

2017 Annual Narrative
Berne Public Library
Judy Petrosillo, Director
JoAnne Brady, President

2017 was another exciting year for the Berne Public Library. The library board continued to work on the goals of their strategic plan. With increased financial support from the Towns of Berne and Knox, the library was able to add four weekly hours. The library was open thirty-two hours a week.

Funding from the Friends of the Berne Library made it possible for us to purchase a bistro set for the teen area and a cozy, oversized chair for the children area. The movies on DVD were moved to new custom shelving units. With the help of volunteers, the DVD's were categorized by genre. Patrons can now easily find movies they like.

Berne, Westerlo, and Rensselaerville directors cooperatively developed a Hilltowns My Card for children in the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District. Thanks to a grant from Stewarts, every child in grades K-6 has a card for use on-line or at the public libraries. The high school students will receive their cards in 2018.

A special legislative grant from Senator George Amedore brightened up the library. The funding paid for the installation of LED lighting in the entranceway. It also allowed us to purchase i-pads and STEM kits. That brought shining smiles to our technology hungry patrons. The NNLM MAR supplied a grant of a more serious nature. Three staff members were trained as Consumer Health Information Specialists in order to help patrons with medical research. We received three I-pads to aid with these on-line searches.

Storytime continued to be our most popular program. Middle readers enjoyed special vacation programming such as Jr. Chef Challenge, Cloud Scientist, and STEM Exploration. Thanks to a grant from the Arts Center of the Capital Region, Jester Jim kicked off the summer reading programming teaching children how to beatbox.

Families attended an eclipse program by the Helderberg Sky and Observatory. Community viewing of the partial solar eclipse was possible with solar glasses provided by a Star*Net grant. The well-attended "Heldercon" took place in September. Superheroes flew in for the adventure of our first comic con. The favorite program of the Teen Action Group was the Zombie Escape Room. They used problem solving to avoid a Zombie attack.

The adults participated in egg painting, basket making, pottery, evergreen centerpieces and jewelry programs. They learned aspects of history during the Albany Railroad, Henry O

Studley's Toolbox, and Capitol Renovations programs. Health information was gained at programs on radon, eating smart, and navigating the health care system. A three part series on climate change with NOAA scientist Steve DiRienzo was especially interesting. This part book club, part science café was sponsored by a PLACE grant.

As part of our outreach endeavors, the library trustees designed and constructed a superb float for the Berne Memorial Day parade. Despite the destructive downpours, we floated into first place.

The library will be delving into new adventures in 2018 with a new director at the helm.