



MHLS BULLETIN

Mid-Hudson Library System | Serving the Staff and Trustees of Public Libraries in the Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam & Ulster County Area
103 Market Street - Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 - 845.471.6060 - Fax: 845.454.5940 - <http://midhudson.org>



Happy Holidays From MHLS



Starting from back row, left (l-r): Doris Formby, Joan Kay, Tara Stohr, Tim Miller, Peggy Winn, John Plambeck, Margaret Keefe, Tom Finnigan, Mark Giordano, and Chris Herron. *Front row (l-r):* Karen O'Brien, Merribeth Advocate, Kerstin Cruger, Josh Cohen, Lena Smolon, Deborah Begley, Linda Vittone, Kit Kassel. *Not pictured:* Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Keith Byron, Bobbi Clapp, Sanjay Dabhi, Gerry Formby, Erica Freudenberger, Jim Lind, TJ Schell, Laurie Shedrick, Bob Shupinski, Mohamed Toufali

2008 Highlights

Advocacy Success

- 88% of member libraries' budget votes passed
- County funding maintained or increased in all five counties
- One-time \$14 million State Aid for Public Library Construction included in NYS Budget
- 20% state funding proposed cut avoided

[Stay tuned: 18% cut proposed for 2009. Save the Date: Library Lobby Day @Albany: Tuesday, March 10th]

Award Winning Projects

- Kids' Catalog wins 2008 Be Innovative Award [<http://gigcat.midhudson.org:90/search~S2>]
- Health Information Project (HIP) wins 2008 Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award [<http://hip.midhudson.org/>]

Delivery Department

- The delivery staff saw a 15% increase in volume through the MHLS Delivery system.

Continuing Education

- Adult Programmer Users Group launched
- Roundtable for New Directors launched
- Board Leadership Begins with You
- Helping Your Patrons Easily, Effectively and with Expertise
- Help Your Patrons Find Books They Will Love
- Master the Power of the OPAC!
- Library Security that Works! with Black Belt Librarian Warren Graham
- 1st graduating class in the MHLS area from the Long Island University Palmer Institute for Public Library Organization & Management's Public Library Administrators Program

Trustee Resources

- New Trustee Essentials Curriculum launched
- Over 100 trustees from 70% of member libraries attended Trustee Essentials
- Advanced Trustee Sessions: Ten Obstacles to Board Effectiveness
- More than 60 new sample policies were added to the MHLS Sample Public Library Policies & Policy Development Tips page in the Trustee Resources area of midhudson.org
- *Across the Board* got back to basics with issues on: *Roles & Responsibilities, Open Meetings Law & Freedom of Information Law, Community Communications, and The Worth of Your Library.*

Millennium

- New release results in customizable delivery slips and hold shelf slips
- Due dates are now determined by where a patron picks up their items
- New scopes added for YA, Adult and special material types
- Patrons can access full-text magazine and newspaper articles found in **HOMEACCESS** through the OPAC
- New itype for "Gaming" added
- *Top Ten Data Entry Errors* training attended by 97% of member libraries

Youth Services

- Over 100 teens from 15 member libraries representing all five counties participated in the 4th annual Battle of the Books
- 10th Annual Fall into Books Children's and Teen Literature Conference
- Gaming mini-grants and workshop offered for the Summer Reading Program
- Workshop highlights: Notable Book Banquets in Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster Counties, 2nd Annual Table Talks, Serving Homeschool Families, Connecting Boys with Books workshop with Michael Sullivan & Better Book Discussions for Children and Teens workshop

Marketing & Programs

- *Building Your Base* Toolkit Launched [<http://midhudson.org/byb/>], highlights include:
 - ♦ 4 Steps to Effective Targeting
 - ♦ Sample targeting materials
 - ♦ Fresh programming ideas and resources
 - ♦ Tips for communicating better with your patrons online
- New **HOMEACCESS** interface launched, including county-based portal versions to help with county funding advocacy
- Newsletter Service for members launched
- *Libraries... Here to Help* bilingual (double sided: English/Spanish) bookmark
- Friends Recognition Dinner event during National Friends of Libraries week with keynote speaker, author Marshall Karp
- *EZ Library Program Database* tops 700 programs [<http://support.midhudson.org/ezprogram/ezprogram.htm>]

Since 1959, the Mid-Hudson Library System has acted to insure the public's right to free access, facilitate economical resource sharing, and promote professional library services while working in partnerships with the independent public and free association libraries in the designated service region.