We love to hear about what libraries are doing to celebrate the Summer Reading Program every year! But one thing that has bothered us is that other libraries and the population beyond an individual library might not hear about the great things happening in the region. So, we've collected some of the creative ideas from our member libraries to share. Take a look!

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake
Goff-Nelson Memorial Library is having special events during the 4 Fridays of July for our Summer Reading Program, using the theme "Build a Better World". The first 2 Fridays have been very busy! On July 7th, the kids' room was standing room only - about 35 or 40 kids and at least that many adults. They collaborate with Tupper Lake's Kiwanis Club on the stories and crafts that are done that go along with the theme. Here's a picture from the July 7th event:

Trooper Alvarez, Sparky, and Michael Russell

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Rustic Riders

The Rustic Riders visited Goff-Nelson Memorial Library to write a song based on the Summer
Reading Program theme. This is what Lisa Meissner and a group of children worked together to create:

Building a better world; we’re building a better world.
One day at a time, we’re building a better world.

When I help others, I make things bright.
Building a better world.
I do what I should, I do what’s right. One day at a time.

When Babe Ruth was a little boy. Building a better world.
He taught us to persist he brought us joy. One day at a time.

Teachers help me to learn new things. Building a better world.
They teach me patience; they give me wings. One day at a time.

When I ride my bike I don’t pollute. Building a better world.
I stay healthy, I take a safe route. One day at a time.

Martin Luther King taught us to change.
Building a better world.
No matter our color, we are the same. One day at a time.

When animals get sick we take them to the vet.
Building a better world.
All the wild ones and our pets. One day at a time.

Lisa and the Rustic Riders are available to do more workshops and she can also provide the audio recording for her sessions. Their email is rusticriders@gmail.com.

Wead Library, Malone
During the month of July, kids came in to the library, kept a book log, and chose treasures from the Build a Better World toolbox. Activities included; building famous landmarks out of LEGOs, building a paper community; making recycled bird feeders and planters; writing letters for nursing home residents; and painting "happy message" rocks! In August, kids will receive a certificate for participating in the program. The Wead Library also joined forces with the Malone School District to provide free lunches for kids every day at the library.
Schroon Lake Public Library had a crafts for kids program that had children making faces with materials found in their yard or in the woods. They also had a furry visitor from "Dazzle Dogs" perform tricks for the kids.

Waverly Reading Center
Children from Waverly Reading Center headed to the beach to Build a Better World through cooperation.

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Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay
Wells Memorial Library had a bilingual story time, "Build a Better World/Construye un Mundo Mejor"!
Elizabethtown Library

Elizabethtown Library collaborates with the Elizabethtown Youth Commission for their Summer Reading Program. They focus on the elements; air, water, earth, fire, and steam. Noteably, they also call their program a "Summer Library Camp", taking the kids on walks along with focusing on crafts and, of course, literacy. This sounds like a great combination of reading and science, with a lot of hands-on creativity that fits neatly in this year's theme.

For more on their programs, check out the article on it by the Sun Community News by Kim Dedam.

Akwesasne Library and Cultural Center
Akwesasne Library hosted "What's So Great About Bees Day" for Summer Reading. They had Scott Martin from the Akwesasne Cultural Restoration Program come in and bring a live bee hive. He talked about the need for bees, what they do, and how they are necessary for every one of us.

Keeseville Free Library
Keeseville Free Library shared a photo with us from their third week of Summer Reading events. This one has about 70 children and 30 adults getting some face time with an owl thanks to the Wilmington Wildlife Refuge.

Plattsburgh Public Library
Plattsburgh Public is having weekly activities and challenges for their Summer Reading Program. Kids can pick up a kit of building materials or take kits of LEGOs home and bring back their creations for a chance to win prizes. Also, kids can add constructions to a cardboard village, build roller coasters, and make slime, with a new in-library activity each week. On Wednesdays, babies and toddlers can get messy with paint, Play-Doh, and even spaghetti. Later on Wednesdays, kids can relax with worry pets, miniature zen gardens, and calming jars. And, of course, Plattsburgh still hosts regular story times on Thursdays.

 Teens have a host of crafts involving slime and button making activities among other crafts. There are even Wii tournaments and snacks.

Saranac Lake Free Library

From Library Assistant Pay Wiley:
SUMMER READING PROGRAM LEADERS AND ASSISTANTS – The 2017 theme was “Build a Better World.” Program leaders are shown behind paper constructions created by the children. Standing from left, Anna Ellithorpe, Linda Beairsto, Hilde Hammond. Seated from left, Marcia Gilbert, Karen Smith, Linda Grant, Linda Jackson and Peggy Orman, youth programs coordinator. Kerri Langer also helped with the program.

Photograph by Pat Wiley.

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

The Paine Memorial Free Library is busy building a better world by getting our Summer Youth to Read. 60 children and 9 teens registered for the Town of
Willsboro Summer Youth Program which is held Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Reading is part of their daily program. Every day child rotates into the library in small groups to read for 20 minutes.

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**Lake Placid Public Library**

*Day campers from St. Agnes lunch on the lawn after Build a Better World.*

Children’s librarian Karen Armstrong kicked off the Terrific Tuesdays on July 11 by challenging them to “Create a Castle.” Participants, who were split into morning and afternoon groups, first roamed the library in search of materials and ideas to build their castles. Then it was back to their area to tackle their projects.

Architect Paul Shurtleff came and spoke to the groups the following Tuesday and told them how buildings can be used to lift the moods of people and make them happier.

Constructing stories was the next program on Tuesday, July 25 when it was impressed upon the kids that the building materials are not always solid objects, that stories are built too, of plots, actions, places and characters.

Those story-building blocks would go into constructing the biggest Tuesday hit of the summer—a live production of *Pinocchio* by the Hampstead Stage Company on August 1.
Build a Better World is also offered on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons when kids and families are invited to drop by for building crafts, stories, games and finding books.

Participants seem to arrive from all directions. Many children are from Lake Placid and the surrounding area and some are summer residents. A few tourists have discovered them and the reading program simply by walking down Main Street and wandering in. They have been especially popular with adult and young visitors as a retreat and resource during all the soggy days we have been having.

The reading program, has also been a boon to the North Elba Youth Commission, the day camp at St. Agnes School and the Lake Placid Elementary Summer School, which have incorporated Build a Better World into their weekly schedules.

The last two Tuesday programs will be exercising engineering skills to build bridges and finally, on August 15, a construction crew celebration with awards and ice cream.

Building castles.

Keene Valley Public Library
JUMP START Kits

The JUMP START early literacy backpacks are in the catalog and are ready to be requested. The 6 kits focus on five simple activities that promote early literacy which are Talking, Writing, Reading, Playing, and Singing. Each themed kit consists of items such as books, toys & games, and CDs as well as an activity booklet that has additional ideas and early literacy tips. The themes include colors.
Nursery Rhymes, ABCs, Fun With Food, weather, and exercise. They are available for you to use in your library programs and for parents/caregivers to checkout and bring home to share with their child. You can use the search terms such as jump start, backpacks or early literacy backpacks to find them in the catalog.

Contact Karen (518-563-5190 x20) with any feedback you and your patrons have once they've used them.

Eclipse Glasses Are Going Fast

We sent out bundles of glasses and information to every library and reading center in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties for the "All-American Eclipse" occurring on August 21, 2017. Thanks to STAR_Net and Julie, we were able to obtain the resources free of charge before time ran out. We've heard that people are excited about the phenomenon and libraries are quickly running out of glasses. Unfortunately, we have distributed every single pair of glasses we've received and bundles now cost $62.50 for every bundle of 50. If you happen to have bundles that won't make it out the door before August 21, feel free to send them back to CEFLS and we'll send it to libraries that have run out.
Youth Services Section Newsletter

Itching for more youth services news and ideas? Well, New York Library Association's Youth Services Section has just what you need in their Summer 2017 Newsletter. Take a look!

“No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally – and often far more – worth reading at the age of fifty and beyond.”

- C.S. Lewis
Don't be shy! The Pathfinder is meant to share useful information across member libraries in a timely and condensed manner, but doesn't replace the Trailblazer, which is meant to share stories from around the System. Do you have something to contribute to the Pathfinder? Contact David Fuller and it could be in our next issue.