

Annual Report 2004



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



Annual Report 2004

Message from the Director

Looking back on everything that happened in the library during the previous year is something like watching a movie on fast forward. So much happens during each year that I am simply surprised that we managed to pack so much into such a short time. The major events of 2004 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 the services our residents have come to value.

Patricia Uttaro

March 2005

On the Cover (Top) Chess Club members participate in a human chess game at the end of August. (Bottom) Carolyn Thornton and Janelle Goeke proudly pose with their Gingerbread House Contest entry in December.

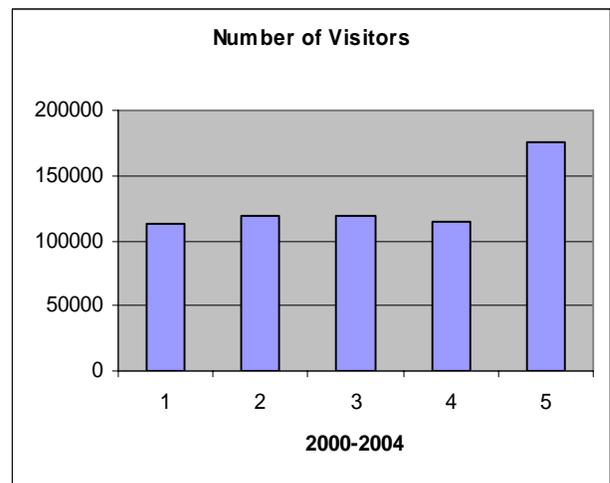
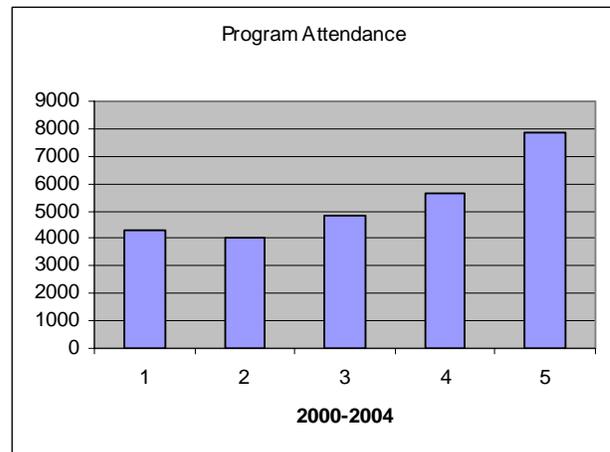
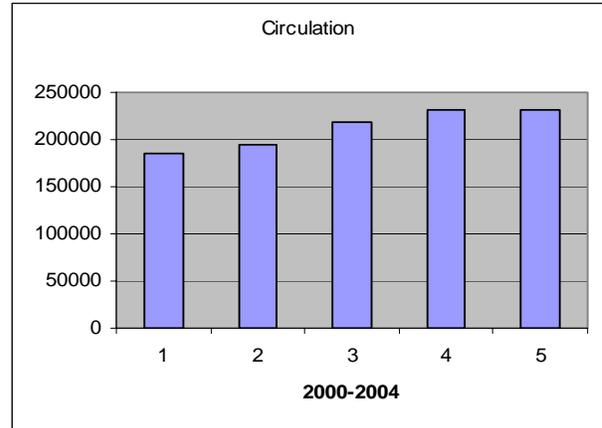
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Statistics

Population Served: 18,492
Collection Size: 67445
Circulation: 230,718
Total Members: 11,332
Days Open: 289
Visitors: 175,907
New Books: 2,732
New Videos: 313
New Music CDs: 373
New Recorded Books: 151
New DVDs: 177
Children's Program Attendance: 6,200
Teen Program Attendance: 826
Adult Program Attendance: 918



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



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2004 Highlights

January

- We debuted the first of our Book Discussion kits, which include multiple copies of one book bagged together with lists of sample discussion questions, book reviews, and an author biography. These kits have become very popular with the numerous book discussion groups that meet in Ogden.
- Artist Megan Kelley completed work on a mural in the children's section that illustrates the nursery rhyme "The House That Jack Built."

February

- Ogden Police Chief Chris Schrank visited the library for a "Mystery Day" in February and talked about how real detectives solve crimes every day.
- The library held two successful fundraisers during February: a Dessert Night raised several hundred dollars for our book budget, and the Friends Garage Sale earned nearly \$1000 for programs.

April

- Roberta held the first ever Teen "Battle of the Bands" in the Ogden Rec gym. Local bands were given stage time to perform, which attracted a crowd of more than 100 people. The event is planned again for 2005.

May

- The library was approached about becoming involved in the restoration of the Spencerport Trolley Depot and operating a small branch library from May-October in the building once it is moved. Expected opening of the depot branch is May 2006.

June-July

- The second installment of the "Pathways to the Past" walking tour was put up in the Village and received warm reviews.
- The library received a grant from Walmart/Sams Club to fund a pen-pal program between children from Ogden and the Lyell Branch Library in the city.
- The library recorded two days in a row when more than 2000 people visited us between 9 am and 9 pm – two record-setting days!

August

- Members of the Teen Chess Club played their first game of human chess in the library meeting room. More than 60 teens played chess at the library each week during the summer.

November-December

- We received word that Target had awarded the library \$2500 to continue the pen-pal program with the Lyell Branch Library during the summer of 2005.
- The Friends held their first Book Fair, presented by "Books Are Fun," a subsidiary of the Readers Digest Company.

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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. 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.



Judges Choice winner of the 2004 Gingerbread Contest – a representation of the book Little House on the Prairie done by the Garrett Family.

Library Trustee Doreen Castano telling stories during Children's Book Week in November 2004.



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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. We are slowly shifting our buying focus to Books on CD due to patron demand, although Books on Tape continue to be popular. In 2005, we will be looking at providing access to digital audio book files that can be downloaded to portable listening devices.
- 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. In 2004, we received several thousand CDs from a class action settlement brought against several record companies by the U.S. Attorney General's Office.
- The Video and DVD collections are added to on a regular basis. During 2004, in response to patron demand, we decided to curtail purchasing of VHS videotapes in favor of purchasing more titles on DVD. To protect of DVD and CD collections from damage, we also purchased a disc cleaner which is lengthening the lives of all our DVDs and CDs.
- Large print books are available for people who prefer a larger type when reading. In 2004, we added 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 2004, Nothnagle Home Properties Spencerport office donated 9 subscriptions to the library.

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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 services they have received by offering a cash donation. In 2004, 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 2004. 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 2004

Ginny, Gary & Dori Swarthout
TOPS Club
Scott McGurrin (in memory of Clara & Claude Wilder)
Bill & Pat Schaefer (in memory of Charles DiPaola)
Faith & Donald Hall
Irene Hewitt (in memory of Anthony Neri)
Florence Wright Chapter of the Historical Society of Early American Decoration
Jean Graupman
Maier's Farm Markets
Jack Crooks
Junior Friends of the Library
Frank & Karen Rakoski
Patricia Uttaro (in memory of Hugh & Arline McDonald)
Ogden Quilt Club

Grants in 2004

Walmart/Sams Club
Target Stores
Assemblyman William Reilich

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Library Services

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

- Storytimes for children are offered four times a week on Tuesday and Friday mornings, Thursday evenings, and Saturday afternoons. The storytimes are conducted by Mrs. Rosalind Krebs, Mrs. Anne Strang and Mrs. Kate Boggs. The Saturday afternoon program is new and was added in response to patron demand.
- Craft programs for all ages are offered seasonally. In 2004, participants made lace, transferred flowers to fabric for quilting, learned about jewelry making, and much more.
- 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 \$5.00 per item. However, in 2004, ILL services were seriously curtailed and the fee per request increased to \$5.00 due to a reduction in State Aid, which resulted in budget cuts at the Monroe County Library System.
- Tours are always available upon request. In 2004, 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.
- Reference service is provided in person, by phone and by email. In 2004, library staff answered more than 25,000 questions.
- Classroom and community group visits are provided by the Director and other librarians. In 2004, we visited more than 50 classrooms, spoke to the Spencerport Lions, the Rochester Genealogical Society, Ogden Seniors, 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 2004 include:

- The 4th Annual Indoor Garage Sale was held in February 2004 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 a disc cleaner that allows staff to clean and repair damaged CDs and DVDs.
- 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.



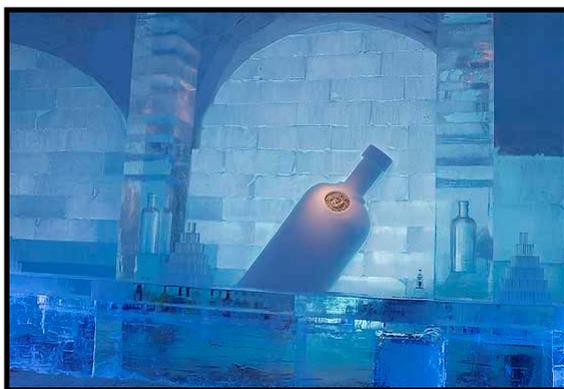
Mr. Mouse, from the children's story [If You Give a Mouse a Cookie](#) by Laura Numeroff, visited the library during Children's Book Week and is pictured here with some of our storytime families. During his stay in town, Mr. Mouse had a pleasant conversation with Supervisor Gay Lenhard about instituting a leash law for cats in the Town of Ogden.

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Library Programs

The Library offers free programming to the community throughout the year. Programs for children are coordinated by Anne Strang; 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 2004 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 2004, 30 families participated; pumpkins were donated by Maier Farms and Jack Crooks. The program has become a model for other Lions Clubs in the area, with the Spencerport Lions teaching other groups how to present the program.
- 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 and History programs were offered throughout the year, and were attended by several hundred people. Local actor David Schuler presented his one-man play as John Adams to an appreciative crowd in May 2004. Other such programs are planned for 2005.
- Other programs offered throughout 2004 included a monthly book discussion for adults, seasonal reading programs for all ages, tating, travelogues, My.Farm, Breakfast with Santa, and balloon sculpting.



David Schuler presented a travelogue in April 2004 on Sweden's Ice Hotel, where he has been a frequent guest. He spoke of the Ice Bar, pictured here, and of the Globe Theatre, church and rooms, all carved out of ice.

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Library Trustees

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

Library Staff

- Patricia Uttaro, Director
- Anne Strang, Librarian
- Kate Vreeland, Librarian
- Roberta Voelkl, Library Assistant
- Cindy Lott, Bookkeeper
- Mary Ann Saeva, Clerk
- Mary Conjerti, Clerk
- Anne Basile, Clerk
- Kate Boggs, Clerk
- Lauren Sochia, Clerk
- Ben Court, Clerk
- Andrew Diehl, Clerk
- Cara Bassett, Clerk
- Amanda Vargas, Page
- Tom Sochia, Page
- Clarise Saeva, Page

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 5 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

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