

2016 Annual Narrative Berne Public Library

Submitted by Judy Petrosillo, Director
JoAnne Brady, President of the Board of Trustees

It has been three years since we moved to our new building and we still appreciate the space. We are pleased to report that the circulation and visitation numbers continue to increase. These statistics helped the Board of Trustees muster support for four more library hours, a goal in our strategic plan. The trustees worked diligently on increasing hours, developing policies, and having our first official evaluation of the library director.

Monies from our fourth NYS library construction grant were used for energy efficient windows and repair of the exterior brickwork. A special legislative grant, sponsored by Senator George Amedore, was used to purchase and install a new thru-wall book return. The building renovations are now considered complete, until the roof needs replacing!

A wave of disappointment occurred over Memorial Day Weekend when a heavy downpour caused water to flow into the library building. No books were affected but the drying process required ripping off baseboard molding. A contribution from the NYLA Disaster Relief Fund helped with the unexpected expenses. The building quickly returned to normal but it did remind us of why we need a disaster plan.

Some of our regularly scheduled programs flourished over this year. These included our monthly Book Club and Knit Wits for adults; TAG for teens; and a weekly story time for preschoolers. Storytime continues to be our most popular program with an average attendance of seventeen children and adults.

Of the fifty-one programs for adults, people especially enjoyed the Care and Feeding of the Antique Clock, Glazing Pottery, Low Maintenance Gardening, and Wreath Making programs. The summer reading program for adults focused on a healthy body and mind with a series of programs including spa night, zentangle, yoga, and coloring.

The teens must have enjoyed their monthly Friday night at the library because they kept coming back. It might have something to do with the fun activities which included solving an escape room, water bottle tossing, gaming, oil painting, orienteering, making zen gardens, and music jamming. These represent the creative efforts of Kathy Stempel, our youth services library assistant.

Makerspace programs for middle readers took place over each school vacation. The offerings for 2016 included the Jr. Chef Challenge with cupcakes, remote controlled vehicles, and doodlebots. The children discovered many ways to stay healthy throughout the six week summer reading program. The grand finale was a trip to Funplex in East Greenbush

The highlight of our family programs included an author visit in October. Abbie Bowker discussed her book about woolly bears and helped participants write and illustrate nature poetry. Five summer evenings of Music in the Park provided another reason for the community to come together.

With our limited budget, the support from the Friends of the Berne Library was essential. We thank all the hard-working members for their help and look forward to accomplishing even more in 2017.