

Muhlenberg Community Library Timeline

1960 – Junior Woman’s Club of Muhlenberg establishes a public library in the form of four portable book carts containing 300 new books purchased by the club and made available to the public at Wilson Sarig Elementary School.

1963 - Formation of Muhlenberg Community Library Association

1964 – Library moves to 4631 Kutztown Road, Temple

1968 - Library moves to 804-806 Euclid Ave. in property owned by Christ UCC, Temple.

1969 – National Library Week Events: dessert card party, storytelling for elementary students, open house, essay contest

1969 – 303 registered borrowers; 77 contributing members; total in treasury: \$609.62

1970 – Annual meeting September 24 includes a program, Rev. Clarence Rahn on the topic “Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Humor”

1970 – Circulation is 8,297; book sale earns \$64

1971 – 200 contributing members at levels of \$3, \$5, or \$10; budget is \$6,000; total spent \$4,372; 10,792 books, 20 periodicals

1972 – 200 contributing members at levels of \$3, \$5 or \$10; budget is \$6,000; total spent \$4,372; 10,792 books, 20 periodicals

1976 – Mushroom Growers Association donates \$35,000 toward purchase of 3601 Kutztown Road, Laureldale, from Raphael Rentschler

1977 – Library moves to new location; total purchase price is \$75,000

1977 – November 13, Open House and Dedication; library is Miss Cheryl Hornberger

1980 – 20th Anniversary Open House held on October 29

1981 – Circulation climbs to 22,502

1982 – Children’s films are shown every Saturday morning from September through May

1982 - Annual Dinner Dance; recognition granted to Berks County Mushroom Industry and to G.J. Bear for their outstanding library effort

1983 – Budget is \$24,000

1986 – Berks County Public Library System (BCPL) is established

1987 – State aid is increased to \$12,171

1988 - 3,500 card holders

1988 – Staff and Board recognize need for expansion and broader community support

1990 – 29,804 items circulated

1991 – MCL is second largest library in BCPL

1991 – 1,996 registered juvenile card holders

1991 – April 20 – Civil War Re-enactment group performs

1991 – Computerization project, funded by Federal Library Service and Construction Act

1991 – Annual Dinner Dance at Berkshire Country Club

1994 – Nov. 19, Country Western Dance held at Goodwill Fire Company (Dance lessons included!)

1997 – First Read-a-Thon is held

1997-1999 – Capital Campaign conducted for new facility at C.E. Cole Complex; various fundraising events

1998 – Renovation of C.E. Cole Arts Building; building leased to library for twenty years from Muhlenberg School District

1999 – January 6-13, Library contents moved from 3601 Kutztown Road to 3612 Kutztown Road in icy, snowy weather; 20,000 volumes, shelves, tables, chairs, desks, office equipment, computers.

1999 – April 11 – Grand Opening of 9,000 square foot facility

2001 – Read-a-Thon raises about \$10,000

2002 – Name lettering added to side of building, initiated by Board president Don Henry

2002 – Mini grant from BCPL to purchase toys and puzzles; puppet theater, activity cube and new puzzles are purchased

2004 - Pat and Garland Bear win Dreisbach Aware from BCPL

2005 – Wireless network added

2006 – LSTA grant awarded \$25,702 to purchase 12 laptops, Smart Board and other items for homework center and other library programs

2007 - Rotary Clock dedicated

2007 – Pennsylvania DCED state grant of \$10,000 acquired through Rep. Dante Santoni

2007 – Fall book sale nets \$2,811 with an additional \$800 donated by Thrivent

2008 - Credit card use is made available for patrons

2008 – Electrical wiring and other updates as necessitated by school district building project for C.E. Cole Intermediate School

2009 - Total circulation reaches 152,636

2010 – Librarian addresses Muhlenberg Rotary, noting 2009 income was \$259,416 with expenses at \$273,395; Rotary Club donates \$700

2010 – April 11: Open House Celebration of 50 years of library service to the community

2015—Library awarded traveling exhibit STARnet Explore Earth: Our Changing Planet grant which will be at the library from January 10, 2018 until March 9, 2018.

2016—Library honored at BCPL Award ceremony on February 14, 2017. Board President Linda Roebuck received the Trustee of the Year Award, Schell’s Restaurant received Outstanding Business of the Year Award for their long-standing support of the library, and the library received the Chet Hagan Memorial Public Relations award which includes a \$500 prize.

2017—On April 3, 2017, the library became of Bronze Star Library in the PA Forward Star Library Program.