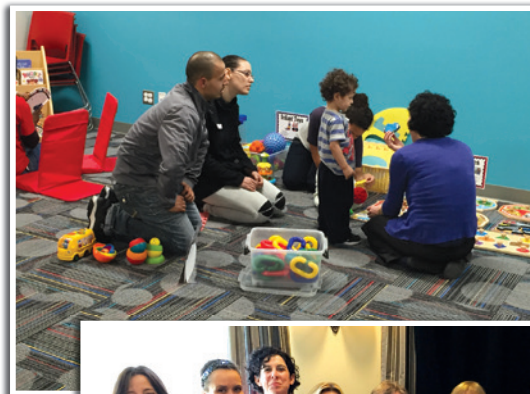
NYS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT

miSci GRANT PARTNER

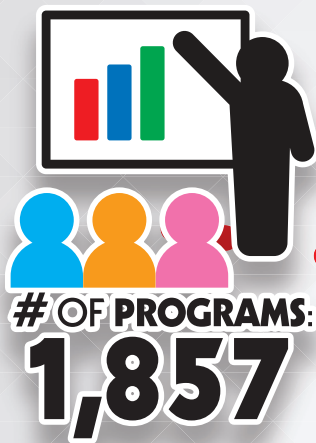
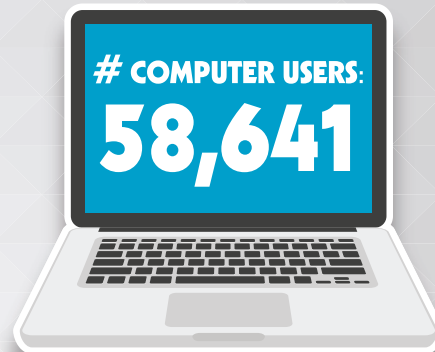
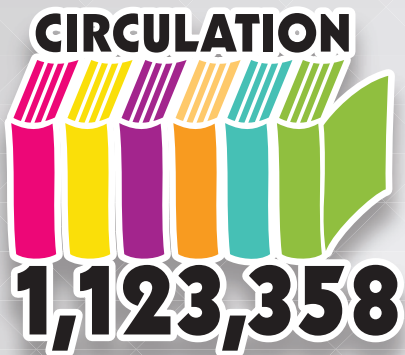
AWARDS

2016 CAPITAL REGION CHAMBER GOOD NEWS AWARD

Awarded by The Capital Region Chamber



STATISTICS



*COMBINED FROM ALL 9 SCPL LOCATIONS.

LEARN ENGLISH @ THE LIBRARY

Free ESL Adult Classes

Monday and Wednesday 5PM-8PM

Free information: 518.370.8820

ONE CITY ONE BOOK

Jacqueline Woodson

Monday April 4th 7:00pm

GE Theater @ PROCTORS

FREE

MAKE YOUR OWN CONTAINER GARDEN

Child Care Council of Albany

Tuesday May 31st 6:30pm

A drop-in family evening event. Have fun making a container garden to take home and grow!

Watercolor Painting

@ bornt branch Library

Part 1: Saturday October 8 3-4:30pm
Part 2: Saturday November 12 3-4:30pm

Tuesday Fall series

Phyllis Bornt Branch Library & Library Center

TUESDAYS @ 5:30PM

October 11: VOICED BRAIN BUILDING
October 18: DAILY ROUTINES
October 25: SING TO ME
November 1: POSITIVE GUIDANCE AND LITERACY
November 15: SIGHT WORD FUN
November 22: COUNTING ON READING

STAY & PLAY

Is there a 1, 2 or 3 year old child in your home? Stay & Play sessions are starting at the Bornt Branch Library!

What to Play & Play?
-A play program
-You will play with your child
-Talk to child experts to meet other parents

ALL AGES BOOKFAIR PHOTO CONTEST

WIN \$25 TO ONE OF OUR BEST BOOKS

How to Participate:
-Take a photo of your child reading a book from the fair
-Post it to the library's Facebook page
-Winning photo will be chosen by a random drawing on October 15th

MONEY MATTERS: FINANCIAL BOOTCAMP

presented by

MONDAYS
Sept 19, 26, Oct 3, 17, 24
6:30pm-8pm

Holiday Open House

Saturday December 10th 12pm-4pm

Presenting **THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!** Movie Matinee 11am-2pm

Crafts, Refreshments, Raffle & Holiday Games

LITTLE WONDERS

Join us as we introduce PRESCHOOLERS to SCIENCE CONCEPTS with education-led book readings and hands-on activities!

SATURDAYS @ 3PM

THE MIXED-UP CHALLENGE
October 10th
THE LITTLE OLD LADY WHO WAS NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING
November 10th
ZOO IN THESTRY
December 10th
TERRIFIC TRAINS

ABOUT 2016 Computer Classes

Get to know your iPad
Microsoft Word 2013: Basics
Microsoft Word 2013: Getting to Know Word
Microsoft Word 2013: File Management

Housing is a Human Right

28th Amendment art exhibit

Breathing Lights

STAY & PLAY

Is there a 1, 2 or 3 year old child in your home? Stay & Play sessions are starting at the Bornt Branch Library!

Spine Tingling TALES

Thursday, October 27th 6:00pm

Stories & SONGS

Under the Stars

Monday
Sept 14, 21, 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26
11AM

Anne Blankman

Sunday May 15th 2:00PM

McChesney Room - Central Library

READY, SET, WRITE!

TEEN SUMMER WRITING CAMP

FOR KIDS ENTERING GRADES 6-8
JULY 25-29TH
9:30AM-3:00PM

SATURDAY SUMMER

PHYLIS BORNT BRANCH LIBRARY

SATURDAYS @ 11:30AM

SPIN FINNWOOD CLUB

For ages 10+

TUESDAYS
Aug 23 & 30 5pm-6:30pm
Sept 6, 13, 20 & 27 4pm-5pm

Shakti: The Craft of Empowerment Belly Dance

Saturday August 6 2:00pm

THE HISTORY OF WOMEN DETECTIVES

Saturday October 22nd 1:30pm

Let's Play Game Day

For Grades K-4. No registration required.

Thursdays 3:30PM
March 31st
April 21st
May 19th

CREATE A SMASHBOOM

LUCKY

Tuesday August 2 6:15PM

TUNES for TOTS

For children aged below to 5 years with their Parent/Guardian

Monday May 23rd 10:30AM

PAWS for Reading with Kater!

For Grades K-4

Thursdays 3:30PM
March 24th
April 7th
April 14th
May 5th
May 12th

LEGO CLUB

For Grades K-4

Thursdays @ 3:30PM
March 3rd
March 10th
April 7th
April 14th
May 5th
May 12th

TAI CHI & QI GONG FOR HEALTH

Saturday NOV 5 3:30PM

HOMEMADE HOLIDAYS

Part I: Dec 29th
Part II: Dec 1st
Dorothy Felted Ornament December 8th
Fabric Greeting Part I: Dec 13th
Part II: Dec 15th
December 5th 5:30pm-7:30pm

Conversations Before the Crisis

The Legal Considerations
Thursday, October 12th @ 10am-12pm

JOHN SIMON

"We Can Talk About It Now"

Thursday November 3rd at 6:00pm

POKEMON GO @ SCPL

Join us for a special event celebrating the launch of the game!

Wednesdays
New 2nd, 9th, 16th
6:00pm-7:45pm

Spinning Around in the Word Pool

Choir Singing Poetry

Sunday November 20th 2:00pm

Community Writers

You are invited to hear an impressive variety of writers from our area! Listen to readings from local authors. Book sale and signings to follow. Refreshments served.

Sunday November 20th 2:00pm

March is Family Reading Month

Write down the titles you read and turn it in by April 1st to receive a prize!

Clifford's BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

Wednesday February 17th 10:1-1:30AM

ELECTRIC CITY

NETWORK SPARKED RAVE ROMAN

Saturday July 9, 2016 10am-4pm

STAR WARS

"BOARD GAME"

Monday January 4th 4:15PM

Read 'n Greet book club

Great food, great drink, even better company.

Tuesday, May 24th 7:00pm

MAGIC OF ELECTRICITY

Tuesday, March 22nd

PARADE OF THE ANIMALS

For Grades K-5

Tuesday February 23rd 4PM

DOCTOR WHO

THURSDAY MATCHUP 5:30PM

Mixed Media Collages

Monday December 5th 5-8PM



SCPL

Schenectady County Public Library

Central Library

99 Clinton Street

388.4500

Phyllis Bornt Branch Library & Literacy Center

948 State Street
372.4393

Glenville Branch Library

20 Glenridge Road
386.2243

Mont Pleasant Branch Library

1026 Crane Street
386.2245

Niskayuna Branch Library

2400 Nott Street East
386.2249

Quaker Street Branch Library

133 Bull Street, Delanson
895.2719

Rotterdam Branch Library

1100 N. Westcott Road
356.3440

Scotia Branch Library

14 Mohawk Avenue
386.2247

Woodlawn Branch Library

2 Sanford Street
386.2248

www.scpl.org