New Resources Open Doors for Business

CEFLS has been awarded a LSTA grant called “Small Libraries Mean Business” by the New York State Library. This two year project will provide resources and training to member library staff and help to provide state of the art information to small business owners in local communities. The project was planned in collaboration with the North Country Small Business Development Center in Plattsburgh. Center Director Rick Leibowitz will coordinate the training in host libraries during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011.

Small Libraries Mean Business will literally “open libraries for business” through BusinessDecision which is now available online via the CEFLS web site to all residents of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties who have a library card. CEFLS is the first library system in New York State to subscribe to this cutting edge research tool. We are pleased to join the ranks of such libraries as the Denver Public Library, Salt Lake City Public Library, Capital Area District Library (Michigan) as BusinessDecision customers.

BusinessDecision uses a series of geographical information system (GIS) based databases such as the U.S. Census to provide social, economic, business and environmental data that has many analytical applications. It will provide library users, small business owners, researchers, and government agency personnel with area specific detailed demographical information and business statistics. This data can help any small business complete a detailed market analysis of very specific, user defined geographic areas. For small business owners, reports on population, age and even retail goods and service expenditures can be generated for their own defined market area. BusinessDecision can also help public libraries take an in-depth look at the communities they serve, which will help to focus services and get the most of local budget dollars. Rick is planning to include these reports for all interested libraries in upcoming site training.

Check out the link on the CEFLS web site (www.cefls.org) and stay tuned for information on upcoming training dates coming your way soon.

This project is supported by Federal Library services and Technology Act funds, awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.
We are taking a deep breath after a very busy summer full of summer reading programs and fundraising for our new library.

Karen Glass kicked off our summer read program by telling stories from around the world in her enthralling way. We held story times every Saturday in July, for which Diane Sabourin lined up local authors Todd St. Louis, Jennifer Giambruno (and her illustrator Jennifer Spash), and retired educator Merrill Freeman. Todd told his own made-up stories. Jennifer read from her book, and helped the children make up a story together. Each child made a little illustrated book and were so engrossed in this activity that it was fascinating to watch. Diane Sabourin read songs and sang stories, with a lot of help from the children. Merrill Freeman told stories with puppets of Thornton Burgess characters, to introduce the children to this wonderful author. After one week off, we ended with a party in August. Boys figured largely in our group this year, so it was lively.

Also in July our Friends of the Chazy Library group sponsored a town-wide yard sale. This event brought many people to the library in search of library cards, balloon and poster kits (sellers), and maps (buyers). Our library trustees were busy with a fundraising letter campaign, and a Book 'em For The Library event. Some public spirited local people were "jailed" for overdues and begged friends to bail them out by donating to the library building fund. Donors were treated to refreshments in our VIP tent next to our Friends Bake Sale at the Chazy Old Homes Day celebration. Pam Schafer generously donated a beautiful blue, lavender and white quilt she had made to use as a fundraiser. Pam had previously made and given us another quilt, of children reading, for our new library. We have it in our present library, and are looking forward to featuring it more prominently when we move to the new library. Thank you so much Pam!

We now have title to the building we inherited. After cleaning and sorting, we sold most of the medical office contents at an August auction. Several trees have been removed, which really lightens up the building and makes the outside more look so much better. The generosity of our community has allowed us to apply for a sizable Public Library Construction Grant for the first phase of renovation. Project manager and library trustee George Brendler has been already working on repairing the roof. This is all so exciting that I can hardly wait for the next chapter.

-Francie Fairchild, Director
Voila! Learning a Language est Tres Facile with Byki!

Plattsburgh Public Library has used CBC (Central Book Aid) funds to purchase Byki® Online Library Edition, a powerful new online language-learning system designed specifically for use by the patrons of public libraries.

Byki, short for “Before You Know It,” is a rapid learning system that uses “spaced interval repetition”. The Byki learning method takes users through a series of simple steps to memorize words and phrases in a new language, including their meanings and proper pronunciation, in the shortest possible time. Over 70 languages are available for learning through the Byki database.

Library patrons are now able to access the Byki Online system from inside or outside of the library, via the web browser on Windows and Mac computers. To access Byki through the CEFLS web site, browse to the CEFLS web site [www.cefls.org](http://www.cefls.org), select databases from the left side of the screen, and select the Language Learning category. Click on Byki, enter your library card number, and get set to perfect your accent! You’ll set up your own account, which you can use to track your progress. Byki can also be accessed through the Plattsburgh Public Library web site at [www.plattsburghlibrary.org](http://www.plattsburghlibrary.org). Once on the site, scroll down to the icon labeled Resource Links and click on the link to Byki.

Users will find a variety of high quality learning options that build listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. In addition, Byki includes Advanced Pronunciation Analysis to help users perfect their pronunciation skills. Individual progress tracking and assessment tests help identify areas for improvement and move users in the right direction.

In addition to Byki Online’s advanced learning tools, users will have access to an array of online language and cultural resources including one click access to Facebook and Twitter language communities as well as Byki language Blogs featuring a collection of articles covering the language and the culture that surrounds it.

---

Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over. It flew by. Our Summer Reading Program was a huge success. This year, with the help of a DEC Grant, we were able to host several programs for children. They included: “Speedy” Arnold, who has kicked off our program for the past four years; Dave Ruch; Melvin the Magnificent; Amanda Wrye, the popular “Stampin’ Up” demonstrator; and Jan Stanley & Tamia Gastio, who provided a book-making workshop for the kids. Additionally, TD Bank provided two story time sessions with accompanying books for our library. Alexandra Lamberton, who is a Vermont Therapy Dog Handler Alexandra Lamberton and her dog Lily, were featured in several thanks to funding from Community Bank to CEFLS. The children loved this. In fact, the therapy dog was so popular that we will be hosting a six week program in collaboration with the NCCS School District, to provide additional “Buddy Reading” with a therapy dog.

I am very excited to announce that we have started to offer movie matinees and movie nights for the community. There will be a theme each month with two or three movies being shown during the month. Popcorn and beverages will be provided at no cost.

Another program that I am excited to begin is a Youth Book Club. Children in grades 5-8 have asked that we have a book club at the library. How could I say no? Beginning in November, the youth book club will read one book a month and will meet twice a month to discuss the books. If possible, we will choose a book that has been made into a movie. This should pose for interesting discussion.

-Donna Boumil, Director

Ellenburg Sarah Munsil Public Library

I'm still here barcoding in preparation for automation. Thirteen children ages three to ten participated in the Summer reading program. While that number is down slightly from last year, everyone had fun.

We are recycling cell phones and ink cartridges with Planet Green. They sent us a $23 check for our first box of recyclables. Since they provide the box, postage & posters, it's a win-win situation.

I would like to pass along this good read since I just discovered a "new-to-me" author: Haywood Smith. Her book Lady of the Lake is a great mix of mystery, suspense, laughter and romance. It's my kind of book! It takes place in Georgia and follows the story of four sisters who inherited their aunt's house on the lake. But in order to inherit it they must spend 90 days together. Their skinny dipping episode was hysterical. They discover all sorts of stuff as they de-clutter the basement and house. It's just a fun read.

-Michele Phillips
Central Library News from

Plattsburgh Public Library

Plattsburgh Public Library is now a Foundation Center Cooperating Collection. The Foundation Center, based in New York City, has provided the library with online access to grants information plus a large collection of printed books on how to raise funds and search out foundation funds. Many local foundations are included.

We have received a major Federal Stimulus Grant to set up a Public Computer and Jobs Center in collaboration with OneWorkSource. An Open House will be held on October 13 to introduce Jobs Center resources and staff to the community. Jannelle Shepherd, from OneWorkSource, has been appointed Director of the Center. Jannelle will help job searchers to write resumes and complete job applications, learn interviewing techniques, and use computers to look for jobs. She will teach computer use, assist online students and help small business projects.

Plattsburgh is one of 30 public libraries in upstate New York to receive this Broadband grant through the New York State Library. The Center will be located in the Brinkerhoff Room on the library’s first floor.

The latest in our series of Friends Art Shows will open in mid-September. The work of Ellen Heyman will be featured in the Ianelli Gallery in the Auditorium. Ellen is an artist who works in a variety of styles and mediums, including a sepia series from Egypt.

Our Friends Fall Book Sale will be held from Thursday, October 21 through Saturday, October 23. Donations of good used books are welcome!

A number of children’s programs are on tap for this fall and winter. Tuesday morning story time for all ages through preschool will occur from October 19 through December 7 at 10:30 a.m. “Sunday Stories with Miss Karen” will be featured on October 24, November 7, and December 5 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. This will be fun for the whole family. The Polar Bear Express story time will leave the station on Wednesday evening, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. This has become a beloved holiday event for all ages. Our Teens’ Library Club will meet in the second floor auditorium from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. on these Thursday’s: October 14, November 18 and December 16. All teens are invited to check out the library’s new Wii Sports game and share ideas for renovation of the library’s Teen Room.

Mary Heffernan is ready to help patrons at the new wheel-chair friendly Lending Desk.

CEFLS Set to Rev Up Computer Training for Adult New Learners

The New York State Literacy Grant program has awarded the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System $16,590 for the current year of a two year grant cycle. Our project, which is affectionately titled “Adult Learners In The Zone,” will bring a literacy based computer basics training program and resources to member libraries in Fall 2010 and Winter 2011. One project goal is to increase adult new learner awareness of library print and online resources that can aid them in their educational endeavors and job search. We anticipate that project activities will help to leverage local libraries into the exciting adult literacy initiatives, such as the CV-Tec Literacy Zone) that are currently underway in the Quebec – New York Corridor.

CEFLS is working with Literacy Volunteers and The National Work Readiness Credential Program to help unemployed and underemployed adults become computer savvy. Training sessions are designed to increase the comfort level of new computer users and increase the computer skills of those who can already navigate programs on a computer. Project Consultant Eileen Cody will deliver computer training at six different libraries within the three county area using the Portable Computer Lab provided by CEFLS. Session content and format will be based on Eileen’s popular “E-Seniors in the Drivers’ Seat” workshops. Eileen says that “we’ve taken that basic content and customized it to really zero in on the specific needs of adult new learners who also happen to be job seekers.” Training will begin as soon as classes fill. If you would like to explore hosting a session at your library, please contact Julie at CEFLS (563-5190 x 18).

The curriculum will remain available for self paced study online at the CEFLS web site, (www.cefls.org) where tutorials will be posted after the first session of each training class is completed. CEFLS staff members are currently collaborating with Literacy Volunteers partners to select supporting print materials for adult new learners which will be given to the participating libraries.

-excerpted from PPL Hi-Lights volume 3, no. 4; September-December 2010

Stanley A. Ransom, Director
Summer time, summertime…. Cool, cool, summertime, SUMMERTIME! Well summertime was everything and COOL! One of the loveliest, sneaky tricks that Mother Nature plays in tandem with the libraries: it’s hot outside and oh so cool inside and everywhere you go there was something going on in a library. Dodge Library was no exception. Despite getting a bit of a late start, our summer reading program was well received in our community. It doesn’t hurt to have a beautiful park outside our doors. At Dodge we are very lucky to have parents that have the insight to start children reading early and to keep it fun. We all strived to accomplish that this summer as everyone splashed into reading. I was most surprised and tickled to see teens reading to each other as well as our young children reading to anyone who will listen. Several books were read by each young attendee of the library and I was the lucky recipient of many of those stories. One or two stories were embellished well beyond the author’s intention. I’m sure they wouldn’t care; the imagination of a young mind is heavenly.

September is also Library Month. The library hopes to help our youth to understand how vital a library is to its community. Our young adult patrons will help work and run the library this month. We also are planning for them to put on and run a program for our younger patrons. The last week of September is National Dog Week, so we will incorporate that theme into the program. It will be our first time trying this adventure, but I am sure it will be FUN! Stop by your library, and come see us at The Dodge.

Linda Dupee, Director
More from Clinton County...

Changes at the Mooers Free Library

Anyone who has visited the Mooers Free Library has been greeted by Edie Morelock’s warm welcome and sunny disposition. Edie has been the Library Director for twelve years and during this time she has made many meaningful changes to the Library. Edie felt that it was time for her to retire so that she would be able to spend more time with her granddaughters and also pursue some of her own many interests. The Library Board gave an Open House on June 12, 2010 to honor Edie for her years of service. Many patrons came to wish her well, and she will be missed.

At the Open House the new Library Director, Jacqueline Madison, was introduced and welcomed. Jackie had previously been a librarian for Wyeth in Chazy. She is very enthusiastic about her new position, and everyone wished her much success in her new venture.

--Ann Hobson, Trustee

Mooers Free Library

I’m the new Director for the Mooers Library. Recently, the North Countyman newspaper did a feature article on our library and we appreciated the opportunity to highlight some of the changes that have occurred at our library. I’ve rearranged the first floor in order to increase space and add some new options for patrons. The Young Adult area and Juvenile sections will be expanded to accommodate more current materials. A computer will allow students to access online databases from CEFLS. The shelving was rearranged to allow a small recreation area on the main floor. The Board has approved a Wii, which I will be setting up for the first Saturday in October. Patrons will be allowed to play for an hour, but will need to sign up ahead of schedule. If a no show occurs, then a patron at the library will be allowed to use that slot. We plan to make some changes to the basement area later this fall.

Story hour will run throughout the school year. In October, it will run each Saturday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Jennifer McIntyre has volunteered to continue the fine work she did with our summer reading program.

I will also offer one-on-one computer training to patrons. Sessions can be as simple as learning to use a computer or more complex as understanding the different programs.

The hours at Mooers for Thursdays and Saturdays have changed. On Thursdays we're open from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays we're open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays hours are still 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

--Jackie Madison, Director

Stewart’s Shops Donations

If you have the opportunity to do so, please remind your patrons to remember our friends at Stewarts during the upcoming holiday season. Stewarts depends upon customer donations from Thanksgiving to Christmas for their Holiday Match campaign. Most of us benefit from Stewart’s generosity every year. Plattsburgh Public library regularly receives $500 for children’s materials, and the TABOB group also receives much needed cash support! Let’s get out there, eat that ice cream and return the favor!

AuSable Forks Free Library

Book Sale

Friday, October 8, 2010
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 9, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Books, Audio Books, DVDs, CDs, Videos and Tag Sale Items
Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga

Fort Ticonderoga’s Fife and Drum and Schroon Lake’s Michael Murdock literally made music on July 10 as the new expansion of the Black Watch Memorial Library was dedicated. We shared the overcast morning with 150 guests. We then stepped inside to feast from a buffet that was truly fit for Royal Highlanders.

Themed around the idea of “Splashing into Reading”, the two summer reading programs were a great success. The program for youngsters aged four to ten was held every day for one week in July. Children listened to stories about pirates, mermaids, treasures and ocean life. They sang songs, colored, and even learned some sign language. We had a visit from Nan Hoffman at the end of July who shared some super fun water songs.

Young adults “Cruised into Reading” by participating in a month long book club. Children read various books awarded with the prestigious Newberry Medal Award. They were asked to answer questions and keep a reading log about the novels. The “cruise” ended with a souvenir t-shirt and parting gift, along with many “travelers” ready to sign up for next year.

The youth in our community are not the only ones picking up books this summer. It seems that the Nicholas Sparks books that have recently been made into movies are a hot read (The Last Song and Dear John), along with other books that have made the movie list, The Lovely Bones, The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo and The Wimpy Kid. Everyone wants to compare the book to the movie!

Fall is a time to come into the library and find new author to read or a new subject to investigate. Check out a young adult book by Sarah Dessen or Mike Lupica. Or maybe let the library help you learn a new language or a new skill such as cooking or playing the guitar. Sometimes we forget all that the library holds. Make this a year to remember!

- Beth Nadeau
Essex County continues...

Wadhams Free Library

At the Wadhams Free Library we’re shifting into a new season. We enjoyed seeing our summer friends; now we’re thinking about homework and fall activities.

The flower garden our board members planted has really taken off and has provided us with a changing show of beautiful colors all summer. Story hour has been a barrel of fun. We’re hoping to resume this fall when we figure out who can go where when. Our Wednesdays in Wadhams lectures will resume this fall, with a series of four talks to be announced soon.

We’re very excited about an event coming up this month. Arthur Dodge, who put together the wonderful Swan Furniture Exhibit currently at the Adirondack History Center Museum in Elizabethtown, suggested we have a show of Heidi Vaughan’s pottery at the Library. Heidi was our librarian from the early ’70’s to the early ’80’s. Arthur said, “I saw so many of her pieces in people’s houses and thought it would be interesting to see them all together.” He’s been bringing us pieces of Heidi’s hand built clay work, many of them depicting animals. It’s really great to see them and to reconnect with Heidi and Nick, who live near Ukiah, California. Heidi’s still working with clay, and Nick retired recently from driving the bookmobile there.

We’re planning to have an opening for the show on Friday, September 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

-Liz Rapalee, Director

AuSable Forks Free Library

“We’re the library,” says Mom. “Books and summertime go together.” - Lisa Schroeder, author of I Heart You, You Haunt Me

It was a busy summer at the Au Sable Forks Free library with two sets of children’s programs occurring. The pictures show our children who helped Make A Splash! every Tuesday morning during the month of July. Volunteer and children’s program leader Ms. Holly with the help of two wonderful volunteers led the children through water-themed fun including reading, singing songs and crafts. The local youth commission program Playgrounds visited us every Wednesday for five weeks during July and August. Children who would not usually have a chance to visit the library had the opportunity to get a library card and take out books while enjoying stories being read with their counselors.

As for the upcoming fall months, StoryTime! details are still being worked on but once we have them finalized you will be able to find information about our children’s program on our website at www.ausableforksfreelibrary.com.

Please join us on Columbus Day weekend for a two-day book sale and the drawing of our quilt raffle. Beginning Friday, October 9 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. our downstairs will be the place to check out books and small tag items as well as our beautiful quilt made by local quilter Dot Madden. The sale continues on Saturday October 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. continues and concludes with the quilt raffle drawing at the close. Ticket holders do not have to be present to win.

-Susannah Carey, Director

This quilt, made by Dot Madden, will be raffled on October 10.

Books...are like lobster shells, we surround ourselves with 'em, then we grow out of 'em and leave 'em behind, as evidence of our earlier stages of development.

-Dorothy Sayers (1928)
Essex County continues...

The Paine Memorial Free Library

Ninety-six children took part in one of our three summer reading programs, with an accumulated 1449 hours of reading! One-on-one reading assistance, story hour and our Noblewood Beach Site, Summer Youth Program - Summer Reading were the three components that achieved so many hours of reading. Each program was six weeks long. Congratulations to all the students who took part. College graduate, Carolina De la Rosa Bustamante will begin volunteering in September. She will be developing some fun new programs for our fall story hour. I'm looking forward to learning some new tricks from Carolina!

This summer, which is slowly winding down, was very good to us in many respects. Our four art shows wrapped up with Emilie McBride’s paintings and Jeff & Etta Moredock's photography and paintings. A reception was held on August 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.-7. The final art reception was very well attended, as were all of our receptions this year. We are happy to report that the 28th Annual Craft Fair, Golf Scramble, our book sales, and our Patricia Reynolds watercolor raffle were very successful fund raisers. Michael Northrup was the winner of the beautiful watercolor. We appreciate all who supported our fund raisers this year because we planning to install a new furnace in September which will be a very large expense.

Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Kids’ Corner

Did you know that according to the U.S. National Crime Prevention Council, 43% of teens have been the victims of cyber bullying in the last year?

To help parents, educators, and others better understand, prevent and take action against this growing concern, ebrary is offering a collection of open access e-books on cyber bullying. Other organizations can contribute materials to this collection as long as they have copyrights.

Ebrary’s Cyber Bullying Searchable Information Center includes such titles as Click, Click, Who’s Really There: Protect Your Family from Online predators, Pedophiles, Privacy Loss and More, by Koh (LHK Publishing, 2006); Bullying Prevention and Intervention: Realistic Strategies for Schools, by Susan Swearer (Guilford Press, 2009); and Keep Your Kids Safe on the Internet, by Simon Johnson ((McGraw-Hill, 2004). It also includes a growing selection of documents uploaded by ebrary employees from authoritative sites including the Pew Internet & American Life Project, the U.S. Department of Justice, and other agencies. Check this out and let us know what you think!

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target presents Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing promotion program. As a result of the 2009-2010 version of this competition, six libraries received $10,000 Letters About Literature promotion grants.

December 10, 2010 has been set for the deadline for the 2010-2011 competition. The new “how-to-enter guidelines and required entry coupon are now available. Get all of the details and read this year’s winning entries on the program web site at http://lettersaboutliterature.org/

Erica Klein show off a friendly alligator craft made in storyhour.
Schroon Lake Public Library

This summer we held three major fundraisers to help supplement our meager budget. In early August, our Friends of the Library group hosted their second annual House and Garden Tour. Participants were able to visit five lovely homes in our area, learn about their history, and enjoy the gardens on the property. Luckily the weather was perfect this year; last year’s event was marked by torrential rains. Our annual Wine and Cheese tasting was held the end of August. This year, six wines from around the world were featured including wines from Africa, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, Australia, and of course the good old U.S.A. An assortment of cheeses and breads were offered to complement each wine’s distinct qualities. Our final wine, Pine & Post Riesling, was served with a large serving of homemade cheesecake and was a fine end to a special evening.

Our Friends of the Library book store has been open two days a week during the summer months and continues to be very popular with area residents and travelers. Books, DVDs, videos, puzzles, and games are offered for sale. The store is open four hours a day and is staffed by volunteers. The last chance for anyone to purchase items this year from the store will be on Saturday, September 25 as the store will be open from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. for marathon weekend.

The Schroon Lake Public Library just received word that we are to receive a $1,500 grant from the Lake Placid Education Foundation. The grant is to be used to increase and update our technology collection and to update our health sciences collection. The books and DVDs that will be purchased will be used to enhance the cooperative collection development collection initiated by CEF.

With summer’s buzz winding down we have begun to prepare our fall programming schedule which will include two program series for children and a book discussion group. On Tuesday, September 14, we initiated Side-By-Side, a weekly preschool program for two to four year olds and their parents or caregivers. The program runs for an hour each Tuesday morning. Retired preschool teacher Sue Yoeckel is teaching early literacy skills using books, stories, play and manipulatives. The program will run through mid-December. Beginning in October the library will offer a drop-in crafts program for children aged three and older on Saturday afternoons. Children can stop by the library anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to warm-up and enjoy a hands-on arts & crafts project. Each week a different theme will be offered. Our Book Discussion Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Interested parties can stop by the library to pick up a copy of the book of the month. October’s selection is The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. In November and December, we will read The Shack by William P. Young.

Library Board trustee, Anne Durkee accepts a check from Friends President Michel Lee at our Friends of the Library annual meeting

Shelby works on her sand art picture at the Schroon Lake summer crafts program.

The New York State Kinship Care Navigator web site (www.nysnavigator.org) is a great resource for all relatives who are caring for children or preparing to do so. Kinship Navigator is funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and is a good ready reference web site to a variety of locally available benefits and services.

The web site includes:
- Fact sheets on laws and resources
- Answers to frequently asked questions on kinship care
- County guides on kinship caregiving
- Forums for caretakers and service providers
- Access to a kinship specialist via a toll free phone number

An information kit will be distributed in a few weeks to all CEFLS libraries and correctional facility libraries. The kit includes Kinship Navigator’s colorful 8.5 X 11 flyer, a tri-fold brochure that outlines the services of this state funded office, and an 11 x 18” poster.

For assistance with kinship care questions or to refer library patrons who need assistance caring for their grandchildren or other related children, or to refer kinship service providers, contact the NYS Kinship Navigator: (877) 454 - 6463 or see the web site at www.nysnavigator.org
New DVD Series Sure to Please

Karen in the CEFLS Audio Visual Department has just invested in a 35 volume set called Draw Me a Story that delivers a “fine arts” approach to reading and literature. The series, from Film Ideas, comes highly recommended by School Library Journal and Parents’ Choice. Each DVD runs approximately eight to ten minutes – the perfect length for story time!

The series features painters, artists, sketchers, and crafters who use their unique talents to bring color and motion to a fascinating collection of familiar children’s stories from around the world. Paints, oils, fabric, and other artistic elements are used, along with voice over narration, thematic music and the artist’s hand which all combine to bring each tale to life. Viewers have many options: one can download the artwork only, listen to the audio version of the story only, or opt to color the pictures along with the artist, while listening to the story being read. While this all just sounds like good fun, drawing their stories helps children communicate and make connections with emergent literacy.

Sample tales and mediums include The Three Little Pigs (watercolors); Tiny Tom (construction paper cut-outs); The Tin Soldier (modeling clay); The Selfish Giant (pencil and paints); and the staff favorite, Hansel and Gretel which features chocolate and frostings. A complete list of all titles in the series, which CEF owns, can be found at the Film Ideas web site at www.filmideas.com (click on Fine Arts) on the left.

Due to the cost and nature of these DVDs and so they can be available for everyone to “have at them”, they will not be included in rotating collections until 2011. For more information about the series or to request a DVD, contact Karen Batchelder at 563-5190 x 20; email

---

Essex County continued...

Summer at Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

Thanks to 52 energetic volunteers, we held a successful Books, Antiques, Food and Things Sale during the second weekend in July. We are grateful to the many people who donated items, to all those who baked for the sale, and to all who came and supported the library with their purchases. In September we will have a bag sale of remaining books.

We offered three “Make A Splash” summer reading programs: Storytime & Bookmark Crafts, Papermaking, and our second annual Come As Your Favorite Character Ice Cream Social. Literary figures in attendance included Fancy Nancy, Anne of Green Gables, Pippi Longstocking, Jay Gatsby, Nancy Drew, Karana from Island of the Blue Dolphins and an American Girl.

In June Sylvia Norton and Ellen Metcalf mounted an exhibition of photographs from our archives. On display were two “Picturing Our Past” albums of buildings and homes in Jay and Upper Jay as they were around 1900 compared with today. Town of Jay Historian Sharron Hewston brought additional historical documents to the reception for this exhibit.

Dan Christoffel exhibited jazz portraits in July and August. At an August reception (with music by jazz trio Spring on Jupiter), Dan talked about his art and encounters with the musicians portrayed. Janet MacGaffey will exhibit photographs September 1 through October 22, with an artist reception and slide presentation scheduled for Sunday, September 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

-Karen Rappaport, Director
Our staff members at the Goff-Nelson Memorial Library have been busy this summer and it seems that summer isn’t over yet!

Of course, the Summer Trailblazer wouldn’t be complete without a mention of the summer reading program. We held six very well attended sessions for our young patrons during which stories, crafts, activities and snacks were featured. We were lucky to have a guest entertainer, one of our wonderful summer patrons, who gave a musical concert here at the beginning of the summer reading series. In spite of the fact that we were slowly melting that particular evening, everyone seemed to enjoy a fine free performance! A week later we enjoyed another “kick-off” concert with Nan Hoffman. Her performance featured songs and stories about water, this summer’s main theme. Slightly older readers were encouraged to read and record titles and time spent reading. Reading sheets were returned to the library in exchange for free sundaes from our local Stewart’s shop. Yum!

Our 2009-2010 construction project is almost complete and we will be absolutely thrilled to have our new set of doors. This is the last bit of a rather large project here and we feel fortunate to have received help from New York State to improve our aging library.

Training and learning were a large part of our summer this year in addition to everything else! Staff training in CPR and the use of an AED device took place in August. Our writers’ group hosted writing workshops and poetry readings featuring Michael Czarnecki and we are still in the midst of planning several computer classes for our patrons, courtesy of the Lake Placid Education Foundation.

The library and several local artists hosted the annual Community Art Show here in July. This event was enjoyed by several hundred visitors and residents and showcased the surprising amount of talent here. Later in August the Racquette River Quilters, a local group, presented yet another outstanding quilt show and we heard many folks remark that it was better than ever.

In early September we held a reading marathon to promote both our town’s history and the re-published version of Mostly Spruce and Hemlock by Lou Simmons. This popular book was originally published in 1976 and contains the history of Tupper Lake up to that year. The library re-published the book last year and an index was included. Other than that, the new edition is an exact replica of the original. The reading marathon is billed as “76 people reading 461 pages in 19 hours” and will run from 5AM until midnight on Sept. 2nd. It was initiated by one of our favorite patrons, Andy Flynn who owns Hungry Bear Publishing and, in fact, re-published MS&H. He has numerous other publications to his credit as well.

—Linda AuClair, Director
mySkillsmyFuture is Now Available for Job Seekers

DOL Rolls Out Another Job Search Tool

The Federal Department of Labor / Employment Training Administration has added yet another component to the Job Search Toolbox that has been highlighted in recent Trailblazer issues. Check out the link at www.myskillsmyfuture.org This new, free online tool is designed to help job seekers increase their career mobility and economic prospects. The site also provides links to relevant job opportunities in national and state job banks.

Myskillsmyfuture is a self-paced tool that helps people who were previously employed to:

- use their previous experience to identify occupations for which they qualify
- identify the skills needed to qualify for a specific job
- identify appropriate education or training institutions

WebJunction is hosting an ETA presentation on the new mySkillsmyFuture job-seeking tool in late September. The free ninety minute webinar will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29. To view the announcement and register for the webinar online, go to: http://evanced.info/webjunction/evanced/eventsignup.asp?ID=1670&utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=OCLC+Abstracts&utm_campaign=OCLC+Abstracts

Pair this tool with Learning Express or one of the other career search tools featured on the CEFLS web site to help job seekers and career changers nail that next employment opportunity!

Franklin County News continued...

Saranac Lake Free Library

The SLFL recently made an Amazon Kindle available to the public. The electronic reader offers the daily subscription editions of both the New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. In addition, a number of books have also been downloaded to the device. The reader is available for public use in the Main Reading Room of the library.

The library has increased its web presence by instituting a Facebook page. The page can be viewed at: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Saranac-Lake-NY/Saranac-Lake-Free-Library/121816924531134. If you have a Facebook account you can become a fan of the SLFL and receive electronic updates as they occur. The SLFL Facebook portal also offers all of its patrons and friends an opportunity to keep up-to-date with the different programs and events happening at the library.

Staff member Peter Benson has also set up a blog for library users. Along with book reviews, he writes about the positive impact that books and reading have had on his life, about working at the library, and about different technologies available to the public at the library. Join Peter at http://slflnybookgroup.blogspot.com

Our very popular Library Lunch Series begins at noon on Thursday, November 4, with James J. Griebsch, along with Howard Riley and Natalie Leduc, presenting the kick-off program, “Historic Motion Pictures of Saranac Lake’s Past.” The free programs are offered every other Thursday through the end of April. Bring a lunch and enjoy a dessert and a beverage provided by the Refreshments Committee.

--Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

--Peter Benson, Evening Supervisor

Over 70 children participated in our 2010 Summer Reading Program with its theme, Make a Splash! Read! @ Your Library. Craig Smith explained the delights and dangers of snorkeling.

--Pat Wiley, Photo
We say “Good-bye” and “Happy Retirement” to Debbie Crossley who is retiring in November after 37 years of service to the patrons of the CEFLS bookmobile.