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A Warm Welcome at the Keene Valley Library

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CLOSE THE GAP FOR LIBRARIES!

Make Your Voice Heard in Albany On March 13

(or at least send a letter!)

The New York Library Association’s 2007 Legislative Proposal will increase state aid to libraries in the Northern New York Region by approximately 30%, and will bring at least an additional $1.23 million to the libraries in our region. Budget Hearings have recently concluded and the Legislature will schedule Conference Committees to negotiate changes to the Governor’s 2007-08 Executive Budget. Now is the time to contact your state legislators to let them know of your support for NYLA’s 2007 State Budget Priorities. Go to www.nyla.org and click on Contact Your Elected Officials to send a fax to your state legislators.

CEF Library System Director Ewa Jankowska and other local library lobbyists will meet with state representatives as follows:

10:30 Senator Elizabeth O’C Little (we will also thank her for renewing the Patron Grant to member libraries)

11:00 Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward

2:30 Assemblywoman Janet Duprey

For more information about Lobby Day, please contact Ewa Jankowska at 563-5190 x 11 or e-mail ejankowska@cefls.org. If you can not make it to Albany on March 13, please take a look at the New York Library Association site at www.nyla.org. The site includes a letter to the Governor and a brochure that lists proposed funding for libraries in our region.
CEF Reaches Automation Milestone!

With the recent completion of automation projects at the Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay and the Black Watch Memorial Library in Ticonderoga, our library system has now reached the half-way point, with fifteen libraries automated out of thirty. There are another eight libraries going through the process now, so we’ve gained a good deal of momentum over the past several years.

Some of the resulting changes we’ve seen over the past year have been:

• The number of patrons logging on to the Web catalog with their barcoded library cards more than doubled over the past year.

• The number of requests placed for books, videos and audiobooks more than doubled also, passing 1000 per month for the first time in January 2007.

• The number of titles (bib records) in our shared database grew by almost 15,000 and the number of items or copies increased by over 44,000 in one year, which represents a joint effort by the Automation and Technical Services Departments at CEF and the member library directors and staff. One of automation’s main benefits has been to make the database more accurate and complete.

• The number of visitors to the CEF Website was 6 times higher in January 2007 than in January 2006, which I interpret as a result of both raised awareness of our libraries and their resources and increased Internet usage in our area.

State Senator Betty Little helped us obtain funding to automate all of the libraries that have finished up in the past year and several that will finish this year. If you see Betty, thank her for us!

-- Betsy Brooks

Dannemora Free Library

Dannemora is going on-line! Well, sometime this year, anyway. We had a surprise donation that will cover the cost of automation, and the project is well underway. Our goal is to be done by May, although I’ve been told that may be overly optimistic.

We’re also starting another round of the “Take a Bite out of Books” competition. After this year’s books were announced, I was flooded with enthusiastic players and coaches. One parent-coach was generous enough to donate enough extra copies of the books so that all of the participants will have copies to keep after the program is over. Our meetings start on March 2nd.

Although the annual report is never much fun to prepare, it was exciting to see our stats steadily rising. Our total library attendance was up 35% in 2006! I might be tempted to attribute that to my sunny disposition, but we had some popular programs last year that may have helped as well. Our book club is one of my favorites – we have 10 members that meet every month to discuss some very diverse books and topics. We all really enjoyed our last pick, The Memory Keeper’s Daughter. I’ve been trying to stockpile extra copies of these books in the hopes of starting a “book club bank” after I deal with this whole automation thing. If any other book clubs have extra copies of their book picks to donate to the cause, let me know.

Other than that, I’m just staying warm by planning my summer reading program. How that will turn out is still a mystery!

- Niki Kourofsky, Director

Chazy Public Library

Trustee George Brendler has been working with Matt Smith (a very helpful library patron) on a web page for the Chazy Library. So far it is primarily a home page, but more content is coming along. We are finally beginning to see the light at the end of the preparation-for-automation tunnel. It is our hope to go on-line sometime next month.

I have also had the interesting experience of proctoring exams for a home-schooled student. This has led to her volunteering to help with our Story Time programs.

-- Francie Fairchild, Director Chazy Public Library
Mooers Free Library

We are on the last leg of our automation process and hope to finish in March. The sudden wintry weather has slowed down many activities here in Mooers. Presently, the director’s snowmen collection is on exhibit at the library. Literacy Volunteers continue to use the library to meet with students on a regular basis.

This year we are holding our first winter book sale during February and March. We hope that our discarded books will make attractive winter reading, at a price that can’t be beat.

The library’s public access computers continue to be a good source of attendance as many local residents use them on a regular basis. We are looking forward to spring and warmer activities!

-- Edie Morelock, Director

Plattsburgh Public Library

This spring the Friends of the Plattsburgh Public Library will again sponsor their Blossoms and Blooms art display in the library’s Hale Walter Gallery and their Pretty Pots silent auction.

Blossoms and Blooms will feature paintings from local artists with a floral theme. This is a juried exhibit that the Friends have hosted for a number of years. The exhibit will be in the gallery from April 11 through June 14th. There will be a reception on April 17th to announce the winners.

The Pretty Pots silent auction is a brainchild of long time Friend of the Library, Helen Ianelli. In its third year, this auction raises funds for the Plattsburgh Public Library’s Children’s Room. Pots painted and decorated by local area residents will be on display in the Library’s Reference Room from April 11 through May 10th.

-- submitted by Sonia Long, Director

Ellenburg Sarah A. Munsil Free Library

Great things can happen in January! We received a donation of $1,000 from Noble Wind Power to purchase new computers. It will buy one work station with educational and office software. Noble Wind Power included news of the donation and a picture of the library in their newsletter that went out to 5,000 homes! Next time I will ask someone to post the library hours, too. I'm waiting for word from Horizon Wind Power (Marble River Wind Farm) to see if they will help us purchase another computer.

I am not a sales person. Two things pushed me to make these proposals. The first was the Rural Library Sustainability Workshop that was held in May 2006. The other was Faye DeRosia's enthusiasm and success with securing financial help from community resources for the Dodge Library West Chazy. I e-mailed her with questions and she wrote back with the basics of how to write a proposal. After that I had no excuse, so ask for help and get going!

-- Michele Phillips, Director

Have You Heard?

Sue Ann Cotter is the smiling face at CEF’s “Command Central”. Sue joined the staff in January and has really hit the ground running. She likes to quilt and garden, and is a pretty good cook too! Welcome Sue!

Joyce Pray is the new librarian at the Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Library. Joyce has been busy since her arrival and has already visited CEF to meet our staff. An article about recent library events in Wilmington appears in this issue.

Karen Rappaport has replaced Carole McDowell as the Director of the Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay. Welcome, Karen!

Michael Horne is the new librarian at Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora. Michael has already taken a tour of CEF, and joins his colleagues at other facilities in doing a brisk business in interlibrary loan. Welcome, Michael!

Weekly van delivery to the Akwesasne Library resumed Monday, March 5.

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The day was January 17, workers were on ladders sawing holes in the ceiling by the circulation desk, Keene Central School students were arriving for their library classes and it was twenty degrees below zero. Now, twenty below zero is somewhat ordinary for us in Keene Valley, but for a group of senior high students from Newport News, Virginia, it was an Adirondack adventure. The bus they were traveling on broke down in front of the library. They made their way inside and spent five hours watching DVD’s, having lunch, listening to stories (I always love a new audience) and helping with projects with the KCS little ones. They were a great group of kids and left the library the same way they found it, though warmer for the chance meeting!

Some much needed capital improvements are underway at the library, including lights, storm windows, and heating improvements. We applied to the New York State Library’s $14 Million Public Library Construction Program for a $14,000 total project package. We are unofficially approved for the full $7,000, and must raise the other $7,000 as our 50% required match. With this money, we installed energy efficient and brighter lighting in the nonfiction room and children’s room, and installed a new heat efficient furnace. We are waiting to put storm windows in the Archives alcove, install new gutters, and replace the heating zone dampers.

Battle of the Books is a nationwide reading incentive program for students in grades four through eight. Students read selected books and come together to test their abilities and knowledge of the books they have read. KVLA hopes to field two teams of students in 2007. The local competition, which is funded through a LSTA grant coordinated by Plattsburgh Public Library and CEF, is titled “Take a Bite Out of Books”. The Battle will take place on Saturday, June 2 at the Champlain Center Mall in Plattsburgh. The library will sponsor practice sessions for our teams throughout the winter and spring. Our first session was held on February 3 and was called “Pizza with Petey”.

On Monday evening, March 12 at 7:00 p.m., we will host a discussion of Kate Winter’s book The Woman in the Mountain in the main reading room. Kate Winter is the first author to examine the writings of women who have lived a significant part of their lives in the Adirondack Mountains. She offers telling profiles of seven remarkable individuals and their relationship to the natural world. Through her research, we discover links between the dramatic mountain landscape and each woman’s imagination. Adirondack authors featured in the book include Jeanne Robert Foster, Anne LaBastille, Martha Reben, and others.

There is a different rhythm in the library between January and May. The pace is less hectic. We spend a greater portion of our time processing new books, weeding out old ones and managing shelf control. We see only 30 to 40 people in a day and so have time to chat and talk about the weather. Come in and enjoy the warmth and hospitality of the library in winter!
During the February school break, the Sherman Free Library offered a series of programs for children in grades 1-4. Two of the programs were on quilting, one focused on healthy snacks and one featured tips for drawing funny faces. We also hosted a program on “100 Years of Cartooning”.

The library will celebrate Women's History Month in March with a Women's History quiz with a prize for the person who answers all the questions correctly. On March 22, Jody Pino will present a program on preserving family history through scrap booking pictures.

We now have two book groups that meet regularly at times convenient for all interested adult readers. One group meets during the day and the other in the evening. Activities on tap for March include a series of noon hour programs. Topics planned to date include gardening, healthy eating, and energy saving tips.

-- Jackie Viestenz, Director

Storytelling Workshop
With Karen Glass Slated for March 19

Anyone who has heard Keene Valley Library Director Karen Glass tell a story knows how fortunate we are to have this talented lady as one of our own! That's why we are excited that Karen has offered to do a workshop for us, sharing her techniques for telling a good story!

Each one of us has stories we've wanted to tell, whether they were funny events from our lives we want to share with friends or a wonderful story we want to tell to a child. Join us on Monday, March 19th at CEF from 9 a.m. to noon to learn Karen's valuable tips to bring out your own inner storyteller in a supportive and encouraging environment! Registration is free for CEF member libraries and $10 for the public. Space is limited, so sign up quickly with Sue Cotter (ex.10) for this enjoyable morning. You won't be sorry you did!
— Kathie LaBombard, Youth Services Librarian

Meet our newest faces at the Paine Memorial Free Library Story Hour! Starting at the top left we’ve pictured Abe Staats, Blake Lobdell, Brandon Ure, Brenon Farney, Desiree Cassavaugh, George Staats, Joelle Steeves, Noah Jacques, and Stephen Leibeck.

The Children come to the library on Fridays to learn listening skills, ABC’s, counting, colors, shapes, nursery rhymes, and songs. The show and tell sessions are especially enjoyable. The children can be quite imaginative and at three years old can already create very colorful stories. After our time of learning we have time to listen to a great story and snack time. It’s an enjoyable time for everyone.

— Cheryl Blanchard, Director
Westport Library

There is a lot happening at the library these days! Check out our website for up to the minute news. It is maintained by our trustee Bill Daniels, who is a recently retired IT professional. Links to the NOVEL databases have been especially popular.

We are busy preparing for our 2007 Summer Book Sale which will be held June 29-July 1, with an opening night preview and guest appraiser. Book donations are currently being accepted during library hours.

Our volunteer group (VOWLS – Volunteers of the Westport Library) has been a tremendous help to the library. They were key to the barcoding project last year, and continue to shelf read, weed, accession and provide refreshments for our events.

Preschool/Extended Story Hour meets Wednesday mornings. We have a full group led by Bonnie Haberle. Each week features a thematic activity and story followed by a craft and snack.

The Westport Book Club meets the second Monday of each month, except July. March’s book is Isabel Allende’s The House of Spirits. All are welcome to attend; check out the website for further information and current month’s selections.

As with many of our libraries, winter is our quiet time. We have a chance to catch up, renovate, rejuvenate and plan for our next busy summer season. We are enjoying our fireplace, which serves to welcome patrons and guests alike.

-- Anne de la Chapelle, Director

Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library

As many of you already know, Wilmington’s E. M. Cooper Memorial Public Library suffered a major flood in our children’s area during July 2006. We lost quite a bit of furniture and many children’s books. There was also substantial damage to the walls and restroom. I am happy to say we are recovering very nicely mostly thanks to Mr. Howard Trumbull who has donated many hours of hard work and time to our library. He is currently fixing our basement and bathroom so we can re-open the children’s area. Mr. Trumbull is also setting up a new shelf/work station system which will replace the lost shelving from the flood and give us a new area for the books. This shelving is adjustable and our books will be placed higher off the floor to help prevent another large loss of books should the library ever flood again. Mr. Trumbull is always there when we need him and is truly our library angel!

I would also like to thank our Friends of the Library for their generous donation of an amazing new all-in-one copier, printer, scanner, fax machine to our library. They also donated money for our wireless router and several flat screen monitors. We are truly blessed to have our Friends to help us out.

A very big thank you also goes out to another library hero, Mr. Dan Gould. Mr. Gould has donated many hours of time to help fix and improve our computer network and has upgraded all of our computers and set up the wireless router for wireless Internet. Many patrons have requested wireless service and are very thankful that we have it. He also donated a computer so we now have five working computer stations.

At the end of 2006 our library held a writing contest for local young people. The essay was to be 150 words or more on "My Favorite Adirondack Animal." The winner of the contest was Bekah Ashley of Wilmington, who is pictured below. Bekah won a $50.00 cash prize for her essay about her experiences with beavers while kayaking during the summer. We had a total of eight essays, all of which were wonderful.

-- Joyce Pray, Director

Bekah Askey, winner of the
Wilmington Library's 2006 essay contest
In spite of winter’s late start, it is starting to seem a bit long. Everyone is looking forward to spring, which we expect to arrive around mid-May, as usual. While we are waiting, we are keeping busy with story hours and reading groups. We have also given tours of the library to our local Cub Scouts and youngsters from pre-school classes.

We recently hosted a very successful workshop on oral history and local history given by TAUNY. It was very well attended and the participants expressed interest in continuing and expanding the research into days gone by. Their enthusiasm will hopefully benefit the library archives.

Our display cases featured colorful and interesting tea cups and pots during the Christmas season. Just before the holiday we hosted a tea party for the community, complete with pretty cups and pots – and good cookies, of course. Currently we are displaying scherenschnitzel that is cleverly and artistically done by one of our patrons. It is amazing that she turned such tiny cuts into works of art. Our rotating art display is now featuring the wonderful photos of Barry Lobdell, which are always fun and interesting.

-- Goff Nelson Library, Tupper Lake

Saranac Lake Free Library

Our Centennial year has gotten off to an exciting start with a special event planned for each month. On January 18 an enthusiastic crowd of over ninety people attended “The Return of the Library Ghosts,” the kickoff event. Board members, volunteers and staff, in costume, depicted some of those who played an important role in the formation of the library. A slide show of photographs from the Adirondack Research Room, along with a newly framed copy of the 1907 charter, enhanced the event.

On February 10 twenty staff and volunteers appeared as the Library Marching Books in the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival Parade and performed to “Who Wrote the Book of Love.” They received first place trophies for Civic/Volunteer Group and Best Unit.

School children are invited to participate in Read Mountains of Books by reading 100 minutes a week until they have climbed all 46 high peaks, with a progress party in April and prizes awarded at the end.

Everyone is asked to stop at the library between March 5 to 9 for Centennial Sweets. Cookies, coffee and punch will be served throughout the week to celebrate the Centennial and to thank everyone for all they do for the library.

-- Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake Free Library Assistant
News from Patty Perez:

The student checks in:

Well, I can hardly believe that I am half way through my course of study for a Masters in Library Science. Last semester was difficult. I felt that I was climbing up the steepest part of the mountain. But now as I look out from the top, the view is clear and the end is in sight.

When I began this journey, I had no idea of what to expect. I worried regarding the relevance of the program to the actual work in the trenches. I must admit that working in a library while going to library school online has its advantages. Being able to apply the new concepts immediately definitely increased the significance of the course of study as well as provided an anchor for me to hold on to during this journey through cyberspace.

What amazed me most about studying online are the virtual relationships that I have developed. I have a favorite instructor from my first semester with whom I still keep in touch. This year I agreed to be the guest speaker for an online chat with her new students. It’s much less nerve racking being a guest speaker online than it is speaking live in front of a group, plus I don’t have to worry about what to wear.

I must admit that so far my education has been very worthwhile. I’m beginning to view the library world in a much broader context and I am feeling more confident about my skills. The courses have been challenging and the requirements are demanding, but I’m hanging in there and looking forward to December 2007 when I will write my final paper.

Best regards to all,
Patricia Perez, Director, Lake Placid Public Library

Wead Library, Malone

One definition of extreme optimism might be the expectation of locating a copy of a book for sale originally published 92 years ago by a less than mainstream publisher, and probably in a small number of copies. A.S.W Rosenbach bought a copy of “The Bay Psalm Book” in 1947 for one of his clients for $151,000. It was the first book printed in Massachusetts in 1640. While the former question is undoubtedly not in the same stadium or as rare as the first book printed in America, it is certainly of a type. We’ve had several recent inquiries demonstrating that a fair percentage of people believe that high school yearbooks are continually on the open market. There’s apparently no realization that yearbooks are produced for a very select market, and once the copies are distributed, there are no more.

We are now on our third year of “Horizon” usage, and have added about 6,700 patron records to that system. An interesting aspect is that the system proves what has been long believed - 25% of our registrants reside outside our service area. Of course, if they live, work, go to school, or own property in any of the three counties served by the CEF Library System they are entitled to use our services and facilities. We do have numerous Canadian visitors, too.

The Wead Library’s annual budget vote has been set for Tuesday April 24, from noon until 8 p.m. on the building’s main floor. The issues involve any change in the Library’s annual appropriation, plus the election of one trustee to fill the five year term which runs from July 1, 2007 until June 30, 2012. The current trustee, Mary Armstrong, has indicated her intention to run again. There will be an opportunity for any taxpayer to meet with the trustees Tuesday, April 17th when they’ll be in the Conference Room from 7 to 8 p.m. to discuss the library’s budget.

-- excerpted from Director David Minnich’s February 26 report
Free Competition for Library Software Companies

The companies that provide automation software for libraries may have to deal with increasing competition from free open source products over the next decade. Patty Perez of the Lake Placid Public Library reported that as part of a research paper for her Masters in Library Science, she investigated a library automation suite called “Koha” which is available as a free download to any library. It is used by over 100 libraries worldwide, including at least two in the U.S.

Patty was quick to point out in her paper that “free” in this case means “as free as a free kitten”. Those libraries that take advantage of the free software will need someone with “expertise to take care of the kitten.” Support can be done in-house by a technical guru or can be purchased from an independent support company. The equation may still work in a library’s favor, since commercial software also requires expensive support.

When, someday in the future, CEF libraries are back in the market for automation software, we will have to evaluate whether the features available in the open source software products such as Koha are adequate to our needs. If you are interested in the details of Patty’s research, ask to take a look at her paper, or visit the Koha website at www.koha.org.

-- Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian
Internet Best Bets

Check out the Best Free Reference Web Sites Combined Index, 1999-2006 but be prepared to settle in for a long session as the Index itself is quite addicting – you can’t visit just one entry! The site is an index of the web sites included in the 1999-2006 annual lists issued by the Mars Best of Free Reference Web Sites Committee of the Machine-Assisted Reference Section (MARS) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) of ALA to recognize “outstanding reference sites on the World Wide Web.” The site is browsable by title and includes links to annotations and to selection criteria. LII is listed. The Index can be found at: http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaourassoc/rusasections/mars/marspubs/MA...

We’ve included below a timely site from the Index, with a 2/13/2005 review, and are interested to hear about your favorite sites in the next issue of The Trailblazer.

The Official Academy Awards® Database
http://www.oscars.org/awardsdatabase/index.html
Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences
Reviewed: 13 February 2005

The Academy Awards® Database is a one-stop source of information about the Academy Awards. Intended for all users, the database contains a plethora of information from the first Academy Awards® in 1927/28 to the present. Users can search one of three search screens: Basic, Advanced and Statistical. The Basic screen allows searching by film title, nominee, over 40 award categories, song title, winners only, and award year. The results can be displayed in either chronological or alphabetical order. The Advanced screen allows Boolean searching and contains additional searchable fields. The currently updated award statistics page is organized by subject category. Before the current year’s Oscar® winners are announced, the web site provides a link to Oscar®.com where current year nominees in all categories are listed.

Patron Grant Program Continues Thanks to Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little

New York State Senator Elizabeth O’C. Little has just informed us that she will continue to provide funds to support her “Patron Grant Program” to each of the 53 libraries in the 45th Senate District. The Senator’s generosity will net libraries in the CEF System a total of $75,000, which is an allocation of $2,500 per library.

In her award letter to CEF System Director Ewa Jankowska, Senator Little wrote,

“Every community library wants to serve the special needs of their patrons. Receiving requests for children’s books, large print books, books on tape, the news titles in fiction, research materials and on-line services can be difficult for a small library to address. I am pleased to offer assistance with a grant for you to best survey our patrons young and old. The Patron Grant program is intended to provide additional support when budgets are tight. You may want to increase your collection, to establish or update technical on-line capabilities or introduce new programming that will be of interest to the community.”

Funds will be allocated through the State Education Department and will be implemented through the two library systems (Southern Adirondack and CEF) that serve the public libraries in Senator Little’s district.

Please be sure to thank Senator Little for your Patron Grant. We plan to check in with you to see how you plan to use the Senator’s largesse for an article in our summer issue.

CEF Bookmobile Gets Connected

Thanks to the combined efforts of Automation Librarian Betsy Brooks and bookmobile staff members Bob Welch and Deb Crossley, the bookmobile now provides full Internet connectivity at all 60 stops. Driver Bob Welch reports, “Deb is using Horizon now to check books in and do catalog searches for patrons. She can also tell them what they still have out at home. When Debbie checks a book in, the computer now lets her know if a book is on hold and for whom, among other things.”

All that is now required to boost the Bookmobile into a full-fledged 21st Century library is a clear view of the southern sky—snow banks permitting!
Gates Library Foundation to Bring More Computers to Libraries

More computers are coming our way! There are some hoops to jump through, as always, but we’ll be sure to let you know what they are as soon as we get all the details.

Some of you may remember the Gates Grant that began in late 1999. At that time, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation provided $7.7 million in computers, equipment and training to New York libraries. Libraries in our system received quite a few computers in 2000, along with software, networking and training.

Now, the foundation is returning to New York to give a boost to those libraries where it feels that public access computing is at risk. Libraries will qualify to receive funds based on the poverty level of their population (as determined by the foundation) and the age of their public computers.

Many of you attended the workshop last Spring with Mary Ann Stiefvater about using WebJunction and how rural libraries can best sustain their technology. Libraries that qualify for the new grant on the basis of poverty (we’ll let you know soon!) will need to use some of the resources on WebJunction to apply for the grant. There will be another workshop, probably in late March, to help you apply.

-- Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian

And the Winners Are…

In January each year the American Library Association gives out their awards for the best book for children (the Newbery), the best illustrations for a children’s book (the Caldecott), the best informational book for children – non-fiction (the Robert Silbert Award) and the best book for young adults (the Michael Printz Award). Here are the 2007 winners—drum roll, please!

Newbery Award: 
*The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron
This trip to Hard Pan, California (population 43) is where we meet ten-year-old Lucky Trimble and her guardian Brigitte. Quirky characters, a sense of survival and a series of adventure make Lucky someone you will want to meet.

Honor Books:
*Penny From Heaven* by Jennifer L. Holm
*Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson
*Rules* by Cynthia Lord

Caldecott Award: 
*Flotsam* by David Weisner
Finding an old camera on a beach leads a boy to fantastic images from beneath the sea. Weisner has also won for *Tuesday* in 1992 and for *The Three Little Pigs* in 2002.

Honor Books:
*Gone Wild: An Endangered Alphabet* illustrated by David Mc Limans
*Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom* illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Carole Weatherford

Silbert Award: 
*Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon* by Catherine Thimmesh

Honor Books:
*Freedom Riders: John Lewis & Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement* by Ann Bausum
*Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea* by Sy Montgomery
*To Dance: A Ballerina’s Graphic Novel* by Siena Siegel

Michael Printz Award: 
*American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Young
Three apparently unrelated tales come together in an unexpected twist in this graphic novel. The stories are hilarious and action-packed.

Honor Books:
*An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green
*The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing* by M.T. Anderson
*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
*Surrender* by Sonya Hartnett

— Kathie LaBombard, Youth Services Librarian
TechAtlas and WebJunction: 

Online library resources you won’t want to live without!

Mary Ann and Andrea Stiefvater are returning to Plattsburgh to teach two half-day sessions at CEF on Friday, March 30. All library directors are welcome, and those hoping to receive computers from the Gates Foundation are especially encouraged to attend.

This workshop is part of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Rural Library Sustainability project. The focus of this hands-on workshop will be the specific skills needed for utilizing TechAtlas and WebJunction to enhance library technology services, especially those affecting public access computing.

Workshop participants will explore new WebJunction features and learn how to use a variety of TechAtlas utilities, reports and planning tools. A large part of this workshop will focus on the parts of TechAtlas that allow library staff to quickly inventory library computers, print out an inventory spreadsheet and create a report that utilizes a standard benchmark to indicate machines that should be upgraded. Not only will these tools save many hours of staff time, they will also be helpful for the new U.S. Libraries Initiative from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which requires use of TechAtlas to inventory and evaluate existing hardware and the use of WebJunction.

The audience for these half day workshops is library system personnel and the staff of public libraries. A schedule and registration information for these workshops is available at: http://host.evanced.info/nys_rls/evanced/eventcalendar.asp

-- Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian

What is That Old Book Worth?
Some Internet Searching Tips

By Stan Ransom

Old books turn up from time to time as gifts, donations to libraries, or queries from patrons. What is that old book worth? Here are a few tips to assist the librarian or patron who wants to know more.

The standard book sources are still good. American Book Prices Current (no longer being published, but usually available in larger libraries) lists books which have sold for more than $50.00 at auction. A separate section of each book lists the values of autographs. McGrath’s Bookman’s Price Index lists more books, and books which are valued at only a few dollars, and there is a long series of them. Mandeville’s Used Book Price Guide is also useful for identification of valuable books, but because it was published in the 1970’s, it does not reflect current values. These can be found in the Plattsburgh Public Library and in the public and college libraries of larger cities.

On the Internet there are three main sources of book values:

Advanced Book Exchange: www.abebooks.com offers a template to guide you. Click on Search. Type in the author’s name last name first, then comma and first name. Sometimes you can tab to the next blank, or else point and click on the space. Type in the title, then click on Start Search. You may get a listing of fifteen entries at a time, each with some descriptive details and a price, which can vary widely depending on the date of publication, condition of the book, whether there is a dust jacket, or whether there are special features such as the author’s signature or inscriptions. You may take a sampling of these to compare with the book you have in hand.

BiblioFind: www.bibliofind.com gives you the same setup. Type in author, title, and publisher or other information if known. Click on Search, and compare the results with your book.

Alibris: www.alibris.com is another great source of old books and information. Look up the book you have by typing in the author’s name and the title of the book, and click on Search as above. Be careful to note the presence or absence of key features in the books you find, such as date, edition, condition and special features.

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As always, condition is most important. Check with the guides published in Antiquarian Bookman issues each week if you are unfamiliar with the definition of Fair, Good, Very Good or Fine or Mint. Salability depends on condition of the book more than almost any other feature. The following standards are taken from the May 3, 1999 issue of AB Bookman’s Weekly, page 985:

- **As New** is to be used only when the book is in the same immaculate condition in which it was published. There can be no defects, no missing pages, no library stamps, etc. and the dust jacket, if it was issued with one, must be perfect without any tears. **As New** is preferable to the alternative term, Mint.
- **Fine** approaches the condition of As New, but without being crisp. There must also be no defects, and if the jacket has a small tear, or looks worn, this should be noted.
- **Very Good** can describe a used book that does show some small signs of wear, but no tears on either binding or paper. Any defects must be noted.
- **Good** describes the average used and worn book that has all pages or leaves present. Any defects must be noted.
- **Fair** is a worn book that has complete text pages, including those with maps or plates but may lack endpapers, half-title, etc., which must be noted. Binding, jacket, if any, etc. may also be worn. All defects must be noted.

(Bibles: Old Bibles abound, since almost every family had one. They are generally not of great value unless published earlier than 1800 or of some special type, such as in a Native American or other language.

(Stanley Ransom is the former director of the CEF Library System and a local expert on old books).

_Last Word:_

"Happiness is a warm librarian".

— Steve Howie
Come hail or high banks, we deliver on time! The bookmobile was dwarfed by snow banks at the Windbrook Hills stop after the St. Valentine’s Day storm. — Bob Welch, Photo