

Annual Report 2003



Farmers' Library Company of the Town of Ogden, New York



Annual Report 2003

Message from the Director

Looking back on everything that happened in the library during 2003 is something like watching a movie on fast forward. So much happened during the year that I am simply surprised that we managed to pack so much into such a short time. The major events of 2003 are detailed in the “Highlights” section of this report, and will give you a good idea of what the library delivered to the community during the year.

It would be impossible for the library to deliver the quality service our residents have come to expect without the skilled and dedicated staff members who regularly give 110% to their jobs. I am often told by our users that they truly appreciate walking into a public facility where they are known by name and treated with respect. I am fully aware of the value of each and every library clerk, page and librarian and would like to thank them publicly for all that they do.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't also recognize the tremendous support the library receives from the Town of Ogden. The Supervisor and Town Board continue to provide the library with operating funds as well as with encouragement and approval of our mission. Without that support we would not be able to provide valuable services to our residents.

Patricia Uttaro

March 2004



Peter Rabbit and Rebecca Budinger from Barnes and Noble visit the library for a storytime.

On the Cover (Top) Local artist Megan Kelley unveils her completed mural in the children's section of the library. (Bottom) Thursday storytime participants plant spring bulbs in the memorial garden.

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Statistics

Population Served: 18,492

Collection Size: 67,501

Circulation: 230,806

Total Members: 10,315

Days Open: 286

Visitors: 113,814

New Books: 3,239

New Videos: 375

New Music CDs: 121

New Recorded Books: 212

New DVDs: 82

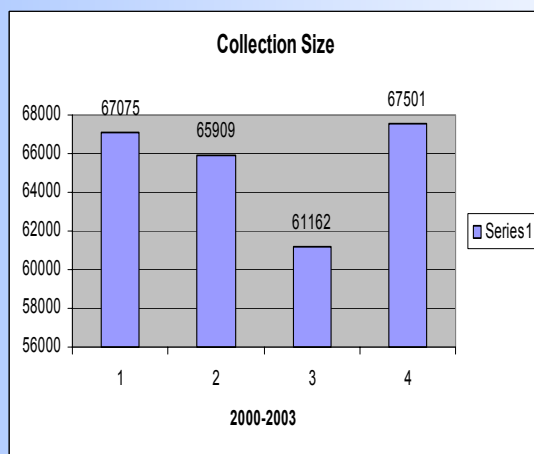
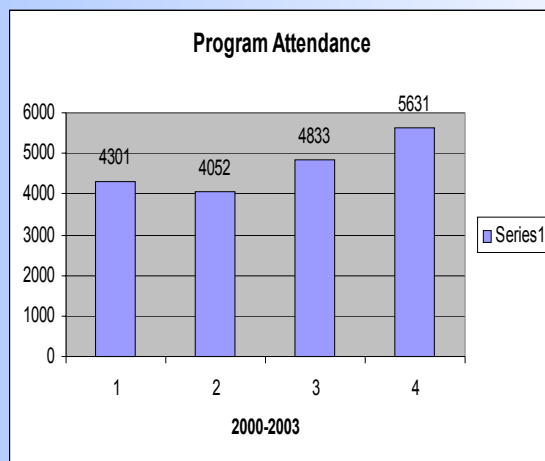
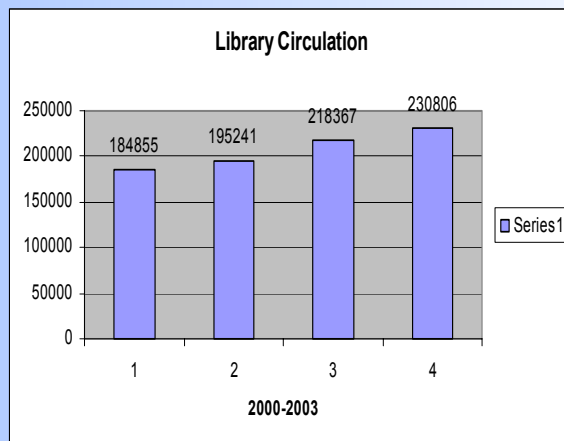
Children's Program Attendance: 4,743

Teen Program Attendance: 358

Adult Program Attendance: 888



Librarian Anne Nolan entertains children at one of her summer storytimes at the Clyde Carter Gazebo.



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2003 Highlights

March

- Our second Silent Auction with the Spencerport Kiwanis Club netted more than \$2200, which was divided between the library and the Kiwanis.
- The Friends of the Ogden Library, along with Friends groups from Chili and Greece, sponsored the first and only west-side appearance of author Octavia Butler as part of Writer's & Books "If All Rochester Read the Same Book" event.

May

- The first Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held for all those generous people who give their time and talents to the library. It was such a hit that it will become an annual event.
- We received our third "Dollars for Doers" grant from Kodak, which was used to purchase additional flowers and garden sculptures for the garden in front of the library.
- Our library was asked to collaborate with the Rochester Public Library on a county grant that will guide the development of an online Life Records database for Monroe County. This database will provide access to birth, marriage and death records for county residents beginning in the early 1800's.

June

- The "Pathways to the Past" walking tour debuted in the village. The library collaborated with Village Trustees and the Monroe County Historian to produce this unique and very popular exhibit.

July

- "Tales by Generation," a storytelling program funded by a grant from the Arts Council of Rochester, began. Two professional storytellers held a six-week series of programs in which they taught 8 local residents the art of storytelling. The new storytellers showed off their new talent at performances in August.

September

- The library launched a new fundraiser and produced a deck of "Library Cards" featuring local people and businesses. Proceeds were used to purchase new books.

November

- Three of our librarians were asked to give presentations at the New York Library Association conference in Saratoga Springs. Ogden was one of only three Monroe County libraries to send presenters to the conference.

December

- Our annual Gingerbread House contest was again a big hit with the community.

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Library Materials

The library provides access to a wide variety of materials, from books to DVDs. Library users can browse the shelves, or place holds on materials using either the library computers or their own Internet computers at home. As a member of the Monroe County Library System, the Ogden Library gives our users access not only to our own collections, but to those of every other public library in the county. Ogden library cards can be used at any other public library in Monroe County, and our users can request delivery of items from other libraries.

Our librarians work hard to keep our collection current. A major weeding project in 2002 reduced our collection by several thousand items. We have worked over the last year to purchase newer and more relevant items for our shelves. OFL annually spends 25-30% of its total budget on materials, compared to other, larger libraries that spend an average of 13-15% on materials.

OFL is known throughout Monroe County for our comprehensive collections of fabric and textile books, particularly those on the topic of quilting, and our collection of jazz and blues music on CD. Our local history and genealogy collection is second only to the Rochester Public Library among public libraries in the county.



Display of memorabilia recording the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Example of hand-colored map donated to the library in 2003.



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Library Materials, continued

The library acquires around 6,000 new items per year through our own purchasing and through donations. Our book buyers purchase fiction and non-fiction for adults, children and teens. In addition to books, the library also provides:

- Recorded books on cassette and on CD, purchased monthly. Based on input from our users, the library purchases unabridged versions of recorded books, which provide the listener with a recording of the book in its' entirety. Popular fiction titles are purchased as well as classics, radio shows, and non-fiction.
- Music CDs are also purchased monthly and cover all types of music, from rock and pop to blues, jazz, soundtracks, country, gospel and children's tunes.
- The Video and DVD collections are added to on a regular basis. Our DVD collection has not grown as we'd hoped, primarily due to a high rate of damage being done to the discs. The DVD format has proved very fragile for the type of borrowing we do, and we consciously reduced spending on these items in 2003. Our collection plan for DVDs in 2004 is focusing on classic movies and collections rather than newly released films. In addition to changing our collection policy for DVDs, we have also been given the opportunity by the Entertainment Center in Spencerport to use their disc cleaner, which has fixed numerous problem discs for us already.
- Large print books are available for people who prefer a larger type when reading. In 2004, we will add to our collection by borrowing in bulk from the large print collection of the Rochester Public Library.
- The library carries more than 100 subscriptions to magazines and newspapers that range in topic from dirt bike racing to cooking, to fishing. In 2003, Nothnagle Home Properties Spencerport office donated 9 subscriptions to the library. Previously, these subscriptions had been paid for by LaMont Awards and Apparel.

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Donations & Grants

The library is often remembered by people wishing to make donations in honor of or in memory of a special person. Very often, our visitors will show their appreciation for service they have received by offering a cash donation. In 2003, the library received more than \$5,000 in cash donations, and even more in materials donations.

We are always looking for ways to fund new programs in the library, and we were the honored recipients of several grants during 2003. These grants enabled us to provide new programming, develop a new way to display library materials, and helped increase public awareness of the library.

Donations in 2003

Ginny, Gary & Dori Swarthout
R. Alfred Bergeron
Arnold Schockow
Pierina Basile
Patricia Turk
Robert Ralph
Keith Ryan (in honor of Gertrude Boulais)
Spencerport Rotary Club
Linda Harrington (in honor of Tom Vandertang)
Patricia Uttaro (in honor of Tom Vandertang)
Scott McGurrin (in honor of Clara Wilder)
Westside News (in honor of Gertrude Boulais)
Phil, Evelyn, Sharron & Steven Dow (in honor of Gertrude Boulais)
Barbara & Michael Flavin (in honor of Gertrude Boulais)
Jean Graupman
Florence Wright Chapter of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration
Betty Ann Eichorn
Frank & Karen Rakoski
Donald Specht
Mary Gerew
Kenneth P. Beaman
TOPS Club
Nothnagle Home Properties

Grants in 2003

Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester
Eastman Kodak Company
New York Council for the Humanities
Monroe County Library System

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Library Services

Many people are surprised by the range of services we offer, which include:

- Storytimes for children are offered three times a week and are conducted by Mrs. Rosalind Krebs, Mrs. Cynthia Lott, and Ms. Anne Nolan. Anne added a new storytime in 2003, once designed specifically for babies up to 18 months and their parents or caregivers. It was very popular and will be repeated throughout 2004.
- Craft programs for all ages are offered seasonally. In 2003, participants made greeting cards, learned to knit and crochet, made picture frames, and learned about many other crafts.
- Tax forms are provided annually from the end of January through April 16. After April 16, forms are available for copying from a master form book provided by the IRS and New York State. The library also provides access to the IRS and NYS websites where forms can be downloaded and printed.
- Interlibrary loan services provide access to materials from all over the world for the small cost of \$1.00 per item. In 2003, materials were received from the University of North Carolina, Brigham Young University, Central Arizona, the Archives of Ontario, Canada and the University of Oregon..
- Tours are always available upon request. In 2003, tours were provided to scout groups, homeschooled families, preschool and elementary classes, daycare groups and other community groups.
- Internet access is provided on all public computers in the library. Users have unlimited time to use the Internet at 12 workstations. In 2003, the Library Board of Trustees elected to install an Internet filter that restricted access to pornographic and chat sites.
- Reference service is provided in person, by phone and by email. In 2003, library staff answered more than 30,000 questions.
- Classroom and community group visits are provided by the Director and other librarians. In 2003, we visited more than 50 classrooms, spoke to the Spencerport Lions, the Rochester Genealogical Society, and the New York Library Association.
- In addition to the services listed above, the library also provides access to a 24-hour book drop, readers' advisory, faxing, copying, job information, and access to a microfilm reader/printer.

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Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library volunteer their time to support the library in a variety of ways. Some of their activities for 2003 include:

- The 3rd Annual Indoor Garage Sale was held in February 2003 and raised several hundred dollars for library programs.
- The Friends hold an annual book sale in May that traditionally raises more than \$1000 for the library. This is perhaps the most challenging event the Friends tackle each year. They organize thousands of donated books in just a few days, and run the sale for one night and three full days. The energy and devotion of the Friends who run the book sale is amazing.
- The Friends purchased new furniture for the Teen area of the library, which has been well used and appreciated by our residents.
- The Friends also provided the funds for most of our childrens and teen programs throughout the year.

Membership in the Friends has grown tremendously over the last two years, primarily due to some additional membership benefits. Members of the Friends are exempt from the \$.50 fee for holds, and are also allowed to make up to 50 free copies on the library copier or printer. By extending these new benefits, the library has increased its pool of volunteers and created a core group of loyal library supporters in the community. Information on joining the Friends is available in the library.



Friends Russ Ruhl and Doreen Castano. Russ conducts genealogical research for the library, and Doreen acts as Treasurer and Membership Chair for the Friends. Both are also Library Trustees.



Friends Roz and Paul Krebs. Roz has conducted storytimes for the library for more than 40 years.

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Library Programs

The Library offers free programming to the community throughout the year. Programs for children are coordinated by Anne Nolan; those for Teens are planned by Roberta Voelkl; and those for adults are planned by Kate Vreeland and Patty Uttaro. Funding for most of our programs is provided by the Friends of the Library. Programs offered in 2003 included:

- Pumpkin Carving, presented by the Spencerport Lions Club. This annual program teaches kids and parents how to design and carve some very fancy pumpkins. In 2003, 30 families participated; pumpkins were donated by Maier Farms.
- A Community Scavenger Hunt challenged participants to find a variety of items located throughout Spencerport. Prizes were provided by area businesses, and participants got to know a little bit more about our community.
- Family Bingo nights have become very popular with our residents. More than 200 people attended Bingo Nights throughout the year. Everyone wins, and most prizes are books, so not only does everyone have a great time, we also further our mission to foster literacy in the community.
- Genealogy programs were offered throughout the year, and were attended by several hundred people. Speakers ranging from Cynthia Howk of the Landmark Society to Larry Naukam of the Rochester Public Library offered advice and information to scores of people researching their family history.
- Other programs offered throughout 2003 include a monthly book discussion, a raptor presentation by Wild Wings, Tie Dyeing, knitting & crocheting, travelogues, and reading programs.



Library Volunteers Arnold Schockow, Cindy Rockow, and Don Specht.



Library volunteers Mary Rupp, Margaret Nolan, Pat Moore, Linda Hill and Cindy Heale.

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Library Trustees

- James Sickelco, President
- Doreen Castano, Vice-President
- Suzanne Goetz, Treasurer
- Sheryle Walker, Secretary
- C. Roger Ressman
- Corinne Goeke
- Russ Ruhl
- Tom Cole, Town Board Liaison

Library Hours & Contacts

The library is open 65 hours a week September-May, and 56 hours a week during June, July & August. NYS minimum standards for libraries require our library to be open at least 40 hours per week for a community the size of Ogden.

Weekly hours are: Monday-Thursday 9 am to 9 pm; Fridays 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturdays 9 am to 5 pm. During June-August, the library is open 9 am to 5 pm on Friday and is closed Saturday.

You can reach the library by phone at 585-352-2141, or by email to uttaro@ogdenny.com. The library website is available at www.ogdenny.com/library

Library Staff

- Patricia Uttaro, Director
- Anne Nolan, Librarian
- Kate Vreeland, Librarian
- Roberta Voelkl, Library Assistant
- Cindy Lott, Senior Clerk
- Chris Kelley, Bookkeeper
- Mary Ann Saeva, Clerk
- Mary Conjerti, Clerk
- Anne Hasselberg, Clerk
- Kate Boggs, Clerk
- Lauren Sochia, Clerk
- Ben Court, Clerk
- Andrew Diehl, Clerk
- Cody VanDeusen, Page
- Amanda Vargas, Page
- Tom Sochia, Page

**Visit the Monroe County
Library System online at
www.libraryweb.org.**