Hello from CEFLS! We’re happy to collect news from around the library world and share a bit of our own insight and resources. So let’s get to all that content from your backyard!

Steve Kenworthy has come a long way from Longmont Public Library in Colorado to become the director here at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System. But, truth is, he had hoped to move here one day after visiting our neck of the woods and falling in love with the isolated beauty of the North Country.

Steve brings more than 30 years of experience with him from both the perspective of public library service and from the private sector.

Hopefully you’ve already met Steve since he’s started back in July. He’s taken the opportunity to ride along with each of our delivery drivers to visit every library and to see just how day-to-day tasks are done.

While it’ll be tough to fill the shoes of our previous director, Ewa Jankowska, we’re glad to have him aboard and look forward to what his direction will influence in the future for both the library system and the services we provide to the libraries and their patrons.
On September 24, the CEFLS Board of Trustees hosted a reception to welcome Steve on board as the new director. Beyond it being well-attended by board members, member library directors and staff, System staff, and family, we also managed to have three previous CEFLS directors in the building together with the new one at the same time. A feat that’s never been managed before.

A Word from Outreach

We hope that Julie Wever is enjoying her retirement and we are striving to continue her excellent work in providing outreach services. The Outreach Department participated in a number of community events including Plattsburgh’s Mayor’s Cup, Fidelis Family Fun Day, the Temple Grandin event, film screenings of *Home Truth* in each of the three counties, Trick or Treat for Books, the resource fair at CVES, and the Live Well Be Well event sponsored by SPARCC. We offered training opportunities for member libraries on STEAM programs, Narcan/community opioid overdose prevention, programming for seniors, and various webinars. We also worked on some new offerings including a traveling exhibit about domestic violence, Fort Ticonderoga discount passes, a Book Bench, new promotional signs that can be borrowed by member libraries, a brochure in French to reach out to Canadian visitors, and more!

[adiroondackgives.org/campaigns/the-gift-of-reading](adiroondackgives.org/campaigns/the-gift-of-reading)
Say Hello to Our New Librarian

I am very eager and excited to start my Librarian career at CEFLS in the Automation and Technical Services area as well as serving our libraries within our system. I was born and lived in Quebec, and have lived in Connecticut and Vermont. I come with many years of public library experience and this is what led me to finish a Master’s Degree in Library Information Sciences at Drexel University. Some of my current interests are local tourism, activities on beautiful Lake Champlain, gardening, running, French conversation groups, and learning more about and visiting the libraries within our system. No matter where I travel, I find a library to visit!

- Anne Jobin-Picard, Librarian

Say Hello to Our Pages

Meet Ali and Alissa, the two pages that work part time to keep the library system running like clockwork. We were fortunate enough to be able to get two experienced employees who also work tirelessly for Plattsburgh Public Library full time. For being part-time employees, pages do some of the most important and varied work at the system. From checking in collections to shelving and organizing and beyond, we’re grateful for all that they do here and for the work they do at Plattsburgh Public Library, too.
We reached a milestone in October, when Hammond Library in Crown Point became the final library in our system to join the other 29 automated libraries.

Many people helped with this effort, including library directors who encouraged the Hammond Library to take the plunge, board members who supported the effort, volunteer data entry helpers from several libraries, and a huge amount of work done by Wendy Terbeek, the library’s director. Starting in December 2014, CEFLS staff members made 14 trips to Crown Point with our laptops and barcode scanners to help enter the data.

There’s still a little more training to do, and the library is not yet placing and filling requests, but we expect that will happen soon.


In 2006, Akwesasne, Champlain, Elizabethtown, Lake Placid and Westport became automated. 2007 was the busiest year with
NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM

Au Sable Forks, Ticonderoga, Chateaugay, Chazy, Dannemora, Mooers, Peru, Wadhams, and Upper Jay joining the group. In 2008, Tupper Lake and Wilmington finished barcoding their collections, and in 2009, Keeseville came online. In 2010, West Chazy went live, and in 2011, we welcomed Ellenburg Depot. The final trio of automated libraries were Essex and Keene, both in 2012, and finally Crown Point!

It’s been an interesting almost 20 years for me. We went from 75 active requests in 2004 to over 1,000 at all times since 2007. The CEFLS delivery shelves had to be expanded, and the van filled to capacity, especially in the summer. I applaud all of the libraries, from the pioneers right up to the last, for making it happen!

- Betsy Brook, Librarian III

Take a Seat and Read a Little

It’s a bench! It’s a library! It’s both! It’s our unique take on the concept of a small library available at any time within a community. The weather-proof bench contains a collection of job-search materials along with books for adults and kids within the seat itself. The first bench was rolled out to Plattsburgh’s Public Housing Authority as a test run, but more are planned to go out to each of the three counties we serve. Additionally, two libraries are interested in adding these benches to their communities and we’ll be customizing the branding to fit their needs.
On August 15th, Kim Latour, Karen Batchelder, Anne Jobin-Picard, David Fuller, and Anja Bouchard were joined by Dorothy Latta (of the CEFLS Board of Trustees) and Suzanne Orlando (the Senior Librarian at Adirondack Correctional Facility) on a tour to Clinton Correctional Facility Main. The tour was hosted by Kristen Delisle, the Senior Librarian at Clinton Correctional Facility Main, and Samantha Hulkow, Senior Librarian at Clinton Correctional Facility Annex.

The tour started at the area in which the CEFLS delivery drivers drop off and pick up both rotating collections and requested titles for the inmates. We moved on to the library itself, which included some beautiful hand-painted murals and projects done by inmates. Discussions centered around the time given during training at CEFLS to use its Internet access to order books and research program ideas. They also entailed how CEFLS can use its budget to enhance the facilities’ existing resources, such as by providing more Book Club in a Bag kits and books on creative writing and poetry. Additionally, there was some conversation
NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM

about how CEFLS can assist in locating volunteers who may be interested in visiting the facilities to present programs. Some of the ways that could help include training for correctional facility staff regarding resources available through CEFLS, additional Book Club in a Bag kits that include graphic novels and collections of poetry, more resources revolving around creative writing, etc.

Next we visited the Church of Saint Dismas, the Good Thief. Deacon Bushey, Coordinating Chaplain, guided us through the gorgeous cathedral and allowed us to go into the basement that houses what remains of the original library. The basement contains copies of books dating back to the 1800s and some first editions from notable authors like Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Deacon Bushey explained that the facility is currently compiling a listing of the books in the Saint Dismas Library and cataloguing them.

Our final stops on the tour were the classrooms and a meeting with Jennifer Johnston, the Education Supervisor. Ms. Johnston stated that all inmates whose formal education has not been verified are mandated to attend school, except those who have reached age 65. Ms. Johnston also noted that Clinton Correctional Facility has a limited budget, which is shared between three schools. While discussing the magazine National Geographic, she commented about how, when she was a teacher, students enjoyed using them for projects and assignments. To help build up their library, Ms. Johnston said that they are always willing to accept resources that are being discarded. (Shortly after our visit, Michelle Paquette, Director at the Sherman Free Library in Port Henry, donated her collection of National Geographic magazines, which we forwarded to the facility.) Basic educational and nonfiction titles are in short supply, and books that might simply be thrown away at a member library after being weeded could be a candidate for the facility’s library or the education department.

After the visit, we at the System have been brainstorming what projects and trainings to move forward with to assist the correctional facilities in the future.
The Adirondack Correctional Facility Library has been selected to participate in the upcoming American Library Association’s Great Stories Club project, a literature-based reading and discussion program that gives underserved youth the opportunity to read, reflect, and share ideas on topics that resonate with them. The library will be awarded titles and accompanying materials for both project themes: *What Makes a Hero? Self, Society, and Rising to the Occasion* and *Empathy: The Cost of Switching Sides*.

Working with small groups of teens, the library will host reading and discussion programs on the thematically-related books. The titles—selected in consultation with librarian advisors and humanities scholars—are chosen to resonate with reluctant readers struggling with complex issues like academic probation, detention, incarceration, violence, and poverty. The themes and titles awarded and to be discussed are as follows:

**Empathy**

NEWS FROM CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Heroism


As Project Director for the initiative, Suzanne Orlando will be travelling to the American Library Association headquarters in Chicago this November to participate in a two-day orientation and training workshop. These awards were made to 150 libraries across the country and we are proud to be a recipient of two of them as we prepare the facility to serve youth offenders. These timely and relevant books and the high-quality programs they will allow provide an excellent start to services offered to the new patrons arriving soon to Adirondack Correctional Facility.

- Suzanne Orlando, Senior Librarian

SENSORY KITS

Available for in-library use and patron checkout. Find them on cefls.ent.sirsi.net!
This past summer, 3 really cool new things happened at the library.

To kick off summer reading during our all ages *Libraries Rock!* Party, tweens and teens attempted to “escape” the librarian. We trapped participants in the basement where they had to put together clues to open a lock and steal the librarian’s candy. The escape room used a combination of found objects, counting, and repetitive themes (cats, cats, cats) to test our players. Everyone had a blast trying to solve the puzzle and best the librarian. No one bested the librarian that day though.

Midsummer, children and teens alike got to experiment with food. Children got to play with design by creating cupcake creations that tasted good and looked even better. Teens had a harder challenge—they had to use three unusual ingredients to create the perfect ice cream sundae. Sour gummies, fruity pebbles, and gold fish were just a few of the choice toppings used.

Lastly, adult readers got to participate in summer reading this year. Using a libguide, the Plattsburgh Summer Reading Challenge offered 20 different prompts to challenge readers to find a new book to read. 13 readers participated and read 117 books to complete those challenges. Each completed challenge earned them tickets for prize drawings. Participants are looking forward to the next one.

This fall, we’re excited about new programs and old happening at the library.

The makerspace continues to grow... Our FOL robotics group and Girls Who Code are back at the
library and we’ve added new maker programs and old favorites to our schedule. Colleen Pelletier welcomes crocheters of all skill levels back to the library to stitch and learn on Thursdays at 5:30 PM. For those who question what to do with their old books, once a month, we repurpose old books—November 5, we’ll be making book banks and turning pages into ornaments in December.

Starting on November 16, our children’s librarian Ben Carman and outreach librarian Sarah Spanburgh present DIY Gift Projects. Each program will offer two projects for all ages to utilize their creative sides to make gifts this holiday season.

Downstairs in the children’s room with Mr. Ben...

In addition to regular Toddler Time on Wednesdays and Storytime on Thursdays, Mr. Ben is adding Saturday Storytime for all ages starting with November 10 at 10:30 AM. Additionally, Drag Queen Storytime is back during LGBTea+ on Tuesday, November 27 at 6:00 PM. LGBTea+ is a family-friendly, all-ages social hour for LGBTQ+ individuals, allies, families, and friends that meets every Tuesday night. From games to storytime to discussion and community, this event is sponsored by the library, UUFP Queer Space, and the ADK/NC Gender Alliance.

Wait, there’s more...

Like cooking? We’re currently putting together a recipe swap board. Community members can stop by the library and drop their favorite fall or holiday recipe in the box or take one of the recipes posted on the recipe swap board.

Are you a writer? Participating in the National Novel Writing Month? Saturdays, November 10 and 24, stop by the library and join others for a write-in. Bring a snack, your laptop, and check out a new place to get your words written down. We are also offering drop-in writing times on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM as well as Wednesday evenings, starting at 5:00 PM.

Enjoy board games? On the Table is a new monthly program that explores the library’s game board collection. This November, we play Sarah’s favorite strategy matching game, Latice.

- Sarah Spanburgh, Outreach Librarian
The Town of Altona once again offered the Summer Reading Program 4 Mondays in July. A large collection of books were borrowed from the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (CEFLS) to supplement those housed in the Altona Reading Room. The theme Libraries Rock! was a huge success! 21 children, ages 4-15, participated in the program. Students read recipes in order to prepare and then eat such things as Rock Dig Popcorn, Fruit Pizzas, and Microphone Cereal Treats. They also read directions on how to make various crafts like Kindness Rocks, Spin Drums, and Decoupage Music Letters. In addition, they listened to stories related to the weekly theme and checked out books from the borrowed collection as well as from the growing juvenile book selection in the Reading Room. On the last week, each child received a free book as well as a copy of all the recipes made. Students were asked to keep track of how many books they read and used a bookmarker found at www.thirtyhandmadedays.com/summer-reading-challenge-bookmarks to tally their reading. When asked what they liked most about the Summer Reading Program, some of the children commented, “All the activities, seeing my friends, being able to pick books out,” “I liked that we could eat food,” “I like that the
book read to us is a surprise,” “I liked the snack because I starve when I cook,” and “All the new books.” This program would not run smoothly if it were not for the help of older students as well as parent volunteers, who are owed much gratitude.

- Joyce Boyer, Director

Dannemora Free Library

Dannemora Free Library has been busy over the summer with a very successful Summer Reading Program. With three sessions each week, totaling 22 kids per week, we did some serious rock research and learned many new scientific terms in such a fun way. These kids will be schooling their earth science teachers when they hit middle school! We had Dr. William Bouchard, an archeologist, come show the kids fossils and the stuff he dug out of his yard. The kids were fascinated and energized to go out and really look around!

We have submitted a grant entitled “Merging Literacy with Play” to put in a door directly to the playground from the library and create an outside reading area. We are looking forward to interacting with more of the young families that come to use the playground.

We’ve been enjoying our new conference space and chairs. Our adult room finally looks like grown-ups use it! Thanks to CEFLS and the NYS Construction Grant for the opportunity to provide so generously for our patrons.

- Eileen Cody, Director
Art Exhibits:
Chrissy Thomsen displayed her photographs of UNESCO sites from around the world (www.chrissythomsenphotography.com), and Nadine McLaughlin presented A Mixed-Media Exhibit in Prints, Poetry & Paintings as well as performing a short poetry reading at her reception. Nancy Gonyea’s exhibit of her oil paintings led local artist Bob Segall to offer A Conversation on Art slide presentation about Nancy’s work and her influences. This summer, Judy James exhibited Landscapes of the Au Sable River Valley. Dan Christoffel’s Visual Art Inspired by Shakespeare is our current exhibit, and we look forward to exhibiting artwork by Scott Renderer in the new year.

Programs:
Danielle Hance from The Caregiver Support Initiative at SUNY Plattsburgh presented Dementia: Just Diagnosed, What’s Next? Local
artist Heidi Gero invited a Girl Scout troop to the library for a day of puppet making, singing, and storytelling, and Dawn Klotzko of Cabin Creek Stitchery (www.cabincreekstitchery.com) offered three short sewing projects for children. For our Libraries Rock! Summer Reading Program, we welcomed dancers from SOMA BEATS for lively African dancing and mask making, and Mountain to Mountain Children’s Theater presented scenes from the Jungle Book.

Grants:
We are grateful to Stewart’s Shops for a Holiday Match grant and the Lake Placid Education Foundation/Adirondack Foundation for a technology support grant. Chelsea Provost from the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts presented a free grant-writing seminar for Quad-County Grants for Cultural, Community Arts, and Arts Education.

We Appreciate Volunteers!
Sid Ward makes his exquisite cutting boards available for sale at the library and donates all proceeds to the library. Ellen Metcalf stocks the library with a wide variety of beautiful plants for sale and also donates all proceeds. Also, patrons regularly donate purchased books. Hard-working volunteers run our annual holiday sale which takes place Saturday, November 24 through Saturday, December 22.

- Karen Rappaport, Director

12 copies of a book. Laminated discussion questions. 1 bag. Email David at dfuller@cefls.org for more info!
Unusual sounds have been echoing around the library for the past several weeks. We have applied for and received two New York State Construction Grants; Phase I included a new electrical entrance and upgraded and code-compliant exit for our lower level; Phase II includes a dewatering system to lower the ground water level and plaster restoration inside the library. Both projects are underway. We are very excited about the continued renewal of our 88-year-old historic building.

On the other end of the spectrum, we had a devastating flood this spring which took our children’s area away from us. Our lower level had to be gutted to prevent the spread of mold. With our new dewatering system keeping everything dry, we should be ready to begin designing a new space in the spring/summer of 2019. For the time being, we have made space available on our second level to accommodate weekly story hour, our monthly
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

book group, weekly banjo lessons, and bi-weekly youth band. Youth band is new this year and has been made available to us through the Bluegrass for the Next Generation grant. With this grant, we were able to purchase two five-string banjos, two mandolins, and one youth guitar. These are available for children under the age of 18. Children must attend monthly music lessons in order to continue the loan of the instrument.

The Friends of the Library have been busy getting programming set up for winter and spring. I have heard there will be a new photography class starting sometime soon.

We will also feature a musical presentation from Back in Time on November 17 at 7:00 PM to help fund our matching portion of the construction grants.

- Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Wadhams Free Library

We had another successful and delicious Sunday brunch fundraiser (we call them “Waffle Frittata Extravaganza”) at Dogwood Bread Company. We’ve started our fall “Wednesdays at Wadhams” lecture series. So far, we’ve heard about Crane Mountain Valley Horse Rescue’s award-winning program that rescues horses while helping people, and we learned about the importance of advance directives and financial planning and how to accomplish them. Coming up on November 14, we’ll hear from Mollie Dean, Director of the Pok-O-MacCready Outdoor Education Center, about how “the outdoors has the power to transform and reconnect us.” On November 28, Holly Rippon-Butler, Land Access Program Director of the National Young Farmers Coalition (and also the ice cream wizard of Farmers Cone Creamery) will tell us about new farming networks. On December 5, Jeff Allott, a co-founder of General Composites and Solace Cycles, will talk about some of his experiences with high-tech manufacturing, innovative mountain bikes, and the possibilities of non-traditional economic development.

- Elizabeth Rapalee, Director
Over the years, the Lake Placid Hall of Fame has inducted numerous local citizens, saluting them usually for dedication to winter sports, the Olympics, and volunteerism. Not books. Now there is a librarian among them, our own Linda Blair, who has been the face people see at our front desk for an amazing 42 years.

Miss Linda, as she is and has been known by numerous generations of children, worked for Head Start many years ago when she became acquainted with our late, much-loved librarian, Therese Patnode. The two formed a near-instant bond with so many things in common including the love of reading and books.

“I told her how wonderful I thought working there would be. Then a week or so later, Therese called me.” Linda is known for retaining the reading tastes of countless patrons, and many count on her for recommendations. Her first love, though, is reserved for young children. Through the years, she enrolled in courses on children and reading at Skidmore, and put together a morning program for the very small through kindergarten. Held these days at 10:00 AM on Fridays, it is a relaxed affair that puts kids and parents at ease with their surroundings.
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Making people feel comfortable is a natural talent to Linda. Her open, honest face and quiet demeanor rarely fails to impress. She somehow manages to be friendly without being smiley, and she exudes kindness, a trait children seem to pick up on. Their dropped faces are great ego levelers when they come through the door to find someone else at the desk.

Many friends and library staff joined the large turnout of family members from all over to honor her on at the induction dinner on Saturday, October 13. Linda was there too, except she attended via FaceTime on an iPad from CVPH in Plattsburgh and she accepted the award with a recorded speech. The hospital stay had been unexpected, and the news she needed a pacemaker had caused wide concern, but Linda, in typical fashion, brushed it off a few days later.

“I had a great time at the dinner,” she said, laughing at the thought that she had been able to attend without even deciding what to wear. True to form, she was home by Tuesday and out and about with her daughters doing errands by Thursday. She is expected back at her library stand in November.

Our library was very busy with activities over the summer, especially with the Library Rocks! reading program. Special Tuesdays included visits from geologists who talked about the real rocks of the Adirondacks and real musicians who entertained, along with a production by an acting troupe from the Hampstead Stage Company.

Children’s room librarian Karen Armstrong puts together programs for days when children are off from school due to teacher meetings. Friday, October 19, was the annual Halloween costume day when kids and parents are encouraged to come in and take part in creative couture. Plenty of fabric and a couple sewing machines, along with people who know how to use them, are available along with plenty of other materials just waiting for kids with vision and flair.

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Another program for children back in late summer brought in staff from the Lake Placid Land Conservancy who taught participants the importance of helping bees and butterflies pollinate. They were able to build potential nests out of cans and tubes to attract different kinds of bees.

We currently have an interesting display of butterflies and related ephemera in our upstairs cabinet. It was created by assistant librarian Kate Curry with materials she discovered in our library.

Our Guy Brewster Hughes Art Gallery has been the scene of several shows including the annual Adirondack Student Photography Competition sponsored by the Lake Placid Institute for the Humanities. Presently, we are showing the works of Paul Smith’s painter Ann Haskell. Next up in December will be the annual exhibit of grade-school holiday projects.

We are looking forward to participating once more in the Lake Placid Holiday Stroll in early December when businesses along Main Street offer activities as well as food and beverage like cocoa or cider. Again we will be offering materials and encouragement for people to make their own greeting cards. All are welcome to join us on Saturday, December 8 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

- Lisa Forrest, Director
The focus this year has been to reaffirm our library’s identity and establish a sense of value to the community, patrons, and our partner libraries in CEFLS!

Here are a few of the projects we’ve completed since last December:

- Weeding and reorganizing our entire collection
- Participating in the rotating collection program for adults and juveniles
- Initiating a social media strategy to promote events, offerings, and services
- Providing assistance in basic resume writing, technology support, and community information services
- Received thousands of local historical documents and are at the beginning stages of a long process of developing an archival collection accessible both in-house and online
- Coordinating with our neighbor library in Keene Valley on collection development and events
- Testing new formats to provide information about our collection, such as QR codes which open brief video reviews for patrons to watch
- Working to get a blanket license to start holding movie nights

The effort has been challenging, rewarding, and there’s so much more to look forward to as we build on the important civic role of our small, mighty library.

- Aaron Miller, Director

Need more news? Go to www.cefls.org and click “Past Newsletters” to see all the past issues and click “Subscribe” to have the latest updates end up right in your inbox!
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Belden Noble Memorial Library, Essex

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

On the first Thursday of each month from spring through fall, Belden Noble Memorial Library patrons had the opportunity to meet and get to know several of their neighbors at the library.

Some participants have been well-known beyond Essex, others not so much, but each has made a mark in some profession or field of endeavor as an entrepreneur, artist, public servant, or volunteer. We believe their presence among us has contributed to the quality of life of our town and enriched our lives.

Each talk has been well-attended and followed by much informal conversation. The series has been well-received by the community, and we are already looking forward to the 2019 season!

- Tom Mangano, Director

COMING SOON: a whole new reality VR HEADSET

Visit a space station. Dive with sharks. Take a trip to the ancient past. Made possible thanks to the Lake Placid Education Foundation.
Schroon Lake Public Free Library

Most of our energy over the past few months has been focused on the construction grant process. Now that the money for phase 2 has been released, we can start upgrading the technology that has been budgeted for, such as a new Wi-Fi system, updated scanners for the circulation desk, and meeting room upgrades.

For the phase 3, we plan to install exterior lighting, security cameras, install a new sign, and repave the parking lot. We originally planned to install an elevator, but have since decided on a lift. The decision to install a lift in the library put us in a time crunch for grant completion. We had to get all new quotes for the lift, the carpentry work, and engineering, as well as having to rewrite a good portion of the narratives.

We will again be hosting a 6-week ukulele workshop. Classes will be held Saturdays from November 3 through December 15 (excluding November 24) from 11:00 AM to noon. Registration is required as space is limited. The class is currently half full.

Our library began participating in a program called 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten early this summer. This program challenges parents of young children to read 1,000 books or more to/with their kids before they reach school age. We hand out stickers, charting materials, and information to parents to get them going. I had my first parent/child complete the challenge! At 500 books, the kids get a tote bag and at 1,000, they get a 1kBBK t-shirt. The Friends of the Library provided the funding for this program.

-Jane Bouchard, Director
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

Like everyone, we’ve been very busy at the Tupper Lake Public Library. Here’s an update of some of our recent events and activities:

- In January, we started an inventory of our collection; we hadn’t done inventory since 2013.
- We started our 4th year of afterschool book club for 4th-, 5th-, and 6th-grade boys. Last year, the girls demanded their own book club! I got a Stewart’s Shop Holiday Match grant to pay for the books that I provided to the students.
- Summer Reading Program: It seems that we get more kids each year. We had 110 children attending our events this year. There were a total of 73 participants in our summer reading challenge, and they read a total of 1,376 books! One 2nd grader read 148 books over the summer!
- I attended an intergenerational lunch at the Wild Center, which was “designed to bring people of all generations together for a better understanding of community issues.” It was hosted by Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, Tupper Lake Aging in Place Task Force, and the Wild Center. I asked people to let me know what they wanted the library to do that we aren’t currently doing. During discussions at lunch, some people suggested that students might help others in the community with technical questions. So the National Honor Society students made up posters and started coming to the library on Wednesday afternoons providing “Tech Help @ the Library”. Donna Beal, Executive Director of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, encouraged me to brainstorm activities/programs that are multi-generational. Our “Tech Help @ the Library” will start up again in November.
- We started offering more multi-generational activities during winter break and spring break; free movies; genealogy 101; watercolor 101; knitting 101; photography 101; jewelry-making; hand-painted cards; getting creative with littleBits; making pipe drums with PVC pipes; etc. We will be doing this during the February break and spring break again this year.
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

- The Village replaced florescent lights with LED lights. They provided the materials, we just had to pay to have them installed. We’re told that we will save about $100/month in winter, and about $40/month in the summer.
- We have three different book discussion groups at our library each month. We’ve borrowed almost every Book Club in a Bag.
- I applied for a building construction grant to upgrade our HVAC system and add air conditioning. I sure hope we get it!
- Our calendar of events is online at tupperlakepublib.wordpress.com/event.

- Peg Mauer, Director

Keene Valley Library

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Our construction is complete and we are pulling things together and finding places for everything. The library is beautiful and functional and busier than we thought possible. Recognition and thanks go to so many people on so many levels. I cannot even start naming names because the support we received is overwhelming.

The Board and Capital Campaign Committee raised a million dollars! That means people generously gave a million dollars! Money makes it possible, but it is not enough. The hands-on gifts show a belief in the vision as well. People packed books, moved them, took books into their homes for the duration, stored shelves and furniture, ran programs in small spaces, held fundraising events, and helped write grants.

In June, after 9 months of operating from one room, we began moving back. We did not realize the enormity of this end of the project! Where will everything go? There isn’t enough space! How can that be? But we began. Shelves were assembled. Casters were put on shelves, books were unpacked and loaded onto shelves, boxes were found and more books had to fit in. The work was in the capable hands of Sandy Burke and her crew of volunteers. We also didn’t realize there are many things in a library that are not

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books. We found room for cleaning equipment and supplies, paper and mailing supplies, audio/visual supplies, tables, chairs, and games. We will happily be sorting craft supplies in the makerspace for many months yet, I think.

Our greatest pleasure is to see people in the library. When seasonal residents and donors returned this summer, they were astonished and pleased at the renovation. The first view of the new library is an open area of lobby and children’s rooms, bright with window seats and low shelves. The lower level holds the nonfiction collection and the makerspace. Our newly-arrived 3D printer will be settled down there as well as a computer and sound equipment for recording local history stories.

On the second level, we house our Alpine Collection. The new Alpine Room is bright, with windows overlooking the canopy of the surrounding trees. Soft seating, a map case, and a worktable invite research and quiet reading. Adjacent to the Alpine Room is the Strickler Family Community Space (SFCS). To our delightful surprise, this is the most versatile and most-used space in the library and many community groups have used it for school testing, town meetings, improv theater, concerts, lectures, summer camps, movie nights, art exhibits, and gaming groups. I have even walked in and found 20 kids in a sea of LEGO, building cities and monsters! Most recently, a local musician hosted a webinar in the space and North Country
Public Radio held a photo exhibit there.

We have programs planned for fall and winter. Bill Stokes Jazz Ensemble will play in the SFCS on November 16 at 7:00 PM; there is a 3D printing course in late November; and there is a Dungeons & Dragons campaign that meets on Saturdays at 11:00 AM. The game is open to drop-ins. Visit our webpage at www.keenevalley.org for up-to-date activities.

- Karen Glass, Director

#GoodNews! You can finally follow us on Instagram! @cef_librarysystem

Elizabethtown Library Association

We are holding many workshops beginning this Fall. Beginner knitting workshops, meditation sessions, and mah-jongg groups meet weekly starting in September. The meditation sessions and mah-jongg will run through January. iPad and smartphone troubleshooting sessions run regularly in October.


- Angela Heroux, Director
Westport Library Association

With another busy and especially warm summer behind us, we look forward to the crisp, cool days of autumn. Fall brings the return of the Westport Central School first graders for our annual library card sign-up day and guest children’s author. This year we also welcomed kids from the local Lakeside School in nearby Essex.

This year’s special guest author was Kate Messner, who read from her book *How to Read a Story*. It was definitely a group effort since she received plenty of help from her young audience. Each of the children also received their own signed copy of *How to Read a Story* courtesy of Kate and the library’s Gertrude and Abraham Wolf Fund.

Fall also brings our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, put on by the Westport Library Association Board of Directors. The number of volunteers who help out at the library is truly astounding. Good food and conversation are the norm and this year’s event was no exception. As things quiet down and people return to their normal schedule, our book clubs and poetry group began to meet again. Before long, the fireplace will be crackling and folks will be gathering at our holiday party to kick off the festive season. The kids will return on December 1 for Christmas in Westport with hot chocolate and stories around the fire. What better way to spend a winter’s day?

- Dan Van Olpen, Director
We’ve been busy at Chateaugay Memorial Library. We received a New York State construction grant and we will be replacing our roof and siding (North Country weather permitting). This will give our library a nice, new look to keep us current and maintenance-free for the future.

The summer reading program Libraries Rock! was a huge hit with all of our young participants. The children said this was the best one we have had yet! They loved creating their own personal rock, mineral, and fossil collections, and seeing what they would add to them each week. It was wonderful to see their excited faces.

We are currently getting ready to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of being at this location. I can’t believe we have been in this building for 10 years. The time has just flown by. Stop in and see the lovely facility for yourself.

- Melissa Erhardt, Director
The Wead Library had a busy summer of fun with Libraries Rock! We started off the program with a drumming session by Cathie Bonville, which got the library rockin’. The kids had a great time exploring the different styles of drums and learning about rhythm. The rest of July and August was devoted to rock-related craft projects. The children made musical instruments—tambourines, guitars, castanets, and microphones—created fossils and dinosaur pictures, painted punk rocks, and made nature wind chimes. The children’s room was filled with music all summer long! In early summer, we raised a few bullfrogs from tadpoles, and later on we raised a number of monarch butterflies. These are always a great learning experience for kids. In conjunction with the Malone Central School System, we provided free lunches (and movies) for kids every day.

Fall programs are beginning to get underway. Preschool story hours begin in October on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The library is fortunate to have Mary McDonald and Nicole Andre for
our fun story and craft programs! Free Friday night family movies begin in October, starting with Moana, Hotel Transylvania 2, and Hocus Pocus. Mitch and Abby, our Read to a Dog therapy dogs are in the children’s room every first and third Wednesday at 5:00 PM. They have been charming families all summer, and will continue to be gentle listeners this fall. LEGO Club continues to meet every Saturday in the kid’s room—it is a great place to play and be creative!

The Wead Library book club meets on the first Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM. The October book will be Shirley Jackson’s The Haunting of Hill House. The November selection is The Deep End of the Ocean by Jacquelyn Mitchard, and December’s title is Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. All are welcomed to join the discussion. Our knitting group meets on the first and third Saturday of each month. Anyone interested in learning a new skill or showing off their handiwork (crochet, cross-stitch, beading, knitting, etc.) can stop by.

- Susan Wool, Director
Or current resident