A Message From Ewa Jankowska

It is hard for me to believe that it was only one month ago I assumed the challenging task of heading the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System. On the occasion of this anniversary I would like to express my great appreciation and gratitude for the welcome and the warmth shown to me by our staff, the Board members and above all, by many librarians and library users coming from different parts of this beautiful region. I have already had a chance to see several libraries, thanks to the “Grand Tour” given to me by Francie Fairchild from Chazy. Despite some rainy weather, I was absolutely amazed by the beauty of the libraries placed among the grandeur of the Adirondack mountains, the orchards of Peru and the rolling hills and farms of Franklin County. They seem so welcoming and so well established within their communities.

One of my main goals in the upcoming months is to visit all member libraries and reading centers and to talk with librarians working in the area correctional facilities. I also feel so lucky to join the CEFLS staff at the time when we are expecting a new bookmobile!

I know that I have a lot to learn during the upcoming months, but my aim is to provide an environment and atmosphere that will be always conducive to exchanging ideas, asking questions and helping each other in order to provide the best library service possible. I will be attending a System Director training in Albany in early December to better prepare me to guide the staff and member libraries/reading centers. I would appreciate and welcome the input of others as to the needs of your libraries and communities. The System’s mission is to foster and improve public library service to residents of the System area, and the CEFLS staff is committed to that end.

I would like to make every effort to keep open lines of communication between CEFLS staff and the libraries and all the users. Please be assured that my door will always be open and that I would be truly pleased to receive your suggestions and comments.
Patty Perez Checks in Re: Library School Online

It is nearly time to begin taking courses online via Clarion University of Pennsylvania: Focus on Rural and Small Libraries. Ninety students were accepted into the online program. The school will divide the class into four sections, each with different instructors. I hope I get the best instructor for each class.

Last week, I just received my official Clarion University e-mail address, plus I’ll be given 10MB of web site space. It was quite simple for me to set up the account. My hope is that the continued Internet communication will also be easy to figure out. Classes will begin on January 17th. I am very much looking forward to the first online class. The more I think about going to school from home, the better I like it. What a great opportunity technology has given to us.

I will periodically give you updates regarding library school online.

— Patricia Perez, Lake Placid Public Library

Editor’s Note: Patty is the local recipient of a full scholarship to library school which is made possible by a grant from the IMLS entitled “Making it Real: Recruitment, Education and Learning: Creating a New Generation of Librarians to Serve All New Yorkers.” This program is administered by the New York State Library, Division of Library Development.

Free to good homes: CEF has discarded more quality duplicate LARGE PRINT books of all types. To find out what is still available and to stake your claim, contact Karen Batchelder at 563-5190 x 20 or e-mail Karen at batchelder@cefls.org.

What’s the Big Idea?
Science & Math for Children in Public Libraries Grant

The Vermont Center for the Book has received funding through the National Science Foundation for a wonderful grant that will help libraries to provide beginning science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts to parents and pre-school children. Fourteen CEF member libraries including the Bookmobile will be participating in this grant along with the State of Delaware and the City of Houston, Texas. We are very excited about taking part in this program which will give the participants the skills needed to introduce STEM concepts in story hours and though kits for parents and kids to use together.


We will all be traveling to Burlington, Vermont in early December for three days of training by the Vermont Center for the Book. Look for more information on this program in upcoming issues of the Trailblazer!

Thank You, Senator Little!

Senator Elizabeth Little has once again illustrated her support of public libraries by netting each CEF member library a grant of $2,500!

Watch for more details coming directly to your library soon from Senator Little’s office. It will be terrific if your official “thank you” to the Senator includes anecdotes and/or pictures that tell how this money benefited users of your library. We look forward to hearing about your successes as well!
Member Library News

In Clinton County

Dodge Library, West Chazy

We had a perfect summer here at the library. Attendance at our summer reading program increased over last year’s, which was terrific. We featured three weeks of a story and a craft and two weeks of speakers. Colleen Hickey of the Lake Champlain Basin Program did a great slide show followed by a messy, and therefore fun, watershed demo. The kids are still talking about it! Local songster Speedy Arnold also joined us once again to share more of his silly songs with us.

We have a fascinating series of lectures planned for the library this fall. These lectures will showcase our new books that we received as part of a National Endowment of the Humanities grant for an “America’s Bookshelf”. This particular bookshelf focuses on “Freedom”. On November 9, Sanford Coakley presented a program entitled “Growing up African American in the South During the Civil Rights Era”. The library received some great newspaper coverage for this special event. On November 23, Robert Booth will share his POW experiences during WWII. We feel privileged to have these men share their stories with our community.

I regret to say that I am resigning as director of Dodge Library. This has been a dream job for me, and my biggest regret will be losing my beloved patrons. However, you aren’t done with me yet! Cheryl Blanchard has offered me a job at Paine Memorial Library in Willsboro, so I will still be doing the thing that I love the most: helping people to find what they need in the way of reading material and information. Thanks to all of you for helping me to provide West Chazy patrons with so many inter-library loan books. I couldn’t have kept my patrons half as happy without your help.

— Cindy Pytlak, Director

Chazy Public Library

Friends of the Chazy Library are preparing for the annual Christmas Open House at the Chazy Public Library to be held Sunday, December 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come and enjoy mulled cider and delicious home made breads. Win a large basket of Christmas goodies.

— Francie Fairchild, Director

Library Trustees’ Handbook— Coming Your Way!


According to the introductory section, “the purpose of this handbook is to assist both the new and experienced public library trustee to better understand their job and to present the basic information they need to provide quality library service to their community. It offers advice on the philosophy of governing a library and on the practical, nuts-and-bolts aspects of responsible trusteeship.”

Sections include “Trustee Duties and Responsibilities”, “Library Policies”, “Budgets and Finance”, “Planning and Evaluation”, “Friends of the Library”, besides many others and helpful appendices. The complete handbook is available on the DLD web site as a .PDF file. Two copies have been sent to each CEF member library.

November is National Hospice Month

Each November, the National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) celebrates National Home Care Month, National Hospice Month, and Home Care Aide Week (November 13-19) to honor “care giving heroes who make a remarkable difference in the lives of patients and the families they serve.”

Watch for information coming your way about our local hospice organizations – they are looking to local libraries to help spread the word about their exceptional services.
Betsy Brooks Reports From the CODI Conference

I very much appreciate the opportunity to attend the CODI (Customers of Dynix, Inc.) annual conference, which was held in Minneapolis from November 7-9. This conference is held annually to facilitate communication between customers and employees of SirsiDynix about the Horizon software we use for library automation.

Much of the discussion at this year’s conference centered around the upcoming release of a completely new version of the software: Horizon 8.0. At CEF, we are now using Horizon 7.33, which is one step behind the most current version, 7.4. The change to Horizon 8.0, when we decide to do it, will be a major one that will require workflow decisions and retraining, as well as some expense. The new version won’t be available to existing customers until the summer of 2006, but I expect we won’t want to consider it until 2007 so other customers can test drive it first. It does have some features that we have needed. These include:

- Security at the item level so one library cannot edit another library’s records.
- The ability to see from where and to where items are transiting.
- Improved features for consortia which look like they will work well for rotating collections.
- A feature that links family patron records, which we had in MultiLis, will be new and very welcome. A hold can be successfully checked out by a linked family member.
- Much improved spine label and mailing label printing which will allow libraries to print labels and do a mailing without help from CEF.
- The new version also uses about 1/5 of the bandwidth of the current version and should be faster and less prone to disconnections.
- Improved MARC editing and importing, and better reports.

- continued on page 5

CourtHelp Resources Are on the Docket

Five CEF libraries have been selected by the New York State Unified Court System to become CourtHelp Resource Centers. This pilot project includes comprehensive training for staff of participating libraries in the provision of legal reference service. The libraries involved are Akwesasne, Lake Placid, Elizabethtown, Plattsburgh and Saranac Lake. We hope to add Wad Library, Malone in the future.

This free training opportunity included presentations by representatives of various courts which familiarized member library staff with their roles in the judicial system. Each presenter emphasized how local libraries can guide their patrons to legal resources and information without offering legal advice. This project places special emphasis on resources for those who are interested in representing themselves when appropriate.

We heard from representatives of Clinton County Family Court, Plattsburgh City Court, the Upstate Law Project and the Clinton County Supreme Court Law Library. Each expert described how their courts functioned. We gained a valuable understanding of the hierarchy of courts within the state judicial system, the steps of a trial and what types of cases are heard in each court.

Participants received a Resource Center Volunteer’s Manual, which includes a glossary of legal terms, a directory of county, town and village courts in several counties, information on the Judicial District Law Libraries, Lawyer Referral/Legal services and listings for government agencies. A large selection of print materials was purchased and distributed to the libraries. Titles include Black’s Law Dictionary, Gibson’s New York Legal Research Guide, plus self-help legal guides from Nolo Press.

There are plans for more training and a public relations campaign to draw attention to this important resource. Librarians involved in the project report that they’ve been able to assist their patrons in finding legal information with great success since receiving the training and we look forward to continued success of this valuable program.

— Elizabeth Rogers, CEF
Continued from page 4

One downside will be the potential need for CEF to buy a new server and the reporting software (called Web Reporter) needed to produce reports with Horizon 8.0. I went to the conference armed with a couple of questions. Here is what I discovered.

Q: Can the Horizon Information Portal (OPAC) work with a PDA such as a Palm Pilot or certain cell phones?

A: Currently it works, but it doesn’t look good. There is too much detail for the small screen. The Information Portal that comes with the new version of Horizon will have an ADA (Americans’ with Disabilities Act) profile that is text-based and will work much better with a PDA.

Q: How can we save money on technology purchases?

A: I attended a session that was tantalizingly called “Save Your Library $10,000.” The main points that the presenter stressed were:

- Have a technology budget and a technology plan
- Use discount software vendor TechSoup
- Use CDWG and GovConnection and state contracts for hardware purchases. Use the manufacturer’s part numbers to check Pricegrabber and Froogle web sites for the best prices. Use these to bargain with CDWG or GovConnection.

— Betsy Brooks, CEF Automation Consultant

Hurricane Relief Books

Libraries in Louisiana and Mississippi are accepting donations to help replace library collections that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. There are a few “donor guidelines”, however. The library association of each state has made clear that only new books are wanted. And, donor libraries are expected to pay shipping costs. For complete donation details, e-mail Elizabeth Rogers at rogers@cefls.org

LJ’s Most Wanted: Grab Them While They’re Hot!

Listed below are 15 of the “Books Most Borrowed fiction and non-fiction books in U.S. Libraries” for the week of November 15, 2005. Library Journal’s Best Sellers list is compiled from data on books borrowed and requested at public libraries throughout the United States. It includes statistics from urban, suburban, and rural libraries. We have reproduced the list, in rank order. You can print out your own weekly list, or a list of subject best sellers by visiting the LJ web site at www.libraryjournal.com.

CEF scores 98.8%! Titles marked with an * are owned by CEFLS and available through ILL or on the bookmobile.

FICTION

#1 *Lifeguard* by James Patterson & Andrew Gross
#2 *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd
#3 *4th of July* by James Patterson
#4 *True Believer* by Nicholas Sparks
#5 *Chill Factor* by Sandra Brown
#6 *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
#7 *Eleven on Top* by Janet Evanovich
#8 *Point Blank* by Catherine Coulter
#9 *Sentenced to Die* by Judith A. Jance
#10 *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova
#11 *Blue Smoke* by Nora Roberts
#12 *The Broker* by John Grisham
#13 *Sweetwater Creek* by Anne Rivers Siddons
#14 *Girls in Pants* by Ann Brashares
#15 *Vanish* by Tess Gerritsen

NON-FICTION

#1 *A Million Little Pieces* Frey
#2 *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* Dubner
#3 *Natural Cures “They” Don’t Want You to Know About* Trudeau
#4 *Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking* Gladwell
#5 *1776* McCullough
#6 *The World is Flat* Friedman
#7 *The Tipping Point* Gladwell
#8 *French Women Don’t Get Fat* Guiliano
#9 *You: The Owner’s Manual* Roizen
#10 *Your Best Life Now* Osteen
#11 *100 People Who Are Screwing Up America* Goldberg
#12 *The 3-Hour Diet* Cruise
#13 *Women in Career & Life Transitions* Anderson
#14 *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* Diamond
#15 *Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood* Fay
In Essex County:

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

Hot off the Press: On December 1 the Sherman Free Library of Port Henry will be going live on Horizon!

In October, the library hosted a program on the underground railroad in the North Country. A crowd of 41 local residents enjoyed a presentation by Don Papson, president of the Underground Railroad Association. Don welcomes additions to his stories and also is seeking information on regional stops that were used for the underground railroad.

After a summer hiatus, our book group resumed in September. We have read The Poisonwood Bible, Gap Creek, and are currently tackling The Mists of Avalon by Marion Zimmer Bradley.

In December, our library will participate in “Midnight Madness” that is held in the village, and will sponsor a drawing for a decorated wreath. Anyone coming into the library that night can sign up to win this holiday wreath.

-- Jackie Vistenz, Librarian

Elizabethtown Library Association

The Elizabethtown Library Association held a book sale on Friday, Nov. 18th and Saturday, Nov. 19th. Sale hours were noon to 4:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

-- Matt Putnam-Pouliot, Director

Schroon Lake Public Library

As things begin to slow down from the hectic summer months we have had the time to shift collections around and do some weeding to make room for new items in our increasingly cramped space. We are still hoping to expand in the future but plans have been put on hold as the Schroon Lake Central School is also in the process of submitting proposals for a large addition to their building. We will wait until they get squared away before continuing with our expansion.

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Online Resources for Librarians

There are a lot of web sites that are useful to us as librarians and it’s hard to single out which are the most useful, but here are a few I think are particularly relevant:

**The Charity Channel**, at [http://www.charitychannel.com](http://www.charitychannel.com)

This site includes free electronic newsletters and listings of grants currently available around the country. There are good articles offering tips on writing successful grant applications. Check out “Don Griesmann’s Grant Opportunities.”

**The Philanthropy News Digest** from the Foundation Center, at [http://fdncenter.org/pnd](http://fdncenter.org/pnd)

A good place to check from time to time to keep up with the latest news on foundations offering grants, especially to non-profit organizations. Check out the “NPO Spotlight” on the homepage.


Ideas for public relations from the American Library Association. This site also links you to “700+ Great Sites” for kids, which is an amazing resource. There are lots and lots of good (and interesting!) ideas for PR you can try at your library here.


Although some of the material included in this site is older, there are great free graphics for you to use for bookmarks and posters here. There are graphics for specific occasions as well as plenty suitable for everyday library use. There’s great information about public relations, with good links to additional resources, including “Books to Movies,” and “Based on the Book.”

**American Library Association**, at [http://www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org)

The ALA’s homepage includes current national job listings, news items, lists of “best books,” award-winning books, important statistics and, perhaps most important, **policies**. Some of these are policies that need to be included in things like your collection development policy. Check out the “Workbook for Selection Policy Writing.”

-- Elizabeth Rogers, Head of Technical Services and ILL
Schroon Lake news cont.

We had lots of requests this summer for wireless capability. We are hoping to be able to offer this service to our patrons by next summer. I still have some concerns about security issues and what system I should purchase. Once that decision is made, and the library board approves, we will move forward with our plans.

Our Friends of the Library group continues to be an invaluable resource to our library. This fall and winter they are sponsoring a scrapbooking class, and a stamping/card making class. In addition, they will raffle an Adirondack lap quilt in February as their winter fundraiser. Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00.

— Jane Bouchard, Director

Hammond Library, Crown Point

The entrance to the Hammond Library recently received a face lift. The Prevention Team, a non-profit organization from Ticonderoga that provides drug prevention information and education in Essex County schools, volunteered their time to help another non-profit organization in the county. The entrance and sign received new paint and the area around the entrance was landscaped.

Flowers were donated by Henry Drinkwine on Street Road and Tromblee’s Greenhouse in Crown Point. The Library would like to thank all those involved.

— Wendy Terbeek, Director

Belden Noble Library Holds Dedication

At a Sunday, October 16\textsuperscript{th} ceremony attended by many family members and friends, the Belden Noble Library in Essex honored the memories of two library trustees.

A new librarian’s desk was dedicated to Arline Leaning, who was a mainstay of the library for four decades. She was on the library’s Board of Trustees from 1968 until her death. For three years, 1984 to 1986, she worked as the town’s librarian. She twice served as president of the Board of Trustees. Arline also is remembered for her special efforts in support of the Library. When she worked at the Hobby Horse store (now the Neighborhood Nest) with Charlotte Sherman, proceeds from the sale of craft works were donated to the library. It was Arline who successfully went to the town board when funding was needed for repairs to the building. The new librarian’s desk was constructed by Robert Sayward of Willsboro using monies donated in Arline’s memory.

A “bookcase” for the display of the library’s videos and CDs, built by her husband Bruce, was dedicated to Margaret Klink. Although she served as a trustee for but a short time before her untimely death, Margaret was a very active board member and a willing volunteer. In addition to the many times she helped with librarian duties, Margaret is remembered for the cookies she generously brought to special events.

Helping honor Margaret Klink at the Sunday afternoon ceremony were Bruce Klink, his sister, Ruth Downey, and Fred Kobel.

Three generations of Arline Leaning’s relatives – from as far away as Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Ohio -- gathered for the dedication of the new Librarian’s desk.

— Article and pictures contributed by Mark Kupperman

Workers pictured are: Angie MacAlpine, Phil Kneller, Nancy Paquette, Dave Wyant, and Darcy Hurlbut

Photo by Doug Terbeek
Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

In October, volunteer Kathy Recchia held a children's theater workshop which culminated in a performance on October 23. The library underwrote the costs of the performing rights and the scripts, and the rehearsals were held at the library. A large number of children were involved in this production, "Cafe Murder", and the cast performed at the Upper Jay Upholstery Shop to a standing room only crowd. The theater was set up with cafe tables, and parent volunteers served the beverages and desserts. It was a wonderful experience for our area young people.

In November, local artist Kim Frank will be leading a series of art workshops entitled "Pencil Renderings", for ages 10 and up starting Wednesday November 9 at 3:30 and continuing for the following three Wednesdays. These workshops are made possible by a 2005 Stewart's Holiday Match grant.

On Saturday, November 26 the library will begin its annual Holiday Sale of new and gently used holiday decorations. The sale will run until December 24 during library hours. "New" items will be added weekly so there will always be something different on display. Stop in often.

-- Sylvia Norton, President

Wadhams Free Library

We’ve been happily busy this summer at the Wadhams Free Library. In August, two documentary filmmakers showed their films. Camilla Rockwell screened her beautiful film, “Stone Rising”, about Vermont master stone builder Dan Snow, and Libby McDonald showed “Terror Town,” a fascinating look at interactions between Muslim and non-Muslim Americans in the aftermath of September 11.

We received a wonderful gift of 100 new children’s books from the Brownstone Book Fund. It’s a terrific opportunity to expand our offerings to younger patrons.

Our new Saturday morning hours, which are staffed by volunteers, have been well received. In October, we re-started our Story Hour at a new time. We hope that 10:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings will be a convenient time for families.

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Don’t Just Circulate—Activate!

New Yorkers for Better Libraries (NYLIBS-PAC) is a political action committee formed by New York library advocates who believe that “increased state aid for libraries and library systems is essential so that library and information services can be sustained and improved for the people of New York”.

The mission of the New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC is to provide campaign support to decision makers who are in a position to effectively champion libraries. The committee’s activities include fundraising, political contributions and endorsements of those who have actively supported increased state aid to libraries and library systems. NYLIBS-PAC’s mission does not include conducting advocacy campaigns, employing lobbyists or prioritizing among library bills.

For more information about NYLIBS-PAC, including how to make a personal or corporate contribution, visit the committee’s web site at http://www.nylibs-pac.net/pages/1/index.htm.

-- Excerpted from the New Yorkers for Better Libraries PAC web site at the address above.

Give Your Patrons the NOVEL Edge!

The New York State Library has announced an enhancement to the New York Online Electronic Virtual Library (NOVEL) web site.

Visit the New York State Library web site at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/novel/invgrant to access lessons learned from the recently completed NOVEL Invitational Grant projects. There are online tutorials, new ideas for using NOVEL databases in curricula and lesson plans as well as tips for promoting the use of NOVEL’s vast electronic resources to parents, teachers, students, decision makers and the general public.
--- news from Wadhams cont.

We’re enjoying our beautiful new walkway of mosaic stepping stones which were designed, made, and installed by young artists from Families First with the help of Wadhams artists Deb Kahler and Paul Rossi.

We’ve started “the automation process.” With help from CEF and some dedicated volunteers, we expect to be up and running in a year (or so). Barcoding can be fun.

We’re continuing our “Wednesdays in Wadhams” lecture series this fall. On October 19th we learned about the cheese caves of France from Sam Hendren. On November 9th, Monique Weston talked about her recent trip to Israel and the West Bank. In November, Nina Matteau shared slides of her trip to Botswana, and on December 7th, Colin Wells will talk about “The Birth of History.”

We’ve been pretty busy at the library, which is great, and we’ve gained the services of some “junior volunteer librarians,” who are keeping us all entertained.

--- Liz Rapalee, Director

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Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

On the heels of the departure of our welcome summer visitors came the start of the new school year. There doesn’t seem to be an in-between season at the library! Early this fall we held painting classes in the library’s Community Room. These were well attended by enthusiastic local residents. We are also featuring local artists in our main floor display area. Each artist is given a month to “show their stuff,” and the different styles of each exhibit have been very interesting. Another highly anticipated class has been a writing workshop, “Prose and Poetry Tour,” by Steve Coffman and Michael Czarnecki.

During the weekend of October 22, some ambitious and civic-minded ladies organized a craft fair which was held in our Community Room. With Christmas on their minds, many people came to check things out and start their holiday shopping. We finished up the month with our first annual pumpkin carving contest. Many clever entries lined our shelves. We also held a “pre-Halloween” party for the children, with stories, crafts, treats and refreshments that were enjoyed by all.

Happy Holidays to all with wishes for a new year full of good reading and increased circulation in 2006.

--- Linda AuClair, Director

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Saranac Lake Free Library

The Saranac Lake Free Library Board of Trustees honored Janet Parker Decker at a reception on Wednesday, October 19, in the upstairs reading room of the library. Mrs. Decker recently retired as chairperson of the Adirondack Research Room and past board president. She has made extensive contributions to the library community on the local, regional and state level. More than 80 people attended the celebration, including Kathie LaBombard, Youth Services Librarian at CEFLS, Stanley Ransom, retired Director of the CEF Library System, and John Hammond, Executive Director of the Northern New York Library Network.

Stanley Ransom presented a song he had researched in the Adirondack Room, while John Hammond spoke about Mrs. Decker’s many contributions, especially to the library’s “jewel,” the Adirondack Room.

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In Franklin County

Chateaugay Memorial Library

A private foundation has awarded the Chateaugay Memorial Library $100,000 to create a new, larger library space. We are renovating the Town Highway Garage next to the Town Hall. We expect to begin the project in the spring of 2006 and anticipate completion in the fall of 2006. The design of our new library was unveiled to the “oohs and aahs” of the public on November 15 at the American Legion. Fund raising is gearing up, with some grant money already in the kitty. We are looking forward to the challenges and joys of this project, and will keep you posted as work progresses.

--- Eileen Clar, Director

“A wonderful thing about a book, in contrast to a computer screen, is that you can take it to bed with you.”

--- Daniel J. Boorstin
— news from Saranac Lake cont.

Janet Decker was an active member on the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System Board for nine years, and served as president. She also served on the Northern New York Library Network Board for ten years, and the New York State Association of Library Boards. In 1990 she was awarded the Richard W. Lawrence Award for outstanding service by the CEF Library System.

Standing with the plaque honoring Janet Decker that will hang in the library Adirondack Room are Stanley Ransom, Janet Decker, Jan Kibben, board president, Betsy Whitefield, library director, Michele Tucker, Adirondack room curator, and John Hammond.

-- Story and Photograph by Pat Wiley

Spotlight on Energy Savings

Are you stunned by the size of your electric bill, and/or are jackets now standard issue in your library? What is most important to your patrons (besides the great reading, listening and research materials that are offered)? If you answered “comfortable surroundings”, you're probably right. To help libraries achieve this for patrons and staff, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is offering several New York Energy Smart programs that can help to enhance the environment of your library. Reduced energy costs are just a bonus.

The Small Commercial Lighting Program offers effective, energy-efficient lighting systems that provide better lit areas and cost less to operate. This program is designed for areas approximately 25,000 square feet and under. The Earlville Free Library in Madison County recently took advantage of this program and installed uniform glare-free lighting. As a result, they expect to save $1,400 annually in electric costs!

The Energy Audit Program is currently designed to help facilities, such as libraries, that have an annual electric bill of less than $100,000. The program provides an energy audit of your facility to help you make informed decisions about your energy use. An audit can help identify improvements that may yield significant electric savings. The cost of the audit varies, depending on your annual electric bill.

If you are considering renovating or adding on to your library, you may be interested in the New Construction and Green Buildings Program. This program offers technical assistance to evaluate and design energy efficiency options, cash back incentives for installation, and other incentives for “green buildings”, “daylighting” improvements, and solar technologies.

For more information about New York Energy Smart programs, log on to the NYSERDA web site at www.nyserda.org or call toll free, 1-866-697-3732.


NOVEL Databases Update

If you have any curious young patrons who like to look things up in the computer, point them to a new database that’s available in the list of NOVEL databases: Kids Search. The Kids Search Database has a very colorful interface with broad topics to delve into such as sports, geography and news. Magazine articles, reference book excerpts, photographs and flags are all included.

To get to Kids Search, go to the CEF web site (www.cefls.org) and click on the Reference tab. Kids Search is listed among the Youth Databases. Patrons of automated libraries can use the “access by barcode” link from the library or from home. Other patrons or library staff can use “access by password” and use “cefls” in both blanks.
Mystery Men Redux

It says something (but what?) when we’ve been in production long enough to recycle some of our most popular articles. This quiz was featured in our Fall 2001 issue, and we thought it would be fun to trot it out again. I believe that Dave Minnich of the Wead Library, Malone never did get his prize for the most correct answers – we’ll also take this opportunity to rectify that! -- Editor

Your Mission: Each of the following leading men is featured in at least two books. Name the author and submit your entry on this form to Julie Weaver, ATTN: Trailblazer Quiz by Friday, December 2. The three participants with the most correct answers (and Dave Minnich) will win a prize sure to please their brain and their palate. The answer key will appear in the next issue of The Trailblazer and, in case you can’t wait, we’ll post it on the CEF website (www.cefls.org) during the week of December 5. Thanks again to Ann Garcia, former director of the Keeseville Free Library. Enjoy!

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CHECK THIS OUT!

Here is renowned Adirondack photographer Nathan Farb’s preliminary sketch of the new CEF Bookmobile. As Mr. Farb says, “We live in one of the most beautiful and special places in the country, and we should have the most beautiful bookmobile!”

Beauty is not just skin-deep as staff and patrons will soon discover. Our loyal customers who have hung in there with us through the death of our generator (sometimes browsing the shelves with a flashlight) will also appreciate the interior of our new “library on wheels” as they explore the world with our “comfortably accessible” resources in many formats!

Special thanks again to our funders and supporters, who include: Senator Elizabeth Little, Assemblyman Chris Ortloff, Legislators of Clinton County, The Essex County Board of Supervisors, the Franklin County Board of Legislators, Georgia Pacific, “An Anonymous Donor,” Friends of the Bookmobile, Chase Twitchell (graphics) and Nathan Farb.