It is with regret that the CEFLS Board of Trustees announces that the bookmobile will be retired at the end of 2011. “Deep and ongoing budget shortfalls are responsible for this decision, which was a hard one to make,” says CEFLS Director Ewa Jankowska. “However, despite the fact that we did everything we could, including not filling two staff positions, and slashing our materials budgets each year, we were faced with no alternative. Unfortunately, we needed to make a tough decision between following our mission to provide services to member libraries or to continue the bookmobile service. Our current budget climate simply cannot support both.”

The bookmobile began service in 1956 shortly after the System was created. Four dedicated bookmobile staff members operated two vehicles on a two week schedule until 1991. During the early years, it was not uncommon for a third staff person to ride along in order to help cope with the crowds of people who queued up to check out their selections. Each bookmobile crew completed an “overnight” every other week; one crew stayed over in Ticonderoga and played friendly evening card games with their hosts at the Circle Motel, while the Franklin County route goers bunked for two nights in Malone. In 1991, one vehicle was removed from service due to budget issues. The remaining bookmobile operated on a three week schedule for several years, but recently moved to a four week schedule to once again save operational costs. The history of the bookmobile has been recorded in quite amusing and moving detail in an article entitled “Parnassus on Wheels” by Bob Harden, who drove the bookmobile in those early years. Plans are underway to post that document on the CEFLS web site in the near future as it provides a fascinating glimpse into life on the road at that time, as well as a history of CEFLS in general.

The bookmobile currently makes 60 stops on a four week schedule to bring a full range of library services to more than 1,800 readers of all ages in the three county area. Ft. Covington, in Franklin County, has traditionally held the top spot as the busiest stop; over 1,300 items have circulated to patrons there since the beginning of the year. The bookmobile also brings books, magazines and a friendly social opportunity to seniors at more than 11 dedicated stops.

CEFLS consultant staff will be working throughout the fall to manage the impact that this shift in services will have on patrons. “We intend to work with member libraries to come up with a plan to provide library services to the residents that have traditionally depended on the bookmobile for their recreational and educational reading materials,” Ewa Jankowska says. Possible scenarios might be to distribute books to nursing homes and senior centers in a different way, or to explore the costs associated with a modified books by mail service.

We will provide more information throughout the fall as we prepare to say good bye to the end of an era.
MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

News From Clinton County
Dannemora Free Library

The Dannemora Free Library is now operational at its new home at 40 Emmons St. in Dannemora. We are all very excited about the move and hope everyone will come and visit us in our new home.

- Laura Pritchard, Director

Chazy Public Library

It was a busy summer. Speedy Arnold kicked off our summer reading program with an evening outdoor show that kept children (and a few passers-by) entertained with group singing to his guitar accompaniment, making up a song, and looking at and discussing his drawings and book illustrations. We had 25 children (preschool through 7th grade) sign up for the summer reading program. Every Saturday in July we held a Story Time for children age 3 to 8. Alexandra Mesick (for a Girl Scout Silver Badge project) planned and conducted four wonderful programs, with stories and a craft. After 18 children returned their completed reading lists, Alex helped me plan a party to celebrate. She did such a creative job I hope she’ll continue to do an occasional Story Time. The children love her dearly!

In collaboration with the Town Summer Recreation program, we held a three day Reading Camp for elementary age children. Each day Diane Sabourin and her Girl Scout helper, Sadie Garceau, read a folk tale (successively Asia, Europe, and Africa). The children learned about five different kinds of folk stories. They made stick puppets to illustrate one story, and after snack time learned a folk dance. On the last day they also set up a shadow stage and presented a puppet show, based on one of the folk tales, to an audience of parents, grandparents, and me. Then they taught us one of the folk dances, which we all performed with several changes of partners. The children were very enthusiastic during this camp, so we hope offer another next year.

Meanwhile Chazy Library Trustees have continued the renovation of our new library-to-be. We were very happy to receive the library construction grant check from the state library. The trustees are also fundraising for the matching fund of next year’s construction grant, as this is a three phase project. In addition to our bake sale and an old-fashioned candy store booth at the Chazy Old Home day celebration, they have placed collection jars at the library and various local businesses, asking customers to drop in loose change. Chazy people have been very generous with both financial donations and giving of their expertise. We are blessed with this supportive community.

- Francie Fairchild, Director

Beach Bag Reading

Readers from around the system toted these books to their favorite sunny spot or shady nook.

The Atlantic by Simon Winchester. A wonderful “big” book that encompasses science, history, economics and the environment. Just what the title implies, this is the story of the mighty ocean. I listened to the audio version, read by the author, whose lovely English accent enhances the tale.

The Outlander by Gil Adamson (not to be confused with the series, this is a different book/author entirely). A beautifully written story of survival against great odds. Tense and lyrical, this is both a stream-of-consciousness interior story of a young widow escaping her trackers (the reader knows she has killed her abusive husband), as well as a historical fiction suspense story. Set in the Canadian wilderness in the early 1900’s. Gripping. – Ann Sayers

I really enjoyed the latest Janet Evanovich, Smoking Seventeen. It’s got all of the elements of a sizzling summer read! – Eileen Clar

My summer reading has included so far Heat Wave by Nancy Thayer; Smokin’ Seventeen by Janet Evanovich, Down River by Karen Harper and One Summer by David Baldacci. Any and all would be worth lugging in a beach bag! – Donna Boumil, Rouses Point

Sarah’s Key by Tatiana de Rosnay is a wonderful story which is actually the fictional story of a real event. The plot surrounds the search to find out about the "real" Sarah. I also enjoyed Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See tells the story of two girls brought together as children and how their lives became entwined in the years to come. This is a feel good story. I also recommend The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver which is the story of a family that travels around the world, meeting exciting people and experiencing history in the making en route. – Judy Harris
Central Library News  
From Plattsburgh Public Library

August was Book Reading Month at Plattsburgh Public Library. Library Director Stan Ransom and the Library Board encouraged the public to take a break from the summer frenzy and come into the library to celebrate and enjoy, browse and borrow books of all kinds. All sorts of books in all kinds of formats are available in the cool, quiet of the (air conditioned) central library. Materials on CD and DVD are available as well and the friendly staff are always ready with helpful suggestions.

Since so many bookstore are closing, the Friends of the Library group is promoting reading from the public library by their sale of good new books on the four book carts at the end of the Lending Desk. Hardcover books are still only $1.00 with soft cover books for $.50. The Friends also have used book sales every April and October. Bobbie Scales, Friends Book Sale director, often says, “People still like to hold a book in their hands and read.” There is a kind of pleasant feeling about handling a good book. You can enjoy the same when you come to the Library and take some out.”

On display in our front case are books and printing that span the last six hundred years. The first printing from moveable type took place in Mainz, Germany about 1440 with Gutenberg’s printing of the Mainz Psalter. Books and printing from that century are called incunabula, or “cradle books,” because they were the earliest examples of printing. Examples from the collection of Director Stan Ransom, are on display, together with reproductions of cuneiform printing on clay tablets and books from several centuries.

Throughout the summer, we encouraged families to plan a trip to the Library before going on a trip or to the beach. Beach reading can be very satisfying and comforting. It helps to improve your image as well as your imagination! In August, 2010, patrons borrowed 3775 books for children and 7331 adult books, for a total of 11,106 books. We’re standing by to see if borrowers exceed that number in August 2011.

A Tourist Information Center has been set up at Plattsburgh Public Library in front of the Public Computer and Job Resource Center. The Tourist center is stocked with information from the Plattsburgh Chamber of Commerce and from information sent to the Library by local museums and historic places, as well as wineries of the area. This tourist information complements the Reference Department resources and the book collection on places to visit in Clinton County. The Library also finds many visitors coming to the Library in search of their ancestors and genealogical information, as well as information on local history and the area’s attractions.

-- Stan Ransom, Director

Currently on display are Nagasaki atomic bomb items collected by Stan Ransom in 1947 while on duty in Japan with the Army of Occupation. The two sets of coins were fused together and found on the floor of the hospital. The melted glass and the lead with flash burn came from under a hospital sink. All glass items were melted; all lead pipes were pools of metal with black flash burns. 70,000 people died in the atomic bomb blast 500 feet above the city of Nagasaki.

The Central Library’s new tourist information center welcome’s visitors to our area.

Like this Link:

http: nys4h.cce.cornell.edu

The 4-H Science Toolkit, sponsored by Cornell University Cooperative Extension, provides easy web access to:

- Hands-on science activities
- New York Science standards
- Youth-friendly topics
More from Clinton County...

Dodge Library, West Chazy

I am certain everyone will join me in giving Senator Betty Little, a very sincere “thank you” for leveraging special legislative project money for CEFLS member libraries. For small libraries such as ours, the impact on the community of patrons is limitless. It has been Christmas every day since we got these books. Kids and adults alike are enjoying this bounty. Thank you Senator. I would also personally like to thank the CEFLS Staff. Their assistance with ordering cataloging and everything else involved made it so simple and fun. My endless calls and queries were met with extreme patience and professionalism and I am forever grateful for each of them for making my life easier.

This year our Summer Reading Program is the "Biggest and Brightest" of all. The One World, Many Stories theme gave each young patron a voice. Their energy and imaginations are boundless. We’ve created Totems of the very best of ourselves. We’ve eaten popcorn with chopsticks. We’ve studied the underwater world and its sea creatures. We’ve been marooned on deserted isles. We’ve learned that each young patron really is "One World with Many, Many Stories."

Dodge Library is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Stop by the Dodge Library. It’s where we all share a story.

-Linda Dupee, Director

Beach Bag recommendations continue

Then There Was You by Jennifer Weiner. In true classic beach read form, Weiner’s books are always easy to both read and enjoy. Intertwining four different women’s stories that are interconnected by a baby it is at times a comedy, other times heartbreaking, a love story and learning to become the person you were meant to become.

The Things We Cherished by Pam Jenoff. Across the years of time from the start of the 20th century until present day, the reader is taken on a historical mystery. Focusing on a court case set in Germany, two lawyers must find out the truth about their client: did he or didn’t he offer up his brother’s plot to save Jewish children from the Nazi’s in exchange for the freedom of the woman he loved? The tales intertwine with unforgettable characters in this modern saga. - Susanna Carey, AuSable Forks

I've read some really good books this summer, spending a lot of time reading during my family vacation sitting on the beach. Two of my favorites were: Room, by Emma Donoghue. Though this sounds like a dreary plot, the author has done a masterful job of describing a child’s deprivation at being in a single room with his mother his entire life. Donoghue’s ability to identify and relate to experiences and new things the child discovers is really amazing. Oh yeah, there’s a happy ending.

Empire Falls, by Richard Russo. This is an oldie, the 2001 Pulitzer Prize Winner for fiction. This was actually my second read of the book, but I enjoyed it as much the second time around. Russo is known for his tales of small town life, and this book doesn’t disappoint with its collection of characters and events in Empire Falls, Maine. We can all relate to the small town diner and it’s regulars, to the growing pains of an adolescent, and to the appreciation for life in “our town” that Russo so elegantly portrays.

—Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

(Check out Elizabeth’s review of Shucked in the September issue of Library Journal!!)

Our book group is reading Outlander by Gil Adamson. I would recommend it as a good read.

-Jackie Viestenz, Sherman Free Library, Port Henry
News from Essex County

Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga

Summer was a busy and exciting time at the Black Watch Memorial Library. We have had fun and educational programs for people of all ages.

Our very own Beth Nadeau worked in conjunction with the Friends of the Library to provide two children’s summer reading programs. The younger children traveled around the world following the “One World, Many Stories” summer reading theme. They visited a different continent each week where stories and activities were enjoyed by all, including Spanish music and dance, eating with chopsticks and making Chinese lanterns.

Beth also provided a weekly ‘tween program with books and activities that centered on the teen reading theme, “You are Here”. The Friends of the Library have generously provided us with copies of the books the ‘tweens are reading to keep for their own collection.

The Black Watch Memorial Library has purchased, with help from the Friends, all 25 books nominated and are on the YALSA’s Teen’s Top Ten List for 2011. These books are high interest young adult books aimed at all of our young adult patrons, but especially reluctant teen readers. We are displaying them in a special area, and the books are flying off the shelf. We are hoping that everyone who has been reading them will participate in our own special voting during Teen Read Week.

Adults found much to enjoy at our Library this summer, too. In addition to all of the great new books and movies, we offered a genealogy series provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution and monthly computer classes provided by InternetXpress. Our wireless internet has been popular among our summer visitors as well as our busy public computers. We were lucky enough to have been given a donation to purchase three new computers for the public’s use with the latest versions of Windows and Microsoft Office Products.

We participated in Ticonderoga’s annual Streetfest for the third straight year. Our invaluable book sale volunteers, Linda Cunningham and Eileen McCabe, worked our table selling used books and our recently discarded collection of VHS Tapes. All proceeds from that day will be used to benefit the Library. Past items purchased with our book sale money include computer equipment, computer software, mulch and our contribution to the Echo Pass this year.

Our patrons are still asking for The Help by Kathryn Stockett. Other frequently requested titles include Erik Larson’s In the Garden of Beasts and the always popular novels by James Patterson and David Baldacci.

-Heather Johns, Director
News from Essex County continues...

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

We held four sessions of the themed "One World, Many Stories" summer reading program. A woman from Ticonderoga brought some animals to the library for an interesting program about migration and they were a big hit. Twenty children participated in our "Be a Reading Champ" program. They are diligently reading away, even though it has been very hot weather.

In September we will be offering another series of genealogy workshops.

-Jackie Viestenz, Director

Schroon Lake Library

Summer continued to be a very busy time at our library. Daily children's programs coupled with record WiFi and computer users had us bursting at the seams with patrons. It was not uncommon to find patrons sitting on the floor, in the hall, on the stairs; we so need a bigger library!

Our Friends of the Library book store was open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through August. The store featured thousands of books in every genre imaginable.

On Sunday, August 7, our Friends of the Library sponsored a House and Garden Tour fundraiser that featured six distinct homes in our area. Docents were on hand to highlight the history and special features of the homes and gardens featured. Following the tour, participants met at the boathouse for a lecture on gardening in the North Country by gardening expert, Kerry Mendez from Perennially Yours.

-- Jane Bouchard, Director

Did You Know?

While CEFLS delivers a variety of services to member libraries in pursuit of our mission to “foster and improve public library service to all residents of the system area”, member library directors have keyed in on these top five “must haves” as “most important”:

1 /1 The Horizon (catalog and circulation system) and van delivery tied for first place with 77.8% indicating that these services were most important

2 Consultant help from friendly CEFLS staff as “most important” by 33.3% of respondents

3 Administration of grants: 29.6% said that it was important that CEFLS deals with and programmatically distributes state aid grant and special project funds

4 Rotating Collections of books, audio books and DVDs top the “must have” list of 22.2%

5/5 Shared databases and staff training share the number five spot with 18.5% of respondents identifying these services as “most important.”

As we exit summer and segue into fall, we are preparing a new Five Year Plan and plotting our course for the future with some “visioning” exercises. Input from member library directors, trustees, patrons and friends will continue to be valuable directional signals, especially in this era of fiscal constraint. Think about where your library and your community will be in five years and be prepared to tell us where to go!

*Source: 2010 Member Library Survey, administered in December 2010 with a 100% response rate

Mr. Beau the Clown visited the Schroon Lake Library in mid July

Sand art pictures were a popular craft
More Essex County News

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

The Paine Memorial Free library sponsored an activity filled July which was highlighted by reading programs and successful fundraising. Our six week summer reading program at Noblewood beach site had 80 children registered to read for 45 minutes every day. The children and counselors were all spellbound by an appearance of Mr. Beau the clown. I enjoyed his as much if not more than the children. A Story Hour program was provided at the library and also ran for six weeks. Our annual Golf Scramble at the Willsboro Golf Course had 88 Golfers who played a four person best ball scramble. Over $1,800.00 in gifts and prizes were awarded.

I was very impressed how well our contestants did in the Take a Bite out of Books competition on July 16. Warren Jackson and Christopher King were excellent at answering the questions. We had the help of the Rouses Point team because Donald King was out due to injuries and Alexandra Bliss was out due to family illness. It was a fantastic competition and I encourage all libraries to participate.

Four Art Shows with eleven Artisans presented their work at the library this summer. Receptions were held on Wednesday evenings. Our Annual meeting was well attended. Eli Schwartzberg presented the plans for the new Assisted Living Center that will transform the old Willsboro Central School into housing for the elderly. This will also bring new employment to Willsboro. The Willsboro Craft Fair featured over 50 quality Artisans. The day was perfect. A cool breeze and sunny skies provided the perfect backdrop for the four different musical groups who entertained the crowds. The library’s Annual Book Sale was held Friday, August 11 & Saturday August 12.

I said goodbye to Stevie Burrows (pictured) this week. For the past five summers she has work for our library thorough the services of One Work Source Business & Employment Center in Elizabethtown. She is a Plattsburgh State University student and has aged out of the program. We will miss her dearly.

Now it's time to take a breath and get started on fall programming. It's been a great summer in Willsboro. I wish you all a wonderful fall.

-Cheryl Blanchard, Director

ACT Offers Matching Help For Construction Projects

ACT (The Adirondack Community Trust) is offering grants to help public library construction applicants meet the 50% local funding match requirements that are currently required. This is an exciting and timely offer that is sure to help CEFLS libraries participate in construction projects large and small.

Cali Brooks, Executive Director ACT, says, “We know the timing is short, but two local private foundations are challenging libraries to come up with innovative library construction grant applications that may receive the 50% match required by the construction grant program. ACT is specifically looking for applications that deepen the role public libraries play as “economic engines” using technology and digital skills development.”

Interested public library applicants are encouraged to visit http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/construc/14m/index.html for specific information about what is and what is not allowable under the construction grant program, and to call Julie Wever (563-5190 x 18) with questions. Libraries that intend to apply for ACT matching funds must also contact Julie as soon as possible in order to plan and submit applications for ACT funding.

CEFLS has set a local deadline of Friday, September 16 for receipt of all applications.

Our “Collaborative TABOB Team” enjoyed the July 16 competition and read some terrific books in preparation for the Battle!
A Look at the The Au Sable Forks Free Library Past and Present

The Au Sable Forks Free Library has been in its current location of 9 West Church Lane in Au Sable Forks, NY since it was built in 1968. Prior to that, the library had rented room on Main Street and was originally a rental library. In 1942, local citizens of the town met to discuss the lack of reading materials for citizens. Forty-two people became the founding charters of the newly formed library, each contributing $3.00, and twenty-five people donated four books as requested—all of which were recently published at that time.

The initial library was in a small room but it had a large window to the street advertising the books the library had to offer. Open three days a week from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., it was run purely by volunteers. Originally the rental fee was 3 cents a day for adults and 2 cents a day for children. Once a book had been paid for by the contributing rental fees, it was considered free to borrow. Eventually the library became an association library, funded by its members in part. As funds permitted new items were purchased per the suggestion of a book committee who met quarterly during the year. In 1952, the library moved across the street where the expanded collection was moved into a roomier location twice its original size.

When the library, which had always been cash strapped, found that money had become a much more serious issue, the trustees decided to draw up a petition, signed by the tax payers, and hold a special election. From this election came the decision that the library would be supported from the two towns which it served: Jay and Black Brook, encompassing two different counties. Another special election won financial support from the Au Sable Valley Central School District.

New forms of financial support ensued, and included fund raising and two large gifts bequeathed to the library from wills. One donor specified that within five years a permanent building had to be in place, and the search for a suitable location was on! The library’s new home was to be on West Church Street, and a building committee was formed to begin the process. The library was a brick building with a full basement and opened its doors to the public on September 19, 1968. Since then, the library has added a small second wing which originally housed the reference room and is now home to the Children’s Collection.

Today the library has since added five computers and free Wi-Fi access as well as printing, faxing, and films to the original book collection. The print collection in both fiction and non-fiction continues to grow, and audio books have become a popular addition for readers. The library hosts children’s programming throughout the school year and during the summer there is a reading program for school-aged kids. The library was fortunate to have a wonderful volunteer, Shannon Stanley lead the program: One World, Many Stories this summer. This year has welcomed new, free computer skills classes in a partnership with InternetXpress from Elizabethtown; they are held on the second Thursday of each month. The newest addition to the library is a renovated office to house our Adirondack and local history collection. Please see accompanying article for more information regarding this new resource.

The library is closed on Sunday and Monday; open Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday from 10:30 a.m to 6:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 12:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. For more information check out our website at www.ausablesfreelibrary.com or call us at 518-647-5596 or email at afbooks@charter.net. Please stop in soon for a visit!

--Susanna Carey, Library Director
A Moveable Feast

Book sales are great for libraries and customers, but we face the perennial problem of what to do with “leftovers.” No one likes to throw away books, and it’s expensive to take them to the dump when you’ve exhausted every other possible final resting place. There are some organizations who buy used library books, and it’s not hard to get in touch with them.

Better World Books is a well known organization that pays for shipping when you send your books to them. You need to set up an account, which is easy to do via their website at http://www.betterworldbooks.com. Many libraries have had great luck with this company. Selling through them is free: they provide shipping materials and pay for shipping.

Bookrecycler.org is another online source for selling used books. You can send them an inventory list of books you want to sell and they’ll match the list with potential buyers, or you can arrange to ship your books to them. Their address is http://www.bookrecycler.org

BookProspector is a similar service. Sellers can simply scan the ISBN online to see if anyone is interested in purchasing the item, then click “Sell” and ship the items. This easy to use service can be found at http://www.bookprospector.com

Cash4Books doesn’t buy used library books, but will buy donations you might have left from your sale, or donations you get during the year. Their claim to fame is that they are the “#1 Online Book Buyer”. Check them out at http://www.cash4books.net. Shipping is free, and all you have to do is enter the ISBN online to see if there are buyers interested in the titles.

Some of our member library directors have been successful selling books through eBay and Amazon, though this usually works best for items that aren’t processed for libraries. It’s always worth it to check it out. Amazon is at http://www.amazon.com, and eBay is at http://www.ebay.com.

All of these sites require that you register online to set up an account. Take the time to check it out—one person’s discard is another one’s treasure. As always, take the time also to share your success in “placing” your leftover treasures with your colleagues!

-Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

Essex County News continues...

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

A Blockbuster Sale! They came, they browsed, they bought and our summer sale revenues reached record heights from July 15-17. We could not have this fundraiser without the help of the community. Over 80 volunteers baked, put up tents, hauled and unpacked myriad boxes, took shifts at the sale, and repacked and stored the unsold items. Our thanks are due to those who volunteered and also to those who purchased. Special mention goes to the Friday Group, whose members work all year sorting, pricing, and boxing donated items.

In September and October, Dan Christoffel will display paintings and drawings of classic American authors Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, and Ernest Hemingway. Dan’s artist reception will be Sunday, September 18, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Dan plans to do readings from Whitman and Twain during the reception.

We are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places as well as the State Historic Registry. The library was chartered in April 1906, and opened for patrons in November, 1907.

We have been awarded a $450 grant from the Lake Placid Education Foundation to purchase e-readers. Congratulations and thanks to board member Alison Haas, who collected pledges for “Running for Reading” in the Burlington Marathon. Alison completed the marathon and raised over $1,300 for the library.

-excerpted from an article written by Board Member Ellen Metcalf which appeared in the Wells Memorial Library’s Summer 2011 newsletter

Editor’s Update: The Wells Memorial Library was severely affected by Hurricane Irene. Director Karen Rappaport estimates that 40% of the entire collection was destroyed, including 100% of the picture books. Check out the CEFLS website to find out how you can help the Wells Memorial Library get back on its feet.

A casualty of the storm. Photo: Ewa Jankowska
AuSable Forks Free Library Opens Adirondack Room

When I first started working at the Au Sable Forks Free Library in late November 2009, one of the first things on my “to do list” was to transform an old office that was rarely used into a new home for our Adirondack Collection. My vision was that, in time, this would become a useful resource for those doing research or anyone merely interested in the area’s history.

An earlier construction project several years ago had transformed the library’s circulation desk. Originally the office was the space behind the desk where items were checked in and out. After the changes, the desk was changed into a U-shaped area in the center of the main room, utilizing space and bringing the librarian and patron closer together. Unfortunately as a result, the office was no longer needed and became wasted space.

As with all things, transforming the office was a process. The idea to create an Adirondack Room was first presented to my Library Board in December 2009, and it was a well-received idea to create a space that could be utilized daily by library patrons. Slowly, with the help of wonderful volunteers, the office was cleaned out and ready for the next step. Last December, the office was reconstructed to provide shelving where there had once been closets, book cases built and a brand new coat of paint. Patrons of the library supplied the labor needed to put down hardwood flooring and helped complete the room’s transformation. In memoriam donations were used to purchase a reading chair that now sits in the corner by the window, just awaiting someone to take a break and read in it.

I hope that now the room is officially “open for business,” it will attract the interest of current and new patrons. Our goal for this collection is to provide resources to researchers and those looking to learn about the local area. Hopefully the collection will continue to grow, and those with an interest in local history will utilize this transformed space. From beginning to end, the main goal in mind was to better provide an important collection to patrons and utilize space that was otherwise wasted.

The Adirondack Collection’s new room is now open for patrons to browse, sit, and enjoy the space. The room and its resources will be available for use during all open library hours. Most items, with some exceptions, can be borrowed to take home. Stop in and check us out!

--Susanna Carey, Library Director

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Thanks to State Senator Betty Little, our member libraries have been receiving books, audios and DVD’s through a Patron Grant Program. Libraries receive almost $1,000 each for purchasing materials to supplement their collections. Our member library directors have done a great job of selecting all sorts of things to meet the guidelines of the grant. We’re taking advantage of this opportunity to “beef up” our system-wide Cooperative Collection Development purchases for adult and juvenile readers. Guidelines require that libraries order a combination of non-fiction and fiction items. Items must be recently published, and half of the selected items must be print materials.

Our libraries have been able to improve their collections with additions of materials in specific subject areas, according to their involvement in the CEFLS Cooperative Collection Development Plan. Books and DVD’s on boats and boating, “green” (environment-friendly) projects, American history will be appreciated by fans of these subjects. Lots of new DVD’s; and children’s materials from the New York State Reading List 2011 have been purchased.

CEF has been administering the grant, ordering and processing the materials. We’ve provided labels that credit Senator Little and the Patron Grant program for making these materials possible. Many thanks are also due to our van drivers for hauling the bounty to recipient libraries. If you have an opportunity, be sure to express our thanks to Senator Little for this wonderful collective gift that will benefit readers throughout our system.

-Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS
More News from Essex County

Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library

This year two teams of “tween” readers represented our library in the July 16 Battle of the Books competition at Champlain Centre Mall. We are pleased to announce that our teams took first and third place! The winning team consisted of Justin Briggs, Benjamin Caito, Anise Hetman, and Jacob Hetman. Third place team members included Ashleigh Baer, Payson Baer, Sky Hanf, Brinn Peck, and James Winch. Both teams were coached by Library Director Samantha Baer. This is a very tough competition and we are so proud of these kids for all their hard work and success. The kids all had a great time and are looking forward to competing again next year.

In the next few weeks, passers-by will notice some changes going on at the library. The exterior siding on our library is rotting and we are installing new siding on the building. This new siding will protect the building and will also insulate it which will reduce our heating costs. The Friends of the Library are generously funding this project.

The library will be raffling off an Amazon Kindle at the Friends of the Library Cookie Sale in December. Tickets can be purchased at any time, and will be available at our booth at the Festival of the Colors in September. Tickets are one for $5 or 3 for $10.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the Lake Placid Education Foundation earmarked for teen and tween books and audio books. If you haven’t been in the library, we have an impressive collection of audio books. Patrons may borrow two audio books at a time and, like all our other materials, they may be checked out for three weeks.

We plan to have a booth at the Festival of the Colors again this year. We will have a number of books for sale at rock bottom prices. We will also be selling bulbs and the raffle tickets for the Kindle.

-Samantha Baer, Director

From the Youth Services Listserv:

ALa YOUTH SERVICES SECTION OFFERS FALL WEBINARS

Sept. 15 Webinar: Tweet, Like, Link: Creating a Social Media Policy for Your Library

Do you have a Facebook, Twitter, or a blog that you use to connect with teens in your community? Do you have a social media policy that outlines use of social tools by you and members of your community? If you are just getting started with social media in your teen services, or if you’ve been using these tools for quite awhile, a social media policy is a key ingredient for success. In this webinar you’ll learn what a social media policy is, why it’s important to have one, what the policy should include, how the policy can help you support teens, and how you can use the policy as an advocacy tool.

Registration costs $39 for individual YALSA members, $49 for all other individuals, and $195 for groups. YALSA’s group rate applies to a group of people that will watch the webinar together in one location. If we have five or more interested people interested in participating in a central location, CEFLS will consider arranging a group rate. Contact Julie @ CEFLS if you are interested in coming to CEFLS to participate.
**Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake**

As summer winds down, we melt a little but in general enjoy the sunshine and increased numbers of visitors and activities. We held weekly story hours for our youngest patrons, complete with tall tales, snacks, activities and prizes and a reminder to everyone to read, read, read and turn in reading sheets. Good weather and unique summer activities compete mightily with the printed word, but we persevere. There is nothing like a good story, be it book, CD, download or Playaway! Which brings me to a recommendation: teens and many adults might enjoy the Playaway format for their listening pleasure. These little devices have the advantage of being pre-loaded onto a dedicated device. We have purchased a selection of YA stories that are just a bit milder than some “adult” fare. We like them especially well for long car trips or while walking – so give them a try!

This summer we were able to host performances by both Nan Hoffman and Dave Ruch who gave great musical concerts geared to our young readers (and families). We’d highly recommend both of these performers. By the way, they will also put on performances for older groups.

Our final event this summer was the annual community art show. This year’s show was a great success and was enjoyed by hundreds of residents and visitors alike. Both local and visiting artists entered work in the show. We look forward to “growing” the show for next year which will be the 40th year of this fine tradition.

---Linda AuClair, Director

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**You Ought to Be in Pictures!**

READ Posters are fun, “photoshopped” pictures of a person or several people posing with a book in front of an interesting background with the word “READ”. You may have seen some of these posters with celebrities in them, and some of you may have had your own READ posters done at a Gates Foundation conference. I love the individuality expressed, and also the affirmation of reading!

READ posters are brainchild of the American Library Association. As part of a grant from NNYLN, I was able to purchase an ALA READ poster kit, and I’ve been having fun taking photos and making READ posters to use in promotional videos. I’ve visited the Plattsburgh, Mooers and Keene Valley libraries so far, and invited people to participate. Each person gets to choose a book and a background, and the results can be hung on the library walls or posted on the library website.

I would be happy to come to one of your events or meetings to take READ posters. Pictured here is Vanilla Wagner, an employee at the Keene Valley Library. You can take a look at some of the others we’ve done on our Picasa Web Album: [http://bit.ly/qxy3wN](http://bit.ly/qxy3wN)

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

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**Wead Library Summer Reading Program, July 6th**

**The Adventures of Mr. Toad**
Saranac Lake Free Library

There’s a new look in the upstairs reading area of the library with the addition of seven round tables (with four chairs each) and two couches. The new furniture is American made and was purchased locally with donations to the library. The old tables and chairs dated back to the sixties and were in very poor condition. Many patrons have commented on how attractive and comfortable the furniture is.

Around 75 children participated in our Summer Reading Program with the delightful theme “One World, Many Stories @ Your Library.” The program ran July 13, 20 and 27, from 10:00 a.m. until noon, for preschoolers through fourth graders, and included stories, crafts, activities and a special guest each week. The program ended with an Ice Cream Social provided by Stewart’s Shop.

The SLFL fielded two teams for the 6th annual Take a Bite Out of Books (TABOB) trivia challenge held at the Champlain Centre Mall on July 16. Both teams were “fast on the buzzers and quick with their answers,” reported Children’s Programming Coordinator Peggy Orman. One Saranac Lake team progressed to the quarter finals, and the other ended up in second place.

The 56th annual Come to the Fair ran from August 2 to 6, with a Members Night August 1. Along with thousands of books for sale, the event also included a Picnic Café, white elephant items, jewelry, toys and baked goods. The sale realized around $12,000 for the library.

— Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Franklin County News continued...

Hurricane Irene VS. CEFLS Libraries

As we go to press, some CEF libraries are still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. The Wells Memorial Library was particularly hard hit, while some libraries such as Keene Valley have been inaccessible to the CEF delivery van. Here is the most recent round up of storm related damage. We’ve created a page on the CEFLS web site (www.cefls.org) that provides complete information about how to help Wells Memorial Library and others affected by the storm.

Elizabethtown—Donna Nelson reported a flooded basement and an uncertain fate of the furnace.

Essex - no power for two days and many trees down.

Keene and Keene Valley - both libraries are fine and dry, but the towns are in bad shape.

Plattsburgh Public - PPL had a bad leak in the walls and water dripped onto the carpet on the first floor.

Port Henry—Jackie Viestenz reported about 2” of water in the basement, but nothing critical is stored there.

Rouses Point—some audio books got wet thanks to a leaky roof which will hopefully be replaced soon with construction funds!

Upper Jay—the library was flooded and is closed until further notice. Water must be pumped out and mud cleared up.

Wadhams—the combination of high water in the river and the amount of rain that came down washed out some of the fill behind the library’s newly built retaining wall and moved a large stone at its base.

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro - Cheryl Blanchard checked in to say that the library had damage to their fiber optic cable and was without Internet for two days. The fire department ran a generator for the library that kept two sump pumps running. There is now 3” of water in the basement that comes in as fast as it can be pumped out.

Peru - the library is dry but did have a shutter ripped right off its hinges.
This issue of *The Trailblazer*, along with archived issues, is available on the System’s web site ([www.cefls.org](http://www.cefls.org)). While you are visiting our web site, be sure to check out the Calendar of Events that lists upcoming activities at libraries in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties. *The Trailblazer* is published quarterly by the CEF Library System.

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