

Troy Public Library
Mary Muller, Board President
Paul Hicok, Director

Our two buildings, both of which are on the National Historic Register, have been very much in focus this past year. As part of a series of building issues, highlighted in our recently completed existing facilities study, the two large balustrades along the front and south sides of the building's parapet walls were removed along with a cornice stone on the northwest corner of the Main Library. After a brief suspension, the Board approved continuing the library's effort to complete a full master plan for the library with the help of Butler Rowland Mays of Ballston Spa.

In 2014 the library held a series of local history presentations that drew over 245 people to the library. Topics included the Draft Riots, Troy in the Civil War, the Anti-Rent War and our most popular program, the Dutch History of the Area, presented by Janny Venema of the New Netherland Institute.

We expanded our Arts and Crafts Series, supported by a Community Arts Grant, a program funded by the Arts Center of the Capital Region through the New York State Council on the Arts. We had over 374 people participate in classes such as Beginning Embroidery, Intro to Watercolor Painting, Zentangle, Paper Crafting, Pottery, Candy Making and Basic Drawing. Another staple of our library programming, computer instruction, had strong attendance with more than 150 people utilizing the library to learn how to use email, eReaders, Microsoft Word, Excel and basic computing skills. Our book discussion groups continue to grow and thrive, with the library adding themed book discussions that have proven very popular, such as Understanding Shakespeare and an India study session. We expanded and developed a "Meet the Musicians of the Albany Symphony" program with musician talks at the library every Wednesday prior to the ASO performances at the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Also we began an ongoing series of guided meditation drop-in sessions that have proven to be very popular at both branches. And, of course, staff, board members and Friends once again marched this year in the Uncle Sam Parade in Lansingburgh. Featured in our group were Spiderman, Elsa from *Frozen* and the Magic School Bus, loaned to us by Fagan Associates and. A good time was had by all.

Storytime attendance has more than doubled at our Main branch and continues to thrive at our Lansingburgh location. Ongoing Lego Club and Family Science Nights, which began this past fall, are increasing in popularity. A meet and greet with the character Elsa from the movie *Frozen* drew more than 60 children and families who were thrilled to meet this Disney heroine.

More recently we received a Diversity in Action grant from ALA's children's division to increase diversity as well as STEM components in programming and materials for young people. This provided staff training, funding for several intercultural events for families, and books focused on common core mathematics for children, parents, and teachers.

We look forward to events such as Music Around the World, an intercultural sing-a-long, and The Last Dragon, a marionette puppet production dealing with the issues of stereotypes, discrimination, self-esteem, greed, and friendship.



Annual report summary

The annual report for 2014 shows a decrease in circulation from a total of 237,481 items circulated in 2013 to 224,446 in 2014. The circulation, however, at the Main Library decreased by only about 1% from 167,524 in 2013 to 165,840 in 2014. Circulation at Lansingburgh, however, decreased by 20.5% from 71,640 to 56,919. This decrease seems to have affected every category. Following is a breakdown of Lansingburgh statistics:

Adult Fiction	-13%
Adult Non-Fiction	-26%
Children's Fiction	-9%
Children's Non-Fiction	-9%
Audio Books/Music	-16%
Video	-29%
Periodicals	-41%

We are currently looking into reasons for such a significant decrease in circulation at the branch. As a result of compiling our annual reports, we have discovered a decrease in materials circulation at 30 of the 37 locations in the Upper Hudson system ranging from less than 1% to nearly 23%. We also suspect that the decrease in circulation at Lansingburgh may be partially caused by the changing nature of the neighborhood.

On a positive note, circulation of e-books and downloadable audio books has increased by 31% from 8658 in 2013 to 11406 in 2014.

To further summarize, program statistics have increased in 2014:

	2013	2014
Adults	2108	2658
Young Adult	645	749
Children	4329	5626

There was a slight increase in reference questions from 25,417 to 25,858, but a decrease in the number of users of public computer terminals from 37,991 to 35,824. Number of library visits also decreased from 85,397 to 81,128 in 2014.

Interlibrary loan activity decreased by about 6.7%, but the figures still indicate that TPL is a major net borrower:

Borrowed	35114
Loaned	26011

Total number of registered borrowers increased from 24,560 in 2013 to 25,568 in 2014.