

Philipsburg Jubilee Library

2015 Annual Report



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INTRODUCTION

Vision and Mission

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.

Board members 2015

During 2015 there were some changes in the Board positions. Mrs. Schaminee-Ringeling stepped down as President, but remained part of the Board. Mr. Holiday was appointed as President at interim and Mr. Khatnani took up the position of treasurer. As in previous years, board meetings were held at set times.

Board Members as of December 2015

President (ad interim) Mr. C. Holiday

Treasurer Mr. S. Khatnani

Secretary Mrs. M. Hofman

Vice-Secretary / Vice-Treasurer Mr. U. Aron

Commissioner Ms. V. Brazier

Commissioner Ms. L. Tuitt

Commissioner Mrs. Schaminee-Ringeling

STAFF

Staff Developments

In the year under review staff members that left the library were Ms. Theodosia Hawley and Ms. Charlene Brison. After over 34 years of service to the library Richard Nicolaas went into retirement. These staff members delivered an excellent contribution to the day to day operations of the library and its projects and activities and they are much appreciated.

Staff Members as of December 31, 2015

Mrs. Monique Alberts (Director)

Mrs. Irmin Hughes (Manager Information services/ Management Team Member)

Mrs. Lucille Kolf (Financial Administrator/ Management Team Member)

Ms. Joy Lambert (Librarian/Financial Assistant)

Ms. Maryland Powell (Assistant Children's Librarian)

Ms. Shirley Richardson (Secretary/ Selection and Acquisition Coordinator/ Circulation

Head)

Ms. Francia Housen (Interim Systems Administrator)

Ms. Melackia Spencer (Circulation Clerk)

Mr. Daniel Helligar (Circulation Clerk/ Technical Assistant)

Library Activities 2015

Open Day Reception

The library hosted its Open Day Reception on the 6th of February. Among the invited guests were current and potential financial partners, funding agencies, service clubs and other members of the business community. The reception took off with a presentation by the library's Director Monique Alberts, in which the projects of the previous year were presented, as well as the planned projects for 2016. Other presentations that were provided were a presentation on solar energy by Peter Mazereeuw, a presentation about the Media Lab (see p. 12) by Jose Sommers of the Foresee Foundation and a presentation by Cherida Creebsburg on the Literacy Project (see p. 13).

The existence of the library's projects rely on funding from our valued sponsors. The library organized the Open House Reception in order to harness support from these current and also potential sponsors and funding agencies.

E-book workshop

On Thursday, March 12th, 2015, the library organized its second workshop on how to download e-books from the library's website. Interested persons came to the library to learn about the library's great selection of e-books, available to all library members. The workshop was free of

charge and people of all ages were welcome to attend.



At the back: Ans Koolen providing the e-book workshop

Participants learned what types of e-books, audiobooks and e-readers are available at the library. They also brought along their own device (tablet, phone or e-reader) to download their e-books. The workshop was provided by the library's former director Ans Koolen and library systems administrator Francia Housen.

USM Puppet Show

Students of the Children's Literature class of the University of St. Martin (USM) performed an entertaining puppet show in the Philipsburg Jubilee Library in April of 2015.

The USM students provide the puppet show each year as a fulfillment of their course assignments. The hosts on the day were Rita Carty and Leontine Joseph. The



Left: USM students providing an animated puppet show, Right: Patti Maier and USM students at the puppet show

puppet show featured stories of Anansi and the Tug of War, the Little Red Hen and Rapunzel. The puppets and the performing students interacted with the children in the audience to make it a truly enjoyable show. Children, from babies to ten years of age, were enthralled by the shows.

Easter egg hunt

In April, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library hosted its grand annual Easter egg hunt, in collaboration with the Rotaract Club of St. Maarten Sunrise. The annual event was for children aged 4-10 years old. During the Easter egg hunt, there were a lot of entertaining activities, such as: face



Left: Participants getting ready to hunt for eggs, Centre: Children playing games at the hunt, Right: A Rotaract Club member handing over a prize to one of the lucky winners

painting, games, storytelling and, of course, the Easter egg hunt.

During storytelling time, children listened to some of the dedicated

Story Time volunteers, while they read from their favorite children's stories about Easter. The Easter bunnies also paid a visit to the library's Easter egg hunt to make their special face painting creations. All children taking part in this event received a special "goody bag" to take home.

Kid's Summer Camp



Children of the summer camp at the music class

In the summer of 2015 the Philipsburg Jubilee Library organized a summer camp for children between the ages of 6 to 13. From the 14th of July to July 31st children got a chance to take part in a variety of educational and enjoyable activities in the library.

The activities that the children took part in during the summer camp included listening to the Story Time reading session, making clay animations in the Media Lab, getting educated about healthy eating in nutrition class, attending music class and art class, reading with a buddy and a spelling bee.

There was also a game day where the children had a wonderful time taking part in an exciting and fun-filled tournament. On the last day the summer camp came to a close with a movie night.

Teen Summer Camp

In July, the Philipsburg Jubilee library had a vigorous and entertaining summer camp for teens aged 14 to 20, with several weeks packed full of fun-filled activities. The summer camp had such activities as: poetry evenings, a game night, computer classes, reading books and watching

movies. There was also a chance to get active with Zumba classes and a grand hike.

At the summer camp, before taking part in the poetry evening, the campers spent time learning about poetry, as the expression of feelings and ideas through words, and embracing the meaning of those words. These artistic expressions culminated in a poetry evening where teens, whether they are just beginning to write poetry or are more advanced, were welcome to partake



Game night during the teen summer camp

in and enjoy the experience of sharing their poetry with one another.

The summer camp's game night provided a space for teens during the summer to engage in an entertaining and amicable tournament. Those taking part exhibited their game talents at monopoly, checkers, chess, dominoes, connect 4, playstation 3 and more.

During the computer courses, teens learned how to create videos and presentations. At these computer workshops they learned how to produce impressive works of digital art that they can use for their presentations at school.

After a month packed with activities and learning new things, the schedule of events lead up to a grand nature hike. At the end of a morning of hiking, the campers also enjoyed the pristine waters at Little Bay



Left: the teens enjoying Zumba classes, Right: the campers hiking

and made a stop at Tiki Hut Snorkel Park. The Red Cross was on hand at the activity to ensure that it was safe. The day after the grand hike the camp activities ended with a movie viewing at the Megaplex. All in all, the library's summer camp was a great opportunity for teens to broaden their horizons, make new friends and share a wonderful experience with other teens.

The Power of Knowledge Information Sessions

This year, the Power of Knowledge sessions came back to the library. Starting Tuesday, September 29th, the library hosted information sessions on insurance, financial planning, labour law and the services offered at the Ombudsman. The lectures took place each week for a duration



Left: Neil Henderson providing a lecture on Insurance, Right: Gwendolien Mossel of the Ombudsman

of four weeks. Experts in these areas of interest were at the library to speak about the topic of the evening, which was followed by a question and answer session.

The first two weeks of the Power of Knowledge concerned the "Know your

finances" segment of the series. Matters such as how to manage personal finances, loans and mortgages, pensions, insurance and many other topics in the area of financial planning were discussed. The latter two weeks encompassed the "Know your rights" segment, which set out to empower and inform citizens about labour law: workers' rights and responsibilities, the types of work contracts, overtime, holiday & compensations, etc.; and also provide general information about the services offered by the Ombudsman.

Symposium and Expo on Suriname Independence

On the 20th of November a symposium was held in the library in honor of the anniversary of the independence of Suriname. Suriname became an independent country on November 25th, 1975 and this year marked the fortieth anniversary of its independence.



Drs. Ragoebarsing speaking on Suriname's independence at the symposium

Under the slogan "Celebrating 40 years of the Republic of Suriname: sharing lessons learned with St Maarten", the symposium focused on how Sint Maarten, as a young nation, can learn from Suriname. Participants discussed how to share the lessons learned from the independence of Suriname with Sint Maarten and the way forward for nation Sint Maarten. The panelists of the symposium were Drs. Ragoebarsing, Economist and former minister of Development, Cooperation and Planning in Suriname, Dr. Rhoda Arrindell, educator and board member of the Independence for St.

Maarten foundation and Mr. R. Groeneveld, attorney at law. On the same evening a mini expo themed "Unity through Diversity", about 40 years republic of Suriname was opened at the library.

Christmas Market

The library marked the Christmas season with its Pre- Christmas Eve Market that took place on Wednesday, the 23rd of December. This one was surely a wondrous and merry event for all the family to enjoy.



Left: A vendor at the Christmas market selling cosmetics, Left: The Classic Touch Band performing at the Christmas market

The goods that were on display at the Pre-Christmas Eve Market included anything from homemade crafts to custom

jewelry. Liqueurs, Christmas drinks, cakes, pastries and other snacks were on sale as well at this festive Christmas Market.

There was a lot of fun for children too. They played in the bouncy castle at the Pre-Christmas Eve Market and got their faces painted in intricate holiday designs.

The Christmas Market also featured live music performed by Classic Touch Band, formerly known as the Lake Brothers from Grand Case. The general public came to the library's market to enjoy the Christmas ambience and perhaps find something special to give to their loved ones for Christmas.

Read to Me: Baby and Toddler Campaign

The library has been providing the Read to Me activities since 2010 to motivate parents and caregivers to read to their baby or toddler as often as possible and to visit the library and register as a library member. Reading to children on a daily basis reinforces the bond between parent and child, and children who are read to from an early age get better grades later on.

Throughout the year, as part of the Read to Me: Baby and Toddler activities there was storytelling, fun and games for babies and their caregivers. During Rhyme Time on Wednesday mornings,



Left: At the Rhyme Time sessions babies and toddlers sing along to children's songs

babies and their parents, or caregivers, sang along to many of the classic nursery rhymes. Every second Thursday of each month there was Story Time, where babies could listen to age-appropriate learning concepts through storytelling, while cultivating an enthusiasm for books and reading.

As part of the library's Read to Me campaign, throughout the year, parents of kids zero to four years of age, who enlisted their child for a library

membership for the first time, received a special backpack, containing: information leaflets, puppets, baby care items, reading materials, coloring pencils and a coloring sheet.

Aside from the ongoing Baby and Toddler activity schedule, the library also hosted a week of events around its Baby and Toddler program. From the 17^{th} of November through the 21^{st} of

November there was a special week organized especially for the little ones and parents. their The week of events was officially opened with "Clowning" by Mo d Joker and a reading workshop by Patti Maier. Other activities that took place Day throughout the week



Left: Children coloring at the Fun Day, Right: Mascots at the Mascot Mini Parade on the Fun Day

included a puppet show by students of the University of St Martin and a Rhyme Time lunch special. This week of entertainment ended with the "Baby & Toddlers Fun Day". The Fun Day was packed with enjoyment and games, and included musical entertainment by DJ Daniel, a Mascot mini parade, playing in the bouncy castle, story time, a coloring contest and face painting. The week of festivities was followed up by a special coloring contest where babies and toddlers could win prizes.

The Read to Me: Babies and Toddlers activities have been made possible through sponsorship by the Guardian Group.

Readers are leaders

Readers are Leaders is a reading program where the goal is to encourage reading by teenagers and to show that reading is fun. Aside from the reading challenge, the Readers are Leaders club also challenges students from various high schools on the island through contests, in which they can sing, read poetry and speeches and dance. Readers are Leaders is organized by the Sint Maarten Rotary Sunrise, in collaboration with the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL).



From left to right, library Director Monique Alberts, a representative of Rotary Sunrise and children's librarian Maryland Powell with one of the winners of the competition

In February of 2015 RAL hosted the annual Readers are Leaders song, poetry and dance competition, in commemoration of Black History Month. The competition started off with music and the reading of famous speeches of the civil rights era and poetry. There was also a drumming performance and dance. Aside from the performances by the talented students, there were trivia questions throughout the evening for which they could also win prizes.

Thursday, the 24th of September, marked the official opening ceremony for the 2015-2016 term with another grand spectacle of poetry, dance and more. In December of 2015 the Readers are Leaders club also hosted a Christmas special with Christmas caroling and Story Telling for teens.

Media Lab



Students in the Media Lab

The Media Lab was first launched in 2014 and since then has hosted courses on a variety of topics in the area of multimedia. The Philipsburg Jubilee Library officially re-opened the Digikidz Medialab in April of 2015. Children and adults alike can come to the Media Lab to learn about how to use computers and harness their creativity.

In the month of May, November and December schoolchildren took part in computer courses, such as Game Maker, Prezi and Programming with code. In the Game Maker workshop participants played a memory game and made short movie clips. The Media Lab also offered courses on how to work with Prezi, a new type of presentation tool which makes it possible to

include movement and effects in a flashy presentation. This is a very useful presentation tool for students and professionals alike. For children who aspire to be the next Bill Gates or who are just interested in the basics of programming, the Media Lab offered a course where they will be introduced to programming in a way that makes programming fun.

The Media Lab in the library also offered courses for senior citizens throughout the year. This beginner's course was for senior citizens



Senior Citizens taking part in classes at the Media Lab



Schoolchildren with the certificates they've earned from the Media Lab

who don't know how to use a computer or who want to brush up on their computer skills. Senior citizens received a general introduction to computers for beginners in the first session. This introductory workshop was then followed up with a beginner's course in the use of e-mails. Later on some new topics were also introduced, such as Facebook and Skype. Participants in the Media Lab also learned how to make video presentations or slideshows with Animoto software.

The Medialab project is an initiative by Foundation Kultuurkameleon and is part of the larger Digikidz project of the Foresee Foundation. Digikidz was also made possible through funding from the Windsong Foundation and the Kultura fund.

Literacy Program



Patti Maier reading to children and their parents at the Family Reading evening

SXM reads as well.

The SXM Reads platform aims to create awareness and find support for persons with low literacy skills. The first activity of SXM reads was to organize a literacy awareness month in September. This literacy awareness month was launched at the Asha Stevens school on September 11th. The keynote speaker was Mrs. Tanja Fraaij from the Pro Alfa foundation Curacao. Pro Alfa has more than 20 years of experience in organizing free education for low literate and illiterate persons on Curacao. Other activities during the literacy awareness month

were a workshop for literacy tutors and a movie night. The month was closed off with the family fun day, "Reading in the park". Another successful SXM reads activity was the work visit of US library activist and

In the year under review our library started a special programme for persons with low literacy skills. Low literacy is a considerable social problem in our society. Libraries in the US and the Netherlands and in other countries have demonstrated that the library as an institution can play an important role in combating low literacy. The Philipsburg Jubilee library decided to follow in their footsteps. The three pillars of the literacy program 2015 were family reading nights, an adult literacy course and a literacy helpdesk. Together with COME centre, UNESCO and the Rotary Sunrise club our library created the SXM reads platform. The department of Social Services and Section Labor Market (SOD/SLM) supported



An image of the Reading in the Park activity



A participant at one of the SXM Reads activities

literacy expert Ms .Satia Marshall Orange to our island (see p.17). Throughout the year around 80 families participated in family reading evenings and a group of jobseekers participated in an adult literacy course at the library.

The literacy program 2015 was financed by the SMDF, the Representation of the Netherlands in Sint Maarten, the Windward Islands bank, Seven Seas Water Company and the Be the change foundation. The program was well received by the community and will have a follow up in 2016.

Story Time

Every Saturday, the library hosts Story Time reading sessions for children. Both Joseanne Peterson and Lysandra William are the coordinators for the Saturday story time sessions and have been volunteering their time for this project since January 2014.

Story Time regularly features special guests and activities to entertain children. For example, January featured a puppet performance by students of the St. Dominic High School where they performed various fairy tales and traditional folk stories. In December there was also a special Story Time Christmas Village where children could take part in arts and crafts activities with Story Time's leader, Joseanne Peterson. At this special Christmas village children enjoyed making their own special Christmas creations that they could give to mom or dad.



Volunteer Joseanne Peterson reading as children look on

Story Time is a regular feature in the library and is very much appreciated by the attending children.

Staff Training 2015

ALA Course

In 2015 three staff members of the library were awarded with certificates for the completion of the Advanced e-course in Cataloging from the San Jose State University School of Information.

Each year the Philipsburg Jubilee Library adds approximately 2000 books to its collection. The books on offer meet the needs of the general public, whether they are searching for books to read in their leisure time or want to do research for school projects. In order to make it easier for the general public to find the books they need, library staff must catalog each book according to certain cataloging guidelines



The certificates of the San Jose State University School of Information

set forth by the American Library Association (ALA).

The certificates which were awarded were



Left: Library Director Monique Alberts, Right: Library Manager Irmin Hughes receives her certificate

received by library staff members Irmin Hughes, Maryland Powell and Joy Lambert, after following a six-month course. These library staff members were assisted by retired Library Director Mrs. Ans Koolen during their course.

Satia Orange Marshall

In October of 2015 the Philipsburg Jubilee Library received a visit by influential and respected retired former Director of the American Library Association's (ALA) Office for Literacy and Outreach Services



Left: Library Director Monique Alberts, Right: Satia Marshall Orange

(OLOS), mrs. Satia Marshall Orange. Aside from being a former director of the ALA, Satia Marshall Orange is a motivational speaker and a civil rights activist. The purpose of her visit to Sint Maarten was to motivate and train library staff, to mobilize support for literacy and outreach programs for socially disadvantaged persons on our island and to provide advice to the Philipsburg Jubilee Library on how to enhance its literacy and outreach activities. Satia Orange provided a special information session for the general public, as well as the training sessions for the staff of the library.

During Satia Marshall Orange's tenure at the Office for Literacy

and Outreach Services

(OLOS) at the ALA, mrs. Orange was a passionate leader and activist. She was instrumental in enhancing the ALA's support for numerous outreach programmes in various communities in the US.

In addition to visiting the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, during her six-day visit, Satia Marshall Orange met with the Governor of Sint Maarten, Mr. Keith Franca, the Director of the SMDF, and other influential persons. Mrs. Orange also met with the SXM reads committee consisting of COME Centre, UNESCO and the Rotaract Sunrise club.



Satia Marshall Orange while meeting with youngsters

The week-long visit of Satia Orange Marshall was a week where staff could learn, brainstorm and come up with many new ideas on how the library can improve on its services offered to the general public.

Library Facility Improvements

New Furniture

As the years go by, many visitors use the furniture that eventually wears out and needs to be replaced in order to maintain a clean and presentable appearance for the library.



Left and Right: New furniture purchased by the library

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library upgraded some of its furniture in the lounge area, the hall and in the central area. In 2015 the library had gotten 6 new wicker chairs and 2 matching tables, as well as 3 lounge chairs with 1 table.

The Media Lab room also had improvements to its interior, which were financed entirely by the Foresee Foundation. Eight new tables and eleven chairs were bought. In addition to furniture, the Media Lab was upgraded with various gadgets and materials for use in the workshops. Also, in February of 2015 Island Gems donated a table and chairs for the Babyroom. Orco Bank donated a reading table for the Children's department in October. The St. Maarten Time Share Association donated five desktop computers and books for the Family Literacy Program.

International and local contacts

Consultancy services to the Libraries of Saba and St Eustatius

In 2015, the Philipsburg Jubilee Library continued its consultancy services to the Queen Wilhelmina library on Saba and the Gertrude Johnson Library on St Eustatius. The librarians in the BES islands have been assisted by librarians of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library in getting their catalog fully automated and in the previous year received training in the online cataloging system called KOHA. The three libraries are also connected to a shared database for cataloging all of the books in the libraries.

Consultancy services to Bonaire Library

Staff of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library have been providing training to staff of the library of Bonaire, or the Bibliotheka Publiko Bonaire. Four staff members from Bonaire were sent to learn about all aspects of operations at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library.

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library, as an established library for more than ninety years was proud to provide

training to its colleagues of Bonaire. The Bonairean library is currently upgrading their library by implementing an online cataloging system, which requires that its workers receive training in the online KOHA library cataloging system. The visiting library staff members of the Bonaire library, Johaila Sint Jago, Misorgia van Langeveld, Dorothy Cicilia and Ludrid Bernabela were trained in cataloging, as well as other aspects of library procedures and services at the Philipsburg library, such as the workings of the Circulation and Information desks.

Johaila Sint Jago has been working at the Bibliotheka Publiko Bonaire for nearly 30 years and was very enthusiastic about experiencing



From left to right: Dorothy Cicilia, library Manager Irmin Hughes, Ludnel Bernabela and Ans Koolen

Sint Maarten and its public library. When asked what her overall experience was at the library and of Sint Maarten, Johaila Sint Jago said "I think the people are very friendly. Learning about the KOHA

cataloging system was a good experience for us, because it teaches us how we can improve in Bonaire. I also like the Media Lab and I would like to do things like that in Bonaire. It was also very good to experience the reading activities for children". The Philipsburg Jubilee Library looks forward to more training opportunities with the Bonaire library in the future.

Acuril Conference

In 2015, the library's Director attended the Acuril conference in Suriname. The conference theme was "Collaborative Continuing Education: LEARN, ACT AND INSPIRE: Professional and Personal Development Opportunities for Lifelong Learning in Libraries, Archives and Museums in the Caribbean". One notable presentation was an interesting session about "know your users" by Marian Koren. They did research into each different type of user and how you can try to understand your clientele better. Apart from this presentation there were sessions about leadership which were very interesting and inspiring. Since the establishment of Acuril in 1969 our library was represented in the Executive council for several periods. During Acuril 2015 the Director of our library continued this tradition by getting elected as a member of the Executive Council of Acuril.

At the conference the library's Director was accompanied by library staff members Lucille Kolf and Shirley Richardson. Aside from attending the conference, the delegation of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library made working visits to a number of libraries and archives in Suriname, such as the Staatsolie library, the public library CBS and the Education Department's library.

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting

In January of 2015, Director Monique Alberts participated in the Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association (ALA). The ALA is the largest and oldest library association in the world and it provides outreach, library standards, education and information to many libraries throughout the United States and other countries.

Literature festival University of the Virgin Islands

The library's Director attended the Virgin Islands literature festival and Bookfair at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) in St Croix. Contacts were established with the University library and the public library in St Croix. The Director also met with Caribbean writers who would like to visit our library.

Operational Results 2014-2015

Table 1. Library Membership

Library membership	2014	2015
Adults	1,300	1,646
Teenagers	2,154	2,111
Children	7,684	5,469
Staff, Non residents	27	28
Grand Total	11,165	9,254

Table 2. Library Visitors

Library visitors	2014	2015
	51,502	43,296

Table 3. Circulation

Number of checkouts in library building	2014	2015
Adults' books	9,089	5,981
E-books	374	178
Children's books, DVD's, Magazines	32,278	38,507
Grand Total	41,741	44,666

Table 4. Collection

Items	No of Items added in 2014	Collection totals 2014	No of Items added in 2015	Collection totals 2015
Books Adult				
section	1,276	26,877	929	31,487
Books Youth				
section	1,745	22,222	663	29,259
DVD's	239	1,559	63	1,634
Grand total	3,260	50,658	1,655	62,380

Table 5. Circulation Bookmobile

	2014	2015	
Number of Bookmobile check-outs	21,635	0	

Table 6. Information requests and Library visits by school classes			
	2014	2015	
Information requests	1,797	1,147	
Library visits (not of school classes)	51,502	43,296	
Number of Hits on Websites	14,238	12,443	
Total of discarded books	8,176	1,237	