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Introduction

**Vision and Mission**

**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

The constitution of the board remained unchanged in 2012. As in previous years, board meetings were held at set times.

Board members in 2012

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

Staff developments

The year 2012 brought changes in the composition of the libraries staff. Librarian, Melissa Pompier, Activity Manager Karia Arnold and events technician, Andreas Joedoleksono decided to leave the library. Ms. Annelies Starreveld joined the staff as an all round librarian as of August 1st. On that same date Ms Morenika Arrindell took up the position of Activity Manager and Public Relations Officer at our library.
**Staff members as of December 31, 2011**

Mrs. Monique Alberts  (Director)
Mrs. Irmin Hughes  (Human Resource Worker/ Management Team Member)
Mrs. Lucille Chumney  (Financial Administrator/ Management Team Member)
Ms. Annelies Starreveld  (Librarian)
Ms. Morenika Arrindell  (Activity Manager/PR)
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)
Mrs. Aukje de Jong  (Coordinator Bookmobile Outreach Project)
Mr. Richard Nicolaas  (Bookmobile Driver)
Mr. Donovan Froston  (Bookmobile Driver)
Library activities 2012

*Anansi Festival  February 24 – March 11, 2012*

The first major activities for 2012 were centered around the African folktale character, “Anansi”, the spider. The purpose of this Anansi campaign was to celebrate the importance of storytelling and highlight Anansi, the age old spider, who came to the Caribbean from Africa.

Anansi expert, Mr. Mirto Laclé of Aruba, visited our island to give a series of lectures and workshops about the importance of the Anansi character for the 21st century. During his well attended lecture, held at the University of St Martin with workshops at the library, Laclé provided sufficient evidence of the educational and cultural values of the Anansi folktales.

The Anansi campaign culminated in a week long Anansi festival with daily activities among which were storytelling, dance, arts, crafts and puppet theatre.

*Storyteller Nkosazana Illis doing an interactive African story with dancing and singing for the attending children*
Children’s Book Authors Elle and Erik van Os Share Stories with Library and Schools

On Saturday March 17th at 11.00 am, children’s book writers, Elle and Erik van OS visited the Philipsburg Jubilee Library to read from their book. The van Os’ have been writing children’s books together since 1990. They also write songs, rhymes and lyrics for magazines. These children book writers also managed to conduct a class visit at Sr. Borgia to share their stories with the children of St. Maarten.

Elle and Erik van Os during their visit to Sr. Borgia School
**Library hosts Easter Egg Hunt**

On April 7, an Easter Egg Hunt was held on the library grounds. The activities included eggs decorating, puppet show presentations, and many other family games specifically for children up to 10 year old. Parents and children alike turned out in large numbers to enjoy this free Easter Celebration.

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Children at the Easter Egg Hunt doing an arts and craft activity.

Parents and children fill the library for the Easter Egg Hunt.
International Literature Festival, “Crossing the Seas: The Power of Memory”

The 5th edition of the International Literature Festival, “Crossing the Seas”, took place on April 15 at the Philipsburg Community and Cultural Center and was one of St Maarten's main cultural events in 2012. During the festival, organized and hosted by our library, international authors joined forces with local poets to recite and read from their poems and short stories for the community at large. This year's international authors had their roots in countries as diverse as Iran, Zimbabwe, Ghana and, Belgium St. Maarten was also well represented with poets such as: Lysanne “Goddess eye” Charles, Stephen “Stretch” Rodney, Marianne Teft, and Giovanni Olivacce. The presenting international authors were: Helon Habila of Zimbabwe, Petina Gappa of Ghana, David van Reybrouck of Belgium and Rodaan al Galidi of Iran. The visiting authors also visited the local high schools where they were interviewed about their work and interacted with the students. “Crossing the Seas” Festivals are an initiative from the Foundation ‘Writers Unlimited’ from the Hague. The next edition of the festival is scheduled for 2014.

The visiting authors along with audience members at the International Literature Festival, “Crossing the Seas”.
Pajama Reading Party for Children at the Library

On July 6, our library teamed up with the Salvation Army for a unique reading promotion event. The event was the first reading pajama party ever held at the library, with the main goal of relaunching the “Read Me a Bedtime Story” campaign, which started in 2011. A group of 30 disadvantaged children, selected by the Salvation Army, had an exciting pajama party and sleepover at the premises of the library. During the party, well known St. Maarteners entertained the children by reading them stories. One of the highlights of this event was having Minister Silveria Jacobs in attendance, who also came to read to the children. Minister Jacobs took time out of her busy schedule to participate in the pajama party by reading the children a story about African drums. She apologized to the children for not being able to stay for the entire party and continued to say that as a child she had been an avid reader. One of her dreams was to have a sleepover at the library and read all night. Laser 101.1’s radio personality, Elektra, was also part of the event. She read the children an exciting and interactive story in which they had to make sounds, jump up, and really get involved. Other activities during the party were puppet theatre, a movie, and a bonfire with a special appearance by Papa Umpo. Special assistance was provided by the Red Cross and VKS, as well as financial support of several private companies, who sponsored food and drinks for this pajama party. For the children, this night at the library was an experience they will never forget.
Summer Reading Program themed: “Wake Up, Stay Active, Be A Reader”

Philipsburg Jubilee Library's Summer Reading Program “Wake Up, Stay Active, Be a Reader” came to a fun ending on July 27 with dancing and riding on “Da Party bus” and the Carrousel. A total of 36 children participated in the summer program. They enjoyed Shabba’s Djembre musical workshop and a hike excursion by the company, Tri Sport. Accompanied by the Red Cross St. Maarten Chapter, the children hiked from Cole Bay’s, “Le Grande Marche” to French side Bellevue’s “Solidarity Agricultural Gardens”. While hiking, the children, were informed about the historical aspects of St. Maarten’s open borders, taught that plants, like the acacia tree, were not indigenous to the island, and enjoyed the view the unspoiled nature of St. Maarten. At the garden’s grounds, children tasted mangoes and listened intently to the explanation given on the different medical usages of the trees and vegetation. The Children also enjoyed story time, which was complimented with activities. Special guest, Ivette Grant, instructed them on how to make a basket (box) by sewing canvas. Also included in the packed schedule, was a mini sports day on the library premises to keep the participants fit and active. Every Thursday evening during the summer, except the 26th of July, funny family related movies were shown. On Thursday, July the 26, the library had a mini fun show, where Mo D Joker, Dexter the Clown and Storyteller, Maryland Powell entertained the children.

The excited children being entertained by Dexter the Clown at the library.
**Musical Free to Be Me!**

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library launched its second annual major initiative to work with the St. Maarten community and provide high quality learning opportunities for young people, ages 7 – 18, in summer musical programs in the July and August months. The objective of this summer learning initiative, “Free to Be Me”, was to enhance the educational opportunities and learning experiences of youngsters by using musical theatre as a tool for teaching children valuable life skills and lessons. "Free To Be Me: The Musical" depicted the lives of several children, who together are members of the "Safety Kids Club", where they discuss ways of combating peer pressure and drug abuse. This summer program fostered literacy experiences, created opportunities for critical thinking and problem solving, provided exposure to new ideas, experiences, opportunities for discussion, and also provided physical and artistic activity to engage participants throughout the summer months."Free to Be Me", served its purpose to the youngsters of St, Maarten as it remained true to many of the key missions of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library which has its core, opportunities for personal creative development, stimulating creativity of children and young people and promoting appreciation of the arts. There are areas where the longevity of this program can be further developed and enhanced in more detailed ways, but the seeds for pruning creative expression have been planted and will continue to grow.

![Cast members of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library's Summer Musical, "Free to Be Me", performing on stage.](image)
**Third edition of “It Takes a Story to Raise a Child Workshop” with Wijnand Stomp**

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library, in collaboration with the Ark foundation organized its 3rd and final year of storytelling workshops entitled, “It Takes a Story to Raise a Child” in September 2012. This remarkable workshop was designed to develop persons in our community with the capability to tell stories and to enhance those persons, who already have some experience in this field.

Wijnand Stomp, a well known Dutch Antillean, theatrical storyteller in the Netherlands, who specializes in Anansi stories, conducted a presentation of his work at the cultural center on September 23, 2013. Later, Wijnand started his 4-day workshop for the 15 registered participants. The successful candidates eventually got a chance to showcase their newly learned storytelling talents at their very own storytelling performance on September 29.

During Stomp’s stay, he took the time out to visit two schools namely, Sr. Borgia and Oranje School. While there, Stomp and the students created their very own Anansi stories, which are now available on his website.

The community and the children of St. Maarten, as a result of this storytelling experience have a renewed passion for the art of storytelling.
Tolerance Campaign and Anne Frank Exhibition

The Philipsburg Jubilee Library embarked on the travelling exhibition “Reading and Writing with Anne Frank” in collaboration with the Amsterdam based Anne Frank House and the St. Maarten Heritage Foundation. This event was geared towards the adult, young-adult and children of the island. The objective of this venture was to not only teach the public about the Holocaust and current societal issues, but also challenged prejudice and hatred, while encouraging them to embrace positive attitudes, tolerance, responsibility and respect for others. One of the unique aspects of this project was that through reading, writing, arts & craft, film, and lectures, direct linkages could be made to St. Maarten and Aruba’s history. This program fostered literacy experiences, created opportunities for open, inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, exposure to major historical events and made connections to the St. Maarten experience in an important historical development. The following activities were organized during the month of October 2012:

1. Collaborative Lecture with USM about the Jewish history of St Maarten featuring Dana Sprott-Cohen
2. Mary Romney Lectured at the Official Launch of the Exhibition at the Library on her father, St. Maarten born, Lionel Romney’s experience in a concentration camp
3. Collaborative Lecture with the National Library of Aruba featuring Ronny Alders on Aruban resistance fighter Boy Ecury
4. Teachers & Staff Workshop
5. Over 1000 students of our high schools (forms 1 and 2) and elementary schools (grade 5 & 6) visited the Reading and Writing with Anne Frank Exhibition at the library.

The Anne Frank Exhibition and the tolerance activities transformed the Philipsburg Jubilee Library into a center for learning, fostering inter-cultural dialogue, mutual understanding of people regardless of differences, and challenged visitors to think about concepts such as tolerance, mutual respect, and human rights.

Pictured L-R: Anne Frank House Representatives with Minister Silveria Jacobs, Prime Minister Sarah Wescott-Williams and His Excellency Governor Eugene Holiday and his wife, along with Library Director, receive the first guided tour of the Anne Frank Exhibition at the official opening, by Anne Frank House Representatives.
Mary Romney, the keynote speaker for the official launch of the Anne Frank Exhibition, lecturing on the topic "Lionel Romney, World War II, and the Holocaust: One Survivors Story".

Anne Frank House Representatives Josephine de Maan (seated) and Inger Schaap(standing) read and discuss Anne Frank's life with children visiting the library.

Sister Marie Laurence students intently reading the information displayed on the exhibition, in order to complete the assignments in their workbooks, donated by the Anne Frank House.
**Young adult program : Readers are Leaders 2012**

The “Readers are Leaders” (RAL) book club, is a reading program organized and supported by the Philipsburg Jubilee Library and the Rotary Sunrise 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, written ability and encourage literacy in the community. On Tuesday February 28th the RAL book club organized their annual Black History Celebration at the Library. Also part of the program were video clips of interviews with local persons of interest. These interviews were conducted by students of forms 3-5 of the St. Maarten Academy as an effort to build up the schools archive with information about local figures and was shown to the viewing public. 

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 100 students participated, either individually at the Library or through the ‘Readers are Leaders’ program at St. Maarten Academy and St. Maarten Vocational Training School. As extra incentives to encourage participants to continue reading, special prizes were awarded in April 2012 to the best participants. This year’s winners were: Jenice Forbes and Fatimah Karim (St. Maarten Academy); Johnny Elizee and Tamika DeWeever (St. Maarten Vocational Training School); Lilawatee Arjune and Isaiah Escallier (Jubilee Library submissions). the winner of each group was presented a laptop (donated by Klass Electronics, Boolchands and Zhaveri Jewelers) and the runner-up received a kindle (sponsored by Princess Juliana International Airport and MNO Vervat). An E-reading workshop was organized for teachers during the month of September 2012. The goals of the E-book workshop was for participants to become effective implementers of technology, in and out of the classroom, and to promote reading through technological devices such as: E-readers, smart phones, tablets and computers. A total of 18 educators, 3 of whom travelled from St. Eustatius, attended the one-day workshop conducted by: Ms. Tamara Hughes, a Specialist in ICT and Education; Marcellia Henry, an Educator and President of Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise; Monique Alberts, Director of Philipsburg Jubilee Library. Hughes presented on how the inclusion of technology in the classroom setting could revitalize the classroom experience for teachers, while our Library Director, Alberts gave a hands-on demonstration on the possible use of E-Readers at our library and in the classroom. Henry, later gave a detailed explanation of how RAL works and how students could sign up to become active members of the reading program. The RAL St. Maarten’s Day Poetry evening, under the theme: “An Expression of Love for St. Maarten’s Past, Present and Future”, was held on November 13. Monique Alberts, Director of PJL and Marcellia Henry, President of the Rotary Club of St. Martin Sunrise each gave words of welcome. Host Lenworth Wilson introduced poets Brilliana Hodge of the Sundial school and Andrew Peterson of the St. Dominic High School, who bravely expressed their pride, frustration and love for St. Maarten through their spoken words. St. Maarten student, Merlina Aventurin, currently studying at the Tallahassee Community College, was invited to
share her poetry, to the delight of the audience, via a Skype video call. Audience members were also treated with a mix of jazz and reggae music by the MPC Band.
## Operational results 2012

### Table 1. Library membership 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library membership</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenagers</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>4476</td>
<td>4560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff, Non residents</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>6,122</td>
<td>5,854</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Library visitors 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library visitors</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33,288</td>
<td>46,108</td>
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</table>

### Table 3. Circulation 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of checkouts in library building</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults' books</td>
<td>27,645</td>
<td>25,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's books, DVD's, magazines</td>
<td>50,257</td>
<td>65,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>77,902</td>
<td>91,261</td>
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</table>

### Table 4. Circulation Bookmobile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Bookmobile checkouts</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24,606</td>
<td>34,810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5. Collection 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>No of Items added in 2011</th>
<th>Collection totals 2011</th>
<th>No of Items added in 2012</th>
<th>Collection totals 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books Adult section</td>
<td></td>
<td>25,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>31,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books Youth section</td>
<td>3,910</td>
<td>28,852</td>
<td>4,525</td>
<td>30,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVD’s</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>1435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td>4,186</td>
<td>55,376</td>
<td>4,705</td>
<td>62,868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International Contacts

**Launching of New Association Dutch Caribbean Library Association (DCLA)**

Maintaining good working relationships with libraries and information specialists in the Caribbean region has always been a high priority in the policy of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library. For the past 30 years, the Directors of our library actively participated in conferences offered by both IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations, and ACURIL, the Association of Caribbean University, Research & Institutional Libraries. Our library was also at the forefront in the common activities and knowledge exchange with other libraries in the Dutch Caribbean.

In the year under review, the cooperation between libraries and knowledge centers on the BES islands, Aruba, Curacao, St Maarten and Suriname, took a huge step forward thanks to the establishment of the Dutch Caribbean Library Association. During the 4th Dutch Caribbean Library seminar, which took place between March 14th and March 16th in Paramaribo Suriname, the library association was formally established. Philipsburg Jubilee Library was represented by Mrs. Monique Alberts and Mrs. Lucille Kolf during the seminar. The main objectives of the Dutch Caribbean Library Association (DCLA) are to facilitate development and use of archives, libraries and other information institutes, and to preserve the written cultural heritage of the Dutch Caribbean.

The first board of the new association is composed of: Monique Alberts, Director of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, St Maarten (President), Astrid Britten, Director of the National Library of Aruba (Secretary), Jane Smith, Director of the Library of the Anton de Kom University, Suriname (Vice President), Harely Martina, Information Specialist at the Central Bureau of Statistics in Curacao (Treasurer) and Mrs. Leonie Peterson, Library Coordinator of the University of Aruba (Boardmember).

Monique Alberts, Director of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, receiving her gavel as President of the DCLA.
**Successful Participation of PJL Delegation in Suriname’s Children’s Book Festival**

In march of the year under review, a delegation from our library participated in the Surinamese Children’s Book Festival. This yearly event organized by the Children’s Book Festival Foundation of Suriname in several districts. The festival ends with an activity packed week, in the capital Paramaribo. Our library had its own booth on the grounds of the festival in Paramaribo. Each festival day, thousands of Surinamese elementary school children visited St. Maarten’s booth and were entertained and educated by our staff members. They listened to stories and received information about our island. It was an unforgettable event for the schoolchildren as well as our hardworking staff members Lucille Chumney-Kolf, Irmin Hughes and Morena Ignacio.

Pictured L-R: Philipsburg Jubilee Library employees Morena Ignacio, Lucille Chumney and Irmin Hughes-Richards, officially opening their booth as part of Suriname’s Children’s Book Week Festival.

Children participating in the book week festival, pose in front of PJL’s booth.
Staff Retreat 2012 “Work Uncomplicated: Uncomplicating the Complicated”

Friday, November 2 - Monday, November 5, 2012 the staff of the Philipsburg Jubilee Library (PJL) took part in their second annual Staff Retreat at Divi Little Bay Resort. The central theme of this year’s staff retreat was “Work Uncomplicated: Un-complicating the Complicated”. PJL’s staff retreat was declared open by the President of the Board, Chantal Schaminee-Ringeling. The first work session started early Friday morning with a presentation by the keynote speaker, Counseling Psychologist and Certified Crisis Management Specialist, Aisheline Maduro of JCI Services. She spoke about discovering how to harness the power of personality, work successfully with anyone paying attention to basic personality differences, and combine different personalities to maintain a vital and harmonious workplace. Saskia Kliphuis, Representative of Cooperating Foundations, lectured on “Project Proposals” and how to formulate logical, successful projects. The evening session ended with a social gathering at “Toucan’s Restaurant” of Divi Little Bay Resort.

Local banker, Jimmy Challenger continued Saturdays morning’s session with a lecture on “Budget Proposals” and elaborated on how to plan and manage a realistic budget and attain personal or business financial goals. Psychologist, Maduro continued the day’s sessions with team building activities on the beach. Zumba Instructor, Patricia “Patty” Pantophlet ended the day with vigorous dancing exercises for staff members. The final day began with a morning boat ride to Anguilla for a session at Paradise Cove Resort with Director of PJL, Monique Alberts, who spoke on “PJL in a Changing Society” and gave an overview of the achievements and activities for the past year and set projected goals for the New Year. Alberts also expressed gratitude to the staff members and trainers by awarding certificates for completing a successful staff retreat 2012. Special thanks was extended to PJL staffer, Lucille Kolf and Shirley Richardson and their executing team, who were responsible for organizing another successful staff retreat. The day’s activities continued with a guided tour of the Anguilla Public Library at the “Edison L Hughes Education & Library Complex”, an island tour, visits to museums and Arts and Craft Shops.

Staff Members posing with their certificates, during their visit to Anguilla, after successfully completing the Workshop, “Work Uncomplicated: Uncomplicating the Complicated”.

Philipsburg Jubilee Library ~ Annual Report 2012