

2014 Annual Report (UHLS)

**TOWN OF WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY (Westerlo)**

Laura Tenney, Board President

Sue Hoadley, Director



2014 brought the finishing touch – the icing on the cake! – of the transformation we began two years ago to stabilize and maintain our building with State Library Construction Grants. After the last traces of lead were mitigated, and the old peeling paint was scraped away, repairs were made to the wood siding and trim, and a fresh coat of paint was applied.

To further our stewardship of the building, we had the great honor of receiving an \$8400 grant from the Preservation League of New York. In the past decade, only two public libraries have received Preserve NY grants. The grant will be used to produce a Historic Structure Report to document the historic development of the building, assess its current condition, and plan for the challenge of meeting modern needs in a historic facility.

In 2014, the library was open to the public 29 hours per week for 300 days. 9001 children and adults entered the building. We circulated 16,866 items. Of those, 5910 items were borrowed from member libraries in the Upper Hudson system. In turn, we loaned 5250 items from our collection to patrons at the other member libraries. In addition to books, audios and movies, our patrons downloaded 791 items of e-content from Overdrive: e-books, audiobooks and videos. Our two public computers were used 762 times and many more took advantage of our 24/7 WiFi service.



Our outreach to children increased again in 2014. We offered 78 programs attended by 409 children and young adults. In 2014 we introduced “Read to Angus,” a certified

therapy dog. Our adult book and quilting groups met 36 times with attendance of 157. The New York Statewide Summer Reading Program is held annually to encourage school-aged children to read for pleasure during summer vacation. This year's theme was "Fizz, Boom Read!"

The trustees held their annual Mother's Day Bake Sale in May. The library received a third \$500 grant from the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation and \$350 from Stewart's Charitable Foundation. At the close of the year we were very surprised and delighted by an unanticipated anonymous gift of \$5000 to our Capital Fund.

Thanks to our dedicated trustees, staff and volunteers, we connect the Town of Westerlo to a world of ideas and information. We could not do it without the support of our Town Board and the community as a whole. Together we are building a richer quality of life for all of the citizens of Westerlo.