

Philipsburg Jubilee Library Foundation
Ch. E. W. Voges Street
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, Dutch West Indies



Philipsburg Jubilee Library Annual report 2018 (version 4.0)

A window to a turbulent year



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Executive summary

The year 2018, was a very challenging year to secure the main objective of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL): 'to establish and keep in existence of a library'. At the end of 2018, the library was closed due to rulings of the Inspectorate of Labor and Safety and the Fire Department. There was also not an alternative location available. With this, Sint Maarten lost an important free and easily accessible meeting place for the entire community.

Of course this translated also in a turbulent year for the board and the staff of the PJL. On top of that there have been changes in both board and staff. The present board is in full strength since May 3, 2018. A lot of time and energy of the board went to the insurance claim of the damage that was caused by the hurricanes Irma and Maria. Also, a lot of time and energy went into the realization of a temporary location. The staff has been focusing on securing as much as books as possible by packing them in boxes and storing them. This, is all part of the preparation of a re-location of the library.

In 2018 the PJL has been functioning on 12% of the total surface of the building. The amount of books in display was about 700 titles. The evaluation of the activity plan 2018 shows that the membership went up a little bit, but the amount of visitors was only 50% of the projected amount. The amount of books lend out went 40% down compared with 2017. The books expansion reached 23% of the target and 280% more books were written off than was projected. Some services could not be rendered anymore, such as a baby and toddler fantasy room and a media lab. These trends are substantiated by statistics. Nevertheless, the library remained open for the public most of the year.

As mentioned before, the housing situation has been one of the biggest challenges in 2018. The current housing is in a bad shape and ended up being closed on December 10, 2018. Over the year the PJL had a lot of communication with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports about a temporary location; Super Plaza II, selected and proposed by the PJL. The PJL also started the process of the preparation for a new building on the present location. For this, on May 17, 2018 the PJL, the Sint Maarten Archeological Center and the Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding in the presence of the then Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports.

Financially the PJL was mainly subsidized by the Government of Sint Maarten. In addition a variety of institutions has been supportive with donations and gifts. On November 24, 2018 a radiothon was organized by Philipsburg Broadcasting, to create awareness of the importance of a public library and to raise money for the new building. A lot of private persons, companies and institutions donated.

Even though there was a lot of turbulence in 2018, the PJL managed to continue with several important programs to stimulate reading in general and to encourage children to read in particular. The outreach program "Book Talk" was continued; it is a form of reading with complementary storytelling, singing and puppet theatre. To assist children with processing their trauma caused by the hurricanes, a social worker and story teller assisted the PJL for 3 months with 'Creativity for Kids'. Reading promotion in general was offered by volunteers in terms of storytelling or book reading. Several schools were included in the programs.

During the year there were several events, celebrations and memorials. To name a few: January 14, Mrs. Irmin Hughes celebrated 40 years working for the PJJ; the whole month of February Black History month; March 10, SXM Doet; May 28, Book week Saba; the whole month of July the Summer Learning Program; September 8, International Literacy Day; October 7, Book week with the Rotterdam library; November 23 95 years PJJ.

The 'Think Book' in memory of World War II was presented to group 7 and 8 of all 17 primary schools in both English and Dutch (1,249 books). As customary, several writers presented their most recent books.

Introduction

The year 2018, was again a year with a lot of turbulence. These are some of the highlights. As a result of the aftermath of the hurricanes Irma and Maria the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL) had only 12% of its surface available; with as a result limited services. The continuous discussions about temporary housing were to no avail. The exiting adventure to prepare for a new building started. Also vacancies in the governance structure of the PJL came with challenges. On November 23, 2018 the PJL celebrated its 95th years of existence. And last but not least, there was the closure of the PJL on December 10, 2018.

Philipsburg Jubilee Library Foundation

The PJL is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, subsidized agency. The PJL is the only public library in Sint Maarten.

Objectives

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library Foundation was established on September 27, 1974. In accordance with the articles of incorporation the objectives are:

- To establish and keep in existence a library;
- To promote, encourage and stimulate active reading of books and other legible materials;
- To do and promote everything in connection with the above.

It needs to be noted that the Philipsburg Jubilee Library Foundation is in the process of amending its articles of incorporation to bring them in line with the Corporate Governance Code. As a part of that, the objectives will become also more contemporary, for instance (tentatively):

- Promote literacy and a love of reading;
- Contribute to the education of Sint Maarten's youth and facilitate and support "lifelong learning";
- Promote digital literacy among all age groups;
- Promote awareness and knowledge of Sint Maarten's history and cultural heritage and support nation building;
- Be a free and easily accessible meeting place for the entire community.

Vision and mission

The vision of the PJL is to be a gate-way for information in Sint Maarten and to provide basic conditions for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of individuals and social groups in our society.

The following key-missions are the core of the services of the PJL:

- Creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;
- Supporting both individual and self-conducted education, as well as formal education at all levels;
- Providing opportunities for personal creative development;
- Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;
- Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
- Providing access to cultural expression of all performing arts;
- Fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favoring cultural diversity;

- Supporting the oral tradition;
- Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
- Providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations, foundations and interest groups;
- Facilitating the development in information and computer literacy skills;
- Supporting and participating in literacy activities and programs for all age groups and initiating such activities, if necessary.

New approach

This annual report breaks with the tradition of the previous years. The first part of the report gives the views from a governance perspective. It also includes the balance sheet and the profit & loss statement of the financial statements 2018. The second part presents the activities that took place in 2018, with pictures as illustrations.

Governance

In the present constellation the governance structure of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL) consists of a (managing) board and a director.

Board

In accordance with article 5.1. the articles of incorporation, the Foundation is managed by the board. As per January 1, 2018 the board consist of:

- Mr. P. Martens, president;
- Mr. J. Challenger, vice – president/ acting – secretary;
- Mrs. J. Peterson, treasurer;
- Mr. P. Aarsen, member.

On April 17, 2018 the following board members resigned:

- Mr. J. Challenger, vice – president/ acting – secretary;
- Mr. P. Aarsen, member.

As a result of a recruitment process, on April 1, 2018 the board appoints:

- Mrs. S. Pantophlet-Gregoria, secretary.

As a result of the same recruitment process, on May 3, 2018 the board appoints:

- Mr. X. Blackman, member;
- Mrs. J. Dupersoy, member.

As from May 3, 2018 until December 31, 2018 this is the composition of the board:

- Mr. P. Martens, president;
- Mrs. J. Peterson, treasurer;
- Mrs. S. Pantophlet-Gregoria, secretary.
- Mr. X. Blackman, member;
- Mrs. J. Dupersoy, member.

Since April 17, 2018 the position of vice-president has been vacant.

In total the board had 12 regular meetings and one closed meeting. All regular meetings were recorded by Mr. P. Lucas. After approval the minutes were laid down and signed.

Attendance

At the beginning of each meeting all board members are required to sign in on an attendance sheet. The total attendance in 2018 was as follows:

Name	Present	Absent	# Meetings	Rate
Mr. P. Martens	11	1	12	92%
Mrs. J. Peterson	9	3	12	75%
Mr. P. Aarsen	3		3	100%
Mr. J. Challenger	3		3	100%

Name	Present	Absent	# Meetings	Rate
Mrs. S. Pantophlet-Gregoria	8		8	100%
Mr. X. Blackman	7	1	8	88%
Mrs. J. Dupersoy	7	1	8	88%

High-lights

Some of the high-lights of the board meetings in 2018 were:

- Insurance claim on damages by the hurricane Irma and Maria and the looting that followed;
- Temporary housing;
- The role of the director;
- Approval of the first audited financial statements 2017 and approval of the annual report 2017;
- Recruitment and appointment of new board members;
- Establishment of a communication plan;
- The set-up and functioning of the financial administration;
- Communication with the union (WICSU/ PSA);
- Contracting of a project manager;
- Contracting of an external accountant to assist with budget and quarterly reports;
- Workshop Corporate Governance Code;
- Request for subsidy 2019 (budget and activity plan 2019);
- Establishment of a financial manual;
- Establishment of a memorandum of understanding with the Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation and the Sint Maarten Archeological Foundation;
- Long term sick leave of employee;
- Evaluation Summer Learning Program;
- Pension plan and health insurance policy;
- Appointment interim-director;
- Recruitment new director;
- Meetings with the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports;
- Meetings and other communication with the Department of Culture;
- Subsidy assessment 2006;
- Celebration 95 years of existence;
- Dismissal employee;
- Closure of the PJJ building.

Director

In accordance with article 5.4. of the articles of incorporation the board appoints one or more librarians, who will take care of the daily management of the library with instructions of the board. In the year 2018 this was filled in as follows:

- Mrs. M. Alberts, director (from January 1, 2018 until August 1, 2018);
- Mrs. I. Hughes, interim director (from July 21, 2018 until December 31, 2018).

The director reported on a weekly bases to the board.

Recruitment director

In July 2018 the board started with the recruitment process, by developing a new job-description and a text for the advertisement of the director vacancy. The publication of the vacancy was done in different media in Sint Maarten, Curacao and The Netherlands. Seven candidates responded.

Corporate Governance

The articles of incorporation of the PJJ were established on September 27, 1974. The contents of these articles is outdated and does not reflect the Corporate Governance Code. As a first step in the preparations to implement this Code, the board decided to participate in a Corporate Governance Workshop on June 2, 2018 organized by For a Change N.V. During the workshop the present Governance situation and the Corporate Governance Code were presented and discussed.

As a follow-up of the workshop a frame-work was developed that will be the guideline for the introduction of Corporate Governance over the coming years.

95 years of existence

The PJJ was established on November 23, 1923. The celebration has been sober, but informative for third parties. Several articles were published in the Weekender of The Daily Herald on November 17, 2018. During the day itself personnel was wearing special celebration shirts and a display was available with 95 testimonies of individuals who answered the question: what does the library mean to you? It is interesting to know that all testimonies express the importance to have a public library as a basic service for the community at large and especially for children and youth.

Accomplishments

On June 13, 2017 the PJJ presented its activity plan 2018 to government as part of the subsidy request 2018. The following table shows the activities that were projected, the targets, the results that were booked and the cause of the discrepancies.

Activity	Target	Result	Cause
Opening hours	5 days a week	As from February 5, 2018 the opening hours have been: Monday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. 1 p.m.	Reason for the different opening hours on a Monday is that staff has a regular meeting between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Amount of members	10,000	10,195	Reason for the little decline is that secondary school students became a member.
Amount of lend out books	35,000	20,301	In 2018 only about 700 books were available on display, due to the limited space (12%).
Book boxes lend-outs	23 day care centers and 11 afternoon schools	0	In 2018 most of the books have been packed in boxes and stored on pallets.
Books expansion	1,500	344	Due to the limited space a minimum of books have been purchased and accepted.
Books to be written off	2,000	5,596	In 2018 all damaged books have been disposed.
Amount of magazine subscriptions	25	25	The amount of subscriptions remained stable.
DVD's expansion	100	N.A.	N.A.
Visitors	50,000	23,550	Limited space and limited services has decreased the amount of visitors seriously. Also the limited opening hours had their effect.
National collection	Expansion	None	Lack of proper space.

Activity	Target	Result	Cause
E-book service	Free for members	Limited collection (801 titles) on Libby to be borrowed by members only	Individuals also have their own access to e-books. Libby has been updated.
Requests for information	1,300	314	Less visitors and shorter opening hours.
Expositions	The whole year through	Sint Maarten Day; Black History Month; 95 years celebration PJJ	The lack of space made expositions impossible.
Baby and toddler fantasy room	50 visitors per week	0	Was not available anymore.
Youth ¹	2,300 books and story-telling	Creativity for Kids. Too cool to loot. Book talks. Story time. Think book. Dear, drop everything and read. Book week. Friendship, Join us. Readers are leaders.	Limited space on the premises. However there were activities on other locations.
Youth service ²	Ongoing	Summer Learning Program.	
Elderly services	Computer classes, information session, Yoga	Reach out and read.	Medialab was not available anymore.
Schools visiting the PJJ	Weekly	On Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday every other week 60 school children from St. Joseph primary school and Sr. Borgia primary school.	Because the library bus is not functioning anymore not all schools are reached. However, the PJJ continued to send book boxes to the schools to promote the reading
Internet café	10 lap-tops and free Wifi	6 desk-tops and free Wifi	Lack of space. Desk-tops are continuously in maintenance.
PR	Ongoing	Communication plan The amount of press-releases by the PJJ was 22. The amount of press releases by third	External parties were willing to cover.

¹ See chapter 'Programs in detail' for more information

² See chapter 'Programs in detail' for more information

Activity	Target	Result	Cause
		parties about the PJL was 11.	
Program for low literate	None	Mrs. P. Sims continued her guidance (SXMReads).	Lack of space discontinued the activities.
Medialab	20 sessions	None.	There was no Medialab available.
Local cooperation and support BES	Ongoing	KOHA supports Saba, St. Eustatius, USM and museum	Need for services.
Regional and international cooperation	Ongoing	Participation in ACURIL yearly conference and in two regional workshops	Networking.

Looking at the above, the accomplishments after a year of hurricanes is not that bad.

Statistics

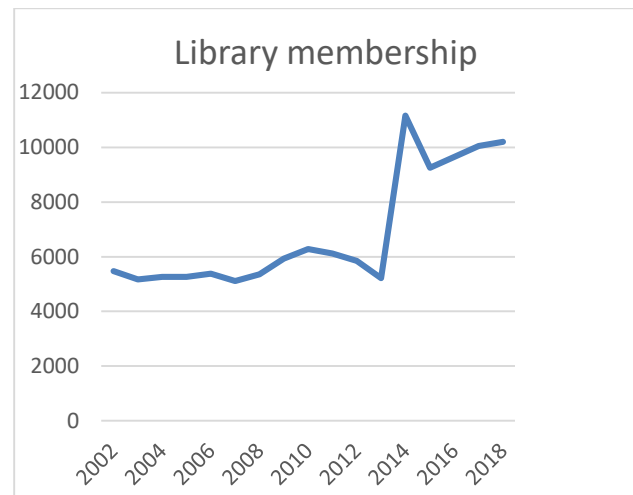
This chapter presents some statistics that further substantiate the accomplishments.

Membership

The trend of the total amount of members, shows a huge increase as from 2013. After the hurricanes Irma and Maria the library had to downsize its activities. Interesting is that 2017 and 2018 still show an increase of membership.

Membership

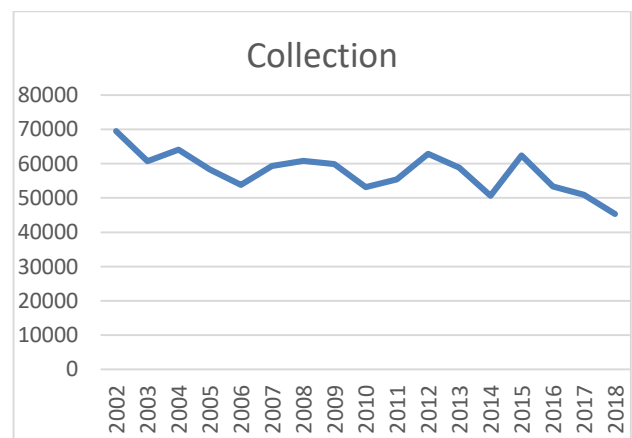
	2016	2017	2018
Adults, seniors	1839	1995	2406
Teenagers	2049	2076	1971
Children	5736	5949	5971
Staff, non-residents	28	32	31
Grand total	9652	10052	10195



Collection

The development of the collection of books and DVD's over the last three years shows a decrease of new books and a firm amount of disposed books.

Collection	New books/ DVD's	Disposed books/ DVD's
2016	1,230	8,983
2017	925	2,492
2018	344	5,596



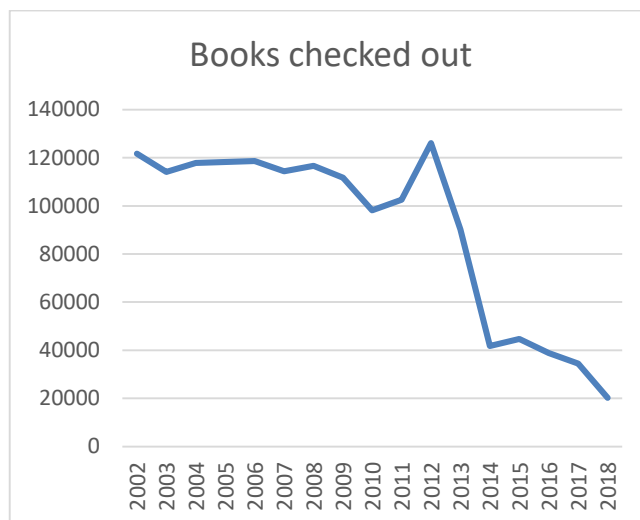
In the aftermath of the inventories held, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted daily book sales. The book sale collection included books from all collections of the library ranging from children collection to adult collection in all genres as well as magazines.

Books checked out

The first table shows the effect of the hurricanes Irma and Maria on the amount of books checked out. As from 2008 the amount of books checked out decreases due to the increased use of internet.

Books checked out

	2016	2017	2018
Adult's books	5739	5917	4503
E-books	424	354	545
Children's books, DVD's, Magazines	32735	28248	15253
Grand total	38898	28875	20301

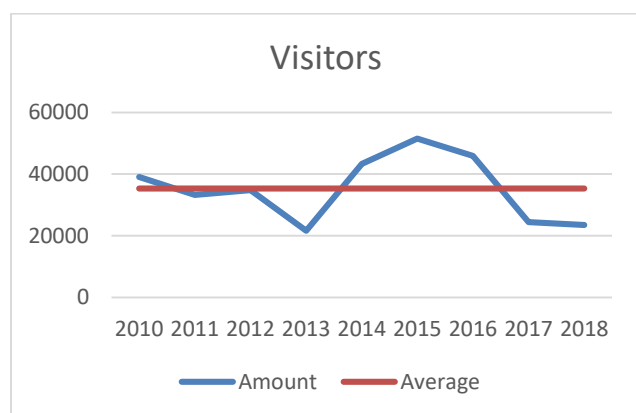


Visitors

The table shows that the highest amount of visitors was in 2015 and the lowest amount in 2013. The year 2018 comes close to 2013.

Amount of visitors								
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
39,049	33,288	34,810	21,633	43,296	51,502	45,938	24,469	23,550

The graph below shows that the amount of visitors has been circulating the last nine years around the 35,000, but strongly decreased in 2017 and 2018. After December 10, 2018 when the library closed, the amount of visitors dropped down to zero.



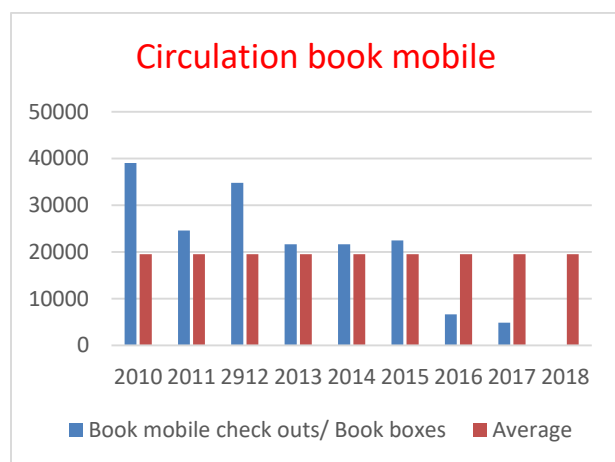
During 2018 approximately 1,680 class visits were done from the St. Joseph School and the Sister Borgia School that frequent the library to return and choose new items for their reading pleasure, this circulation activity was scheduled bi-weekly. Children attending these class visits were briefed on the current limited library situation.

Circulation bookmobile

The circulation bookmobile has been a very effective way to make books available, if you compare it with the total amount of books checked out.

Number of bookmobile check-outs/ Book boxes								
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
39,049	24,606	34,810	21,635	21,635	22,500	6,655	4,860	0

The graph below shows that in nine years' time the amount of bookmobile check outs and book boxes decreased from almost 40,000 to zero. Especially after 2016 the decrease went very fast. The cause for this, is that the mobile library became unusable. The decrease of the available book collection after the hurricanes in 2017 did the rest.



Information requests and library visits

The next table shows that the service level of the library decreased after 2016. The amount of damaged books came to a record high in 2018.

	2016	2017	2018
Information requests	1,176	720	314
Library visits (not of school classes)	42,938	24,469	23,550
Total of hurricane damaged books		2,346	6,828

Social media

In general the communication with the library through social media is constant. Remarkable is the strong decrease of the amount of hits on the web-site in 2018.

Social media	2016	2017	2018
Hits on web-site	14,433	13,835	4,915
Likes on Facebook	4,129	4,127	4,174
Likes on baby and toddler Facebook	164	168	162
Followers on Twitter	64	86	101

Staff developments

In the years 2018 the composition of the staff changed as follows:

- As per May 15, 2018 Mr. Pieter Lucas was hired in the position of project manager;
- As per July 21, 2018 Mrs. Irmin Hughes was appointed as interim-director;
- As per August 1, 2018 Mrs. Monique Alberts resigned as director;
- As per November 2, 2018 Mrs. Lucille Kolf was dismissed from her position as a librarian.

On February 13, 2018 Mrs. Irmin Hughes celebrated her 40 years of employment at the library.

Staff composition

The staff composition as of December 31, 2018 is as follows:

- Mrs. Irmin Hughes, interim director;
- Mr. Daniel Helligar, circulation assistant/ technical assistant;
- Ms. Francia Housen, system administrator/ circulation clerk;
- Ms. Joy Lambert, librarian/ financial officer;
- Mr. Pieter Lucas, project manager;
- Ms. Mariland Powell, public relations officer and activity coordinator/ children's and teen's librarian;
- Ms. Shirley Richardson, secretary/ selection and acquisition coordinator/ circulation head;
- Ms. Melackia Spencer, circulation clerk.

As per December 31, 2018 the total formation of the PJJ is: 7.5 FTE.

Staff meetings

The staff meets on a regular bases, mostly on Monday morning between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The staff met 13 times in 2018. On July 16, 2018 there was a joint board-staff meeting. All staff meetings were recorded and after approval the minutes were presented to the board.

Education

The PJJ is a member of the Association of University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL). Mrs. Monique Alberts has been attending the 48th Annual ACURIL Conference which was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from June 3-7, 2018. The theme of the conference was entitled '*Open Access in Caribbean Libraries, Archives and Museums: Opportunities, Challenges and Future Directions*'. It revolves around four sub-themes:

- The Global and Caribbean Context;
- Policy, Strategy and Advocacy;
- Professional Development and User Education;
- Innovation and Trends.

On June 7, 2018 she received the gavel of ACURIL's presidency from Kumaree Ramtahal.

From July 30, until August 3, 2018 Ms. Mariland Powell, Mr. Daniel Helligar and Mr. Pieter Lucas participated in the 'Regional approaches to disaster, recovery and heritage preservation' conference, organized by the government of Sint Maarten in collaboration with:

- Caribbean Archive Association;
- International Council on Archives;
- UNESCO cluster office for the Caribbean;
- 'Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland';
- Gerda Henkel 'Stiftung'.

A report on the conference is available on request.

On November 21 and 22, 2018, Ms. Joy Lambert, Ms. Francia Housen, Mr. Daniel Helligar and Mr. Pieter Lucas participated in the 'Sub-regional training workshop for Information for All (IFAP) and Memory of the World (MOW) National Committees' in Sint Maarten, organized by the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean. A report on the workshop is available on request.

On November, 19 2018 the full staff participated in a workshop from SZV to get familiar with all SZV funds, procedures, conditions and requirements. The workshop was well received. A report on the workshop is available on request.

On November 15, 2018 some staffers and board members participated in a meeting with the Guardian Group to get a better understanding of the pension plans and of the related disability insurances. All other staffers are insured through APS.

Union

The board met with the union (WICSU/ PSU) on August 27, 2018 to discuss a new Collective Labor Agreement (CLA). It was agreed upon that the union would present a draft text CLA in English in September 2018. At the end of 2018 there still was no draft available.

Housing

Since its inception the PJJ has been moved a lot from the one location to the other. Since 1984, the PJJ is located at its current location.

Current location

As reported last year, the PJJ building suffered major damage as a result of the hurricanes Irma and Maria. Nevertheless, despite the damage, the PJJ continued to move forward for the community that she serves. Only 12% of the total surface was still useful, which limited the services. In the meantime mildew and mold found their way through the building causing health hazards. In addition the leaks in the roof caused risk for electrical breakdown.

On January 31, 2018 the Inspectorate of Labor and Safety of the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor did an assessment of the PJJ building and presented the board a list of recommendations. All recommendations have been executed.

In the period February to May, 2018 there have been multiple burglaries.

On November 7, 2018 the board of the PJJ received a report from the Labor and Safety Inspector, in which it was concluded that the building is unsafe and unhealthy for any person to carry out any duties. On November 23, 2018 the board of the PJJ received a report from the Fire Safety Inspectorate, in which the building has been disapproved ('afgekeurd'). On December 6, 2018 the board of the PJJ decided to close the PJJ as per Monday December 10, 2018. The staff of the PJJ has been informed about this decision on December 7, 2018 and was sent home with pay.

The insurance claim from the damage of the building and the inventory after the two hurricanes is still pending.

Temporary location

On March 2, 2018 the PJJ presented a letter to the then Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports to explain the housing situation as of September 6, 2017. The letter mentions the numerous contacts the PJJ had with different government entities about the housing situation. The letter also presented the outcome of a market research, done by the PJJ to identify alternative housing. Of the three selected objects the Super Plaza II building came out as the most appropriate building for the PJJ.

Through the year, there have been a lot of communication with the Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Head of the Department of Culture about the temporary housing in Super Plaza II and alternatives (e.g. library bus, two retractable ten foot containers). Government and the PJJ did not reach to an agreement.

New building

On May 17, 2018 the Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation, the Sint Maarten Archeologic Center Foundation and the Philipsburg Jubilee Library Foundation signed (see next picture) a memorandum of understanding (MoU). This MoU has been the basis for the parties, to explore all possibilities for

permanent joint housing and possibilities of jointly presenting and rendering their services to the public in the future



Based on the MoU a task-force has been established with two representatives per party. In 2018 the task-force met eleven times. On August 30, 2018 a representation of the task-force met also with the Council of Ministers to explain them the direction the task-force is moving in. The focus of the task-force is to have a new building in 2022.

Originally the point of departure of the task-force was a financial participation of the World Bank to the amount of 12,5 million USD. On August 2018, during a meeting with the Council of Ministers, it became clear that the PJJ was not considered as one of the beneficiaries of the World Bank Recovery Fund. As from September 2018 the task-force changed its approach and focused on private funding. At the end of 2018 the task-force has selected six architects to make preliminary sketches (artistic impressions) to be part of a promotional portfolio.

Engagements

In the aftermath of the hurricanes Irma and Maria the PJJ received financial and material support from:

- American Library Association (ALA);
- Biblionef;
- Boekenstorm (Dutch libraries);
- Books for Life;
- Centrale Bank Curacao en Sint Maarten;
- DLC Florida International University;
- Dutch representation in Sint Maarten;
- Engage Foundation;
- Hoge School Holland;
- Public Library Bijlmermeer;
- Starlet;
- Stichting Samenwerkende Fondsen;
- Queen Wilhemina Library Saba;
- Wolder support Sint Maarten.

On and after the radiothon on November 24, 2018 the PJJ also received donations from private persons, companies and institutions, which will be used for the preparations of a new building.

The board and staff of the PJJ are very grateful for all these financial engagements. Thanks, thanks, thanks!

Finances

To strengthen the financial process, the PJJ engaged ATLAS to make consolidated quarterly reports. This allows the PJJ board to have a better insight in the financial position of the PJJ. It is also a step towards the Corporate Governance Code. Also a start was made, developing financial procedures that can be used as guidelines for the staff.

Balance sheet

Will be added after audit

Profit & loss statement

Will be added after audit

Programs in detail

Due to the limited use of our facility, we were not always able to execute our *programs* as planned before. However knowing how important we are to the community we amended them as best as possible to achieve the desired goals.

Programs such as the Babies and Toddlers program, Easter Egg Hunt, Readers are Leaders, Media Lab sessions, Christmas Market etc. were discontinued.

Programs were held on and off location. We started the year with the continuation of programs in progress such as “Book Talk” and reading promotion.

“Book Talk”

The outreach program “Book Talk” is in the form of reading and reading related programs. The program’s aim was to assist students with their comprehension and literacy skills. The programs were always followed up with complimentary storytelling, singing, puppets theater and /or readers theater.

Observing the positive reactions of our patrons during 2017, we continued this outreach program by visiting daycare facilities and after school programs. Sessions containing storytelling, reading, and technology were well received. “Book Talk” was closed off at the end of January 2018.



Photo Caption: (L_R) Melackia Spencer (Ideal Play School), Mariland Powell (Discovery Kidz), and Daniel Helligar (Players Development Foundation)

Aid for children with post- hurricane trauma

According to the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), all children in Sint Maarten have been traumatized by the passing of the hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. To assist children in processing these traumas, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library invited social worker and storyteller from Curacao Mrs. Guineta de Palm under the theme “Creativity for Kids” to Sint Maarten to work on behalf of

the library for 3 months. (January to March 2018). This program was in conjunction with the Association for Psychologist and Allied Professionals (APAP), Foundation Judicial Institutes (SJIS), and Mental Health Foundation (MHF).

“Creativity for Kids” is a methodology developed by Mrs. Guineta de Palm for guiding traumatized children and youths. It offers activities that are original, educational and innovative so that children can get the space to express themselves and have fun in doing so.

60 children from the participating schools took part in the “Creativity for Kids”. Participating schools were St. Joseph, Marie Genevieve de Weever, and the Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) John A. Gumbs Campus. The activities consisted of painting, games, stories, music, skits, and therapy sessions.

The aim of the sessions for the participating schools and their student's ages 4-12 years, were for them to express themselves, deal with their emotions pertaining to their experiences in the aftermath of the passing of hurricane Irma. “Creativity for Kids” is a process towards a more secure feeling, understanding, and rebuilding of spirits. School counselors, social workers, parents were instrumental in the process as 50% of the children were in need of additional aid.



Photo Caption: “Creativity for Kids” coordinator Mrs. Guineta de Palm; students and representatives of the Marie Genevieve de Weever, and library’s project coordinator Ms. Mariland Powell



Photo Caption: “Creativity for Kids” coordinator Mrs. Guineta de Palm; students and representatives of the Methodist Agogic Center (MAC) Rev. John A. Gumbs Campus, and library’s project coordinator Ms. Mariland Powell

Reading Promotion

Reading promotion deals with promoting and developing a reading culture in our community with the strategies such as “Story Time” that develop literacy activities that range from providing opportunities that create readers, reading pleasures, and provide a diverse collection to all.

“Story Time”

Due to the limited space in the current building, we held “Story Time” under a tent in the garden for children, clients of the Mental Health Foundation, schools, and after-school programs. Sister Borgia School and Lionel Conner schools visited the library for story time sessions and the Sister Regina Primary school invited the library staff for story time sessions to their location.

These activities were carried out by the staff or invited guests among them were authors, medical students from the American University in the Caribbean (AUC) and Rotarians from Rotary Mid Isle.

On Thursday, April 19th, 2018, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library welcomed Norway born educator Mrs. Gro Strand Griffin who fulfilled her promise of 2014, to bring the true story a biography of her husband entitled “From Front street to Oslo and back...” to the Children of Sint Maarten. Mrs. Gro Strand Griffin’s husband was the son of a shoemaker, who lived in Front street (Sint Maarten). Fifteen children from “No Kidding with our Kids’ Foundation” were also treated to complimentary music and dance of Mrs. Gro Strand Griffin’s native country Norway.



Photo Caption: Mrs. Gro Strand Griffin, students, and teachers of “No Kidding with Our Kids” ASA Foundation.

Library & Rotary Club Sint Maarten- Mid Isle

On Saturday, September 29th, 2018, Rotary Club of Sint Maarten- Mid Isle, in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, hosted their Literacy Project “Andy and Elmer’s Apple Dumpling Adventure” to a group of invited guests of 25 students grades 1 to 4 from “No Kidding with our Kids’ Foundation”.

“Andy and Elmer’s Apple Dumpling Adventure” is a pilot program; a four-way test of the Mid Isle service club that teaches young people to be entrepreneurs while learning values of truthfulness, fairness, goodwill and partnership that is beneficial to all involved. The book was read to each child individually and they all received an activity book which included a crossword, word search, color pages etc., and a four-way test bookmark.



Photo Caption: Rotary Club Sint Maarten – Mid Isle group of volunteers reading activity of “Andy and Elmer’s Apple Dumpling Adventure”.

Supporting program

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library met with former Philipsburg Librarian Mrs. Barbra Arrindell and Sint Maarten born husband archivist Julian Arrindell during their annual visit to our island. They donated funds that were raised by Chr. Dalton Primary School “De Maten” in the Netherlands where their grandchildren, Tim who is in group 5, Ravi in group 2 and Stan in group 1, go to school. The monetary donation was collected at the request of Jenny Valk, the director of the primary school and it was given to Sister Marie Laurence School that was in dire need of some assistance after the passing of Hurricane Irma. The handing over of the money was done on Wednesday, April 18th, 2018, to the students and teachers.

In addition, on this occasion, the students were treated to a storytelling session by Mrs. Arrindell. The school also received 3 cases of Dutch books.

Besides the Sister Marie Laurence School, Asha Stevens Hillside Christian (English Campus) and the Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) Browlia F. Millard Campus received one case each of Dutch books for their school libraries.

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library provided a liaison between schools and institutions by supporting programs and services that will encourage a reading community on St. Maarten.



Photo Caption: (L-R) Former Philipsburg Jubilee Library Librarian Barbara Arrindell, Group of Students of Sr. Marie Laurence Primary School, and Public Relations Officer & Youth Librarian Ms. Mariland Powell.

Think book

The National Committee May 4 and 5 compiled a special book about World War II for students in Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius. The title of the book is Caribbean think book.

The book was available for free for all students of group 7 and 8 in both English and Dutch language. The texts and assignments in the Caribbean think book helps students to become more aware of the events that took place during the Second World War and the important role of our Dutch Caribbean islands in this war. Main themes in the book are: “remembering and celebrating” and “freedom and democracy”. Via the Caribbean think book students can discover the importance of these themes to them personally and how the events in the past are still relevant in this day and age.

The PJJ supplied 17 primary schools with 1,249 books; 625 students in group 7, 560 students in group 6 and 64 teachers received the book. In total 370 books were handed out in the Dutch language and 879 in the English language. The books were well received.

Summer Learning Pilot program

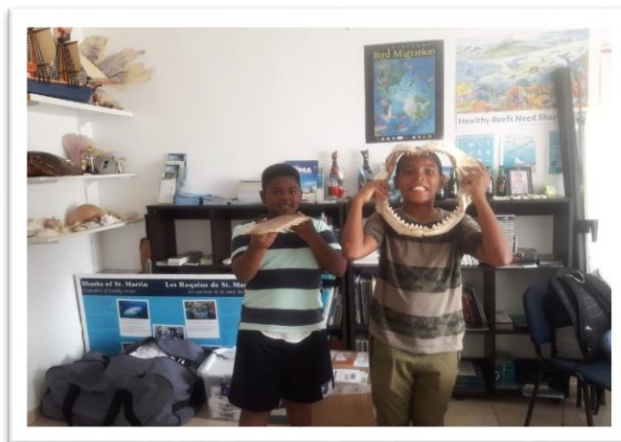
In order to support students experiencing learning and behavior shortcomings and to improve their conditions and situation, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted the 2018 pilot summer program entitled “Summer Learning” (SL) during the entire month of July.

The Pilot program was made possible with the support of the Central Bank of Curacao and Sint Maarten. On the occasion of its 190th CBCS anniversary, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library received a cheque of ANG 19,000. The donation is a contribution towards the important work done by the library and the important role that it plays for the citizens of Sint Maarten. In addition, the laptops and tablets used for the technology session were financed by the Dutch Representatives in Sint Maarten & Stichting Samenwerkende Fondsen to help students familiarize themselves with computer science.

Due to limited space, the “Summer Learning” program was held off location at the Sr. Borgia Primary School. Children between the ages 9-11 from group 6 and 7 were engaged in educational activities to bridge the gap between school terms in order to prepare them for their Foundation Based Education exam group.

This program designed and coordinated by Mariland Powell was divided into different sections and consisted of academic, technology, excursions, therapeutic workshops, creative expressions, written and spoken word, storytelling, Health, and additional programs.

- Academic sessions:
 - Reading comprehension, writing, and mathematics were done by Mrs. Vanessa Anderson BSc.
- Therapeutic sessions: listening, behavioral skills improvement of concentration, decreasing of anxiety and building of self-esteem:
 - “Boyz to kings” by Mr. Lenworth Wilson;
 - “Phenomenal Girls Society: I am enough” by Mrs. Charity Cantave – Sams;
 - “Anger Replacement Training (A. R. T.)” by Mr. Thomas Burnett aka Coach Tom;
 - Candle Making workshop by Mental Health Foundation (MHF);
 - Meditation by Mr. Giovanni Olivacce;
 - Fine Arts by Mrs Charisse Piper MSc.



- Technology:
 - “An hour of code” by MSc. Media Coach Mrs. Annelies Starreveld;
 - “Stop Motion Animation” by Mr. Alejandro Espinal- Lewin Bsc.
- Creative expressions:
 - Self –expression Workshops in the form of movement & live performance by Dance and Art Dimensions Academy (DADA);
 - “Free Style Dance” by Mr. Rijkman Hodge.
- Written, spoken word and Storytelling:
 - Poetry, Reading and story Time by Ms. Mariland Powell
- Health:
 - Sports Day was done by Lab sports Academy Foundation Mr. Les Brown;
 - Community Action Day Session “Body S’Maart” by American University of the Caribbean (AUC);
 - Nutrition and hygiene by Collective Preventative Service Ministry of Health, Social Development & Labour (CPS) Nutritionist Swinda Richardson & Hygienist Nirmala Vlaun.
- Excursion:
 - “Nature walk hiking to natural Pool Back Bay by Sint Maarten Nature Foundation, Ranger Mr. Ettienne Lake and followed by on-site workshop by Mr. Tadzio Bervoets;
 - Agriculture did by Spaceless Gardens Mr. Denicio Wyatte;
 - Pinel beach day;
 - Movie night.

Additionally, the program named “Too Cool to Loot” launched a campaign in response to the numerous incidents of looting that took place after hurricane Irma last September, UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Culture, Youth & Sports took place. The message to reach each one of them is to prevent theft after any disaster among the youths which will in hope discourage parents. In addition to the SL, students were requested to create an assignment concerning the negative experience of the looting. Video footage documenting the “Too Cool Too Loot campaign created by the Summer Learning students and Mr. Alejandro Espinal – Lewin and placed on the Too Cool To Loot FaceBook page.



International Literacy Day

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library was invited to participate in the Sint Maarten International Literacy week program in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports. It's Education on the Move (EOM) Team in collaboration with the St. Maarten National Commission for UNESCO and friends in commemoration of this day. International Literacy Day, is observed annually on September the 8th.

The activity entailed a week-long- read – a-thon entitled “Dear, Drop Everything and Read”, where prominent figures within the community were invited to read at the participating schools and after-school programs. The initial idea that was initiated a few years ago with the intention for schools, businesses once a week drops everything and be educated by reading for 20 minutes.

As reading is an integral part of our program, the aim being to highlight the importance of literacy to the community at large and we encourage reading as our core reason for being.

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library, Interim Director Mrs. Irmin Hughes-Richards, and Public Relations Officer & Storyteller Ms. Mariland Powell participated at Hillside Christian Helmich Snijders (Dutch Campus) on Wednesday, September 12th, 2018, performing a puppet show of Dr. Seuss’s Green Eggs and Ham for group 4 students ages 8.

This event was liked so much, that the Philipsburg Jubilee Library Staff members were requested to do it again.



Photo Caption: (L-R) Interim Director Mrs. Irmin Hughes, Group 4 Students of Hillside Christian Helmich Snijders, and Public Relations Officer & Story Teller Ms. Mariland Powell.

Rotterdam's Central Library Children Bookweek

On Sunday, October 7th, 2018, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library collaborated with Rotterdam's Central Library in connection with their Children's Bookweek in a Skype session. The Children's Bookweek 2018 Festival of the Central Library of Rotterdam in collaboration with UNICEF with their theme "Vriendschap" onder het motto; "Kom erbij!" (= "Friendship with the motto being: Join us").

Rotterdam's Central Library hosts yearly events where over 4,500 children and their parents participate in various events. This year one of the events was the Skype session which was the major part of the children's festival as they skyped with students of St. Maarten discussing the meaning of friendship.

The Central Library of Rotterdam is one of the largest libraries in the Netherlands. Having more than 2.4 million visitors annually and is the most visited cultural institution in Rotterdam.

Eight children of four different schools in St. Maarten engaged in lively skype conversations with young library visitors in Rotterdam. Questions were about life in the Netherlands and in Sint Maarten, their peers' favorite books, food items, the weather which also included life after hurricane Irma.

The Rotterdam Central Library moderated by Bookweek Coordinator Mr. Renee van Oosterom and librarian Mr. Ivo Kuijf announced during the Skype session that well-known R&B / Soul singer in the Netherlands Ms. Shirma Rouse, who hails from St. Eustatius, raised 3,500 Euro through sales of CDs towards purchasing and donating the raised funds towards the much-needed children books and materials for the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

Participating students Chrisincia Mathew, Ishaan Dhansinghani, and Naomi Hibbert of the St. Joseph School, Marlena St. Hilaire and Statijah Chinnerry of Dr. Martin Luther King School, Sebastian Warrington of Methodist Agogic Center's Browlia F. Maillard Campus, and Christopher Chintaman , Niveela Serbony of St. Dominic High School along with Philipsburg Jubilee Library Interim Director Mrs. Irmin Hughes, Youth Librarian and Public Relation Officer Ms. Maryland Powell and PJL Board Member Mr. Xavier Blackman were honored and felt grateful to this not only festive event but also historical collaborations between the St. Maarten and the Rotterdam' Libraries.



Photo Caption: Philipsburg Jubilee Library Skype delegation.

American University of the Caribbean (AUC)

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library along with 30 different community organizations were invited to celebrate and commemorate a special milestone of the American University of the Caribbean (AUC) that marked 10 years of Community Action Day on Thursday, October 18th, 2018. The purpose of the Community Action Day is to help and learn from local organizations that provide service to the people and the community of St. Maarten. All foundations, including the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, received a gift plaque and shirts commemorating 10 years with the theme “Be the Change you want to see in the world” – Mahatma Gandhi for their organizational participation of the Community Action Day.



Photo Caption: (L_R) PJJ’s Interim Director Irmin Hughes, AUC’s Drs. Eman Ofori, PJJ’s Public Relations Officer & Activity Coordinator Mariland Powell, AUC’s Assistant Dean of Services learning and Community Affairs Ph.D. Golden Jackson and Drs. Beatrice Kenol establishing doctors to the activity coordination of the Community Action Day.

The celebration continued on Saturday, October 20, 2018, where over 25 AUC students and faculty volunteered their services to the established 2017 “Health Section: BODY SMAART” program to the visiting youths of the library; health topic the lungs.



Community Action Day was also held earlier in the year of 2018 at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, on Saturday, February 24th, 2018, health topic: Diabetes and during the PJJ's Summer Learning Program at the Sister Borgia School (SRB) on Tuesday, July 24th, 2018, health topic: the heart.

The complimentary activities varied depending on the activity and included exercises, coloring, blowing of balloons and the usage of the stethoscope to listen to the heart and the lungs.



Photo Caption: (L-R) Saturday, February 24th, 2018 (PJJ) and Tuesday, July 24th, 2018 (SRB)

Saba's Queen Wilhelmina Library Children's Bookweek

On Monday, May 28th, 2018, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library Youth Librarian & Story Teller Mariland Powell was invited to participate in the Queen Wilhelmina Library Children's Bookweek entitled "Pirates don't worry about looks, their greatest treasure is found in books!"

As collaborators with the same goal of working together achieving together the Philipsburg Jubilee Library accepted. The students of group 4, 5 and 6 of Saba's Sacred Heart Primary School were engaged in a storytelling session titled "Mr. Cucolee's Pig".

This activity based on a true story that took place at the district of Belvedere Sint Maarten was presented by Story Teller Mariland Powell.



Photo Caption: (L-R) Saba's 2018 Children's Book Week "Pirates don't worry about looks, their greatest is found in books!"

Book Presentation

There were 8 book presentations to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library during 2018 by local, regional, and international authors. These books were donated to circulate to the avid readers of the Sint Maarten community. They were gratefully received and will be made available to the public.

- "Suddenly death" short stories book of fiction and "Potpourri" collection of 39 poems written by Ronald E. Williams. The author presented 2 copies each. (Local author)
- "Mingi ye mago malbado" a fiction book for children ages 10 and up written in Papiamentu by Yolanda Croes. The author presented 2 copies. (Regional author)
- "Fantasies love making poems" adult literature written by Fabian Adekunle Badejo (Local author). The author presented 1 copy.
- "Brain Bullies" for children ages 8 and up; "The likable effective, and "productive educator";
Written by Brett Novick four (4) presented 1 copy each.
- "The Lago Story: the compelling story of an oil company on the island of Aruba by Jorge Ridder Staat" A gift from the National Library of Aruba and a personal presentation from Drs. Peter Scholing.
- "De geschiedenis van Aruba tot 1816: van zustereiland tot imperium in imperio" by Adi Martis donated by Arubian Librarians Mrs. Van Romondt and Mrs. Croes.
- "Survival guide to living in the Netherlands" by the Unified St. Maarten Connection Student. He presented 2 copies.
- "Overall vrienden: 15 verhalen en gedichten over Vriendschap". A bilingual storybook for children ages 4 to 12 written for Aruba's Children's Book week by Vanessa Paulina
- "Memories of My Early Years" by Gerard van Veen; an autobiographical writing his experiences during World War II He presented 2 copies.



Photo Caption: (L_R) Book Presentation of Yolanda Croes "Mingi ye mago malbado and Roland E. Williams.

Irmin Hughes- Richards celebrates Ruby Jubilee:

On Wednesday, February 13th, 2018, Information Services Manager and recently made Interim Director of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library celebrated 40th years of services to the library. Mrs. Irmin Hughes-Richards fulfilled many roles from Circulation and Book Mobile Clerk, Circulation Supervisor; Assistant Librarian; Human Resource Officer; Member of the Management Team. Later that same year in July 2018, gracefully took up the post of Interim Director.

Mrs. Hughes- Richards started out from humble beginnings in the St. Maarten Cultural Center which housed the library in 1978. However, for 40 years Mrs. Irmin Hughes – Richards has dedicated her services to assist the patrons by providing quality information services and assisted the library through its upward evolution.

In recognition of Mrs. Irmin – Hughes- Richards's unwavering services, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library held a luncheon for Mrs. Hughes' family, (PJL) Board, Management, and Staff to commemorate in her honor on Friday, February 16th, 2018. The Luncheon was held at Emilio's Restaurant.

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library Board, Management and Staff congratulated Mrs. Hughes- Richards on her milestone in her career accomplishments.



Photo Caption: The Philipsburg Jubilee Library commemoration of 40 years of service of Mrs. Irmin Hughes- Richards at Emilio's Restaurant.

Judging of Science Fair and Arts Competition

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library Public Relations Department was invited to determine the winners of Learning Unlimited Preparatory School's Annual Science Fair competition on Thursday, April 19th, 2018. Many of the projects were relevant to the well – being of Sint Maarten's environment that the students hoped may benefit the island community.

And also to the SVOBE Sundial School's Gratitude competition of inspirational videos & poster to attend their Cultural Show. Their theme entitled "A Grateful heart makes me happy" event was held on Friday, November 9th, 2018.

We as a library continue to be committed evolving as a collaborative educational institution as we work together as partners focusing on our students being successful and making a difference in the lives of the community that we serve.



Photo Caption: SVOBE Sundial Gratitude competition (L-R) Mr. Dion Gumbs, Mrs. Lucinda Audain and (PJL) Mrs. Mariland Powell.

SXM DOET

On Saturday, March 10th, 2018, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise a group of volunteers and the Philipsburg Jubilee Library Staff under the coordination of SXM Doet "Be the change" DOET Project Library participated in the fourth edition, started salvaging and packing of the library book collections, this activity was later continued by the staff until all books were inventoried and packed.



Photo Caption: Volunteers Rotary Club St. Martin Sunrise, Philipsburg Jubilee Library Staff salvaging books.

95th Anniversary



The Philipsburg Jubilee Library marked 95 years of promoting literacy and serving the community on Friday, November 23rd, 2018; in commemorating the library's founding on November 1923 the year Queen Wilhelmina celebrated her silver jubilee.

In celebrating 95 years of servitude more than 95 persons of Sint Maarten's community wrote their fond memories on "what the library meant to them" entitled ***"Looking back, moving forward"***. These valuable contributions were published in the local newspaper the Daily Herald on Saturday, November 17th, 2018 along with an article written by Will Johnson "Under the Grape Tree: Libraries gained, Libraries Lost?"

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary the Philipsburg Broadcasting Laser 101 gifted the Philipsburg Jubilee Library on Saturday, November 24th, 2018, with a radiothon activity entitled "On Air Cares"; an initiative of Philipsburg Broadcasting which used all on-air personalities to give back or help the community through awareness, donations or volunteering in collaboration with the library.

The radiothon was hosted on the PJJ premises from 10 am to 5 pm. in commemorating of the 95th anniversary. The business community and the community at large joined in the celebration, by donating on location or via the Windward Islands Bank (WIB) ANG # 871711-07 PJJ account. A total of ANG. 32,599.30 has been received in cash on our bank account on that day. The total amount will be made public at the end of the action. Sr. Borgia celebrated 40; Mrs. Francia Housen and Mrs. Irmin Hughes attended

The radiothon had two objectives. The first objective was public awareness about the importance to have a public library in Sint Maarten; a place to study, read books, borrow books, participation in programs (e.g. literacy; computer literacy; story-telling), book presentations, conferences and a place to meet. The second objective was to raise funds for the preparations of a new building (see new housing). The radiothon was very successful and has a follow-up in 2019.

Tours were held of the deplorable conditions of the deteriorating structure. The tour guide Philipsburg Jubilee Library Project Manager Pieter Lucas told of the history of the groundbreaking and the pioneers Mrs. Clemmy Carty and Mrs. Berthilde Carty that were the backbone of the library heritage. There was also book sales of S'Maartin Then and Now! A historic and Photographic excursion. All the proceeds will go towards a new, state of the art National Heritage and Knowledge Center.



Photo Caption: (L-R) Tri-sport SXM and (PJL) Circulation Desk Head Shirley Richardson with the first donation of the day. & (PJL) tour guide Project Manager Pieter Lucas with Mr. Dennis Richardson and Mr. Beauperthuy.