



PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE LIBRARY

2013 Annual Report



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Introduction

The ***Vision*** of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library is to be the gateway for information in the St. Maarten society 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 at the core of the service of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library:

1. Creating and strengthening reading habits in children from an early age;
2. Supporting both individual and self conducted education as well as formal education at all levels;
3. Providing opportunities for personal creative development;
4. Stimulating the imagination and creativity of children and young people;
5. Promoting awareness of cultural heritage, appreciation of the arts, scientific achievements and innovations;
6. Providing access to cultural expressions of all performing arts;
7. Fostering inter-cultural dialogue and favoring cultural diversity;
8. Supporting the oral tradition;
9. Ensuring access for citizens to all sorts of community information;
10. Providing adequate information services to local enterprises, associations and interest groups;
11. Facilitating the development of information and computer literacy skills;
12. Supporting and participating in literacy activities and programs for all age groups and initiating such activities, if necessary.

The Board

Throughout the history of our library the board consisted of seven members. However, due to several circumstances the board was reduced to six members since 2011. In the year 2013 the board was happy to welcome Ms. Luz Marie Tuitt as a board member. Ms. Tuitt is a young notary and the board benefits greatly from her legal expertise.

As in previous years, board meetings were held at set times.

Board Members in 2013

President	Mrs. Ch. Schaminee
Treasurer	Mr. C. Holiday
Secretary	Mrs. M. Hofman
Vice-Secretary / Vice-Treasurer	Mr. U. Aron
Commissioner	Ms. V. Brazier
Commissioner	Mr. S. Khatnani
Commissioner	Ms. L. Tuitt

On August 8th of the year under review, the board and staff of our library received the sad news of the passing of former President, Mr. Harry Schaminee. Mr. Schaminee was a dedicated board member since the 1970s until 2009. His contribution to the development of our library was invaluable.

Staff Developments

In the year under review funding agency AMFO was dissolved and the Bookmobile outreach program which was funded by this agency came to an end. As a result the working agreement between our Bookmobile outreach coordinator, Mrs. Aukje de Jong, could no longer be continued. Mrs. de Jong performed outstandingly and her work was invaluable for this project, which will be remembered by many children on our island.

Young local professional Ms. Joy Lambert joined the staff in November 2013 as an all round Librarian and PR Assistant.

Staff Members as of December 31, 2012

Mrs. Monique Alberts	(Director)
Mrs. Irmin Hughes	(Human Resource Worker/ Management Team Member)
Mrs. Lucille Chumney	(Financial Administrator/ Management Team Member)
Ms. Morenika Arrindell	(Activity Manager/ Public Relations Officer)
Ms. Annelies Starreveld	(Librarian)
Ms. Joy Lambert	(Librarian/ Activity & Public Relations Assistant)
Ms. Maryland Powell	(Assistant Children's Librarian)
Ms. Shirley Richardson	(Secretary/ Selection and Acquisition Coordinator)
Ms. Francia Housen	(Circulation Head/ Interim Systems Administrator)
Ms. Morena Ignacio	(Circulation Clerk/ PR assistant)
Ms. Melackia Spencer	(Circulation Clerk)
Mr. Daniel Helligar	(Circulation Clerk/ Technical Assistant)
Mr. Richard Nicolaas	(Bookmobile Driver)

Library Activities February 2013: Black History Month Celebrates Elders and Youth

In February 2013 the Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted its annual Black History Month celebration under the theme “Grafting Roots: Passing on the Legacy”. The primary focus of the Black History month activities was to highlight the achievements of St. Maarten’s elders and their passing on the history, culture and legacy of St. Maarten to the younger generations. Exhibitions showcased persons who have made a contribution in the areas of painting, dance or literature and who have inspired a younger generation to explore their own creativity. The artists were paired with a younger person who has also made steps to create a legacy of her or his own in the same area.

Some of the senior artists featured at the events included Ruby Bute, Lasana Sekou and Clara Reyes. Ruby Bute was paired with her younger counterpart Lucinda Audain.

Lasana Sekou was paired with Deborah Drisana Jack for their literary contributions and

Clara Reyes was paired with her younger counterpart Rudolph Davis.



The program included a dance workshop on the St. Maarten Emancipation Dance “The Ponom”, with Clara Reyes on drums and Rudolph Davis teaching the dance steps. Reyes is the founder of the Imbali Center for Creative Movement and Co-Director of the

National Institute of the Arts (NIA) and has committed her life to educating countless young dancers in various dance forms. Her unwavering dedication to the development of dance is unparalleled and ultimately groomed the current NIA dance educator, Rudolph Davis, for dance.



Ruby Bute’s selection of paintings represented her continuous efforts in the preservation of St. Maarten’s culture and her commitment to mentoring the younger generations. Ruby Bute’s younger counterpart, her former student Lucinda Audain, showcased a selection of paintings that demonstrated her talents as a young and dynamic painter emerging on the art scene of St. Maarten. Audain also conducted a free

face and body painting workshop, where she taught a few of the basic line strokes and the history of face and body painting.

Lasana Sekou is the author of many poems, monologues, short stories and essays. He is one of the most celebrated authors of the former Dutch Antilles. He is also the founder of House of Nehesi publishers.



The Black History Month activities also included a discussion by Dwight Barran and Ans Koolen about the archives of Profiles of the Windward Islands. The archive in question dates back to 30 years ago and contains rare footage of the islands of St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba. The collection has been converted to a digital format and contains images of hurricanes,

interviews with political leaders and artists, as well as the hoisting of the St. Maarten flag for the first time. The digitization of the digital collection was made possible through funding by the Mondriaan Foundation in the Netherlands. This digital archive is considered to be a vital part of the library's collection of St. Maarten's history. Ans Koolen gave a presentation on how the information was stored, how the public can look

up the information and the guidelines of use for the archive.



The Black History Month was concluded with a panel discussion which touched upon the significance of Black History Month on St. Maarten. Panelists reflected upon the importance of

celebrating and reflecting upon the contributions made by people of African descent.

The panel discussion encouraged audience participation and included the following panelists: Dr. Maria van Enckevort, Dr. Rhoda Arrindell, Clara Reyes, Shujah Reiph, Riegnald "Bakari" Arrindell, and Christopher Emmanuel. Moderating the panel were Lysanne Charles and Rene Violenus.

Library Activity March 2013: Library & Rotaract Host Joint Reading Event

On Saturday, March 16th, 2013 the library teamed up with the Rotaract Club of St.



Maarten to host an event which focused on literacy, under the theme “Today’s Reader is Tomorrow’s Leader”. Former Minister of Education, Silveria Jacobs officially opened the event by reading to visiting children. The event, which encompassed two storytelling activities, saw the combined efforts of Rotaract members and library staff members Maryland Powell and Aukje de Jong.

The storytelling events included children up to four years old being read to by several day care center employees in the library’s Baby & Toddler Room, using the Japanese Kamishibai technique. Kamishibai is a visual storytelling technique that originated in Japan. Visual art is usually displayed within a box, while a storyteller dramatizes it through performance.



The day care center employees each received training by Aukje de Jong in the art of storytelling and on how to build their storytelling boxes in the Kamishibai fashion. The library held a week of storytelling in the Baby & Toddler room with the day care center teachers. All of the wooden, handcrafted Kamishibai story boxes were on display for the duration of the week.

The Rotaract members paired reading with an arts & crafts activity with children ages



five to twelve years old. This project was done in an effort to combat illiteracy and to reach children from an early age by instilling a love for reading, thereby creating lifelong learners.

Library Activity March 2013: Library & Rotaract Host Easter Egg Hunt Event



On Saturday, March 30th, 2013 the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, in Collaboration with the Rotaract Club of St. Maarten Sunrise, hosted a free Easter egg hunt for over 100 excited children. The event featured a number of activities, such as: face painting, storytelling, an Easter egg hunt and prizes for 4 boys and girls who found the most eggs.

Registration began promptly and was from 10:00 am until 11:00 am for children ages 4 – 10 years old. Students who arrived early were able to get their faces painted for free with the help of library staff, Rotaract Members and volunteers.



Ms. Vivvet "Auntie" Crammer did her storytelling session, from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon, about the Easter egg.

After the reading, children were separated into two groups. Group 1 included children ages 4 to 6 years old and Group 2 consisted of children ages 7 to 10 years old. Each individual group was taken to separate Easter egg hunting areas on the library grounds to find their eggs. Children delighted in searching every nook and cranny of the library premises to track down the Easter eggs.

When the Easter Egg Hunt ended 2 girls and 2 boys were presented with a prize for finding the most eggs. A special educational gift was awarded to them for their efforts.

Children and parents turned out in great numbers to attend the Easter egg hunt, which was totally free of charge. The children who took part in this event were also provided with refreshments and took home a 'goody' bag along with the eggs that they collected.



Library Activity April 2013: Collaborative Puppet Show with USM Students

On Wednesday, April 17th, at 5:30 pm students of the University of St. Martin (USM), in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL), put on a special free Puppet Show for all ages.



Twelve students enrolled in the Teacher Education Program at USM and performed approximately 4 puppet shows. Their performances fulfilled a major requirement for their Children's Literature course, as they worked towards obtaining their Bachelors Degree in Education.

This collaborative effort between USM students and the library was spearheaded by Maryland Powell, PJL's Assistant Children's Librarian, Morenika Arrindell, PJL's Activity Manager and the instructor of the Children's Literature course, Pattie Maier.

Children attending the puppet show display heard stories, such as: "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", "Cleaning Mr. Crocodile's Teeth", "Three Billy Goats' Gruff" and many more interactive, exciting stories.

Parents and children alike enjoyed this educational, yet fun, puppet show display at the library, which was put on by the students of USM and fostered learning through storytelling.



Library Activity May 2013: Healthy Lifestyle & Anti-Smoking Campaign with CPS

“Be Smart, Don’t Start; Want to Quit, Do It”. Under this slogan the Department within the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor Collective Prevention Services (CPS), along with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, opened a Healthy Lifestyle Corner and launched an anti-smoking jingle on Thursday, May 30th, 2013.

The healthy lifestyle and anti-smoking campaign was launched in connection with World No Tobacco Day. The World Health Organization (WHO) marks World No Tobacco Day every year on May 31st, highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.

Among the campaign’s objectives were: increased public awareness about the Ordinance of No Smoking in Public Places, which has been in effect since May 1996; enforcement of this ordinance; and seeking the cooperation of businesses, such as clubs and bars to create non-smoking areas in their establishments. The campaign also aims to promote smoking cessation. Another element of the “Be Smart” campaign is to involve the youth as non-smoking advocates. The launching of the library’s Healthy Lifestyle Corner and the anti-smoking jingle are part of efforts to get young St. Maarteners on board.

The catchy, funky jingle, produced by Dion Gumbs and the library’s Public Relations Officer Morenika Arrindell, includes a rapped anti-smoking message, which will be aired on local radio stations.

Other elements of the youth campaign included the distribution of coloring sheets at the library on Friday, May 31st, and a coloring and storytelling event for children at the library on Saturday, June 1st, from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Thursday’s opening ceremony, included the reading of three poems on the subject by Lysanne Charles, Andrew Peterson and Sumaiyah “the Poet”, with the following revealing titles: “Sometimes it’s just not about the Cigarette”, “Inhale” and “Nicotine Kills”.

Former Minister of Culture, Education, Sports and Youth Affairs Silveria Jacobs, Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams, Philipsburg Jubilee Library Director Monique



Alberts and Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor Cornelius de Weever unveiled the Healthy Lifestyle Corner at the library.

Library Activity June 2013: E-Book & E-Reader Collection Launched

On Thursday, June 20th, The Philipsburg Jubilee Library officially launched the electronic book (e-book) service to the public of St. Maarten at 6:00 pm in the library's hall.

The major advantages of using e-books for library card holders are that they can: borrow books from the comfort of their home, effortlessly change the font size of their selected book at will and never worry about accumulating late fees, because the book will automatically be removed from their computer, tablet, mobile phone or e-reader after the expiration date.

Librarian, Annelies Starreveld gave a short explanation on how to borrow e-books from the library's e-book website. The current checkout limit is currently set to 3 books, as the library is still building up its e-book collection, which has over 168 titles. The library will continue to expand the collection according to the wishes of the public. The lending periods are: 7, 14 or 21 days. That choice is solely up to the library card holder.

In addition to e-books, the library can borrow its e-readers to the general public ages 18 and older. Currently, the library has 5 Nooks that can be borrowed from the Information Desk. User guides for the website and the e-readers have also been made available on the library's website at www.stmaartenlibrary.org or upon request at the Information Desk.

Present at the launch were senior library card holder and educator Mrs. Duana Richardson and Jenice Forbes, teen member of the library. Both members explained their personal experiences with the library's e-readers. Mrs. Richardson considers it a fantastic invention and far more convenient to fit into her bag than 3 large print books. Ms. Forbes predicted that e-readers would increase readership among youth, because she considered them more enjoyable for kids who love gadgets.



Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams and Minister of Education, Mrs Patricia Lourens were in attendance for the official launch of the E-Book Collection. They both expressed praise to the library for expanding their collection to include e-books.

Library Activity July 2013: “Wake up, Stay Active & Be a Reader” Summer Program

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted the second edition of its “Wake Up, Stay Active, Be a Reader” summer program, for over 30 children ages 7 - 12 from July 16th to July 31st, 2013.

This year’s Summer Program focused on literacy, St. Maarten’s marine biology and history and physical fitness. Activities during the summer camp included: hiking, sports activities, nature watches, movie nights, storytelling and drumming.



On Wednesday, July 17th, The Library’s summer campers enjoyed an educational hike with Hillside Adventures in the South Reward area during the early morning hours.

Thursday, July 18th, during the libraries Read & Fun Show, the children experienced a storytelling session with Robin Boasman, as she read from her recent children’s book “Lizzy the Lizard”. Shabba also gave drumming classes on his Jimbe Drum. Other activities included a Kamishibai story called “Tommy Iguana Visits the Library” by “Mo D Joker”. Physical fitness was conducted by Zumba Instructor Patricia “Patty” Pantophlet and her team to the delight of the children.

Other literacy events held for the duration of the summer program included: Poetry Night, Read-a-Thons and Readers Theater.



On Wednesday, July 24th, a mini sports day was held at Jose Lake Ball Park, where children could enjoy jump rope, basketball and baseball and work on their team building and physical fitness.

Family Movie Nights were organized every Thursday evening with movies, such as: “Brave”, “Hotel Transylvania” & “Journey II”.

On Wednesday, July 31st, the children enjoyed a trip to Pinel Island for fun in the sun. Participants received information by a marine biologist who explained the underwater world of Pinel. To end the summer program activities participating children paid a visit to Carousel and got to ride on the Party Bus.

Library Activity July & August 2013: Spoken Lyrics Event Series

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL), in collaboration with Movement for Music Art Dance and Entertainment powered by La Rich Arts & Entertainment, hosted a three-part Spoken Lyrics summer event in the library's new PJL Lounge.

The objective of this collaboration is to promote the library as more than just a location to borrow books, but to also showcase another layer of literacy which translates into performance poetry and music. Events like these also stimulate St. Maarten's up and coming entertainers to participate in sharing their work with the general public, which is something that provides opportunities for personal creative development.



The PJL Lounge's sign was unveiled by Library Director, Monique Alberts on July 5th. The library, in its quest to continue to be a relevant part of St. Maarten's continuously changing society, hopes to make its recently established PJL Lounge available to the public for future events that encourage literacy, creative expression and appreciation of the

arts, or simply for lounging during library opening hours and browsing the internet with a laptop, using the library's free WIFI.

Certain Fridays in the month of July & August were dedicated specifically to the Spoken Lyrics sessions in the library's brand new lounge area. The final hour of the evening was made available for the open mic session so the general public could share their work, based on the theme of the evening.

The first Spoken Lyrics event, held on July 5th, was themed "Drums of Fire", in commemoration of Emancipation Day. Featured artists for the evening were: Mageda Jackson, Morena Ignacio, Juliana Alexander, Ms. Yorkie, Shanica Richardson, Gino Ollivacce and Marianne Teft. Special guests were Shabba of the Jimbe Drummers and Daniella Jeffry. This session fused spoken word and the drum to create a rhythmic call and response interaction between artists and the public.





Friday, July 16th, saw part two of Spoken Lyrics, which was themed “Urban Flava” in celebration of the talented youth of St. Maarten. Under the guidance of talented MC Tammy G, the night’s main featured artists were our island’s rising star D.Kullus, along with DJ Earz. Kullus, a popular lyrical rapper, is best known for his latest song “Let You Know”, featuring Chantal “Chanti” Richardson. The creative pair performed Tempo’s chart topping hit song live. Other featured musical and poetry performances

included: The Greenlight Band, comprised of an eclectic set of musicians, Devondre Jones, Sigma & Simpletune, Entry Payperview, Yellow Boy and much more.

The finale event, on Friday August 2nd, was dedicated to women and was themed “It’s a Woman’s World”, in celebration of the multi-talented young women of St. Maarten. The finale’s featured artists were two powerful and passionate singers Natisha Hanson and Malaika Maxwell. The creative pair was backed by the Jazzeko Band. Also performing were: Morena Ignacio, Melissa Fleming, Maye Boo, Ms. Yorkie, Shanica Richardson, Keoma Hammer and special guest Theo De Weever.



Library Activity August 2013: Library hosts Clown Show

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library, in collaboration with “Lez Nez Cool”, showcased a free Clown Show on Thursday August 29th, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.



Klusha and Yvan, two clowns from the company Les Nez Cool, specializing in Clown Theatre, performed “Little Red Riding Hood’s Trunk”. The entire clown show was open to children ages 4 and older and their parents. This interactive clown show was about two loveable clowns who found a treasure box of

imagination. Both clowns will discover a world of fairy-tales. The play was done mostly in mime so there was almost no talking.

Visiting children were encouraged to read the classic fairy tale of “Little Red Riding Hood” in preparation for the clown show.

The entire production took place in the library’s Multipurpose Room in front of a packed audience of excited parents and children.



Library Activity September 2013: New Bi-Weekly Story Hour on Wednesdays

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library launched its brand new bi-weekly afternoon Story Hour

program every other Wednesday, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. The Story Hour was written by Maryland Powell and was organized, developed and facilitated solely by library staff members Morena Ignacio and Melackia Spencer.



Children ages 6 -12 visiting the library after school from then on had something new to look forward to. Wednesday, September 18th, signaled the beginning of the library's new bi-weekly afternoon story hours. Reading activities included:

reader's theater, clowning, puppet shows and Kamishibai stories (Animated Story Box).

Some of the major goals of this reading hour were to positively affect children's development in the following ways: increase vocabulary through reading, which will help children to express their feelings and thoughts; promote development and learning through interactive activities; enhance reading skills and foster a desire to read; improve listening and language skills through storytelling and reading; provide opportunities for cooperative behavior as part of a group through hands-on group activities; and increase imagination and creativity.

Every Wednesday a new book was chosen to read. After every story there were always hands-on group activities to reinforce the information learned through the story hour.



Thus far, there have been seven story hours at the library. The last story hour of 2013 was on December 18th. Topics included: behavior, respect for the library, teacher appreciation and Christmas. The intention is to continue the project into June of 2014.

Library Activity September 2013: Power of Knowledge Series



The Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted a motivational and informative two-part “Power of Knowledge” lecture series. Lectures were delivered by Rafael Boasman and Gwendolien Mossel at the library on Monday, September 23rd, and Wednesday, September 25th, at 6:30pm.

After giving a successful lecture at the Library’s first “Power of Knowledge” series, held in 2011, Boasman was invited to lecture again on the popular topic of labor. Boasman, the current head of the Department of Labor, addressed the key aspects of labor agreements and the termination of said agreements in a two-part lecture on Monday, September 23rd, and Wednesday, September 25th.

Mossel, Coordinator of Policy for Immigration and Border Protection (IBP), will discuss visa requirements and the services offered by IBP on Wednesday, September 25th.

Both Boasman and Mossel were chosen to lecture because of their many years of experience and overall knowledge of labor and immigration on St. Maarten.

The “Power of Knowledge Series” is a free, annual lecture series designed to equip and empower the community of St. Maarten with knowledge on various important topics that affect their everyday lives. It is the intention to continue this series next year with topics ranging from housing to health and nutrition.



Both speakers were awarded appreciation certificates for their participation in the lecture series. Hand-outs were provided to the general public after each lecture ended. Members of the visiting public also got the opportunity to pose questions to the speakers directly after each lecture. All sessions were well-received and a few persons requested that similar sessions be held at the various community centers on the island as well.

Library Activity October 2013: Halloween Reading & Costume Party



The Philipsburg Jubilee Library held its annual Halloween Reading & Costume party on Saturday, October 26th, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The library has been organizing successful Halloween programs since 2009. At the core of the activities was reading. Participating youngsters were able to see the library's garden transform into a haunted graveyard. Activities for the evening included storytelling,

educational games, arts & crafts, as well as a graveyard hunt.

Registration was required at the cost of only 5 dollars or 9 guilders, which ran from Thursday, October 17th, to Saturday, October 26th. The library accepted only 45 applicants for this event. Children ages 8 - 13 were welcomed.

Participating children were asked to come dressed in their most creative costume and bring along a flashlight. Snacks and drinks were also available free of charge.



Library Activity November 2013: Fundraising Bake Sale

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library organized a “Fundraising Bake Sale” on Saturday, November 2nd, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The bake sale was organized to raise funds for the library’s 90th Anniversary Celebrations which were held from November 21st through the 23rd.

All of the baked goods sold were provided through the kind donations of the following businesses: Cake House Bakery, Carl & Sons, Cost-u-Less and Sunny Foods.

There were a wide a variety of cakes and cupcakes to choose from, such as: chocolate cake, marble cake, red velvet cake, pineapple upside down cake, German chocolate cake, butter cream cake and chocolate & vanilla cupcakes. The entire event was organized by library staff member Morena Ignacio.

Children, parents, and the visiting public enjoyed the variety of cakes and cupcakes provided and requested that we host another bake sale event. The intention is to organize another event in 2014.



Library Activity November 2013: Library & Jazzeko to St. Maarten

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library, in collaboration with the Jazzeko band, hosted “An evening with Lieve Hugo: a taste of Suriname” on Saturday, November 2nd, at 7:30 pm in the PJJ Lounge.

The multi-talented musicians of Jazzeko and the library hoped to present a series of events to introduce the St. Maarten community to the rich, cultural heritage of Suriname.

The entire evening was dedicated to a popular style of Surinamese music called Kaseko, which is a fusion of jazz, Caribbean and other popular music from the various cultural

groups residing in Suriname, with Afro-Surinamese folk traditions.



In tribute to Kaseko music the documentary film, “Iko, The King of Kaseko”, was shown. This documentary was about Julius Theodoor Hugo Uiterloo, the popular folk-music singer known today as “Lieve Hugo”. Produced in 2008 by Vincent Soekra, the documentary film chronicles the life of Hugo through the experiences of close relatives and friends, while illustrating the development of “Kaseko” music.

Lieve Hugo, one of Suriname’s most renowned performing artists, transformed Suriname’s original traditional music style into something modern. Hugo’s music addressed the beauty of love and the complexity of politics in both Dutch and the Surinamese Creole language, Sranan Tongo.

Jazzeko is a multi-talented band established in 2009, whose name is a reflection of two of their favorite musical styles, Jazz and Kaseko, merged together. Jazzeko will be playing the music of the late Lieve Hugo in tribute to his life and music.

The library and Jazzeko hoped to highlight the contributions of the Surinamese community to the musical and cultural development on St. Maarten.



Library Activity November 2013: 90th Anniversary Children's Book & Cultural Festival

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library, in celebration of its 90th Anniversary, held a 3-day celebration which ran from November 21st through the 23rd. The calendar of events included an Appreciation Award Ceremony, a Literary & Cultural Evening, Class Visits, a Customer Appreciation Day and a Cultural Parade & Exhibition.



Appreciation Award Ceremony

The first event, the Appreciation Award Ceremony, kick started the library's 90th anniversary celebrations. Blanca Hodge, the former director of the Library, represented by her daughter Moira Marcelle-Hodge, received the 2013 President's Award. She was selected by Library President Chantal Schaminee-Ringeling. Hodge made the library more than a

place to read books and helped to develop the library from its humble beginnings on Back Street to the larger building it currently occupies.

Hodge's grandson Yshmael (12) was chosen as the library's "2013 Young Reader". He has been going to the library from the age of two with his grandmother. He is an avid reader and an outstanding pupil at Sister Magda Primary School.

St. Maarten Museum Director Elsje Bosch was recognized as "2013 Dedicated Library Supporter" for her years of assisting the library with various activities and exhibitions. She also has been a partner with the library in its quest toward becoming the national library and the knowledge centre of the country.

The 2013 Literacy Award was presented to retirees Stella Elstak-Simmons and Daune Richardson. They facilitate the "Reach out and Read" Saturday morning literacy program at the library that helps youngsters improve their reading and comprehension skills.

Tifiana Escallier (18) was named the library's 2013 Outstanding Youth. She is a committed reader and library volunteer and was a winner in the "Readers are Leaders" program.

Seven longstanding financial supporters of the library were also recognized at the ceremony: The Department of Culture, Antillean Co-Financing Organization AMFO,

Samenwerkende Fondsen, Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds, Jeugdfonds Nederlandse Antillen, Island Gems Charity Foundation and United Telecommunications Services (UTS).

Literary & Cultural Evening

Showcasing St. Maarten's cultural diversity Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL) celebrated its ninetieth anniversary on the evening of Friday, November 22nd, 2013 with a Children's Book and Cultural Show, under the theme: "Many cultures, one island, one people". PJL decided to make a cultural exhibition of song, dance and poetry of various cultures in St. Maarten, Suriname and Bonaire part of its anniversary program.

The evening started with music being played by "Gunslingers Steelpan", who entertained the crowd with Caribbean themed music.



President of Parliament, Gracita Arrindell, commended the library on its achievement.

The show was moderated by National Institute of Arts (NIA) Co-Director Clara Reyes. NIA dancers and singers contributed to the show, but library staff members also took to the stage.

Activity Manager Morenika Arrindell sang the St. Maarten song, together with Denisia and Janesia Martimbor. Arrindell's colleagues Maryland Powell and Morena Ignacio read several poems.

Among the highlights of the show were a musical poem with djembé music and three dancers, written, performed and directed by young Ray-Angel Boasman-Simon of Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) Browlia Maillard Campus.

The skit "Story of the Tourists" by Hillside Christian School Helmich Snijders Campus also was appreciated highly by the crowd, as well as the energetic modern dances performed by young members of the Indian community.



Artists such as poets Andrew Peterson and Julie Alcin along with author Loekie Morales and two-time Junior Calypso Monarch Lil Blossom also contributed to the diversity of the show.

Storyteller Jackie Bernabela of Bonaire and a cultural presentation by the Suriname Book Week Festival Foundation added an international flavor to the evening. Both cultural groups visited schools during their stay.



A cultural exhibition put together by pupils and teachers of the Hillside Christian School Helmich Snijders Campus, the MAC Browlia Maillard Campus, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School and the Sister Marie Laurence Primary Schools was on public display at the library until the end of November 2013.

Class Visits

The visiting delegations of the Suriname Book Week Festival Foundation and Jackie Bernabela of Bonaire visited both the Marie Genevieve de Weever School and the Helmich Snijders Christian Hillside Primary Schools on November 22nd & November 25th, 2013.

During their visit to Marie Genevieve,



Jackie Bernabela visited the younger children ages 4-6 years old, while the Suriname Book Week Festival members visited all levels. Children were introduced to the Surinamese culture through music, dance, singing, and skits. Jackie Bernabela used interactive storytelling to educate about Bonaire's culture. All of the children were delighted to have them visit their school and were very enthusiastic and engaged with the activities that were presented.

On Friday, November 25th, the delegation went to the Helmich Snijders Christian School, where Jackie Bernabela shared stories with the kindergarten classes. The Suriname delegation, however, went to the school's gym hall and was split up into two groups. Various groups of children visited both groups and learned through storytelling and song about Suriname's agriculture, geography, and history. The principal and staff members were very pleased with the presentations made to the students and invited the delegates to visit again.

Customer Appreciation Day, Parade & Cultural Exhibition



The Philipsburg Jubilee Library concluded the celebration of its ninetieth anniversary on Saturday, November 23rd, with a customer appreciation day, a parade through Philipsburg and a cultural show/exhibition.

The library's 90th birthday ended with a piece of a large birthday cake for guests and a rendition of the "Happy Birthday" song in several languages.

The festive day started with a customer appreciation day during the library's regular opening hours, with storytelling and giveaways for members and visitors.

Accompanied by Generation New Status STM drum band, the parade, led by Minister Maurice Lake and participants of various schools went through Back Street, Walter Nisbeth Road, Yuancho Yrausquin Boulevard and Emmaplein to Ch.E.W. Voges Street and back to the library parking lot from 2:00 pm.





The celebrations continued with a program on stage, which was largely the same as the one presented during the literary and cultural evening at the library lounge on Friday evening. Moderated by Clara Reyes, the school children, authors, library staff members and singers/dancers of the National Institute of Arts (NIA) took to the stage during a two-hour show.

Governor Eugene Holiday was among the guests. In a brief,

improvised speech he congratulated the library on its anniversary. “I am pleased to express my appreciation to the people of the library and commend the library for being on the island for 90 years”, the governor said.

Holiday, who said he was a member when the library was still located in Back Street, expressed his appreciation to the organizations, teachers and children involved in creating the library’s anniversary events, which he described as a “wonderful initiative”.

Teachers and pupils of groups 4 and 5 of the Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) Browlia Maillard Campus, the Hillside Christian School Helmich Snijders Campus, the Sister Marie Laurence and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. primary schools were involved in several events.



Governor Holiday visited the exhibition and also made a tour past the various booths dispersed throughout the library’s parking lot. Loekie Morales and Robin Boasman were among authors who had children’s books on display and on sale. The Suriname Children’s Book Week Foundation presented itself to visitors as well. There were also stands with food and drinks from different countries, such as India and the Dominican Republic. Aruba’s cuisine was represented by the Chuchubi Foundation.

Library Activity December 2013: Library & Prince Bernhard Fund Launch “Back in the Day” Documentary



The Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund, in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, launched the documentary “Back in the Day”. The documentary, made by local film producer Laura Bijnsdorp, premiered last week Thursday, December 12th, at 7:00 pm for invited guests, including Governor Eugene Holiday and Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams, at the Library’s Lounge.

The presentation started off with a riveting dance performance by NIA Dance Instructor, Rudolph Davis and poetry readings by the young Ray-Angel Boasman and more seasoned poets, such as Andrew Peterson, Lysanne Charles and Vivian Roberts.

Subsequently, Dr. Jay Haviser provided a lecture in which the importance of preserving St. Maarten’s heritage was underlined. After a short intermission the audience was entertained by the impressive and educational documentary “Back in The Day”.

“Back in the Day” is a documentary about St. Maarten around the 1960’s, featuring stories by Jocelyn Arndell, Carlson Velasquez, Cynric Griffith, Marjorie Richardson, Evelyn Roberts and the late Karl Arndell. The film also includes rarely seen footage of St. Maarten from before and during the 1960s.

The documentary concluded on a nostalgic note with a warning about the importance of preserving the heritage of St. Maarten for future generations. The producer notes the rapid changes that took place on the island since these earlier days and underlines the importance of preserving the heritage that is dwindling.

Rueben Thompson thanked all involved in the documentary film. In particular, the senior citizens were thanked for their invaluable contribution to the creation of the film. The documentary was made possible by contributions of the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund Caribbean Region, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs, the St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association and NAGICO Insurances.

Young Adult Programs February 2013: Soualigan Fyah Youth Poetry

“Soualigan Fyah”, a poetry/spoken word contest for high school students between the ages of 13 and 18, was launched at Philipsburg Jubilee Library on Friday, February 15th, 2013.



The competition was organized by Lysanne Charles of 5 Square Miles Productions and the Imbali Centre for Creative Movement, in collaboration with the library, and ran for five weeks, every Friday, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

The event was intended to be a vehicle through which young people could explore their interest in poetry and also have a platform from which to voice their opinions. The teenagers were judged by a different set of veteran poets each week

and also got the opportunity to enjoy the work of an older poet at each event. The maximum number of participants catered for was 30.

Interested poets were given packages with the rules of the competition and the elements they would be judged on. They also got to meet with some of the older poets of Summer Speaks and Winter's Words and would get to see one of them perform.

St. Maarten Academy student Jenice Forbes was declared the first ever Soualigan Fyah Supreme Poet after the competition's final event, held on Friday March 15th, 2013.

Forbes competed against Andrew Peterson, who took first place, Atul Pereppadan, who placed second and her twin Janice Forbes, who took third place. Forbes won both of the two rounds with her poems entitled “Let me be” and “Your Life”.

The three runners-up all received two books donated by House of Nehesi Publishers and the grand prize winner travelled to Tortola in October to perform at the annual Microphone Messenjah.

Lysanne Charles since established a monthly open microphone evening for teenaged poets and spoken-word artistes on the islands. These sessions were organized to allow young poets to interact with veteran poets and to also allow them to continue developing their poetry and spoken word, building on different artistic genres. The Soualigan Fyah Poetry and Spoken Word Competition for Teens will be an annual event.

Young Adult Programs February 2013: Readers are Leaders

The “Readers are Leaders” (RAL) book club, is a reading program organized and supported by the Philipsburg Jubilee Library and the Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise. The goal is to promote literacy, specifically among high school students. The participants are challenged to read a number of books and submit reports about the books they read. Each year, RAL members are encouraged to take part in or organize various cultural and literacy events to showcase their talents and written ability and encourage literacy in the community.

On Tuesday February 19th the RAL book club organized their annual Black History Celebration at the Library. The program included poems, dances, songs and a drumming presentation by the high school students.

After last year's success, RAL grew even bigger with more students and schools participating in the challenge to read at least 2 books per month.

This year over a hundred students participated through the Library or through their advisors for the “Readers are Leaders” program at the St. Maarten Academy (PSVE and Academic Sections), the Sundial School and the St. Maarten Vocational Training School.



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As extra incentives to encourage participants to continue reading, special prizes were awarded in March 2013 to the best participants. This year's winners were: Suckishana Bera of St. Maarten Academy PSVE (1st prize winner); Tiffany Seebaran and Windey Charles of St. Maarten Vocational Training School (tied for 2nd place); Mayra Raphaela of St. Dominic High (3rd place) and Shamar Wallace of St. Maarten Academy PSVE (4th place). During the Award Ceremony at the Library, the top 3 winners were presented with tablets, while the 3rd and 4th place winners were given \$50 gift certificates. The library also donated free computer hours to each winner in the reading competition.

On Thursday, September 19th, the Readers are Leaders annual reading program re-launched at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library at 6:00 pm under the theme “A New Beginning”. To the music of a drum band, the singing of songs and the reciting of poems, the 2013 Readers are Leaders reading program got off to a great start at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library on Thursday night. On hand for the start of this year's Readers are Leaders reading program were, among others, District 7020 Governor Jeremy Hurst and



his wife, president of the Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise Angela Gordon, as well as parents of students of the different schools.

Whilst speaking and in addressing the many participants of this year's reading program, Miss Angela Gordon explained to the participants why it was so essential to read at least one book per month. Meanwhile, District 7020 Governor Jeremy Hurst expressed total satisfaction

with the contribution that the clubs are making to the community. Mr. Hurst, who concluded his working visit to the various clubs on the island on Thursday, was particularly pleased with the work of the Readers are Leaders program.

An e-reading workshop was organized for parents and students during the month of October 2013. The major goals of this free e-reading workshop were for participants to become aware of the e-book services the library offers and to promote reading through technological devices, such as: e-readers, smart phones, tablets and computers. The e-Reading workshop was conducted by library staff members: Francia Housen, Circulation Head and Assistant System Administrator and Annelies Starreveld, Librarian. Both Housen and Starreveld are certified Media Coaches.

The RAL St. Maarten's Day Poetry evening, under the theme: "St. Maarten Pride", was held on November 14th. Host Andrew Peterson introduced poets, singers and dancers who expressed their pride and love for St. Maarten.

Senior Citizens Projects August 2013: Senior Citizens Visit the Library



On Thursday, August 15th residents of the St. Maarten's Home paid their first visit of the year to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

The objective of the visit was to provide seniors with more contact with their community and provide stimulation to the clients, thus promoting a better quality of life.

Miriam Pantophlet, Activity Coordinator of the White and Yellow Cross, along with her assistant, Yoainna de Lain, were

instrumental in making the senior citizens' visit possible.

During their visit they were given a tour of the entire library by library staffers, Morena Ignacio and Melackia Spencer. Seniors were also briefed on the activities being done at the library and given a hands-on, short introduction on using the library's computers.

For many of the visiting seniors this was their first trip to the library and they expressed interest in coming again. They specifically expressed a desire to learn more about using computers and browsing the internet.

On Tuesday, September 3rd residents of the St. Maarten's Home made their second visit to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

Pantophlet and De Lain, the activity coordinators of the White and Yellow Cross, accompanied the seniors on this trip as well.

During their visit library staffers Morena Ignacio and Morenika Arrindell assisted the elders with the setting up of Skype accounts, playing various memory games and even listening to music via YouTube.

The seniors were very eager to learn how to use the computer. In particular, the elders were keen on learning how to use the internet to stay in contact with family members and friends.

The White and Yellow Cross Foundation plan to make these visits a regular part of their activities for the senior residents at the St. Maarten's Home.

Library Facility Improvements March 2013: Solar Energy Project Launch



On Thursday March 14th, at 2:00 pm, former Deputy Prime Minister William Marlin joined Prime Minister Sarah Wescot-Williams and former Minister of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Silveria Jacobs, together with representatives of both GEBE and the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, in inaugurating solar panels at the library.

Forty-eight solar panels were installed on the roof of the library. The installation was done by

Caribbean Energy Store NV and financed by the Ministry of Public Housing, Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure.

These solar panels generate about 2000 kwh of electricity a month and were expected to result in the library saving about a third on its total energy bill.

An important aspect of this solar energy project has been educating the community on the benefits of solar power. Regular information sessions about the benefits of solar energy have been held for the general public in the hall of the library.

The solar panels are only the first phase in the “Library Goes Green” campaign. The next phases will be the replacement of all lights in the building by LED lights and the installation of inverter air conditioners. The amounts the library saves on its energy bill by “going green” will be used to extend and improve the services of the library.



Library Facility Improvements May 2013: Shelving, Furniture and Signage Improvement Project



April through May of 2013 saw the realization of a revamp of the library's fiction and children's sections. The Philipsburg Jubilee Library obtained funding from the Cooperating Foundation of the Dutch Caribbean for the realization of the Shelving, Furniture and Signage Improvement Project 2013.

Before the completion of the project, the furniture, shelves, and signage in use had

been the same since 30 years previously and there was a great need for replacement of these items. The improvements were aimed towards providing additional seating for individual and group work, creating a bookstore-like layout, making books more visible and accessible, providing clearer directions to the various sections in order to make the books easier to find and improving the overall aesthetic of the library.



In order to fund the Shelving, Furniture and Signage Project the library initially received funding from the funding agency Cooperating Foundation of the Dutch Caribbean to the amount of NAF. 150,000. The remaining balance of NAF 92,298 is still needed to complete the adult non-fiction section.



International & Local Contacts May 2013: Cooperation with Training Institute and Libraries in Trinidad

In May of the year under review the director made a working visit to Trinidad. An important part of the program were visits to COSTAATT (College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago), a community college in Port of

Spain which offers accredited Associate's and Bachelor's degree programs in Librarianship and Information Science.



Possibilities for offering the associate degree program in cooperation with COSTAATT on our island were explored during several meetings with COSTAATT officials. Also on the program of the visit were NALIS (National Library of

Trinidad and Tobago) and the Libraries of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Southern Caribbean University.



International & Local Contacts 2013: Dutch Caribbean Cooperation

Throughout 2013 our library participated in various workshops and networking activities under the umbrella of the Dutch Caribbean Library Association (DCLA) of which the director is president.

One of the focal points of the young association is to support the libraries of the so-called BES islands. An important milestone within this field was a service level agreement between our library and the Queen Wilhelmina library of Saba. Under this agreement our library provides consultancy services to the Saba library, with the aim of making the Saba library a fully automated library before March 2014. A similar agreement will be signed with the Gertrude Johnson Library of St Eustatius in the first months of 2014.



Our library also provided technical and educational assistance to the Libraries of Saba and St. Eustatius within the context of the project “Reading and Writing with Anne Frank”, organized by the Anne Frank Foundation of Amsterdam. During this project Activity Coordinator Morenika Arrindell assisted both libraries with the set-up of the exhibition and the workshop on the exhibition and provided guidance on how to use the workbooks and materials that were made available to the schools.



International & Local Contacts June & July 2013: Green Energy Presentation at ALA Conference

The director participated in the yearly conference of the American Library Association (ALA) from June 27th to July 2nd, 2013 in Chicago, Illinois, which was attended by over 20,000 information professionals. A panel discussion on Green Energy and Libraries was on the program of this well-attended conference. Our library's solar energy program was also one of the topics of this panel presentation. The presentation was well received by the international audience.



International & Local Contacts November 2013: Cooperation Project with USM

One of the missions of our library is to provide technical support to other libraries on our island.

In January 2013 the management of the University of St. Martin (USM) requested our assistance with the operation of their library since they no longer had a librarian on their campus. It was decided to integrate the USM library with the PJJL library.

The end result was the signing of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between our library and USM in October of 2013. Under this agreement our library provides various library services to USM students and staff.



Operational Results 2013

Table 1. Library Membership

Library membership	2012	2013
Adults	531	463
Teenagers	723	605
Children	4560	4119
Staff, Non residents	40	25
Grand Total	5,854	5,212

Table 2. Library Visitors

Library visitors	2012	2013
	46,108	69,049

Table 3. Circulation

Number of checkouts in library building	2012	2013
Adults' books	25,689	24,924
Children's books, DVD's, Magazines	65,572	65,298
Grand Total	91,261	90,222

Table 4. Collection

Items	No of Items added in 2012	Collection totals 2012	No of Items added in 2013	Collection totals 2013
Books Adult section	4,525	31,196	2,502	31,591
Books Youth section		30,237		25,805
DVD's	180	1435	101	1438
Grand total	4,705	62,868	2,603	58,834

Table 5. Circulation Bookmobile

	2012	2013
Number of Bookmobile check-outs	34,810	21,635

Table 6. Information requests and Library visits by school classes

	2012	2013
Information requests	2,223	2,677
Library visits (not of school classes)		69049

Number of Hits on Websites 14.333

