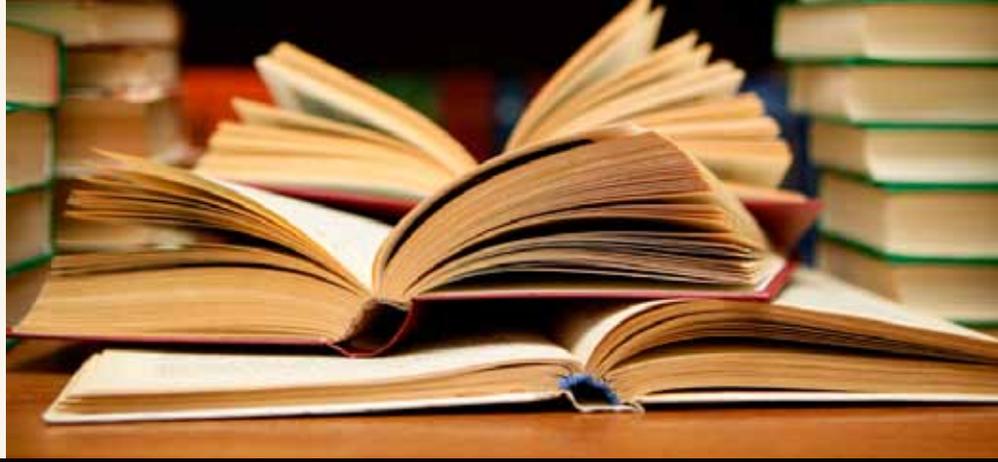


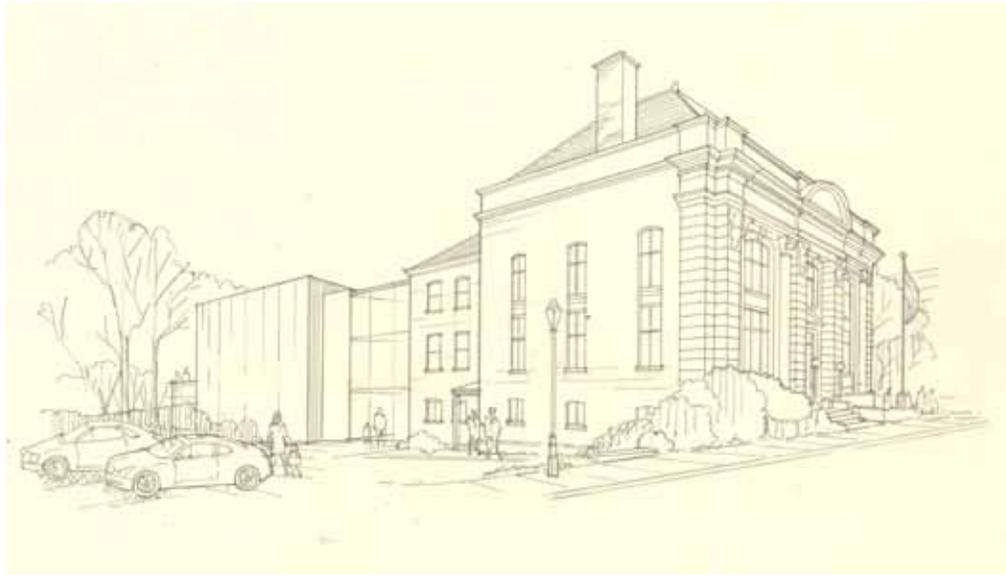


518-842-1080

www.amsterdamlibrary.com



SPRING 2019



Proposed DRI Plans for our Library

Located in the center of Amsterdam's downtown, the Amsterdam Free Library is truly the heart of our community. In 1895, the library was made a free association library following a woman's fundraising campaign sponsored by the Daily Democrat, the forerunner of our Recorder. The campaign raised \$1,500, enough to eliminate the need for subscription fees. In 1902, the President of the library board, Dr. S.H. French wrote to industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie requesting a grant in the sum of \$25,000 which resulted in the Beaux Arts Style Carnegie Library seen today. Construction was completed in 1903 at the corner of Church and Grove Streets and is one of the city's most familiar landmarks.

The "Open to All" medallion above the front entrance is a welcoming sign to all who pass through our doors. The exterior

of the library has changed little in the last 115 years, but within our walls we have seen decades of recurring growth and change. The definition of a library has changed greatly in the 21st century; it is no longer simply a repository for books. The new definition encapsulates a learning and innovation hub and education without barriers, available to all walks of life and spanning all ages and abilities. The library has remained a stalwart friend and keystone as Amsterdam has endured both its highs and lows, never wavering, never closing its doors.

We find ourselves at the cusp of yet another transformation and as our services expand and grow, we have scrutinized the services we offer and space we provide, identifying what the community still needs. A historic building is in need of space to grow and expand. An addition was constructed in 1980, but due to structural issues is pulling away from the original historic building.

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Mini Makers in Action



Amsterdam Free Library Sunday Book Club

The Sunday book club is open to all and is free. We meet about every six weeks and take the summer off. Most books we read are from a collection for book clubs that is maintained by the MVLS (Mohawk Valley Library System). All ages are encouraged to join. We have had high school kids to senior citizens. All programs begin at 2 PM and last until about 3:30. We usually have refreshments. This program has been going since 2003. Come join us.

Coming events:

Sunday April 14, 2019
Poetry day
(Bring a poem to share with group.)

Sunday May 27, 2019
Educated by Tara Westover (Karen Zack is discussion leader.)

Don't want to miss another wonderful event or communication from your library?

Sign up for e-mail communication today. Visit our website or facebook page to opt in.

Cheap Ways to HELP the LIBRARY

Donate your bottles and cans to the Library at
Country Feed 5040 Rte 30 or
Pic.N Nickels 4303 Rte 30 North
Perth

Use **smile.amazon** instead of amazon.com and choose Amsterdam Free Library as your charity. Every time you order the library gets a small donation.



Friends' Corner

How we fill the shelves for the Book Sales (and why some books don't make the cut)?

The books used in our book sales come from Library withdrawals or donations by the public. Every month some wonderful surprises appear. Recently we took in a collection of books about shipwrecks. We received a large collection of bound Zane Gray novels. There were garden books and a treasure trove of knit and crochet projects. These came in along with various popular fiction, non-fiction, sports, and kids' books. The variety is truly amazing.

We reject some books. Given our limited space and the popularity of the internet, we have to discard encyclopedias, most medical books, and textbooks more than 10 years old. Of course books that are torn, stained, or moldy are eliminated. We do try to freshen some books with special erasers or by removing discolored plastic overwraps and stickers. We dust them off and fan the pages to remove various slips of paper people have used as book marks.

There is always something new and unique. So check out our next book sale on June 6, 7 and 8 during regular Library hours. And please donate your gently used books to the Library!

Every Library needs the support of its Friends. Sign up forms are at the Library or can be obtained by email at RBarger5@juno.com

Free Library Culture and Travelogue Program

Please come and listen to some of the most interesting people speak about their travels or cultural events. You will be inspired, amazed and educated by their stories. All events are free and refreshments are provided.

April 18, 2019 | Thursday 6 PM
Dr. Roger A. Ramsammy,
President of HVCC,
From Immigrant to President

Do you want to be inspired? Come hear Dr. Roger Ramsammy speak. Dr. Roger Ramsammy faced extreme poverty growing up in Trinidad and homelessness in the US while studying on a travel visa. Listen to his story of overcoming obstacles to achieve academic excellence and why he turned down a job at the prestigious Mayo Clinic to become a professor instead, and the journey that led to his current position as president of Hudson Valley Community College.

April 25, 2019 | Thursday 6 PM
Christy O'Callaghan Leue,
Writing on the Azores Islands

May 2, 2019 | Thursday 6 PM
Robin DeVito, A Wedding in Rwanda

May 16, 2019 | Thursday 6 PM
Sister Kitty Hanley, Sisters of St. Joseph
of Crondelet Traveling To Their Roots
in France.

(Please check the library website for additions.)



ON MAY 14, 2019
AMSTERDAM READS

will host a bus trip to Albany
to highlight places of interest discussed in
WINTER SISTERS
our book of the year.



*Bus will leave Amsterdam Library
at 9AM.*

*At 10AM, we pick up our guide for an
Albany tour. At noon we go to lunch at
Jack's Oyster House. Lunch is NOT
included in the price of the ticket.*

*After lunch, we visit the
Albany Institute of History and Art
for a guided tour.*



ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART

SEND YOUR CHECK MADE OUT TO AMSTERDAM READS FOR
\$37 (Per Person). Lunch is at your own expense and not included in the trip price.
Money is due by April 13, 2019.

Donna Palczak
2 Summit Ave.
Amsterdam, NY 12010

NAME _____

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

For further information call 518-842-3723.

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Demolishing this addition, and extending the footprint a further 10-12 feet with energy efficient construction would add elements of service that are not available anywhere in our city or surrounding area. A new, modern space would complement the history and construction of the original building, the culmination of a century of investing in people and our community.

This modernization project will create a place to foster and develop a workforce of prepared individuals before leaving high school, providing alternatives to the traditional college path. Practical life skills and trades are a route some students don't realize are open to them, keeping graduates in the area and attracting entrepreneurs. This new addition is the key component for library modernization, facilitating an increase in overall employment, population growth, and a dramatic increase in the region's per capita income. As of the 2010 Census, the City's population was recorded as 18,620 residents, with 27.8% of the individuals being below the poverty line, and a median household income at \$35,304. The City's unemployment rate is at 10.6%, significantly higher than New York State's 7.5%. 14.4% of the population graduated with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Starting with our youngest patrons, the library has embraced STEM education with a Preschool Learning Hour, weekly teaching children the wonders of science and exploration. STEM based programs are also offered on a regular basis to student of all ages, including numerous outreach programs where we bring both CAD design and 3D printing into classrooms. The proposed modernization project will advance the education network in developing a workforce aligned with the region's focus, doubling the number of STEM jobs by 2030, and creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem. These steps will further support the economic and financial well-being of the city, county, and region.

The modern addition will span three floors and one of the most notable attributes includes a large, ground level multi-use community room that includes a stage, sound and light equipment, screen and projector. A space such as this is not available anywhere in our city or surrounding area. Whether business conference, trade

show, science fair, live plays/acting, poetry recitals, writing and poetry workshops, movie screenings, classes, or community meetings, the space has limitless potential and would see continuous use. We are currently ADA compliant with a small elevator and two handicapped ramps. Unfortunately, new wheelchairs are far too heavy and large to fit in our current elevator to transport people up to our children's and young adult departments. A full size elevator in the new addition will alleviate this access problem. Also available in this new space are a number of offices that can be used for new entrepreneurs that don't have their own equipment and need office space to use for meetings, developing plans, prototypes, etc. Computers, printers, fax machines, copy machines, conference areas would all be a part of this business incubator. This floor would be able to be secured from the main library so that it may be accessed during hours the library is not open.

On the second floor of the modern addition, main level of the library, new stacks that are shorter will make it easier for persons with disabilities to reach materials. Large glass doors would lead out onto a composite deck that will be used for preschool and children's programming during the week and during our extensive Summer Reading Program. The space will also be used for book discussion, outdoor movies and a variety of additional programming. Raised garden beds on this level and the lower level, along with an integrated water catchment system and solar panels will help to reduce our footprint and serve as a model for our community.

On the third and top floor we would like the space split, one half being a new Makerspace. We currently work with The Schoharie River Center, a science-based educational group based in Burtonsville, NY. This Amsterdam Environmental Science Team regularly conducts water quality testing on the Chuctanunda Creek, Mohawk River and the Schoharie River. Equipment, microscopes, and dedicated space would allow the Schoharie River Center to expand and offer this unique educational program to more students in the city of Amsterdam. Additionally, we currently own a 3D printer which is used for programming both in house and outreach, but lack a dedicated space for our tools, substantial 'tinkering' and STEM

exploration. The second half of this area would house an industrial teaching kitchen. With a space such as this the options for teaching are limitless and would also serve as an arm of our business incubator.

YOU Can Help to Fund the Modernization

The first meeting of the Modernization and Funding Committee of the Amsterdam Free Library was held on April 6th at the library. The purpose of the committee is to involve the community in the modernization of the library and the fundraising necessary to do this.

Library Director Nicole Hemsley provided an overview of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Amsterdam has been awarded a \$10 million grant. The community committee has recommended 20 projects for Amsterdam worth approximately \$15 million per New York State grant guidelines. The library has preliminary architectural plans and asked for \$4.3 for modernization. If approved the community committee has decided to recommend an award of \$1.8 million to the library or about 40% of the requested \$4.3 million. The remaining \$2.5 million must be found in other places.

Director Hemsley will try to obtain \$1 million through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application grant. She will also apply for \$ 0.3 million from the NYS Library Construction Grant and for \$0.5 million from the Historic Preservation Grant. This still leave a balance of approximately \$750,000.

Participants brainstormed ways to raise the necessary funds and also offered comments on the modernization plan and use for the library of the future. Director Hemsley asked participants to think about participating and chairing one of the fundraising committees. She also asked participants to bring others that may be willing to help to our next meeting which will be held on Saturday, May 4th at 10:00 at the library.

PLEASE consider joining us!! Everyone can help in some way. We hope to see you there!

MAY 4TH AT 10:00 AM IN THE Library