Survey Says…

We enjoyed a 100% return rate on the Member Library Survey again this year. Thirty member library directors were asked to evaluate and comment on CEFLS services that range from our shared downloadable book collection to the quality of MARC records. The survey consisted of 34 questions that follow the Service Priorities for 2013 as stated in the CEF Plan of Service. We’ve shared some of the most interesting results throughout this issue.

Share and Share Alike, or, We Have Pretty Good Collections:

Ten percent of respondents (3) reported that their adult patrons’ needs on non-fiction books are met by library collections within the system all of the time. 87% (26) reported that needs of adult patrons are met most of the time. Three reported that patron needs are met “all of the time.” In a related question about resource sharing, 67% (16) libraries reported that they participate in the Cooperative Collection Development Plan (CCDP) coordinated by CEFLS. Eight do not and would like more information. Six libraries do not participate in the plan for various reasons that include, “not sure I have enough space to house a comprehensive collection of any subject, or the funds to keep it up to date.”

Request Turnaround Tme (and the Van Guys) Are Awesome:

An overwhelming 96% (28 respondents) feel that they receive materials within “an acceptable time frame” more than 50% of the time via the CEF van delivery service. Comments included, “Unless patrons wait until the last minute to request something or come in on a delivery day, are patrons are satisfied with the turnaround time of one week.” Another added, “Incredible service! Fast, efficient, great drivers!”

ILL Delivers Big Time for Library Patrons:

83% of respondents (24 libraries) reported that that “most patrons are extremely satisfied” with ILL coordinated by CEFLS. Five libraries reported that patrons are “satisfied.” Comments include, “Patrons are very happy with this service. I am frequently thanked as if I am responsible,” and “patrons understand that we are a small library and couldn’t possibly house every item that was published. They are thankful that we are able to ILL almost everything and have it within a week.”

Variation on a Theme with 2014 Budgets:

A new question this year netted some surprising results. When asked what their 2014 budget for materials is (excluding gifts and grants), 16 libraries (57%) reported that it is more than $5,000, while 25% work with budgets that range from $2,501 to $5,000. Five libraries (17%) have a total materials budget of $1,001 to $2,500. In an associated question that asked librarians to detail their proposed materials expenditures, 27% (7) will spend more than $5,000 on regular print books for adults, while 31% (8) plan to spend between $2,501 and $5,000. Three libraries plan to spend more than $5,000 on juvenile/YA materials while seven libraries will spend between $2,501 and $5,000 on materials for young readers. Support for ebooks, large print and other formats (DVDs, databases, magazines) falls significantly off at the $1,001 and lower mark which indicates that members continue to rely on CEFLS to provide these items.
MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

From Clinton County

Mooers Free Library

On Saturday, December 7 we hosted a Santa Brigade event which was a huge success. We had cocoa, candy, cookies and games for the attendees. There were about 40 children and 35 adults. Santa Claus came and children were able to tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Jessie, a volunteer, took photos of them with Santa and each child was able to take home a picture and a bag of goodies. Activities included games – the candy cane walk and toss was popular, and participants made their own Christmas decoration to take home. A great group of volunteers assisted at the function and baked the treats that were provided.

-Jackie Madison, Mooers

Dannemora Free Library

Dannemora Free Library has a new director. Eileen Cody, former Director of Chateaugay Memorial Library, has taken the helm. Eileen replaces Penny Belton who resigned in late fall 2013. Eileen says, “I am looking forward to learning the Library community and how to serve this community best.”

Eileen has lived in the area for many years and firmly believes that libraries change lives.

-Eileen Cody, Director

Readers’ Corner

The ground hog saw his shadow which just confirms that there is no end in sight for this interminable winter. Readers from around the CEFLS area remain undeterred as long as they can find a sunny window and a good book to curl up with. Here are some top picks.

One -Woman Farm: My Life Shared with Sheep, Pigs, Chickens, Goats, and a Fine Fiddle by Jenna Woginrich. This is the true story of a woman that leaves city life and moves to a town in Washington County NY and starts homesteading. Jenna shares the joys, sorrows, trials, epiphanies, and blessings she discovers during a year spent farming on her own land, finding deep fulfillment in the practical tasks and timeless rituals of the agricultural life.

Jane Bouchard, Schroon Lake

From Wead Library, Malone: Mary McDonald just finished I Shall Be Near to You, by Erin Lindsay McCabe. The book is about Rosetta, a young woman who disguises herself as a man to be able to fight alongside her husband in the Union Army. The book really gives the reader a chance to see how terrible the Civil War was, especially the effect that it had on families. Rosetta was a strong heroine, and the author based her character on a number of real women who fought in the war. This book was interesting, and helped the reader to understand what life was like during that time.

Sue Wool just finished I Know This Much Is True, by Wally Lamb. This book is a family saga, and is narrated by Dominick Birdsey, the identical twin of his brother Thomas, who is a paranoid schizophrenic. Dominick is an extremely angry character, and the book is filled with both his anger towards his brother and his family, and also his love for them. The reader gradually learns about his family’s history and the events of his life, and we begin to understand more about him. This book is very involved, very powerful, and worth reading.

I’m enjoying Okay for now by Gary D. Schmidt from the Overdrive e-book collection. Gary Schmidt’s books are popular for a reason. I love the way art, theater, and libraries play such integral parts in this book. I’m so impressed by the way it empowers the main character, a child, to break the cycle of abuse and find wonderful beauty in life. The story takes place after the Vietnam War and speaks of veterans and poverty but with a hopeful, mischievous voice.

Maria Goulet, AuSable Forks Free Library

It is what you read when you don’t have to that determines what you will be when you can’t help it. – Oscar Wilde
Disaster Planning Workshop Slated
For Monday, April 14

Mark your calendars and plan to join us at CEFLS headquarters, 33 Oak Street, Plattsburgh for a “Continuity Planning” workshop with Michele Emerick Brown, Preservations Librarian at Cornell University. We are pleased that Rose Pandozy, former New York State Commissioner of Social Services will sit in to give us the benefit of her hands-on experience with disaster recovery after 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. The session will begin at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided at noon. Public library participants will leave the session with a customized and comprehensive disaster plan that can be immediately implemented. The day will shape up like this:

9:30—12:00 noon: Risks and Remediation: Assessing risks to your collection and the need for a plan; how to handle a minor and major water disaster, different types of drying, including freeze-drying, selecting a vendor, and hands on work to dry wet materials.

1:00 to 3:30: Create your plan! Using Cornell University’s Disaster Plan and your prepared lists, each library representative will complete a disaster plan that can be implemented immediately.

To register, contact Julie at CEFLS (wever@cefls.org) or (518) 563-5190 x 18. This program is made possible by a Training on Demand grant from the NNYLN.

Clinton County News continued

Dodge Library, West Chazy

“Winter Wonderland!” That’s exactly what Dodge Library has been experiencing this season. We certainly do have the snow piling up outside the library here in West Chazy, but we also have the patrons inside. Cold weather has moved folks inside to more warm cozy activities like reading while sipping hot chocolate by a nice fire.

Patrons are definitely reading more than they do during the busy summer season. I’ve noticed our young patrons branching out of their normal reading habits to take on something different and more challenging. The Dodge Writing Contest is underway and we have already received entries. We’re looking forward to reading all the works of our young authors. Each winner will have their book published for themselves and the library. We hope that all of the local young Hemmingway’s and Steinbeck’s keep the entries coming. For more information about the Writing Contest, please call Linda at Dodge Library at 493-6131.

---Linda Dupee, Director

Plattsburgh Public Library’s Holiday Craft Program Produces Smiling Faces

The Plattsburgh Public Library Children’s Room was the scene of a Holiday Story time and craft session on Saturday, December 14. The festivities resulted in some lovely decorations and smiling faces. I read Clement Moore’s The Night Before Christmas, illustrated by Jan Brett and was amazed that a child in the audience knew it so well that he said the words along with me. For a different spin I read Santa’s Kwanzaa by Garen Eileen Thomas.

The young man in the photo who is crafting so diligently was really excited about making the wreath and said he wanted to wear it as a necklace over his coat when he left. We cut him an extra-long red ribbon so he could do that!

---Sharon Bandhold, Youth Services Librarian, PPL

Readers Corner continues…

I’ve read The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd. This book follows the lives of two young girls during the early nineteen century in Charleston. One is white, Sarah, and from an aristocratic family and the other girl is black, a slave. The slave, Hetty, is given to Sarah on her 11th birthday. Sarah doesn’t believe there should slavery and this causes her some issues in her family. She’s also believes women should have more rights than they currently have. The book follows both these girls as they grow up and mature into women.

I also recommend Sycamore Row by John Grisham. This book is about an individual, who in death tried to right a wrong. The main character commits suicide and leaves his family out of the will. The majority of his estate, 90%, goes to his housekeeper, who is black. The story takes place in Mississippi and the individual, who is white, turns out to the wealthiest man in the county. However, during his childhood, he witnesses and act that traumatizes him and causes him to rewrite his will

— Jackie Madison, Mooers Free Library
More from Clinton County...

Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library

The Friends of the Library group has resurfaced with a new batch of people who are extremely enthusiastic and motivated. The first meeting was held in January at which time a slate of officers was elected and events and activities were discussed. They are in for a “treat” for their first event – The Annual Egg Hunt, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 12 at the Rouses Point Civic Center. This is the fourth year that the Egg Hunt has been held at the Civic Center. There are more events in the planning stages. Watch the library website for details.

We host a weekly meeting on Wednesday evenings for anyone interested in getting together to knit or crochet. Everyone is welcome. There are many people who love to share their knowledge and projects and are willing to teach anyone who wants to learn. This group decided to make lapghans to donate to the Children’s Hospital at Fletcher Allen. To date, approximately 13 “lapghans” have been donated.

Weekly story time continues on Tuesday morning for children birth to four years old. Lately, there has been a regular visitor at story time – “The Old Lady Who Swallowed a…”. The Old Lady puppet makes an appearance and swallows many of the items we read about. The kids love her! Story time continues until the end of May.

Plans are underway for the Summer Reading Program. Also, Donna will be visiting 5th, 6th & 7th graders at Rouses Point Elementary School and NCCS Middle School to discuss the Take a Bite Out of Books (TABOB) program. Many students have already asked about the program and are very excited to see the new books for this year’s competition. Last year we had 25 students sign up for the program and 23 participated in the competition. We will see what this year brings! I’m looking forward to spring, just like everyone else is!

-Donna Boumil, Library Director

More Good Reads...

I recently enjoyed Anna Quindlen’s new book, Still Life with Breadcrumbs. I have read everything she has written, and this latest did not disappoint. She has a low key style that leaves an impression - I can still recall the characters and the settings of the book. This book is available in print copy.

Mother, Mother by Koran Zailckos was an interesting, and poignant story of a family told in the first person by the mother and daughter. It was well written with vivid details that were often times disturbingly real, and a very sad ending. (Ebook)

The Tiger’s Wife by Tea Obreht was a National Book Award Finalist. It is a wonderfully rich story set in the Balkans about a girl and her grandfather and his tale about the Tigers Wife. The writing is beautiful and complex and the characters are memorable. (Ebook) – Anne de la Chapelle, PPL

Because I spend so much time in my car I listen to a lot of books on CD. Lately I’ve had great luck in my selections from among CEFLS’ discs. I listened to Donna Tartt’s The Goldfinch, which is a hot title right now. I really liked the narrator, who did a wonderful job representing the various characters. At the same time I was reading Jonathan Tropper’s book This is Where I Leave You. I thought it was a good read and thoroughly enjoyed the story of a family forced to sit shiva together for a week upon the death of their patriarch. It’s funny, insightful and entertaining.

– Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

Links We Like:

http://daybydayny.org this early literacy website is designed to engage families and very young children in reading, learning and public libraries. DayByDayNY is an “important component” of the NY State Library’s Ready to Read at NY Libraries, a new statewide program which will help library staff enhance and expand their early literacy services. The site features a virtual calendar with content that changes daily. This unique setup gives families with young children lots of daily activities and a story to ready together.

We’ve linked this site on the CEFLS web site (www.cefls.org) where we hope you’ll check it out!
Essex County News

Keene Public Library

It has been an active year already at the Keene Public Library. The Board of Trustees has been busy forming new policies. We are very pleased with the success of our cookbook sale and are now working on gathering new ideas for another fundraiser.

Our young patrons are always excited about participating in our summer reading program. In 2013, we had 24 participants. Thanks to the help of “mini-grants” from CEFLS, it was a great success.

We were very fortunate to receive two new computers which were donated by the RC Club. Along with two computers that we purchased, we now have seven computers for patrons to use. Access to our wireless Internet connection is actively used and widely appreciated. Our patrons have expressed their gratitude for the use of our wireless, especially the outside service after hours.

We are very grateful for donations of many great resources we have received from library supporters. These include books on Adirondack themes, children’s books, puzzles and books on CD. We are especially pleased with the gift of the memoir by Alice Clark and Richard Clark titled *Horns No Trumpets*. This is a must-read story about the love and determination of a mother and son’s struggle with a brain injury and recovery.

Like everyone else we are looking forward to spring. By working together, our team continues to offer a warm and welcoming, comfortable library for the people of the Town of Keene and our many visitors.

-Genny Quinn, Library Board President and Marcy LeClair, Director

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

The Paine Memorial Free Library held "Take Your Child to the Library Day" on Saturday February 1. We held a scavenger hunt and word games for the older children. Volunteer Theresa Lorsch held a story hour for the little ones. Each child went home with a new book!

The *Paine Library Jam Band* continues to grow. We are now performing on the first and third Friday of every month at the Champlain Valley Senior Community in Willsboro at 2:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Other than our regularly scheduled programs, I've been very busy setting up and scheduling our jam packed summer schedule which includes a Fun Run, Craft Fair, Golf Scramble, Annual Meeting, three summer reading programs, four Art Shows with receptions, several book sales and of course our Friends of the Library meetings. Hopefully our six summer band performances can be held in the gazebo outside the Champlain Valley Senior Community. Maybe we'll see you there!

---Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Ask Us 24/7 Reference Cooperative

Last fall Plattsburgh Public Library joined the Ask Us 24/7 online reference cooperative service coordinated by Jacklyn McKewan, Emerging Technologies Librarian, from WNYLRC in Buffalo. In exchange for unlimited access for visitors to our website we give back three hours each week of online reference help. Our librarians rotate staffing this service on a weekly basis, and to date they have answered over 65 questions from public library patrons across the country!

This is an amazing service, since it is truly 24/7, with paid librarians staffing it during the overnight hours. The quality of the reference help is top notch and the system itself is seamless. Think commercial chat with a huge knowledge base! They can provide links to your catalog or even give you persistent links to academic journal articles for your research paper. If you haven’t tried it, take a moment and give it a shot, even if you tell them you are just on a test drive, they will be more than helpful and appreciative that you have found the service.

Users can easily access Ask 24/7 through our website at www.plattsburghlib.org. Ask Us 24/7 is a service of the New York 3R’s Library Councils and their member libraries and library systems. Find out more at www.askus247.org.

-Anne de la Chappelle, Director, PPL

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-Anne de la Chappelle, Director, PPL

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-Anne de la Chappelle, Director, PPL
More Essex County news...

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

We have been and continue to be busy with programming for all ages. In October, 2013, we handed out books to "Trick or Readers" who came to the library in their Halloween costume. On Christmas Eve, we hosted the second annual staged reading of *A Christmas Carol*.

Steven Engelhart, Executive Director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), kicked off our programming for 2014 with a slide presentation on January 8 about AARCH, the nonprofit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. In February, over 25 people turned out in a snowstorm on February 5 for a program with Margot Brooks and Alex Eaton of Sugar House Creamery in Upper Jay. They spoke at the library about their year-long journey turning an old Adirondack dairy farm into a farmstead creamery, and then took us on a tour of the farm, complete with cheese tasting. We plan to repeat this popular program in the summer. Also on tap for February is an Olympic Story time and Craft Program with Olympic Museum Director Alison Haas on Saturday, February 15.

On March 5 at 1:00 p.m., Peter Slocum joined us to talk about about the North Star Underground Railroad Museum, which explores the hidden history of the Champlain Line of the Underground Railroad, and the movie "12 Years a Slave," a movie based on the true story of Solomon Northup, an Essex County freeman. Photographer Mary Valley exhibits "Wildlife Images" through March. An Artist Reception for Mary was held on Sunday afternoon, February 15.

In April, local artist Sue Young will teach "Clay Forms and Handbuilding Techniques." This class will begin on April 21 and runs through May 19 on Monday and Friday mornings, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This free "Creative Aging" class is available to adults 55 and older, thanks to a grant from Lifetime Arts.

The Quilters' Gathering meets the third Monday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

---Karen Rappaport, Director

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You may have seen an email invitation to participate in something called the Impact Survey. Most of us are a little skeptical when invitations arrive in our email! There’s usually a catch, but this opportunity is better than most. Here’s why:

- Just doing the survey will make you and your library look good
- It fulfills the requirement that you periodically survey your community
- It will tell you how your technology is being used
- It can be used as part of your annual report to your community
- It will help you in your long range planning and your technology plan
- It could help get you funding either from your local community or from a grant making organization.
- It could help the New York State Library to get large grants that would benefit all libraries in the state.
- It’s free in 2014, but will probably be fee-based after this year.

The Impact Survey is a tool developed by researchers at the Library of Washington, and it provides an easy way to survey patrons about their use of technology in your library, and produce a very professional looking report of the results. You can see a sample report here: [http://impactsurvey.org/sites/impactsurvey.org/files/docs/SAMPLE_Library_Comprehensive_Report.pdf](http://impactsurvey.org/sites/impactsurvey.org/files/docs/SAMPLE_Library_Comprehensive_Report.pdf) The researchers have created the survey for you, all you need to do is verify some information and decide when you want to do the survey. You can do it for up to four weeks, either by putting a link on your website or setting one of your public computers to go to the survey. You can even create paper forms, but that would require more data entry.

CEFLS can help you with this process. We think it would be great for you to have this information and advocacy tool! Please consider signing up at [http://impactsurvey.org/](http://impactsurvey.org/) today, (or as soon as you have your annual report out of the way!)

----Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

(Editor’s Note: See Betsy’s article on page 7 for another take on this topic)
Schroon Lake Public Library

Thanks to funding from a grant to LifeTime Arts from the AARP Foundation, our library is able to continue the very popular “Creative Aging” program for “adults 55 and better.” An eight week workshop series called “Memoir Writing – It’s Your Story – Tell It!” will be offered on Tuesday mornings beginning on March 18 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Carol Gregson, writer, artist and author of Leaky Boots and Wet Socks will lead the series. The sessions are organized around the premise that we all have stories to tell – we just need to make the time to tell them. A public reception and performance will be held on Thursday, May 8 to showcase the writers and the stories they would like to share.

We celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss with a cake and other festivities that began at noon on Saturday, March 8. Families enjoyed a special showing of “Horton Hears a Who.”

Thanks to a generous donation from the Schroon Lake Lion’s Club, we will be able to refresh our large print book collection and our CD audio collection. We plan to purchase best selling large print and non-print titles in both formats. We currently have approximately 1,200 large print books and 500 books on CD that are appreciated by all readers, especially visually impaired persons in our community.

Our magazine collection is heavily used but is getting more and more expensive to maintain due to price increases and our ever-shrinking budget. We’ve recently initiated an “Adopt-A-Magazine Campaign” which we hope will help us to maintain this collection. Patrons are invited to adopt a particular title from available magazines in the collection, or they can give a general donation to help support it.

Excerpted from the Schroon Lake Public Library newsletter, January 2014 edition. Jane Bouchard, Director

--Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

Created Equal Series Explores American Ideals

On Saturday, March 1, Robin Caudell (left) and Portia Ally-Turco closed out our Created Equal series with a lively discussion of The Loving Story. A highly engaged group of approximately 30 people attended each segment of this five part film discussion series that was graciously hosted by the Plattsburgh Public Library.

The award winning films in the Created Equal series examine the ideas of freedom, equality, and democracy. We were pleased to collaborate with the North Country Underground Railroad Association, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission on this important project that was made possible by funding from the NEH.

Excerpted from the Schroon Lake Public Library newsletter, January 2014 edition. Jane Bouchard, Director
More from Essex County

E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library, Wilmington

It is that time of year where things are somewhat quiet and the weeding and other fun tasks (Annual Report) get accomplished.

The Friends of the Library Cookie Sale in December was very successful. We can’t express how grateful we are to everyone who baked, or bought cookies. We have some very skilled bakers in our community. We have one lady who comes from Keeseville to purchase a large number of boxes, because as she says, we have some of the best cookies in the North Country!

We held a raffle for an iPad mini at our cookie sale. This was a nice fundraiser for the library, but not as lucrative as the one last year. We are brainstorming on a fabulous item for next year’s raffle.

--Samantha Baer, Director

Westport Library Association

With spring just around the corner, we pleased to announce our first musical performance of the year. A delightful concert of well known Broadway songs took place on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Westport Library. Alisa Endsley, songstress and Russell Ames, pianist entertained us. Alisa Endsley has portrayed numerous leading ladies of the musical stage including Norma Desmond in Sunset Boulevard in London’s West End. She also teaches students of musical theatre with her ‘sing for the theatre’ classes. Russell Ames has directed more than eighty community theatre productions as well as being the accompanist for 32 years for the University Glee club of New York City. They both now live in Westport and are delighted to present the second incantation of The Quotable Woman.

We are also gearing up for our annual book sale which will take place in July. We are happy to accept clean used books suitable for resale. All proceeds go to benefit the library. Donations have been steady so far and this year’s sale looks to be another big one!

--Dan Van Olpen, Director

Continuing
Education
Opportunities
2014

Join us for these Face to Face Sessions Coming Soon!

Creating and Maintaining Your Library’s Web Site

Purposeful & Engaging Learning for Young Children Through Quality Library Programming (Dr. Deb Dyer) April 4

Creating Story Hour Read Alouds and Activities Aligned to the NY State Early Learning Guidelines and Common Core Standards with Dr. Deb Dyer April 4 (made possible by a grant from the LPEF)

Readers Advisory & Collection Development for State Correctional Librarians

Downloading Ebooks and Audiobooks: Success and the Story are Yours!

Fizz! Boom! Read! Summer Reading Crafts (yes, you can!) April 4

Continuity Planning: Have a Plan When Disaster Looms! April 14 (Thanks to a NNYLN Training on Demand Grant)

Get that Grant: The Basics and Beyond

Telling Your Library’s Story: Effective Media Relations

You Tell Us: CEFLS Consultants Come to You (County Roundtables)

The ADA and You

Tech Fridays—All Year Round

It Takes A Town To Raise a Reader (made possible by a grant from the LPEF)

And, watch for email links to webinars (archived and otherwise) throughout the year—they’re a non-invasive way to stay informed!
We’re enjoying the snow and our view of the Boquet River’s ice waterfall. We’re always amazed at the hardy souls who sometimes show up at the library in the middle of a snowstorm, and we try to be here for them, although we have scurried home early a few times this winter.

Our winter/spring lecture series is in full swing. “Mural Making as Community Building” was snowed out, but we hope that Steven Engelhart, Linda Smyth and friends will be able to take us on that trip to Mexico later this year.

Intrepid traveler Nina Matteau toured us around the beautiful Adriatic on Wednesday, February 26. (Do you know where to find an organic water-buffalo-mozzarella-cheese-making farm that plays classical music to its animals? We do!)

On Wednesday, March 12, Brian Trzaskos of NEW (Natural, Energetic, Wholistic) Health in Essex told us all about “Natural Vitality Stress Relief.”

For four weeks in April, Colin Wells, author and library trustee, will present a special series in which he’ll expand on some of the ideas he introduced in his popular lectures last year about “The History of the Alphabet”:

- April 9 - “Discovering Oral Culture: A World Without Belief”
- April 16 - “The Alphabet Revolution: The Invention of Belief”
- April 23 - “A Brief History of Literacy: How Belief Grabbed Us by the Throat”
- April 30 - “Electronic Media: Where Do We Go From Here?”

For reasons known only to Colin, he’s calling it the “First Annual Muddy Fuddy Duddy Lectures.” Lectures take place on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, and all are welcome. We’re working on our fundraising ideas for this summer, and we’re excited that Dogwood Bread Company will host another Sunday Brunch for us on Sunday, March 30.

And when the weather breaks and our young friends are able to walk down to the library again, story hour will resume. That will be fun.

--Liz Rappalee, Director
AuSable Forks Free Library

We’ve had some really wonderful community members participate in the story time program with AuSable Valley Elementary Kindergarten class over the last few months. Karen Glass, Storyteller Extraordinaire, told Native American stories including "How the Bear Lost His Tail". Sharron Hewston, AuSable Forks Town Historian, brought part of an exhibit from the town museum as part of the telling of "The Shoemaker and the Elves". Gordie Little, a local author from Morrisonville with wonderful energy, shared "Sparkle and Shine," one of his original stories.

---Maria Goulet, Director

Library Advocacy Day 2014

A group from CEFLS and several member libraries made the trip to Albany on Wednesday, February 26 for Library Advocacy Day. I think we all felt it was an adventure!

We had just picked up our packets and were preparing to head out for meetings with Senator Betty Little, Assemblywoman Janet Duprey and Assemblyman Dan Stec. Ewa Jankowska, CEFLS Director, and Tom Mangano of the Belden Noble Library joined us shortly after.

We were at first disappointed when we found out that the Assembly was in session and we couldn’t meet with Janet and Dan in their offices, but then their aides arranged for us to go over to the Session Chamber and call them out of session! Our representatives were somewhat encouraging about budget restoration this year - and they all said it was good that we came to show our support and be “squeaky wheels.”

- Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

It Takes a Town To Raise a Reader:

New Installment Slated for Friday, April 4

On Friday, April 4, 2014 plan to join us in the Plattsburgh Public Library 2nd Floor Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for another thrilling installment of our Family Literacy workshop series made possible by a grant from the Lake Placid Education Foundation. Dr. Deb Dyer, Associate Professor, Keuka College will present this workshop “double header” that will result in a compendium of activities and supporting literature that each professional can take back to her/his library and use to build early childhood programming. At lunch time, we’ll offer a hands-on Summer Reading Craft session with CEFLS' Karen Batchelder, Donna Boumil, and other member library demonstrators.

The morning session will focus on Purposeful and Engaging Learning for Young Children. Participants will learn how young children process information as well as how to create intentional learning opportunities for young patrons. All attendees are asked to bring a piece of fiction and/or informational text focused on a topic that interests 3-6 year olds, and an artifact that would accompany the text. On good example is The Mitten by Jan Brett and a large knitted mitten with small stuffed animals.

In the afternoon, we’ll focus on creating story lessons aligned to New York State Standards. This is a timely topic that is sure to result in lots of creative ideas that can be put into practice this summer, and year round.

For more information, or to register, please email Julie Wever at CEFLS (wever@cefls.org) by Friday, March 28. This workshop, including lunch and mileage reimbursement for CEFLS member library representatives is made possible by a generous grant from the Lake Placid Education Foundation.
Franklin County News

Wead Library, Malone

Our library has been a refuge lately for people escaping the bitter cold weather! Folks are stopping by to read the paper, use the Internet, and check out a movie or book. They have also been enjoying ebooks without leaving the comfort of their own living rooms!

We held our winter book sale on February 7 and 8. Thanks goes to the teen advisory group for setting up the sale, and all of our wonderful volunteers that come each time to help with the event. Helene Gibbens, from the Inner Peace Yoga Center, gave a free presentation on “Osteoporosis, Stress, & Yoga” on Tuesday, February 4 in the library conference room. Participants learned about the relationship between stress and osteoporosis, and how deep relaxation can help your bones! In January we featured a display that raised awareness of human trafficking. Material was donated by the local Ursuline Sisters, and the library provided books for patrons to borrow on the subject.

Our local Vikings took a break from raiding the winter carnival parade to stop by the library on February 6. Kids got to look at Viking weapons and clothing, and how to make their own. Preschool story hours have started for the spring and will continue through May. Story hours are offered at three different times: Tuesday evenings with Mrs. Andre; Wednesday mornings with Mrs. McDonald; and Thursday mornings with Mrs. McDonald.

In January, we hosted a digital camera class with Eileen Cody. Everyone learned how to work their new cameras, and manipulate their photos. On Thursday, February 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., we offered a free “Blogging 101” class with Bunny Pepin. Participants learned how to start their own blog to market their business, keep a daily journal, or share interests. We have also started a “Tech Support Group” which meets regularly and gives people the chance to come in and share problems and expertise with each other. Hopefully we will all learn more about our gadgets, and benefit by pooling resources!

Movie nights are continuing through the winter. On Friday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m. we celebrated Valentine’s Day by showing “Be my Valentine, Charlie Brown” and “Hooray, It’s Valentine’s Day with The Cat in the Hat.” A repeat matinee on Saturday, February 15 featured the same two movies. Viewers of all ages enjoyed “Monsters, Inc.” on February 21 and “Brave” on February 28.

The library book club meets on the second Thursday of every month. The featured title for February was Wally Lamb’s I Know This Much is True.

--Sue Wool, Director

Stewart's Holiday Match 2014 Supports CEFLS Collections

The Stewart’s Holiday Match Campaign will once again support CEFLS services with a grant award of $500. Funds will be used to purchase ebook titles that support the Common Core for our shared Overdrive Collection. We will also evaluate and purchase a number of quality learning apps for children of all ages through the Apple Bulk Purchase program. Multiple copies of leaning apps will be loaded onto several iPads owned by CEFLS and loaned to libraries for families to borrow (stay tuned for more information on that).

The next time you treat yourself to an ice cream from a local Stewart’s Shop, please say thank you for this campaign’s continued support of libraries throughout the North Country.

Shared Ebook Collection is “Growing Strong”

The ground is still frozen and even mud season seems a lifetime away, but our shared ebook collection is growing by leaps and bounds, and is more popular than ever. Thanks to the generosity of 23 of our member libraries and other funding sources we have more than 1,700 titles available, and circulation for the first two months of 2014 is nearly 1,800. That’s a lot of users.

Plattsburgh Public Library donated more than $9,200 worth of titles at the end of 2013, adding nearly 200 new titles. We were able to add some “hot” new fiction titles to our collection as well as developing a comprehensive collection of business and investment books with funding provided through Plattsburgh Public Library’s Tillson Trust.

Sister Sheila Murphy and library staff member Bonnie Willett talk about the library display on human trafficking.
Essex County news continues...

Lake Placid Public Library

In the face of a predicted snow storm or another deep, deep chill, a lot of people dash to the supermarket to stock up on bread, eggs and milk. Many of our patrons, those who, at least in our opinion, have their priorities straight, make a run on the library shelves for books. There’s nothing better than a book to curl up with under a warm throw or comforter, one good enough to make the reader forget about the possibilities of wussy car batteries, bursting pipes or snow piling up on walks and driveways.

Popular titles of late have included The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt, Dance of the Reptiles by Carl Hiaasen which is a collection of the best of his Miami Herald columns, and anything from the Divergent Series by Veronica Roth. “Life after Life” by Kate Atkinson has stirred interest in her earlier works with some of our patrons. And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini is another popular one. On the nonfiction side people are recommending Bully Pulpit by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Empty Mansions, the Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark, by Paul Clark Newell Jr., and Bill Dedman and My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor.

Some of our most recent staff reads include The Husband’s Secret by Liane Moriarty, The Cuckoos Calling by Robert Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling), and The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton. One of us, (the one who is typing this) has been immersed in mysteries occurring in France by people who were actually born there. I certainly enjoy and recommend many of the offerings written by expats, but the homegrown mysteries offer a different version of the land of lavender. After discovering Fred Vargas about a year ago, I have been shamelessly pushing other mystery fans to read the few that have been translated. The fascinating and sometimes riotous stories Vargas creates are in a category of their own.

Every day visitors remind us how lucky we are to be located right on Mirror Lake. If there is a bonus from all the cold weather, it is that the ice is thick enough to allow for a snowplow to open a two-mile path around the edges of the shore. Someone has also been clearing connecting circular paths that have attracted flocks of people, both with and without skates. It is great to see visitors, including three Brazillian students, who attend classes here, brave the cold for some winter fun.

They’re back! Those ever-popular AARP volunteers set up shop at the library in late January and will remain until mid-March. They processed returns for 300 taxpayers during their six-week stay last year, and demand is even stronger for help with 2013 returns.

-Lisa Forrest, LPPL

Special Client Groups: Community Libraries Reach Out

92% of respondents (25) provide library services to elderly residents of their community; 65% (17) are providing services to the unemployed/underemployed”, the “geographically isolated (42%) (11); “developmentally/learning disabled” residents are served by 54% (14); while “institutionalized residents” (hospitals, nursing homes, extended care centers) are directly served by five libraries. Four libraries are providing services to “ethnic minorities in need of special services.” One half of respondents to this question (13) are providing services to the physically handicapped. Adult learners/tutors meet at 17 community libraries around the system, and 16 libraries referred adult learners to local literacy programs in 2013.

Rotating Collections Contain “Hidden Gems!”

Several survey questions about special formats were asked. Twenty four respondents (80%) indicated that the “large print fiction and non-fiction books received in adult rotating collections provided by CEF complement their library collection and satisfy local readers.” Five respondents do not receive an adult collection from CEFLS. One respondent noted said “I feel the collections are trademarked by an eclectic taste and abounding with hidden gems that we could not otherwise provide.” Twenty one respondents (72%) report that the “age appropriate books I receive in the juvenile collections complement my library collection and help me meet the needs of young readers.”

Ebook Usage Continues to Grow:

78% of library respondents reported that patrons who use ebooks are “very satisfied or generally satisfied” with the scope of the Overdrive collection. One library reported that patrons are satisfied “all of the time.” Thanks to the generosity of 23 of our member libraries and other funding sources we have more than 1,700 titles available, and circulation for the first two months of 2014 is nearly 1,800. That’s a lot of users.
Return Kindle format ebooks:
To return a library book before the loan period ends, log in to your Amazon account with any browser and visit Manage Your Kindle, which is found under “Your Account” near the top right side of the page. Visit Manage Your Kindle. Next to the book that you want to return, click Actions, and then select Return This Book.

You will no longer have access to the book from your Kindle. However, you can always access your saved notes and highlights through Manage Your Kindle even after the book has expired. If you check out the book again, or purchase it from Amazon, your notes and highlights will appear in the book.

Returning READ Format ebooks:
These are easy to return from the ecollection.cefls.org catalog. Go to your bookshelf and you will see the Return button under the book.

Returning downloadable audiobooks:
This is easy from the http://clintonessexfranklinny.oneclickdigital.com/ website. Go to My Collections and you will see the Return Now button at the bottom of the book description.

From the Overdrive Media Console App on a tablet or smartphone:
Find the book cover image in your Bookshelf, and press your finger on the cover long enough to see the option to return it. When prompted with “Are you sure...?” tap the return icon.

Full information about how to return these and other formats (such as epub ebooks) or to remove items from a Nook Color or Tablet is online at http://www.cefls.org/training.htm.

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

Franklin County News continued

Saranac Lake Free Library

Winter programming is in full swing at the Saranac Lake Free Library:

A science reading group and fiction reading group are each meeting once a month coordinated by staff member Judy Oehler.

The Connected Histories reading group, funded by a Let’s Talk About It: Muslim Journeys grant, lead by visiting scholar Monique Weston, held its sixth meeting on Monday, February 24.

Children’s story time, coordinated by staff member Peggy Orman, is offered each Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. More than 20 children enjoyed making a valentine project on Feb. 13. On the third Tuesday of the month, volunteer Terrie Perkins presents an evening story time at 5:30 p.m.

Children’s programming has gone to the dogs with three therapy dogs coming in on Saturday morning, Jan. 25. After their owners talked about therapy dogs, children read stories to the dogs. The dogs will return by popular demand!

Neil Surprenant, Paul Smiths College Library Director, presented “Images of Saranac Lake” on Thursday, February 20, at 7 p.m. Following the program, his new book, Saranac Lake, will be available for purchase and signing.

The Thursday Library Luncheon Series continues at noon every other Thursday with a variety of topics. On February 27, Brian Mann of NCPR talked about “How America’s Prison Boom Changed the Adirondack,” while Karen Glass, Keene Valley library director, will offer “Adirondack Stories Out of the Past” on March 13. Homemade cookies and beverages are provided by the Hospitality Committee.

--Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Connor Gillis enjoyed the Therapy Dogs program on January 25.

- Christie Fontana, photo
Friday, March 7th was **National Dress in Blue Day** in honor of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. CEFLS staff and local state correctional facility librarians donned blue for this photo. If you or if you know of someone who is uninsured and over 50 the Cancer Services Program in your county will cover an in home screening kit that is simple to use and effective. To learn more you can pick up information at the library in your area or call: in Clinton County 518-324-7661, or in Franklin & Essex 1-877-275-6266.