

# Croton Free Library

## SHELF LIFE

Annual Newsletter, Spring 2014

### CIRCULATION IN 2013

Through a particularly frigid winter, our library continued to be a place for warming ideas and the best place around to see free cultural exhibits, shows and of course, find the latest books for readers of all ages. Patrons also took advantage of our museum passes to the likes of the American Museum of Natural History and the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum over 100 times and our children's programs like Crafty Kids and Legos at the Library grow more popular year after year.

Our 2013 figures again show how our patrons rely upon us for their internet, audiovisual and other community services. And with our new circulation area, we're now better equipped than ever before to meet those needs.

- ▶ We had 55,590 visitors to the library website
- ▶ Children's program attendance went up by 1,260
- ▶ 6,185 digital items were downloaded
- ▶ 5,136 sessions were booked at the library internet terminals
- ▶ Children's Book circulation increased by 1,828

#### 2013 Circulation

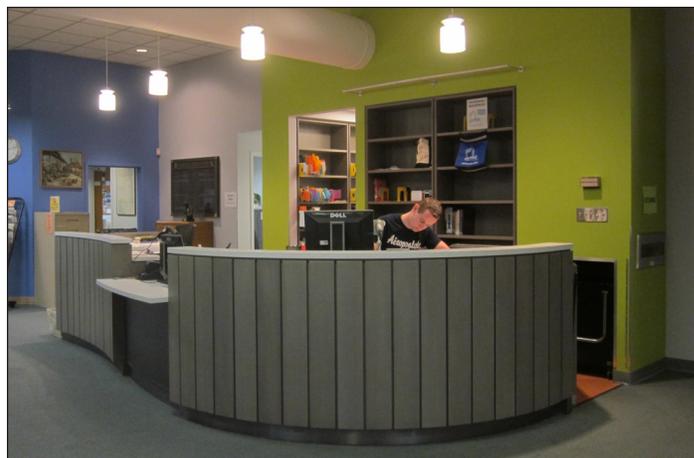
Adult Book Circulation .....	54,399
Children's Book Circulation .....	43,823
Adult Audiovisual & Other.....	35,916
Children's AV & Other .....	7,448
Digital Materials .....	6,185
Items Loaned to Other Libraries .....	24,754
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>172,525</b>

#### 2013 Attendance

Adult Program Attendance .....	1,757
YA Program Attendance.....	176
Children's Program Attendance.....	9,217
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>11,150</b>

### From the President

This has been one of the busiest (and best) years at Croton Free Library. We completed a major construction project. We welcomed back a familiar face in a new librarian role. And we introduced a hugely popular Village-wide reading program (starring Colum McCann!). All while sustaining our top-notch programming and library services seven days a week. Village residents of all ages benefited, whether the library was providing a warm and welcoming meeting place for community groups, an ebook for that new device under the Christmas tree, a cookbook for inspiring a weeknight dinner, a weekly Lego building adventure for grade school kids or a room all their own for teenagers.



This year saw the unveiling of the Mary C. Donnelly Circulation Desk, honoring Mary's 28 years of service to the library. The desk was financed through the

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**DON'T FORGET!**  
**Vote on the library's  
budget on May 20.**

generous contributions of many community donors to the 25/75 Capital Campaign and a Public Library Construction grant awarded from the NYS Library. Croton architects Julie Evans and Ivanka Olcott envisioned a design both graceful and efficient, and library staff and users have voiced unanimous approval of this long overdue renovation.



The library welcomes back Jesse Bourdon, who became the assistant director in October, following Martha Campbell's retirement after 30 years. Jesse previously worked at CFL beginning in 1999, working in circulation, technical services and reference. He left in 2012 to take a position at the Westchester Library System's IT department. Jesse brings a thorough knowledge of the workings of our library as well as an expertise in library automation.



## Croton Reads

It was a full house on Sunday, March 9 at the Croton Free Library when almost 150 people attended the first Croton Reads event. This community reading initiative was planned by the Croton library as a venue for residents to connect with one another through a shared reading experience.

Croton Reads was a resounding success on all counts. *TransAtlantic*, written by Colum McCann, was the inaugural Croton Reads book selection. Colum is the author of six novels and two collections of stories. He is the recipient of many international honors, including the National Book Award for *Let the Great World Spin*. Colum spent the afternoon at the Croton Library reading selections from *TransAtlantic*, relaying stories and anecdotes about writing his books, as well as answering audience questions. He kept the audience smiling, laughing and completely enthralled.



The March 9 event was preceded by an insightful panel discussion of the historic themes woven into *TransAtlantic*. This was moderated by local author Maggie Barbieri, and included Fordham Professor John Harrington, CHHS teacher Brett Bowden and local book critic, Tina Jordan.

The Croton Library is already in the planning stages of the next book selection for Croton Reads in 2015.

## Croton Free Library

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### Staff

Mary C. Donnery,  
Library Director  
Jesse Bourdon,  
Assistant Director  
Lori Phillips,  
Technical Services  
Lois Skelly,  
Program Coordinator

Leslie Ellis, Member  
Michael Faucher, Member  
Howie Myers, Member  
Anna Reisner, Member  
Debra Schor, Member  
Kelly Thomann, Member

### Library Association

Marianne Merola, President  
Elizabeth Hiller & Lori  
Zablow-Salles, Co-Vice  
Presidents  
Karen Zevin, Treasurer  
Joe Pieroni, Secretary

### Board of Trustees

Melanie Dodson, President  
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