CEF Director Mary Brown Sets Sail for Greener Pastures!

We might have mixed our metaphors, but there is no mixed message—Mary Brown is “outa here!” CEF Director Mary Brown has announced her April 30 retirement after eight years at the helm of CEF. When asked what she is “retiring to”, Mary replied that she plans to head to her camp on Kiawasa Outlet in Saranac Lake, where she says that visitors are always welcome. Mary does plan to stay in touch with the CEF family, and warns that “you will know me by my interlibrary loan requests!”

Mary says that she will especially miss CEF’s member libraries, and adds that “people who are connected to libraries are special. I’ve met many wonderful people since I’ve been here, mostly through libraries.” Within three months of her arrival in February 1997, Mary visited each member library and reading center. She adds with a laugh that “at first people wondered what I was doing there—they hadn’t seen a System director in a long, long time!” Mary has maintained a strong connection with member library staff and boards throughout her tenure here, and has visited each library at least twice.

When asked what some of her greatest accomplishments are, Mary immediately cites work involving the CEF staff. Achievements such as funding for a new bookmobile, automation, public library construction, and NYSLLA participation top her list. “People made lots of good suggestions and acted on them in ways large and small,” she says. “I always think back to the 1998 ice storm. The bookmobile was on the road the day after the emergency was lifted. You can’t beat that for dedication!”

Please join the CEFLS Board of Trustees for a “fond farewell festivity” honoring Mary Brown on Friday, April 22 at the Burgundy Room by Iris in Plattsburgh. Festivities will get underway at 6:00 p.m. For more information, or to make a reservation, please RSVP to Penny Cowan at CEF (563-5190 x 10) by April 15.
Local Libraries Help to Plant The Seed to Read

Fifteen public libraries throughout Essex and Franklin Counties have agreed to provide satellite teaching sites for Literacy Volunteers. This collaborative effort is designed to help attract and accommodate the more than 14,000 adults in the two county area who can benefit from reading instruction.

Each library has agreed to provide space for not only student-tutor learning sessions and tutor recruiting and training activities, but also occasional story hours for youngsters, featuring Roo the Reader, the popular kangaroo advocate of books for kids.

“We are very fortunate indeed to have the cooperation and support of these excellent facilities,” said Chuck Gibson, Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of Essex and Franklin Counties. “They increase immeasurably the effectiveness of our organization.”

Participating libraries include: Hammond Library, Crown Point; Elizabethtown Library; Keene Valley Library Association; Keesville Free Library; Lake Placid Public Library; Sherman Free Library, Port Henry; Schroon Lake Public Library, Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay; Wadhams Free Library; Westport Library Association; Chateaugay Memorial Library; Wead Library, Malone; Saranac Lake Free Library; Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake; and Paine Memorial Free Library, Willsboro.

Regional CE Workshops Slated

Topics: Triage in the Trenches: Everyday Book Repair Tips and Tricks

Data and Dessert

Don’t miss this chance to get started on your continuing education requirement for 2005 right in your own back yard!

Do you have books that circulated a few times and limped back home with loose pages and broken backs? Are there well loved favorites in your collection that are starting to look a little too well loved? Get some quick repair tips and learn how to extend the life span of your collection from two colleagues in the field. Becky Pace, Director of the Peru Free Library, and Colleen Pelletier, Head of Technical and Reference Services at Plattsburgh Public Library will join retired CEF director Stan Ransom to lead a hands-on session on book repair using readily available materials. Please bring one or two of your latest casualties to mend.

After lunch (on your own), Betsy Brooks will present a session on technology in the library. Betsy will cover recommended features for new computers for staff and the public, security measures, and how to handle hardware and network issues, including wireless. We’ll also talk about good ideas you can use to teach patrons about, and help them benefit from, the library’s computer resources. And, to make all this technology more palatable, we’ll be having some delicious dessert along with it.

Register now for the session nearest you:

Tuesday, April 12
Dannemora Free Library
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 14
Sherman Free Library, Port Henry
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 20
Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lunch is on your own. Feel free to pack a bag lunch or join others in ordering from a local restaurant. Please contact Penny Cowan at CEF as soon as possible by telephone (563-5190 x 10) or e-mail: pcowan@cefls.org.
NNYLN Training Available Locally

This spring, with the assistance of the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System, the Northern New York Library Network will conduct several of its popular training sessions in Plattsburgh. All sessions will be held at the CEF Library System office. Visit the NNYLN web site at www.nnyln.net or the CEF web site at www.cefls.org for complete program descriptions and registration information.

Title: Microsoft Excel: Intermediate Level
Presenter: James Crowley, Crowley Computers
Date: May 9, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fee: $15.00

Title: Desktop Publishing: Microsoft Publisher (All levels)
Presenter: James Crowley, Crowley Computers
Date: May 16, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fee: $15.00 for library staff; $29.95 for all others

Title: Present and Teach with Authority! Learn Microsoft Powerpoint
Presenter: James Crowley, Crowley Computers
Date: June 3, 2005
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fee: $15.00 for library staff; $59.95 for all others

-- Bridget Doyle, Northern New York Library Network

New York State Library Assistants’ Conference 2005

The New York State Library Assistants’ Conference will be held June 8-10, 2005 at the Ramada Inn Geneva Lakefront in Geneva, New York. This year’s conference, which is hosted by the Pioneer Library System, features a theme of “Smooth Sailing for the Future.”

There are many interesting workshops and special events scheduled for Thursday and Friday. On Thursday evening, a dinner buffet will be held at Belhurst Castle. Local historical novelist Miriam Grace Monfredo will be the featured speaker at the awards ceremony luncheon on Friday. Ms. Monfredo will also be signing her book before and after the luncheon.

If anyone is interested in attending this year’s conference, please contact Tracey LaBarge or me at CEF for more information. You may also check out complete conference information on the NYSLLA web site at www.nyslla.org.

-- Kim Fletcher, Library Clerk, CEFLS

Some Gardening Website Picks

Whether you are a gardening neophyte making an attempt to perk up the back yard or a horticultural heavyweight researching the origins of Nepeta cataria, the Internet has become a tool that few gardeners can live without—especially in our area where every day and helpful hint counts! You can find an endless array of catalog and nursery sites (which you’ll find listed and reviewed in the Dave’s Garden site), plus a profusion of plant databases, garden plans, video tutorials, and online design tools. The sites below are Forbes Best of the Web picks as reviewed at www.forbes.com. Check them out, and happy digging!

Daves’ Garden: davesgarden.com
Garden Gate: garden-gate.prairienet.org
National Gardening Association: www.garden.org
Organic Gardening: www.organicgardening.com

-- from Forbes.com Best of the Web: Gardening by Bill Meyer

We’re Expecting

Thanks to the generosity of the boards of legislators and supervisors of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties, Senator Betty Little, Georgia Pacific, private donors, the CEF Board of Trustees, and many other “Friends of the Bookmobile”, our new LOW FLOOR bookmobile is on the way! We expect delivery in late August.
Northern New York 
Library Network Library 
Assistants’ Corner

The NNYLN Library Assistants’ Committee has been hard at work again this year. We recently sent out a survey to all of the library assistants in our service area. If you didn’t receive a survey and want to be on the Library Assistants’ mailing list, please contact Bridget Doyle at doyle@northnet.org. We wanted to find out what obstacles prevent you from attending continuing education workshops and conferences, and what topics would be of interest to you. Although most respondents said that their employers provide funding and that they support training and professional development, release time seemed to be the biggest obstacle.

After reviewing your interest in workshop topics, we are finally ready for our Spring Conference. Scheduled for April 21st at NNYLN in Potsdam, this full day of activities should have something for everyone. The morning session will focus on setting and achieving personal and professional goals. Your choice for the afternoon session will either be safeguarding your computer or book repair. Lunch is always included. These conferences are a great way to network with your colleagues. Watch for your flyer and we hope to see you there!

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

“Words Travel” in Five Local Correctional Facilities

The CEF Library System and five correctional facility partners have been awarded over $38,000 in LSTA grant funds from the New York State Library to offer “Words Travel” read along activities to inmates and their families. Local participating facilities include: Adirondack Correctional Facility, Ray Brook, Altona Correctional, Franklin Correctional, Malone, Lyon Mountain Correctional, and Upstate Correctional Facility, Malone.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, almost 1,498,000 children under age 18 have a parent in state or federal prison. More than half of these children (58%) are under age 10. Project activities will overcome the barriers of bars and distance to provide a meaningful family reading experience for participants. There are ten state correctional facilities in CEF’s service area, and we are grateful to be able to work cooperatively to address family literacy issues on the local level.

The project will provide easy to read children’s books in Spanish and English, library promotion, and related life skills programming for a minimum of 500 inmates and their families during the two year project period. Inmates participating in this activity will select an appropriate children’s book, practice reading it under the auspices of the facility librarian, record it onto video or audio tape, and send it home to family members. Each recording will be accompanied by a copy of the book, an introduction to the book written by participants, a brochure that promotes local public libraries to family members, and a bookmark. The “Words Travel” component of the project is modeled upon the Brownstone Book Fund’s “Family Literacy Project” that has been offered with great success in several western New York State facilities. We expect that a well-rounded program of family literacy activities offered throughout the two year project cycle and tailor-made for each facility participant will result in a useful framework for ongoing family literacy activities.

“Words Travel” includes funding for continuing education workshops on evaluation and assessment which we think will be of general interest to public library staff. Watch for more information coming your way soon!

- - Julie Weyer, Outreach Coordinator
In Essex County

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

The Adirondack Preschool is coming to the library once a week for a story hour. The children, who are mostly age three and four, enjoy visiting the library and doing a simple craft.

On April 14, the Sherman Free Library will be a host site for one of three CEF regional training workshops. Other programs on tap for April include a reading by local poet Chuck Gibson and novelist Mary Russell. Chuck Gibson is the director of Literacy Volunteers of Essex and Franklin Counties, and Mary Russell works for the ARC. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the library.

Due to popular demand, we will offer a program on origami for adults on May 12 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. We held a program on origami for children in February which prompted a request for an adult version. Kim Harvish will lead the workshop on simple origami figures.

We continue to hold our monthly book discussion group. On April 21, we will discuss Mystic River by Dennis Lehane. On May 19, the featured book is The Inn at Lake Devine by Elinor Lipman. This group will go on hiatus for the summer, and will start up again in September.

It is shaping up to be a busy summer here at the library. On June 23, Emily Selleck, Horticulture Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension, will present a program on gardening. Our summer reading program will be held throughout July and August on Thursday nights from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We are looking forward to implementing the “Tune in @ Your Library” statewide summer reading theme, and plan to kick things off with “Camping at the Library,” which should be fun!

— Jackie Viestenz, Director

Belden Noble Memorial Library

The Town of Essex is celebrating its bicentennial this year. The Library is sponsoring four programs about local history, aspects of nineteenth century life, and boatbuilding. We will continue to sell our booklet, "Essex, An Early History", published by the Library Board. We are planning a float for the Fourth of July parade. Join the fun!

— Karen East, Director

Lake Placid Library Reception Launches Unique Book of Poems

The Lake Placid Public Library will host a reception on Saturday, May 7 to celebrate the publication of a genuinely unique book of poetry. BlueLine, the literary magazine of the Adirondacks, in conjunction with the Library, is publishing the collected poems of late Lake Placid historian, Mary MacKenzie.

Between 1931 and 1937, MacKenzie penned 148 poems which were hidden for nearly 70 years until her death in 2003. Noted Adirondack author Sandra Weber calls this collection “an extraordinary literary work about a young woman’s hometown.”

The May 7 reception at the Lake Placid Public Library will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will feature several speakers who will talk about Mary MacKenzie’s life and how these poems came to light. Copies of the book will be on sale. For more information, contact library director Patricia Perez at 523-3200.

-- excerpted from an April 4 press release by
Lee Manchester of the Lake Placid News

Call For Participants

The Northern New York Library Network will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year and invites your participation in a poster session at its Annual Meeting, to be held on May 26, 2005 at the Riveredge Resort, Alexandria Bay.

Poster sessions are informal presentations and will be made during the 20 minute break between morning sessions.

You are invited to give it some thought and develop a poster project that will tell others how you did it well, what results you got from a project, or how you improved a service.

Please let us know by April 22 if you would like to participate in this project. Call or e-mail Bridget Doyle at 315-265-1119 or 1-877-833-1674, doyle@nnynl.org.
Book Club Boosters

While transcribing member library news for this issue, it became apparent that quite a few local libraries have book discussion groups of one form or another. Some online research easily revealed the fact that discussion groups (or “book clubs”) are alive and well in many countries and in many formats. Whether you subscribe to the “one book a month” or “shared pool” format, it is often a good idea to do something different or totally creative occasionally to keep the ball rolling. Here are some cool ideas from a New Zealand web site (www.bookclub.co.nz/bookclubs/tips.htm):

- Have a theme night. Pick a theme such as Indian, Italian, Western, New York, Irish, medieval, and choose the books around the theme. Organize the food and music around the theme.
- Hold an author night. Choose one author and ask each member to read a different book. Members can report briefly and the group can compare main themes or issues.
- Have a murder mystery night. Play Clue.
- Organize a fund for a chosen charity
- Go to the movies and see the movie version of the book you have read. This is often disappointing but leads to great conversation.
- If there are lots of parents in the group, have a kids book night. Share and discuss your kids’ favorites.
- Hold an annual voting night and vote for the best books of the year. This can be fun since no one ever agrees!

Now that I’ve delved into book clubs, I can see that the possibilities are endless. It would be fun (and maybe even useful) to compile a local book club handbook that includes different formats and ideas. Please let me know if you are interested in exploring this further with me, or if you have book club successes that you want to share in the next Trailblazer.

— Julie Weaver, CEF (ext. 18)

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

On Sunday, May 22 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Wellscroft is hosting a tea in their beautiful garden setting and a tour of the historic Lodge to benefit the library. There will be several door prizes. The cost is $20 per person, payable in advance to Wells Memorial Library, PO Box 57, Upper Jay, NY 12987. Seating is limited so reservations will be on a first come basis.

The four libraries in the Ausable Valley Central School District (Ausable Forks, Keeseville, Upper Jay, and Wilmington) have placed a proposition on the school district ballot to help fund their libraries. Residents of the district have the opportunity to vote on the school budget and propositions on May 17, from noon to 9:00 at the Middle/High School in Clintonville.

In March our Tea & Talk program was a one-on-one computer question and answer session complete with CEF’s six wireless laptop computers and the expertise of Betsy Brooks. We all walked away with new knowledge of how to navigate our computer systems.

Our April art exhibit will honor Arto Monaco’s creations and will feature memorabilia from private collections and library archives. In keeping with the exhibit, April’s Tea & Talk, on April 13, will be “Remembering Arto Monaco.” On Saturday, April 23, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., we will recognize our volunteers. Our heartfelt thanks to all those who gave of their time and talents since April, 2004 to help raise operating funds, process our collection additions and deletions, and maintain the library facility. Because of their dedication we can continue to serve the community through our collections, programs, and services.

New computer equipment has been installed for scanning and bar coding our collections and Betsy Brooks held a training session for those of us who will be doing the bar coding. We have begun bar coding our biographies.

Our application for a Libri Grant was accepted, and we have spent $1,050 on new children’s books. Thanks to two anonymous donors, we raised $350; Libri matched that amount 2-to-1.

— Sylvia Norton, President, Board of Trustees
Paine Memorial Free Library, Willsboro

The Paine Memorial Free Library had the opportunity to have the Willsboro Junior Troop Girl Scouts put up an Egg Tree for Easter as a community service project while earning their Books Badge. Deanna Mero, Tayler Strong and Olivia Kelly enjoyed looking at the eggs. Many of them are dated and signed by the children who created them. The girls were later joined by the rest of their troop, Kaitlin Kirby and Karin Buck. The Scouts then toured the library to learn about our resources and prepared a brochure to encourage greater use of the library. They also learned how to mend books and did a simple binding project on an ABC book they created themselves. Next they read poems that reflected life in the United States. They discussed the way people lived and plotted the area being discussed in the poem on a map. All of their work will be displayed at the moving up ceremony at the end of the year. I think the best information the girls learned was “that libraries are a fun place to be.” In past years while teaching this book badge I have had many girls ask to volunteer long after their work is finished.

In the activity department, be sure to look for our first two art shows in June. Michelle Barber, Kalora Finucane, and Mary Ann Walls will display their watercolors from June 1-16. Jud & Sandra Pealer will show their watercolors from June 5-20. Watch for advertising as many more shows and activities will be happening at Paine Memorial throughout the summer.

-- Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Public Library Section Announces 2005 Award Opportunities

The Public Libraries Section of NYLA has just announced three award opportunities. The deadline for applications in all instances is July 15, 2005. Please visit the New York Library Association web site at www.nyla.org for complete information.

Award for Outstanding Public Library Building
One award will be made for a new or remodeled public building. Emphasis will be placed upon projects that demonstrate cost-effective solutions to space challenges as well as innovative usage of space and layout in the new library. The project must have been completed between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. PLS will award $1,000 plus a plaque to the winning library and may also name honorable mentions. Previous winners are ineligible.

Conference Scholarship Award
This is an annual award to encourage public Librarians now in the field, or students in Library school, to participate in NYLA or PLS activities. You need not be a member of NYLA to apply. The award includes full conference registration and up to $500 toward conference expenses. It includes membership in NYLA, if required. The winner is expected to attend the full conference, including the awards ceremony, in Buffalo from October 26 to 29. Applications will be judged on presentation, plans for professional growth, and initiative taken to share your conference experience.

The L. Marion Moshier/Asa Wynkoop Award For Distinguished Librarianship
This award honors a library director who has given outstanding service to a community of 7,500 or less. A professional degree is not a requirement.

— concluded on page 8
Nominees are judged on personal and professional growth, quality of services provided, and initiative taken to reach underserved parts of the community. The award is named in honor of two New York State library pioneers who nurtured the growth of small libraries, and is given bi-annually. Nominations may be made by a library board member or by a library staff member. Each nomination must be accompanied by three letters of support from the community.

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**Funds Available for a Great Open House!**

If your library would like to make a big splash during April or May, we have some financial assistance to provide for refreshments, decorations, prizes, a speaker, or publicity.

National Library Week is April 10-16, and CEF has obtained an LSTA grant through the New York State Library to raise awareness of public libraries and the resources they offer. Funds for an open house are part of this grant.

During National Library Week there will be television and radio advertisements on WPTZ, WIRY and Mountain Communications in Saranac Lake with the theme “Something for Everyone @ Your Library.” We will also be sending each library a set of bookmarks and other giveaways to help raise awareness of NOVEL databases.

All you need to do is to watch your van delivery for a brief form which will be coming soon. Complete the form by April 15, expressing your intention to hold a public event, and by May 31 report to us how many people attended. We will divide the available funds (at least $100 and up to $200 for each library, depending on how many apply) and send you a check to fund your activity.

— Betty Brooks, CEF Automation Librarian

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**Schroon Lake Public Library**

On Saturday, March 19th the Schroon Lake Public Library offered a Decorative Painting Class. Basic brush strokes and blending techniques were taught to this filled class. Participants left the class with a beautiful "Welcome to My Garden" sign that they had painted themselves. This program was sponsored by our Friends of the Library.

We applied for and received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities *We the People Project*. We were given a *We the People Bookshelf* which contains fourteen books all with the theme of freedom. Included in the titles are copies of *The Complete Chronicles of Narnia, Miracle at Philadelphia, Animal Farm* and many others.

Our book discussion continues to meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month with a faithful following. April's book will be *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. In May, we will read *Women of the Silk* by Gail Tsukiyama.

Our Library Quilting Group donated a quilt they made to the Friends of the Library to be used as a fundraiser. The quilt raffle brought in over $1,000 for our Friends Group. The Quilt Group is now working on blocks that will be made into friendship quilts.

My assistant for the past 5 years, Linda Mead, has left to pursue other interests. The Library Board and I have hired Jessica Botterbusch as her replacement. Jessica comes to us with many years experience in the library system (she and her family have been patrons for a long time). And, lucky for us, she was one of the patrons who reserved her own books from home and searched the Horizon Information Portal (HIP) so she was familiar with our computer system. Welcome Jessica!

We have outgrown our space and are hoping to expand in the not too distant future. Our Library Board, Town Board and Friends of the Library are beginning to research funding options for this project. Keep your fingers crossed!

— Jane Bouchard, Director
In Franklin County

Saranac Lake Free Library

Over 200 people attended an open house to celebrate the opening of the Dickert Wildlife Collection on Friday, February 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. The collection has been reinterpreted and remolded to provide year-round access. New cabinets to protect the collection have been installed, and a new ceiling and carpeting were put in.

Along with an otter, whitetail deer, black bears and many Adirondack specimens, the collection features a narrative that tells about taxidermist Charles Dickert, his shop that was on Algonquin Avenue, his friendship with Edmund Guggenheim and Guggenheim’s camp, “Rock Ledge.” Other topics presented include Sporting Recreation, Adirondack Style, and Traditional Adirondack Boats.

This project marks the completion of the library’s capital project that included the addition of a children’s room, adult reading area, accessible bathrooms and an elevator, staff and volunteer work space, along with improvements to the Adirondack Room.

Everyone is invited to view the collection whenever the library is open.

Willard Green III, left, and Willard B. Green Jr. whose grandfather Charles Dickert was the taxidermist for the Dickert Wildlife Collection, assisted in setting up the exhibits and, along with other members of their family, presented the Open House.

— Story and photograph by Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake

Feedback from the Field

One of the more pleasurable jobs I inherited when Outreach Typist Barb Deyo retired last month is the New York State Talking Book and Braille Library Service. Recently I had the pleasure of talking with Jean Vaughan who is a long time user of this free service. Miss Vaughan, who is a resident of Westport, reported that since 1995, she has borrowed more than 1,500 books on tape from the NYSTBBL in Albany. She did confirm the 1,500 figure last year with her friends at the State Library, and believes that the number is now closer to 2,000, but did not want to over estimate! Miss Vaughan told me that she listens to at least one book a day, and sends in a dozen requests at a time to the State Library. Her order is returned in the mail free of charge. When asked what her favorite genre is, Miss Vaughan replied that although she started out with fiction, she soon switched over to non-fiction, and now must be the “best self-educated person in the area”. She did admit that every once in a while she goes on a “jag of terrible trash” and spices up her list with a bunch of bodice rippers. Jean maintains that this is a terrific free service, and finds that the books are great companions day and night.

CEF is a subleining agency of the NYSTBBL, and as such, maintains a small supply of tape machines for loan to sight impaired residents, or those who cannot hold a book in regular format. A short Application form is required. For more information, please contact me by phone at 563-5190 x 18 or e-mail wever@cefls.org.

-- Julie Wever, Outreach Coordinator

YOUR CHANCE TO OWN: A complete set of Facts on File from 1941 to 2000. If interested, please contact Dan LaDue at Northeast Clinton Central School by telephone (298-2006) or e-mail Dan at nceslib@yahoo.com.
I Love Library Elf!

Here’s a really useful web site if you have a barcoded library card: www.libraryelf.com.

If you sign up at this web site, giving them your barcode and PIN, Library Elf will send you email three days before your library items are due! It will show you a calendar detailing exactly what is due when. And it will tell you when your requested items become available.

There are a few privacy concerns – after all, you are giving a third party access to your library account information. The privacy policy at this site says they will not sell or give away your information and they don’t store it, they simply query our server in real time.

If you can accept that risk of privacy invasion, the convenience factor is great. I’ve been using it for a month or so, and I’ve never been more on top of my borrowing. I’m encouraged to take out more things because Library Elf will keep me out of trouble.

— Betsy Brooks

We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.

— John F. Kennedy

Wead Library, Malone

The Wead Library tried a Saturday afternoon arts and crafts program this winter. Designed to combat cabin fever, the program was open to elementary age kids every other Saturday from January 22 to March 19. The turnout was not large, but very enthusiastic! We made snowman bookmarks, Valentine puzzles, origami treasure boxes, mosaics, and tissue paper flowers. A variety of books were read, but the art projects were the main event. The library had never tried Saturday programs before, and attendance was sporadic, probably because weekends are hard to commit to. The program was worthwhile all the same, and the children went home with some fun projects!

-- Sue Wood, Head of Children’s Services, Wead Library, Malone

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

The library in Tupper was a hopping place this winter! Our first big project is to gradually turn our décor into an Adirondack theme, which is fitting with all that is going on in our town lately. We have new rustic style furniture, with comfortable cushions and pretty lamps, comfy rocking chairs, and inviting seating arrangements. The public has been extremely complimentary, and it is so nice to see people sitting and reading, relaxed and happy.

We have hosted many fun programs during the winter months. Early on, we had a reading of Polar Express for children, complete with a train engine and engineer. The kids came dressed in their pajamas and had a great time. We also held a puppet show, courtesy of the nice people from the Visitor Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths. It featured butterflies and their life cycle, which the little people were fascinated with. The adults were not neglected, either. We hosted a fascinating lecture by a local resident who traveled to Nigeria with a group of Rotarians to vaccinate children against polio in an effort to eradicate the disease in that area. We also hosted a series of carving classes which were very well attended by adults. Their works of art will be shown in our display case early this spring. The library has featured a rotating display of art by local artists—there is so much talent in our small town! A group of local readers started a book club to help combat “cabin fever.” All of our sister libraries have been so great about lending us books, and we send our thanks to you!

Our biggest, best, and most exciting news is that we are going to automate! Right now, we are weeding and getting started on barcoding. The entire staff is involved, and we are all very enthusiastic about the project. As a result of our intense weeding, we will have a huge book sale during the last few weeks of May. That brings us right to the end of May with our news. It has been a busy winter, is going to be a busy summer, and on we go!

— Linda Auclair, Director
In Clinton County

Dannemora Free Library

This April we’re running an "Around the Library in 30 Days" reading program in honor of National Library Week. A week just wasn’t long enough, so we decided to celebrate all month long. Throughout the month, intrepid youngsters will explore our shelves for fun and adventure, having their passports stamped at each new destination. A full passport entitles the holder to widespread acclaim and vast riches (or at least some cool goodies). We’re also hosting an "Out of This World" story time on April 21st. Other than that, we are just waiting for spring.

-- Niki Kourofsky, Director

Dodge Library, West Chazy

We had a very snowy winter here that caused Dodge Library to be closed a few days. The bitter cold kept people at home a bit more than usual, also. However, we were very proud to welcome a good crowd on February 15 to the 100th anniversary celebration of the signing of our charter. We had a delicious cake and some Beany Malone punch - an old CEF standby. It's hard to imagine someone in this day and age being generous enough to totally endow a library with enough funding to not only build it but to fill it with furniture and books, too. Thank you once again Dr. Dodge!

On March 16, we were very grateful to board member Norm Taber for presenting a talk on Leonardo DaVinci. Mr. Taber is an associate professor of art at SUNY Plattsburgh. He had a wonderful slide show of DaVinci's work and explained some of the nuances in The DaVinci Code.

I am looking forward to warmer weather, like everyone else. There is a school break coming up in late April, and I am planning some fun for our youngest patrons. We are tentatively planning to hold a movie/popcorn afternoon and a pajama party one evening.

Does anyone else have regular dog visitors? I have three who visit quite frequently and know just where the treats are kept!

-- Cindy Pytlak, Director, Dodge Library, West Chazy

CVPH Medical Library Tour Slated

Plan to join your colleagues from around the north country on Thursday, April 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a guided tour of the Champlain Valley Physicians’ Hospital Library.

Tour guides Christina Ransom and Bill McCall will demonstrate how the CVPH Medical Center Library provides information that meets the needs of medical and hospital staff, patients, families, residents of northern New York, students affiliated with CVPH, and the hospitals in the FYI Circuit Rider Hospital Library Program. Lunch, and a chance to meet and catch up with your library colleagues, will be provided. RSVP by April 21, 2005 by telephone at 562-7325, Fax at 562-7129, or e-mail cvphlib@cvph.org.

This tour is just one of a series of local library tours made possible by the Maximizing Community Information Resources grant which aims to build human and electronic networks to share our resources. Mark your calendar now for upcoming tours of the Clinton Community College Library (May 20) and the Supreme Court Law Library (June 24).

Learn Your Lexicon

Flibbertigibbet. Defenestration.

No matter how many books you’ve read, you still come across words that confound you. For a daily vocabulary upgrade, sign up to receive the Merriam-Webster Word of the Day at www.merriam-webster.com. This site draws words from its Collegiate Dictionary and sends them along to you. Then you’ll know the silver-dollar word to use when you want to say “flighty person,” or “throwing out a window”. We weren’t actually going to make you look them up!

— from Real Simple Magazine April 2005, p. 18
Northern Tier Librarians for Public School Partnership

Five northern tier librarians met on March 4th for their first public/school library partnership meeting. Northeastern Clinton Central School librarian Dan Ladue organized the meeting knowing that all librarians had one thing in common: the children of the NCCS school district.

Edie Morelock, Mooers Free Library, and Alison Mandeville, Champlain Memorial Library, discussed their plans for a summer reading program with school librarians Matt Fredette and Dan Ladue of NCCS and Linda Seymour of St. Mary’s Academy. It was agreed that the school librarians would work in conjunction with the public librarians to market summer reading programs.

School librarians shared their curriculum with the public librarians and the Middle/Senior High School Library’s OPAC was shown to all.

The newly formed partnership will meet periodically in a different library each time. This will give all of us an opportunity to see each other’s facilities.

— Dan Ladue, Librarian, NCCS

Peru Free Library

It has been a good winter here at the Peru Free Library. The adult computer class has expanded, and we are now offering a beginning and intermediate session. Our Book Club continues to meet each month with enthusiasm, thoughtful comments, and laughter. In the building improvement department, we have had new windows installed in our front room through a generous patron donation and our Friends group. The original shutters will be duplicated and replaced this summer. Our big news is that we are in the process of automating! Due to our excellent volunteers, and Betsy Brooks’ instruction, we are moving along quite nicely. Spring is upon us—enjoy!

— Becky Pace, Director

Youth Services Spring Conference
April 1 & 2
Hotel Sagamore, Bolton Landing, New York

“Youth Librarianship: Bringing the Pieces Together” was the theme of the 30th Annual Youth Services Section Spring Conference. This year’s conference was held at the historic Hotel Sagamore at Bolton Landing on Lake George. Conference goers feasted on delicious meals, soaked up the wonderful scenery and took in some interesting workshops. We are especially proud that Edie Morelock, Jackie Viestenz, and Sue Wool took an active part in this year’s conference. Sue served as a room monitor, introducing one of the programs and Edie and Jackie shared their crafting expertise with their colleagues around New York State. Four other representatives from our member libraries also attended as well as CEF Director, Mary Brown.

Left to right: Matt Fredette, Linda Seymour, Alison Mandeville, Dan Ladue, Edie Morelock and Fay Allen.

(Our thanks to Dan LaDue for this article. We look forward to hearing more from the public/school library partnership—Ed.)
CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara Deyo who retired on February 8 from CEF. Barb worked in the Outreach Department for almost 20 years. Her many duties included loan of assistive devices and materials (such as radio receivers and NYSTBBL service), video, audio, and book collection preparation, and, of course, Trailblazer production and layout. Best wishes, Barb!

Glory Cole is the new director of the Akwesasne Library. Glory, who is the daughter of long time Akwesasne Director Beatrice Cole, has a teaching background. She recently moved back to our area from California. Welcome!

Dr. Nancy Church and Mr. Chris DeGrandpre have been appointed to the CEF Board of Trustees by the Legislators of Clinton County. Current board members Lynn Bezio (Essex County) and Lynn Dufort (Franklin County) were reappointed to the board at the January meeting.

Carl Paulson is the new Adult Services Librarian at the Plattsburgh Public Library. Carl has worked in reference and adult services in several New Jersey libraries and is enthusiastic about his relocation to the North Country. One of the projects that Carl plans to explore is the expansion of the library’s feature film video collection. Welcome, Carl!

Rich Merritt has officially joined the CEF staff as our three day a week van driver. Since Rich, along with Cal Mitchell and Ron Brunelle, has been filling in this position for over a year, it is a bit superfluous to welcome him, but we are all very pleased to have him on board.

We are saddened to report that former CEF Director Anthony Vecchio passed away on January 17, 2005.

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Buying New Computers for Your Library

(This may be a trial, but you CAN limit your errors!)

If the time has come to buy a new computer for the library, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- For the operating system, Windows XP Professional with Service Pack 2 is currently the best choice. The Professional version costs more but works better for networked computers. Service Pack 2 is a large add-on that plugs security holes in Windows.

- For staff machines, you should upgrade the memory to 512 MB RAM. Computers often come standard with 256 MB RAM, which is adequate for public computers. If you are automating or plan to do so in the next few years, your staff machines will need the extra memory.

- Microsoft Office programs, such as Excel, Word, Access, Publisher and Power Point, are an added option. You can get a much better price buying these separately from TechSoup (about $20 versus several hundred). You could also opt to use free open source software, specifically an office suite called Open Office.

- Flat panel monitors are very nice for space saving and are easy on the eyes. They suffer from finger jabbing, so shouldn’t be used with public machines unless you buy a separate add-on protective screen. Optical mice work on more surfaces and require less maintenance.

- Be aware that new computers sometimes come without floppy drives unless you specifically ask for them. You can probably reuse your existing monitor, but the plugs are changing to USB for keyboards and mice, so you may need new ones.

- After you get your new PC, you should add or activate security features. Windows XP with Service Pack 2 has several ones, such as automatic updates and a built in personal firewall. You will also need to make sure you have antivirus protection – Norton Anti-virus or a competitor. For public machines, I recommend that you also purchase and install a Centurion Guard device. You also need to set up a public user account with more limited privileges. For added security, download and install the Gates Foundation Public Access Security Tool. I can help with these activities if you let me know when your computer will arrive. They can prevent major headaches later!

-- Betsy Brooks, CEF Automation Librarian (ext. 35)
Celebrate National Library Week

April 10-16, 2005

Something for EVERYONE @ your library