Library Funding Initiatives Appear Successful in 2006 State Budget

Although the 2006 New York State budget has not passed as we go to press, it appears that it will hold good news for libraries. The revised legislative proposal for distribution of $3 million system aid maintains library aid at last year’s level of $88.9 million and will net CEF an additional $45,060. We especially appreciate the efforts of our local representatives in Albany for making sure that aid to libraries was kept in Governor Pataki’s budget. If you see a legislator, please be sure to thank her or him on behalf of all of us.

Thank you Senator Betty Little, Representative Teresa Sayward, and Representative Chris Ortloff.

Congratulations to Anne de la Chapelle and the Westport Library for completing its automation project! The library will be going live on May 18, and should be participating in requests by the end of May.

Joyce Pray has replaced Jeanette Tooker as director of the Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Library. Welcome, Joyce!

CEF Library System Headquarters is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will remain open during these hours throughout the summer. If you need assistance after 4:00 p.m., we are here! Please feel free to give us a call!

Check out the CEF web site for posted changes in the Akwesasne Library’s hours and the Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro’s new 911 address. While you are visiting our site, explore and give us your feedback on some revamped tabs.
News From Clinton County
Dodge Library, West Chazy

Earlier this year we received a generous grant that Senator Betty Little helped to pass through the New York State Senate. The Patriot Grant supplied the Dodge Library with $2,500 which will go a long way to help meet our fiscal needs. Thank you Senator Little for this much needed legislation!

The Dodge Library also continues to be the recipient of many donated books. Thank you to our patrons and member libraries for all of your contributions. Thanks also to Heidi and her staff at Borders Books for adopting our library in February. Borders patrons purchased 79 children’s books which were received at the library with enthusiasm.

Our library has recently received several other monetary and “in kind” donations and grants. Stewart Shops donated $500.00 to our library through their Holiday Match. The money received will allow us to purchase new media for patrons to enjoy. Echo at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain, which is located in Burlington, Vermont, has provided the Dodge Library with a pass for patron use. The pass allows up to two adults and three children to visit the center for a discounted rate of $2.00 per person. The pass may be signed out for one week and then returned to the library for the next patron to use.

On the evening of Wednesday May 3rd we hosted a program called "The Consumer's Guide to Travel" which featured guest speakers Lisa Bedard-Dupee and Beverly Canning. Passport applications and photographs were available that evening. On Tuesday May 23rd, we held a program on “Making ends Meet” that was presented by guest speaker Amy Ivy. Participants learned financial tips and techniques, which, along with door prizes and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

-- Faye DeRosia, Director, Dodge Library

Calling all Grant Seekers:

If you are chasing that illusive pot of grant funded gold out there on the web, check out these sites from the Librarians’ Internet Index at http://www.lii.org

Donors Forum of Chicago: Grantseekers Toolbox

From a "resource for leadership, education, research, and action on behalf of philanthropy and nonprofits" comes this collection of introductory material and links to additional resources about funding sources for nonprofit organizations. Topics include types of funding needed, researching funding sources, and types of funding bodies (private foundations, corporate sponsors, community and government foundations, and individuals). Some material is specific to the Chicago and Illinois area.

URL: http://www.donorsforum.org/resource/grant start.html
LII Item: http://lii.org/cs/lli/view/item/2102

Frequently Asked Questions: How Can I Find Corporate Sponsorship?

This page from the Foundation Center’s web site is a good starting point for researching sources for corporate sponsorship of nonprofit organizations. Describes books, articles, and online sources, and gives example of useful search terms.

URL: http://fdncenter.org/getstarted/faqs/html/ sponsor.html
LII Item: http://lii.org/cs/lli/view/item/21192

OnPhilanthropy

This site from a U.S. fundraising and philanthropic services company bills itself as "a global resource for non-profit and philanthropy professionals. It is free of charge and features several industry-leading e-mail newsletters."Includes news and analysis back to 2001 on topics such as fundraising, marketing, government relations, corporate giving, and foundations.

URL: http://www.onphilanthropy.com

-- Elizabeth Rogers, Head of ILL and Technical Services

(Editor’s note: We would be interested in hearing about your experience with any of these grant seeking resources for our next Trailblazer issue)
Catch the “Age Wave” at Your Library!

North America’s older population is growing rapidly as the significant demographic group of “baby boomers” – the population’s largest single group of individuals born between 1945 and 1965 – begin to turn 50 in greater numbers. This group will have a great collective effect on society, including its attitudes towards and services for an aging population.

Historically, seniors have been identified with retirement, physical limitations and a reduced involvement with society. However, the emerging trend with the age wave is one of increased wealth, higher levels of education, independence, and social involvement. The activity level of seniors will continue to be reflected in their own interest in gerontology and their commitment to a high level of physical activity and wellness. As a result, libraries will have to manage their collections to accommodate interests in volunteerism, financial management, hobbies and health issues.

Inevitably, accessibility will continue to be an issue for seniors. Diminished vision and hearing loss will continue to be considerations in the provision of services. While increased leisure time is a key part of the older population’s lifestyle, an increasing trend towards part-time employment and ongoing involvement in the labor force will require appropriate information services and materials.

Some library best practices for libraries preparing to ride the age wave include:

- Offering programs for seniors
- Utilizing the expertise of seniors when designing programs and services
- Partnering with community groups that serve seniors
- Ensuring that library entrances and walkways are safe and secure, and that they provide easy access to the library.
- Providing equipment for public use by seniors with hearing or visual impairments (the CEF Outreach Department can help with this!)
- Creating comfortable, sound-absorptive, well-lit reading areas.
- Providing easy-opening outside doors for the library
- Providing thorough, even, diffuse (non-glare) lighting throughout the library
- Using current information from architectural studies relating to aging, building construction and interior design in planning for the future.
- Shelving large print books and other materials heavily used by seniors in ranges at middle heights from the floor.
- Increasing publicity for programs, collections, and services of interest to seniors via publicity sources.

The Public Library Construction Grant program, which is offered yearly, can help libraries address at least seven issues on this list. For more information, contact Julie Weyer in the CEF Outreach Department at 563-5190 x 18. While we are waiting for another construction grant cycle to roll around, we recommend that libraries begin to think about collection development for seniors. A brief annotated list of our top picks for print and online resources appears on page 8 of this issue. The complete version can be found on the Outreach tab of the CEF web site (www.cefls.org).

Hammond Library, Crown Point

In 1811, fifty men got together in the Town of Crown Point to organize a library. The minutes of that meeting, held the 23rd day of October AD 1811 begin:

“We are the subscribers whose names are underwritten hereby unite and form ourselves into a Society by the name of The Crown Point Social Library Society. And we hereby severally promise and engage to pay the sum of two dollars to Lyman Clark, Elisha Rhodes and David Cross, Esquires, as a committee to be paid by them laid out and expended in purchasing books of said society.”

At that time, the Town of Crown Point was one of the biggest towns (in area) in the young United States of America, spreading far beyond its present boundaries and encompassing much of what is now Essex County. Since little actual cash money was available to most people, a member might pay his dues by donating books to the library. The library had a total of 74 books to put in a book case, which was a remarkable achievement at the time.

From this small beginning, the Crown Point Library grew and was opened to the public. In 1894, a provisional charter was granted to the library and it was given the name “Crown Point Chapel Library.” For many years, the library was quartered in the upstairs of the Hammond home, and it was because of this support that the name was changed in 1899 to “The Hammond Library”. In 1929, the Hammond Library moved and was housed in the Crown Point Central School, where it remained until 1990 when it moved into its present home.

Today the library offers a variety of programs and services to the community. Hammond Library was privileged to have a new local artist, Cindy L. Vickers, volunteer her time to paint a mural (see picture below) in our children’s section. It is a rendition of a local point of interest, the Light House at the Crown Point State Camp Site at the Crown Point Reservation Pier. Cindy incorporated a variety of wild life in the mural and has offered to allow the children to request some other additions. As part of our summer reading program the children who win the reading contest will be allowed to choose from a pre approved list of “critters” they would like to see in the mural. Cindy is retired military, with a Bachelor’s Degree in Studio Art from Northern Illinois University. She settled in Crown Point last summer. Cindy is the owner of ArtFaux Illusions and her work can be seen at www.artfauxillusions.com.

Hammond Library is also pleased to announce that we have received a grant of $2,000 from International Paper Company Foundation to fund our summer reading program. This grant will allow us to expand our program, purchase some long needed equipment and gift our participants with a good selection of books to take home with them at the end of the summer. Special thanks go to IP employee Thomas Beach who advocated for us with IP during the application process. He is the husband of library board member Penny Beach, who wrote the grant application.

— from History of Crown Point Library, CEF Library System Trailblazer, Volume 3, Issue 3, Fall 2001, and Wendy Terbeek, Director
Essex County News

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

Our library celebrated National Poetry Month by putting up a display that encouraged people to "Keep a Poem in Your Pocket". Various poems were placed in a shirt pocket and people could take one to keep.

We are excited about participating in the Plattsburgh Public Library’s collaborative “Take a Bite out of Books” program, and expect to sponsor one or two teams. Local school librarian Sue Nephew is working with prospective competitors after school in May and June and after that they will meet at the library.

On June 29 we are hosting a program entitled "Right Plant in the Right Place" presented by master gardener Martha Honeywell. Martha will be giving lots of ideas on shrubs to plant in your garden.

Singer and song-writer Tom Seiling will kick off our summer reading program on July 13. We will be presenting three weeks of activities which will conclude with a program by Marty Podskoch on Adirondack fire towers.

-- Jackie Sherman Free Library, Director

Keene Valley Library Association

The Keene Valley has a new web site at the same address, www.kvvi.etc/library. The site changes often and includes upcoming events and library happenings. Our summer lecture series, which features topics of local and world concerns, is already featured on the site. All programs will be held on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

Topics include:

July 10 – “Call of the Loon” – Mountain Lakes PBS
July 17 “Guides of the Adirondacks” by Charles Brumley
July 24 “News Coverage in the Park” by Brian Mann
July 31 “Children of Abraham” by Pecki Witonsky

Take a Bite Out of Books This Summer!

The prizes are in and the big book announcement has been made! Kids who are finishing 5th, 6th, and 7th grades can sign up at eight area libraries to win a treasure chest of prizes in our first annual Take a Bite Out of Books Competition. The trivia style team competition will take place on Saturday, August 26th at Champlain Centre Mall in Plattsburgh. Teams from Champlain Memorial Library, Dannemora Free Library, Dodge Library in West Chazy, Keeseville Free Library, Plattsburgh Public Library, Saranac Lake Free Library, Schroon Lake Library and Sherman Free Library in Port Henry will vie for the championship and the rights to keep the winner’s trophy for one year! In addition, all members of the winning team will receive $100 gift certificates to Champlain Centre Mall. The members of the second place team will receive $20 gift certificates to the Mall and a $5 gift certificate to Borders.

As teams practice and prepare, kids participating will be eligible to enter bi-weekly drawings for other great prizes including passes to the Great Escape, ORDA, Lake City Skate, Fort Ticonderoga, the Adirondack Museum, the Maritime Museum, Ausable Chasm and ECHO.

Each aspiring participant will receive free personal copies of the books selected for this year’s competition. The books are:

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman
Same Stuff as Stars by Katherine Paterson
Guts by Gary Paulsen
Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Cheldenko
Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Be sure to come to the Mall on August 26th to cheer on your favorite team!

-- Kathie LaBombard, Youth Services Librarian, CEFLS
Essex County news continued...

Keene Valley continued...

August 7 “History of the Valley” by Tony Goodwin
August 14 “Altai Republic of Russia” by Frank Lescinsky
August 28 “Keene Hill Climb” with Mike Hartson (tentative)

Thanks to many generous donations, we are buried in used books! We will hold a Memorial Day Book sale to help us dig out a bit. Hard cover books will be on sale for just one dollar! The sale will be held on Friday, May 26 from 11:00 to 3:00 and Saturday, May 27 from 10:00 to 4:00. On Sunday we will return the unsold books to the basement to await the August sale.

Thanks to the generosity of Annette Merle-Smith and the craftsmanship of Wes Whitney, we have a new circulation desk at the library. It has space for our technology while carefully hiding the cords and is low enough for the little ones to rest their elbows on the desk while they check out books. The much loved old desk was greatly sought after, and was given to a local resident.

We continue to meet at the library on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. to meditate for world peace.

— excerpted from the Keene Valley Library Bulletin, May issue; Karen Glass, Director and Editor

Schroon Lake Public Library

Plans are underway for our summer reading program. Local artist Tess Daley will again help with decorating our children's room. We plan to offer weekly story times, weekly craft classes, "Aunt Helen’s Closet" which features a children's storyteller who comes with trunks filled with artifacts and clothing from her Aunt Helen's travels around the world, an end of summer make-your-own sundae party and a couple of other programs that will be announced at a later date.

We have just received a $500 check from Stewarts Shops from their holiday matching grant program. We will be using this money to purchase new children's non-fiction books.

Our book discussion group continues to meet once a month with a very faithful following. May's book will be His Excellency: George Washington by Joseph J. Ellis.

Our quilt group continues to meet twice a month. We are now working on an Adirondack-theme quilt to donate to our Friends of the Library for a fundraiser. On Saturday, May 20th from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. we will be supplying quilts for a Tea & Quilt show at the Schroon Lake Community Church. Finger sandwiches and desserts with a "tea room atmosphere" will be served while our quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary. Tickets are $6.00 for adults and $3.00 for children.

We have been gearing up for the upcoming Battle of the Books event in August. We have one team already in place and are hoping to have another one once school winds down. We have been planning our meetings, team t-shirt design and strategies for...The Battle.

The following pictures are from our participation in the What's The Big Idea program we are involved in. The Schroon Lake Public Library has just finished up a 6-week, hands-on Math/Science Club for children ages 3-7 in conjunction with the National Science Foundation Grant offered to us. We met once a week on Thursday afternoons to explore the four Big Ideas of math and science which are: Patterns and Relationships, Change over Time, Geometry and Spatial Sense, and Numbers.

In the first picture, participants are learning about patterns. In the second picture, we are comparing and measuring by weight.

-- Jane Bouchard, Director
**Essex County News continued...**

**Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro**

We're gearing up for another busy summer this year with four Art Shows featuring nine local artisans, two book sales, our Annual Golf Scramble on July 13th, and The Willsboro Folk Craft Fair which will be held on Saturday, July 29th. If you haven't attended the Folk Craft Fair in the past, then you have missed a truly great event. We feature over 100 booths of hand crafted items. Baskets, jewelry, knitting, painting, photography, pottery, quilting, stained glass, weaving, woodworking and many more items. We have food vendors and music. We also feature stories for the children throughout the day in the Paine Library booth. Don't miss this opportunity to support your local artisans. This is a library fundraiser; so spread the word!

Our calendar of summer events also includes:

- June 1-16 - Art Show -Kristen Ahrent Paintings/drawings
- Diane Bollman-Buyer - watercolors
- June 19 - July 3 - Art Show - Robin Ullmer weavings & Shelle Bailey- pastels
- July 7-21 - Art Show - Patricia Reynolds - mixed media paintings
- July 13 -10th Annual Paine Memorial Golf Scramble in memory of Ellie Campbell Willsboro Golf course; call to register
- July 24- Aug 7 - Art Show - Andrea Arnold - quilted hanging; Barb & Bob Hatch - watercolors
- July 29 - Old Time Folk Craft Fair 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the soccer field, Willsboro
- Aug 9-26 - Art Show - Happy Marsh- watercolors
- Aug 12th - Annual Used Book Sale -Preview Sale held 8/11 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. refreshments served

Mark your calendars!

— *Cheryl Blanchard, Director*

---

**AuSable Forks Free Library**

The AuSable Forks Free Library is the recipient of a new coat of paint and a new concrete sidewalk that replaced the granite blocks. The granite was beautiful to look at but got very slippery in the winter, which made it a hazard. Adam Rondeau was the young man that pulled resources together to complete this work, which was his Eagle Scout project. Hopefully, in the next month our smart barcodes will be ordered and our automation will begin the next step. We have been putting together supplies and prizes for our Summer Reading Treasure Hunt of famous “Looters of the World”. Many new businesses are giving this year.

— *Carole Osborne, Director*

---

**Wadhams Free Library**

This winter and spring we enjoyed a series of “Wednesdays in Wadhams” lectures. Dr. Nina Schoch of the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program described her work, “Conservation through the Lives of Adirondack Loons,” Matt Foley told us about and showed slides of his recent trip to beautiful Himalayan Nepal, and Robin Ulmer, former director of the Boquet River Association, gave a thought-provoking program about the consequences both personal and global of “Worldwide Water Woes.” Matt Looby, a member of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, hosted a “Skywatch The Moon” evening in March. He plans to bring some of his telescopes to the Library on some summer evenings so people can enjoy looking at the stars and planets.

Pizza Night, hosted by Merricks Bread and Coffee for the benefit of the Library, was successful, fun and delicious.

The story hour kids, besides listening to and telling stories with Ted Cornell, have been making fantastical paper sculptures to decorate the Library.

We’re plugging away on our automation project, and hope to “go live” on Horizon by early next year.

— *Liz Rapalee, Director*
Essex County continued
Lake Placid Public Library

On Saturday, June 24, author Howard F. Mosher will present a slide presentation and book signing from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Lake Placid Library will host events throughout the summer that showcase the talents of various local artists. In keeping with the library’s goal to encourage and support the arts and literature, Lake Placid Public Library is honored to invite regional artists and artisans who wish to display, meet with, and sell to people who are interested in learning about, or owning, the beautiful works they create.

Watercolorist Guy Brewster Hughes loved the Lake Placid Public Library and his great wish was that the library would one day have a public space devoted to displaying the works of Adirondack artists. We are excited to announce that that wish has been fulfilled, and invite the public to experience the wide range of talented artists and artisans who now show at the Guy Brewster Hughes Gallery. We run two series of shows throughout the calendar year. Special appointments can be arranged for those visitors who will be coming in to town at a specific time and who wish to meet with a particular artist/artisan. We keep a ready supply of information on the artists in the Gallery. Gallery hours follow those of the Library. An abbreviated schedule of events at Guy Brewster Hughes Art Gallery and our Art on the Library Lawn shows includes:

May 22-June 3 Hughes Gallery: Haley Johnson & Louise Patinelli
Louise Patinelli: Oil Paintings
July 1-2 Art on the Library lawn.
July 3-August 14: Hughes Gallery: Barry Lobdell Show: Opening Friday evening 7/14
July 21-23 Art on the Library lawn.
August 7 - 13 Hughes Gallery: Spruce Mountain Designs Show
August 12-13 Art on the Library lawn.
August 14 - 20 Hughes Gallery Capozio Show

— Louise Patinelli, Lake Placid Public Library

Senior Sources For Your Library

The following print resources on the topics of aging and eldercare were selected based on their currency and relevance to an ever changing topic. We are listing a nice mix of recently published books of interest to the older person and for those who care for an older person.

Includes games, exercises, crafts, and excursions that are good for the patient with Alzheimer’s.

Appropriate for the grown child who has to make decisions on care for an elderly, ailing parent. Provides resources, checklists, and lots of practical advice, and includes some chapters on handling the emotional stress of caregiving. Lots of eldercare alternatives are discussed.

This is an easy to read, comprehensive consumer reference that explains what can be done to optimize how people age, prevent disease, and improve health. Focuses on the healthcare system for older adults and the disorders they are likely to experience.

Simple, easy-to-understand tips on exercise and equipment to use for older people with or without limited mobility. The illustrations are clear and easy to follow.

This book gives a broad overview of the pitfalls of old age (including diseases, finances, advance directives) and discusses how to avoid them.

Hayes, Charles D. *Capture of Maturity: A Legacy of Lifetime Learning*. This upbeat self-help guide is intended especially for the middle aged and those passing the half century mark. It discusses how to sift wisdom from one’s own experiences, get in touch with younger generations, take steps to leave the world a better place, and focus on what is truly important in life.

--excerpted from “Recommended Consumer Health Books on Aging and Eldercare” by Mary K. Joyce, Morristown Memorial Hospital.
www.hslan.org/Aging.pdf
Essex County continued

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

On March 31st and April 1st we held a "March Madness" and "April Fools" book sale with special pricing and a surprise of "two-fers" on April Fools. We moved a lot of books, and made a little money to boot - which helped to meet our goal for this sale.

On April 30th we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the granting of our charter on April 26, 1906. Over 70 people parted with us, some coming from as far away as Virginia and Rhode Island. We honored all present and former trustees and directors with carnation boutonnieres. Two adults and two children won door prizes, everyone received a bookworm bookmark, and commemorative calendars containing library information and pictures were handed out. Four musicians supplied some lively music, and punch, cake and other refreshments were enjoyed by all. Assemblywoman Sayward presented the library with a New York Assembly proclamation lauding our 100 years. A great time was had by all.

Three fundraisers are planned in May, June, and July. On May 21st, Wellscroft Lodge in Upper Jay again hosted a Tea and Tour with all proceeds to benefit the library. On June 25th, rain or shine, the library is hosting a Wine Tasting by Terry Robards, noted wine critic and author. Jones the Pipes (aka Alan Jones) from Montreal will be on hand to play and demonstrate different varieties of bagpipes, and there will be refreshments for both adults and children. The cost will be $10.00 per adult; children are free. All proceeds benefit the library. From Friday, July 14th through Sunday, July 16th we hold our annual "Books, Antiques, Food and Things" sale, rain or shine, with all proceeds to benefit the library. This is a huge sale, the best organized in the North Country, and there is literally something for everyone! Sale hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. all three days. Come on down!

We are still in the process of automating, and are probably about 75% to 80% completed. Thanks to Vickie, our stalwart volunteer, and to CEF staff, the process has been moving forward smoothly. We are looking forward to completion in the late fall or early winter.

-- Sylvia Norton, President of the Board of Trustees

Fundraising Events For The New Chateaugay Memorial Library

June 30th, 6:00PM
Kick-Off Party at the Malone Golf Course
Hearty Hors D'Oeuvres, Wine and Beer
Bring Your Friends!
Call 497-3168 or 425-3549 for Reservations

Raffle
Painting by Gail Bessette, Well Known Local Artist
Drawing at the Library Dedication Ceremony
On-Going Ticket Sales

July 1st, 11:00AM–2:00PM
Strawberry Shortcake and Ice Cream Social
Tour the Site before Remodeling Begins!
Next to Chateaugay Town Hall

August 5th, 10:00AM–1:00PM
Book and Bake Sale
Chateaugay Town Hall

Mark Your Calendars!
Franklin County News

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

We ended our article for the winter edition of “The Trailblazer” with the words “enjoy this so-called quiet time – Julie will soon be asking for news for the Spring edition” – and here we are so quickly!

We have had a good winter library-wise. The “What's the Big Idea?” science and math program for young children was well attended, and the kids were very receptive to the concepts. They leaned without even knowing they were learning! We are now preparing for the summer reading program, which will start in July. These programs are conducted by volunteers from the local Kiwanis group and will follow the theme of “Books: A Treasure”. As part of this program, we will feature a collection of books obtained from an ALA “We the People Becoming American” grant. The books are geared to young readers with bright pictures that will hopefully grab their attention.

Our giant book sale will be held during the last two weeks of May, and on May 23, one of our favorite “local” authors, Andy Flynn, will hold a slide show and lecture on interesting artifacts from Tupper Lake’s history. He will also sign his new book for folks attending his talk.

June is just around the corner, and we look forward to greeting our summer patrons. We have many great programs planned for the months of July, August and September, but as I said before, Julie will soon be after the news for the summer Trailblazer, so we will save all of that for later.

-- Linda AuClair, Director

Saranac Lake Free Library

Jeanne DeMattos was honored for over 50 years of service to the Saranac Lake Free Library on Friday, May 12 in the upstairs Reading Room of the Library. About 120 people came to thank Jeanne for her many years of service as Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Membership and Publicity Chair, Come to the Fair Committee Chair, and Brown Bag Lunch founder and Program Coordinator. Jeanne also started the Winter Carnival Ceili Concert sponsored by the library. She founded and participated in numerous community organizations.

In 1997, Jeanne was honored with a proclamation from the New York State Senate that was sponsored by Sen. Ronald Stafford and recognized her years of service to the library. She was named to the library Honor Roll in 2000, and was named Citizen of the Year at the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner in 2001. Jeanne recently retired as chair of the Brown Bag Lunch Committee.

Children will be having fun at the library this summer, with preschoolers through fourth graders participating in our July Summer Reading Program, and fifth through seventh graders taking part in “Take a Bite Out of Books,” which will run from mid-June to August 26. Our Annual Come to the Fair Book Sale will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1 and 2.

Jeanne DeMattos is presented with a proclamation from the Essex County Board of Supervisors by Cindy Woodson and Jimmy Dakin at the May 12 celebration.

-- Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake Free Library, article and photo
A Barcoder’s Diet

Or,

It’s just a dish away!

We now have 21 member libraries in various stages of automating with our Horizon system. That’s a lot of libraries and we’re all really pleased. When each library comes online the collection needs to be barcoded so materials can circulate. Some libraries use “smart barcodes,” in which bibliographic information is attached to the physical barcode; each barcode has a specific home with a specific item. CEF staff visits each library using smart barcodes at least twice to help barcode their collection. Since we spend the day there, this inevitably involves food. Tracey LaBarge, Kim Fletcher, Betsy Brooks, Karen Batchelder and I have eaten our way through the three counties and have become well acquainted not only with the restaurants in the area, but with the culinary expertise of many of our libraries’ staff as well.

Probably our favorite lunch experiences were in Keene Valley at The Cliffhanger. The variety of vegetarian fare there was stunning, but more important, the portions were huge. Delicious soups, great salads, and wonderful sandwiches were on the menu, and popcorn is served as a healthy alternative to chips with your sandwich. We consistently gave them an A+. In Port Henry we had great food at the Miss Port Henry Diner. Yummy wraps, good sandwiches and generous salads. We can always count on Tracey to check out the salads, and I’ve eaten enough turkey sandwiches in the North Country to host 12 Thanksgiving dinners.

Memorable meals have come from Sylvia Norton and Ellen Metcalf in Upper Jay. Wow! The things we’ve been treated to there! Sylvia’s muffins and cookies have kept smiles on our faces, and the creative, delicious vegetarian lunches the two of them have fed us have been most impressive. Conroy’s in Chazy offers stiff competition to the Cliffhanger when it comes to delicious vegetarian fare. Francie Fairchild is a great hostess and serves Irish soda bread still warm from the oven. Her delicious peanut butter cookies are known to draw Fred Smith from the Alice T. Miner Museum across the street. In Champlain we took a break and went to the Three Forks Diner. I can vouch for their turkey sandwiches (surprise!), which were very tasty.

The prize for Most Scenic lunch spot goes to the Paine Memorial Library in Willsboro, where Cheryl Blanchard took us to the Dock restaurant at the Essex ferry landing. Right on the water, the restaurant serves scrumptious food (be sure to try their seafood quiche) and is the best place to dine outdoors on a warm sunny day. Willsboro’s Turtle Island Café is a really nice place to eat, too and their salads are huge and wonderful. They have great daily specials. We hit another hot spot in Elizabethtown, luckily working there before Evelyn’s Bakery closed. Quiche, sandwiches and fantastic desserts (which we only window shopped for) are on offer. Those lunches were well worth the trips. We had great food in Westport, good wraps (gobble, gobble) and salads (with dried cranberries no less) from the restaurant across from the library. Ann De la Chappelle was great, ordering and retrieving our meals while we barcoded away.

No trip to Malone would be complete without a meal at Jon’s. Our bookmobile staff can vouch for the food there, as can David Minnich. Good, standard diner fare and plenty of it. Great French fries, and guess what kind of sandwiches are really good? Akwesasne presented a bit of a challenge, with no easy-access restaurant near the library. One time we had sandwiches from a nearby convenience store and another time we were treated to wonderful food provided by the staff there. The people in Lake Placid must have thought there were 15 of us coming because they presented us with a huge spread of the most fantastic food. What I remember best, of course (aside from not having to eat a turkey sandwich) were the desserts. Patti Perez should be very proud of her staff and volunteers.

In June we’re going to Chateaugay and Mooers, and AuSable Forks soon after that. We don’t really pick our barcoding destinations based on food, it only seems that way.

-- Elizabeth Rogers, Head Food Critic, CEFLS
Bookmobile Driver Bob Welch and CEF Automation Consultant Betsy Brooks traveled to Pennsylvania on May 18-19 to have a new satellite dish installed on the bookmobile. The new dish and equipment will allow us to be fully online while at our bookmobile stops with complete access to the automated system. Funding for this project was provided through the efforts of Assemblyman Chris Ortloff. —Bob Welch, Photo