Year in Review 2013


These are a just a few buzz words that describe 2013 at the System and we’re sure that our members have others. During the year, our collective focus was diverse and the amount of library services delivered to readers throughout the region remained impressive. The System’s focus on resource sharing, cooperative delivery of goods and services and collaborative project management means we can deliver thousands of dollars worth of enhanced library services at a fraction of the cost of providing these services separately. And deliver we did (just spend a morning with the van guys)!

The 2013 version of our Annual Member Library Survey will be coming out soon. Please take this opportunity to tell us on behalf of your patrons how we are doing. Here are a few highlights by the numbers.

- **Ebook circulation** from January – November 2013 totaled **4,435** which is an increase of **42%** over the same period in 2012. We used funds from the NNYLN Technology Improvement grant, CEFLS trustee donations, grants from local service clubs, basic library aid, county contributions and special project funds to grow our collection. Our goal for 2014 is to come up with a shared cost model for this popular format.

- **Eaudiobook (One Click Digital)** circulation from January – November 30 2013 was 2,920, which is an increase of 9% over the same period last year. This shared collection is fully supported by generous donations from member libraries.

- Patrons submitted a total 49,377 requests for materials to their libraries from January - November 30 2013. The System connected patrons and requested materials through our shared Horizon circulation system, and the four day a week van delivery service. More than 1,300 items are exchanged during a non-summer week on the van delivery. According to the 2012 Member Library Survey, this remains one of our most valued and important services, and we are fortunate to have three great “front men” at the wheel.

- Although we won’t know the total number of member library visits until Annual Report Time 2014, Horizon circulation totals for January – November 30 indicate that patrons borrowed a total of 490,294 items at member libraries system wide.

We extend our very best greetings of the season and look forward to 2014!
TRAILBLAZER

2013 ILL/Tech Service Traffic Report: Heavy but Flowing Smoothly!

We’ve had a busy 2013. Our interlibrary loan traffic continues to increase each year. This year we processed almost 10,000 requests for items, with an overall fill rate of 97%. We’re particularly proud of the fill rate, as well as our average turnaround time of two days.

We continue to add items of various formats to our CEF collection—this year we added 463 e-book titles, bringing our total of individual titles to 1,218. We own nearly 2,000 DVD titles, and added almost new titles to our collection in 2013. To our collection of nearly 1,900 compact disc audio titles we added almost 250 titles. Thanks to our shared OneClickDigital collection, we have access to more than 4,300 downloadable audio titles.

-Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

CEFLS Delivers the Goods!

Did you know? An average of 1,300 items (more than 325 a day) plus collections are delivered each “off season” (non-summer) week to libraries, correctional facilities and senior residence facilities on the CEFLS van? Our van guys Rich Merritt, Bob Welch and Bill Bowen are really logging the miles and are great “front men” for our system. As we go to press, members of the Road Trio are busy burning off all of the “appreciation treats” they are awarded during the holiday season (we need to work on resource sharing!)

Our 2012 Annual Member Library Survey revealed that an overwhelming 93.3% (28 out of 30 respondents) feel that they receive materials within “an acceptable time frame” more than 50% of the time via the CEF van delivery service. Comments included, “The van delivery service is wonderful and I have nothing but great things to say about it. All of my patrons tell me I’ am wonderful for getting the materials to them so quickly and I let them think I am a miracle worker.”

Pretty impressive team work on all counts!
CEF By the Numbers: Current Year Actual

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Expenditures

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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>1,483,460.23</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Net Revenue Over Expenditures: 0.00

Here's How We Stacked up in 2013:

- 72,289: the number of library card holders in the CEFLS
- 620,940: total of library materials in the System (including econtent)
- 525,102: Systemwide circulation for 2013 (includes ebooks and downloadable audios)

Mark Your Calendar: April 23, 2014 is World Book Night

Did You Know? It's Easy to be a WBN Book Giver. Sign up before January 7, 2014 and select CEFLS as your pick up point.

Use this link:


Based on last year’s success and the fun time had by all, CEFLS has again registered to be a “Library Organizational Participant” (i.e. be a “pick up point”) for World Book Night. Last year CEFLS staff and nine friends from the community passed out 300 books to light or non-readers. We aim to top 1,000 this year. Please register today and help us exceed our goal. A list of this year’s 35 great books for all ages is attached, along with Giver Guidelines and other details. WBN is a well organized, low-effort activity (we promise)!

Step 1. Visit the link above to apply. You will be asked to choose three titles from the list of 2014 books (follow the link to the list at the top of the page.) The people at WBN will then choose one of those titles, based on availability.

Step 2. You will receive an email from WBN that will tell you which book was chosen and you will have the opportunity to select CEFLS as your pick up location.

Step 3. In April, we will receive a box (for each book giver that signed up) containing 20 copies of the book you will pass out on April 23. We will contact you when it’s time to pick up your books and might even have a small reception to thank our Book Givers.

Step 4. On April 23rd, spread the joy of reading by going to your local pizza place, bowling alley, park, etc. and give a book to 20 strangers. Or, plan to join us at our booth at the Champlain Centre Mall to press a book on slow moving shoppers again this year!
Highlights From Clinton County

Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library

2013 was an extremely busy year for the Dodge Memorial Library. There are several items to highlight during this year. I think the best way to do this is to categorize the highlights:

Facilities: After receiving a Library Construction Grant, a new and larger parking lot was created. The parking lot was enlarged to accommodate 10 vehicles. Also, the new handicap accessible bathroom was completed through budgeted money.

Adult programs: two adult arts grants were received from Life Time Arts (Creative Aging) and the Decentralization Grant through the Council for the Arts. This enabled the library to host a pastels class and a watercolors class. A student artist art show will convene December 2013 through January 2014. Additionally, two adult beading classes will be held in December. The adult book club continues to meet on a monthly basis with an average of 7 participants. Lastly, computer classes were offered to adults.

Children’s programs: With the assistance of the Decentralization Grant, Stewart’s Holiday Match, Target and budgeted money, the library was able to host and sponsor a multitude of programs such as TABOB (5 teams weekly preschool story time, movie matinees, beading class, Speedy Arnold, Dave Ruch, Cornell Extension Service, Melvin the Magnificent and much more.

I feel the biggest highlight is seeing the increase in library usage. I have been the library director for four years and during the months of July and October the number of patron visits surpassed all other months and years (approximately 1,800 patron visits). It was an exhausting year but a truly satisfying year!

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2014!

-Donna Boumil, Library Director

Plattsburgh Public Library

It has been a busy and successful year at Plattsburgh Public. We began offering Ask Us 24/7 chat reference, signed on for a second year with an AmeriCorps volunteer, assessed weeded our print reference collection, received several important grants, and welcomed a new Director, all while continuing to offer great public service to our patrons. We look forward to a busy and innovative new year!

-Anne de la Chappelle, Director

Dodge Library, West Chazy

Libraries are not just about books anymore. This year at our library we have seen an influx of patrons using the computers not just for social media and gaming, but for personal health, education and employment information.

We have been able to assist several patrons with issues on health insurance, and have been able to access the Medicare site to ease patrons’ transitions with various insurances. We have incredible resources online to guide patrons through the employment web learning to write better resumes and how to excel at interviews. And with layoffs, our patrons who are cutting corners can now use the web for new employment opportunities in the community and elsewhere. Students are also using online resources to achieve their goals. We are proud to report that we have been able to assist children from elementary grades to high school. We’ve even had a couple of adult learners taking advantage of the tools now available to everyone free of charge – we are the only free Internet access point in town.

We’re very proud to serve our community. Dodge Library wishes everyone the very best of holiday seasons full of joy and peace. Good health to all.

--Linda Dupee, Director
Chazy Public Library

The Chazy Public Library has gone through a three year period of growth. We transitioned from the old Hubbell building to our renovated Clark building. The construction phases were completed last year on the interior and the main building. We have been using the main floor of the building for the last two years but continued work on the lower floor and completed it by the fall of 2012.

2013 has been a banner year for us and the community. We have finally been able to offer facilities and programs not possible in our previous facility. Two exterior construction projects were completed this year. We erected a gazebo on the rear grounds and started a rock garden around its location. The summer dedication of the gazebo was a very special event. The flower gardens adjacent to the main building provided color and interest. A bicycle rack was added for local students. A garden storage shed was added by volunteers this fall. It provides badly needed storage for yard and garden equipment.

Master Gardener classes were offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension monthly through the fall. We hope to form a Garden Club to maintain and improve our new gardens in the future.

The trustees purchased a flag pole. We have been able to display the flag on the flood lit pole, something we could not do at the previous location. Mrs. Fairchild located a new but unused blue library flag, it is affixed below the American flag and it is proudly beaconing visitors to our new location.

The lower floor, Community Room, has had plenty of use through the year with group activities, Friends’ meetings, computer classes, and a Lifetime Arts grant Observational Drawing class. The Holiday Open House activities will be held there for the second year now.

On the main floor our most successful program has been the monthly Story Hour. We have had a few book signing events that have been well attended. The new reading area has been popular for small meetings and lounging. The seven public computers are used by adults, teens and children. Wi-Fi availability has attracted visitors to the gazebo, parking lot or just curb parking.

Chazy Central Rural School seniors have been most eager to dedicate their Senior Project to the library. We have received four so far. This year, one of the seniors has chosen fund raising to defray the cost of some of the materials for the garden storage shed. The library was fortunate to have the services of a very competent PSUC intern during the fall semester. The CCRS Elementary librarian, Karen Pepper has agreed to be Mrs. Fairchild's regular substitute for evenings.

The public has been very generous in donating new volumes to our collection besides the used ones for the book sale. The Kern family donation made it possible for our Collection Development Committee to buy over $3000.00 worth of books.

The Friends have been very supportive with funds for specific needs of the library. Besides the Holiday Open House on December 8th, they are also offering the children of the community horse drawn wagon rides between the school and the library on December 13th.

The Chazy Public Library Board is very pleased with the progress we have made this year toward meeting our goals for the community. We thank all the volunteers for their time and the community for their continuing support.

Happy Holidays to All!

- George Brendler
Chazy Public Library Trustees Vice President
Essex County Highlights

Lake Placid Public Library

As of January 2015, it will be 130 years since 18 people got together to form the North Elba Readers Association and adopt plans for a small library. The original building is still here and has changed little, but additions and collections now encompass far more than those founders could ever have envisioned.

Our role has expanded over the past few years to serve our community in many ways. These include making meeting rooms available, offering programs to help people needing job skills, public computers, wifi, and space for literacy and ESL programs.

It is difficult for anyone to get a job today without basic computer skills. Many potential employers do not even accept written resumes, but expect candidates to submit their credentials in PDF form. We have been offering classes for several years now aimed at helping people get up to speed. As well as basic classes, we have recently offered sessions on the new Microsoft operating systems, and a very popular one for slightly-befuddled iPad owners.

We are always happy to find something that attracts people from beyond our borders as well as our local populace. One offering on the basics of Excel, besides being well attended by Main Street business people, attracted a few employees of Essex County. We are looking forward to finding more programs to help that audience.

Another program, of which we are especially proud is our relationship with Literacy Volunteers of Essex and Franklin Counties. Years ago, during the last building phase, space was set aside in memory of Helene Urfirer, who was a local founder of literacy volunteers.

Now, we provide not just office space but also tutoring areas for LVEFC coordinator Susan Tehon and many to teach people from the area to read as well as students from China to Uzbekistan to Uruguay. They are especially busy during the summers with upwards of 30 taking two individual ESL tutorials as well as class sessions each week.

Soon, around the beginning of February, we will be setting up space and facilities for AARP volunteers to process and e-file tax returns for people from Lake Placid and surrounding communities. Headed up by Betsy Senkowski, the volunteers served more than 300 people last year.

It is not something people expect of a library, and few people beyond our walls are aware of it, but we serve thousands of visitors coming through the front door every year. Set on Main Street between store fronts, tourists from far and wide make use not only of our rest room facilities, but also the public computers, the reading porch, free wifi, the children’s room, the local history section, our Adirondack trail maps and the lawn. We often hear from people that they make it a point of coming back to see us every time they come to the village. With these services we feel the LPPL is a not only a place for reading, but also a significant, if mostly un-thought-of asset to the local tourist economy.

The world has certainly changed over the past 130 years, but we are sure that our founders, who set out to serve the community by providing a source of information and literature, would approve of their continued legacy.

---Lisa Forrest, Lake Placid Public Library
Keene Valley Library Association

At Keene Valley Library, we often talk about what the future library will look like. There is a diversity of opinions, but we agree that the library will continue to provide service and resources to our community. For us, this means offering a wide variety of programs as well as traditional library materials.

Our summer lecture series is the most popular of our programs. We offer six to eight Monday evening lectures that are attended by 70 or more people each week. This year Peter Slocum offered a lecture on the Underground Railroad in the North Country, Martha Gallagher presented her Orphan Harp Program, and there was a mountain climbing program by the Stolzes as well as programs on wildlife, classical guitar and art. In the last two years, we also offered local history programs featuring materials from the Library Archives. These drew over a hundred people for each event.

Programming during the year draws smaller crowds but is geared toward the interests of the local community. This fall we offered a program on Navigating the Affordable Care Act, the History behind the Boys in the Boat, our community read, and a three part series on Senior Fitness. This was an exciting venture that included individual evaluation of strength and flexibility, exercises to increase health and a discussion on maintaining good health with diet. Participants want to start a library health web page and will continue meeting to explore more health topics. In January 2014 we will follow up with a regular Thursday morning stretch program. Participants agreed that exercise is more enjoyable when done with others.

We often partner with other community organizations to offer programs. Such was the case in screening the film “After I Picked the Fruit”. The ACLU offered the film and facilitated a lively discussion of undocumented workers. We also partnered with the Keene Valley Congregational Church to offer a program on the Brooklyn Plymouth Church and Henry Ward Beecher presented by the author Frank Decker. The KVCC was our partner in the community read as well.

We also host classes and meetings. The library is the home of a weekly meditation group which has been meeting on Tuesday mornings before the library opens for more than seven years. In the winter a knitting circle meets. We hold monthly computer classes on current topics presented by Chris Lawrence and host weekly computer classes with Jim Collins on basic skills.

Programs for children and families include crafts, Lego days, and visits by raptors and llamas. In December Caroline Hambley taught an origami workshop and everyone left with a paper crane and a box. Carmina Leabres taught a pottery class and gathered other potters as well to make 100 bowls for sale at a library party. In January 2014 we will offer a Friday night movie venue for children with the help of volunteers.

Our library is a place to gather and explore new ideas; a place to grow and share learning. We will always have books to read, but we will also welcome new ways to share community resources.

-Karen Glass, Director

Hammond Library, Crown Point

It has been a wonderful year at Hammond Library in Crown Point, and December marks the end of my tenth year here. We are always busy with computer users and book and movie borrowers, but the biggest group we serve is our home school families. We make every effort to help supplement their curriculum and provide options for students.

Our Summer Reading Program was successful and our largest group came from the Crown Point Youth Commission’s Summer Program. It met at the Crown Point Central School and the children walked down to the library for reading time.

I am looking forward to another great year here and one never knows who may stop by – see the photo below.

- Wendy Terbeek, Director

Our programs always draw a wide audience from the community and beyond. We have applied for Public Library Construction funds again this year to increase “user accommodations” in the main reading room.
Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

Thanks to CEFLS, Wells Memorial Library received two “Creative Aging” grants from Lifetime Arts, Inc. which allowed us to offer arts programming for individuals age 55 and older. In January and February 2013, the library displayed artwork from a class on Observational Drawing taught by local teaching artist Grace Potthast. During the summer, Grace taught a plein air Watercolor Workshop. Artwork from the beautiful locations where classes were held was displayed at an Artists’ Reception in late August.

In surveys, participants reported that they formed new relationships, increased mental engagement, improved their creative expression, increased confidence in creating art, look forward to continuing to develop their skills, will continue to create and be involved with others with an interest in art, will continue to explore a relationship with watercolor and self expression.

Creative Aging in New York State Libraries: A Regional Model with National Applicability, is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, with additional support from the Helen Andrus Benedict Foundation, and is administered in partnership with Westchester Library System, Lifetime Arts Inc. and the American Library Association’s Public Programs Office. The CEF Library System was the rural system partner in this project.

--Karen Rappaport, Director

Schroon Lake Public Library

Our library is all about programming. It is what brings people in and keeps them coming. Here is just a sample of the programming we offered this year: Creative Aging drawing classes for seniors; computer classes for seniors; knitting classes; book discussion group; quilting group; story times; crafts for kids; weekly movies for children and adults during the winter months; summer reading program for adults, teens, and children; Battle of the Books; Dr. Seuss Birthday Party; Raptor program with the Wildlife Institute of NENY, Magician Ron Caine, All ‘bout Critters Burrowing Animals, Holiday Mail for Heroes letter signing campaign with the American Red Cross, Make your own Sundae party, Fall Into Reading program, and the Down to Earth Garden Club for Kids.

Our Friends of the Library continue to be a huge part of our success. This year, in addition to running the Friends bookstore, the Friends held two large fundraisers for our library: an annual wine & cheese tasting that took place in August and a House and Garden Tour of six unique homes in our community in July. Both events were sold out! Thanks to all the Friends volunteers that make this happen. Without their support couldn’t possibly offer all that we do.

-- Jane Bouchard, Director

Westport Library Association

2013 has been another busy year at the Westport Library. Public interest and support of our small library has remained strong. Our goal of creating an “Adirondack/Champlain Valley Room” is finally being realized. Our fundraising events, including the Annual Book Sale and our Holiday Party, continue to be well attended and provide an important part of our funding.

Traffic in the library remains steady. More and more people seem to be utilizing the library as a place to spend the day working with their laptops or on the public computers. We are grateful for the generous support from donors and volunteers. Happy New Year!

--Dan Van Olpen, Director
Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

When asked about major accomplishments for the year, I automatically think about three different programs we offered here at the Paine Memorial Free Library. The first is one segment of our summer reading program. We have developed a small summer reading library on the site of the Town of Willsboro Summer Youth Program. Eighty children enrolled in this program through the town and the library provided one of the segments of the daily program. Children rotated into the library in small groups of 10 or 12 each time and read independently for 45 minutes each day, Monday through Thursday. Each Friday they went on a field trip. The teen leaders read as well. If children had difficulty reading there was someone there to read to them. In our small town of 1,800 people, I’m proud to say, that, including our other two reading programs, 110 children and 18 teens took part in one of our three summer reading programs with a cumulative 1,134 hours of reading!

The second program that comes to mind is our Monday Internet training. Patrons of our town have the opportunity to make an appointment on any given Monday and have one-on-one help in any area of computer training they desire. Many people do not do well in a group setting and really need individual attention. We haven’t been stumped with a question yet!

The last program I am proud to highlight is our music program. We currently offer free beginner and intermediate banjo lessons weekly at our library. On Sunday mornings we have a banjo group, with a teacher, upstairs learning and a fiddle group jamming downstairs. Then we have a jam session open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We also hold additional jam sessions on the first and third Thursday of every month. We have experienced all levels of expertise, but I’m most excited for our beginning adults. This group, "Library Jam Band" recently played two concerts at our newly renovated Champlain Valley Senior Community. It’s such a pleasure helping patrons learn new skills, wherever they may take them.

--Cheryl Blanchard, Director

CEFLS Libraries Net Nearly $95,000 in 2012-2013 Construction Funds

The New York State Legislature provided an appropriation of $14 million in capital funds for public library construction in the 2012-2013 State Budget. Under this program, public libraries throughout the state could for a construction grant to fund up to 75 percent of a project. The minimum grant award was $2,500 (for a total project cost of $5,000 with matching funds from the library). The New York State Library awarded 170 construction grants to public libraries and public library systems in legislative districts throughout New York State. Locally, five CEFLS member libraries and System headquarters applied for and received almost $95,000 under this program.

The Sarah A. Munsil Free Library was awarded $5,441 to undertake various small projects that increased operational efficiency and resulted in energy cost savings. The Sarah A. Munsil Free Library also received funding from the Charles R. Wood Foundation and the Lake Placid Education Foundation to support specific technology related aspects of the project. Mooers Free Library received $30,467 to help construct a new ADA compliant library facility which will emphasize energy efficiency and safety as well as access for all. Mooers Free Library also received support from the Charles R. Wood Foundation and the Lake Placid Education Foundation to provide technology for the building’s community room. Elsewhere in Clinton County, Plattsburgh Public Library, the System’s Central Library, received $22,500 to remediate water leakage in the main floor lobby and stack areas.

In Essex County, the Keene Valley Library Association received $16,430 to mount a five component project in one the system’s most picturesque libraries. Improved accessibility, remediated Hurricane Irene damage, increased technology use and enhanced patron comfort were the results. The Lake Placid Public Library received $15,835 to renovate a storage room into a temperature and humidity controlled archival space for a historical collection of glass plate negatives.
Ebooks Solidify Their Place in the CEFLS Shared Collection

2014 marks the third year of our relationship with Overdrive ebook service which went live in Spring 2012. Since then, readers throughout the service are have really clicked with this format. Total circulation since inception is 8,622. Plattsburgh Public Library, Saranac Lake, Wead Library, Malone, and the Schroon Lake Public Library are our “high circulators followed by the Goff-Nelson Library, Tupper Lake, the Black Watch Library, Ticonderoga and the Lake Placid Public Library.

Since January 2012, we have purchased 1,536 ebooks at a cost of $30,400. We are fortunate to be able to build an eclectic yet cohesive and responsive collection, thanks to a mix of funds from our general operating budget, member library donations, CEFLS trustee donations, two NNYLN grants, and a gift from the Plattsburgh Lions Club. A grant from the 2013 Stewarts Holiday Match campaign purchased children’s titles, and a major gift from the CVPH Foundation helped us provide authoritative titles that supplement our Umbrella Health Project.

In 2014, we are seeking a shared funding model from all member libraries. As of early January, 13 libraries have committed more than $2,000 to purchase ebook titles. All titles are available to anyone with a borrower’s card from a CEFLS member library.

CEFLS staff members Betsy Brooks and Chad Chase offered group and individual training sessions on ereaders at member libraries. Patrons of all ages reported that they really appreciated the support. Our “Holiday Gift Bag” promotion was a fun way to help those lucky enough to receive an ereader to jump in with both feet and enjoy the ebook experience right away.

For more information about contributing to our “Adopt an Ebook Campaign, please contact Elizabeth Rogers at CEFLS.

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Connect with CEFLS

The System’s focus on resource sharing, cooperative delivery of goods and services and collaborative project management means we can deliver thousands of dollars worth of enhanced library services at a fraction of the cost of providing these services separately.

Our web site (www.cefls.org) provides 24/7 access to the shared collections of our thirty member libraries and our central collection, as well as access to over 57 FREE databases and the Overdrive ebook portal.

Check us out and like us on Facebook (Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System) for an interesting mix of everything reading and library related!
Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

It’s been a busy year at the Tupper Lake Goff-Nelson Memorial Library. In January and February, we weeded the collection for the first time in quite a while. This means that we removed a lot of titles, mostly non-fiction, that had not been circulated in at least five years. Many of these titles were no longer technically accurate, and so their content could be misleading to patrons.

We also conducted the first inventory of our collection in many years, and completed it in less than two months without closing the library. We could not have done any of this without the support of the staff at the CEFLS. We now we have a better idea of what we have and don’t have. As a result, I’ve been working on improving the quality of the collection—I’ve especially been concentrating on getting Caldecott and Newbery award titles and other award-winning titles. I collaborate with our local K-6 school librarian, and try to complement her collection by buying titles that she might need or want, but can’t buy because of budget constraints. I also consider titles to support the Common Core Curriculum. One of the popular series has been the “You Wouldn’t Want to be a …” series because it’s non-fiction, but fun and interesting to middle school students. Since I’ve started a Storytime for Pre-K children, I’ve been buying more books that are good read-alouds for that very young audience. We collaborated with our local K-6 school for our Summer Reading Program, and had record participation.

We’re organizing, scanning and cataloging the hundreds of old photographs in our collection. They will be uploaded to the NY Heritage Digital Collections (http://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/tupper).

We’re getting great feedback from our patrons, and had a record-breaking turnout for our budget vote in May. Our budget passed, almost unanimously. In 2014, we're looking forward to celebrating the 100th birthday of our library. The Goff-Nelson Memorial Library was started by a group of women who sponsored a “book shower” about 1914.

--Peg Mauer, Director

Chateaugay Memorial Library

We are very fortunate to have the use of The Chateaugay Town Theater to host some of our events over the past few years. In August 2012 we hosted a presentation about the Amish in NYS as researched by Karen Johnson Weiner, author of New York Amish: Life in the Plain Communities of the Empire State. Ms. Johnson-Weiner gave an informative slide presentation followed by a lively discussion about the Amish lifestyle and beliefs. Following the presentation, a film, The Amish, offered by PBS, provided additional information about our unique neighbors. The library provided free drinks and Gini Brohal of the Grind House supplied baked goods. The Chocolate Chicks of Malone were available for a chocolate sampling. Approximately 140 people attended this free program. In September 2012, at the Chateaugay Town Theater, the trustees welcomed Gordie Little. Mr. Little entertained a spellbound group of adults and children with his suspense filled stories from his book, Ghosts of Clinton County. He also talked about Little Champy and his recent book, Little Champy Goes To School. At the conclusion of his stories, the people of Chateaugay were encouraged to meet with Mr. Little and tell their ghost stories.

In 2013, we sponsored programs and events for all ages. Every July a Book Sale is held at the library. This year’s sale featured more books than ever before. Most were popular titles and in excellent condition. In August, the trustees sponsored a presentation with Lawrence Gooley. During his slide show, Mr. Gooley he spoke of the mining culture which included the hardship, struggles and tragedies that occurred in a mining town based on his book, Lyon Mountain: The Tragedy of a Mining Town. After the presentation, a video on Mineville was also shown to a very enthusiastic group. Gordie Little returned to the Theater in September. He was very interested in listening to the natives tell their ghost stories and added some tales of his own most recent encounters. Getting to sleep after the program was not so easy.

LEGOS were purchased and were quickly put to use as children began building projects. The program will continue after Christmas. “A Library Holiday Gathering” hosted by the trustees was held at the library for the children of the community on December 7. Santa Claus was present and each child received a book, candy canes, homemade cookies and punch. The trustees took turns helping children make decorations. This event was well attended.

--Edith Lopardo, Library Trustee
Best Wishes for a Joyous New Year
from
CEFLS Board of Trustees and Staff