

Croton Free Library

SHELF LIFE

Annual Newsletter, Spring 2018



Author Mary Roach and Editor Tina Jordan at Croton Reads 2017

A Year of Big Events

The Croton Free Library hosted several milestone events in the past year. In June 2017 we held a Croton Reads event focused on our first non-fiction title. Critically acclaimed author Mary Roach visited the Croton Free Library to discuss her book *Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War*, a fascinating work that looks at some of the lesser-explored aspects of modern science in the military. The audience was intrigued and engaged, and the author even shared possible subjects for her next work and entertained the audience’s feedback.



Author Allison Pataki at Croton Reads 2018

Croton Reads 2018 – our landmark fifth year for this program – was also a great success and another “first” for us, as we chose a work set in the Hudson Valley. Local area author Allison Pataki visited and discussed her historical novel *The Traitor’s Wife: The Woman Behind Benedict Arnold and the Plan to Betray America*. Given the subject of the novel – Peggy Shippen Arnold, wife of Benedict Arnold, and Arnold’s treasonous acts at West Point in the Revolutionary War era – the work has deep ties to the Hudson Valley and the Croton community. Prior to the event we also hosted a unique panel discussion in conjunction with the Croton Friends of History, featuring Sean Grady, Gary Petagine and Dennis Corcoran, experts and re-enactors in period garb, which gave additional historical context to the novel. Overall, we had great feedback from attendees: the locality of the setting resonated with our community, rekindling or sparking new interest in local history.

2017 STATISTICS

Circulation

Adult Book Circulation	47,018
Children’s Book Circulation	40,578
Adult Audiovisual & Other	23,327
Children’s AV & Other	4,940
Digital Materials	5,013
Items Loaned to Other Libraries	20,930
Total Items:	141,806

Attendance

Adult Program Attendance	1,715
YA Program Attendance	571
Children’s Program Attendance	11,409
All Other Program Attendance	1,676
Total Attendees:	15,371



Croton Comic Con 2017. Photo by Julian Moses

Croton Comic Con 2017, our second annual community-wide comics event, was also a massive hit. We had programming for all ages, from C3Brix, the Legoman of New York, to The Balloonman, Chris Fuentes, to Clive Young, who presented “George Lucas and the Creation of Star Wars.” Our costume contest drew a much larger crowd than the previous year, and participants were very excited to share their unique cosplays. We also had a fantastic costume creation space to encourage participation, and we were happy to see some attendees building their costumes from the ground up. By our count, we had roughly 1,600 attendees turn out, an increase of about 400 people from the previous year, which we consider to be monumental growth and proof of strong community interest.

These special events are in addition to our weekly and monthly musical, artistic, and educational programming. “We plan to maintain our steady flow of wonderful and unique programming for all ages that we are known for,” says Jesse Bourdon, Library Director. Regularly check the Library’s online calendar at crotonfreelibrary.org for future events.



Museums Galore!

Given the enthusiastic feedback we’ve received from the community, the Croton Free Library has continued to expand our Museum Pass service, with a wide variety of new offerings added over the past year.

- Art and photography lovers interested in a day trip to Manhattan may enjoy our passes for Guggenheim Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Frick Collection, or Museum of the City of New York.
- History and science buffs may want to take advantage of our passes to American Museum of Natural History, New York Historical Society, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, and more.
- If you prefer to stick to Westchester, we have passes for the outstanding Katonah Museum of Art and Hudson River Museum.
- Those wanting to head north and spend time outdoors may enjoy passes for Storm King Art Center or Boscobel House and Gardens.
- We also have a variety of passes geared toward younger patrons, such as those for the Westchester Children’s Museum, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, and Mid-Hudson Children’s Museum.
- If you’re looking for something completely different we suggest Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture or Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk.

A complete list of passes can be found on our website and you can reserve passes at the Reference Desk. Our hope, in offering these passes, is not simply to offset the financial cost of attending these museums, but that we’re able to provide our patrons with the opportunity for unique, edu-

We’re More Than Just Books

The Croton Free Library understands the role of a public library is ever-expanding, and there is increased interest in new and exciting technologies. In response to that desire, we have been steadily adding to our offerings and thinking of new ways to engage and serve patrons. Our Creative Space is now completely open to the public, and we’ve been using the room to host book clubs, informal classes, DIY cooking courses, and even more innovative programming. The 3D printers are up and running and have also been in use on a nearly daily basis, and we have a growing group of volunteers learning and teaching 3D printing to the community. We invite interested patrons to check out the completed space and the printers, or ask about using the room for your own creative programming. If you’d like to learn how to 3D print your own custom creations, we encourage you to check our website for the weekly times when our volunteers will be in the room and teaching new users.

The Croton Free Library also now offers laptops available for in-building use. We understand there are busy periods when our public desktops are frequently in use, or maybe you’d simply prefer to work in our quiet area instead. Patrons with a library card in good standing can check out a laptop to use anywhere on Library premises for the entire day. So, kick back in the magazine area or spread out at one of our main area tables with one of our new laptops and enjoy the mobility. The laptops are available for check-out at the Reference Desk.

Soon the Croton Free Library will be offering Wi-Fi hotspots, which provide mobile internet connection, free of charge. Patrons will be able to check-out Wi-Fi hotspots for personal use, so whether you’re going on a remote camping trip or have an internet outage at home, we’ve got you covered. “Overall, we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make your library card work for you, wherever you may be,” Jesse Bourdon, Library Director, emphasizes. We want your library card to give you access to as many services and technologies as possible, and we feel mobile Wi-Fi hotspots are a fantastic new addition to our offerings to the community.

Croton Free Library

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STAFF

Jesse Bourdon, *Library Director*
Thao Nguyen, *Assistant Director*
Lauren Dorien,
Head of Children’s & Youth Services
Lori Phillips, *Technical Services*
and over 25 valued part-timers

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Karen Zevin, *President, 2018*
Elizabeth Hiller &
Lori Zablow-Salles,
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Meredith Hertlein, *Treasurer, 2018*
Lisa Dashman, *Secretary, 2018*

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