

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

2011 saw our library continue its trajectory into the ranks of truly professional and exciting organizations. Our 2011 Centennial Celebration was a spectacular success (in spite of the rain that affected the outside events) and our strategic planning process was launched, to be completed in the coming year.

Ann Malpass, originally appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2010, was elected in 2011. Deborah Genestreti did not run for a fourth term in 2011, opening up a spot that Bill McDade was elected to fill. We thank Deborah for her years of service, especially as she served mostly in the labor-intensive position of Secretary of the Board. Bill is a welcome addition and we appreciate his input and insight.

We expanded our open hours on Wednesday evenings until 8 p.m. to serve those patrons who may not be able to make it to the library during typical business hours. This was done without a corresponding increase in our budget, but by utilizing staff differently. We consider our staff to be our greatest asset and consistently hear the same comment from library users.

Use of the library expanded even more in 2011, particularly as to computer use and ebooks. We demonstrated our dedication to getting ahead of the curve by hosting a Technology summit in September as part of our strategic planning process. The library continued to offer its many children's programs, film series for both adults and youngsters, musical events and art exhibits. At the same time, the library co-sponsored a Centennial Programming Series with the Friends of the Library and the Rye Historical Society. Rye Public Library is the de facto community center of our town and we are pleased and proud to do all we can to make it even more user friendly.

The library was made more energy efficient last year by placing closed foam insulation in overhead ceiling space. This was funded in part from funds made available to the Town of Rye from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. We are now monitoring what we hope will be a reduction in our energy usage, putting us in a better position to determine what will be needed to replace our existing heating units (nearing the end of their useful life) when that becomes necessary.

We are pleased to dedicate ourselves to the continuing mission of the library, to be further defined with the completion of our Strategic Plan in 2012 and to thank all those who make the library the welcoming, vibrant and integral place it is.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen W. Oliver
2011 Chair, Rye Public Library Board of Trustees