A Summer of Many Stories Planned in CEFLS Libraries

CEF member libraries are busy putting the finishing touches on their “One World, Many Stories” summer reading plans. Thanks to a LSTA Summer Reading Mini-Grant, the System awarded $100 “really mini-grants” to 22 member libraries to help out with their CSLP themed activities.

The LSTA Summer Reading Mini-Grant will extend the excitement of summer reading to families at the Child Care Coordinating Council. Mr. Pat Donohue, AKA Mr. Beau the Clown (pictured) from Rochester, NY has freed up space on his whirlwind tour of north country libraries to do some bookmobile based clowning at the US Oval on Thursday, July 21. Mr. Beau will use the bookmobile as his “prop shop” and children will have the opportunity to tour the vehicle after his show. During the week, Mr. Beau will entertain audiences at the Plattsburgh Public Library, Schroon Lake Library, Peru Free Library and Dodge Memorial Library in Rouses Point. The bookmobile’s summer reading program will begin on June 14 and has been planned to run for two full route cycles in order to reach the maximum number of children and teens.

The New York State Library and the Collaborative Summer Library Program continue to find resources for public libraries to use in providing the best summer experience for each child, teen, and family in their community. Lots of useful links are posted on DLD’s Summer Reading Links page at http://www.summerreadingnys.org/index.php/Librarians/menu/category/summer_reading_links/

The CSLP committees continue to add content to the CSLP website all year long. Please visit http://www.cslpreads.org and create an account to take advantage of all the new resources. Once you have created an account, log into the “Downloads” page for the 2011 Early Literacy Manual. This terrific new resource is only available on-line.

Here’s to a great summer of fun and reading!
MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS
From Clinton County
Mooers Free Library

Mooers Free Library has books for sale on an ongoing basis. We showed the movie Yogi Bear on Thursday, May 12 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Snacks were provided to an attentive audience.

Plans are underway for summer reading at the library. This year we are asking all attendees to sign up for the program by June 1 to help us plan refreshments and activities. Sign up sheets are available at the library and at Mooers Elementary School Library.

-Jackie Madison, Director

Dodge Library, West Chazy

Dodge Library has been the fortunate recipient of two generous grants. Stewart’s Convenience Stores gave us a donation of $500 for our Children’s Department. We are also very grateful for the generous grant of $2,000 given to us by George Slosson on behalf of The Chazy-West Chazy Development Association. This grant also will benefit the children’s area with new educational software and videos, along with crafting supplies, books and project for use by all children of our community.

We currently are “trialing” some beautiful new children’s non-fiction books that interact with PC’s. Our Summer Reading Program is going to be full of fun and interesting stories. We will use the “One World, Many Stories,” theme to explore the idea that everyone has a story.

We are happy to announce that our Volunteer of the Year is Miss Fasharra Branagan. She is a senior at Beekmantown High School and on her way to college next year. She is and has been an invaluable asset to me and our library. As you can see, her smile brightens our days. Thank you, Fasharra!

If you would like to volunteer, share some time or read a story, let us know. For more information and to sign up for the Summer Reading Program, call Linda at 493-6131. Dodge Library is open Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

-Linda Dupee, Director

Library Assistants Group Holds Spring Conference at SUNY Canton

Twenty-one participants from throughout the North Country attended the Northern New York Library Network’s Spring 2011 Library Assistants Conference on Thursday, April 14 at Miller Campus Center at SUNY Canton. The day included three stimulating, cutting-edge programs.

Presenter Jim Sheppard, Licensed Mental Health Counselor from the SUNY Canton Counseling Center, opened the conference discussing Dealing with Difficult People. Sheppard helped define what a difficult person is and then led the group into a discussion of how to deal with difficult patrons and co-workers. Adjustments can be made in acceptance, body language, perspective, listening and responding. Consistence is a key.

During the Technology Round-up workshop, Jim Crowley used slides and passed around many devices, covering what is new in laptops, tablets, e-Readers, 3D, Smartphones, cameras, Internet technology, Cloud and Near Field Communications.

Library Assistants met with peers and exchanged ideas during lunch, followed by a panel discussion, What’s Hot: What’s Going to Be Hot. Steve Bolton, North Country Library System Executive Director, discussed how libraries are becoming more interactive with one another and with the public, with a much greater use of technology.

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES School Library System Director Allison Wheeler talked about current programs and services BOCES offers, including book reviewing, coordinated collection development, library automation, and online data purchasing.

Michelle Young, Clarkson University Library Director, covered academic libraries, emphasizing that with shrinking budgets, libraries must be very creative. Everything is more virtual today. Collaboration is hot, along with going green. Staff must have many competencies and be risk tolerant.

The conference concluded with Librarian Kathleen Horton giving a tour of SUNY Canton’s recently renovated Southworth Library.

- Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake Free Library Assistant
Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library

We are continuing to provide programs that has been partially funded by a grant from the DEC (Decentralization) Program from the Council for the Arts. Over the past few months we have hosted movie nights and matinees which have been well received, especially during school break. This spring, certified One-Stroke instructor Kim Donnelly offered a painting workshop. The class consisted of six adults who learned the One-Stroke technique and painted three projects which can be seen in the photo below.

Additional programs that our library has offered include: preschool story time; "The Many Animals of the Orchestra" presented by Adrian Carr; The North Country Music Club; adult book club; outreach programs to the local preschool and childcare facilities; and book deliveries to senior housing, preschool and childcare facility. Recently, three preschool classes took a field trip to our library. They enjoyed a tour and a story about libraries. The children were allowed to check out a book to keep in their classroom. Their favorite parts of the visit were the book return and the pop-up dinosaur book!

I am collaborating with a 3rd grade class at the RP Elementary School and our local historian on research projects about the history of Rouses Point. Students select a historic building or site and complete a project. The library has been providing research materials and assistance to the students. One of the students chose the Dodge Memorial Library as his project. I was so excited!

As we all face difficult economic times and potential cuts, I would like to share something that made me really realize how proud I am to be a library director. Please note that our library has a policy that you have to be eight years old to receive a library card. A few weeks ago, a young girl and her mom who are regular patrons came into the library. The girl stood in front of me at the circulation desk smiling at me and just waiting. Her mom spoke up and said that it was her birthday. I replied "Happy Birthday". Mom said that it was her 8th birthday. The young girl was so excited to receive her own card that it was all she could do to talk. This young girl has been coming into the library since she was three years old. She used to play library at home, making her mom sign out books. While the girl was looking for books her mom explained that they just had birthday cake and presents. The iPod that the young girl received was an "OK" present, but she couldn't wait to get her library card.

- Donna Boumil,
Library Director

Bookmobile Movers and Shakers

Karen Batchelder reports that the following “rattling good reads” are in high demand from bookmobile readers (not necessarily in this order).

- 44 Charles Street by Danielle Steel
- I’ll Walk Alone by Mary Higgins Clark
- Toys by James Patterson
- The Land of Painted Caves by Jean M. Auel
- Anything from the Virgin River series by Robyn Carr
- Minding Frankie by Maeve Binchy
- The Sixth Man by David Baldacci
- Home Free by Fern Michaels
- Chasing Fire by Nora Roberts
- Fifth Witness by Michael Connelly

How do these compare to what’s hot at your library?

Ins and Outs of the ADA Session Slated

On Monday, June 20, Norman Karp and John Farley from the North Country Center for Independence will join us to talk about what the ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) means for libraries. The program will cover topics such as “Define Access For Me,” ramps and restrooms, doors, shelving and aisle specifications, alarms and safety features, and of course, answers to specific questions from participants.

If you are in a CEFLS member library and intend to apply for Public Library Construction funds in 2011, you are strongly encouraged to attend this session.

The workshop, which will be held at CEFLS Headquarters, will begin at 9:30 a.m. with “Eat and Greet.” If you plan to attend this session, please RSVP to Julie Wever (wever@cefls.org) by Friday, June 10 so we can plan to feed and seat you.
Central Library News from The Plattsburgh Public Library

Bestselling author and Plattsburgh native Julia Spencer-Fleming Spencer will speak at the Friends of the Library Luncheon at Lake Forest Retirement Center at 8 Lake Forest Road on Thursday, June 23. Luncheon is a choice of Stuffed Chicken Breast or Salmon. Price is $18.00 payable to “Friends of the Library.” For reservations, please call Kathy Herlihy, 518-561-7263, or Jean Tolosky, 518-324-6295 with your choices. Julia’s award winning novels are set in the Adirondacks and in areas familiar to local residents. Her seventh and newest book, One Was a Soldier, has just been released. Copies of her books will be available. Come meet her and get a signed copy of her books.

Children’s art from local schools will be exhibited from the end of June through August in the first floor Hale-Walter Gallery.

The Library’s Computer Literacy and Employment Resource Center is very busy with many free courses in using Computers, Microsoft Word, Excel 1, 2 and 3, and Resume Writing, Job Searching, Interviewing and other workshops to help persons be ready for jobs. Courses are free and walk-ins are encouraged. Contact the Center Director, Amy DuBois at 518-536-7436, or at email: amy@ncworkforce.com.

ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center has given the Plattsburgh Library half price discount tickets to visit this fascinating place on Burlington, Vermont’s waterfront. Stop in and pick up tickets or use our pass on loan for one week.

Battle any Bullying with Books, an important program for patrons aged 15 and up, was presented on Thursday, May 12 in the library auditorium. Jeanne Fowler, author of Peter’s Lullaby, and Young Adult Librarian Sharon Bandhold discussed this timely topic.

The Friends of the Library have livened up the library throughout the spring with two Art Shows. “Brushstrokes and Blossoms” Spring sale of decorated and art items, ran from April 7 to May 4 and featured a silent auction of items. The Blooms & Blossoms Photography show began on April 26 and will end June 14.

-San Ransom, Director

Lake Placid Education Foundation Sponsors Family Literacy Workshop Round 2

On May 9, youth services guru Ann Sayers presented another edition of our popular “It Takes a Whole Town to Raise a Reader” workshop series that is supported with a grant from The Lake Placid Foundation. “Pushing the Envelope: Family Literacy in the Age of Technology” explored technology as a tool to advance literacy in a variety of new and cool ways.

The audience for this session was comprised of an interesting cross section of family literacy professionals that included our friends at LVA Clinton County, correctional facility librarians, school and public librarians. The group spent the morning discussing how technology has changed the reading habits of our individual communities and rounded out the morning by checking out professional and curriculum connections online.

In the afternoon, Ken Doyle and Chris Lawrence from the BTOP project, Betsy Brooks and Judy Harris hosted talk tables that featured Ereaders, Ipads, MP3 Players and SKYPE. Participants enjoyed putting these new devices through their paces and seemed loathe to relinquish them at the end of the day!

As always, Ann’s presentation featured lots of useful links and recommendations, including current tools for keeping kids safe in cyberspace. If you missed this workshop, check out the CEFLS web page where some of the great resources she mentioned will be linked soon. CEFLS member libraries will also receive multiple copies of Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids About Being Online which is published by OnguardOnline.gov.
**Essex County News**

**Keene Valley Library Association**

I am most pleased to have Scott Eicholz work with us this summer. Scott will up a role playing game group in which players will create characters, develop plots using the characters and set up cooperative strategies to meet the story goals. It will be fun for all ages. If you have ever wanted to know about role playing games, join us. It is good to pre-register so we can get enough dice sets.

We are planning numerous summer programs for all ages. Our **Keene Valley Summer Lecture Series** will occur on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. One highlight of this series is a July 18 Family Night program entitled *Kipling Speaks* by Jackson Gillman. Inspired by the performance/talk by Jackson Gillman, we will follow up with a day long read aloud of Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and *Just So Stories*. People can sign up for half-hour reading blocks and/or can just come in to the library anytime during the day to listen. There will be cookies and lemonade and all ages are welcome. The reading begins at 9:00 a.m. and end around 5:00 p.m.. The Jungle Book is a series of tales written by Kipling while he lived in Vermont. He had spent many years in India and recalled those years in his stories. A complete listing of series events can be found on our web site [www.kvvi.net/~library](http://www.kvvi.net/~library).

**Keene Valley Days** will begin on Friday, August 5 with a progressive dinner. Our library Book Sale preview and appetizers will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The sale will continue on Saturday, August 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday, August 7 from 1:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will hold a Children’s Book Sale on August 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We have an exciting set of programs for young people on tap. All programs will occur on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. On July 7 Steve and Wendy Hall will join us to present “Raptors Alive!” On Wednesday, July 13, Family Movie Night will feature “How to Train a Dragon.” Roll playing game nights with guide Scott Eicholz will be held on July 21, July 28, August 4 and August 11.

This year’s Summer Benefit will be held at Rivermede Farms on Tuesday, July 19 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This event features music by Too Human and light fare and wine. Reservations are $35 per person and can be made by calling the Keene Valley Library at 576-4335.

--- Karen Glass, Director

**Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay**

Former CEF Director, Mary Brown gave a talk on her experiences in Antarctica on Sunday, May 1.

We received a Stewart's Holiday Matching Grant which will be used to purchase children's biographies. We also received over $1,000 in Memorial Gifts to used towards large print books.

We are happy to report that our application for recognition as a historic building is finally going through! We are gearing up for our annual summer sale and continue to host art exhibits and artist receptions every two months.

-Karen Rappaport, Director
Essex County News continues...

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

We are planning to show the movie, *The Kite Runner*, in June for our book group meeting. Some of the members have read it and wanted to see the movie to compare it to the book.

We are making plans for our summer reading program, *One World, Many Stories*. The programs will be on Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. starting on July 7. On July 28 A.B. Critters will bring their program, "Hibernate, Migrate, Survive" to the library. The session ending treat will be magician, Ron Cain.

We held two genealogy programs in May which were very popular.

- Jackie Viestenz, Director

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

Volunteer Story Hour teacher, Carolina De la Rosa Bustamante will be heading back to Columbia in August to pursue further education. After graduating from St. Lawrence University with her Bachelors degree, Carolina approached the library for community service hours. With her background being communications, I thought Story Hour would be a great place for her. She has brought many new ideas and skills to our Friday Story Hour. With fourteen children registered, Carolina needed some assistance. Emily Wing came to the rescue and volunteered to be her assistant. Emily graduated from Westport Central School last June and has enjoyed her exposure to the children. She is working toward an equine business.

After we wrap up Story Hour in June, we have a very full summer calendar. Four Art Shows, three book sales, our 14th Annual Golf Scramble on July 7th, our Annual Meeting on July 14 and the 27th Annual Willsboro Folk Craft Fair on July 30. Along with all these activities we will be running four different reading programs. Registration is required, so please call the library at 963-4478.

-Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Mind Your Own Business!

Are you interested in setting up your own dog walking business? How about a second career as a wedding planner? Whether you’re interested in opening a bed and breakfast, selling goods on etsy, running a cleaning business, day care business, sewing business, or one of dozens of other ventures, we’ve got you covered. Thanks to an LSTA grant, CEF is now able to offer resources for anyone interested in starting a business.

Nearly 100 books and DVDs have been added to our collection, and more are on their way. With this grant—“Small Libraries Mean Business”—we’re able to provide both resources and training opportunities.

Secrets to success can be found in books like *Become Your Own boss in 12 Months*, *6 Secrets to Startup Success*, and *Get up to Speed With Online Marketing*. DVD’s include “How to Start and Run Your Own Business,” “How to Fund Your Million Dollar Idea,” and “Small Business Management Strategies.” All titles are available on the CEFLS bookmobile and can also be borrowed through our member libraries. They’ve been added to our catalog where a quick search nets big results and are ready to inspire entrepreneurs of all sorts.

In addition to these resources, our Small Libraries Mean Business project provides access to the BusinessDecision data base, which gives incredibly detailed GIS based demographic information. The data base includes valuable marketing information, which is useful for developing business strategies and identifying demographic details of your community.

Access to the data base is provided through the CEFLS website (www.cefls.org) and is available to anyone with a library card.

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. For more information about Business Decision, contact Julie Wever at CEFLS. For a complete list of new business start up resources, search our shared catalog or contact Elizabeth Rogers at CEFLS.

-Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS
The Start of Something BIG!

Congratulations to four CEFLS member libraries that have been awarded a total of $197,177 under the FY 2010-2011 $14 Million Public Library Construction Grant Program.

In Clinton County, the Chazy Public Library was awarded $79,205 for Phase One of an extensive renovation project that involves complete interior and exterior rehabilitation of their “new” library building. Work will include site preparation, ADA entry, new partitions, a furnace with programmable thermostats, and an ADA compliant washroom. Plattsburgh Public Library, the System’s Central Library, received $11,250 to make ADA related improvements to the women’s washroom. PPL will undertake technology improvements that will enhance patron service. Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point, will use $73,815 in construction funds to install a new roof on the historic library building.

In Essex County, Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro, will use $32,907 in construction funds for energy improvement projects that include zoned heat, a new hot water furnace and insulation.

Are you inspired yet? An appropriation of $14 million in capital funds for public library construction has been included in the 2011 state budget. The 50% matching requirement is still in effect, and the minimum grant award is $2,500 for a minimum total project cost of $5,000. The application procedure for the 2011-2012 grant program will be an online process. The deadline for submission of all grant application documents through the online portal will be in early October 2011; DLD expects to post an exact date during Summer 2011.

If you would like more information about Public Library Construction or intend to submit an application in 2011, please contact Julie Wever at CEFLS at 563-5190 x 18 as soon as possible.

News from Essex County continues....

Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga

The Black Watch Memorial Library is pleased to be able to help patrons save a little money and better their understanding of computers at the same time. Through InternetXpress, we have been able to provide free computer classes and one-on-one training monthly. Stop in the library for times and dates of upcoming classes.

We are also providing summer reading programs for children and tweens. These programs will use the summer reading themes for 2011 “One World, Many Stories” and “You are Here”. The younger children’s program will include a story, craft and a snack pertaining to the topic of the books we read. The older children will be given three books to read, discuss and do book-related projects. These programs will run for five weeks during July and August.

Great Escape tickets are for sale at the library for a discounted price. The tickets are being sold for $19.99 each and may be upgradeable to a second days entry for $15.00 or a season pass for $34.99. The passes are limited to certain days in May and June. This is a Friends of the Library fundraiser to benefit our summer reading program.

The patrons have asked for a place to evaluate the books they read and let others know what they thought. We have been inserting a new “patron review” form in the front of some of our new fiction and non-fiction titles.

Spring clean up has been going on outside with flower beds and lawn care being worked on. We would like to thank the volunteers from United Way who helped us on the Day of Caring in April. Inside we are working on a new theme shelf area. Each month the shelf theme changes, and we have had several good themes including child abuse, women’s history, heart health, etc. It has been well received and we are excited to see each new theme.

Our seasonal friends are returning, and telling us how nice it is to be back and how much we have been missed. It is nice to have them bring us information about books that are being read in other sections of the country.

We are looking to a wonderful busy summer with many great programs, and we wish you the same.

-Beth Nadeau
More from Essex County

Schroon Lake Public Library

This winter the library decided to try a new program called Movies @ Your Library. With a generous donation from the Friends of the Library we were able to purchase new release DVDs and show them on our 6 foot screen. Movies for adults were held either on a Thursday afternoon or Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. (The 7:00 p.m. showing was definitely more popular.) We have been able to show: the new Secretariat movie, The Social Network, the Academy Award winner Inside Job and many other movies for adults. In addition, we offered children’s movies at 12:30 on Saturday afternoons. The new release Yogi Bear movie, Tangled, Megamind and Cats and Dogs the Revenge of Kitty Galore are just a few of the movies we had for children. Admission to the movies is free and, best of all, our staff supplies the popcorn for the children's movie! This program has been a huge success and each week more attendees come. We will start-up again at the end of fall, once the town movie theatre closes for the winter. This program would not have been possible without the support of the Friends of the Library group which, by the way, also purchased the laptop and projector that run the DVDs.

This year’s summer reading theme, One World, Many Stories, promises to open a whole new world of summer fun for the children of Schroon Lake. Story hours will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. and our weekly crafts will be held on Friday mornings at 11:00 a.m. Are your children afraid of clowns? If so, stop by the library on Thursday, July 21st at 1:00 p.m. and see Pat Donohue transform himself into Mr. Beau the Clown. Pat begins his performance by applying his make-up and getting into his costume. Then it's magic, juggling, pantomime and more, don't miss it. More exciting fun is still in the planning stages so stop by the library to get the latest updates.

The Cat in the Hat read stories at the library in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday in March. Afterwards, we sang happy birthday, enjoyed a special Dr. Seuss cake, and, watched the movie Horton Hears a Who.

On July 28, everyone is invited to join us at the library for “Aunt Helen’s Closet.” This interactive program will focus on the travels of Aunt Helen as she travels the world. Ellen Mnich uses her storytelling skills, wardrobe and other props from around the world to emphasize the sameness amongst us, rather than the differences. Other programs on tap for children include “Critters from Around the World” with Nancy Carlson (pictured below with a friend) on Thursday, August 11.

-Jane Bouchard, Director
Let’s Get Together!
Cooperative Collection Development at CEFLS

Saving money is a popular trend these days, especially in CEFLS libraries. In the spirit of cooperation we’ve adopted a Cooperative Collection Development Plan. Long name, but the concept is great. Libraries interested in participating develop non-fiction collections according to the Plan and in cooperation with other libraries. So far nearly half of CEFLS libraries are involved. Member library staff can select areas of particular interest to their patrons or community, and purchase newly published titles in the area to support the system wide collection. The library doesn’t need to be rolling in dollars to participate and there’s no financial commitment.

What’s the benefit of CCD? Many CEF member libraries purchase mostly fiction, with little money left to develop non-fiction collections. By dividing non-fiction categories, we can purchase more titles about particular subjects. We can also provide a wider variety of materials, and CCD becomes cost-effective for participants. Strong collections will be available to all residents of the three counties. CCD is a great public relations tool for your library: your library can become known for its great collections in certain areas.

How do you know what subject area you might want to select? If you already have a subject strength in your collection, that subject would be an obvious choice for “your” category. If member library staff have expertise or special interest in an area, that’s another guideline for development.

What things do participating libraries have to do? Promote, promote, promote. We can all publicize our new purchases and collection strengths. It’s important for libraries to keep up with publishing trends and titles available in their areas. If you start a non-fiction weeding project, pay attention to the areas other libraries are developing and offer them promising discards. Study circulation patterns in your library—there may be a subject area that’s popular in your community and you might consider focusing on that area.

What are the subjects we’re focusing on? We’re using the Dewey Decimal System as a guide in selecting subject areas. For example, here at System headquarters we’re concentrating our purchases on agriculture, animal husbandry, gardening, pets and pet care, and cooking. We have a big cookbook collection, so it made sense for us to continue to develop this area that’s so popular with bookmobile and member library patrons. In the juvenile and young adult realm, CEFLS is focusing on science, current affairs and biographies.

What’s the best thing about cooperative collection development? The sense of community we have in working together to provide the best service possible to our patrons. If you’re interested in participating, it’s easy to get involved. Get in touch with me (rogers@cefls.org) and we’ll be off and running.

-Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS

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Franklin County news continues...
Saranac Lake Free Library

On Friday, May 6, all SLFL volunteers were invited to a reception in their honor from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs reading room. The room was transformed with white cloths on the tables and baskets of pansies creating a spring-like atmosphere.

Seventy volunteers and spouses attended, including board members, weekly upstairs volunteers, Adirondack Research Room volunteers, and those who help with committees, adult and children’s programs, Library Mini Golf, art shows, book sales, membership mailing, and building and grounds projects.

The program included a welcome from board vice-president Adam Brayshaw, followed by remarks from Library Director Betsy Whitefield, Adirondack Research Room Curator Michele Tucker and Library Assistant Pat Wiley. Staff member Peg Orman presented the song “Thank Heavens for Volunteers,” accompanied by Michele Tucker on the keyboard. Christy Fontana, staff member, read an original poem covering all volunteer activities.

Other highlights of the celebration were the drawing of a name for a book store gift certificate and giving each volunteer a mug with a SLFL logo.

--Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

SLFL volunteers are shown at the May 6 Volunteers’ Reception.
We will hold a book sale Friday, June 10 from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 11 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the library’s Conference Room. How many books do we have? Boxes and boxes. We do not hold “preview sales” as this seems a bit unfair. Currently we do not arrange books by subject. We have heard of sales in which some dealers arrive with pre-marked sheets and cover an entire subject with one fell swoop, blanket, or sheet. We’d prefer keeping this as fair as possible and as much fun as it has seemed to be for so many years.

Regarding e-books, please be sure to go to the CEFLS web-page, which begins “Where are the e-books?” Overdrive is presently the primary commercial source for these items for most libraries in New York. For the System to purchase a platform to support such books would require an outlay of about sixty thousand dollars, because the System’s service area has a limited population. Overdrive and similar vendors either count people or transactions, and from their perspective it turns out to be economics. Trees and cows cannot be included in the count. What CEFLS has collected is a source of web sites, including the Gutenberg Project, which can provide free e-books. Perfect? No, but it is a resource. This Director can provide another source, for anyone who desires it. Again, not perfect, but perfection is not of this world.

-Samantha Baer, Director

The Friends of the Library will be holding their Annual Food and More Sale on Saturday, June 11 starting at 10:00 a.m. There will be a variety of baked goods, salads, and Jane Peck’s famous Michigan Sauce. We will be having a Buck a Bag Book Sale as well.

The Whiteface Whippersnappers are diligently reading for the TABOB competition! The kids are so excited!

We are very fortunate that Boy Scout Cody Langley choose to do his Eagle Scout project at the library. Cody remodeled a closet in the basement for a magazine archive, which leaves more shelf space for books.

- excerpted from Director David Minnich’s May 2011 report

There is a great deal of difference between an eager man who wants to read a book and a tired man who wants a book to read.

-G.K. Chesterton
InternetXpress Program Officially Launches

The Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, in partnership with Adirondack Community Action Programs and OneWorkSource, unveiled the new Mobile Broadband Library Outreach InternetXpress van to the public with a ribbon cutting ceremony and special guest speakers on Wednesday, May 18 at the Colonial Garden Pavilion in Elizabethtown.

The “launch,” which included live demonstrations opened the next chapter of the InternetXpress Mobile Broadband program. The event was open to the public and attendees could enter to win a Kindle. Maria Burke of Literacy Volunteers of Essex and Franklin Counties was the lucky winner.

InternetXpress provides free workforce preparedness workshops and public access to computers. The InternetXpress van, which is equipped with accessible laptops, travels throughout Essex County to make scheduled appearances at the county’s 16 public libraries where free instruction is provided. Session topics include: Basic Word and Excel, Writing a Cover Letter and Thank You Letter, Interviewing, Networking, Creating an Employment Portfolio, Resume Writing, Understanding the Internet and LinkedIn.

“This service brings a new level of workforce development assistance to area residents” stated CEFLS Director Ewa Jankowska. “Often the computers already at a library are heavily utilized, and now the Internet Xpress van will bring mobile resources to complement our existing library infrastructure. Our work partnering with the Adirondack Community Action Program and OneWorkSource is a new level of collaboration among public sector agencies to better serve our shared clientele.”

InternetXpress facilitates workforce development and increased public access to high speed broadband services. Log on to http://www.internetxpress.org for a complete calendar of scheduled stops, or “Like” InternetXpress – Essex County on Facebook for more information on local classes.

The Inside Scoop on Downloadable Audiobooks

Many of you are aware that we have a subscription service for downloadable audiobooks, thanks to a pooled pot of money from member libraries and CEFLS. We have some patrons who absolutely love the availability of free audiobooks, and have learned to jump through the various computer hoops necessary to download them and transfer them to mp3 players and iPods.

We hope they are god jumpers because we have just learned that there will be a few more hoops to hurdle soon. You may have seen email from EBSCOHost, the company that currently provides the software that allows users to download the audiobooks (aka “the platform”). EBSCOHost has decided to change things and migrate all users to a new platform. They plan to do this in July, and have advised users to “save” any information they have on the old platform.

What this means for patrons is that they will need to write down, print or save any “favorites and notes” if they used that feature (rare), and note any checked out titles they had not downloaded yet, or download them before the switch. They might want to also note their user name and password. They should be able to log in after the platform switch, but their accounts will be starting fresh. The available books should be the same, but the website will look different. As an additional twist, the company that provides the actual audiobooks, Recorded Books, has decided to create their own platform, and they are racing EBSCOHost to get their platform in place first and invite users to switch to it instead. One way or another, we will be switching to a new platform this summer.

We are hoping to switch to the Recorded Books platform by end of June, and we are first in line to receive webinars and brochures to explain the change. You can advise users that the service will still be available, but they might lose their current checkouts that have not been downloaded yet. The worst that will happen is that they need to check them out again. And, of course, they’ll have to get oriented to a new “platform.” We’ll work together to turn this into a “positive teachable moment” for everyone, but we will be learning together. Stay tuned!

FUNDING STATEMENT: The New York State Library, a unit of the Office of Cultural Education within the New York State Education Department (NYSED), has been awarded $9.5 million in a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to expand computer access in public libraries across New York State. The funding is being provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).
We were there:

Clinton County Seniorama 2011

Bookmobile Driver Bob Welch (smiling above) and candy were popular draws to our booth that showcased outreach services. On the left (sitting) is Chad Chase, who is new to our bookmobile staff. To his right is System Director Ewa Jankowska, and Dawn Recore, Administrative Assistant.