A Day in the Life of a Library

We conducted a brief online survey recently to gather some patron comments for the SNAPSHOTNY: A Day in the Life of a Library project at protectnylibraries.org. The project collects statistics, photos, videos and comments during two weeks in February to fuel advocacy efforts to improve funding for libraries throughout the state. The protectnylibraries.org website is a fun place to see examples of what libraries (including some of our own) are doing, and to get charged up for the advocacy effort. People who answered our survey had some great comments. Here are a few of them:

Question: Why is your library essential? Please let us know so we can tell your elected representatives!

“In this day and age I would rather support my local library by helping them buy books for everyone in the area, instead of wasting hard earned money on books I forget I have and never read. As I come across topics in the news or everyday life I use the resources of the library to enhance my knowledge on many subjects.”

“Since being retired and getting used to living on a fixed income, I have discovered my love for reading again. Being able to search online for bestsellers and old favorites for free makes it very easy. I read that books for e-readers are coming also, what a nice bonus, thank you.”

“I am a homeschooling mom! We love our library and use it frequently for our studies. Our libraries are essential for many reasons, the elderly is another very good reason. We use inter library loans frequently and that would include the use of many other libraries sharing their books with us as well. Thank you for our libraries! The are all ESSENTIAL!”

“Living in a small community one finds that the library becomes to community center for the town. It is a place to get books, attend programs, see your neighbors, use computers, take your children when one needs to just “get out”. Essentially it is indispensable!”

“To promote a love of learning and to make books and other media available to everyone.” “My library is essential because it provides access of incredible proportion to its size and cost. It serves as a significant resource in my small town that makes the town more inhabitable and complete. My library is an anchor in my community.”

“The library system is the great leveler. It doesn’t matter who you are -- how rich or poor -- it is there to help you help yourself to knowledge. And in current economic conditions, this is more important than ever.”

“We would be more shut off from the world than we already are if we did not have this valuable service. My children & I regularly use the library - the building & via the net. KEEP OUR LIBRARIES OPEN!! PLEASE.”

“I depend on my library to give me access to more reading material than I could buy for myself, and I would not want to live in a community without a thriving library!”

Our library patrons really do say it best—thank you!
News From Clinton County

Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library

The Rouses Point Dodge began the New Year with a new slate roof, a “dry and clean” basement, new drainage around the building and an empty attic. These projects could not have been accomplished without the help of the Rouses Point Public Works Department, Library Volunteer Judy Bergeron, library staff, and funding from the Public Library Construction Grant. They were a huge undertaking but a necessity. The 104 year old slate roof and basement leaked badly. The attic housed over 6,000 books from over four years ago, and caused a great deal of stress on the floor and walls. Better World Books graciously took these books off our hands. The library receives 15% of the selling price of books and an additional 5% goes to a literacy charity of the library’s choice and best of all, the attic is book-free!

In January, we began a regular preschool story time on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Children ages 13 months to four years enjoy a story, activity and snack. On Wednesday evenings the library hosts a knitting/crocheting club. People who know how to knit, crochet or both or want to learn join us from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn crafts, meet new people and enjoy a sociable evening. I have even become daring and am learning to knit socks! We have named this day “Wacky Wednesday”!

We are fortunate to receive a Decentralization grant from the NY State Council For the Arts. This year we received $2,000 to fund outreach programs. This grant will allow the library to sponsor workshops for adults and children, purchase a movie license and movies, and assist with funding for performers for the Summer Reading Program. The grant cycle began in January and we didn’t waste any time. Amano Studio gave an adult beading workshop. What a great time and wonderful experience!

During the February school vacation, we hosted a week of “February Break Boredom Busters” which featured a morning full of events for children. Activities included a Craft with Nicci (Stampin’ Up Demonstrator), story time with Miss Donna, Movie Matinee – Mr. Popper’s Penguins and lastly “Game Day”.

Each month we feature displays throughout the library that are theme-based. In March, Mrs. Blondo’s 3rd grade class from Rouses Point Elementary School is displaying their North Country Interviews. Each student interviewed an “older” person about their life when they were a child. They are absolutely wonderful and amusing.

We began soliciting participants from the 2012 TABOB Competition by visiting the local elementary and middle schools. And, final arrangements for the Summer Reading Program are in the making!

Have a great Spring everyone!

-Donna Boumil, Director

A Dandy App for Databases

I was surprised recently to see how much information can be accessed right on my smart phone or tablet. The Gale-Cengage company has made a free app for both Apple and Android devices that finds public libraries within 10 miles of the phone and provides access to almost all of the Novel New York databases, without the need to log in, which is a big plus. The app also gives your library visibility – showing its address and phone number, and website if applicable.

The Gale databases available run the gamut from popular topics such as gardening and home improvement to professional, academic and business topics, and you can search all of them at once. It’s easier to read the results, which include ebooks, magazine articles, videos, audios and images, on a tablet, but it can be done with an Apple iphone or Android phone.

You can get this free app by searching for AccessMyLibrary in the Apple or Android app store. If you would like to publicize the app to patrons of your library who might be interested, you can also get free marketing materials such as tent cards, bookmarks, and website banners, at http://www.gale.cengage.com/apps/aml/PublicLibrary/

If, for some reason, your library does not appear in the app, you can add it at the web site above.

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

Crafters in action at Dodge Memorial Library
A Look Back at the Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point

Dr. Lyndhurst C. Dodge, who was a resident of Rouses Point from 1868 to his death in 1901, bequeathed $10,000 ($6,000 for building and $4,000 for books) to the people of Rouses Point to establish a free public library. He stipulated that they should vote whether to accept this gift or not. By a vote of 45 to 53 the residents of Rouses Point accepted the bequest and the responsibility of supporting the library. The Dodge Memorial Library opened on January 30, 1907 with an annual budget of $300. Miss Sarah E. Hammond was the first librarian followed by Miss Mary Spear who filled the position for the next 22 years. Since that cold day in January, 1907, the people of Rouses Point have continued to enjoy the quality reading and research material and a variety of programs that the library has to offer.

Today the library is open 35 hours a week to the public with extended hours during programs and activities. Dr. Dodge would be staggered to know that during 2011 almost 7,000 people visited the library. The library offered over 120 different programs including book club meetings, author visits, art programs, movies, story time and youth book club.

The Dodge Memorial Library staff includes one full-time library director, a part-time page (who works approximately 30 hours month), one volunteer and four on-call substitute pages.

Mooers Free Library

The Friends of Mooers Free Library will host a "Meet Your Local Author" fundraiser on Saturday, April 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Featured events will include a silent auction of donated items, and a book sale. Refreshments will be available to attendees. Come by to chat with your favorite local author and to learn about upcoming books and activities they may have.

- Jackie Madison, Director

Stanley A. Ransom to Retire From Central Library

Plattsburgh Public Library Director Stanley A. Ransom has announced that he will retire on May 31. Mr. Ransom assumed the position on November 6, 2007.

Mr. Ransom has made a number of changes to improve the Library’s services and building and works with the Library Board to make it a friendly place where you find “service with a smile.” His “Hi-Lights” newsletter brings Library and Friends news to the City of Plattsburgh’s 10,000 homes and keeps the taxpayers informed about helpful and money saving services.

Stan plans to continue his avocation as a folk singer and folklorist, writer, and creator of CDs with local themes. He also volunteers at the Medical Library of CVPH, where his wife Chris is Medical Librarian. Stan was Director of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System for 17 years, and before that was Director of the Huntington, Long Island, Public Library.

Congratulations and best wishes from all of us!
Central Library News from Plattsburgh Public

The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a painting exhibit, “Blooms and Blossoms,” in the Hale-Walter Gallery on the first floor. The show will run from April 26 to June 28. A reception will be held on Thursday, May 3 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Library. The Friends are also hosting two spring art shows. Currently on exhibit in the Hale-Walter Gallery are paintings and photography by Cathy and Russ Hartung. During March and April, photographer Ron Nolland will display his photographs.

The Library Board and the Director have been busy addressing building problems. Over the past four years the top roof has been repaired to stop the leaks, and the mold from the July 21, 2010 flood has been removed. In 2011 we celebrated 110 years of service. Also in 2011 the asbestos in the basement was taken out and the 1939 steam boiler was repaired and is now working full time. The women’s public bathroom was renovated and the front steps were repaired with help from Public Library Construction funds. A new curbside book return deposit box was installed, thanks to public donations. Soon the basement floor will be painted and shelving installed to again house our local history archives and to use as work space. Ready for another 110 years of public use and service!

- Stan Ransom, Director

(An announcement of Mr. Ransom’s May 31 retirement appears on page 3 this issue)

A Fun Twist on Summer Reading

Are you dreaming of summer or perhaps rhomboids? The Massachusetts Library System is hosting a FREE summer reading webinar that is open to youth services librarians in New York state. At this webinar, you’ll explore ways to combine summer reading crafts, stories, and family events with everyday life math, using Mixing in Math, a set of FREE materials designed especially for Summer Reading 2012. Come ready to explore shapes, sizes, and patterns in everyday life! Check the Mixing in Math website, http://mixinginmath.terc.edu to learn more.

Date: Monday, March 19, 2012
Time: 11:30-12:30 ET
Register here: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VN36VWD

Date: Monday, March 26, 2012
Time: 11:30-12:30 ET
Register here: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VF7TXL6

Champlain Memorial Library

Sue Lefebvre is the new board president at the Champlain Memorial Library. Sue joined the board of trustees late last year. Our then current board president Mary Freeman Sanchez was ready to step down and let Sue take over the reins. We are so fortunate not to lose Mary, as she remains a trustee. Sue works at CV Tech and many of you may know her through her work with the School Library System. Sue has been going to school to earn her MLS degree but has decided to take some time off while her two daughters are still living at home. Sue has some great ideas for the library and we are all excited about her tenure as Champlain Memorial Library’s board president.

During the past few years Boy Scout Mark Furman II has been working to fulfill his Eagle Scout award. Mark wished to make an outdoor reading area for our patrons. Mark cleared the area in front of the library under an overhang, and put in two benches. He plans to stain the benches this spring. Mark did a great job and I look forward to seeing patrons reading and resting on these lovely benches.

We will host a Pajama Party Story Night on Thursday, March 22. Guest readers are planned and there will be crafts and a snack. Children up to 3rd grade are asked to bring a favorite stuffed animal and to wear their pajamas.

Just recently one of my board members mentioned cleaning out the basement. The next day he, his wife and another board member arrived with cleaning tools in hand and many trash bags. Less than two hours later there was a huge pile of “junk” waiting to go to the dump and a very clean, organized basement. Now that this whole area is clean and available I will be able to have a great big book sale this summer! In the past books sales have always been held outside and are dependent on good weather. Now I can organize books alphabetically and by subject. I hope this year’s sale will be our best yet.

--- Alison Mandeville, Director

Clinton County news continued...
News from Essex County

Schroon Lake Public Library

It may be winter but we are still very busy here in Schroon Lake. Annual reports are almost done and the results are in. We note that circulation statistics are up again this year. It amazes me each year when we see an increase, every year I think we’ve hit our maximum but we just keep getting busier. Our small community supports and uses the library and all the resources that we have to offer. I think a large part of our success is our programming, volunteers, and Friends of the Library. We are always looking for new program ideas to bring the patrons in and we can usually find volunteers to help in any way they can, and the Friends of the Library are always ready to support anything we might throw at them.

With the loss of the bookmobile we have seen a slight increase of new card holders from the surrounding areas that were on the bookmobile run, specifically North Hudson and Minerva. I am happy that we can continue to keep these new patrons supplied with books. Some of them had never been to our library and were pleasantly surprised with the quality and selection of materials we offer.

On December 8 our library offered a READ Poster Photo Shoot for children and adults. I highly recommend this program to your library. Betsy Brooks came down to our library with all the equipment needed, set-up in the library, and took the pictures. She edited the photos and then sent me copies on disc. We gave patrons the option of receiving an email copy or, for a small fee, we would print them out on poster-sized photo paper. Almost all patrons liked their photos so much that they opted for the printed version!

We have many programs on tap for all ages. Our book discussion group continues to meet once a month. For the winter months the group decided to try meeting during the day rather than at night so that more patrons might be inclined to attend. Participants were asked to bring their lunch, and beverages and desserts were provided. So far feedback has been positive. In addition to it being a more convenient time, the library is open so members can check out books and use other library services while they are here. In March, the group will dip into Shadow Tag by Louise Erdrich. Zeitoun by Dave Eggers is the April pick.

Fans of Dr. Seuss joined us on Saturday, March 3 to celebrate one of the world’s most beloved children’s authors. The fun began at 12:00 p.m. with a guest appearance from The Cat in the Hat who read one of his favorite Dr. Seuss stories. Fans also enjoyed birthday cake and a special showing of the movie “Horton Hears a Who”.

Continued on page 6
Schroon Lake news cont.

Story time is held every Monday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and will run through mid-May. Everyone is welcome to explore the world of stories, crafts, songs and play with us. The program is free and open to preschoolers. Kids also love our Saturday Crafts for Kids program. Each week we offer a different theme related craft that kids can work on at the library. Kids can stop by the library anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to warm up and get creative.

Plans are underway to honor National Library Week with an open house which will be held on Thursday April 12 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Stop by for cookies, punch, giveaways and more!

We are showing free new release DVD movies on Saturdays during the winter months. Matinee movies for children are shown at 12:30 p.m., movies for teens and adults are held at 7:00 p.m. All movie showings are held on our large screen, with surround-sound speakers, in the downstairs meeting room. Outside snacks and beverages are permitted provided snacks are easily cleaned up and the beverages have lids. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by a responsible adult such as a parent, guardian, or caregiver.

Movies @ the Library is made possible by a grant to the Friends of the Schroon Lake Public Library from the Glenn and Carol Pearsall Adirondack Jane Bouchard, Director

Survey Says…

We enjoyed a 100% return rate on the Member Library Survey again this year. Thirty member library directors were asked to evaluate and comment on CEFLS services that range from our shared downloadable book collection to the quality of MARC records. The survey consisted of 36 questions that follow the Service Priorities for 2011 as stated in the CEF Plan of Service. To aid in future planning, we closed out this year’s survey by asking respondents to tell us which System services are most important to them and to provide us with some training suggestions for 2012. Responses in raw SurveyMonkey format have been posted on our web site (www.cefls.org). We’ve shared some of the most interesting results below.

Share and Share Alike, or, we have pretty good collections:

Ten percent of respondents (3) reported that their adult patrons’ needs on non-fiction books are met by library collections within the system all of the time. 73.3% (22) reported that needs of adult patrons are met most of the time. It is interesting to note that these numbers are identical to last year’s. One respondent reported, “rarely have I had a specific need that could not be filled. Generally that need comprised a “journeyman’s book” such as electrical or HVAC.” Eighteen libraries (60%) are able to meet juvenile patrons’ needs on non-fiction subjects “most of the time”.  We’re all connected:

Thirty percent of respondents (9) reported that they are “highly satisfied” with the Horizon automation system, and 43.3% said that they are “satisfied”. Libraries were asked to comment specifically about the effect of automation on patrons and work flow, which yielded some useful insights from both patron and member library staff perspectives. 18 libraries (60%) reported that they used the CEFLS web site or web catalog or another web site (such as PPL’s) to access databases purchased with Central Book Aid funds “occasionally,” while three respondents use them “frequently.” Again this year, nine respondents (30%) have not accessed these resources from any online source. Comments included: “I not only use these databases personally, I frequently refer others to them, perhaps as often as two or three times weekly.”

We're all connected:

On Sunday, February 12 at 4:00 p.m. the library hosted a free performance by “Ya Got Treble.” This vocal trio gave a timely performance of George Gershwin’s love songs.

On Tuesday, February 14, local author Jeff G. Kelly was the featured speaker at a meeting of the Westport Library Book Club. Mr. Kelly is the author of multiple books set in and around the western shores of Lake Champlain including The 21 Mine and Tailings.

- Dan Van Olpen, Director

Cont. on page 8
TABOB Group Announces Titles For 2012 Battle of the Books

The TABOB (Take a Bite out of Books) planning group has just announced six quiz titles for this year’s competition. Teams of middle school readers will square off on Saturday, June 30 at the Champlain Centre Mall in Plattsburgh to answer over 700 questions culled from these exciting books: Gollywhopper Games by Jody Feldman; When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt; The Nine Lives of Travis Keating by Jill MacLean; The Kingdom Keepers: Disney After Dark by Ridley Pearson; Enchanted Glass by Diana Wynne Jones; and Dewey the Library Cat by Vicki Myron.

Competition Coordinator Jackie Viestenz, director of the Sherman Free Library, Port Henry, explains, “This is the seventh year that the Take a Bite Out of Books competition has been held and we feel that we are really hitting our stride with this “reading for pleasure” activity. The children and adults who have participated in the past have said they really enjoyed reading the books and participating in the competition. It’s a good way to get kids to read authors they might not pick up otherwise. The competition is for 5th, 6th, and 7th graders. Each team consists of four children and one alternate.”

Each team member will receive one or more books to enjoy between March and the June competition date, and a team tee shirt, along with the chance to read great books, make friends, and perhaps take home the trophy, as both Wilmington teams did in 2011. CEFLS will once again provide multiple copies of the competition titles for all contestants. TABOB activity is also generously supported by the Stewarts Holiday Match Campaign, and the Plattsburgh Morning Rotary Club.

The libraries who are participating this year are Saranac Lake, Rouses Point, Plattsburgh Public, Willboro, Wilmington, Dannemora and Schroon Lake. There is always room for more teams. If you are interested in competing, please contact Jackie Viestenz at flibrar1@nycap.rr.com or 546-7461.

Keene Valley Library Association

February was “Food for Fines Month” at the Keene Valley Library. Patrons were urged to search under the bed and behind the couch for their overdue books. Instead of charging fines, we accepted food donations for the Food Pantry.

A variety of programs for all ages will occur in March and will help us see the winter out in fine style. Beginning Monday, March 19, Jim Collin will present a five week course on Microsoft Word. “The Basics and Beyond” will cover many aspects of Word Processing. This free program will be offered at the library from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Town Supervisor Bill Ferebee will be at the library on the third Tuesday of every month. We are excited to offer this opportunity for informal gathering so all residents have a chance to talk and listen to concerns and issues.

On Monday, March 12 at 2:00 p.m., Kim Verstringhe from Adirondack Traditional Medicine in Lake placid will present a program on “Aging with Wellness.” Kim has a strong background in Traditional Chinese Medicine and uses this approach to treat the variety of ailments such as pain management, smoking cessation, stress, anxiety, sleep disorders and weight loss. Kim will help us understand what we can do to enjoy our lives fully as we age.

On Sunday, March 25, we will show “A Dolphin Tale.” This is an amazing true story of a brave dolphin and the compassionate strangers who banded together to save her life.

We will hold our Think Spring Book Sale on Saturday, March 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

On Sunday, April 1 we will host a Come Fool with Legos event for children from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We’ll supply the Lego materials necessary for all ages to let their imaginations run wild and build anything that has to do with Transportation. We’ll finish up with a story and some snacks.

Keene Valley Library, Lake Placid Library, Willboro Library and Mooers Library wanted to freshen their collection of large print books. Large print books have a limited but dedicated readership. The books are often more expensive to purchase, but do not have the readership to justify large collections, so these four libraries decided to trade books. Now the libraries have added new books to their collections and are gaining added readers for the books at no cost. The libraries and large print readers are pleased with the exchange.

-Karen Glass, Director

After a day-long, hard fought “battle” on July 16, 2011 at the Champlain Centre Mall, E.M. Cooper Memorial Library, Wilmington Team One won the 6th annual “Battle of the Books.”
Ausable Forks Free Library

This winter we have been fortunate to be able to host a special series of story times provided by Miss Kirsten! She and her family are only here for a short time but she has been offering our littlest patrons (2-5 year olds) with an enjoyable time of stories and a craft once a week.

We held a special Valentine’s Day story time on Saturday, February 4. After hearing some special stories, the children got to make individual Valentines to take home with them. There were even cookies to nibble on. We only have until the end of February with Miss Kirsten but we have truly enjoyed having her here.

-Susanna Carey, Director

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

Throughout March we will celebrate Women’s History Month with a show of arts and crafts made by women.

We have assembled quite an interesting display that includes photography by Nancy Carter and Tonyo Condon, Linda Smyth’s acrylic paintings, knitting by Bridget Simpson and quilted items made by Jackie Viestenz and Sandy Ritchey. Julianna Davis will display her pottery creatures and Chris Bruce will display pottery bowls and plates.

On Friday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. we will host a wine and cheese tasting at the library. The wine will be provided by Celotti’s Wine and Liquors. The cheese and hors de oeuvres will be provided by volunteers.

We are planning a Treasures on Church Street sale on Saturday, June 9. We are seeking quality donations from the community for this fundraiser.

-Jackie Viestenz, Director

Survey results continued from page 6

The van guys are awesome:

An overwhelming 93.3% (28 respondents) feel that they receive materials within “an acceptable time frame” more than 50% of the time via the CEF van delivery service. Comments included, “Turnaround is generally quite good, sometimes startlingly so” and “The van is essential for interlibrary loans. Our patrons greatly appreciate receiving their books usually within one week of ordering them.”

Libraries Reach Out to their Community:

92.9% of respondents (26) provide library services to elderly residents of their community; 85.7% (24) are providing services to the unemployed/underemployed”, the “geographically isolated (32.1%) (9); “developmentally/learning disabled” residents are served by 57.1% (16); while “institutionalized residents” (hospitals, nursing homes, extended care centers) are directly served by five libraries (17.9%). Three libraries (10.7%) are providing services to “ethnic minorities in need of special services.” This question garnered 20 anecdotal comments and examples of specific services offered by local libraries.

Special Formats: More is Better

Several survey questions about special formats were asked. Twenty six respondents (86.7%) indicated that the “large print fiction and non-fiction books received in adult rotating collections provided by CEF complement their library collection and satisfy local readers.” One respondent added, “Rotating collections are invaluable help to a small library. CEFLS is very responsive to special requests for the collections. They also introduce us to different and new authors.” Twenty one respondents (70%) report that the “age appropriate books I receive in the juvenile collections complement my library collection and help me meet the needs of young readers.”

Youth Services: Hook them while they’re young

Twenty respondents (69%) reported that they participated in one or more special activities for youth (Take a Bite out of Books, Summer Reading) in 2011 and that the activity helped enhance services to youth. Several respondents specifically cited TABOB (Take a Bite out of Books) as a meaningful program for young readers and indicated that they plan to continue to participate in this collaborative effort.

- Cont. on page 12
Lake Placid Public Library

The flooring in the main rooms of the Lake Placid Public Library had endured more than 30 years of countless patrons and visitors tracking in sand and salt during the winter. The linoleum tiles had held up surprisingly well, but cracks were getting deeper and peeling edges were threatening to send people flying into the book cases. Besides the flooring in the main rooms, carpeting in the computer gallery, non-fiction area and especially the three staircases had worn thin.

Fortunately, through planning instituted a dozen years ago, the trustees were able to undertake the project this past fall without costing the district taxpayers a penny. Around the turn of the new century, the LPPL Board passed a bylaw that called for a percentage of donations that were not earmarked to be invested with the Adirondack Community Trust (ACT). Patrons say they like the changes and one was so impressed he sent flowers.

For the past eight years our library has been headquarters for the free tax services provided by AARP. Since February 1, dedicated volunteers have filed personal returns for more than 100 people free of charge. Last year they got back at least $275,000 in refunds for the approximately 210 people they helped. The response the library has received from having the AARP service in its nonfiction area has been very positive, with few taxpayers leaving small donations.

Over the past several months the staff has been working to improve the children’s rooms and make them more inviting. Huge beanbag type chairs and puppets have proved to be a magnet, and a new coat of paint has brightened the atmosphere.

Patrons are increasingly making use of the library’s computer room as a source for researching and finding jobs. They have been taking out books to help in resume building, interviewing skills, practice tests and career exploration. The links provided at the CEFLS web site have also been useful. Besides the eight desk-top computers available to help job seekers, the library also provides help with free scanning and faxing and copying at nominal charge.

There has also been unwavering participation in computer literacy classes.

Lake Placid news cont.

With the acquisition of six lap top computers, four more classes will be offered each month covering basic computer literacy, digital photography, and Facebook.

- Lisa Forrest, Lake Placid Public Library

Belden Noble Memorial Library, Essex

We received our order of books purchased with the patron grant from Senator Betty Little's office. We ordered a total of 53 books, and they are circulating briskly. The list of our new titles is located at http://www.essexlibrary.org/index-8.html. We've asked our patrons to write short reviews of the new books, and some of their reviews appear on that page too.

We’ve processed approximately 1,000 items in the Horizon system, updating incomplete records and adding collection codes. Volunteers are applying barcodes to our non-fiction collection and adding call numbers as needed; they are also reshelving books after processing. We are looking forward to adding smart barcodes to our fiction collection with the help of CEF staff. And our library cards have come in! It’s too soon to tell when we will “go live” but we continue to make steady progress.

- Tom Mangano, Director

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

What a wonderful surprise to have Merriloons The Clown show up at our recent story hour session. I’m not sure who enjoyed her more, the children or me. She put a smile on everyone’s face making balloon animals. Merriloons the Clown has been entertaining kids for over 15 years. Besides balloon animals, Merriloons does magic, face painting and has many more activities in her bag of tricks.

-Cheryl Blanchard, Director
Saranac Lake Free Library

Saranac Lake Free Library

The 23rd annual Winter Book Sale, held February 10 and 11, had hundreds of hard cover and paperback books for sale, with a large section of individually priced special books—very old and new, coffee table, nature, art, cookbooks and Adirondack books. Videocassettes, DVDs, audiocassettes and jigsaw puzzles were also for sale. Around forty volunteers assisted with setting up, sorting and selling at the event. The Thomas B. Cantwell Community Room was gaily decorated with pictures colored by children in the Children’s Room, celebrating the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival theme, Alien Space Invasion. After the sale, on pack-up day, volunteers were served a chili lunch, a welcome break from their labors! After expenses, the event realized a little over $5,000 for the library.

The following winter programs will be held at the library:

The Library Lunch Series offers a variety of adult programs at noon every other Thursday, and runs through April. Desserts and beverages are provided by the Hospitality Committee.

Story Hour is offered for preschoolers every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday evening and Saturday morning story hour programs, offered once a month, are jointly sponsored by the library and the North Country Childcare Network.

TABOB, the Take a Bite Out of Books youth reading program for 5th to 7th graders, will begin meeting in March.

Ten art shows, with a variety of media, will be presented in 2012 in the Cantwell Community Room. The current show is “A Breath of Contemporary!” by Joanne Court, Aaron Hobson, Nadia Korths and Geoff Sanford.

- Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Celebrate Women’s History Month

A wealth of fascinating information is available on one official site at:

http://womenshistorymonth.gov/

Saranac Lake Free Library

Saranac Lake Free Library

Loses Longtime Director

The CEFLS community mourns the death of Betsy Whitefield who died at her home in Lake Placid on Tuesday, February 21.

Betsy was director of the Saranac Lake Free Library for nearly 25 years. She is remembered by her colleagues at the System for her many vital contributions to CEFLS, and for creating a strong community library. She must have driven Route 3 between Saranac Lake and CEFLS in Plattsburgh a thousand times. Two of her outstanding achievements include overseeing a multi-year, multi-phase building project, and bringing new technology into the library.

Follow the link below to an article in the February 23 issue of Adirondack Daily Enterprise that chronicles the life and accomplishments of our remarkable friend.

http://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/page/content.detail/id/529458/Betsy-A--Whitefield.html?nav=5009#.T0eQNQCfexU.email

- Julie Wever, CEFLS

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This is a site for Kindle users that features free and reduced-price Kindle ebooks and reviews. Authors submit their books to be offered on the site. You won’t find the best sellers, but some emerging new authors use this method to get readership.

allthingsd.com
It stands for All Things Digital. Walter Mossberg is my favorite technology columnist. He has covered technology for the Wall Street Journal for many years. A current entry discussed a new camera that allows you to change the area of focus after you take a picture! He also covers computers, tablets, gadgets and online media.

kickstarter.com
This site allows businesses, nonprofits and individuals to post projects and ask for funding from the general public. Some are successful and some are not, but a Burlington, Vermont restaurant called Pirogi Union recently raised about $3,700 to move to a larger location and grow their business.

--Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

Celebrate Women’s History Month

A wealth of fascinating information is available on one official site at:

http://womenshistorymonth.gov/
TRAILBLAZER

The E-Reader Experience

In anticipation of the debut of Overdrive library ebooks (in March, we hope) we’ve been trying out some Kindles, Nooks, iPads and Sony Readers here at CEFLS, thanks to a Northern New York Library Network grant called “Dabbling in Ebooks.” We’ve been busy dabbling and are eager to share our impressions so far.

Elizabeth: “I thought the Sony Reader was the easiest to use. Before I tried the e-readers, I didn’t realize why people like them. I can see now that they are exciting and fun, but I only have dial-up Internet access at home, so ebooks won’t work well for me.”

Ewa: “I tried the color Nook, and the iPad, but I really liked the Kindle Touch. It’s light and portable, and it feels something like a paperback book. As far as whether I would read ebooks, I already do — but it depends on where. I read in the bathtub sometimes, but I wouldn’t dare take an ereader in the bathtub! I also like the experience of a regular book; the paper and the nice type. I would prefer to read a book with photographs in the regular format.”

Chad: “Since I own an iPad, it’s my favorite e-reader. I tried the Sony and Kindle, and I liked them both. The Kindle (and the Kindle App on iPad) works well for library ebooks. It can be managed with your Amazon account and it delivers the books wirelessly, no cord necessary. I read ebooks, but I also like regular books. I like to collect good books. For non-fiction and informational purposes, I think I would prefer ebooks.

Betsy: “I tried the Sony and the Nook, but I really like the Kindle Touch, and the Kindle App, which I use on my iPhone. For the Overdrive library ebooks, Kindle is nice because you can manage both purchased and borrowed books through your Amazon account without having to use extra software — they make it easy. I am an ebook convert, because it is so convenient to get books this way and I always have my book with me! The e-ink display on the Kindle is nice, but I like reading in bed, so I prefer the backlight on the iPhone display.”

-compiled by Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

More from Franklin County

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

The Goff-Nelson Memorial Library has enjoyed a surprisingly busy Winter-into-Spring season this year. In spite of our new winter hours, patrons have been here in large numbers.

In addition to our usual literary activities we’ve hosted blood drives and Life Line Screening sessions for numerous health conditions and we’re sure our community is healthier as a result. We have also enjoyed several visits from a Literacy Volunteer board member, Susanne Orlando, who has been able to hold “First Thursday” story hours monthly during the winter much to the delight of participants. We enjoyed hosting a Valentine’s Day visit by our local Headstart class and those tiny folds really enjoyed exploring things at their library. We all must agree that it’s never too early to become a library patron!

We were recently thrilled to learn that we are to be a recipient of a recently announced Libri Foundation “Books for Children” grant. Through the generosity of our local partners, the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club and the family of local patron, Maggie Gillis, the Tupper Lake Public Library will receive a 2-to-1 match from the Foundation for all donated funds. This will help us to purchase a variety of excellent reading materials for our young patrons and we are extremely grateful to our community partners.

We have again engaged one of our favorite performers for Friday, July 20. Nan Hoffman will entertain youngsters and families at the library with music and stories based on this year’s summer reading theme, “Dream Big, Read”/”Own the Night.” Nan has been here previously and always puts on a great show for the younger set. What a way to celebrate reading!

-Linda AuClair, Director

National Library Week
April 8-14, 2012

How will you celebrate? Visit the American Library Association website at www.ala.org for free customizable promotional materials, ideas and inspiration!
April is Autism Awareness Month!

*Did you know that* Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are among the fastest-growing developmental disabilities in the U.S.? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in every 110 children in the U.S. now has a diagnosis of an ASD. The autism spectrum includes a continuum of conditions including autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder- Not Otherwise Specified, and Asperger's syndrome. People with an ASD handle information differently than other people and may talk, interact, behave, and learn in different ways. Symptoms can range from mild to severe.

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention is asking public libraries throughout New York State to help promote autism awareness and support New Yorkers with autism by displaying a variety of FREE materials for their patrons during April. Over 170 libraries participated in this event in 2011.

CEFLS has ordered copies of brochures, posters and bookmarks for each library. Please watch for them coming on your van delivery in early March and let us know how you intend to promote Autism Awareness in your community.

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Tech Fridays Planned to Soften Overdrive Learning Curve!

Library directors, board members and staff are urged to mark their calendars for one or more of the following dates to explore downloading Ebooks from Overdrive:

**Friday, March 16, 10-11:30am OR Friday, March 30, 10-11:30am**

Each session will be held at CEFLS headquarters and will run from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. These basic skills will be covered:

- Browse, Check Out, Download.
- Place a hold / Retrieve a hold.
- Download an eBook.
- Transfer to an eBook reader.
- Find a compatible device.
- Locate the Support link for users.

If you can’t make one of these dates, we will also be bringing the training out on the road in April, May and June, to provide individual help to both patrons and staff. We’re here to help make this a successful experience on all fronts! Thanks to funding from a grant from NNYLN called “Dabbling in Ebooks,” library staff will have the opportunity to check out (or reserve, if we run out) an ebook reader that can be used to experiment with for two weeks. If you would like to exchange it for a different type you can also do that.

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

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Did you Know?

The BusinessDecision database, which is made possible by our “Small Libraries Mean Business” LSTA grant, now contains 2010 Census data and thematic maps.

Check it out at [www.cefls.org](http://www.cefls.org).

If you are interested in using BusinessDecision to take a look at your community (think grants and reports), please contact Julie or Betsy at CEFLS.
David Minnich Retires
After 55 Years of Service

Wead Library, Malone
Director David Minnich has retired after more than five decades of service. An open house was held at the library on his last official day as director, which was Wednesday, February 29. Many community members and colleagues took the opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Minnich’s service to his community which spanned more than half a century.

It is interesting to note that since the Wead Library opened in 1933, it has had only two directors. Louise Merrit was director from 1933 to 1957. Mr. Minnich took over the reins in September 1957.

Jim Britell, president of the Wead Library Board of Trustees, commended Mr. Minnich for his “amazing grasp of resources, both printed and electronic, and his ability to find almost anything – even obscure, distant documents.” Under his leadership, the Wead Library has evolved from a place to borrow books into a community computer resource center, complete with public access computers and a wi-fi hot spot. The library now offers a variety of hands-on computer classes and is frequently used for mentoring and home-schooling students.

We extend our very best wishes to David Minnich on his retirement!

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Winter which being full of care,
makes summers welcome thrice
more wished, more rare.”

~ William Shakespeare ~
SNAPSHOT NY: CEFLS Libraries in Action!

This is one of the many great photos of readers in action at local libraries that we sent to Snapshot NY. Sue Wool, Children’s Librarian at Wead Library, Malone, is pictured helping enthusiastic young readers get “in touch with reading.”