CEFLS and Member Libraries Blast Off With Summer Reading Fun!

From mini-grants to Mad Scientists in action at the Mayor’s Cup on a sunny July Saturday, CEFLS and member libraries sparked a summer of reading fun throughout the region. Thanks to funding from our Family Literacy grant, the System awarded $200 “mini-grants” to 22 member libraries and reading centers to help out with CSLP “Fizz! Boom! Read!” and “Spark a Reaction” themed activities. We also used grant funds to build our collections with popular new books, audios, and ebook titles. Project funds were also used to provide lots of summer reading program resources, including reading records, posters and bookmarks to participating libraries. Young readers around the system had “a blast” at their local library! Meanwhile, in Clinton County, Stan the Reading Man appeared at local libraries and head start sites courtesy of a grant from the North Country Cultural Center for the Arts.

Again this summer, collaboration with local schools and the common core were front and center on everyone’s “must do” list. To help us along that path, Dr. Deb Dyer will present a day long CE session on Friday, October 17. We will begin the morning with Building Engaging, Intentional Lessons with the Common Core Standards. In the afternoon, we’ll work on the Read Aloud/Think Aloud application of the lessons we’ve learned to build. Look for details in this issue!
MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

From Clinton County

Dodge Library, West Chazy

Summer Reading Program and Camp have been great this year. Our facilitator, Rikki Marin, introduced our young readers to genealogy with crafts on DNA, fingerprinting and more. The kids were so enthusiastic and very creative. Hopefully she instilled an interest that will keep those children asking questions for many years about their relatives and ancestry.

Our library has recently had some new shelving installed. We’ve probably gained 20-25 extra feet. To a small library that is a lot.

We have seen several new faces at the library this summer and look forward to a new school year with the kids.

-Linda Dupee, Director

Chazy Public Library

We are finding that the Chazy Library Community Room is a popular place this summer. It is used weekly by a Quilt group, and Cupcake Kids (young quilters age 5 and up). It’s also used for meetings of library trustees, Girl Scouts, Friends of the Library, and easily accommodates library programs of all types, including gardening programs by the Extension service, book talks, book sales and active or messy story times. The room is available for other Community needs such as memorial services, showers, and receptions. This summer we hosted a weekly yoga program at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings.

Our summer offerings for children fizzed right along with the rest of us and were very well attended. In June the Chazy kindergartens visited us to learn about the library from our storyt ime co-ordinator Diane Sabourin and another retired teacher, Esther Dominy. We dedicated our new storage shed, and enjoyed a CCRS Jazz Group concert in our Gazebo. The Chazy Lions Club gave us a donation to purchase Kindles to loan our patrons. It has been a learning experience to figure out how to fulfill this purpose. Trustees Deby Powers and Jill Beeman loaded the kindles with e-books, and formulated instructions for patron use.

Continued on next page...

What Was in Your Beachbag?

Summer 2014 has come and gone, and we’ve had to change “is” to “was” but we can still recommend these “hot picks” from readers around the area.

The Wead Library is well staffed with readers! Bunny Pepin recommends We Were Liars, by E. Lockhart as the perfect summer read. It is quick, beautifully crafted, and has a surprise ending.

Mary McDonald says “The All Girl Filling Station’s Last Reunion, by Fannie Flagg is another great summer book. It is funny and quick, but with substance. It has great characters, and a plot twist!”

Sue Wool recommends The Rosie Project, by Graeme Simsion as another terrific beach read. She noted that it is easy to carry along and a laugh-out-loud look at love from a memorable main character.

Etched in Sand: A True Story of Five Children Who Survived an Unspeakable Childhood on Long Island by Regina Calcaterra. I’ve read a lot of memoirs but none so raw & vivid as Ms. Calcaterra’s. Hers is an amazing story of unlikely survival of the author and her four half-siblings. I couldn’t put this book down.

The Shift: How I Finally Lost Weight and Discovered a Happier Life by Tory Johnson. This is a story of one woman whose mental & psychological determination led her to create a program for herself that allowed her to lose 62 pounds in one year. The best thing about this book is that Ms. Johnson was unfailingly honest with herself and pulled no punches.

Life Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes and Autism by Ron Suskind. This is the real-life story of Owen Suskind, the son of the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ron Suskind and his wife, Cornelia. An autistic boy who couldn’t speak for years, Owen memorized dozens of Disney movies, turned them into a language to express love and loss, kinship, brotherhood. The family was forced to become animated characters, communicating with him in Disney dialogue and song, until they all emerge, together, revealing how, in darkness, we all literally need stories to survive.”

- Sharon Bandhold, Youth Services, PPL
The Underground Railroad in the Adirondacks

On Wednesday, May 14, our library hosted a lecture/slideshow presentation on the Underground Railroad in the Adirondacks. Peter Slocum, of the North Star Underground Railroad Museum in Ausable Chasm, facilitated the lecture assisted by his wife, Ann Sayers (you all probably remember her from CEF’s It Takes a Child CE programs funded by the Lake Placid Education Foundation). This 45 minute lecture detailed routes taken, the people involved, and other important factors concerning the Underground Railroad in our area.

Peter did a special segment on Solomon Northup which was timely as our book discussion group just read 12 Years a Slave and our Saturday Movies @ the Library program just had a showing of the newly released DVD. I highly recommend this program to area libraries, Peter is extremely well informed on the subject and I had many positive comments from attendees. At the end of the lecture Peter opened up the floor to questions which lead to another half-hour of discussion and information.

As a result of this program a group of attendees are planning a road trip together to visit the museum.

--Jane Bouchard, Director, Schroon Lake Public Library

Clinton County News continued

Chazy News continues

July featured our Summer Reading program, with story times every Saturday, beginning with the Reading Man Stan Ransom, who was a big hit! Our kick-off program “Fizzing with Wonder, Booming with Delight” a program by the award winning storytelling duo, The Storycrafters, was also well attended. We were able to “block book” this group in collaboration with Wead Library, Malone at a cost that was within our reach. If more CEFLS libraries would like to have them next year on the same or contiguous days, we could each have them at an even lower cost. Our summer story time concluded with an August program by Kindred Spirit Yoga.

From July 22-24 we held a morning Summer Reading Camp sponsored by the Chazy Summer Recreation Committee. Tracy Gonyo directed a great program of scientific experiments – with charts. “How to Sink a Marshmallow”, “Amazing Milk”, “Dancing Raisins”; a book display- Rocks & Crystals, Volcanos and other exciting topics that were planned around the CSLP theme. The children were totally engrossed, with the older children helping the younger group with reading, and all were enthralled with the crafts and experiments of the other group.

July 16 saw the first offering in our series of Wednesday evening gazebo concerts. The Sweet Adelines performed near our gazebo. Some bird song and the gurgling of the Chazy River added to the performance. Other concerts in August featured the Castaways on August 13, Punkahontus on August 20, and Speedy Arnold on August 27.

On Saturday, July 19 author Glenn Pearsall presented a book talk and slide show about his award winning book When Men and Mountains Meet, a cultural history of the Adirondacks. It was a fascinating subject, and well presented.

The friends of the Chazy library sponsored a very successful Town-wide yard Sale on the last Saturday of July in our Community Room. They hope to hold their annual Used Book Sale in September.

In the main library we held a “Fun with Books” sale from August 12 to 26, during library open hours. These were new books at a very reasonable cost.

--Francie Fairchild, Director

Dannemora Free Library

We’ve had a great summer reading this year. Stan Ransom has come out twice as storyteller and the kids and parents enjoyed him immensely. We have FIZZED, we have BOOMED and we have READ! My little Mad Scientists really enjoyed science in the library.

–Eileen Cody, Director
This summer we limited our guest presenters to two (Hampstead Stage Co. and Stan Ransom) and focused on Science. Science Journals were created at the beginning of the Program to document the experiments that were performed. Some experiments include: Ocean in Motion, Ooblick, Snowstorm in a Jar, Float your Boat, Nature Bracelet and more. Children also participated in a Game Day, made beaded necklaces and bracelets and attended a movie matinee. Many of the science experiments were altered so that children attending Preschool story time would be able to experience science at their level.

The Friends of the Library group has re-organized at the Dodge Memorial Library. This group is very motivated. In June, they initiated a Farmer’s Market which is held every Friday from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the library lawn. An average of 10 vendors sell locally grown produce or crafted merchandise. Eggs, cheese, crafts, breads, biscotti, paintings, jewelry, Sandi’s Deli, wine, jerky, yogurt, are usually on offer. The Farmer’s Market is expected to be open through September.

The work on our library parking lot has finally been completed, thanks to funding from the Public Library Construction Grant. The parking lot was enlarged to allow parking for 10 vehicles, including a handicapped parking area and employee parking. Also, a new return drop box was placed in the parking lot to add ease to dropping off items.

- Donna Boumil, Library Director

Your Library Plays a Role in “Digital Inclusion”

Thanks to a study funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, you can find some very rich data about the population around your library, and explore what services might be most important to offer. The purpose of the study was to explore digital inclusion roles of public libraries in four key areas:

- Public access technology infrastructure resources and capacity (e.g., public access workstations; broadband connectivity).
- Digital content, services, and accessibility.
- Digital literacy (including languages in which instruction is offered).
- Domains-specific services and programs (civic engagement, education, health and wellness, and workforce/employment).

Two of the interesting findings of the nationwide 2013 study highlighted the difference between city and rural libraries. City libraries average 40.5 public access computers, while rural libraries average 10.1. The reported internet download speed at city libraries averaged over 100 Mbps, while the average for rural public libraries averaged just over 21 Mbps.

An exciting product of the study is a website with interactive maps where you can see the data collected for your library and other libraries nationwide, and the demographic characteristics of the population near each library. Try looking up your library at: http://digitalinclusion.umd.edu/content/interactive-map. You can also sign up to contribute more data for your library in 2014.

Here’s an example of the data, which would also make a great advocacy tool for your library:

Links We Like:

We recently fielded a post to the CEFDA List Serv regarding a patron who likes mysteries—but his favorite author doesn’t crank them out fast enough! Here’s a one stop link to some great Readers Advisory sites:

http://www.jmrl.org/wiki/Online_Readers_Advisory_Sites#Starred_sites_for_adult_fiction_readers.27_advisory

There are many other RA resources out there. Does anyone want to share good sites they’ve come across in an upcoming Trailblazer issue?

- Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS
More Beach reading…

I recently finished *Orphan Train*, by Christina Baker Kline, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Once again an embarrassing chapter in American history is reported in a readable and believable format. It’s well written and is the story of two women, one of whom was sent to the Midwest on an “orphan train” in the early part of the 20th century. I’m currently on a Jonathan Tropper kick. I really enjoy his humor and style. My favorite of his is *This is Where I Leave You*, which I found to be very, very funny. I’m looking forward to reading Amy Tan’s latest book, *The Valley of Amazement* and *The Lowland*, by Jhumpa Lahiri.

– Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

My summer reading beach bag seemed to have an endless bottom. I am reading several books right now. *The Collector* by Nora Roberts, *The Daring Ladies of Lowell* by Kate Alcott, *The Farm* by Tom Rob Smith and *Breadcrumbs* by Anne Ursu. So many books, so little time!

– Donna Boumil, Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point

My picks for summer reading: *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd and *Taking Eve* by Iris Johansen. – Eileen Cody, Dannemora Free Library

Debrief the benefit with lunch? A few of us met recently at the home of Margie Tichnor to talk and reminisce about the Keene Valley Library benefit. The benefit enables us to have these and many other books for all ages at your fingertips! What we found were the book enthusiasts within us. We came up with the following suggestions:

*Signature of all things* by Elizabeth Gilbert

*We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart

*Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

*Pecan Man* by Cassie Dandridge Selleck

*The Wind is Not a River* by Brian Payton

*Hare With the Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal

*Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

*Reconstructing Amelia* by Kimberly McCreight

Also for those interested in Young Adult titles, we recommend books by Ben Mikaelson (*Petey* and *Touching Spirit Bar*) and books by John Green, (*Looking for Alaska* and *Abundance of Katherines*)

– Karen Glass, Keene Valley Library Association

News from Essex County

Keene Public Library

Our summer was a very busy one. We always look forward to the return of our summer residents and were here!

Our reading program began at the end of June. Twenty-six children picked up a $15 gift certificate to the Book Store Plus in Lake Placid and used it to pick out and purchase their own “summer read.” We used the CSLP Fizz! Boom! Read! theme and encouraged each child to write about the book they chose. The results were displayed along with pictures in the library. Many thanks to CEFLS for the $200 mini-grant that helped us on our way!

We were fortunate to be chosen by the local Summer Youth Program as a site for one local young person to work this summer. Eden Cencebaugh has joined us for the summer months and is an excellent worker. She is very motivated and gladly does any task we ask of her, including work in the children’s area which she has made shine. The Summer Youth Program covered all of her expenses so it sure was a gift to our library.

We now have seven computers (four are brand new) available to the public and hooked up to the printer. The computer used to operate Horizon has also been updated with new word processing programs we purchased through Tech Soup. Our up to date computer equipment is used and appreciated by many patrons.

Our summer sale of music CDs, DVDs, audio books and some art work was lots of fun for our board as well as for the public and was very successful. In August, we held a “Back to School” raffle for an L.L. Bean back pack filled with school supplies. We hope to have more raffles during the year to help fund unexpected expenses.

We are happy to have a book by local author Michael Rossi on the shelves. *Murder on the Mountains* has been very popular with our readers. We are looking forward to a splendid fall with lots of sunshine and colors – and more reading.

– Genny Quinn, Library Board President and Marcy LeClair, Director
More Essex County news...

Schroon Lake Public Library

We had a very busy summer at the Schroon Lake Library, with seasonal residents and a full slate of summer fun for kids. We held story times every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Two therapy dogs paid us a visit every Wednesday in July and enjoyed being read to by children. We started with one dog but had so many kids show up that we had to add another. Anne Durkee and I ran a craft program every Friday. Other programs for children included Zumba Kids, two live animal programs, a magician, and a make-your-own-sundae party to end the summer. Whew, I’m exhausted just thinking about it!

Our annual Friends of the Library House and Garden Tour featured six lovely homes from the area. The tour, which sold out, was held on Sunday, July 27. Participants toured these six unique homes and gardens and followed up with a gardening lecture at the local boathouse by Master Gardener, Maryjane Honeycutt. Participants also had the option to choose to attend a delicious brunch prior to the tour at Drakes restaurant.

Our Friends’ Bookstore is one of our biggest fundraisers and this year it has expanded. It is conveniently located in the building just behind our library, where it is staffed by volunteers and open on Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. during the summer months. The town graciously gave us the space to use, and Peter White, a local craftsman, donated his time to make the new shelving.

Our library float in the 4th of July Parade won Second Prize! Note the Summer Reading Program theme!

-Jane Bouchard, Director

News from Plattsburgh Public – Your Central Library

We said goodbye to longtime staff member Kelly Julian Sexton this summer as she departed for Minneapolis. She was a library clerk for many years, and in 2010 she became the Local History Librarian after earning her MLS degree. Colleen Pelletier will coordinate access to the Historical Collection, which will be available by appointment only. Call the reference desk for more information or to schedule an appointment (518-563-7447).

Plattsburgh Public Library held a six-week Summer Reading Program this year. Programs included therapy dogs, Adirondack author and illustrator Sheri Amsel, Keeseville folksinger George “Speedy” Arnold, raptors from the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge and Rehabilitation Center, Amy Guglielmo, co-author of the “Touch the Art” series of books, and a program of four puppet shows at the end. Seventy of the eighty-nine children who signed up read a total of 1,050 books! They have a lot to be proud of!

Do you need some reference assistance while on the Internet? Now anyone can get online research help at any time through the Plattsburgh Public Library website. Just go to www.plattsburghlib.org and click on the Ask Us 24/7 link to get in contact with a librarian. Chat one on one with dedicated support librarians from around the country and get the help you need. This excellent 24/7 online tool is available for any library user in Clinton Essex and Franklin counties. Please note that this service is in addition to the regular reference services offered by the Plattsburgh Public Library which can be accessed by clicking “Contact” on www.plattsburghlib.org.

Plattsburgh Public Library has additional databases available to PPL patrons, as well as the resources available to all CEF cardholders. They include Investor’s Edge (replaced Valueline), Reference USA, Ancestry Library, and Heritage Quest Online. Ancestry Library is accessible only on our library computers due to licensing rules. The rest are available 24/7 through our website. If you need assistance with any of your research needs, just give us a call or stop in and we would be happy to walk you through database usage.

Continued on page 7
**TABOB 2014**
**Tween Readers Sink Their Teeth into Great Books**

This year the Take A Bite Out Of Books (TABOB) Competition took place on June 28 at the Champlain Center Mall in Plattsburgh. Eight teams represented three libraries in this year’s competition. Wilmington hosted one team, Saranac Lake hosted two teams and Rouses Point hosted five teams for a total of 36 participants. In addition to the many participants, five Junior Coaches either participated in the program in previous years or just had an interest in the program and wanted to help.

The winner of the 2014 TABOB Competition was The Saranac Lake Blue Twisters with 2nd place going to Wilmington. (Wilmington only had two team members). Congratulations to both teams and to all teams, coaches, junior coaches and parents. This program requires many, many hours of reading, studying, teamwork and dedication. Everyone should be very proud of these young adults for their dedication to this program.

There are so many people to thank for the success of this program (I hope I don’t miss anyone): The Book Selection Committee, Champlain Centre Mall, CEF Library System, Chad Chase, Champlain Price Chopper, Entertainment Unlimited, Karen Batchelder, Julie Wever, Literacy Volunteers (Bev & Phil Kiev), Loreman’s, Plattsburgh Noontime Kiwanis (generous donations and volunteers (Nancy, Alice & Bev)), Plattsburgh Sunrise Rotary (donation), Rouses Point Friends of the Library, Stewart’s Holiday Match Program, Ticonderoga Walmart. Thank you to Kathie LaBombard for her countless hours of compiling the questions and to her husband Tom for staffing a station; Judy Harris; Sharon Brandhold, and to parents who helped staff stations. Lastly, thank you to EVERYONE who helped make this program a success. This program wouldn’t be as successful without the many volunteers.

If anyone has any questions about TABOB—how they can become involved or solicit team members please call or email me. We would love to see more libraries participate next year.

- Donna J. Boumil, TABOB Chair, Library Director, Dodge Memorial Library

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**Central Library news, cont.**

Anyone in the system may sign up for a PPL card to access these materials, but our card will replace your current card, since patrons are allowed just one card for the system.

We will host a free showing of Captain America the Winter Soldier on Thursday September 18 at 5:30 p.m. This movie is rated PG-13. Godzilla (2014) will be shown on Thursday September 25 at 5:30 p.m. This movie is rated PG-13. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by parents. Both showings will be held in our second floor auditorium. Please suggest any movies you would like shown at Plattsburgh Public Library on our Facebook page or contact the Library at 563-0921 with any questions about these events.

The Friends of the Plattsburgh Public Library held a successful summer Book Sale, which raised over $1,500! This was the first year they held the sale in the library’s basement space. The sale was well received by our customers and volunteers alike, especially since it was a hot weekend and the basement temperature was great. The Friends are regrouping and looking for new members and ideas for activities and fundraisers. The Friends will be sponsoring some new programs this year. An Open House featuring local authors and their work will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2014. Entertainment and refreshments will be at 2:00 p.m. with door prizes at 3:00. Come to the Open House and bring your calendar to mark the dates!

--Anne de la Chappelle, Director

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**ILL Traffic Report:**

**Did you know?**

Interlibrary loan traffic within the system in 2013 included more than **45,000 requests** placed by library patrons.

Of these, 17,810 went to Clinton County library patrons, while 17,667 went to Essex County library patrons, and 11,220 went to Franklin County patrons.
A Visit to the AuSable Forks Free Library

The AuSable Forks Free Library was built in 1968 and is considered a “free association library” with memberships.” This means that while initially books were “rented,” some patrons donate $10 a year to help with library overhead. The library has been described as having a “lovely” atmosphere where visitors can find plenty of books, magazines, and an extensive children’s collection—as well as a treasure in every corner.

Interim Director Alison Follos is particularly proud of the library’s charming children’s reading room—with a whimsical child sized book-train crafted by Arto Monaco. An offshoot to the main room is the recently renovated Adirondack Room, a cozy space where area history, maps, and art work surround readers. The walls are graced with rare artwork and prints by the legendary Rockwell Kent. Paintings by Boylan Fitzgerald (of Paleface Ski Center fame) as well as other well-known regional artists are also on display. Be sure to stop in and check them out if you are cruising through town.

Thanks to a grant from the Stewart’s Holiday Match program, our library bulked-up its Young Adult collection. Many popular YA titles have arrived or are on order. The library boasts a vital and ongoing adult, young adult and children’s collection. Our extensive contemporary DVD collection is also well used.

This summer has been an active time for the library. We have hosted three interesting and diverse author signing events including: Dr. Karen Kan’s, Guide to Healing Chronic Pain: A Holistic Approach; Tim Follos’ From Dirt to Design, about a young man’s journey to success, and children’s author, Brian Heinz who showcased his successful new picture book, Mocha Dick: the Legend and the Fury.

About twenty people attended an Au Sable Forks Free Library book signing event on Saturday, August 2. Shown at left presenting a check to Lake Placid Central School Board President, Mary Dietrich and LPCS Superintendent, Dr. Roger Catania (center) are Ron Bercume (far left), the subject of the memoir, From Dirt to Design and the book’s author, Tim Follos. All proceeds from book sales go to a LPCS arts scholarship.

- Continued on page 9
A Visit to AuSable Forks Free Library, cont.

Volunteerism is thriving at AuSable Forks Free Library. **Katie Haig**, a retired elementary school counselor, is leading our Tuesday morning story hour. On Tuesday, August 12 children were treated to a special reading by our visiting children’s author, Brian Heinz. **Emily Maicus**, an Au Sable Valley High School senior, helped to pull the hidden but classic literature titles out of the stacks. No, not to discard! Our stacks now showcase highly visible “classic literature” and “classic children’s literature” sections. **Jim Haig**, a retired educator, works on Tuesday afternoons helping with everything from hoisting the mass number of book donations downstairs to finding lost titles in the stacks. Our active board members contribute to all aspects of the Library’s management from troubleshooting technology needs to organizing our Labor Day weekend book sale. We are fortunate to have such an involved Board.

New to the library is Interim Director, Alison Follos. Alison’s professional background includes 23 years as a school librarian. She writes for national publications on subjects ranging from motivating reluctant readers to special needs individuals. Her recently published, *Remarkable Books about Young People with Special Needs* (2013, Huron Press/American Library Association) describes over 100 great reads that feature a special needs character, sibling or caregiver at the heart of the novel.

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Apply Common Core Standards with Dr. Debra Dyer on October 17

We are pleased that Dr. Deb Dyer will come our way again on Friday, October 17 to present a day long CE session in the PPL auditorium, 19 Oak Street, Plattsburgh. We will get underway with “Building Engaging, Intentional Lessons with the Common Core Standards” followed by “Read Aloud/Think Aloud” application of the lessons we learn to build in the morning. We won’t just learn—we’ll show what we know!

Mileage will be paid to member library representatives and lunch will be provided, courtesy of the generous “It Takes a Town to Raise a Reader” grant we received in 2012 from the Lake Placid Education Foundation.

This session will be helpful to public and school librarians, correctional librarians, and friends. Is there someone you can bring along for learning and lunch?

Lora Langston is the new director of the Elizabethtown Library Association. Lora says, “My husband and I moved to Westport, NY two years ago to support his job at Camp Dudley. We are happily living near the Coon Mt. trailhead with our dog and cats. Our son is a first-year medical student at UNECOM in Maine. My education includes a B.A. from Grove City College (English and French) and my M.A. is in Comparative Literature/Bibliography from SUNY Binghamton. I’m retired from Central Dauphin School District, Harrisburg, PA, where I spent 20 years as an aide in Special Education and in the elementary library. I did some substitute teaching and library work in the Elizabethtown-Lewis Schools last year.” Welcome, Lora!

The AuSable Forks Free Library has new hours. They are: Monday, 9:30 to 2:00; Tuesday 9:30 to 4:00, Wednesday, 12:30 to 6:30 and Friday, 2:30 to 4:30.

Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library

Summer is always a busy time at the library and we love having visits from people from all over. We are never too busy to chat with patrons, even the ones of the non-human variety!

In addition to our Summer Reading Program, we hosted a writing workshop for students to create articles for the local CYC (Connecting Youth & Communities) Coalition magazine. It got pretty lively in here on Wednesday afternoons. We were excited to see the creative juices flowing and the finished projects were really impressive.

In June, the Friends of the Library hosted their Annual Friends Food & More Sale. It is awesome to see all the support from our community! The Friends are planning to rehab the mason work on the front of our building with the proceeds from their fundraising efforts.

-Samantha Baer, Director
TRAILBLAZER

Cool Back to School Sources

Back-to-school time means opportunities to explore new subjects and engage young minds in topics that will broaden their understanding of the past, present, and future! When research projects and book reports are assigned, students can look to eLibrary Elementary for ideas and a variety of information sources including newspapers, magazines, books, maps, pictures, and more!

Here’s how students can easily find a world of dependable information at a click of the mouse. Find eLibrary Elementary on the database page of www.cefls.org. Scroll down to find it listed among the featured databases or search for it by clicking on the “A to Z List of Databases” link near the top of the page. Most documents include the proper MLA and APA citation at the bottom to show users how to cite the source.

Also available on the database section of our website are Novelist K-8 Plus, Kids InfoBits, Grolier Online, Opposing Viewpoints in Context, and any of the subject-based Gale Cengage Learning databases that cover anything from U.S. & world history to religion, philosophy, and small business. Only a few clicks away, these resources can help students of all ages thrive in the classroom this year.

--Chad Chase, CEFLS

News from Essex County continues….

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

In late spring, a Computer HelpDesk program for older adults was well-attended as was an Ereader Workshop presented by Betsy Brooks. We also offered Gardening Together: a program for parents (or grandparents) and kids given by a local master gardener. Other events included a book signing with local poet, Jean Arleen Breed, open house for National Library Week with refreshments and handmade fabric bookmarks, and a Wine & Cheese Tasting presented by our Friends of the Library group.

Our CSLP presentations included a local high school chemistry teacher: Mr. Stewart Presents Science (with an actual small ball of fire right in the library!) and a live birds and animals program with a local biologist: All Bout Critters. We also enjoyed a visit from magician Ron Cain with Fizztastic Magic, the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum with Ship Shape, and pyrotechnician Peter Henry with our Fizz, Boom, Read Finale.

This summer also marked our first venture with programs for kids ages 12 to 14. We are lucky to have a great mother-daughter volunteer team to coordinate the Spark a Reaction Summer Book Club. The three books up for discussion are Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, Martyn Pig, and Clockwork. We hope to offer the book club again next summer.

Recent fundraising efforts included our annual rummage sale, the annual book sale, a quilt raffle, and an iPad raffle. The iPad benefited our technology fund which will need building up after we replace five of our public use computers which are XP.

- Andrea Anesi, Director

Keene Valley Library Association

The Keene Valley Library Association has some great programs on the docket this fall. On Monday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. Rabbi Moshe New from the Montreal Torah Center will speak about “The Kabbalah of Men and Women: An Exploration of the Feminine and Masculine Dimensions of the Divine.” We’ll examine how that is reflected in the differences between man and woman and how to achieve true union. Rabbi Moshe New heads the Montreal Torah Center and is a sought out lecturer on Kabbalah and its relevance in our lives today. He spoke at the Keene Valley Library last year and will continue the conversation on the mystical teachings.

On Monday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. David H. Breaux will launch a year long Compassion Tour at the Keene Valley Library. You can also catch him at the Yoga Tree in Keene on Sunday, September 21 at 6:00 p.m. David H. Breaux has been standing on the same street corner of Davis, CA for the past five years. He waits, notebook in hand to solicit passers-by for their definition of the word “compassion.” David’s main goal is to inspire people to think about what compassion means to them and act that out in their own lives.

--www.keenevalleylibrary.org
Westport Library Association

The Annual Westport Library Book Sale was a big success for again this year. We held a First View Party on Thursday, July 3 which featured live music by Russ Bailey and a raffle for a genuine Moroccan rug. The sale continued through the holiday weekend and many reading treasures were uncovered. Thanks to all who made the event possible.

The beginning of summer also marked the start of our busy season. Unlike many libraries, our hours increase this time of year as we open on Fridays for July and August only. It’s time to make sure ALL of the bestsellers and beach reads are available to meet increased demand. The number of people visiting the library to use the Wi-Fi and public computers also seems to increase every year.

We recently received a Public Library Construction Grant for $59,000 from New York State in order to replace the old storm windows with new thermal windows. We will also be doing some restoration work to the brick chimney which still services our working fireplace throughout the winter (and sometimes well into the spring). Our contractors will be busy this fall in an attempt to complete the work before the weather turns cold. A warm and inviting draft-free library will await patrons when January rolls around again.

-Dan Van Olpen, Director

Help us bring the splendors of Catherine the Great’s court to the North Country!

Internationally Bestselling writer Eva Stachniak, author of Empress of the Night, The Winter Palace, Garden of Venus, Necessary Lies and other works, will be the featured guest at the CEF Library System’s Literary Luncheon Meeting. Join us on Friday, November 7, 2014 at Lake Forest Senior Living Community, Plattsburgh to hear this internationally bestselling author speak about her work. It is such a privilege to host an author of this stature in our area and we are asking library lovers throughout the area to help fund the costs associated with this effort.

Told in the voice of Catherine the Great, Eva Stachniak’s most recent novel, EMPRESS OF THE NIGHT intimately captures one of history’s most remarkable leaders as she reflects on her ascension to the throne, her rule over the world’s greatest power, and the sacrifices that made her the most feared and commanding woman of her time.

We are seeking help from literary enthusiasts throughout our area to help defray expenses associated with Ms. Stachniak’s visit and make the cost of this not-to-be missed event accessible to everyone. View our crowdfunding campaign at www.adirondackgives.org to learn how you can help us with as little as a $5 donation!

$500 is needed to help cover this Toronto based author’s travel fees and to purchase some of her books to be signed by the author for the collections of our member public libraries. The actual per plate cost of the luncheon event will depend on the amount of donations we receive — our goal is to make it affordable for all good book and good food lovers! More details about this event can be found on our web site (www.cefls.org). Please plan to join us!

If you would prefer to send a check as your donation, please mail it to CEF Library System 33 Oak Street, Plattsburgh, NY and note “Author Event” in the memo line.

Thank you very much for your support!

CEFLS Fast Fact: Law of Averages

Chad Chase’s spreadsheet revealed some interesting details about an “average” summer delivery day at CEFLS. Chad distilled it like this:

“There are an average of 305 ILL items delivered each day with an average of 34 going to each stop. There is a pretty wide range in there, though, with some libraries typically getting around 10 items and others rarely getting less than 50 or 60. Malone holds the record during that time with 102 ILL items delivered on 8/4/14!

In addition to those items, there are an average of 49 “same-day-delivery” items delivered point-to-point between libraries each day. Plus there are usually 2-3 rotating collections, each made up of 4-5 boxes.” Please offer our delivery guys a sip of water—or a wet towel when you see them. Luckily, they’ve already eaten their Wheaties!
Essex County news continued

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

Photographer Mary Valley recently exhibited her "Wildlife Images" and library patrons were delighted by our April-May Art Exhibit: Julie Wever's Collection of Women Fly Fishing Prints from the Early 1900s. To celebrate Julie's collection, Storyteller and Keene Valley Library Director Karen Glass captivated an enthusiastic audience with stories of "Women in the Wilderness" on Sunday afternoon, May 4. Nils Luderowski AIA, an Adirondack Architect, exhibited in August-September with "a Keene Eye on Architecture." The Opening Reception was held on Sunday, August 3. A design competition runs through the length of the exhibit.

Our Wednesday afternoon program series included presentations by Jill Rock of the Adirondack Health Institute on the Affordable Care Act, Steven Engelhart of Adirondack Architectural Heritage, Margot Brooks and Alex Eaton of Sugar House Creamery in Upper Jay, and Peter Slocum on the North Star Underground Railroad Museum at AuSable Chasm. On Friday, May 23 we welcomed back Arati Shah-Yukich for another sound meditation program "Discover Healing Powers of Your Breath and Sounds: A Guided Meditation Session to Enable You to Experience Centering and Energizing." With a background in science (Ph.D. in Biomedical Physics) and 12 years of training in vocal Indian classical music, Arati has been offering healing sessions to individuals and group meditation using sounds for more than 12 years to hundreds of participants.

Lorraine Duvall read from her memoir And I Know Too Much to Pretend on Wednesday, August 27, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Lorraine says, "I hope readers of my memoir were inspired to make choices in their lives that are true to their own nature – to experience the joy of living in the place where they can say: And I Know Too Much to Pretend."

With a Holiday Match grant from Stewart’s, we purchased the Harry Potter books on CD. Thanks to a grant from Lifetime Arts, Sue Young presented a workshop on "Clay Forms and Handbuilding Techniques" in April and May to rave reviews from all who participated, and a magnificent array of pottery from the class was displayed at a reception that was held on Friday, May 30.

Our grant application to the Lake Placid Education Foundation has been funded for $1,500 to replace two public computers running Windows XP. Many thanks to Betsy Brooks for assistance with the purchase of two new desktop computers.

Wells Memorial news, concluded

A Summer Reading Mini grant from CEFLS funded two Fizz! Boom! Read programs, and the purchase of titles from the ALA/ALSC Summer Reading List including A Big Guy Took My Ball! by Mo Willems, Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah, Road Trip by Gary Paulsen, The Lions of Little Rock by Kristin Levine, Bluffton: My Summers with Buster Keaton by Matt Phelan and Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library by Chris Grabenstein.

--Karen Rappaport, Director

Belden Noble Memorial Library, Essex

Our summer programs got off to a strong start with Cathy DeWolff’s talk on Ransom Noble and the 37th Regiment Essex Militia as part of the Bi-centennial Commemoration of The Battle of the Boquet. This was a standing-room-only event and was attended by several descendants of the militia. Two weeks later, local technical guru Ken Hughes presented a program on tips for managing digital photographs, which were greatly appreciated by all who attended.

Two ongoing summer programs attracted a lot of attention. The August Singing Circle, led by noted voice instructor Beth Lawrence of AllAboutVoice.com met on four Mondays beginning on August 4. Our young patrons are once again enjoyed our summer reading program called Belden Bookworms. Our “bookworms” tracked their summer reading on a special chart with a sticker for each book read and received awards as the stickers build up.

In late August, Essex resident and historian Nick Muller discussed his recent book, Inventing Ethan Allen, co-authored by John J. Duffy, which sheds new light on the life of Ethan Allen in the context of Vermont history and memory.

-Tom Mangano, Director
After such a long, gloomy winter this year, it was a huge relief to watch the monotones of winter finally retreat, and to greet old and new friends coming through the door. We are always happy to see our summer patrons and to meet the small herds of wandering library lovers who drop by.

As usual we have many foreign students, who, in the process of landing a job and place to live, usually find their way to the library looking to use a computer or wifi. Enter Susan Tehon and the Literacy Volunteers of Essex/Franklin Counties, which uses space here for tutoring and classes. The organization offers a certificate program in ESL (English as a second language), and the students, mostly from China and Eastern Europe, dive right in. As local coordinator, Ms. Tehon goes above and beyond to accommodate them. The college students pop up all over the library taking placement tests where ever they can find a chair and a flat surface, even in our small kitchen. We very much enjoy having them.

The Write Stuff

Lauren Mcgovern, (in the hat) who lives in Wilmington and teaches at North Country School takes time to help interested students learn about news writing this summer. They practiced interviewing skills to produce articles for their Lake Placid/Wilmington Connecting Youth and Communities magazine.

Popular reads this summer include The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt led the list for a while, but demand has dropped off with a few people reporting that they just haven’t been able to get into it. Daniel Silva’s latest, The Heist is also popular as is Vertigo 42 by Martha Grimes. Fault of Our Stars by John Green has enjoyed a few weeks of heavy demand.

This ILL person ranks The Silkworm, Robert Galbraith’s (aka JK Rowling) second foray into mystery, high up on the list of books I’ve read so far this year. Most recently, I’ve become engrossed in the newly released A Spy Among Friends by Ben Macintyre with an afterward by John LeCarre. Anyone who is a fan of LeCarre’s George Smiley will recognize the often witty and urbane characters who really ran MI5, the men whose loyalty was unquestioned simply due to their upper crust positions in society.

After being here for more than 35 years, Assistant Librarian Linda Blair is the go-to person for many of our patrons when seeking reading recommendations.

News from Lake Placid Library, cont.

She has been delving into not-so-new books. She has liked The Sisters Weiss by Naomi Ragen about a young ultraorthodox Jewish woman who shocks everyone, even herself, by defying family values. A 2010-release, The Walking People by Mary Beth Keane, about the Irish past of a young immigrant which comes back to haunt her 50 years later, is also among those she has enjoyed.

Library Assistant Kate Curry has been relating to us some of the fascinating details of women with dissociative identity disorder which she has been finding in I Am More Than One, by Jane Wegscheider Hyman. The nonfiction work steers away from sensationalism and details how women with the disorder, commonly referred to in the past as multiple personality, have learned to deal with its symptoms and become successful in life.

One of our volunteers, Carol Pinney has raced through the six-part Sir Robert Carey series by PF Chisholm. Fun, fast reads based on the age of Elizabeth I that are solidly grounded by serious scholarship and historical fact. Not all are in the CEF system, but we hope to change that soon.

Book signing

On August 22 we hosted a book signing, sponsored by the Bookstore Plus. Adirondack resident, Eric Mondschein has authored a fond memoir of growing up called, Life at 12 College Road.

--Lisa Forrest, LPPL

Nancy Morelli

The CEFLS community is saddened by the death of Nancy Morelli who was director of the Lake Placid Public Library since Fall 2009. As reported in the August 28, 2014 issue of the Lake Placid News, Nancy was a lifelong resident of that community and touched many lives in her quiet and caring way.
Franklin County News

Saranac Lake Free Library

Our very successful Mary MacIntyre Summer Reading Program, which ran on July 9, 16 and 23, from 10:00 a.m. to noon—featured the “Fizz, Boom, Read!” and had over 75 participants. Preschoolers through fourth graders enjoyed stories, craft projects, special events and on the final day, a noisy parade through the library and an ice cream social courtesy of Stewart’s Shop.

The 59th annual Come to the Fair, our very popular summer event, offered hundreds of hardcover and paperback books for sale, along with CDs, DVDs, videos, white elephant items, jewelry, baked goods, puzzles and games. The fair ran from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from August 5 to 7. Prices were reduced on the last day. Each year the committee chooses a local organization to honor. The 2014 fair saluted the Saranac Lake Women’s College Scholarship Club which is celebrating its 75th year of giving local scholarships.

A new film series, “Films at 50,” began on Monday, August 25, at 2:00 p.m. in the Thomas B. Cantwell Community Room, coordinated by Judy Oehler, adult programs coordinator. The series celebrates the 50th anniversary of five classic films released in 1964. “Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb” is the first in the series. Future films include “A Hard Day’s Night,” “Zorba the Greek,” “My Fair Lady” and “Goldfinger.”

The Fiction Book Group will be auditing a Yale Literature Course, “The American Novel Since 1945,” on Yale Open Courseware and discussing the books and lectures once a month at the library. On Tuesday, September 9, at 2:00 p.m., the group discussed “Black Boy” by Richard Wright.

--Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Music teacher
Karin Ryan
presents a musical program for the
2014 Summer Reading Program.

--Photograph Pat Wiley

Uncommon Approaches to the
Common Core Part II

On August 12th and 13th I attended the Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core which was sponsored by the NYS Education Department. The purpose of the conference was to “develop understanding of the Common Core with the goal to create common skills, a common base of information and common language” so that we will be able to collaborate in order to provide cultural resources for students in their classrooms and other learning spaces such as libraries and museums. My goal was to gather information to share with member library staff so that we can work together to provide support to the students, parents and teachers of local communities.

The focus of the conference was “Inquiry Based Learning”. This quote sums up the idea behind this approach —“The meaning of ‘knowing’ has shifted from being able to remember and repeat information to being able to find and use it.” (National Research Council, 2007) Guest speaker Barbara Stripling, Assistant Professor of Practice School of Information Studies at Syracuse University, has created the “Stripling Model of Inquiry” that shows how inquiry based learning begins with a question. Students approach learning by attempting to find an answer to a question instead of being told the facts up front. This involves exploring, discussing, questioning, and testing. This is the link to her model - http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/quarterly/inquiry_learning/pdf/StriplingModelofInquiry.pdf.

The NY Institute of Technology announced that they have secured a grant for a STEM mobile unit which is a super high tech mobile science lab. We were able to go in it to see all of the cool technology that it contains. The mobile unit will be available to travel to and be used by institutions free of charge. One of the uses for this unit could be its video conferencing capability. Collaboration among museums, school and public libraries on projects in other areas would be possible. More information will be available soon through the NYIT website and also through the nysculturaled.org website.

Regional discussion groups met to discuss how to collaborate and share ideas as well as resources. Karie Doelger, director of the FEH School Library System, announced that FEH is going to follow up with a regional conference this fall. Public and school libraries will be invited as well as museums and historical institutions. The date and time will be announced soon—stay tuned for further details.

--Karen Batchelder, CEFLS
Construction Corner

Six CEFLS member libraries have been awarded 2013-2014 Public Library Construction funds. Their hard work will be rewarded with very real benefits for their communities.

The Plattsburgh Public Library received $53,920 to replace the concrete entrance to the library and the workroom floor. The building coping will also be restored. In Essex County, the Keene Valley Library Association received $14,639 to reconfigure space in two main rooms for increased access and energy conservation. A basement space will be converted into storage. The Westport Library will use $59,128 to install replacement windows over the original single pane windows in that historic building. The chimney will be re-pointed and recapped.

Three Franklin County libraries are also busy undertaking construction projects. The Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake, received $7,125 to replace two sets of old doors in the community room with new, insulated models which will increase energy efficiency. $10,328 will be used by the Saranac Lake Free Library to convert a storage room into an inviting Wi-Fi equipped tutoring center. Wead Library, Malone will reconstruct their handicapped ramp to ensure safe year round access for all patrons. A highly visible exterior sign, created by a local craftsperson, will improve visibility.

The 2014-2015 application portal is now open and libraries from around our service area are hard at work on their applications. Interested applicants recently chatted with Cali Brooks, Executive Director of the Adirondack Community Trust about funding help for specific technology related work within the context of a construction project. We are deeply appreciative of this opportunity to match public with private funds to construct some pretty great benefits for local libraries and their users.

CEFLS has set a September 26 due date for 2014-2015 applications to be filed in the online portal. Contact Julie at CEFLS (wever@cefls.org) for more information about this terrific program!

Franklin County news continued

Wead Library, Malone

Summer 2014 was a busy one! We had a successful summer reading program with “Fizz Boom Read!” Our Wednesday morning programs began on July 9 with an entertaining performance by The Storycrafters. The second two programs were science experiment days. On July 16, we learned about the scientific method from Mrs. McDonald, and made oobleck, explored carbonation, liquid density, floating and sinking theories, and surface tension. July 23 featured optical illusions, friction, static electricity, and balance. The last program was a performance by Domino the Great, who demonstrated his magic and the power of books!

In addition to “Fizz Bang Read,” Mrs. McDonald offered a Read-to-Me in the Park program every Tuesday afternoon at the Malone Rec Park. This program was in conjunction with the Foothills Art Society’s Art in the Park program. The kids did a variety of crafts and stories under the trees. Mrs. Andre also had a preschool story hour this summer on Thursday evenings out on the library lawn.

Kids’ movies continued through July and August. We featured free Saturday matinees with “bring your own” snacks. Our August showings included Stuart Little, Kung Fu Panda, Brave, Alvin & the Chipmunks, and Shrek Forever After.

A “Tech Talk” meets every Wednesday afternoon at the library. Patrons are welcome to bring in questions about their electronic devices, and someone on the staff will try to figure out the answers. Many heads are better than one, and we all help each other. “Needles & Hooks”, our new public craft group, meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.

The library book club read Silas Marner in July, and will be discussing The Rosie Project in August. The discussion group challenges us to read books we might not otherwise choose, and everyone has a good time.

On August 21, an enthusiastic crowd listened to the always popular Nan Hoffman, as she performed a family concert of folk music and sing-alongs.

--Sue Wool, Director
Our favorite story man Stan Ransom appeared at many libraries and head start sites in Clinton County thanks to a DEC grant from the North Country Cultural Center for the Arts.