



Library Advocacy Day – March 1, 2011

The Westchester Library System and the Westchester Library Association once again partnered with the Mid-Hudson and Ramapo Catskill Library Systems and sent 3 buses with **over 140** people to Albany for Library Advocacy Day. Thanks goes to Dan Hulse from the

Ramapo Catskill Library System and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich from Mid-Hudson Library System for their assistance with coordinating the bus and other logistics and to Westchester Library Association for donating the goodies that we enjoyed on the return trip.

Representing Westchester was a total of **33** people representing 23 libraries (see below) and WLS, including directors, trustees, staff, friends, and advocates.

Pictured below L-R: Tom Geoffino, Director, New Rochelle Public Library; Jim Farrell, Director, Ossining Public Library.

Armonk-North Castle Public Library
 Bedford Free Library
 Briarcliff Manor Public Library
 Dobbs Ferry Public Library
 Eastchester Public Library
 Irvington Public Library
 Katonah Village Library
 Larchmont Public Library
 Mamaroneck Public Library
 Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose)
 Mount Kisco Public Library

Mount Pleasant Public Library
 New Rochelle Public Library
 Ossining Public Library
 Pound Ridge Library District
 Scarsdale Public Library
 The Warner Library (Tarrytown)
 Tuckahoe Public Library
 Yonkers Public Library
 John C. Hart Memorial Library (Shrub Oak)
 Westchester Library System



We visited all 13 offices of the legislators who represent Westchester County and met with the following individuals:

Adam Silver, Senior Policy Advisor to Suzi Oppenheimer, 37th Senate District
 Thomas Abinanti, 92nd Assembly District
 Nancy Rissacher, Legislative Aide to Mike Spano, 93rd Assembly District
 Gerry Gershonowitz, Program Associate to Greg Ball, 40th Senate District
 Amy Paulin, 88th Assembly District
 Gerard Savage, Chief of Staff to Ruth Hassell-Thompson, 36th Senate District



Pictured L-R: Patricia Fontanella, Trustee, Westchester Library System; Debbie Coppola, Director, Tuckahoe Public Library; Tracy Wright, Director, Eastchester Public Library; Senator Jeff Klein, 34th Senate District; Robert Cartolano, President, Eastchester Public Library; Tom Geoffino, Director, New Rochelle Public Library; and Haina Just-Michael, President, New Rochelle Public Library.

Robert Castelli, 89th Assembly District
 Gary Pretlow, 87th Assembly District
 George Latimer, 91st Assembly District
 Andrea Stewart-Cousins, 35th Senate District
 Katharine McLoughlin, Legislative Director to Sandy Galef, 90th Assembly District
 Stephen Katz, 99th Assembly District
 Jeffrey Klein, 34th Senate District



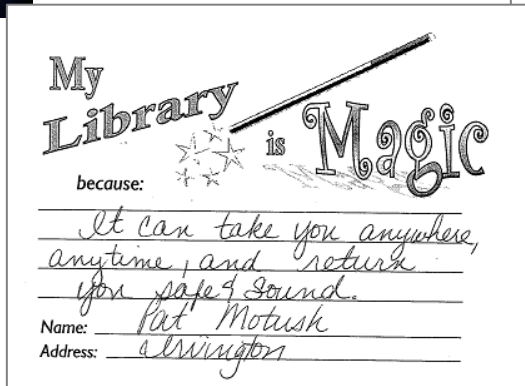
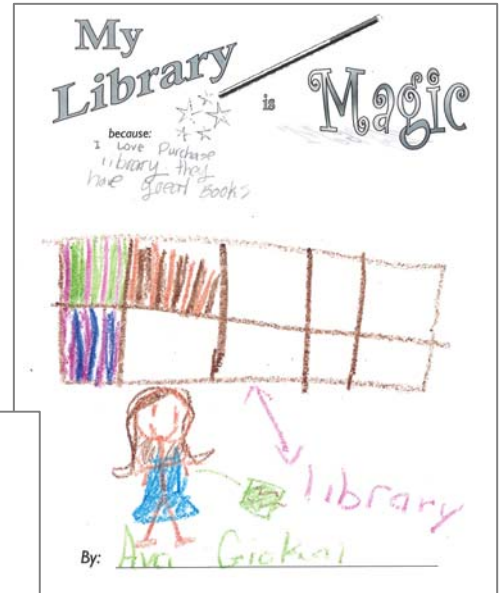
Pictured L-R (front row): Marcia Hupp, Children's Librarian, Mamaroneck Public Library District; Ellen McTyre, Youth Services Librarian, Mamaroneck Public Library District; Frank Connelly, Staff, Larchmont Public Library; (back row) NYS Assemblyman George Latimer, 91st Assembly District; Haina Just-Michael, President, New Rochelle Public Library; Tom Geoffino, Director, New Rochelle Public Library.

In addition, two hoc visits were made to Assemblyman Robert P. Reilly, the recently appointed Chair of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Educational Technology, as well as the office of the Director of the Budget Robert Megna. Library advocates from across New York State filled Meeting Room 6 for the NYLA Rally.

It was the largest crowd seen in the past few years – getting through security took quite a while. With this being Governor Cuomo’s first year in office, many groups were there to have their voices heard! Our presence to voice the need for library funding was critical.



We also hand delivered **over 600 Libraries are Magic** note cards! To the left, Marcia Hupp and Ellen McTyre of Mamaroneck Public Library District show George Latimer the cards from Mamaroneck; and Frank Connelly of Larchmont Public Library speaks with Mr. Latimer. To the right and below are examples of the notes received.



Most of the legislators representing Westchester support and understand the importance of libraries. However, New York State is facing a projected \$64.6 Billion deficit over the next 4 years, and there are a lot of difficult choices to be made.

So, our job is not over!

The Joint Senate/Assembly budget conference committees commence on March 15; and the joint legislative budget bills will be taken up by the Senate & Assembly on March 28-31.

While I extend a special thank you to all those from Westchester who attended this year’s Library Advocacy Day – and all those who have reached out to their legislators through the note cards, emails, phone calls, etc. – I also encourage everyone to continue to contact your legislators about the benefits libraries provide to **all** members of the community.



Elise Burke
Executive Assistant
Westchester Library System