

# POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



### THE GRAND REOPENING OF ADRIANCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

In the history of the Library District, 2009 will be remembered as the year the newly renovated Adriance Memorial Library was unveiled to the public. Over 400 patrons, Friends, board trustees and local dignitaries braved the frigid temperatures on Sunday, October 18 for the chance to celebrate and tour the newly renovated and expanded facility.

The cutting of the ribbon took only a moment but the preparation for that moment had occupied much of the year as the temporary location at Bancroft Road was vacated and the entire collection was installed at the beautiful new building on Market Street.

With City of Poughkeepsie Mayor John C. Tkazyik and Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor Pat Myers on hand to offer congratulatory remarks, this was a celebration of a community effort, a fact that Library Director Tom Lawrence emphasized in his remarks: "Four long years ago, we came to you with a plan and a plea," he said. "The plan was for the refurbishment of a beautiful old building that had long since been overwhelmed by the spatial and logistical requirements of a modern-day library. When the time came, you supported our vision of what this facility could be. And so today, on the library's 111th birthday, it is with heartfelt thanks that we welcome you to the dream you helped us achieve, the newly renovated Adriance Memorial Library."

### LIBRARIES PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN RECESSION

Throughout 2009, as the economic climate worsened, our public libraries saw an increasingly heavy demand for their services. As The Wall Street Journal reported, "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 résumés and scan ads for job listings."

Dan Matranga, a reference librarian at Adriance Memorial Library helped several job seekers with what was, for many, a new experience. "Uploading a resume to a company website often requires you to create an account on their website, fill several pages of information in their database, and usually upload a resume—even for the most basic of jobs," he said. "I've helped several people with CVS and Home Depot applications, and the process can be difficult, even counterintuitive. With so many employers expecting applications by email – if you don't have a computer or can no longer afford Internet access, the library becomes the only option."

Looking ahead to 2010 and the prospect of continued economic challenges for the community, Tom Lawrence, Executive Director of the Library District, said that the Library District was doing all that it could to accommodate the demand for computer access. "We increased the number of public computers at the Arlington Branch Library and increased the bandwidth at both libraries to accommodate this surge in computer usage," he said.



### THE FRANTIC FALL

October 2009 has to rank as one of the busiest months in the Library District's history. While preparing for the grand reopening of Adriance Memorial Library, staff members were also organizing the third annual Big

Read while also installing a major exhibit, *Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation*. The exhibit ran through November 1, and featured six sections of panels containing reproductions of rare historical documents, period photographs, and illustrative material covering the various stages of Lincoln's life. There was a series of author talks and events surrounding this prestigious exhibit.

The 2009 Big Read Book selection was *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Over 3000 participants in the various events traveled through Zora's world, including a Harlem tour featuring the key landmarks of the Harlem Renaissance; a screening of the film adaptation of the book; lectures by distinguished professors from Vassar, DCC, Marist and SUNY New Paltz; and a remarkable opening reception featuring keynote speaker Lucy Anne Hurston, Zora's niece and biographer. At the closing reception on November 1, the packed house witnessed the unveiling of the 2010 Big Read Book selection, *Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*.



### WELCOMING A NEW HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES

Scott Jarzombek has no difficulty relating to the interests of the young patrons he caters to. When asked what he likes most about working with kids, the new Head of Youth Services replied: "What don't I like?! I love doing story times, working with preschool groups; I am a big fan of graphic novels and comic books – I tend to have the same taste in movies and reading as most kids!!" Scott, a Long Island native, joined the Library District in the summer of 2009 following nine years working as a branch librarian in Albany.

Scott is familiar with the duties of opening a new library, as he opened the North Albany branch in 2006. He has a host of ideas on how to make the library an inviting and exciting place for children, tweens and teens to spend their time, and he has already implemented many of those ideas in the short amount of time he has been on board.



### VICTORY IN BATTLE!

After several years of "oh-so-close" second place finishes, the Library District's Battle of the Books team, Poughkeepsie Rules! placed first in the 2009 Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Battle of the Books competition.

The competition took place in September at Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Falls. Twenty-one teams from participating MHLS member libraries took part, and there were over 300 spectators cheering the competitors on. In a nail biting round, Poughkeepsie Rules! went head-to-head with their arch-rival, and last year's winners, the cunning and ruthless Mysterious Butterfield Society from Cold Spring. In the end, it all came down to a sudden death question – winner take all. Poughkeepsie Rules! was triumphant! According to Youth Services Librarian Beth Zambito, "I couldn't be more proud of the Poughkeepsie team! Their hard work this summer really paid off."

# 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 2009 Annual Fund. These lists reflect gifts received between April 15, 2009 and April 15, 2010, including gifts in response to the Annual Appeal.

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# POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT



## 2009 FINANCIALS

### Revenue

Real Property Taxes & PILOT Payments	\$4,474,943
Dutchess County	153,318
Library Charges	68,377
Annual Fund	29,498
Grants	102,014
State Aid	260,232
Interest and Earnings	33,104
Miscellaneous	131,489
Interfund Transfers	216,915
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,469,890</b>

### Expenditures

Salaries & Wages	\$2,242,920
Benefits	651,564
Equipment	55,239
Library Materials	286,369
Information Services	165,593
Operations	678,565
Debt Service	1,038,371
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$5,118,621</b>

## MAJOR GIFTS, GRANTS, BEQUESTS, ENDOWMENTS

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 Riverside Bank  
 Jeannette F. Schlobach Charitable Trust  
 State of New York  
 George Strba Charitable Trust  
 TD Banknorth  
 Time Warner Cable  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear friends:

2009 was perhaps our most exciting and significant year since Adriance Memorial Library first opened in 1898. It was appropriate that the formal reopening of the newly expanded and renovated library should take place on October 18, the 111th anniversary of that first opening.

Like colleges and hospitals, Adriance Memorial Library provides services that can improve a person's quality of life. It has provided services for one hundred and eleven years. It is one of the few Poughkeepsie institutions created in the nineteenth century that is still providing services in the twenty-first century. We survived the twentieth century by incorporating new information media into our library services.

For the community members, Friends of PPLD members, library staff, administration and Board members who participated in the years of discussion, research, and planning that brought us to that day, it was an unforgettable moment. It was a real joy to see our neighbors and community members pouring in to the building to see the results of the multi-year library renovation project.

None of this would have been possible without the financial support of the community. While my fellow Board members, together with the administration, staff and Friends of the Library District, felt a sense of pride on that exciting day, I sincerely hope that each of you, as a member of our community, feels that same sense of pride in this beautiful new facility. After all, this beautiful new library is our accomplishment as a community and this is our library.

On October 18, 2009, we began a new and exciting chapter in the history of the public libraries in Poughkeepsie. Attendance and circulation figures are setting new records for the Library District. I feel confident that, as a community, we have fulfilled the hopes of President Lane of the 1898 Common Council who expressed the hope that the facility would always be cared for by the community, "so that its influence for good may go on widening from generation to generation."

*Roland "Skip" Patterson  
 President, Board of Trustees, 2009*

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

**In Memory of Louis P. Barone, Sr.**  
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## POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

### Adriance Memorial Library

93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
 (845) 485-3445

### Arlington Branch Library

504 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
 (845) 485-3445

[www.poklib.org](http://www.poklib.org)

**E-mail:**

[administration@poklib.org](mailto:administration@poklib.org)



## 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. 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.

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