

Annual Report 2010

(Note: This Annual Report was included as pages 6 & 7 of the May 2011 Guilderland Public Library Newsletter)

Over the past year, the Guilderland Public Library emphasized growing its genealogy and local history collections and surveyed the community to gauge residents' support of a building expansion. The survey's generally favorable results lead to some changes in the expansion design, and the Library's Board of Trustees' authorization of the inclusion of monies in the 2010/2011 budget to begin schematic design

Library Use Continues to Increase

The continuing recession resulted in increased use of the Library. While the door count remained stable at 328,475 visits, materials circulation increased slightly. Program attendance, though, increased by 23 percent! GPL loaned 95,528 books, DVDs, and other items to other UHLS libraries, becoming leading net lender in the consortium.

Customer use of GPL WiFi with their own laptops increased 32 percent over the previous year, while the Library's website attracted a 14 percent traffic boost. Internet presence was augmented with postings on various social networks, notably Facebook (Guilderland.Library), Twitter (GuilderlandLib), and YouTube (GuilderlandPublicLib).

Grant Support

Two grants helped move the Library's physical plant toward the future: the addition of roof-mounted solar panels, and the reconfiguration of interior space to create an additional meeting space, the Tawasentha Room. Further, installation of seasonally adjustable shutters on the Reading Room skylight resolved the long-standing solar glare problem.

A Special Legislative Grant funded installation of overhead projection systems in both the Helderberg and Normanskill rooms, as well as a speaker system in the Normanskill Room. This yields a marked improvement in the usability of these rooms for multimedia presentations.

Notable Programs

The Third Annual Family Fun Day was a rousing success with record-setting attendance. The Second Sunday concerts attracted sizable crowds, and the Library's special multi-age programming complementing the Hudson Quadricentennial Celebration was well attended.

One very popular series was devoted to the preservation of family history documents.

The Library's commitment to Lifelong Learning was met with programs of interest to all ages and literacy levels. The partnership with Literacy New York, Greater Capital Region was enhanced thanks to a \$13,589 State Library Adult Literacy Education Grant.

Health & Wellness collaborations included partnerships with the Guilderland YMCA, New York State Office for the Aging, Bellevue Woman's Care Center, Price Chopper, and the Albany County Department of Health.

A very successful Baby Palooza was held with support from the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations' "Babies Need Books" grant and the Friends of the Guilderland Library. Additionally, Older Adult Outreach programming and partnerships with assisted living facilities, nursing homes and Guilderland Senior Services continued.



Baby Palooza gave parents their own "Baby Information Fair."

By teaming with the Small Business Development Center and the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce, the second Small Business Workshops was held; this series helps small businesses thrive and aids business start-ups.

New Policies

To make up for anticipated New York State funding cuts, and to minimize taxes paid by district residents, a new policy required non-resident cardholders to pay a \$25 annual fee. This met with mixed reactions, but resulted in \$11,740 in new revenue, more than that received from the state.

Volunteer Activities

The Friends of the Library continued to stock the Book Nook and began to hold monthly "Better Book" sales. The Friends sponsored a spring semester intern from the University at Albany's Library Information Sciences graduate program.

The Foundation sponsored a number of successful programs: "Shred Days," a Holiday Basket Raffle, the Annual Giving Tree, and a Carol J. Hamblin Notable Author event featuring Robert Mankoff, cartoon editor of the *New Yorker* magazine.



Above: The crew from ETM Solar paused after completing the installation of the Library's grant-funded solar panels.



Right: Library Director Barbara Nichols Randall and a NYSERDA executive unveil the permanent Solar Panel Energy Generation Display at the Library's solar panels ribbon cutting.



A record crowd turned out in the Community Literary Garden for Family Fun Day 2010. The day was graced by warm, sunny skies. The younger patrons had fun while parents took advantage of the time to sit and chat with friends and Library staff.



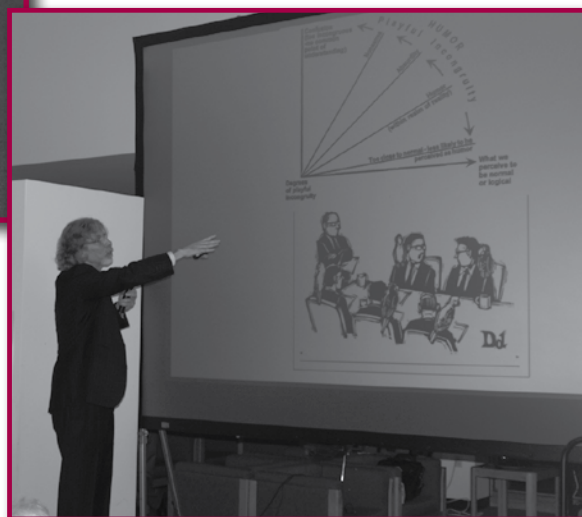
Above: Carol J. Hamblin -- namesake of the Library's Notable Authors Speakers Series -- was delighted to meet New Yorker magazine cartoon editor Bob Mankoff, speaker at the December 2010 author event.



The Book Nook, a retail kiosk just inside the Library's doors, raised money for the Library through the sale of donated books and from those removed from the Library's collection.



This Family Fun Day snap was taken a nanosecond before the seated Library staffer was dunked by a patron's well-aimed throw.



Right: Mr. Mankoff explains why some cartoons work, and some don't.



Learning baby massage at Baby Palooza.