

2016 Annual Report

POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Popular Authors

One very effective way to encourage reading is to bring popular authors to Poughkeepsie. In 2016, the distinguished list of visitors included *NYTimes* columnist and author Frank Bruni (pictured); Marja Mills, author of *The Mockingbird*



Next Door; Debbie Macomber, creator of the hugely popular *Cedar Cove* series, among others; and Luis Alberto Urrea, author of our Big Read selection *Into the Beautiful North*. They all drew capacity crowds to the spacious program room at the new branch library, and Mr. Urrea also stayed with us for a second day in order to meet with local high school students.

Promoting the Arts

From monthly art exhibits at both libraries, to joint programs with the Bardavon and Hudson Valley Philharmonic, the Library District promoted every facet of the arts in 2016. Patrons of all ages were involved in producing the murals that now decorate the walls of the new branch library. In October, the Library District's support for the arts was recognized by Arts Mid-Hudson with a Special Citation in the Dutchess County Executive's Arts Awards.

Encouraging Young Readers

In addition to the usual array of hundreds of free programs, in 2016 the Library District also bused elementary school classes to the library for a story time and an introduction to all of the library's opportunities. Six local schools took advantage of this free service that was made possible by the generous support of our donors.



Major Exhibits

By hosting travelling exhibits for periods of four to six weeks, the Library District is able to delve deeper into topics of national interest. In January 2016, the issue of civil rights came into focus when Adriance Memorial Library hosted a major exhibit titled *Changing America: The Emancipation Proclamation, 1863 and the March on Washington, 1963*.



In the spring, the focus switched to Latino Americans and their contribution to the culture and history of America. *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* included a diverse set of events presenting films, scholar-led discussions, oral histories and two gallery exhibits.

In the summer, an interactive exhibit titled *Thinking Money* used an adventure-themed storyline, interactive iPad content and other activities to help youth explore themes like wants versus needs, preparing for a rainy day, and imagining your future self.

The Branch Thrives

Many of the major programs in 2016, including author appearances, were made possible by the spacious Greene Room at Boardman Road Branch Library. In its first full year, the new facility became a very popular destination, especially as more people



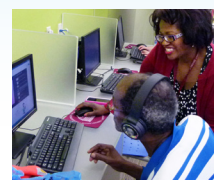
discovered the bookstore in the rear. "People love, love, love the Friends' bookstore," said

principal library clerk Tammy Myers, "They wish it was open every day of the week."

The branch also became a popular meeting place for community organizations of all shapes and sizes, including Toastmasters, American Association of University Women, AARP Tax Aide, High School Equivalency Class, First Dutchess Quilters, Jewish Federation of Dutchess County, and the American Sewing Guild. It was also common to see one-on-one tutoring going on throughout the library.

Technology for Everyone

Throughout the year, the library continued to be the place where



local residents could keep up with, and learn to take advantage

of, emerging new technologies, including 3D printing. With drop-in computer labs and Teen Geeks on hand to help people master their electronic devices, there was no need for anyone to feel left behind in the digital age.

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The Library District is grateful to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who contributed to the Annual Fund between January 1 and December 31, 2016.

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Poughkeepsie Public Library District

Financials

Revenue

Real Property Taxes	\$6,668,306
Pilot Payments	125,959
Library Charges	72,871
Interest and Earnings	8,599
Grants	31,094
State Aid	283,523
Gifts & Donations	138,112
Miscellaneous	66,941
Interfund Transfers	73,320
Use of Fund Balance	33,330
Total Revenue	\$7,502,055

Expenses

Salaries and Wages	\$3,165,572
Employee Benefits	1,441,404
Library Materials & Information Services ...	567,406
Equipment	15,775
Circulation & OPAC Management Fees	28,863
Operations	868,240
Debt Service	1,414,372
Interfund Transfers	423
Total Expenditures	\$7,502,055

2016 by the Numbers

Total visitors: **376,530**
 Items loaned or downloaded: **359,241**
 Reference questions: **17,014**
 Public computer log-ins: **145,397**
 Website log-ins: **318,476**



Programs:
 Total public programs: **2,852**
 Adult: **1471**
 Teen: **209**
 Tween: **67**
 Elementary: **252**
 Early Childhood: **483**

Non-library programs: **370**
 Total program attendance: **47,987**

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Message from the Board President

On an average day in 2016, more than a thousand people visited our two libraries, 400 people logged in to our public computers, there were eight public programs taking place, and almost a thousand items were borrowed or downloaded.

As you read the highlights from last year, I hope you will agree that our libraries are now true community centers; cultural, educational, and recreational hubs that serve everyone. Of course, reading continues to be the central mission of the Library District, and reading ability at a young age continues to be an important predictor of future success. This is why we bused hundreds of local elementary school children to our libraries last year to help them discover the joy of reading. It's very encouraging to note that books in print are currently enjoying a surge of popularity. The Publishers Association reported that in 2016, sales of children's books surged a whopping 16%.

2016 was the first full year of operation for the Boardman Road Branch Library, and what a year it was! Increasing numbers of people discovered the Friends' book store in the rear of the building, and the Greene Rooms drew large audiences while also providing meeting space for local organizations.

As 2016 drew to a close, the Library District was beginning work on a new Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on community engagement. As the members of the Board of Trustees, management, and staff worked together to discuss all of the challenges and opportunities before us, I was excited, as a Poughkeepsie resident, to look forward to all that our Library District will offer in the years ahead. - *Margaret Prescott*