



Update:

News from the Claverack Free Library

Fall 2011 / Winter 2012
Vol. 17 – No. 2

OUR NEW LIBRARY: *Where We Stand*

In order to continue to serve the community as laid out in our mission, the library's trustees and staff have long recognized that the square footage of the current building is not sufficient for our community's needs. There is no room to accommodate the computers and media our patrons rely on, no space for our varied educational and cultural free programming, for our staff and volunteers to work and, very simply, no space to read the newspaper or a book in comfort. Here is a timeline of what has been accomplished to date as we work to address this need:

2004: A citizen's committee was established to explore space needs. A fundraising consultant was hired (with funding from a Dyson Foundation grant) to gauge the potential to raise necessary funds. Public meetings were held — attended by library patrons, local business people, and representatives of Town Government — to gather ideas for expansion. It was learned that the fire company hoped someday to move to a larger facility.

2005: An anonymous gift of \$500,000 was received with the restriction that the new library not remain on the current site. Trends in library design were researched and visits made to new and recently expanded libraries. A number of possible sites in Claverack were explored.

The mission of the Claverack Free Library is to be a vibrant presence in the community:

- ❖ *providing free access to a wide range of materials for information, enjoyment and life-long learning;*
- ❖ *stimulating children and adults to become and remain enthusiastic readers; and*
- ❖ *servicing as a welcoming place for quiet reading, informal exchanges of ideas and programs of cultural and intellectual interest.*

2006 & 2007: The committee interviewed architects and recommended Paul Mays of Butler, Rowland & Mays, in Ballston Spa, because of his expertise in library design and in updating older buildings to become energy efficient, flexible, and complementary to their surroundings. Paul Mays led several community workshops from which suggestions were collected and incorporated into our early plans. A fundraising consultant was hired to lay the groundwork for the capital campaign.

2008: The trustees voted to approve a renovation plan consistent with the fundraising goal and preliminary plans were drawn for the adaptive re-use of the firehouse as a new library. The economy took a downturn in the fall and the trustees voted to suspend active plans to proceed.

2009: Work resumed on researching funding options by interviewing and hiring a professional grant writer to pursue state and federal grants. The Claverack Town Board passed a resolution fully supporting our application to state and federal agencies for grant funding. An environmental assessment study of the firehouse was conducted. We signed the contract for purchase and sale of the A.B. Shaw Firehouse.

2010: After a public hearing in January, the referendum was passed in February approving the A.B. Shaw Fire Company's sale of the firehouse and bonding for a new firehouse. Our architect was re-engaged to work with the grant writer on preliminary building specifications. Closing on purchase/sale of the firehouse for \$300,000 came in November.

2011:

Crawford & Associates Engineering was contracted for site plan application work and we entered into the schematic design/design development phase with Paul Mays. Received a grant for \$75,000 from NY State Division of Library Development to be applied to the acquisition of the firehouse.

Today, we have made a strong beginning in our fundraising, from the community as well as from foundations and grants. Sometimes things take longer than we wish, but the trustees are determined to get this right. We remain deeply committed to this vitally needed new library as the fulfillment of our mission and an investment in our community for many years to come.



Susan Roberts, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Library; Jennifer Post, Board President, and Library Director Sally Alderdice accepted the \$75,000 check from Mike Nyerges (far right), Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System. Architect Paul Mays joined the celebration.



Children's Programs

We have an exciting lineup of paper-themed programs for parents and children this year.

On **November 15 & 17** we will meet from 5-8 p.m. to learn the art of card making with local artist Patricia Powers. Patricia is opening her studio to us to teach how to make cards, gift tags, and holiday ornaments. We'll be making dye cuts, punch outs, and learning the arts of embossing, stamping, paper folding, and paper pop-outs. If there is someone special you'd like to make a card for this season, this workshop is for you. This activity is best suited for children over the age of 8, and adults of any age are welcome to attend. Children between the ages of 8 and 15 must be accompanied by an adult; we will be using some sharp equipment!

On **Monday, January 16** at 6:30 p.m., join author Nancy Castaldo as she teaches how to turn your favorite book's dust jacket into a wallet. Fun for children ages 11-15.

In **February**, we'll be making paper into beads for necklaces. Please check in with the library for a time and date for this workshop.

Starting **Thursday, March 1** at 6:00 p.m., join graphic novelist Barbara Slate as she leads a six-week workshop called **Creating Graphic Novels**. We'll meet with Barbara on six Thursdays as she teaches everything from how to develop a character to how to lay out a graphic novel page. This is a great opportunity for any teen between the ages of 11 and 18 who has a story just waiting to get out, or a doodle that wants to become something more!
Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5.

Registration is required for the above programs. Please call the library at 851-7120, sign up via Facebook.com or send an e-mail to claverack-children@yahoo.com if you have any questions or to register.

We will again be hosting **Family Movie Night**. The last Saturday of the month in January, February, and March we will be showing the following movies:

January 28: *Treasure Island*

February 25: *The Apple Dumpling Gang*

March 31: *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*.

Please join us for popcorn and fun!

Children age 2 to 5 will gather at **10 a.m. on Fridays** during the school year for **Preschool Story Hour**. The children will hear stories, sing songs, play games, and create crafts based on a weekly theme.

Adult Programming

The trustees and Friends are making plans for late fall and winter adult programs. The A.B. Shaw Fire Company's move to its new building is imminent, so the firefighters have been busy packing. It's unclear when the library will have access to the meeting rooms that the fire company has so graciously let us use over the years. Please check our website regularly for programming updates.

A Note from the Library Director

We are happy to borrow books from other libraries for our patrons. There is a cost for this service, and we're glad to pay it. We ask that these materials be picked up within eight business days; otherwise we have to send them back. This is not a good use of our money. Thank you for your understanding.

Meet Our Volunteer

Peter Larmour

If you've helped set up any of our book sales over the last several years, you'll have seen Peter Larmour and his banana boxes. Years ago, when Peter was at the library to borrow some books, he was asked to help carry a box of donated books to the cellar. Peter loves to organize, and what he saw got his organizational juices flowing.

He took charge of sorting the books as they came in, storing them in banana boxes, which can be stacked from floor to ceiling. Once the tents go up, he's on site all day every day helping to make sure everything is in its proper place.

Peter came to Columbia County in 2004 to teach Earth Science at Hudson High School. Born in Annapolis, Maryland, he grew up in suburban New York and went to camp in the Berkshires. He joined the ROTC in college and was stationed in Hawaii after graduation. While working as one of the first computer programmers for the Navy, he decided to get his Masters in Education at the University of Hawaii. The more he worked with kids, the less he wanted to work with machines. He decided to make teaching his career.

You might think that Peter's hobby is book collecting. You'd be wrong – he collects sand. He has sand samples from 754 beaches. He's known among science teachers for developing an Earth Science lab on sand.

Peter believes that a love of reading separates the wheat from the chaff. "Teach a kid to read, and he'll read everything."



The Friends of Library presented the River Trio (Linda Finegan, violin; Jay Shulman, cello; Pamela Sklar, flute) in concert at Kathy and Sedat Pakay's home on November 5.

The Trustees would like to acknowledge

Richard Koskey

for his community vision.

His donation of property

to the A.B. Shaw Fire Company benefits the entire town and this generosity has furthered our plans for a new library building and community center.

*Thank you, Richard,
for making this all happen.*

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of a dear friend, **Marge Desrosiers**, on August 20, 2011.

Marge was a great reader, lemon meringue pie baker, and a true friend of the library.

Thank You Notes

We are grateful to the following friends, volunteers, and supporting organizations:

The Dyson Foundation,
for planning and consulting support

The Bank of Greene County
Charitable Foundation,
for support of our children's programming

Hudson River Bank & Trust
Company Foundation,
for programming support

Stewart's Shops

Abbey Nack

Jamie Albrecht

Peter Larmour

Alan Wirth

Mary & Dan Udell

Sal Cozzolino

Tobi Farley

Jamie Cashen

Sophie Cashen

Travis Blank

Lynn Howard

Deb Byer

Vicki Rosenwald

Daniel Esterman

Karen Rosand

Douglas Bryce

Fabio Morelli

Martin Baumgold

Maggie Abrose

Sedat & Kathy Pakay

Fairview Wines & Spirits

the Claverack Free Library

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Who Needs Another Fruitcake?

When someone asks what you'd like for Christmas or Hanukah this year, why not suggest they make a donation to the library? You'll both be doing something good for the community in the spirit of the season.



Become a Friend

The Friends of the Claverack Free Library work with the Board of Trustees and the Library Director to supplement programs and fundraising activities. If you're interested in becoming a Friend or learning more about what Friends do, please contact Martin Baumgold at amblemartin@yahoo.com or Karen J. Rosand at Karen@agracefulplan.com or call 518-851-5656.

Claverack Free Library
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email: claveracklibrary@yahoo.com
<http://www.claverack.lib.ny.us>

All contributions are tax deductible

HOURS:

Monday: 1PM-8PM

Tuesday: 10AM-2PM

Wednesday: 1PM-8PM

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 10AM-5PM

Saturday: 10AM-2PM

Sunday: Closed