

# 2017 Annual Report

## POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

### The Year of the Author!

In 2017, thousands of local residents had the chance to meet a favorite author as the Library District invited celebrated writers to visit Poughkeepsie. Throughout the year, bestselling authors, award-winning poets, and eminent historians discussed their books and answered the questions local readers were longing to ask.

**“WHAT REALLY KNOCKS ME OUT IS A BOOK THAT, WHEN YOU'RE ALL DONE READING IT, YOU WISH THE AUTHOR THAT WROTE IT WAS A TERRIFIC FRIEND OF YOURS AND YOU COULD CALL HIM UP ON THE PHONE WHENEVER YOU FELT LIKE IT.”**  
**J.D. SALINGER, *THE CATCHER IN THE RYE***

### Words of War

Several of the author visits were part of the **Words of War** series in which the Library District, in partnership with the FDR Presidential Library, marked the anniversaries of World Wars I and II and the Vietnam War.



In January, **Donald Miller** visited Poughkeepsie to talk about *Masters of the Air*, his book on the American bombers who led the raids on Germany and the terrible cost for the German people.



**Julie Otsuka's** presentation in February addressed the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Her bestselling book, *When the Emperor was Divine*, was based on her family's experience at a camp in Utah.



In April, **Erik Larson** focused on his 2008 bestseller *In the Garden of Beasts* that recounts the experiences of the U.S. Ambassador to Germany and his family during the rise of the Nazis.



**Jeff Shaara** is the author of 13 *New York Times* bestselling works of historical fiction including five on the World Wars. His appearance at the branch library in July drew throngs of lifelong fans of his work.



When the Ken Burns series, *The Vietnam War* was shown on PBS in December, the Library District hosted **Geoffrey Ward** who wrote the series. In a conversation with Paul Sparrow, Director of the FDR Presidential Library, Geoffrey talked about the making of the film and his collaboration with Ken Burns.

### School Visits



Some of the writers visited local schools where the students had been studying their work. As part of the Big Read, celebrated Native American poet **Joy Harjo** visited three local high schools, inspiring the students and, just as importantly, the teachers. An English teacher at Poughkeepsie High School, sent the following reflection. “Our students took away from the symposium that their stories and ideas matter. As a teacher, I felt like it was a ray of light in the all too often overwhelming world of public education. I felt empowered to keep going.”



Children's book author **Joseph Bruchac** received a similar rave review. Here's how one local school administrator responded to his school visits: “Joseph Bruchac was FABULOUS at the morning middle school author's visit and again this afternoon at the elementary school. Please let me know how I can support your efforts so we can continue to provide these types of amazing experiences in our community.”



When **Christina Baker Kline** returned to Poughkeepsie in June to discuss her new book, *A Piece of the World*, her loyal fans were there to welcome her back. The book was inspired by Andrew Wyeth's mysterious painting, *Christina's World*. Baker Kline had previously visited in 2015 to discuss her enormously popular book *Orphan Train*.



**Sarah Vowell** is not only an author but also a journalist, social commentator and actress. When she spoke at Boardman Road in October, her stories of her evolution as a writer were frequently hilarious but, as the author of seven nonfiction books on American history and culture, she also shared her concerns about the direction of the nation.

# Annual Fund Contributors

The Library District is grateful to the individuals, businesses, and organizations who contributed to the Annual Fund between January 1 and December 31, 2017.

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# Poughkeepsie Public Library District

## Financials

### Revenue

Real Property Taxes .....	\$7,186,002
Pilot Payments .....	121,156
Library Charges .....	66,839
Interest and Earnings .....	25,028
Grants .....	23,404
State Aid .....	283,676
Gifts & Donations .....	139,955
Miscellaneous .....	52,856
Interfund Transfers .....	41,786
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$7,940,702</b>

### Expenses

Salaries and Wages .....	\$3,205,654
Employee Benefits .....	1,523,856
Library Materials & Information Services ...	637,008
Equipment .....	44,476
Circulation & OPAC Management Fees .....	54,203
Operations .....	947,697
Debt Service .....	1,411,166
Increase in Fund Balance .....	116,642
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,940,702</b>

## 2017 by the Numbers

Total visitors .....	363,985
Items loaned or downloaded .....	382,826
Reference questions .....	13,598
Public computer log-ins .....	134,187
Website log-ins .....	404,454

### Programs

Total public programs .....	3,211
Adult .....	1,369
Teen .....	145
Tween .....	88
Elementary .....	180
Early Childhood .....	509
Non-library programs .....	356
<b>Total program attendance</b> .....	<b>39,197</b>

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## Message from the Board President

If there was one central theme for the Library District's work in 2017, it would have to be "community engagement" and the further development of local partnerships. The Big Read alone involved 42 partner organizations including local schools, colleges, libraries and arts organizations.

Our flourishing partnership with the Bardavon continued in 2017. As part of The Big Read, Native American flautist Carlos Nakai performed with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Orchestra before an audience of more than 600. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum was again a valuable partner, particularly in our joint effort to mark the significant anniversaries of the World Wars.

The Library District's efforts to address the needs of our Hispanic population would not be possible without our cooperation with Literacy Connections and other community organizations. With their support, we were able to offer classes on health care, English as a second language, personal finance, and helping children to succeed in school.

Our collaboration with the schools and colleges produced some outstanding results. A partnership with Dutchess Community College led to 25 DCC students conducting a Renewable Energy Fair for 250 middle school students at the Branch Library. The DCC students took groups of youngsters through interactive presentations featuring videos, games, demonstrations, laughter, and questions. The school teachers were thrilled with how well this fit into the curriculum.

Of course, no annual report would be complete without recognizing our greatest supporters, the Friends of the Library District. Several major programs depended on their support and, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to offer them our gratitude for another year of great success.

And finally, thank you, our patrons, friends and neighbors, for supporting our programs, including our growing online offerings, and helping to turn our libraries into thriving community centers.

Mary Moore, *President, Board of Trustees*