

Croton Free Library

SHELF LIFE

Annual Newsletter, Spring 2015

NUMBERS TELL A STORY

Although a time of great change, 2014 was no exception for the Library bringing patrons to its doors in large numbers. Not even another long and harsh winter could deter the community who came seeking reading materials, movies, free cultural exhibits, shows and access to amazing museums in the tri-state area. Programs for the youngest patrons continued to be a big draw, with YA program attendance nearly tripling. Many members also "stopped in" for a virtual visit as shown by an increase in digital checkouts, a continued stream of traffic on the website, and a growing social media network on Facebook.

2014 data reveals the critical role our Library plays in meeting the needs of our community for a variety of services. With enthusiasm like this for internet access, audiovisual materials, and an expertly curated collection of books, it's no surprise to see numbers like these.

- ◆ We had 99,170 visitors to the Library and 54,285 visitors to the website
- ◆ Children's book circulation was up 930 and AV and other materials 1,408
- ◆ Children also continue to be our most avid program participants and YA programs drew largest crowds to date
- ◆ Circulation of digital materials increased by almost 9%
- ◆ Our materials were even more popular throughout the county with loans to other libraries up 3,023
- ◆ The Reference Desk saw 14,300 transactions
- ◆ 4,650 sessions were booked at the Library internet terminals

2014 Circulation

Adult Book Circulation	53,412
Children's Book Circulation	44,753
Adult Audiovisual & Other	32,982
Children's AV & Other	8,856
Digital Materials	6,717
Items Loaned to Other Libraries	27,777
Total	174,497

2014 Attendance

Adult Program Attendance	2,018
YA Program Attendance	510
Children's Program Attendance	8,590
Total	11,118

A New Chapter Begins

While we continue to take great pride in our success at serving the community in the same great ways all have become accustomed to, the past year was one marked by exciting changes. Saying goodbye to our long time director Mary Donnery gave us a chance to entice a Westchester County native back to the neighborhood as our new director.



In just a few months since her tenure began, Yvonne Cech has become an invaluable fixture at the Library. She hit the ground running, providing a seamless transition for Library staff and patrons alike. While Yvonne's leadership has ensured the Library's ability to sustain the top-notch programming and library services we all enjoy throughout the year, she has also infused fresh ideas into the mix. Some improvements are readily apparent

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DON'T FORGET!

Vote on the Library's budget on May 19

such as the new digital media display near the entrance and enhanced homebound services, while other developments are in earlier stages, but sure to come to fruition in the near term. Not surprisingly given Yvonne's extensive background as a children's librarian, she has recognized the growing importance of providing Library programs, services and materials for the youngest patrons. She wisely



tapped a skilled and familiar face to fill a new full time role of Head Children's and Youth Services. Lauren Dorien took on this challenge after being with the Library since 2007, and we have her to thank for all those creative workshops bringing in tweens and teens. She too brings great promise for improvements yet to come. The Library couldn't be better poised for its next chapter!



Croton Reads - Even in the Snow

We can't claim that we planned it that way, but we couldn't have asked for a more perfectly themed setting for Croton Reads 2015. Freshly falling snow covered the village as readers crowded into the Ottinger room on March 1 to meet *The Snow Queen* author Michael Cunningham. Chilly conditions could not deter those who wanted to meet this Pulitzer Prize Winning author, whose gracious and charming presence warmed our hearts. Before answering questions providing great insight into his creative process, not to mention the human condition, Michael thrilled the audience with readings of two short stories scheduled to appear in his next book, *A Wild Swan and Other Tales*. While *The Snow Queen* had the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale of the same name as its seed of inspiration, Michael truly transported us to the world of make believe with his modern take on Snow White and The Steadfast Tin Soldier. All fortunate listeners were as enchanted as any child being read a bed time story - but who could have dreamt of hearing a writer's mellifluous voice reciting his own words?



The author event was only one aspect of this community wide reading initiative designed to connect residents through a shared reading experience. In addition to the informal chats around town about the book selection, we also got together in February for an informative and insightful panel discussion, led by

Library Director Yvonne Cech. Local experts in psychology, Jim Kramer, MSW, and music composition, Frank Migliorelli, joined Purchase College literature professor, Anthony Domestico to share their expert perspectives on the novel.

We can't wait for Croton Reads to take shape for its next installment in 2016!

Croton Free Library

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Staff

Yvonne Cech,
Library Director
Jesse Bourdon,
Assistant Director
Lauren Dorien,
Head of Children's and Youth Services
Lori Phillips,
Technical Services
Lois Skelly,
Program Coordinator

Janine St. Germain,
Member 2015
Michelle Minoff,
Member 2017
Kelly Thomann,
Member 2017
Debra Schor,
Member 2019
Barry Feinberg,
Member 2018

Library Association

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

2014 Board of Trustees (Term Ending Year)

Anna Reisner,
President, 2015
Melanie Dodson,
Vice-president, 2016
Howie Myers,
Treasurer, 2018
Leslie Ellis,
Secretary, 2019

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