Ewa Jankowska is Appointed Director of the CEF Library System

The Board of Trustees of the CEF Library System is pleased to announce that Ewa Jankowska has been appointed to the position of System Director.

Ewa will take over the reins at CEF during the week of October 1. She is currently the Director of the Kenai Community Library in Kenai, Alaska. Her work experience in one of the world’s largest library systems, and a small library in a rural setting makes her an ideal addition to the CEF staff, and she is looking forward to “hitting the ground running.”

Fall foliage season will be an ideal time to tour the system and make the acquaintance of Ewa’s new member library constituents. Another activity at the head of her “to do” list is to hop aboard the new bookmobile which (hopefully) will also arrive in early fall.

The Board of Trustees will host a formal event to welcome Ewa at a date to be announced this fall. Meanwhile, welcome aboard Ewa!
A New Way to Access NOVEL Databases

New York residents can now access NOVEL databases from anywhere at any time, using their New York driver’s license or New York non-driver photo ID number. This new initiative by the New York State Division of Library Development makes it easier for people to always have ready access to information.

The web site link for using the service is [www.novelnewyork.org](http://www.novelnewyork.org). This web site offers one enhancement to the other ways of accessing NOVEL. At the top of the web page, there’s a link that says “Browse or search title list of magazines, journals and newspapers with full-text articles”. This link allows you to search the title of a periodical and find out which database it can be found in. You can use it for inter-library loan requests for articles, to see if you can find them online before requesting them from other libraries.

If your library already hands out book-markers or flyers containing the library passwords to NOVEL databases, you may not want to change this practice. Your library can track usage of patrons who use the library’s password. But if you don’t have a password, you may want to let your patrons know of this web site link for easy access to the NOVEL databases.

--Betsy Brooks, CEF

Patricia Perez Receives IMLS Scholarship

Lake Placid Library Director Patricia Perez was recently awarded a full scholarship to the library school of her choice through the New York State Library’s statewide recruitment project entitled Making it REAL: Recruitment, Education, and Learning: Creating a New Generation of Librarians to Serve All New Yorkers.

This three year grant from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services will fund the recruitment activities of project partners including the New York State Library, twelve library systems, six graduate schools of library and information science, and the New York Library Association. A short message from Patty, which outlines her plans, follows.

Dear Colleagues:

I was so pleased to be the recipient of the Institute of Museum and Library Services full scholarship grant for graduate studies which will result in an ALA approved Master of Library Science degree. I know that there are equally qualified candidates within the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System. My hope is that this scholarship will be continued so that others may apply and receive this extraordinary gift.

I have selected Clarion University of Pennsylvania because their program offers a “Focus on Rural and Small Libraries” and I can complete the entire program 100% online.

The two-year program will begin in January 2006. There are only 25 candidates accepted into the program. The schedule is two courses per semester (three credits each), spring, summer, and fall for a total of 36 credits by December 2007.

The scholarship is one of 44 in New York State; the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, received one award. I’ll keep you updated on my progress through the Trailblazer.

Sincerely,
Patricia Perez, Lake Placid Public Library

With a few flowers in my garden, half a dozen pictures and some books, I live without envy.
Member Library News

In Clinton County:

Champlain Memorial Library

The Champlain Memorial Library is busy getting ready for automation. It has been a long slow process with a lot of weeding involved. We don’t hold an annual book sale so, all weeded books are being donated to Edic Morelock at the Mooers Library for their annual weekend sale. We plan to start barcoding in early September.

The Champlain Memorial Library held an open house on Monday May 7th with 35 people showing up to hear guest speaker Thomas Pray. Pray wowed the audience with his knowledge of Native Americans and his vast collection of artifacts.

Our summer reading program got underway on Thursday June 30th and ran through July 28th, thanks to our sponsor, the Key Club from NCCS. Following the statewide theme of “Tune in @ Your Library”, we scheduled a guest violinist, The Forget Me Notes (barbershop singers), and (compliments of CEF), local guitar funnyman Speedy Arnold. Our plans are to read some of the same books outside the library and share our thoughts on the book when we all gather together. Boys who frequent the library to play RPGs (for all you squares, yours truly included, this stands for role playing games) will be expected to read a book for every 20 hours spent on the computer. If they play...they also must read!

--Allison Mandeville, Director

Dannemora Free Library

This year’s summer reading program has an intergenerational slant. Our goal has been to bring the community closer together by bringing generations together. We’ve developed a quilting project and various workshops that tap into the talents of our older community members. We also have guest readers who have agreed to save our young patrons from another summer of Ms. Niki’s singing story times. In addition, grandparents are being encouraged to sign up as “reading buddies” with their grandchildren and one “grand pair” well win a snazzy gift basket at the end of the summer.

The second meeting of our new book club, the “Page Turners”, is scheduled for August. We’ll be discussing Even Song by Gail Godwin -- and we hope to have as lively a discussion as we did with The Kite Runner in July.

-- Niki Kourfsky, Director

It’s a Good Policy to Have One!

Does your library have a written circulation policy? How about a written policy to refer to if someone says they don’t think you should purchase the latest Harry Potter Book? There are certain policies that libraries are required to have. Check with your consultant if you need more information on this. Here at CEF we have a stockpile of examples of policies you can use as guides to follow, as well as templates you can use word-for-word if you want to.

Among the policies you should consider having in writing for your library are:

- Collection development (including donations)
- Circulation
- Challenged materials
- By-laws for the Board
- Interlibrary loan
- Internet
- Mission Statement
- Displays and exhibits

We’ll be addressing the nuts and bolts of policy-making during regional training workshops this fall. Meanwhile, if you want examples of policies, or need help writing some for your library, contact your consultant or Elizabeth Rogers at extension 14.

-Elizabeth Rogers, CEF

Reading is an escape, an education, a delving into the brain of another human being on such an intimate level that every nuance of thought, every snapping of synapse, every slippery desire of the author is laid before you like, well, a book.

-- Cynthia Heimel
Growing a Reader: It’s Never Too Early Training Scheduled for October 21

The Southern Adirondack Library System is spearheading statewide early literacy training for all library staff who serve children. A free workshop for CEF member library staff will be held in Plattsburgh on October 21. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this free full day interactive workshop, which is based on the Public Library Association’s (PLA’s) “Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library” initiative.

Highly respected trainer Sue McCleaf Nespeca will provide an overview of how library staff can present three workshops for parents and caregivers that target children’s different developmental levels. Participants will learn about current research on early literacy development, the role of the parent and caregiver, examples of the development of the six early literacy skills at each level, plus how to use the information presented to start new community partnerships or strengthen existing ones. Library staff will leave this information packed session able to assist parents to gain the skills they need to help their children go to school prepared and ready to learn to read.

As part of this LSTA grant project, every public library system will receive a training kit, developed by PLA and additional resources for their collection or their Central Library’s collection. These items can be borrowed by library staff or community partners to provide additional support after the training is over. A resource web site will also be developed during the two year project.

Save the October 21 date, and stay tuned for further details coming soon!

--- excerpted from a press release prepared by Becky Wright-Sedam, Project Coordinator/Youth Services Specialist, Southern Adirondack Library System, Saratoga, NY

Dodge Library, West Chazy

Dodge Library has had a busy schedule during the last few months and we expect that the pace will continue into the fall. Thanks to a grant from CEF, we were able to host an Open House, complete with speaker, in late May. David K. Martin, chef/owner of The Turtle Island Café in Willsboro, cooked up an elegant outdoor cooking demonstration. Forty people were in attendance, which was twice as many as I was expecting! All enjoyed the evening very much, with lots of cooking information shared and some delicious food!

In June, our annual book sale, which was held at the end of the school year, netted us some money to supplement our book budget. July and August will be taken up with our Thursday morning summer reading program. We will be following the New York State theme of “Tune In @ Your Library”. Speedy Arnold entertained us on July 21 with his wonderful and fun singing and guitar playing. On July 28, we had the pleasure of hosting Colleen Hickey of the Lake Champlain Basin Program, who presented a slide show and a hands-on watershed demonstration.

We just got the official word that Dodge Library has received a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities for this year’s “America’s Bookshelf”. The theme is “Freedom”. We will receive the books in mid-September and will host programs that reflect the freedom theme throughout the fall.

My goal is to have some special event in each of the months of 2005, which is our 100th birthday year. We still have November, December, and January to go. Who knows what programs will come our way as the temperatures drop, and our ideas heat up.

Wishing you a wonderful summer full of plenty of days in a hammock with a great book!

--- Cindy Pytlak, Director
Mooers Free Library

The Mooers Free Library has been buzzing this summer with our reading program and construction of a new roof. The old roof was slated to come off on June 27, and a new tin one will be installed. Such excitement!

On April 30 we experienced a flood in the basement when the sump pump quit and water filled the lower level. We lost eight boxes of books and almost all our materials for crafts and story hours. What a mess! We are back on track now and things are getting back to normal. The patrons have been wonderful and have helped in every way possible. Borders of Plattsburgh featured the Mooers Free Library for the month of June and many donations have come in. The help and caring that so many have expressed has been heartwarming and most appreciated.

Paul and Betty Vogan have moved to Hamburg, NY and are leaving behind a long history with the Mooers Free Library. Betty was librarian for 40 years and Paul helped keep the library up and running long after Betty retired. They will be missed for their dedicated service to Mooers and the library. Good luck, Betty and Paul in your new home!

- Edie Morelock, Director

In Essex County:

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

We are making good progress on our automation project. We had a work bee in early July to barcode part of the collection. Some CEF staff members came down and helped us and were joined by a few volunteers who were nice enough to come in and give us a hand.

Our summer reading program was held on Thursday nights from July 21 - August 11. It featured music, sound, poetry, and camping @ the library. We started the season off with a magician on Wednesday, July 13.

We held a big book sale on Champ Day, Saturday, August 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our wares included many books that were donated to us in all categories, and a good selection of children’s books. We will hold a book sale on Labor Day weekend from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, and after the parade on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

- Jackie Vistenz, Librarian

PPL and Seven Partners

Take a Bite Out of Books

The Plattsburgh Public Library and seven partner libraries have been awarded $34,000 to develop a recreational reading program for middle school readers. Project activities to be undertaken during this two year Parent Child Services state aid grant will provide library based incentives, information, and resources to over 1,500 students and involved adults. Collaborating libraries include the Champlain Memorial Library, Dannemora Free Library, Keeseville Free Library, Peru Free Library, Saranac Lake Free Library, Schroon Lake Public Library, and Dodge Memorial Library, West Chazy.

According to current statistics, middle school students spend one percent or less of their time in recreational reading. To boost this startling low percentage, *Take a Bite out of Books* will feature “battle of the books” competitions, and of course, lots of good “ammunition” in terms of new books specially selected to tempt this notoriously fickle age group.

Plattsburgh Public Library Director Sonia Longs says, “We are always looking for new ways to get and keep this age group engaged in the library. We are excited to have the opportunity to head up this project. The materials and fun activities it will provide will help us to help children (and their parents) who may not always read for the fun of it, develop into lifelong readers.”
Local guitar-playing rhymester Speedy Arnold “Tuned in with Songs @ your Library” to highlight reading activities throughout the summer. Speedy’s performances featured fun sing-alongs and “name that tune” contests with prizes and fun for all ages. Hopefully, you caught up with Speedy when he was at one of these libraries:

July 20—Wed Library, Malone
July 21—Dodge Library, West Chazy
July 22—Schroon Lake Public Library
July 28—Akwesasne Library
July 28 Champlain Memorial Library
July 30—Mooers Free Library
Aug. 5—Dannemora Free Library
Aug. 9—Wells Memorial, Upper Jay
Aug. 11 Bookmobile, Pyramids Daycare

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**Keene Valley Library Association**

Whew! Summer has arrived and the library is hopping! Last year our busiest days saw almost 100 people come and go but this year, 100 visitors is a low volume day! Our wireless internet service has taken the pressure off the six public access computers which is wonderful for patrons and staff. We hold intergenerational programs every week that include crafts and music. On August 8, we had a story telling evening. Check our web site at [www.kvvinet](http://www.kvvinet) for a complete schedule of events. The calendar also lists the topics and speakers in our Monday night lecture series.

We took time to host two fundraisers this summer. On July 21 we held a wine and cheese party with a special performance by harpist Martha Gallagher. We also held a silent auction of pots painted or sculpted by local artists. The auction concluded on August 8. We celebrated the annual Keene Valley Days on August 6 with a “Big, Blg, BIG Book Sale” at Keene Central School and a special children’s book sale at the library. There were children’s activities and face painting at the library as well.

Even though we are enjoying all this activity, a mother robin began nesting in the window across from the circulation desk in late June. She sat serenely for a few weeks but since the four babies hatched she flies off frequently returning with worms that she dangles above their open beaks. And now they are almost ready to fly and flutter their wings as they perch on the edge of the nest. We will miss them; children and adults instinctively become quiet as they notice them and it is easy for anyone to be drawn into the simplicity of their life on the library window sill.

—Karen Glass, Librarian

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**Computer Training Returns to CEF**

The Northern New York Library Network will offer two computer training classes at CEF headquarters in October.

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**Schroon Lake Public Library**

The Schroon Lake Public Library has formed a steering committee to look into the possibility of enlarging our current library or building a new facility to meet the increasing demand for space. There is a lot of support in the community for enlarging our library and we hope to have some definitive plans by the end of this year.

We are again having a busy summer. In conjunction with the New York State Summer Reading Program, we are holding story times every Wednesday morning and craft classes for children every Thursday afternoon. On Wednesday, July 13th magician Mike Carnevale entertained us, and on Friday, July 22nd Speedy Arnold treated us to his rhyming songs. On Wednesday, July 27th, we clowned around with Penelope the Clown. An Indian Pow-Wow and show-and-tell with Doris and Walter Cohen of May Tribes Indian Collection was held on Wednesday, August 10th.
— Schroon Lake news cont.

To close out the season, a “Make Your Own Sundae Party” will be held on Thursday, August 18th, for those enrolled in our summer reading program.

We are also undertaking a summer reading program for adults and teens called “Take the Summer Reading Challenge”. Participants are invited to complete challenges and earn chances to win one of four theme-related gift baskets. Prizes include a beach lovers basket, an Adirondack basket, a movie goers basket and a gardening basket. Challenges include: “Solve a Crime, Read a Mystery,”, “Try Something New, Read a Graphic Novel”, and “You Forgot Your Glasses, Listen to an Audio book.”

Our Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00p.m. July’s book was Mystic River by Dennis Lehane. In August, we will delve into Bel Canto by Ann Patchett.

— Jane Bouchard, Director

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

It was a busy spring for the Wells Memorial Library. In April, we celebrated National Library Week and recognized our volunteers. In May, the four libraries in the Ausable Valley School District had a proposition for library funding on the school budget ballot. We were all very pleased that the voters supported our request for funding and passed the proposition by a substantial margin.

On May 22, Wellscroft Lodge owners Randy and Linda Stanley hosted a tea and tour of the lodge to benefit the library. Although the weather did not allow us to be outdoors, it was cozy and warm inside. Two teens provided some excellent music on violin and keyboard; four door prizes were awarded; and the refreshments were varied and plentiful. Many thanks to all who helped make this fund-raiser such a success, and especially to the Stanleys for hosting the event.

In June, we hosted a party for children and their parents to introduce our new Libri Foundation books. Librarian Carole McDowell created a wonderful bulletin board, and all the books were on display ready to be checked out. The children have really been enjoying these beautiful books. Thank you, Libri Foundation.

We continue to weep our collection and are barcoding the “keepers”. Patron information is also being updated in preparation for new library cards which will soon be issued. We hope to have automation complete in 2006.

Beach Bag Browsing

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.

A new author (to me) that my male readers really like is Harlan Coben. I liked Gone for Good with its complex and unpredictable plot. Critics say Coben is the modern master of the hook-and-twist, luring you in on the first page, only to shock you on the last. They compare his work to Alfred Hitchcock films about a seemingly innocent person caught in machinations beyond comprehension.

— Francie Fairchild, Chazy

I really enjoyed East of the Mountains by David Guterson. It gave me much to think about and much to be thankful for.

— Cheryl Blanchard, Paine Memorial, Willsboro

I'm presently reading Max Allan Collins' Read to Purgatory. I have it with me all the time so if I get a minute I read. I also spend time with John Sanford’s “the prey” books. When I'm not reading novels I read a good deal on New York history and geography. I also am in the middle of a five year project on the genealogy of our family. I have a good deal done and long way to go. The historical readings involved are so very interesting.

— Lyn Dufort, CEF board member/ bookmobile patron

Here's what I'm planning to read on vacation or before:

Confessions of Max Tivoli by Andrew Sean Greer
Jane Austen Book Club by Karen Joy Fowler
The News from Paraguay by Lily Tuck
The Probable Future by Alice Hoffman
The Dante Club by Matthew Pearl
The Rule of Four by Ian Caldwell & Dustin Thomason
The Book of Joe by Jonathan Tropper
and, of course, the latest Harry Potter!

— Kathie LaBombard, CEFLS
...more beach bag books...

Last weekend, my beach bag included a book called *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson. It detailed the designing, building, and events at the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893. It had a parallel story about one of the first serial killers who, by chance, had ties here in the North Country, as he lived in Mooers Forks briefly and attended UVM in Burlington for a time. It wasn’t exactly lighthearted summer fare, but I found it to be engrossing. From that, I went to a LuAnne Rice book called *Summer’s Child*. That was a much lighter book dealing with two women who had left abusive husbands and ended up in the same small town. One of the women had a daughter with severe heart problems. I won’t spoil the mystery of it, but it was good right to the end! Is anything better than a peaceful summer afternoon with a great book, a glass of lemonade, and a hammock?

—*Cindy Pytlak, West Chazy*

Great listening on your way to the beach includes the CDs *The Lost Mother* by Mary McGarry Morris, the story of a Vermont family torn apart during the Depression by a mother’s inability to cope and her subsequent abandonment of her children and husband. We are taken to rural America during a most desperate time in its history and see through the eyes of a husband trying to provide a life for his children and through the eyes of the children who want so much to have their family back, what life was really like. The book is read by Judith Ivey.

Another great “listen” is Sue Miller’s *Lost in the Forest*, a modern day story of a California family coping with death, adolescence, divorce and basic domestic life. It’s a nice Sue Miller story, read evocatively by Blair Brown.

—*Elizabeth Rogers, CEF*

—*Upper Jay news cont.*

The library had a float in the annual Jay Fireman’s parade on July 4th. Our truck was patriotically decorated with red, white and blue crepe paper streamers, bows and flags. A volunteer was seated in a rocking chair “reading” to children sitting on cushions on the truck bed. We had walkers on either side of the float giving out hand-outs promoting our annual July sale.

July 15th and 16th was our annual “Books, Antiques, Food, and Things” sale. We’ll update you on the success of the sale in a future issue of Trailblazer.

—*Silvia Norton, Trustee*

**Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro**

The Paine Memorial Library hosted a full slate of events and activities this summer. Here is what is left on the library’s slate for August:

**Aug 13** - Friends of the Library **Annual Used Book Sale** held at the Library from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Aug 15-31** - Remainder of the used books will be on sale at reduced prices daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the library basement area.

**Aug 16-31** - ART SHOW featuring photography by Lloyd Brockney.

We also feature two summer reading programs, and a Friday story hour for ages 3 through 5. Special “one to one” reading help is available from Suzatte Motville, who is a certified teacher.

Hatha Yoga is something new we are trying this summer. Sessions are held at the library on Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. There’s something for every member of the family at our library this summer. Stop by and visit!

—*Cheryl Blanchard, Director*

**Borders of Plattsburgh** selected the **bookmobile** as the “Library of the Month” for July. The month-long fundraiser resulted in 114 new childrens’ books for the bookmobile that were handpicked by the bookmobile staff. Bookmobile librarian Deborah Crossley can’t wait to display these new additions on the new bookmobile, which is slated to arrive in September.

**THANK YOU BORDERS!**
...are we at the bottom of the bag yet?!

The Paine Memorial Library kindly invited me to their Annual Meeting at the beginning of July and I had the pleasure of hearing a talk by author Thurston Clarke. He gave a great talk about how he does his research and what he looks for in the historical incidents he studies and writes about. The display of his titles lured me and I borrowed *By Blood and Fire—July 22, 1946: The Attack on Jerusalem’s King David Hotel*. It’s a real page turner for anyone who enjoys history. It has given me a much deeper understanding of the background for current events in the Middle East. Clarke paints a picture of the personalities and events in the post-WWII eastern Mediterranean. The parade of people through the lobby, and events throughout the hotel, parallels to our own experience with 9/11 which gives the book an urgency I had not expected. This one not only deserves some beach sand caught under the plastic jacket but will touch your emotions and broaden your understanding.

Clarke has written several other books which I am looking forward to reading. It is a wonderful thing to find a new author! He told us a little about the one he’s working on now, about Robert Kennedy, remarking that the most poignant moment in his research was finding the daily schedule for RFK for the two weeks after his murder—campaign appearances mixed in with family time and personal events, all illuminating the untimely loss. We can look forward to it.

--Mary Brown, Interim Director, CEF

Wadhams Free Library

We’ve enjoyed our spring wake-up, when people end their hibernation and emerge from their caves in search of things to read and do. Now, in addition to our local patrons, we’re welcoming our summer visitors, both regulars and those who stop in as they’re passing through.

We’ve decided to join the CEF automated circulation system. We have some experienced and dedicated volunteers who will help us start the process this summer. Gulp! We’ll kind of miss the old card catalog, but automation will offer us and our patrons some improved services.

We’ve enjoyed several great evenings this spring and summer in our “Wednesdays in Wadhams” lecture series. Jo Ann Gardner told us about her new book, *Elegant Silvers, Striking Plants for Every Garden*. Brian Houseal of the Adirondack Council, taking us on a trip “From the Ice Cap to the Tropical Rain Forest”, showed some gorgeous slides and talked about biodiversity in the many places where he has traveled and lived. Mary Brown took us “Snowshoeing in Labrador”. We loved her pictures and the story of her adventure, but most in the audience agreed we would not be up to following in her footsteps! Our program on August 10 featured Camilla Rockwell and her film about well-known stone builder Dan Snow.

Through the efforts of artists Deb Kahler and Paul Rossi, who worked with kids from Families First in Elizabethtown, and with the support of a Developing Community Arts Grant from the Arts Council of the Northern Adirondacks, the library has a beautiful new mosaic walkway at our front entrance. In appreciation a ribbon-cutting ceremony and ice cream social was held on July 20.

--Liz Raplee, Director

Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Library

The Cooper-Wilmington Library has been busy this winter. We completed two large book orders for children’s and youth books, using two memorial funds. We used some of these funds to start a children’s audio collection. A mini-grant from CEF doubled our children's audio holdings. We now have a high quality collection of books on CD and cassette for ages 5 through high school. We are promoting this collection vigorously as a way to interest youth in books and to help them develop a love of reading. The audio books are especially helpful for those who are delayed in attaining reading skills.

--Jeanette Tooker, Director
In Franklin County:

Goff—Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

“Summertime and the living is easy…” George Gershwin obviously didn’t work at Goff-Nelson Library in the summer! We are so busy, and I imagine that all the libraries in our beautiful north country are also enjoying the children and the tourists.

Our summer reading program began on July 8 and got off to a great start. We have a wonderful group of girls from the Kiwanis Club who do an outstanding job of running this program. This is a huge help, and a definite draw to the public. From July 3 through July 9, the paintings of Adirondack artist Raymond Jackman were on display in the community room. Our own Art Show ran from July 17 through July 24. We had many beautiful entries that included carvings, quilts, fungi art, painting demonstrations, and traditional paintings.

Our highly regarded biennial quilt show was held on August 4th, 5th and 6th. On August 10, we hosted a book signing at 7:00 p.m. with Adirondack authors Liza Frenette, Andy Flynn and Caroline Welsh. This event was well attended as all three are locals, with family ties in the community. On August 19, Zoe Smith will give a presentation on black bears at 4:00 p.m. From August 21 through the 26th, a display of historical pictures from the Tupper Lake Heritage Museum will round out the summer.

In addition to all these special summer programs, we have a writers’ group that meets here on a monthly basis, and an active book discussion club, to which so many of you have lent your “books of choice”, and for which we thank you. Labor Day will be here before we know it - enjoy the summer!

--Linda AuClair, Director

Saranac Lake Free Library

It’s the 50th year for “Come to the Fair”, our popular annual summer event. It all started with an All-Male Bake Sale back in 1954, and this year we offered thousands of hardcover and paperback books, white elephant items, jewelry, toys, plants, Adirondack crafts and baked goods in the Cantwell Community Room Tuesday through Friday, August 2nd to 5th. A special opening for those who have made a contribution to the 2005 Membership Campaign at the Supporting $35 level or higher took place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, August 1st, as a thank you for yearly financial support of the library. The fair gets hundreds of people in the community involved in the library. Hundreds donate items to the fair, many come in to help sort and set up, and thousands attend the sale. To celebrate the 50th birthday, banners, made by former board member Merle Smith, were displayed to celebrate the current and past fairs, and men were encouraged to bake in honor of the original event.

- Story and photo by Pat Wiley

......not yet?!!

My beach bag would certainly include Bold Spirit: Helga Estby’s Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America by Linda Lawrence Hunt. This is a remarkable story of a mother-daughter trek from Spokane, Washington to New York in April 1896. In financial need, and with a promise of a $10,000 reward by a mysterious donor, they set out unescorted in an era where women were considered weak and in need of protection. Hunt chronicles their experiences and the ramifications of the journey that awaited them upon their return.

Vying for space would be Paul Revere’s Ride by David Hacket Fischer. This marvelous narrative will captivate readers as it chronicles the events leading to the Battles of Lexington and Concord. Fisher provides a context for the events that unfolded on that fateful day in April 1775 and gives a fascinating view of the participants on both sides of the conflict, along with the principles that guided them. This wonderful story with a “you are there” quality should appeal to Revolutionary War buffs and all readers interested in the human side of history.

--Betty Hochbeier, Waverly Reading Center and bookmobile patron

Five children recently presented “Sleeping Ugly” with marionettes they had made at the Story Hour Program
NYSLAA’S 27TH Annual Conference:  
Smooth Sailing on Lake Geneva

“Smooth Sailing for the Future!” was the theme for NYSLAA’s 27th Annual Conference, held June 8-10th, on the lakefront in beautiful Geneva, New York. This year’s conference was awesome, to say the least, and was hosted by the library assistants of the Pioneer Library System. Workshops included such topics as basic first aid, grant writing, MS Publisher and Excel, how to prevent identity theft, and, of course, our Certificate of Achievement Program. A wine tasting mixer started our festivities, followed by a special dinner buffet at nearby Belhurst Castle.

Special awards are given out for five, ten and fifteen year members. I received my ten year award—a beautiful blue, engraved paperweight. I was also honored with receiving the Craig Koste Award, which is presented to a library assistant for outstanding service. Some of you may remember Craig, who passed away in 1995 and bequeathed an endowment to NYSLAA.

Miriam Grace Monfredo, author of historical novels, was our keynote speaker. With the lights flickering from the ongoing storm, she proceeded to entertain us with stories of local women of historical significance.

We are barely getting things finalized from this year’s conference, and it’s time to start thinking about next year’s. We’re going back to New York City!

-- Tracey LaBarge

Amy Treffers, director of the Elizabethtown Library has left her position to attend college in the fall. Amy says, “The library has a new director as of August, 1st. His name is Matt Putnam Pouliot. This soon to be ex-librarian’s plan is to hang out for the month of August and then go down state in the fall to college. I will be attending SUNY Purchase and working towards the completion of my Bachelors in Political Science.” Our best wishes to Amy, and we look forward to welcoming Matt.

Since our last issue, we have a new face at system headquarters. Karen Batchelder joined the staff in mid-May to assist in the Audiovisual, Youth Services, and Outreach departments. Karen has an extensive library background, along with good humor and lots of energy, and we are very pleased to have her on board.

Grant Funding Watch

The State Aid for Public Library Construction application for 2005-06 is now available on the State Library’s web site at www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev. Again this year, the minimum grant award will be $2,500, which means that no award will be made for any project with a total cost of less than $5,000. The deadline for libraries to submit applications to Julie Weaver at CEF for evaluation is Wednesday September 14, 2005.

The State Library’s web site lists funding guidelines, all required narrative and financial forms, and complete instructions for public library applicants. Please remember that projects involving a building that is over 50 years old must be approved by the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) before they can be considered for construction aid funds. This is a great funding opportunity that many member libraries have successfully used to update and restore their buildings. We encourage you to start soon if you are interested in applying for these funds and to call Julie at 563-5190 x 18 with any questions.
Tracey LaBarge Wins NYSLAA Outstanding Service Award

CEF Principal Library Clerk Tracey LaBarge was the recipient of the New York State Library Assistants’ Association (NYSLAA) Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service at the organization’s annual conference held June 8-10, 2005 in Geneva, New York. The award is given to a library assistant who has distinguished (him/her) self by service to the organization and to the library assistants of New York on either a state or local level. As part of the award, a $100 stipend was given to CEFLS for collection development.

Tracey has been a member of the CEF staff since August 1984 and this year received her 10 year membership award in the New York state Library Assistants’ Association. She serves as Coordinator of NYSLAA’s Certificate of Achievement Review Board and also serves as co-chair of Northern New York Library Network Library Assistants’ Committee.

NYSLAA Certificate of Achievement Awarded

NYSLAA’s Certificate of Achievement Program Review Board is very happy to announce that two North Country library assistants have received their certificates. Karen Ricketson, from Plattsburgh Public Library, has earned her certificate at Level IV in Public Service. Karen has worked for PPL for 30 years, and since 1982 has been the smiling face behind the desk in the Children’s Room. Also receiving her certificate at Level IV in Public Service is Kathy LaClair from SUNY Potsdam’s Crane School of Music Library. Kathy, who has published two children’s book, has also worked in the library for 30 years. The Certificates were presented to our two well-deserving recipients at NYSLAA’s Annual Conference held in Geneva this past June. Congratulations to Karen and Kathy! If anyone is interested in more information about the Certificate of Achievement Program, please feel free to contact me or check us out at NYSLAA’s website at nylsaa.org.

-- Tracey LaBarge, CA Review Board Coordinator

Some Sun Fun!

Ah, an afternoon spent basking on the beach. When the potato chips are gone, the cooler is empty, and the sun has moved on over the yardarm, you might be faced with making conversation with your beach buddies. This site from the Internet Public Library (www.ipl.org) will help to get the ball rolling.

Encyclopedia Fun Trivia
http://www.funtrivia.com/trivia.html
The self-billed World’s Largest Source of Bizarre and Utterly Trivial Information About Almost Everything” will settle any argument, and has probably started more than it’s share. The site allows visitors to contribute facts and knowledge, and proves that a little knowledge may provoke more than thought!

The Kiwanis Club of Plattsburgh’s Major Emphasis Committee, chaired by Dr. Nancy Church, recently awarded $1,500 to the CEF Library System. This donation was immediately used to extend previously cancelled large print book standing order plans for use on the bookmobile and in rotating collections. If you see a Kiwanian, please thank him/her for this club’s generosity!
Open Houses Give Local Libraries a Novel Edge

Libraries throughout the three county area showed their creativity and flair in hosting open houses this spring. The library system was able to provide some extra funding for the open houses from its 2004-2005 LSTA grant entitled The Novel Edge. These are a few examples of the events hosted by libraries:

From Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake:

We put our six heads together once we heard about the open house funds and created a phenomenal open house. On a week night in May we had approximately 90 attendees and a good time was had by all. Of course there was free food and drink and we had some pre-teens running popcorn to one of the many stations we created. That station was a Power Point slide show of our fledgling digitization project. Thanks to funding from Senator Betty Little and New York State, we digitized approximately 300 pictures in our antique photo collection. These were on display for patrons to view while eating popcorn! This was a huge hit. Another "station" we put together was a vast collection of "local celebrities caught reading." These folks were well known about town, both the famous and infamous variety of town characters. Pictures were done digitally and creative and funny captions were added. The books held by the various "celebrities" were appropriate. For instance, the local tax man was perusing Lassiter's. The local Harley dude was engrossed in Motorcycle Maintenance for Dummies. You get the picture! It was a howling success and we got tons of thanks from community members. We are deeply thankful for the financial aid. It made all the difference in our decision to host an event like this.

From Westport:

Our Memorial Day Open House grant enabled us to invite the high school band to the library after their concert to have muffins and juice. Some have never been in the library before, and a few came back for research assistance after the Open House.

From Mooers:

I am happy to report that the Open House Funds were much appreciated and 12 people came to our open house. Three of the folks were Town Council members and they were anxious to see the facility. This is the best response we have had to any activity the library has had. The funds were put to very good use. We had refreshments and a printed brochure about our services. I gave a small tour and answered questions about our services.

From West Chazy:

I would like to pass along our experience with the open house funds. As you know, we hosted a professional chef who did an outdoor cooking demonstration. It was a banner night for Dodge Library with 40 people in attendance. Everyone had a wonderful time, and I have had several people come in since that evening thanking me for it and saying how much they gained from it.

-- compiled by Betsy Brooks, Automation Consultant
Kathie LaBombard and Karen Batchelder look through the 1,296 new children's books that were recently donated to CEF by Scholastic Publishing. The books were sent as a reward for the highest level of increased participation by a library system taking part in the NYS Summer Reading program. CEF’s member libraries logged a 106% increase in summer readers from 2003 to 2004. The huge assortment of books shown will ultimately end up in the hands of children from around the system area.