



CLINTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE TOWN OF CLINTON

April 1 – June 30, 2017

ENERGY

Money hasn't any value of its own; it represents the stored up energy of men and women and is really just someone's promise to pay a certain amount of that energy.

Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957)

Thanks to the stored up energy generously sent by Clinton residents and several foundations, Clinton Community Library keeps on keeping on.

A dedicated \$2,000 grant from the Northeast Dutchess Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation is allowing us to continue our unique *Optimistic Aging* program for the seniors in our town. A very special feature of the *Optimistic Aging* program is the Lunch & Learn Lectures. In April seniors gathered midday to hear Marist College history professor Dr. James Merrell's talk on "Mob Men and Wappingers Warriors -- Revisiting the Battle for Dutchess County, 1766." In June the library joined with Clinton Historical Society to present "History of the Clinton Historical Center." Town historian Craig Marshall, again spiffed up into an alternate persona, did all the research, gathered the slides and regaled seniors with his knowledge of our town's past. The seniors, no slights themselves, added anecdotes from memory and experience. Both times, the library staff prepared an amazing lunch.



The Grant from Northeast Dutchess Fund also allows us to continue our Tai Chi and Gentle Chair Yoga classes for our seniors. Our Gentle Yoga instructor, newly fallen in love with working with our seniors, additionally volunteered to lead a *Mindfulness Walk*, slowly and silently walking the Clinton Nature Trail, stopping to listen and feel and then moving on. And, seeing our need, Samantha also organized donations of yoga mats and blocks for the Gentle Yoga classes.

Our Tai Chi teacher is introducing seniors to Tai Chi and Qi Gong, and judging by attendance, they are loving it. Both are a series of movements performed in a slow, focused manner and accompanied by deep breathing. Vince is a Clinton resident. When the day is filled with sunshine and breezes, he leads the class outside on the library lawn. Vince has also invited our seniors to share in a free "gathering of spirit, Qi and friendship" at the Vanderbilt estate in Hyde Park in July.

You might wonder why the library's new focus on seniors? It seems that nearly half of the residents in our town are . . . seniors who want to stay in our town. We are becoming an aging in place community. The library is pleased to serve as the platform for this renewal of senior energy. This is the second year for our *Optimistic Aging* programs and the second year we have been awarded the Northeast Dutchess Fund grant to support it. We have applied for additional grants to support *Optimistic Aging*.

The library also continues to expand on children's programming. We are grateful for a \$1,500 grant from the Elizabeth C. Davis Memorial Fund that is dedicated to our summer reading programs. This year's theme is *Build A Better World* and the money will be used to bring international music to the library, as well as a camera obscura program, solar eclipse-related programming and prizes for children who complete summer reading challenges. We are also fortunate to have received more than \$900 in summer reading program support from State Assemblywoman Didi Barrett's office. The library also received \$341 of an \$800 MHLS Early Literacy Grant through funds from the New York State Library's Family Literacy Services Program. These funds will be used to enhance and expand CCL's early literacy efforts, including books, music, and creative toys for our *Budding Bookworms* preschool story time, and to help new parents learn how they can encourage their young children to become readers. In the past quarter, the library has continued to offer a monthly *Family Story Time* on Saturday mornings, and our middle school *Battle of the Books* team is gearing up for competition in September.

One more grant that is well worth mentioning is a \$6,000 grant we received from the office of State Senator Sue Serino. We may use that grant to pay for our recently completed audit. Yes, the library Board, honoring its pledge to manage the finances of the library in an open, transparent and prudent manner,

engaged a professional firm to audit our financial resources and policies. The results of that audit will be available to the community.

Adult and family programs at the library this past quarter have been many and varied. A partial list:

- **Citizens Preparedness Emergency Training**
- **Financial Wellness Series:**
 - Budgeting Basics: debt elimination strategies, following a budget, becoming an owner
 - Retirement/Investing Essentials Workshop: planning for retirement, maximizing investment income
- **Hidden Treasures of the Hudson Valley**, lecture by local author Anthony Russo.
- **Herbs of the Mediterranean:** Growing, using, lore & symbolism lecture by CCE Master Gardener.
- **Introduction to Essential Oils and Green Cleaning**
- **All-Level Yoga**
- **Open Mic:** Sing, play music, recite, share a talent!
- **Family Board Games:** Friday afternoons.
- **Chess Classes**
- **Calligraphy Classes**
- **Beading Workshop**

Our Collections: Books, audio books and DVDs fly off the shelves as fast as our Library Director can order them. Our on-line magazine collection keeps expanding also.

CONCERTS ON THE LIBRARY LAWN -- Local bands are coming back by popular demand!

Jul. 7	Cherished Memories	Aug. 4	Bernstein Bard Trio
Jul. 14	Betty and The Baby Boomers	Aug. 11	T. McCann Band
Jul. 21	The Wheelers	Aug. 18	Megan Barbera
Jul. 28	Open Mic	Aug. 25	Open Mic

More Special Upcoming!

- **One World, Global Sounds:** Instruments and their music from around the world, July 17.
- **Bridges!** The history and benefits of Hudson River bridges, August 1.
- **Beauty & The Beast: Lost in a Book:** Jennifer Donnelly reading and discussion, August 5.
- **Community Solar Eclipse Viewing,** August 21

The Library as Our Community Center.

- We are excited to host a Summer exhibit of the extraordinarily beautiful photographs from the cameras of Clinton resident Mary O'Haire.
- In April we hosted a *Build A Better World* reception for all our generous supporters.
- During *National Poetry Month* we invited everyone to pin a favorite verse on our Poetree.
- Our Community Puzzle keeps getting pieced together.
- Some shelves in the library have been set aside for our new ongoing book sale.
- Our book club is seeking new members.
- We celebrated *Worldwide Knit in Public Day* with some library knitting.
- We have put a proposal form on the website; tell us what programs you would like to have or do at the library. Please also join us as a volunteer or trustee.
- And on beastly hot days, please come and cool off at the library.

Now to come back to Ms. Wilder's quote about money. We are so grateful to all our donors, underwriters and grant givers. We keep asking and you keep sending your "stored up energy" to the library. I hope you can see how we are using these donations and grants to make a patchwork quilt of support for our library. But there is a better way. I invite you to learn about the **414 Vote** coming on your ballot in November: www.clinton.lib.ny.us and click on *About Us*.

Barbara Burns, President
Board of Trustees