



Trailblazer

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The Newsletter of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System

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Patty Perez Checks In

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Library Teams Set for Battle at Champlain Centre!

What do the Dannemora Smarties and the Plattsburgh Readers Mafia have in common? They'll be competing for the championship of the first *Take a Bite Out of Books* Trivia Contest at Champlain Centre Mall on Saturday, August 26th. The battle will begin at 11:00 a.m. as teams from Champlain Memorial Library, Dannemora Free Library, Keeseville Free Library, Plattsburgh Public Library, Sherman Free Library in Port Henry, Saranac Lake Free Library, Schroon Lake Public Library and Dodge Library, West Chazy vie to be the best in the North Country! There are fourteen teams of four players each entered with contestants who are starting sixth through eighth grades in the fall. Questions have come from five books the teams have read over the summer and it promises to be a heated battle! Each library has been assigned a different color for their teams and fans to wear to the competition. The winning team will receive gift certificates to Champlain Centre Mall and a trophy. The winning library team will also receive a trophy they can keep in the library until next summer's competition. The teams for this year's competition are:

Champlain Chapter Cougars

Dannemora Smarties

Dannemora Penguins

Keeseville Patriots

Plattsburgh Readers Mafia

Plattsburgh Militia

Sherman Guard

Moriah Vikings

Saranac Lake War Eagles

Saranac Lake Seagulls

Schroon Lake Page Surfers

Schroon Lake Knights of the Reading Table

West Chazy Teams 1 & 2 (names not yet selected)

-- *Kathie LaBombard, CEFLS*

News From Clinton County

Dodge Library, West Chazy

Our legislation for creating a new tax zone has passed both the Senate and Assembly and is now awaiting the governor's signature. Dodge Library's "Books: A Treasure" Summer reading program is in full swing. After only three weeks we have had a total of 134 patrons take part in summer reading activities. Thank you Stan Ransom, Amber McKernan and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Rundell for starting us off with a bang! Dodge Library's Take a Bite out of Books team has been studying very hard. We would like to thank Pizza Hut, Stewart's Shoppes and Lake City Skates for the study rewards for the team members.

Lowes of Plattsburgh made a very generous donation of garden supplies, flowers and shrubbery to dress up the outdoors at the Dodge. The indoor flower boxes indoors for the window sills are also beautiful. A special "thank you" is due to Pam, Nick and Kevin for picking out and planting (in the rain no less!) such lovely greenery. If you are ever in West Chazy, please stop in to see our beautiful greenery!

- Faye DeRosia, Director

Editor's note: As we go to press, we have learned that the Governor has signed into law a bill creating "the Dodge library district in a portion of the Town of Chazy." Congratulations!



NY State Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward (left) chatted with Essex county bookmobile patrons throughout the day on August 21. Mrs. Sayward will rejoin our road crew on Wednesday, September 13 for another slice of life on the bookmobile (and more diner food). Here she takes time out at the Lewis stop to have a picture taken with CEF Director Ewa Jankowska (center) and Outreach Coordinator Julie Wever.

Ellenburg Sarah A. Munsil Free Library

At the Ellenburg Sarah A. Munsil Free Library a Wildlife and Nature Photography Exhibit by Bob Phillips is on display from now until October 7th, 2006. There will be an Open House on Saturday August 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Bob Phillips will be there to answer any questions about specific photos or tell how to capture nature on film. You may purchase copies of the photos. Also on display in the exhibit area is an album with other nature photos. Bob is outdoor columnist for the weekly magazine, Lake Champlain Weekly. His articles on the outdoors and outdoor activities appear each week. He also is heard each Saturday morning at 6 a.m. on WOKO's The Great Outdoor Show with Thom Richards and James Ehlers. Bob has been involved in photography for many years. He taught photography techniques and darkroom techniques to high school students while he was still in college. He has also taught photography classes to groups such as 4-H clubs and he does photography demonstrations.

Our library hours are: Thursday and Friday from noon to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are located next to NAPA Auto parts at 5139 Rt. 11. Stop in and say hello this summer!

I would like to thank CEF for the generous books and VHS donations to the Dodge Library. A big "thank you" also to the family of Thomas Hanley gave the library a beautiful computer desk which we have converted into a media center for audios, VHS and DVD selections.

-- Michele Phillips, Director

Bookmobile News



See a Kiwanian, Thank a Kiwanian!

The Kiwanis Club of Plattsburgh's Major Emphasis Committee, chaired by Mrs. Helen Chauvin, has approved a \$1,500 award to the CEF Library System in support of the bookmobile program. This gift will be used to purchase award winning books for children age 0-5 and their parents. These books will receive a book plate and will head out for circulation on the bookmobile. If you see a Kiwanian, please thank her/him for this club's continued support of family reading!



Stuck for a Gift Idea?

It's Never Too Late to Adopt a Book!

The CEF Bookmobile's **ADOPT A BOOK** campaign is a great way to honor or remember someone special in your life by giving a gift that can be opened again and again! Anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, gifts for the teacher, remembrance of a friend, loved one or special occasions are perfect reasons for adopting a book. With your Adopt-A-Book donation of \$15.00 for a children's book, or \$25.00 for an adult book (or anything in between!), CEF will purchase a book for our book pool collection and include a book plate, indicating both the name of the donor and the honoree.

To adopt a book, please print a form from our web site at www.cefls.org by clicking the Adopt-A-Book Form tab.



The Bookmobile Comes Alive!

Bookmobile driver Bob Welch reports: "At this moment we are "active" with the dish at 51 locations. Below is a picture at home of the "dish" in action at Our Cliff Haven stop. Deb is using Horizon now to check books in. She can also do searches for patrons and can also tell them what they still have out at home. When Debbie checks a book in, the computer now lets her know if a book is on hold and for whom, among other things. Every day that we go out we seem to pick up more locations where the dish works. We have gone from 30 to 51 online locations in the past month.

Our goal for 2006 was to increase our patronage by adding 100 new patrons. We easily surpassed that important goal in our first six months with the new bus. We can't help but think that having one short step instead of four big ones has certainly made the difference. We constantly hear comments of how nice it is, how beautiful, how easy to get into, what a great idea to have a kids corner, how efficiently it's set-up and we could go on and on – the patrons sure do!"

-- Bob Welch, Bookmobile Driver



Our dish in action! Debbie Crossley is searching Horizon for Cliff Haven patron Nancy McGaully.

--photo Bob Welch

Essex County News

AuSable Forks Free Library

The Summer Reading Program is going strong here in AuSable Forks. I currently have almost 20 children age 3 to 15 participating as well as 12 adults (parents, aunts, siblings, grand parents of the children). So far the adults are reading more but it is very close. The kids have panned for "gold", made sailor hats, and made (and devoured) apple boats with cheese sails. We will be drawing names for prizes at the end of August. Coming up on the evening of August 25th we will be having our "All About Trout" auction. Local artists are painting, sculpting and quilting "trout" for this fun filled evening.

-- Carole Osborne, Director

Editor's note: The AuSable Forks library has lots of young male readers, so we've asked Carole and her clientele to recommend some popular books for boys. See their picks on this page.

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

We have installed a wireless Internet connection at the library. Since we have many summer visitors, we expect that this will allow them to use their own computers at the library and free up the other computers that we have. We obtained a used computer from CEF which we are making available for e-mail and Internet searching. This is a big help to us, especially in the summer, when many visitors want to check their e-mail.

We kicked off our five week summer reading program with a musical program and we will end our activities with a program about fire towers. Several children and their parents are enjoying learning about pirates and participating in "Casey at the Bat".

Our annual appeal letter went out the first of August and we are hoping for a good response again this year. We will have a two day book sale at Labor Day. The town of Port Henry hosts an annual Labor Day celebration and we want to capitalize on all of the people who come to see the parade and other activities. The sale will be on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. On Sunday it will be fill a bag for \$2. I am hoping to move a lot of books!

-- Jackie Vistenz, Director

Boys Read



I know a lot of libraries have trouble getting boys to read. Well, here in AuSable I have a lot of male readers. Below are some of the books they recommend to other boys out there.

Among the Hidden Series by **Margaret Peterson**

Pen Dragon Series by **D. J. MacHale**

The Edge Chronicles by **Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell**

Seventh Tower Series by **Garth Nix**

Eragon and Eldest by **Christopher Paolini**

Inkheart, Inkspell, and Dragon Rider by **Cornelia Funke**

The Brian series and Tucket Series by **Gary Paulsen**

The Divdie Series by **Elizabeth Kay**

Any book by **Paul Zindel**

-- Carole Osborne, AuSable Forks



A Week at New York Public

Many thanks to Ewa Janowska, Kathie LaBombard, and Michael Spofford who helped to coordinate a week-long internship during May 2006 at the New York Public Library, 42nd Street and 5th Avenue in Manhattan. Little did I know what I was getting into!

I was surprised to discover that the entire collection at the main branch of the New York Public Library is a non-circulating collection to be used in-house only. The New York Public Library has four research libraries throughout the city that are also non-circulating. However, there are 85 circulating libraries housed in the various neighborhoods. The Mid-Manhattan branch is a circulating library, which is across the street from the Main Branch on 42nd and 5th Avenue. The second surprise I found was that the New York Public Research Libraries do not use Dewey Decimal or Library of Congress cataloging systems. Instead the system they use is called Billings, which was created and named by the first library director, Dr. John Shaw Billings. Dr. Billings devised the cataloging system used at the research libraries and also designed the main library landmark building by briefly sketching the diagram on a scrap of paper. Due to financial cut backs, the Research Libraries are closed to the public on Sundays and Mondays; although the facilities may be rented out to groups for a fee. It saddens some librarians that the library has become a commercial venue on Sundays and Mondays, but it is a reflection of present day funding.

I spent the week at the main branch as the guest of Ewa's colleague, Beth Diefendorf, who is Chief Librarian for the General Research Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Library. On my first day, after checking in at the Human Resources Department (8 blocks south of the main branch) for security clearance, Beth met me and we walked to the main branch for the grand tour of the library building. I thought to myself, if I could find my way back out of the building without making any security faux pas, I would be doing quite well.

I did find my way out of the library on Monday and returned Tuesday to a bustling research room. I shadowed the librarians at the general reference and information desk and watched as they adeptly directed their patrons to the appropriate resources. Throughout the week I had a chance to visit the History and Genealogy Division, the Arts, Prints and Photographs Division, and the Map Division. Each of the librarians was generous with their resources and time.

Mid-week, I attended a staff briefing regarding the new ILS (Integrated Library System) to integrate the research and circulating libraries to one public access system. Presently, there are two systems, but the move is on to integrate. There were various comments regarding the benefits and impediments of integrating. For the most part, I felt lost in a sea of acronyms, but surmised that New York Public and CEF have similar issues, except New York Public's problems are on a much grander scale. Interestingly, the American Management Association at Saranac Lake was given the contract to provide training for the integration of New York Public's new automated system. One person thought I was a representative from AMA.

I ended the internship satisfied with the brief glimpse into the wealth of resources at one branch of the New York Public Library. I was impressed with the professionalism of the librarians and their knowledge of the Adirondacks and our library system. While there, the staff of the General Reference Division embraced me as part of their team. They sent their regards to Ewa and CEF staff, encouraged all of us to avail ourselves of their many resources, and to contact them for research assistance.

News for my colleagues: Anyone in New York State can get a New York Public Library Card and use the remote access databases at no charge. Go to www.nypl.org to learn how to get a library card. Users with a library card can access 82 different databases from home. To view the databases, go to the New York Public library home page, click on the "**Magazine, Journals, and Databases**" link under **Find Books & Do Research**. On the next page on the left look for the little red house symbol with the link for "**Databases Available From Home**". There are 82 databases with a wealth of information available for New York residents from their home. There is also a list of 175 free databases on the web, plus the NYPL Digital Gallery, which can be found by clicking on **Digital Collections** on the New York Public Library's home page. It contains over 450,000 images from primary sources and may be viewed and printed for personal use by anyone.

Now if I can just find the time !

-- Patricia Perez, Director

Lake Placid Public Library

Essex County news continued...

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

This Spring and early Summer we hosted three very successful fundraising events. In May, Wellscroft Lodge hosted a tea and tour for the library. Again this year, it was cool and rainy, but inside it was warm and cozy. In June, we held a wine-tasting and bagpipe concert/demonstration at the library. It was a lot of fun and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the afternoon. In July we had our annual *Books, Antiques, Food and Things* sale over a three day period. It was our biggest and best ever! If you missed the sale, quite a few items are still available, along with books, on the lower level of the library. Starting Tuesday, August 15th, we will have a "Buck-a-Bag" book sale during library hours into September. Come stock up on Winter reading material! There will also be a sale on "Things".

Our Summer Reading Program is in full swing, with many exciting activities for children based on the theme "Books, A Treasure". Volunteer Grace Potthast is leading this program, and she is as always full of good ideas. The program is held on Wednesdays, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the library.

--Sylvia Norton, President of the Board of Trustees



Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time. ~John Lubbock

Resources for Parents of Teens



The Parent Media Campaign, a project of the Lake Placid – Wilmington

Connecting Youth and Communities Coalition, suggests for your library the following books and CDs about raising teens. CYC can provide the starred items to your library at no cost. We will also provide an 8 1/2" by 11" display poster ("Hey Parents, Check these Out!") at your request.

Our Last Best Shot: Guiding Our Children Through Early Adolescence by Laura Sessions Stepp (2000, Riverhead Books, NY). This guide for parents of young teens (ages 10 – 15) is a compassionate and moving portrayal of the lives and challenges of these young people and their parents, as well as a well-researched, no nonsense "how to" manual. It has a comprehensive bibliography and is a very riveting "read".

What We Can't Tell You: Teenagers Talk to the Adults in Their Lives by Kathleen Cushman (2005, Next Generation Press, Providence, RI). Teens themselves are the best sources for parents on how they want to be raised. Sixty teens from the What Teens Can Do project (www.whatkidscando.org) were interviewed for this book. They speak eloquently about adults as models, respect, trust, support and structure, life in the family and their own individuality.

**Our Turn to Speak: Teens Talk About How They Want to be Parented* is a CD of Public Service Announcements about parenting developed by teens in Lake Placid schools. These original monologues and skits were produced and broadcast by Mountain Communications, Inc. in Sranac Lake. This is an on-going project of the Parent Media Campaign, Lake Placid- Wilmington Connecting Youth and Communities Coalition.



**Raising Teens: A Synthesis of Research and a Foundation for Action* by A. Rae Simpson (2001 Center for Health Communication, Harvard School of Public Health). This eloquent book offers the consensus of experts on parenting teens -- love and connection, monitoring and observing, guiding and limiting, modeling and consulting, and advocating for teens.

Please contact Anna Lee Court, annaleecourt@yahoo.com or 518-946-8286 if you would like the starred items and the poster sent to your library. Anna was librarian at the E. M Cooper Memorial Library in 2003-2005, and is coordinator of the Parent Media Campaign.

Essex County continued

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

Summer is very hectic throughout our region and so it is at Paine Memorial Library in Willsboro. We are hosting several art shows during the library's during open hours throughout the summer. From July 7 through the 21st an exhibit called "Mixed Media Paintings", presented by our own local artist, Patricia Reynolds, was on display. From July 24 through August 7, Andrea Arnold filled the library with quilted hangings and Barb Hatch displayed her watercolors. On August 9th, running through August 26th Happy Marsh's watercolors will be on display.

The library is presenting a summer reading program at Noblewood Beach in conjunction with the Willsboro Youth program. This particular program, headed by Tara Sayward, will run for six weeks and is based on the summer reading theme "Books a Treasure". Suzette Montville runs our in-house summer reading program. Special reading assistance is provided Monday through Friday and a Story Hour is provided on Fridays from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Pre-registration is required.

On July 6th the Annual Meeting of the Paine Memorial Library was held and the featured speaker this year was Broadway renowned actor George Hearn. On Thursday July 13, the 19th Annual Paine Memorial Library Golf Scramble was held. This annual event takes place at the Willsboro Golf Club and is played in memory of Ellie Campbell, an active library volunteer and golfer. The 24th Annual Willsboro Folk Craft Fair was held on July 29 at the Point Road soccer field from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This much anticipated annual event features over 90 crafters from all over our region and even farther away! The library tent sold raffle tickets for a Patricia Reynolds watercolor. Stories were read to children throughout the day and books were on sale. Other events included "The Thursday Nite Jam Session" who played from 11:00 to 1p.m. One of our crafters, Howard Carron entertained us with his bagpipes and there was food available throughout the entire day.

The Friends of the Paine Memorial Library held their Annual Used Book Sale on Saturday August 12th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. A preview was held on the evening of August 11. This event is chaired by Barbara Dickinson. Those books that do not sell on either day will be for sale from August 15th through the 31st in the library basement at reduced prices.

Throughout the summer, the computers at the library will be available for seasonal guests as well as full-time residents. The library is a welcoming building with a friendly staff, stocked with books, magazines, audio tapes, CD's and video tapes and is a wonderful spot to while away some relaxing time in the summer!

-- Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Wadhams Free Library

We've been enjoying the falls of the Boquet River which have often been roaring with all the rain we've had this summer. They *look* cool, even when we're sweltering.

The story hour kids are writing a play, "The Land Between the Worlds." It's in pre-production now and will have its world premiere at the end of August.

The Boquet River Association's Environmental Film Festival and Workshop for North Country Youth has been meeting at the Library, and we're looking forward to seeing the "short" film they're producing with a Boquet River theme.

We're planning our next round of "Wednesday in Wadhams" programs. On August 23rd Colin Wells will sign and discuss his new book *Sailing from Byzantium: How a Lost Empire Shaped the World*. On October 11th Howard Lowe, Director of Economic Development TAC at SUNY Plattsburgh, will tell us about the Adirondack-Champlain Community Broadband Network. Martha Gallagher, the Adirondack Harper, will present her current work of stories and songs gathered from Adirondack graveyards, "Songs from the Stones," on October 18th. On November 1st, Carol Blakeslee-Collin, a longtime producer of the MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, will discuss the ins and outs of "Controlling the Message."

We're enjoying seeing some of our "old" summer friends and we've made a few new ones, too.

-- Elizabeth Rapalee, Director

Franklin County News

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

Everyone is exclaiming over the fact that August is upon us, and whatever happened to July! Sometimes we feel like we are in a time-warp, with the days and weeks just zooming by. “Beam us up, Scotty!” Oh well, that didn’t work, it’s still August and thank goodness for that!

We hosted a very successful summer reading program in July. Our Kiwanias girls did their usual outstanding job of reading to the kids and helping them with fun crafts. We are very lucky to have their help. Our art show was also held in July. As I am sure you all know there is a lot of work involved to make sure the show is well presented, and from all of the compliments we received we feel it was certainly worth the effort.

August events at the library include: On Thursday, August 17 through Friday, August 25 we are featuring a program series called “A Week of Adirondack Tales.” On August 17, Bill Smith entertained us with stories and songs, tall tales and lore of the Adirondacks. We hosted a book signing and presentation by Bill Gove, author of *Logging Railroads of the Adirondacks* on August 22. On Friday, August 25, Karen Glass of Keene Valley will spin yarns on the Adirondacks and tell stories of local interest.

That’s just the bare bones of everything that is happening at the Tupper Lake library. We are certainly alive and well and enjoying this very busy place in our community.

-- Sue LaBarge, Goff-Nelson Memorial Library



Summer without Harry Potter!

I don’t know about you, but I’m going through withdrawal this summer without a new Harry Potter to read! On top of that, I heard on the news that J.K. Rowling may actually kill Harry off in the final volume – so then what do we do?



I’ve been branching out a bit to discover some new kids’ authors that adults might like as well. First, there is Jonathan Stroud and his *Bartimaeus Trilogy* (*The Amulet of Samarkand*, *The Golem’s Eye*, and *Ptolemy’s Gate*). Book One, *The Amulet of Samarkand*, gets off with a bang when young magician in training Nathaniel summons a powerful genie (Bartimaeus) who is, to say the least, irreverent. Bartimaeus’ droll humor will strike a note with parents and the action will keep older kids turning the pages, just as I was when I read it!

Another good author that has adult appeal is Richard Peck. *A Long Way from Chicago*, *A Year Down Yonder* and his current *Here Lies the Librarian* provide chuckles for us as well as for younger kids. Great characters abound, such as Eleanor (better known as “PeeWee”) who would rather fix cars than dinner. In *Here Lies the Librarian* a town ruckus begins when four young library students are determined to re-open the library.

It’s always more fun to read together, so how about these that parents can enjoy as well for the read-to-me group? Rob Scotton has come out with a new Russell the Sheep adventure, *Russell & the Lost Treasure*. If you haven’t read the original Russell, both of them will brighten your summer. Dog lovers will find the poetry in *Once I Ate a Pie* by Patricia McLachlan to their liking – and you might even recognize a dog friend or two between the pages. Others to enjoy are: *The Queen’s Feet* by Sarah Ellis, *Rabbit Pie* by Penny Ives and *Railroad John and the Red Rock Run* by Tony Crunk.
Happy Summer Reading!

— Kathie LaBombard, Youth Services Consultant, CEFLS



Beach Bag Browsing

A good book in your beach bag is as essential as sunscreen and a few not-so-healthy snacks. Readers from around the system area took a few minutes out of the hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer to recommend the following **good reads** that no beach bag should be without.

My beach bag usually contains sunscreen, a water bottle, and a copy of *The Darwin Awards* by Wendy Northcutt; for those things you can see at the beach that make you scratch your head and wonder! *Faye DeRosia, Dodge Library, West Chazy*

I am reading *Marley and Me* by John Grogan. This is a heartwarming read - just right for summertime. *Eileen Clar, Chateaugay Memorial Library*

What I'm reading this summer: Evans, G. Edward. *Developing Library and Information Center Collections*. 5th ed Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2005. Hope everyone is jealous of my beach reading! *Patricia Perez, Lake Placid Public Library*

I'm reading the *Bartimaeus Trilogy* by Jonathan Stroud, *Here Lies the Librarian* by Richard Peck (both children's books) and anything by Jodi Picoult since I've read and enjoyed *My Sister's Keeper* and *Vanishing Acts*. My sister-in-law, also a librarian, called to recommend *The Language of Baklava* by Diana Abu-Jaber. I am currently reading it. It's a wonderful account of a young girl growing up with an American mother and a Jordanian father, mostly in Syracuse, New York. Interspersed are recipes for some interesting Mediterranean foods that she talks about in the book. *Kathie LaBombard, CEFLS*

I can't put down *The Devil in the City* by Eric Larson. I have used the following from a written account about the book from Reading Group Guides.com. "In *The Devil in the White City*, Erik Larson takes readers into a richly complex moment in American history, a moment that would draw together the best and worst of the Gilded Age, the grandeur and triumph of the human imagination, and the poverty, violence, and depravity that surrounded it." *Lynn Dufort, CEF Board Member*

Right now I'm reading *Without Fail* by Lee Child. I realize this is fiction, but it really makes you think about what security measures are needed to protect our public officials, and just how many ways someone could get through all the check points. Lee Child knows how to keep you on the edge of your seat. *Cheryl Blanchard, Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro*

I have a few books that I enjoy over the summer but they are easy reads, more fun than learning anything. My favorite this summer are books by Harlan Coben who writes really good mysteries. His latest is *Innocence*. Others are: *Gone for Good*; *Deal Breaker*, and *No Second Chance*. Try them, you'll like them! *Eddie Morelock, Mooers Free Library*



Great summer reading in nonfiction is *The Lost Painting* by Jonathan Harr. This book reads like a thriller and is a well researched and documented "art history" book dealing with the lost and recovered Caravaggio's painting titled *The Taking of the Christ*. The author takes us on a tour of Europe, from Rome to Dublin, from dusty archive in the palazzo of Italian aristocrat to the National Gallery of Ireland. This book is hard to put down. It makes you want to learn more about Caravaggio himself and the art world in general. If you opt for fiction, I discovered a really interesting set of mysteries written by **Boris Akunin**, a Russian writer who has been very popular in Russia and Europe for some time. His mysteries are set in Tsarist Russia in the late 19th-century and feature Erast Fandorin, a brilliant and handsome government official trained in martial art and meditation in Japan. He is accompanied by an almost cartoon like character of Japanese samurai/bodyguard, Masa. I have read the fourth in the series of Akunin's mysteries, entitled *The Death of Achilles*, and now cannot wait to read other Erast Fandorin Mysteries by Boris Akunin. They include: *The Death of Achilles*, *Winter Queen*, *Murder on*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Six member public libraries of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System have become CourtHelp Resource Centers through a pilot project of the New York state Unified Court System. Each CourtHelp library has up-to-date resources and trained staff to guide patrons to legal information without offering legal advice. The project places special emphasis on resources for those who are interested in representing themselves when appropriate. The CourtHelp web site at www.nycourts.gov can also be accessed through any public library and provides current information on court facts, Family, Civil and Criminal Law, legal terms, plus selected free forms and information on free legal services. Participating CourtHelp libraries are the Akwesasne Library in Hogansburg, the Lake Placid Public Library, Elizabethtown Library Association, Plattsburgh Public Library, the Saranac Lake Free Library, and Wead Library, Malone.

For more information on the CourtHelp library project, please call or visit a local CourtHelp library, or contact Elizabeth Rogers at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System by telephoning 563-5190 x 14.

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