CEFLS Member Libraries Prepare to Dig Into Summer Reading!

CEF member libraries are busy putting the finishing touches on their “Dig Into Reading” and “Beneath the Surface” summer reading plans. Thanks to our LSTA Summer Reading Mini-Grant, the System has awarded $100 “really mini-grants” to 22 member libraries to help out with their CSLP themed activities. We’ve also used summer reading grant funds to purchase many of the titles on the list to supplement rotating collections throughout the summer. Project funds have also been used to provide lots of summer reading program resources such as reading records, posters and bookmarks to participating libraries. We have also just received a Family Literacy grant that will fund summer reading activities through 2015 so stay tuned for details of more “mini-grant” funding – it all adds up to a more than a molehill of summer reading fun!

This summer, collaboration with local schools and the common core are front and center on everyone’s “must do” list. We encourage local libraries to use the template letter to local schools that was e-mailed last month to reach out to school library personnel. Together we can keep kids engaged in reading all summer long. A helpful first stop is the Summer Reading page of the DLD web site. The New York State Library and the Collaborative Summer Library Program have put together materials in a variety of formats for public libraries to use while planning and providing the best summer experience for each child, teen, and family in their community. Tons of resources for librarians, parents and kids, including the 2013 version of the New York State Reading List are featured. Check them out at [http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/index.html](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/index.html) Please also stop by the Summer Reading page of our website (www.cefls.org) – we’ll keep it updated with links and your suggestions to share. We’ve scattered “Dig Into Reading” and “Beneath the Surface” images throughout this issue.

We will host an “easy peasey” craft demo session on Thursday, June 13 from 10-12. Plan to join us to learn how to make carrot hats, dinosaur shoes and other inexpensive theme related crafts. RSVP to Karen Batchelder at CEFLS as soon as possible so we can provide supplies for you!

Here’s to a great summer of summer reading fun!
**MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS**

**Champlain Memorial Library**

Spring has sprung and everyone is rejoicing in the North Country. These last few beautiful warm sunny days have brought in all kinds of people to the Champlain Library. It is great to see old familiar faces and new ones coming in too!

Spring cleaning has also taken place in the library. Our collection of VHS tapes was taking up a lot of space and is not being used much anymore, so it seemed like a good time to do some weeding and perhaps make a little money for the library as well. Most of the kid videos have sold but there are a still a few adult action and drama movies available.

On Wednesday April 17, local author husband and wife team Mark Barie and Christine Racine were at the library to talk about their book, *Crossing the Line: A History of the Border at Rouses Point and Champlain*. The event was well attended, and many lifelong Champlain residents shared their memories with each other. The book is available locally and Mark and Christine are donating all the profits from the sale of the book to the Rouses Point Historical Society.  -Alison Mandeville, Director

**Mooers Free Library**

The Library Board hosted an Information Day for the new library and community center on Saturday, May 18 at the Mooers Elementary School Pavilion. Community members enjoyed hot dogs, Michigan, chips, desserts and soda as they chatted with board members about our new library facility. The Friends of the Library sponsored a successful book sale at this event—we moved lots of books at $5 a bag.

--Jackie Madison, Director

**Dodge Library, West Chazy**

Dodge Library is fortunate to receive a generous donation of hundreds of books. They are beautiful book club editions that were only read once and boxed back up. They still have that new book smell. Dodge will be having a daily book sale until they are all gone or the end of summer, whichever comes first. They are all popular current authors and titles. Stop by and browse for your favorites.

We are pleased to introduce three titles by two local authors. *Perceptions of the Imagine Nation* is the breakthrough book of West Chazy poet, Gerald Piche. Gerry's poetry speaks to many different topics including nature, spirituality, humor, philosophy, and even includes short stories and word finds. Gerry has received the Golden Poet Award three times, and the Silver Poet Award and Editor's Choice Award twice.

**What’cha Reading?**

I could get carried away on this one! I'm a super-mystery fan, plus I’m hooked on time travel books. Charles Dickinson's *A Shortcut Time* was just fabulous! Also, anything by Stewart O'Nan; I've read everything he's written and am currently reading his most recent book, *The Odds: A Love Story*. I finished *The Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon a couple of weeks ago--it was riveting and is the first in "The Cemetery of Forgotten Books" series. Another great mystery writer is Carol Goodman, I've read almost all of her books. I just finished *The Sonnet Lover* and have read everything she wrote before that--most excellent. And, all of Amulya Malladi's books are great, I can't wait for her to write more! Oh, and I can't forget Julia Spencer-Fleming. She lives in Maine now, but she was born in Plattsburgh. She writes superb mysteries, one must read them in series. They're long but easy reads and totally absorbing!

In non-fiction, I just finished Firth Haring Fabend's *New Netherland in a Nutshell: A Concise History of the Dutch Colony in North America*. After many years of thinking about researching my genealogy on my mother's side of the family, I finally did it about 5 months ago. Little did I know that I am 1/4 Dutch! (I thought I was totally of German descent.) So, I've been reading some non-fiction about the Dutch, who were the European settlers of New York City, & the emigration of the Dutch to the Hudson Valley. (Native Americans preceded them, of course.) I've got my genealogy back to about 1610 (so far) in Leyden, the Netherlands. Sharon Bandhold, PPL

*That Mean Old Yesterday* by Stacey Patton. In this book, a little girl rises above the tyranny of an overzealous mother by channeling her intellectual energy into schoolwork. Wise beyond her years, she can see that her chances for survival are advanced through her struggle to get into an elite boarding school. She uses all she has, a brilliant mind, to link her experience to the legacy of American slavery and to successfully frame her understanding of why her good adoptive parents did terrible things to her by realizing that they had terrible things done to them. – Jackie Madison, Mooers

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*Continued on pg 3*
More Recommended Reading…

**Tell The Wolves I’m Coming Home.** I took this on vacation, thinking I was taking a werewolf fiction - I did not read the jacket. Werewolves would have been ok, but what I read was outstanding! A beautiful coming of age story with love and friendship. A teen spends time with her artist uncle who she thinks is the only one who really understands her. He dies of a mysterious illness and she begins to see and truly understand who he was.

**Ways to live forever.** Eleven-year-old Sam knows that he is dying from leukemia. He has decided to write a book that includes his thoughts on the matter as well as his lists and his questions, particularly those that no one ever answers. A positive, good read. Good characters and humor.

**Solitude of Prime Numbers.** I listened to this book. The relationship between Mattia and Alice develops over many years. They are drawn together because of their extraordinary solitude. She has been physically crippled by a skiing accident; he is emotionally crippled after the loss of his twin sister. And yet, even when they find each other, they are alone, but they understand each other’s solitude. A compelling listen even though the narrator was not demonstrative in his reading. It seemed to fit the story and even add to it. - Karen Glass, Keene Valley

**The Last Runaway** by Tracy Chevalier portrays the conflict before the Civil War between abolitionists and those who supported or didn’t want to get involved in the debate. The story centers around Honor Bright, a Quaker woman, who wants to help runaway slaves.

**Breaking Point** by C. J. Box is the latest in the series about Joe Pickett and is a good read.

**Drawing Conclusions** by Donna Leon is another thoughtful book about Commissario Guido Brunetti. This is a story where things aren’t always what they seem. – Jackie Viestenz, Port Henry

West Chazy news continued from pg 2

**M. Dylan Raskin** gets fed up with his 22 year old life in Queens and decides to take his freedom on the road, setting off for Chicago to turn his life around. *Little New York Bastard* is his story of a mixed-up kid who knows what he wants in life but has no idea how to get it. Readers will appreciate the immediacy and honesty of his story. He has also written an offbeat love song to his ailing mother. Together, mother and son hit the road in their little Honda del Sol and scour the U.S. for peace and quiet and the "October supplies" they need to keep going. *Bandanas and October Supplies* is a bittersweet love story like no other book ever written about death, life, and the complex devotion between a mother and a son. If your library doesn’t have these titles, you can certainly order them from us.

We are looking for comic books to use in our summer reading program and beyond. If you have any in good condition that are looking for a good home, please consider donating them to us.

-Linda Dupee, Director

**Editor’s Note:**

In a recent note to CEFLS Director Ewa Jankowska, Linda was kind enough to express her appreciation for System services. Some excerpted sentiments include, “I have had umpteen dealings with your staff, and they are incredibly professional, courteous and effective. I received a wonderful letter from one of my patrons complementing me on my service. I can only do my job because of CEFLS. Thank you so much!” Thank you, Linda – we are all blushing appreciatively with your feedback.

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**Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library**

The Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library is getting into the swing of Spring with an enlarged and paved parking lot. Work will be completed by the end of June thanks to funding received from the Library Construction grant and in-kind services provided by the Village of Rouses Point Public Works Department. The parking lot will be enlarged to accommodate 10 vehicles, including a handicapped space. In addition, there will be a new return drop box located in the parking lot.

We will hold a book sale on Saturday, June 22, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is held in conjunction with the Rouses Point Village Wide Yard Sale.

We are extremely excited and pleased to announce that our library has 25 students that are participating in the TABOB Program. There are 10 - 5th graders and 15 – 6th & 7th graders. We meet once a week either before or after school, depending upon the grade. The students are very enthusiastic and excited about TABOB.

Continued on pg 4
**Health LibGuides**

Like the Gates Foundation, we believe every person deserves the chance to live a healthy, productive life. Libraries can and must play a positive role in promoting the good of our communities. That’s why, with our community partners, we’re producing Health LibGuides with local, accessible, multi-format health resources for residents of Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties.

The Health LibGuides are available at [http://cefls.libguides.com](http://cefls.libguides.com). They feature books at our libraries, ebooks, videos, apps, local organizations and trustworthy web sources on health topics. We welcome suggested additions by the library community and the public.

Please help us pass the word!


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**Rouses Point news cont.**

Summer Reading Program presentations and activities have been scheduled and confirmed. This summer is going to be extremely busy. There will be activities or presentations three or four a week beginning July 1 and running through August 16. Featured programs and activities include: Preschool Story time, a reading program for children ages 6-11 by the Town of Champlain Youth Commission, and visits from Cornell Extension Service, Dave Ruch, Speedy Arnold, Steven Kellogg, Nicci’s Craft Corner, and Kate Woodward Photography. There are also game days and movie matinees scheduled. Busy, Busy! -Donna Boumil, Director

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**Chazy Public Library**

At Chazy library we are in the third year of our renovation, working on the grounds. There are colorful tulips blooming in the small gardens by our front and back entrances. We plan to fill in these gardens with help from Trustee Tina Trombly and Master Gardener Joann Trombly.

Our latest acquisition is a lovely gazebo, partly paid for by a welcome large memorial donation. The gazebo sits on the top of a hill rising from our parking lot. The hill which rolls down to the river is filled with limestone ledges, would make a lovely rock garden someday. On the level ground by the river we have an Adirondack chair and table, which was made as a senior project by a Chazy School student, and donated to our library. Other senior projects given to us have been a unique book return box, a chess table, and a lovely photograph of a barn in Chazy Orchards. We treasure these items as tokens of the level of community support.

Our last year’s project, a downstairs Community Room, is being increasingly utilized. In addition to our Christmas Open House, we have had Literacy volunteers tutoring, a knitting group, a mahjong group, a quilting group, sewing lessons by Pat Damour, a presentation for a pending group trip to France, and a Planning your Spring Garden program by Cornell Extension Service. We plan to have gardening programs once a month through the summer. The next one will be held on Wednesday, June 12 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

In the upstairs library, we have two monthly Story Times, one for a nursery school and the other on Saturdays for children for age 3 to 8. These are coordinated and often presented by former music teacher Diane Sabourin. Diane also does a yearly program for CCRS kindergartens, and helps with our summer reading program. Currently we have an art exhibit of masks “Animals in their Habitat” made by fourth grade students. Grace Potthast, their elementary art teacher, will be teaching Observational Drawing (using the right side of the brain) to senior citizens here in the fall thanks to funding from our Creative Arts for Seniors grant from LifeTime Arts. Rini Green, a teacher at CCRS, will teach a basic computer class for us in the fall.

It is so wonderful to have this new library with the space to do all these things, plus more computers, more books, more A/V, and more patrons.

--Francie Fairchild, Director

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**More of What I’m Reading...**

I’m currently reading *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach. You don’t have to love baseball to appreciate the rich characters in this story. It’s the story of a college baseball player and his campus community. It’s reminiscent of one of my favorite books, *Moo*, by Jane Smiley.

I recently listened to a recording of Jennifer Egan’s *The Invisible Circus*, which I enjoyed very much. Egan, a prize winning author tells the story of a young woman’s search for the truth about the death of her sister. It’s effectively written, with good character development and a gripping plot. – Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS
Essex County News

Westport Library Association

Now that spring is finally in the air the Westport Library is once again buzzing with activity. Book donations are steady as people bring in the reading materials that entertained them over the long winter. All the while our 2013 Book Sale planning committee has been working hard to make sure these gifts are put to good use. This year’s sale looks to be one of the biggest and best in years. Our “First View” will be on Wednesday, July 3, and the sale will continue on the 4th, 5th, and 6th.

The library was also recently awarded a grant through the Libri Foundation. The foundation provided a 2-to-1 match which resulted in 60 new books for the Children’s Room. A generous donation from Kathleen and Keith Giles, in honor of the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, provided the initial funds.

Our recent purchase of two Kindle e-readers for the library has increased the interest in library e-books. Just having them visible at the circulation desk has sparked some of the conversation. Some patrons are still surprised to find out that e-books are available through the library. It is a pleasant discovery for those who already have e-readers and for those contemplating the purchase of one.

- Dan Van Olpen, Director

What are you Reading?...

I just finished the book The House Girl by Tara Conklin. It is an interesting story about a young attorney, Lina Sparrow, who gets involved in a lawsuit seeking reparations for descendants of American slaves. The story flashes back and forth between Lina and Josephine, a Virginia house slave in the mid-1800s, who was also a painter. Her mistress has always received credit for the paintings, and Lina must try to solve the mystery of Josephine, and help to make things right. - Sue Wool – Malone Wead Library

The Orphan Master’s Son by Adam Johnson. Fiction An amazing tale of contemporary life inside North Korea. Vivid and harrowing. The writing is superb. Full Body Burden: Growing up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats by Kristen Iversen. Non-fiction. Iversen weaves personal memoir together with investigative journalism to tell the extraordinary story of the Rocky Flats nuclear facility in central Colorado, where for years shoddy management led to persistent leaks and cover-ups. - Anne Sayers

I just completed Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier by Neil deGrasse Tyson. DeGrasse Tyson is director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City, and this book is a collection of essays and interviews addressing the importance of space exploration. His style is clever, funny, and loaded with insight. Here’s an example: he wonders why we look at the Saturn V rocket that launched the moon shots and wonder “how did they do that?” when we should be so far beyond that technology that we see it as a quaint technical relic like the brick-size cell phone. - Tom Mangano – Director, Belden Noble Memorial Library, Essex.

BusinessDecision Empowers Small Business

Check out the CEFLS web site for another year of access to BusinessDecision, our powerful online research tool that bangs the library door open for small business owners, entrepreneurs or anyone seeking consumer market data. BusinessDecision uses a series of geographical information system (GIS) based databases such as the U.S. Census to generate social, economic, business and environmental data that has many applications. The powerful mapping capability reveals trends, patterns and opportunities which are often hidden in tabular data. With the click of a mouse, library users, small business owners, researchers and government agency personnel can access, interpret and map area specific detailed demographical information and business statistics.

CEFLS is the first library system in New York state to subscribe to this cutting edge research tool, thanks to funding from our LSTA “Small Libraries Mean Business” grant. Business Decision will be the topic of September’s Tech Friday session. If you would like to put this database through its paces before then, contact Julie at CEFLS to schedule an individual training session. Send an e-mail to wever@cefls.org or call 563-5190 x 18.
Schroon Lake Public Library

This winter our library kept busy with programming choices for all ages and interests. Thanks to the Carol and Glenn Pearsall Foundation grant we were able to provide another movie series. Each Saturday patrons could enjoy an afternoon children’s movie or an evening movie for teens and adults. Some of the more popular movies shown were: Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, Les Miserables, Lincoln, and Young Victoria.

The first Wednesday of each month patrons could attend our beginning computer classes. Classes were offered on our laptop lab and covered basic skills such as email, internet searching, and general skills. In addition to our monthly classes, two local college students assisted patrons with technology questions every Thursday evening from 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. The students were available to help patrons with their computers, software, cell phones, and anything else technology related.

On Sunday, March 3, library staff risked life and limb at the 3rd annual Cardboard Box Derby. Crew chief Margaret Baranoff put her creative juices to work and created “The Bookmobile” for library staff to enter into the derby. “We got a little nervous when we saw how fast the test sled went, but figured we could always bail out if we went too fast! Luckily we didn’t have to worry about speed since we went down sideways, backwards, all ways but straight. It was great fun”, says director, Jane Bouchard. Quite a few patrons showed up to cheer us on! Our team won a prize for the fastest sled in the 18 and over division (we were the only 18 and over entry) plus, we won first prize for most creative sled. We were the talk of the town for a week. We can’t wait until next year. More pictures are available on our website.

Upcoming programs include the Children’s Down to Earth Garden Club for children and their families. Participants will meet twice a month at the library for about a half hour of fun activities, followed by a short walk to the community garden to tend to the library plot. Children will plant, tend and harvest their garden while learning about the natural world around them. The group will learn about soil composition, helpful and harmful insects, birds, the water cycle, botany and the interrelation of plants, animals and humans. The program will run through the end of September.

Links We Like:

http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaprotools/accessibilitytipsheets

The Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) “Library Accessibility –What You Need to Know” toolkit series of fifteen tip sheets was developed to help librarians in all types of libraries understand and manage access issues. These issues include but are not limited to: patrons who have cognitive, mental, or emotional illnesses; patrons with learning and/or developmental disabilities; volunteers with disabilities, What Trustees Need to Know, patrons with service animals; patrons needing assistive technologies; and patrons with physical disabilities. Each tip sheet addresses a specific concern, and was updated in 2010.

Gardening Books: Fresh Picks

We’re well into gardening season now, and here at CEFLS we have a large collection of books to help you along. Here are a few recommended titles on gardening and related subjects; all are available through us.

The Complete Guide to Northeast Gardening (2012), by Lynn Steiner
How to Get Started in Northeast Gardening (2005), by Darrell Trout
Gardens Adirondack Style (2005), by Janet Loughrey

We have some good resources on homesteading as well, which is a popular subject:

Modern Homestead : Grow, Raise, Create (2011) by Renee Wilkinson
Pay Dirt : How to Make $10,000 a Year From Your Backyard Garden (2010), by John Tullock

And, don’t forget to check out our “growing” ebook collection of gardening titles for adults and children.

--Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

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More from Schroon Lake...

Registration for the 2013 Summer Reading Program will begin the last week of June. This year we will hold weekly crafts on Fridays, and story times on Wednesday. On Thursday, July 25 we will offer a birds of prey/raptor program presented by the Wildlife Institute of Northeastern New York. On Thursday, August 8 Biologist, Nancy Carlson will be Digging into Reading with her burrowing animals program.

We are excited to receive a second round of Creative Aging @ Your Library funding which will allow us to present a series on Basic Drawing. Adults “aged 55 and better” will learn to draw in this eight week Beginning Drawing program made possible from a grant from Lifetime Arts. Carol Gregson will teach participants the elements of art, perception, shading, and more. Participants will finish up with an artists’ reception and exhibition of their work. Classes will begin Thursday September 5 and run through Thursday, October 24 from 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon. Registration will begin in the summer months.

---Jane Bouchard, Director

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Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

The trustees are having a yard sale on Saturday, June 8 from 10:00 a.m until 2:00 p.m. We are receiving quite a few good donations for this sale.

On Saturday, May 25 we held a book signing at the library for the new book, "Moriah and Port Henry in the Adirondacks." This books was co-authored by Jackie Viestenz and Frank Martin. It contains 180 pictures of the area with captions that describe the picture and tell about the history of the area. There will also be a book signing at the Iron Center (Moriah Historical Society) on Saturday, June 29 at 1:00 p.m.

I am retiring at the end of May. I have enjoyed working at the library, but now want to travel more with my husband.

-Jackie Viestenz, Director

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Top Tech Trends for Libraries in 2013

Predicting the future is hazardous, but it’s an interesting exercise to read what experts believe and apply it to the reality on the ground. I recently read through some predictions from two very different organizations and tried to pick out a few that seem relevant to our particular situation. The organizations are the NMC (New Media Consortium), an international community of experts in educational technology that exists to help its members stay at the leading edge of educational technology, and Gartner, Inc., an information technology research and advisory company in Stamford, Connecticut. Each year, these two organizations report on strategic technology. After reading their top trends, here’s my take on what will affect small, rural libraries most in the near future.

Bring Your Own Device

Patrons will increasingly bring their own devices, and expect you to provide the Internet connection via WiFi. You may want to think about investing in a more sophisticated “network appliance” which can secure the wireless network and protect you and your patrons from being attacked by or spreading malware. You may need fewer public access PCs, which would be a good tradeoff.

Cloud Computing

We will be providing more collections via “the cloud,” which includes ebooks, downloadable audiobooks and videos, and local historical materials. Protecting our investment will be a concern, since we are giving up some control and we often don’t own the materials, but rather license them and store them elsewhere. Knowing what the community needs and wants permanently and what it only wants temporarily will be more important.

Online Learning

The academic world is embracing online learning, and we may see more students hoping to use the library to access courses. We might want to provide quiet spaces and videoconferencing equipment to encourage them, as well as reliable and fast Internet connections and WiFi.

Big Data

Apparently, computing processing speed is about to take a big leap forward, allowing very fast data crunching. Organizations are collecting massive amounts of data and using it to make decisions. It’s somewhat frightening that large companies with big budgets will gain disproportionate advantages from these trends. On the positive side, things like earthquake and storm prediction will be much better, and health care outcomes could benefit. Could libraries become the “citizen and consumer cloud” and point people to the best publicly available data?

---Betsy Brooks, CEFLS
More from Essex County

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

It's been a busy few months for me, since starting here at Goff-Nelson Memorial Library on October 1, 2012! I've been very pleased to collaborate with Rebecca Buerkett, the new librarian at LP Quinn Elementary School here in Tupper Lake, and several other organizations. I try to order books to complement her K-6 collection, and to support the Common Core.

In October, the Cub Scouts came to have a tour of the library and learned how it's organized. They’re working on their Communications badge, some of them got their first library card, and they all checked out a book. We were also very pleased to host the October meeting of the CEFLS Board of Trustees.

In December, Mrs. Claus came to the library for holiday storybooks and goodies! We read a whole stack of popular Christmas and holiday stories, and had a great turnout.

In February, a troop of girl scouts came to get a tour of the library and learn about the resources that are available. Several of them got their own library card for the patch that they’re working on. On February 11th, we started doing inventory - it hadn't been done in over 10 years. On Thursday, February 28, 17 children from the local Head Start program came to the library to hear some Dr. Seuss stories. We all had a great time.

On Saturday March 2, we celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday by hosting a program that featured three guest readers who shared several Dr. Seuss books. Rebecca Buerkett distributed flyers at LP Quinn, and we had over 200 people here that day. I suppose that it didn’t hurt that we also gave out mini-cupcakes and lots of new library cards.

The Teddy Bear’s Picnic on April 20 was very popular, thanks to our guest storyteller, Suzanne Orlando. On April 22 we finished the inventory project. Everyone on our staff worked very hard to scan everything in the collection (about 40,000 items). We had a celebratory luncheon to reward everyone's hard work. We have a great team.

On Wednesday, May 1, students showed off some impressive baskets that they made in the after school workshop on basket weaving. The workshop was sponsored by the Lake Placid Center for the Arts. There are photos of these events at: http://tupperlakepublib.wordpress.com/event/. We've also had a Zumba group meeting in our Community Room for several months, but they aren't too eager to have their photos taken.

In between those events, I was busy with the annual report and grant applications like the rest of you. I feel very fortunate to work in this beautiful library with a great staff. Be sure to stop by to say hello if you're in the area.

--Peg Mauer, Director

New Developments at SirsiDynix

In recent years we have felt some anxiety and uncertainty about whether our ILS system, Horizon, would continue to be developed, updated and supported by SirsiDynix. The company seemed to want to push all customers to migrate to their other flagship software, called Symphony, but after several demonstrations of that software, our Migration Committee was not enthusiastic about the product. The costs of migration to Symphony or any other product look daunting, and would also require a great deal of training for all member libraries' staff. We have also looked at several other products, some of which were attractive, but also very expensive. Some were less expensive, but lack all the features we now have.

Last month, Elizabeth Rogers and I attended a meeting of the Upstate New York SirsiDynix Users’ Group. We heard a presentation from the regional sales manager of the company, and it included a development road map that explained the new features and functionality planned for the next year. The company has apparently decided to continue supporting Horizon and Symphony by developing new web based services that work with both products, providing some much needed advancement for our Horizon software without the disruption of migration. In the near future (probably early next year) we will have access to new circulation, cataloging and administration interfaces, and a new public online catalog, at no additional cost. This was excellent news.

There are also some extra cost options that we could consider, such as a module that better integrates downloadable content, and an upgraded public catalog. The cost to add on these modules would be much less than the cost to migrate our data to a new system.

We will continue to consider what software best serves our needs, but these developments are very encouraging!

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS
Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

Thing 1 and Thing 2 were at Wells Memorial Library to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday on Saturday, March 2. Patron Micah Peterson hosted the birthday party, complete with decorations, story time, craft, and of course birthday cake! It was a fun and festive celebration of Dr. Seuss and his books.

Thanks to patron Janet Morton, on March 17 the library hosted a lovely afternoon concert that featured Skip Smithson on mandolin and Jeff Rendinaro on guitar and vocals, of the Plattsburgh band Zip City Blues. This was most enjoyable and much appreciated. Thank you Janet!

We were awarded a Lifetime Arts Creative Aging grant for a Watercolor Workshop this summer. Grace Potthast will teach the class "en plein air" weather permitting. Grace exhibited her own watercolors at the library in March and April. Space is still available for individuals who are 55+. The class will run June 21 and 28, July 5 and 12, and August 2, 9, 16 and 23. A display of artwork from the class and artists' reception will take place on Sunday, August 25, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Please call the library at 946-2644 or email wellslib@primelink1.net to register for the class, or for more information.

"It's A Mystery to Me" is an antiquarian book sale event planned for Saturday, August 17. An enticing collection of boxes of books will be put up for sale with one visible tome. What else is in the box? Buy it and see! Refreshments will be served, of course.

-Karen Rappaport, Director

More from Essex County

Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga

The Black Watch Memorial Library has been bustling with activity in the last few months. We have had visits from our local Head Start Program and Rainbow Nursery School. The children were given a chance to become acquainted with our Library and hear a story. It is our hope that these youngsters will encourage other family members to come in and take advantage of all the services that we have to offer. The Library also sent a representative to Silver Bay YMCA’s Healthy Kids Day event to encourage reading for a healthy mind and sign up youngsters for summer reading.

Children’s events during the winter and early spring included programs on kindness, Easter and may flowers. Stories were read, crafts were made and children were sent home with a snack. The programs were well attended and gave the children a preview of an exciting summer to come. The Friends of the Library have been providing excellent adult programs as well. Most recently, Jim Davis made a presentation on the Cheever Mines.

The Friends of the Black Watch Memorial Library have been and continue to be a vital resource to our Library. They will be selling Great Escape discounted tickets, and will receive $5.00 for every ticket sold. The majority of the Friends’ fundraising benefits are used to support children’s materials and programs, and this year we have a full summer schedule for local youth. With the Friends’ money and grants through Stewarts and CEF, the Library will have fifteen total summer reading programs for children and ‘tweens. We will kick off our summer program with a magic show on Saturday, July 6, 2013. The rest of the summer includes story hours, ‘tween sessions, Saturday art and Nan Hoffman for summer reading folk song fun.

-Heather Johns, Director

Student intern, Meg Michalak, read a story during our “May Flowers” children’s program on May 11.
Welcome to the Lake Placid Public Library

Overheard one day walking to the post office: Husband, who is meeting up with wife—“I went as far as the library.” Wife—“You mean the bookstore.” Husband—“No, the library.” Incredible Wife—“They have a library here?”

Yes, Lake Placid has a library. Right in the center of town. From the sidewalk visitors see an old cottage library that some are delighted to describe as “quaint.” They are not disappointed when they enter to find wooden shelves crammed with books, a fireplace and rocking chairs.

A LITTLE HISTORY...

That original room would still be easily recognized by any of the 18 readers who gathered one January night back in 1884 to form the Library Association of North Elba. In a feat which would astound most elected bodies today, the founders, in one evening, managed to draw up and adopt a constitution, decide to incorporate and elect three officers, three executive committee members and three trustees. Among the trustees was Lyman Epps, Sr., the best known of the black Timbuctoo settlers and friend of abolitionist John Brown.

The structure was erected for $1200 plus donated goods and services, and opened in July of 1886. Today, it remains as one of the last original structures on Main Street.

ON WITH THE TOUR...

Like many Adirondack libraries, the original front hides a building that is much larger than it looks from the street. Expansions and Renovations over the past 128 years have brought the floor space to approximately 8,000 square feet with 62 recently counted windows and a collection topping 23,000.

Beyond the original cottage room is a second fiction room, then a reading porch Overlooking Mirror Lake. This is also our periodical room and a favorite spot for many who like to read and rock while occasionally gazing out at Mirror Lake and surrounding hills. The porch is also where a special collection of more than 1700 music cds are kept, an attraction to opera, classical and jazz buffs who return again and again to check them out.

The reading porch wraps around an elevator installed in the large expansion project of the late 1990s. It and two separate stairways lead down to the children’s area which spreads through three rooms. One housing juvenile and young adult, one nonfiction and one, with a wonderful view of the lake, for the youngest. The kids’ areas, with huge bean bag type chairs, plush animals, toys and games, has become a magnet for youngsters. It’s not unusual to find tourists with little ones using it as a place to re-charge.

Going down another level brings you to the director’s office and the climate controlled archival room, which houses, not just library materials, but also those of the North Elba Historical Society and the Town of North Elba. An outside door leads from this lowest level to a covered walkway and what we refer to as the “new building.” Mostly hidden from the street, it was a home for many decades before being purchased and renovated. Coming in at this lowest level we find the 800s in the entryway. Nonfiction occupies the former dining and living rooms. A windowed space off the living room, that once was an open deck bordering lake, has been enclosed and is now the biography section. The area chapter of Literacy Volunteers of Essex and Franklin Counties occupies a small office on this level as well.

Going up the inside stairs we reach the airy, sky-lit Guy Brewster Hughes Gallery, the site of on-going art exhibits ranging from the much-praised works of kindergarteners to accomplished professionals.

Next we are in the LPPL’s busiest area: the computer room. There are eight stations, filled daily by visitors and residents, some who come every day we are open. It is also an important stop for foreign students in town on work visas looking to check email, print boarding passes or contact friends and family all over the world including China, Kazakhstan or Venezuela.

- Continued on next page
More on LPPL

The tour is almost over as we head from the computer room back to the “old building” by way of an enclosed elevated walkway. The passage doubles as an on-going book fair space. We also sell tomes year-round on the front porch. A couple stairs take us back to fiction and street level.

ABOUT THE STAFF AND TRUSTEES…

Through the years, the library has been fortunate to have several dedicated librarians and library directors, including Therese Patnode, emeritus, who died barely three years ago and is still greatly missed. She was the one who inaugurated the policy of no fines, reminded us all that the books are not to be treated as our personal property and refused to have “quiet” signs. Our library director today is Nancy Morelli, a lively and incredibly energetic woman known for her insightful and popular acquisitions choices and willingness to help patrons with special requests. She was with the library for many years in various capacities, especially as archivist, before taking her present post four years ago.

The touchstone, the one for whom just about everybody asks, even if she is missing just long enough to have lunch, is assistant librarian Linda Blair. She has been here for 37 years, and is known to all for her kindness, especially to children. She conducts a story hour for pre-schoolers each Thursday morning.

Ron Huber is the computer/internet technology guru, upon whom we all dependent. Ron oversees the staff electronics and the computer room, which often has a waiting line during the busy seasons. Somedays, he appears to be running a one-man help desk, and also is very willing to assist newbies in need of information and guidance with software and equipment.

Lisa Forrest is the interlibrary loan, publications and gallery staff person. Kate Curry maintains the children’s room, works with exhibiting artists to mount works and assists Mrs. Blair. Both also share from desk duties.

Tom Smith and Kent Pratt take care of building maintenance. Mr. Smith comes in to clean and make interior repairs twice a week and Mr. Pratt maintains the grounds, often here to shovel before everyone else arrives on cold, snowy mornings.

Beverly Reid has presided over the LPPL board of trustees for many years. In a fortuitous dual role, she is also the North Elba Town Historian and often can be found at her desk in the archive room. Camilla Palumbo is vice president, and Roland Urfirer, Peter Lynch and Barbara Erickson round out the five-member board, which meets the third Tuesday of each month.

BEYOND BOOKS…

As at all libraries, our role in the community has been continually changing. Besides offering computers for public use, we hold on-going monthly classes for beginners to advanced Excel. Last summer, we installed the international edition of Ancestry.com and held very popular sessions for people wanting to track their lineage. The library is also used by the Lake Placid Institute Book Club, the Lake Placid Poetry Guild, French classes and numerous community groups such as the garden club and historical society.

From late February to mid-March, volunteers from AARP set up shop in the “dining room” to help people calculate and file their personal taxes. This past year they managed to process more than 300 returns for grateful filers.

We are extremely happy to have the literacy volunteers, who can be found in various rooms tutoring students individually and in groups. Their English-as-a-second-language program is especially popular with students from other lands. Our guest book includes names from all over, Staten Island, London, Vermont, Canada, Russia, France, Japan and places too numerous to mention. Many people stop in because they are involved with libraries like to tour other facilities. We hope that everyone reading this will come see us as well. We just love having company. --Lisa Forrest
Essex County news continued

Belden Noble Memorial Library, Essex, NY

The Wannabes, a local folk group, initiated and organized a benefit concert called Lift Up Our Library! on Sunday evening, May 5. The concert was attended by about 60 people who heard great home-grown music while showing their support for the library.

We hosted The Rainbow Pony, a puppet show based on a fairy tale from the Andes by the teachers of the Lakeside School on Saturday, April 13. The number of children in our area has been growing steadily, and we were pleased to have the room filled with young people and to issue several new library cards to parents and children following the show.

--Tom Mangano, Director

E. M. Cooper Memorial Public Library

We are gearing up for the busy summer months and all the activities that coincide with them.

The Friends of the Library will be hosting their Annual Food and More Sale on Saturday June 8 starting at 10:00 a.m. This will be a bittersweet time for us as we have lost our long time “Friend” Laura Trumbull. Laura was a wonderful asset to our little Library and she worked tirelessly to help with whatever we needed. She will be missed terribly.

We celebrated National Library week by having “Blind Date with a Book”. We wrapped several books so that the titles weren’t visible, but had a few “buzz words” describing the book. Our more adventurous patrons participated and found books that they wouldn’t normally select to read. This just shows you really can’t judge a book by its cover!

We are pretty excited about the TABOB competition and the kids are working hard reading the books.

-Samantha Baer, Director

Pink Ribbon Cooking

As part of our NNYLN grant “Piloting the Shoals of health Information” we’re excited to have purchased multiple copies of an important e-book by a local author. Peru author/cook Curtis Hamm has written The Pink Ribbon Cookbook, and we’re making this great resource available to all patrons in our service area through our local libraries.

Because many studies suggest that a healthy diet can help in the fight and treatment of several cancers, we think this cookbook is a great addition to our systemwide collection. The cookbook “brings flavor, variety and simplicity to the fight against breast cancer. Each recipe is supported with nutritional data, anecdotes and memories about preparation, pairings and shopping hints.” It’s a must-read.

Because it’s an e-book, we’re providing access to the book by circulating “paddles” with login and password information and login instructions. Every library in CEFLS will be able to provide access to two copies of the book and provide limitless circulations.

- Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

Have You Heard?

Plattsburgh Public Library has a new director! Anne de la Chapelle was the Director of the Westport Library Association from 2001-2007 when she left to pursue academic librarianship at both Clinton Community College and SUNY Plattsburgh, where she is currently an adjunct instructor. In addition to her MLS, she has a MS in Education from U Albany, and is working toward a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from Empire State College. Welcome, Anne!

Jackie Viestenz has announced that she will retire from her position of Director of the Sherman Free Library, Port Henry. Jackie is looking forward to travelling extensively with her husband. Happy trails, Jackie!

Hot off the press: We’ve just learned that Andrea J. Anesi has been appointed as the new director of the Sherman Free Library. Andrea is in the process of moving to the area from Pennsylvania and will begin work on June 6. Welcome Andrea!
We are really happy to announce a new app for your smartphone or tablet that lets you access your library, search, request and renew books from anywhere! It’s called BookMyne, and it’s free at the Apple and Google stores. We love the reading recommendations too!

NNLM Offers Grants and Proposal Writing Online Course

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine Middle Atlantic Region will offer a free online course on grants and proposal writing in June. NLM Outreach Coordinator Kate Flewelling, who led two on site consumer health workshops at CEFLS in April, will present this three part webinar series which will run on three consecutive Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Program dates are June 13, June 20 and June 27.

Designed for beginning grant proposal writers, this class presents a general overview of the grant and funding processes as well as the level of detail required in a successful proposal. Each component of the grant writing process will be addressed, including: documenting the need; identifying the target population; writing measurable objectives; developing a work plan, an evaluation plan and dissemination plan.

The course will consist of three one hour Adobe Connect webinars and a planning assignment. We will set the webinars up for group viewing in the CEFLS board room. If you would like to join us, please let Julie know by phone (563-5190 x 18) or email: wever@cefls.org

Follow this link to register for the webinars at your library: http://nnlm.gov/mar/training/register.html? schedule_id=2291

More From Essex County...

Keene Valley Library

We have been busy planning programs for young and old. Town Supervisor Bill Ferebee regularly holds a Town Chat at our library. Mr. Ferebee talks and listens to concerns and issues that affect the town. The next chat is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 21. This event is subject to change so it’s best to call before coming.

On Monday, May 20 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Henrietta Jordan will talk about the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) in partnership with Community Education.

More people are joining us at the library on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 for Meditation.

Our Summer Lecture Series is taking shape. Details of the programs planned to date are posted on the home page of our library web site: http://www.keenevalleylibrary.org/lecture-series/. Topics range from “Underground Railroad in the North Country (July 15) to “Climbing in the Italian and French Alps” (July 29) and a guided tour of India by John and Carol Rutherford on August 12.

We have materials and books in our archives that are very valuable both monetarily and as a resource to the community. Nothing circulates or is lent from the archives; therefore we have never entered the material into the systems database until now. With the help of CEF’s Elizabeth Rogers, we have begun the process of creating records for the books and entering them in the system. This will mean patrons will be able to search on line for what they need, and they will know if materials are available for research in the Keene Valley Archives. The books will be “stored” in a special collection called kearc (archives). And even though they will have a barcode they will be coded as non-circulating. It is a long process. We expect the project to take about a year.

With the help of two grants, Keene Valley Library has purchased more than 30 Playaways. Playaways are prerecorded audio players about the size of a deck of playing cards and weighing very little. An entire book is recorded on each device. They cannot be scratched like a CD format. They do not become obsolete because they are not dependent on a player and they can be played in the car with a car jack or used with ear phones. They are not dependent on electricity or recharging, just on a single AAA battery. Currently they can be borrowed from the Keene Valley Library. CEFLS and Tupper Lake also maintain Playaway collections.

--Karen Glass, Director
Franklin County News

Malone Wead Library

Our news this time around is presented in photos that describe all of the “action” that’s taken place at the Wead Library recently.

Members of the Wead Library Teen Advisory Board participated in their first World Book Night on Saturday, April 27th. The teen book givers shared the love of reading person to person by handing out over 80 books at the Greater Malone Area YMCA and Jreck Subs in Malone.

The Wead Library celebrated 80 years at their Elm Street, Malone location with an Open House on Wednesday, April 17th. Members of the community stopped by all day to see displays, view scrapbooks and enjoy a slide show. A reception was held from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The House Girl by Tara Conklin. This is a first novel and a good summer read. A 21st century NY lawyer finds a connection with a 19th century slave girl from Virginia. Where will this go? Read and find out.

Lost in Shangri La by Mitchell Zuckoff. This is the true story of a mission to rescue Army personnel after a WWII plane crash in New Guinea. It’s full of suspense. I downloaded the enhanced version on iBooks and got video of the actual crew, author notes and declassified Army documents. The story is really exciting.

Little Boy Lost by Marghanita Laski is an older story, 1949 to be exact. Bookpage.com reminded me of this one. It is the story of a British writer who must leave Paris to flee the Germans in 1940, leaving behind a wife and newborn son. He returns to a devastated France after the war to look for the child after learning that his wife is dead. Ms. Laski is adept at drawing word pictures and the story was made into a movie starring Bing Crosby in the mid fifties. Good stuff. – Judy Harris, NCCI
Saranac Lake Mayor Clyde Rabideau kicked off National Library Week at the SLFL on Monday, April 22, by declaring it National Library Week and then sharing cake and coffee with patrons, board members and staff. We continued to serve coffee and cake throughout the day, along with giving out NLW bookmarks. Other activities that week were a TABOB meeting for young people, a daytime and evening story time with a book-making project, Spring Book Group, a Red Cross Blood Drive and an art show.

Our Summer Reading Program, with its theme “Dig Into Reading,” will run three Wednesdays in July for preschool, first and second grade and third and fourth grade groups. Each group meets from 10 a.m. until 12 noon as the children enjoy stories, special guests, projects and refreshments. The program ends with a parade through the library and an ice cream social. Around twelve volunteers help with the summer reading program.

What difference has Overdrive made to our readers? Library Director Pete Benson reports, “Many of our patrons have mentioned the eBooks now available through Overdrive. And we have given a number of one-on-one tutorials to assist people. Once our patrons discover the ease of the process, they have been very happy with the results. As a rule, our patrons need only one tutorial. And, more importantly, they use it.”

--Pat Wiley, Library Assistant