Maximizing Community Information and Resources

Get a Behind the Scenes Look at Your Neighbor’s Place!

The Feinberg Library of Plattsburgh State Library will host a tour and lunch on Friday, October 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The tour will include a look at the library’s general collection of 300,000 volumes as well as special collections which contain information with particular emphasis on northern New York counties in a variety of formats. Feinberg’s extensive Reference Room, which houses more than 10,000 volumes, will also be a stop on the tour.

The Feinberg Library tour is the first in a series of library tours and lunches that are funded by a Maximizing Community Resources grant from the State University of New York. The premise of this project is that “the more we know about each others’ libraries and resources, the better we’ll serve our patrons with recommendations and referrals”. The project is also funding development of an online web data base that will allow us to search for a local source of information our individual libraries may not have. While the online database will take time to develop, a “human network” is being strengthened now.

To register for the Feinburg Library tour and lunch, RSVP to Holly Heller-Ross at (518) 564-5192 by Saturday, October 10.

Stay tuned for forthcoming details about the CEF/Plattsburgh Public Library Tour and lunch which will be held on Monday, December 6.

A complete workshop brochure can be found on our web site at www.cefls.org.
Feature Library: A Visit to the Keene Valley Library - 
A Cozy and Busy Neighborhood Center!

Keene Valley Library is a community library staffed by a part time director and a part time clerk. We are centrally located on Main Street, an easy walk from Keene Central School and from the Neighborhood House, an elder care facility. People often get a coffee at the local coffee shop across the street and drink it while reading our magazines and newspapers. This is our own version of Borders! Two patrons who enjoy the atmosphere of the library even held their wedding reception in our reading room. The library treasured the opportunity to host a wonderful grace filled party.

The library was created in 1885 when it was recognized that a collection of reading materials would benefit the community and its visitors. From the initial gift of $200.00, a nucleus of 167 volumes for adults and children was assembled. Today that number has grown to almost 20,000 items. An Association was organized in November of 1891 to promote the growth of the Library and secure housing for it. This was achieved with the completion of the present building in 1896, the result of a gift from Miss Sarah R. Dunham and community fund raising efforts. The Regents of the State of New York granted the Library its permanent charter in 1899. Today, almost 85% of our operating budget comes from donor gifts. An annual appeal letter is sent to patrons and friends each October requesting financial support. Other funds come from interest on an endowment, and the proceeds from a large annual book sale, as well contributions from the town and school.

We are currently involved in two renovation projects. A large part of the roof is covered in moss and developing leaks. We hope to put on a new roof in early spring. We are also hoping to make the walkway and ramp entrance safer and more accessible by putting in a new ramp and sidewalk this fall. There are always repair issues with an old building so there is a long list of projects and needs.

In general the library is active and lively. This year we have had many patrons bring in their own computers and use our wireless network to go online. Both seasonal and local residents enjoy the library and support it financially and with volunteer help. Patron volunteers help to send out the annual appeal letter, cover books, read shelves, set up displays and offer programs. Students come in and help sort magazines and newspapers and carry books for the book sale. One volunteer even organizes the yearly book sales and another resident from the neighborhood house collects our mail each day. We are a small library but there is much more work than our staff can do.

Automation has not changed the character of the library but it has made the work more efficient. Though it has been a labor intensive preparation, people are pleased with the (Continued on page 3)
result. Patrons enjoy being able to search the on-line catalog easily, request books, and renew them on line. Though a few people rue the advent of technology in a small town library, they appreciate the speed of getting books processed and the ability to have books easily available from other libraries.

Programs contribute to the active library atmosphere in the library. The weekly summer lecture series features artists, photographers, authors, poets, scientists and historians. Lectures are scheduled also during the year on a random schedule. Coming in November is a lecture on Inez Mulholland by Linda Lumsdon, author of her new biography. In addition to lectures, we are offering several children's programs. There is an adult / middle school book group that meets to discuss some of the books assigned in English classes and a Primary grade book group for parents and students in the younger grades. An intergenerational craft and stories group meets one Friday a month. The library also hosts a meditation group on Thursday mornings before the library opens.

There are several special collections in the library. John Case, a former resident of the valley, donated the core of our Alpine collection to the library. A special room was built to house the collection. Many books have been added over the years. Books on climbing, maps, and Alpine journals are also included in the collection. Many books circulate and all are available for research during library hours.

Many artists also live and have lived in the area so the library maintains an extensive collection of art books. Because we are a community of seasonal residents and local residents who travel between work homes and vacation homes, we have developed a large collection of audio books. And currently, with the help of two grants we are enlarging and updating our juvenile non-fiction collection. We are the school library for the elementary grades. Each day students walk or ride to the library for classes and grace our halls with their lively presence. Our shelves and display area are gallery space for their art projects during the year. One class even painted the restroom with book shelves and birds!

We send out a newsletter about four times a year and maintain a calendar on our web site at www.kvvi.net/~library. You are invited to check us out on the web site or, better yet, visit us in person – we can promise a hot cup of coffee and some great fall foliage!

-- Karen Glass, Director

Pictures by Ron Brunelle and Calvin Mitchell

CEF Independent Consultant Beth Nolland shared a story with inmates and their families at Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility’s Family Festival in July. Each child proudly received a book to keep, inscribed with a book plate that states "I Read this book with my Dad". Our very special thanks go to Mr. George Oakes, Volunteer Service Coordinator at Lyon Mountain for going the extra mile to obtain permission from New York State DOCS to allow us to share these great pictures.
Get Serious About
Protecting Your PC

I sometimes hesitate to tell people all the things they should do to protect their PCs. It’s really more work than anyone should have to do! Unfortunately, we’re in for even more trouble and expense if we don’t take precautions.

My favorite computer columnist, Walter Mossberg of the *Wall Street Journal*, recently condemned Microsoft for failing to protect us from “an international criminal class of virus writers, hackers, digital vandals and sleazy businesspeople” who wake up everyday “planning to attack your PC.” Below is what he recommended that we do. I haven’t done all of them, but I’m working on it. Numbers 2, 6, and 7 are the most important, if you need to start somewhere.

1. Have a software firewall. Zonealarm, a free product from [www.zonelabs.com](http://www.zonelabs.com), works well.
2. Have strong antivirus software with up-to-date virus definitions. Norton Antivirus is the best. It costs about $50 with a year’s worth of updates. After that the subscription needs to be renewed for about $20 a year.
3. Have antispyware software. This detects and removes unwanted programs from your computer. Mossberg recommends Spy Sweeper, a $30 program from [www.webroot.com](http://www.webroot.com). There are some free alternatives, such as AdAware from [www.lavasoftusa.com](http://www.lavasoftusa.com) and Spybot Search and Destroy, from [www.safer-networking.org](http://www.safer-networking.org).
4. Have spam filtering software. Mossberg recommends MailFrontier Desktop, a $30 program from [www.mailfrontier.com](http://www.mailfrontier.com). Some Internet service providers offer this for a monthly charge.
5. If you use Microsoft Internet Explorer, change to a different browser software. Mozilla Firefox is recommended, and is free from [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com).
6. Never download software from the web unless you know what it is and that you really want and need it. If a web site you want to view needs a special plug-in, you’re better off getting the plug-in from the company that created it – for example, go to the Macromedia website to download the Macromedia Flash plug-in.
7. Stay up-to-date with Windows Updates. Microsoft recently released Service Pack 2, a large update that improves the security of Windows XP somewhat. You may be able to get Windows Updates automatically, but if you are not sure, go to the [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) website and look on the left hand side for the link “Windows Update.”

If you want to see the whole article, which was in the September 16 edition of *WJF*, let me know and I’ll send you a copy.

-- Betty Brooks, Automation Consultant, CEF
MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

In Clinton County:

Dannemora Free Library

Hello all. My name is Niki Kouroskfy, and I’m the (somewhat) new director at the Dannemora Free Library. I’m also a recent re-transplant to the area, having moved back from North Carolina in the dead of winter. Needless to say, my husband (whose idea it was to move) should count himself lucky that he wasn’t dumped into a snow bank during those first long, cold months.

After thawing out, I started here at the Dannemora Library in June. With no library experience (my background is in writing), and therefore not an ounce of fear, I dove right into a summer reading program. I was promptly overrun with little ones as I juggled story hours and book logs. It was wonderful to see how excited they all were to be at the library. And what other audience would let me torture them with my singing?

I’ve really enjoyed creating new ways to connect with our community. I’m especially proud of the memoir writing workshop we held in August with the help of Poets & Writers, Inc. The workshop brought together a diverse group of community members and encouraged them to share their life stories.

I’m sure the warm welcome I’ve found here at Dannemora will get me through the coming winter. Perhaps my husband will live to see another year.

-- Niki Kouroskfy, Director

Mooers Free Library

The Mooers library has a set of spiffy (and safe) new steps, and they look super! Our summer reading program will run through September 25th in order to make sure that all of our activities are completed.

I believe that the library is getting more use since our town Bicentennial, which was celebrated this summer. Many parents, and children too, are coming in to borrow local history books.

Our Labor Day book sale went well, thanks to the help of the Boy Scouts. We are planning to hold a Halloween story hour for pre-schoolers later this fall.

-- Edie Morelock, Director

(Continued on page 6)

A Cornucopia of New Professional Reading

Our basket runneth over with plenty of new professional titles. Here are a few recent additions to the CEF professional collection, all of which are available through interlibrary loan.


Herring, Mark Y., Raising Funds With Friends Groups (2004): Information on getting a friends group started, marketing your library, advocacy groups, friends’ events and a “Friends Group Starter Kit.”

Reed, Sally Gardner, Making the Case For Your Library (2001): Information on public relations, fund raising and finance, including how to run a “continuous fund-raising campaign.”

Song, Yuywu, Building Better Web Sites (2003): Written for libraries, this book begins with some basic information on HTML and how to use it with your web site then moves on through 3D creation.

-- Elizabeth Rogers, CEF

May We Also Recommend:

http://ask.census.gov

Browse and search through hundreds of questions and answers about population, demographics, and more. Sample topics include housing, education, employment and health.
Encore!

You asked for it, so here it is! Stanley Ransom’s rendition of *The Bookmobile Song* was one of the many hits of this year’s annual luncheon meeting. CEF System friends old and new, trustees, and staff, past and present, gathered on July 14 at the Valcour Conference Center to celebrate 50 years of memories and library service. We noticed that many toes were tapping, (and no one was napping) thanks to Stan’s lively tune which is reproduced with his kind permission below.

**THE CEF BOOKMOBILE SONG**

Tune: “In My Merry Oldsmobile”

Stan Ransom

In our bright red Bookmobile,
Through the mountains we will wheel
We will bring you books to read
And information you may need
We are always on the go
Through the heat and cold and snow
In your Clinton, Essex and Franklin
Library System Bookmobile.

We have lots of books for you
Magazines and patterns too!
Books for folks of every size
And for those with tired eyes.
To fulfill your needs out there
Rest assured we really care
In the Clinton, Essex and Franklin
Library System Bookmobile.

At each stop we thrill to see
People waiting patiently,
So we try our very best
To fill every last request
Each week throughout the year
You can come from far and near
To the Clinton, Essex and Franklin
Library System Bookmobile!

(Continued from page 5)

**Plattsburgh Public Library**

PPL had a very successful Summer Reading Program. Every Wednesday for six weeks the library hosted a performance that ranged from magicians to storytellers. We averaged over 100 children and parents at each event. Of the 175 children that signed up, 101 completed the program. Sixty five children read 5 books or more for a total read of 1,244 books. The final party was with the Zucchini Brothers (SUNY Plattsburgh gradsl) with Mayor Dan Stewart handing out the certificates.

This Fall the Library continues its planning process with a series of focus groups to be held around the community. PPL is following the PLA model for planning for public libraries. Consultant Marianne Kotch of the Vermont Department of Libraries has been hired as a consultant to lead the library through the process.

--- Sonia Long, Director

**Dodge Library, West Chazy**

We have had a busy summer at Dodge Library. Our summer reading program was a success, with two separate groups doing activities. We had a very regular group of 3-8 year olds, who came on Thursday mornings for a story followed by a craft. One of the mothers very generously offered to do a bead project for the last morning. The children had great fun making a snake, a gecko, or a necklace, depending on their interest or ability. The older group was ages 9-12. Each week we had a speaker which related to the red, white and blue statewide summer reading program theme. We hosted a variety of interesting programs that followed this theme, including a Whiteface ski patrol who discussed winter emergency first aid. His daughter came along and talked about competitive skiing. A school band director brought his trombone to the library and talked with us about the history of jazz. The local Sea Scout scoutmaster created a Jeopardy-like game for the kids that featured information about Lake Champlain, sailing, and water safety. We had red week with wings and pizza and finished up with red and white cookies washed down with blue punch. I was so thrilled to learn that one of our little ones was a winner of a set of Scholastic books. He is a very regular library patron, so it was a real treat to hand those over to him.

As the leaves change color and the days get shorter, patrons are starting to do more reading and to that end, our book group will start its second season in early October. Last year we had a small, but loyal group of ladies who read several books with local roots. We topped off the year with a trip to the Wilder Homestead in Burke. I am also planning a fall book sale in October, as I re-arranged the li-
(Continued from page 6)

I have also had some mothers express an interest in a story time on Thursday mornings this fall and winter, so that is also in the works. Happy reading to all! I have been engrossed in the Vince Flynn books lately. Don't you love to discover a "new" author?

-- Cindy Pylack, Director Dodge Library, West Chazy

**In Essex County:**

**Sherman Free Library, Port Henry**

We had a successful summer reading program with 10-15 children and their parents participating in the five week program. Summer news also includes the arrival of a tree that was recently donated to the library to replace one that we had to cut down. The tree is an Amur Maple and will be colorful in the fall. Recently we sent out an appeal letter to the community and it has been well received.

The book group will resume meeting in September with a discussion of "The Bonesetter's Daughter" by Amy Tan.

Upcoming events for fall include a display of the information we have on the local mining activities to correspond with Archives Week from October 12-16. On Thursday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. we will show a video of Pat Farrell narrating slides about the mines. On Thursday, November 11 retired CEF director (and Connecticut Peddler) Stan Ransom will bring his story-telling and songs to the library. He'll be telling stories of the region and beyond.

-- Jackie Vistenz, Director

**Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga**

Here at the Black Watch Library, we have been extremely busy with our annual influx of summer residents. There were 8,142 patron visits during June, July and August. Sandra Weber and Peggy Lynn presented a program on "Women of the Adirondacks." We were very pleased with the attendance at this event. We also offered a six week long children's program this summer. Kerry Finnland, our elementary school art teacher, presented a story and craft hour for children ages pre-K through second grade. She did a wonderful job and we had many happy children.

We are automating! No-one told us what a huge undertaking this is! We will be delighted when we are done, but we do have more to accomplish before we are finished. All in all, a busy summer!

-- Maureen John; Director, Black Watch Memorial Library

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**We Vote For the Best Election Web Site**

Probably the best web site for information on the 2004 presidential election is one that’s put together by librarians and is a consolidation of a large number of sites and information. From the Librarians’ Index to the Internet comes http://ili.org/search/file/elections2004/ which includes information on absentee ballots, eligibility and rules governing them; candidate biographies and positions on issues; texts of speeches; specific information on campaigns; information on polling places; finance issues; historical resources; statistics and much, much more — everything is here except the outcome.

-- Elizabeth Rogers, CEF

**Teen Read Week:**

“**It's Alive! @ Your Library**”

Don't forget to celebrate Teen Read Week from October 17-23 at your library. This national literacy initiative of ALA’s Young Adult Services Association is aimed at teens, their parents, librarians, and educators. The continuing message of this annual event is “to encourage 12-18 year olds to ‘Read for the Fun of It’.

This year’s theme, “It’s Alive @ Your Library”, celebrates the popularity of the horror genre with young adult readers. Check out the ALA web site at www.ala.org for more background on this celebratory week. You'll find a special section full of program ideas, links and articles that first time TRW observers and old hands will find really useful.

(excerpted from the ALA web site, www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading)
New York State Library Assistants' Association Certificate of Achievement Program

The New York State Library Assistants' Association has a program known as the Certificate of Achievement Program, called CAP for short. This is a voluntary program designed to recognize the contributions to libraries and the library profession by library assistants. Many people are confused by the term “library assistant.” Our program defines a library assistant as a library worker who does not hold a position as a librarian.

CAP has four levels of achievement, each requiring a minimum number of points earned in different areas of service. Points are earned through education, experience and other areas, such as workshops, presentations, publications, and committee membership. There are several areas of specialization you can choose from, including: Administration/Management, Public Services, Technical Services, Automation, and General. To date, we have awarded 86 certificates.

If anyone is interested in starting the process or having a workshop, please feel free to e-mail any one of the board members:

Sandra Griffin, CAP Review Board Coordinator: griffins@clarkson.edu

Tracey LaBarge: tlabarge@cefls.org

Michele Prendergast: prendm@rpi.edu

--- Tracey LaBarge, Principal Library Clerk, CEF

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Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

The Wells Memorial Library had a busy summer. Our handicapped access upgrade, minus landscaping, was completed in early summer. We added a composite decking and hand rails to our existing sloped walkway. The landscaping portion of our exterior upgrade will be a project for next year.

In July we held our annual “Books, Antiques, Food, and Things” sale which was very successful despite rather inclement weather. We are already working on next year’s sale.

We are in the process of weeding extensively as we get ready for automation. There will be an ongoing book sale throughout the fall, winter, and spring. "New" books will be constantly replacing those sold.

Beginning in October, Kathy Recchia will once again lead a theater group for children. Last year's production was a lot of fun and was enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to this year's play.

We are beginning our annual fund drive which will coincide with the fall edition of our library newsletter, due out in a few weeks. It is a busy time of year for us.

--- Sylvia Norton, President of the Board of Trustees

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

The Paine Memorial Library had a wonderfully busy summer. This could have been due to an unusually rainy season, or due to the eight excellent Art Exhibitors that showed in the library. Regardless, it was a delightful summer filled with much activity and lots and lots of reading!

Some of our activities included our 8th Annual Ellie Campbell Golf Scramble. This was held throughout two days this year because of rain. Thanks to everyone who played, it was very successful. Our 22nd Annual Folk Craft Fair was also a great success again this year. We had exactly 100 crafters registered this year. Governor Pataki and his wife showed up at this event and did their part in supporting vendors! I would also like to thank the Friends of the Library for generating quite a bit of revenue from their three used book sales. This income will be used to purchase new books. THANKS!

Our town wide summer reading program increased reading time for the children from half an hour a day to a full hour each day. Hopefully this reading time maintained or improved all sixty children's reading skills. This should help them this year in school.

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Northern New York Library Network Library Assistants’ Committee

The Northern New York Library Network has a Library Assistants’ Committee. We are scheduled to meet again on October 7, 2004. Our purpose is to provide opportunities for education and staff development, as well as to try to address the issues and concerns of library assistants in our region. Dayna Cole, from SUNY Potsdam, and I are co-chairs of this committee and would like to hear from you if you have any ideas for future workshop or conference topics. Please feel free to contact either of us at:

Tracey LaBarge – tlabarge@cefls.org
Dayna Cole – coledh@potsdam.edu

We are in the process of compiling a survey, which will be sent to all library assistants in our area. With the help of the NNYLN, we hope to have this completed for distribution in October. Please complete the survey and return it as soon as possible. Remember, we can only address topics that we know about.

-- Tracey LaBarge, Co-Chair
NNYLN Library Assistants’ Committee

Borders Benefit a Boon for Bookmobile

Borders Benefit Days has netted $128.92 for CEF’s new bookmobile fund. This represents approximately $900 in sales over the three day event, which ran during the weekend of August 27-29. Borders donated 15% of merchandise purchased by supporters bearing an orange certificate that distinguished them as “friends of the bookmobile”. Many thanks are due to Borders and to our loyal readers!
Web Wanderings

There are always some great web sites to be found. Here are just a few:

Road Trip USA
http://www.roadtripusa.com
This site provides route numbers or names of driving tours along more than 30,000 miles of mile-by-mile descriptions on clickable maps. It also includes roadside oddities, local history, related links and a bibliography. Recommended visiting for the armchair traveler as well as a practical trip planner.

AutoZone
http://www.autozone.com
This site is a good and free pit stop for online access to some repair manuals, including electrical diagrams, for many makes and models of automobiles.

Nationwide Gravesite Locator
http://www.gravelocator.com/va.gov/
The online database from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, contains more than three million records of veterans and dependents buried in the VA’s 120 cemeteries since the Civil War, some state veteran’s cemeteries, and burials in Arlington National Cemetery from 1999 to the present.

Poets.org http://www.poets.org
This site from The Academy of American Poets includes information on poets and poetry, and includes an index of major poetry publishers, periodicals and distributors, and major awards. One nice feature is an audio option, for those who prefer to hear poetry read to them.

J.K. Rowling http://jkrowling.com
Harry Potter fans will be drawn like moths to a flame to the official J.K. Rowling site. This site is the author’s “place to communicate directly with Harry Potter fans.” It includes news, rumors, biography, fan sites, and links.

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“There’s Never Enough Space”

On September 17, I attended a NNYLN workshop on “Redesigning Library Space”, presented by architect James Lothrop. Dealing with a number of basic, practical issues, Lothrop covered some of the topics we hear from our member libraries on a regular basis—how to best use the space in the library, how to justify a renovation project, how to organize a renovation project, and how to determine what size is an adequate size for a library. Lothrop stressed the notion that, in a library “using what the building was set up for in the past makes the library inefficient.” If you are merely making do with what is in your building, you are losing ground.

You must first look at your library objectively, from a statistical perspective to find out how it is used. It will be helpful to compare it to other CEF libraries and with national statistics. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) at http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/libraries/SiteMap.asp offers a wealth of information on libraries, as does your annual report, which can be compared to reports of other New York public libraries at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/lns/biblnct.html. These sites will help you determine whether the space you have is adequate and will help you plan changes you might wish to make within your building.

It’s important to determine how many people are actually using the library (your service population) and the NCES site will help you with this. There are specific formulae that guide the amount of shelf space a library should have to adequately serve its service population, factoring in future growth. I will be happy to share this information with anyone who is interested. For a quick snapshot formula, Lothrop recommends using one square foot of shelving per capita for libraries serving a service population up to 20,000, with a slightly smaller area per capita as the population increases.

The Connecticut State Library maintains a web site with excellent information offering guidance in determining how big your library should be at http://www.cslib.org. Click on “Services to Libraries,” then “CT.WebJunction.org,” then the “Services to Libraries” button. Within “Services to Libraries” is listed Library Buildings & Construction in CT and here you will find a Library Space Planning Guide and Worksheet. These are really great they can help you determine how much space you need and how many volumes you should have, based on national averages. Both of these figures can be crucial in your requests for increases in funding each year. If you need help working with these two forms, please don’t hesitate to call.

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Local Library Advocacy Efforts Earn an A+

On Thursday, September 16, over 100 library supporters from around the region gathered at Clarkson University in Canton. Commissioner Richard Mills spoke about what advocates can do to support libraries in New York state. Our local representatives and supporters look forward to acting on Commissioner Mills’ informative and inspirational talk.

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Making wine at home
http://wineserver.ucdavis.edu/WineGrape/Homewine/ Budding wine makers and connoisseurs of wine will appreciate this site from the University of California, which contains instructions for making red and white wines, as well as information about grapes, analysis of juice and wine, quality and a bibliography.

Lyme Disease
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvdbib/lyme/
This site is the place to go for basic information about Lyme Disease from the Centers for Disease Control. It provides a handy reference for facts such as how it’s spread, geographical distribution, life cycle of ticks, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

West Nile Virus
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvdbid/westnile/
The Centers for Disease Control presents this online fact sheet of basic information on West Nile Virus, including prevention, statistics, transmission, how to report dead birds, and links to related sites.

New York State Performers & Programs Database

Do you find it a constant challenge to find local presenters who will provide an appropriate library program at a reasonable cost? Help is here! The New York State Performers & Programs Database has recently been created to “bring together a substantial amount of performer and programming related information which will support libraries’ efforts to promote summer reading as well as literacy development in young children throughout the year. A key feature of the database is the ability to locate descriptions and contact information about program presenters by region. You can put the database through its paces at http://performersandprograms.com. CEF Children’s Consultant Kathie LaBombard is the regional coordinator of this statewide collaborative effort. Feel free to contact Kathie at labombard@cefls.org with your comments or for more information.
Fast, Fun, Friendly and Flexible—Try a Miles Don’t Matter CD Tutorial

If you attended a regional training session during September, you probably had the opportunity to try our newest experiment in training. The project was the result of a successful LSTA grant application, and all CEF libraries will be receiving a notebook containing two CD-ROMs that can be played on library or home computers.

We need evaluations by mid-October, so please give the CDs a spin and ask your fellow staff, volunteers and board members to follow suit, either by themselves or in small groups. In the notebook you’ll find evaluation forms that can be copied and turned in to CEF for incentive awards, including cash, books, DVDs, audio books, computer check-ups and public training sessions.

The idea behind the computer-based training is not to replace live training. We hope this method will supplement the regional and centralized training sessions that CEF and NNYLN offer. Some reasons to use computer-based training might be:

- When you can’t travel due to time, weather or financial constraints
- When you want to review what you learned in a live training session
- When you want another person in your library to have the opportunity for training, or when someone new joins the library staff or board.

Will you like it? Will you hate it? Can we improve it? We want to know! Don’t miss out on the free stuff—pass in your evaluations to Betsy Brooks by October 15.

This project was supported by Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Betsy Brooks, CEF

New York is Read, White & Blue 2004 Summer Reading Program is a Resounding Success!

This year’s New York State Summer Reading Program was a big hit with children and teens in the CEF System area! Twenty member libraries and the bookmobile worked hard to give over 1,000 participants a fun summer of reading. Our libraries saw their collective circulation rise by over 6,000 books and readers logged almost 2,000 hours of reading time during the months of July and August. In addition, our libraries presented 422 programs for their communities which were attended by 5,111 children and adults.

CEF was fortunate to provide be able to fund, thanks to the Statewide Summer Reading Program grant, a special program for nine libraries and bookmobile patrons at the Gabriels stop. Readers young and old enjoyed “Juggling the Books”, a lively, magical performance by Stephen Gratier. Also, thanks to the Statewide Summer Reading Program, one library in each county won a collection of books from Scholastic publishers for their library. The winners were: Clinton County: Plattsburgh Public Library, Essex County: Ausable Forks Free Library, and Franklin County: Weed Library, Malone. Scholastic provides books for a drawing for winners of book collections in each county from the children that participate each summer. This year’s winners were:

Clinton County:
James Ashley – Dodge Library, West Chazy
Blake Altizer – Peru Free Library
Jeff Bult – Peru Free Library

Essex County:
Ashton Barlow – Saranac Lake Free Library
Wayne Worrell – Keeseville Free Library
Samantha Ahrens – Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

Franklin County:
Conor Walroth – Bookmobile
Alexander Strahl – Bookmobile
Stephen Collette – Weed Library, Malone

Congratulations to all our winners and to all the libraries for a very active and fun summer! I hope everyone will look forward to Summer, 2005 and “Tune In At Your Library.”

-- Kathie LaBombard, Youth Services Consultant
New York State
Library Assistants’ Conference 2004

The New York State Library Assistants’ Conference was held June 9-11, 2004 in Rochester. Attending from the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System were Tracey LaBarge, Principal Library Clerk, and Kim Fletcher, Library Clerk. A wide variety of workshops and tours were available.

Two distinguished awards were presented this year. CEF Director Mary Brown, was the recipient of the Ray Murray Award. This award honors Ray Murray, a librarian who opened the door for the creation of the annual Library Assistants’ Conference. The award is given to librarians, library directors, trustees, Board members and others who have contributed to the recognition and/or professional growth of library assistants. Tracey LaBarge earned her Level 4 Certificate of Achievement, which is the highest level an individual can achieve. The NYSLLA Assistant Certificate Program recognizes the contributions to libraries and the library profession. Congratulations to both Mary and Tracey for receiving these awards.

Next year’s NYSLLA conference will be held at the Ramada Inn in Geneva, and is hosted by the Pioneer Library System. If you are interested in more information about the conference or NYSLLA, please visit the web site at www.nyslla.org.

-- Kim Fletcher, Library Clerk
Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library

From the Blue Ridge Highway to the St. Lawrence Waters

(this book was read by you and me)

Did you know that our System spans a region that is 4,468 square miles in area? Retired CEF Director and Connecticut native Stanley Ransom is fond of saying that it is the size of his home state. We’ve asked libraries holding the fort on the far flung borders of our service area to tell us what is hot with the locals right now. The bookmobile, which logs over 20,000 miles a year, is included as well so we can see what our most “geographically isolated” residents are reading. Here goes:

On our southern frontier, Jane Bouchard in Schroon Lake checked in with:

The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith
House of Bush House of Saud by Craig Unger
Standing in the Rainbow by Fannie Flagg
My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult

From the Champlain Memorial Library on the New York—Quebec border, Alison Mandeville contributed:

The Secret Life of Bees by Susan Monk Kidd
Islands by Anne Rivers Siddons
The Paid Companion by Amanda Quick
Blowout by Catherine Coulter
The Secret Life of Edgar Mint by Brady Udall

Debbie Crossley reported these top picks by bookmobile patrons at 60 stops:

The Amateur Marriage by Anne Tyler
The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
Sam’s Letter to Jennifer by James Patterson
Anything carried by a new bookmobile!

Carol White from the Akwesasne Library on our northwestern border checked in with favorite authors Danielle Steele, James Patterson, Tim LaHaye, and Dave Pelzer. Audio books also continue to be very popular.
The Wead Library’s “Read, White, and Blue” summer reading program ended August 4 with a bang of a patriotic party! About 100 children attended the program each Wednesday morning. There were stories, treasure hunts, crafts, and a terrific juggling performance by Steve Gratto on July 14. It was a great summer of reading! These children are lined up, waiting for the library doors to open — every librarian’s dream!