

## Peru Free Library Annual Board Meeting

January 20, 2016

### Director's State of the Library Report

This has been a landmark year at our library, our centenary year. There have been physical changes, our front room was renovated, a generous and surprise gift of a Schonbek chandelier adds an elegant and somehow fitting touch to this beautiful room. New all-in-one computers were purchased, allowing our patrons access to high speed internet and state of the art technology. Also moving the library into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we now have a contemporary logo which graces our entrance sign, representing a tree turning into a book and visa versa. This symbolizes our being known as "the green library" within the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System, due to our progressive energy conservation initiatives. We have introduced an electronic newsletter and have established a new facebook page. We have employed a new assistant librarian, Stacey Bousquet, who with her organizational skills and cheerful and helpful manner have made the library more vibrant. And in celebration of our centennial year the library held numerous special events. These included art exhibits, children's programs and a memorable concert with a musical piece composed to mark our 100<sup>th</sup> year.

It has indeed been a momentous year when one tallies up the renovations and improvements, the number of programs and special events. Certainly these are all worthy of consideration, but the crucial question is this: how important is our place within our community, how vital is our library? The answer is, very vital. Our library has never been as healthy and as well used as it is today. Our children's room is busy with pre-schoolers and their moms, and dads. Homeschool families visit on a weekly basis. Our computers are frequented by young adults, retraining through on-line courses to advance their careers. Tutoring sessions take place on an almost daily basis, sometimes several sessions in one day, giving high school students extra help and teaching adults a second language. Our interlibrary loan service numbers have increased and our circulation continues to be one of the highest in the 3 county area. Our library is indeed vital and 2016 will see it continue to thrive.