

## WESTERLO PUBLIC LIBRARY / 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Laura Tenney, Board President

Sue Hoadley, Library Director

In 2017, the Library was open to the public 29 hours per week, six days a week, for 300 days. 8469 children and adults entered the building. We circulated 16,840 items. Of those, 5189 items were borrowed from other member libraries in the Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS). In turn, we loaned 5487 items from our collection to patrons at those member libraries. In addition to physical books, audios and movies, our patrons downloaded 1916 items of e-content from Overdrive in the form of e-books, audiobooks, videos and magazines. Our three new public laptop computers were used 605 times and many more took advantage of our 24/7 free WiFi service.

Our patrons are served by four part-time staff members: Sue Hoadley, Library Director; Kimberly Slingerland, Library Clerk/Technical Services; Amy Powarzynski, Library Clerk/Adult Services; and Lee Ackerman-Sawyer, Library Clerk/Youth Services. Together these four staffers comprise 1.3 FTEs (Full Time Equivalents).

We presented 62 programs attended by 403 children and teens. Our certified therapy dog reading program continued on a monthly basis with a new dog, Lefty. We participated in the State Summer Reading Program, themed “Build a Better World,” held annually to encourage school-aged children to read for pleasure during summer vacation. Our adult book discussion and new memoir writing group met 27 times with attendance of 84.

In September we initiated a program to deliver library materials to the homebound. In a great spirit of interdepartmental cooperation, the town Assessor’s Office offered to include our brochure in their year-end mailing to seniors and disabled tax payers.

The trustees raised \$313 at their annual Mother’s Day Book & Bake Sale in May. The Library received a \$500 grant from Stewart’s Charitable Foundation and \$200 from the Bank of Greene County. We also received \$1530 in small memorial gifts and donations. And over the course of the year we received two major gifts totaling \$7500 for our Capital Fund. A \$1200 early literacy grant from the Upper Hudson Library System paid for a new rug and furniture in the children’s play area.



In February, we began a complete reconstruction of the space formerly occupied by the Town Museum to create a new 600 square-foot program and community room. The project was funded by a \$75,000 public library construction grant, matched by \$25,000 through local fundraising. Key to these matching funds is the capital fund “seed money” the Town Board

supports as a line item in our operating budget. These funds make all of our improvements to the library possible – large and small!

In March, Westerlo became the first completely wireless library in UHLS. We replaced all of our old staff and public computers (which were hand-me-downs from UHLS) and added a new all-in-one wireless printer. No longer hard-wired to dedicated workstations, patrons can now take a public laptop wherever they feel comfortable. The wireless printer is also accessible from personal devices. This upgrade was made possible by a \$1500 Special Legislative Grant from State Senator Amedore in 2016.



In 2017 Senator Amedore awarded us a \$3000 Special Legislative Grant that paid for more than half the cost of the new audio/visual system in the Hannay Community Room.

But, the most satisfying work that we do is that which makes a difference in the lives of individuals. For over a year, one of our staff has been assisting a Navy veteran in establishing eligibility for Agent Orange-related medical care from the Veterans Administration. Working with the veteran, our staff member meticulously assembled records of the ship logs and other documentation and coordinated the findings with his shipmates. Progress has been slow, but the VA is beginning to pay attention.



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 contribute to building a richer quality of life for all of the citizens of Westerlo.

**2017 Board of Library Trustees:**

- Laura Tenney, President (2021)
- Roberta Nunn, Secretary (2021)
- Susan Cunningham (2022)
- Susan Keitel ((2020)
- Lila Smith (2020)
- Robert Wilcox (2021)