



MAKING CONNECTIONS

2011 Annual Report



CONNECTING with the Community

Adriance and Arlington libraries counted 362,392 patron visits (combined) in 2011. The reasons why people come to the libraries of PPLD are varied: some school children come to plant trees (Arbor Day) or flower bulbs, many patrons come to use the public computers (103,469 log-ons) or get their questions answered by the Reference staff (90,116 queries). Some people come for weekly GED classes and others come to discuss books, make craft projects, cook, or enjoy a free movie. Many patrons enjoy checking out materials to take home (422,270 items) and others are drawn to the varied classes and events hosted by the libraries (combined program attendance of 26,488). We also know parents who look to library groups for support, teens who count on the safe, creative environment, seniors who pick up valuable tips for coping with a complex and changing world, and job seekers who value the personal support and on-line access at the library that is so critical to their situation. When the Library District can partner with local schools, business experts, arts organizations, non-profits and local civic leaders on creative projects, educational workshops, literacy efforts, thoughtful discussions and cultural enrichment, it is, indeed, connecting with the community!



CONNECTING with History

Every culture is enriched by understanding its own history better, and the local library is the perfect venue for that connection. In 2011, the Library District hosted an American Library Association traveling exhibit on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, accompanied by a lecture series from local experts. We also hosted a fascinating series entitled *Ancient Greeks/Modern Lives*, which explored classical literature and how it continues to influence American culture today. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was celebrated with an examination of his famous 'Drum Major Instinct' speech from 1968, and we marked the 10-year Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks with a thoughtful facilitated discussion among community members. We welcomed patrons to explore their own family tree with a Genealogy program and access to our extensive records, and facilitated important discussions of race in education and culture. Local authors and historians shared their knowledge of local history at book discussions and walking tours. The Friends of PPLD hosted three popular historical bus trips to locations in Hartford, Connecticut and Manhattan.



CONNECTING with Diverse Cultures

The library is a great place for cultural exploration. In 2011 we hosted ethnic food tastings, Classical Indian Dance instruction and performance, African drumming, storytellers and readings of tales from around the world, exploration of deaf culture and sign language, puppet shows, and lots of creative craft times inspired by various cultures. The Library District opened La Plaza del Aprendizaje (The Learning Plaza) in September, a collaboration with Literacy Connections designed to better serve the Spanish-speaking population. La Plaza offers regular English as a Second Language classes and computer labs, along with monthly speakers on topics of interest to our Spanish-speaking patrons. The Library District also hosted nine respected authors throughout the year, inspiring patrons to read and write more, and to engage with literature from a fresh perspective.



CONNECTING with Patrons

"The instructors are so gifted. I leave confident and empowered." PCC patron

"Thanks for creating the Rotunda Gallery and hosting all the beautiful artwork. It really adds to the experience of visiting the whole beautiful space that is Adriance." Melina Makris, writer for *Southern Dutchess News*

"Thank you for all your hard work on The Big Read. My students learned a great deal, as did I." Cindy Glozier, teacher

"The Poughkeepsie Public Library proved to be an invaluable tool for me. With the many topics and themes I covered, the library was able to lend me various picture books, audio books and DVDs to supplement my materials." Georgeanne Bottjer, PreSchool teacher (excerpted from the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, 7/9/2011, Letter to the Editor)

"Their love of reading and literature is blossoming due to the varied programs at the library." C. Hander, about her children

"Today a new world opened up for me. Thank you very much!" PCC patron

"I really enjoy coming to the Library on Mondays. I enjoy playing games and connecting with new people." L. Smith, Arlington patron



CONNECTING with the Arts

The word 'Art' conjures different images for different people. For some, it means beautiful poetry or fiction, for others it means theatre, dance or film, and for others it takes shape in sculpture, on canvas or in photographs! The Library District provides many opportunities for children, teens and adults to explore and experience various art forms throughout the year in educational and enrichment programs. In 2011, the Library District initiated the Rotunda Gallery as an opportunity for accomplished local artists to exhibit their work in the beautiful open space of Adriance's rotunda. Library patrons regularly experience extraordinary visual art as they pass through the gallery. The Library District also received several gifts of art in 2011, two by lenticular artist Michael Asbill, gifts from the Charwat family and the Dutchess County Arts Council, and a set of sculpted children from the Pattersons. Asbill's forty-two foot installation in the iCommons employs vintage photos from the Adriance local history collection. The Big Read 2011 brought great literature to the stage in wonderful community collaborations for a fully-staged dramatic production of *Our Town* and a unique ballet interpretation of the Wilder classic. Stimulating examination of literature and poetry, and screening of great films also continue as staples of our library program schedule, giving patrons myriad opportunities to connect with their favorite form of art!



CONNECTING with Technology

With the flood of electronic gadgets and the ever-changing tide of computerized information management, patrons look to the library for e-resources and expert guidance to stay 'up-to-date'. In 2011, the Library District welcomed 912 patrons into a range of computer classes, and logged a combined attendance of 1519 users in computer lab sessions. Patrons regularly fill every seat in the iCommons for free access to email and Internet; for many, it is their only opportunity to 'connect' electronically. The Library District offers eBooks and Nook eReaders, and more recently, computer labs for Spanish-speakers. The Public Computer Center programs have been lauded for boosting individual technology literacy, assisting patrons with critical job searches and applications, and facilitating increased comfort with social networking, management of data for job or personal use, and much more.

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 2011 Annual Fund. These lists reflect gifts received between January 1 and December 31, 2011, including gifts in response to the Friends' Appeals. *All names are listed as requested by the donor.*

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"A LIBRARY WITHIN A COMMUNITY STANDS AS A TESTIMONIAL TO ITS VALUES, ITS BELIEF IN UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO LITERATURE AND KNOWLEDGE."

Scott Turow, Huffington Post



FINANCIALS 2011

Revenue

Real Property Taxes & PILOT Payments	\$5,367,953
Dutchess County	52,081
Library Charges	86,040
Annual Fund	25,652
Grants	95,959
State Aid	227,043
Interest and Earnings	10,900
Miscellaneous	174,579
Interfund Transfers	4,000
Total Revenue	\$6,044,209

Expenditures

Salaries & Wages	\$2,480,304
General Support MTA Commuter Tax	8,403
Benefits	1,064,467
Equipment	32,638
Library Materials	346,096
Automation	23,568
Information Services	42,640
Operations	1,029,663
Debt Service	973,264
Interfund Transfers	62,496
Total Expenditures	\$6,020,090

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MESSAGE from the Board President

There was a time when public libraries simply preserved book collections. As you will realize while reading this report on the Library District's progress in 2011, times have changed. Of course, Poughkeepsie's libraries still lend out materials, at a rate of more than a thousand a day, but the mission is more accurately described as "making connections" rather than merely preserving collections. The passive shelving and lending of books has transitioned into a proactive outreach to identify and address the needs of the community.

In 2011 the Library District initiated new programs to serve patrons. The Library District opened the **Community Learning Plaza – La Plaza del Aprendizaje** - in response to the needs of our growing Hispanic population. With E.S.L. classes and presentations on health care, personal finance, and helping children to succeed in school, La Plaza has been a popular and effective addition to the Library District's services.

The **Public Computer Center** addressed the needs of hundreds of local residents who were unemployed, underemployed, or simply adjusting to our increasingly technological age. Participants could learn how to

improve their resumes, find a job, use a computer, create more effective PowerPoint presentations, or learn how to fully utilize their e-readers or i-Pads.

The District continued to bring the community together for presentations of cultural, historical and literary interest. Once again we offered a broad selection of **Big Read** events. PPLD is honored to be one of few recipients of Big Read funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Finally, the Annual Report would not be complete without a word of congratulations to the Friends of the Library District. Under the leadership of Pat Breen, the Friends continued to provide an astonishing level of support for the Library District in 2011. This organization won national recognition this year. Several programs depend on the support of the Friends and, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to offer them our thanks and congratulations on another year of great success. Our gratitude extends to all those who have supported us, including volunteers, demonstrating clearly how much they value having vital libraries in the community.

Lila Lynch, *President, Board of Trustees*