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!

Honoring Kip Thompson

Kip Thompson (standing tall near the center of the photo) applied to be on the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System’s Board of Trustees on September 22nd, 2008. He was appointed as a member to represent Essex County on November 24th, 2008 and was sworn in on January 26th, 2009. He later became the Treasurer from 2013 to 2014, served as President from 2015 to 2017, and served as Vice President from 2017 until 2019. In short, he’s been with CEFLS for a long time and he has recently attended his final Board Meeting. He has supported the goals of the Library System and of member libraries to promote the importance of library services, literacy, and education as a whole to everyone in the North Country. His hard work and dedication has made a world of difference, and we are eternally grateful for his time and dedication.
NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM

Seeking a New Board Member

Board of Trustee members at the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System help ensure that the metaphorical ship sails straight and true. And in order to make sure that each of the libraries and regions are kept in mind, we are required to have representatives from each county we serve. We are currently seeking a trustee candidate to represent Essex County. All candidates must be a resident from that county in order to qualify for the position. You can visit our website at cefls.org for more information. If you or someone you know is interested, please email Gayle at luer913@hotmail.com.

Karen’s Kids Korner

News from Youth Services

2019 Summer Reading Program Numbers

A Universe of Stories theme really lent itself to many fun STEM-based activities. 23 of our member libraries participated in the SRP this summer and had wonderful participation! A whopping 2,051 children from early learners to teens participated in summer reading this year, along with 921 parents and caregivers.

378 children recorded reading 128,582 minutes and 52 teens read for 12,173 minutes. Impressive right? 434 children recorded reading 9,022 books and 42 teens read 390 books. Amazing!

The numbers for the programming were outstanding! There were 2,129 early learners and their parents or caregivers who attended 227 programs, 3,386 children ages 6-12 and their parents or caregivers attended 252 programs, and 761 teens and parents attended 121 programs. There were even 105 programs just for adults! There were also more than 50 collaborations with community agencies, daycares, and schools.

All of these numbers are incredible and, of course, we all know
that they are a result of a great deal of planning and hard work by all of our member library directors, staff, and volunteers. The children of our library communities are the beneficiaries of all of your hard work! Good job, everyone!

Speaking of summer reading, have you heard about the change in the graphics for the posters and reading records? Only one option will be available for the posters and reading records. The CSLP online store has been updated and you will be able to place orders at cslpreads.org/cslp-store.

myON Final Report

The NYS Library released the CSLP Final Report (summerreadingnys.org/myon). The final results exceeded their expectations or usage of these digital titles during the summer months.

From Sharon Phillips of the NYS Library Division of Library Development:

*Many thanks to the School Library System Directors, Public Library System Directors, and Youth Services consultants and administrators for their assistance with implementing and promoting this 2019 partnership project to their schools and school libraries, member and branch libraries, and library communities during the Summer Reading season. The State Library and myON by Renaissance teams appreciate your ongoing efforts to make additional resources available to students and their families throughout the state.*

NYLA Conference Sharing

In November, I attended the New York Library Association Conference that was held in Saratoga Springs. The workshops that I attended were interesting and worthwhile. One of the morning sessions was *Yoga & Books & Kids, Oh My!* The presenter, Leslie Boedicker of the Parma Public Library, shared fun ideas for incorporating yoga poses into storytimes. She used the story, *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* to demonstrate. This is a wonderful way to incorporate movement into your library program and to get parents to participate at the same time!
I also attended *Enticing Escape Experiences for Your Library*. We were divided into groups and did different escape experiences. My group did one for younger children that was a good introduction to escape experiences. It used picture books, a simple jigsaw puzzle, and clues and was really good! If you are interested in learning more about creating your own escape room, check out *Escape Rooms and other Immersive Experiences in the Library* by Ellyssa Kroski in our professional collection.

- Karen Batchelder, Youth Services Specialist

Have you always aspired to get into photography? Well now you can see if it’s for you without spending a dime. The kit includes a digital camera, SD card, rechargeable batteries, a mini tripod, and more. It’s available to request in the catalog today. Check out [cefls.org](http://cefls.org) for more info.
On Monday, November 18th, Carol Reed performed at the Plattsburgh Public Library. Carol learned French as a child attending school in Lausanne, Switzerland. A Middlebury College French major, Carol studied in Paris, playing guitar in the Métro traveling to Europe performing street music. Her lively songs take listeners through the centuries from France to Québec to New Orleans with touching love songs, kickin’ Cajun and Créole tunes, and traditional Québecois favorites. From our neighbors to the north, she brings back traditional tunes learned from Québecois elders and youngsters, and has been spreading them throughout New England and Québec since 2001. There were 22 who attended the program, including some younger students who were accompanied by a teacher.

CEFLS’ own Anne Jobin-Picard leads the French Conversation Group that held the event at Plattsburgh. The group meets every Monday at PPL from 3:30 to 4:30 PM (unless cancelled due to weather or a holiday). Each meeting allows participants to practice their French skills, learn and share stories and culture, and offers other unique opportunities as well. To learn more, contact Anne at ajobin-picard@cefls.org.
CEFLS is pleased to announce a few of our recent grant awards! The Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts approved two grant applications to bring the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company back to our area. A theater team will present *Legends and Myths from Mount Olympus* to coordinate with the 2020 “Imagine Your Story” summer reading slogan. Our applications also included a request for art supplies so that participants can create a Medusa mask following the show. Once we are notified of the final award amounts, we can firm up the performance locations. These projects are made possible with the funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts.

We also received a generous award from the Lake Placid Education Foundation that will support area libraries in several ways. The funding allowed us to create a portable storybook walk that can be borrowed and displayed by our member libraries. The stands display pages of a picture book and can be set up indoors or outside. Prompts are included at each station that encourage participants to engage in a related activity, suggest activities that can be done at home, or provide fun facts related to the topic. This grant also enabled us to assist member libraries with the cost of a blanket movie license so that they can include movies in their program offerings. We also plan to create new *Book Club in a Bag* kits with titles that were made into movies so that the corresponding DVD can be included in the kit.
NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM

Finally, we received funding from the Autism Alliance of Northeastern New York to assemble six support kits. These kits include a number of books and items to help address potential needs of teens and adults with autism spectrum disorders. The areas of focus include:

1. *Thrive in College*
2. *Connect with Others*
3. *Live Independently*
4. *Succeed on the Job*
5. *Empower Yourself* (for women)
6. *Enhance Happiness and Well-being*

Grant funding helps us fulfill our mission to foster and improve public library service to area residents. We accomplish this by supporting member libraries and reading centers, providing direct service to areas without a library or to populations that cannot easily reach a nearby library, and delivering services to organizations, groups, and individuals unable to use traditional library services.

- Anja Bouchard, Coordinated Outreach Librarian

Coming Soon: Presentation Equipment

Does your library not have a projector or projector screen? Are you planning on doing a presentation outside of the library and don’t have what you need to show slides or a Powerpoint? Soon, we’ll have a projector, collapsible screen, collapsible lectern, and more that libraries can borrow for events. Keep an eye on cefls.org for more info.
DueNorth is the interlibrary loan system for all of the libraries in the Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN). NNYLN, as they put it, is “a regional non-profit multi-type library agency primarily dedicated to cooperatively providing support and services necessary for all of its members to meet their individual goals.” NNYLN has 57 members, consisting of academic, correctional facility, hospital, museum, public, special, and system libraries across 7 different counties. Each member is able to utilize DueNorth to provide materials to patrons that the member might not have available otherwise.

2019 proved to be a very good interlibrary loan year for lending and borrowing of materials to and from our neighboring New York State Libraries. As members of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, we managed to fulfill 76.68% of patrons’ requests using DueNorth.

Here are some interesting statistics:

- Total requests: 2003
- Number of requests filled: 1,536 (76.68%)
- Number of requests not filled: 223 (11.13%)
- Number of requests expired: 200 (9.99%)
- Number of requests cancelled: 41 (2.05%)
- Number of not answered yet: 3 (0.15%)

It’s wonderful that we have the Empire Delivery Service to send and return materials. As an example, 1,536 materials multiplied by the $3.50 minimum for postage equates to $5,376 saved in postage in a single year...WOW. So let’s continue to use these valuable services...our patrons will be ecstatic.

- Kim Latour, Principal Library Clerk
2019 marked the 65th year of Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library providing library services in Upstate New York. We can trace our origin back to 1954, when the Board of Supervisors of Clinton and Essex Counties issued a joint resolution to create the first multi-county system in New York State. Franklin County joined the federation later in 1962. Our official charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York was completed on June 25, 1954. Ever since, we’ve done our best to cater our services to the libraries and their patrons across Upstate New York.

To celebrate 65 years of service, we held events in each of the counties we serve (Schroon Lake on August 6th, Plattsburgh on August 13th, and Saranac Lake on August 20th). Each event had CEFLS employees and board members giving out free gifts, overseeing activities, and dishing out ice cream generously donated by Stewart’s Shops. We were happy to be joined by member library staff, board members, directors, patrons, government representatives, and other members of area communities at each of the events.

Thank you, both for supporting us over the past 65 years and for supporting the libraries in the community that make a difference in people’s lives every day.
A huge inflatable slide was featured at Schroon Lake.

We held the event in Saranac Lake at the historic Adirondack Carousel.
Stan Ransom provided some regional music to the Plattsburgh Event.

Pipsqueak the Clown did some great face painting in Plattsburgh.

It may look like a cake, but it's actually many cupcakes provided by Market 32.
We had an exciting time on Halloween. Plattsburgh Public Library was decked out as a carnival for the day - with a duck pond, bean bag toss, and, our favorite, a whack-a-clown (take a video tour on our Facebook page). Additionally, using the iPad and Surface Pro kiosks from CEFLS, we had an online Haunted Carnival Choose Your Own Adventure game (try it out at storyboard.viget.com/haunted-carnival).
HAPPENING AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

October also marked the end of the Summer Reading Challenge, and, yes, I know how that sounds. It was another great season for reading with a total of 225 books read and 4 people completed 25 challenges! Construction on the Winter 2020 Challenge is underway and will start on January 1st. We get asked often if patrons from other libraries can participate and the answer is always yes! We’d be happy to email out a copy of our challenge list with instructions to anyone who’d like to offer it to their patrons. In the future, it would be fun to have a showdown between libraries and a trophy for the library who has the most books read.

Ben and Sarah put together a Wish Tree for the library during the holidays. Each stocking on the tree had craft supplies and other materials the library needs for programs and services. People could pick an ornament and donate the material requested to the library - depending on the item, we weren’t asking for brand new. Donations will provide program supplies, passive craft/coloring supplies, as well as help us put together a hygiene and cold weather box for our transient population this winter.

Right now, we’re planning more excitement and adventure for 2020. We’re working with Seacomm Federal Credit Union to do financial literacy sessions, partnering with Senior Planet to offer a Computer Essentials course this February. We’re also extending our Art of Abstraction art workshop with Amber D and moving it to the first Monday of the month. Lots to do to get ready for 2020.

- Sarah Spanburgh, Outreach Librarian

New Empowering Girls Kits Coming!
With funding from the Kiwanis Club’s Dozerfest, we’re putting together 6 new kits! These kits encourage girls to believe in themselves and know that they have the power to do and be anything they choose! They are:

- Building/construction
- Being a hero
- Coding
- Politian/judge
- Ecologist/biologist
- Law enforcement
The Wadhams Falls are already icy. Isn’t this a bit early? We just wrapped up our Fall Lecture Series. Amy Ivy advised us how to put our gardens to bed and plan for next year. Diane Fish from the Adirondack Council talked about “Keeping It Wild: Challenges of Success in the Adirondack Park,” and we vicariously explored “The Ups and Downs: Machu Picchu to the Galapagos” with Jim Kinley and Mary Bell. Alvin and Vivian Reiner’s talk about living and working with the Navajo had to be postponed; we’re looking forward to hearing their stories and seeing their beautiful photographs at another time. Dennis Kalma gave us an introduction to “Getting to Know Your Digital Camera.”

We certainly enjoyed a varied selection in the Fall series of our “Sunday Adventure Club” films. For Halloween week, we made the acquaintance of Nosferatu—ancient evil vampire from a film made in 1922. This was our second silent film this year and we’re learning they can be really cool and very compelling. In November, we enjoyed Happy-Go-Lucky, a 2008 film by Mike Leigh. More Mike Leigh films are coming up in our winter series. On December 15th, we’ll show our last film for 2019, Swing Time (1936) - Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers at their best - and one dance number that’s going to give us plenty to talk about in terms of changing attitudes and understanding - see Zadie Smith’s novel of the same name.

In the new year, we’ll show two Sunday Adventure Club movies a month, on the first and third Sundays at 3:00 PM - titles to be announced. And we’re excited that the library will be open on the other Sunday afternoons of the month from 3:00 to 5:00 PM for other Sunday Adventure Club activities—maybe a workshop or demonstration or a kids’ film, or just a chance to relax and read and have a hot cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa.

And yes, we have books, lots of new books, and good old books, and people read them!

- Liz Rapalee, Director
After extensive remodeling, the museum that is situated downstairs from the library has reopened.

There was a book signing and discussion in October by Crazy Horse family elder Floyd Clown Sr. and author William Matson of *Crazy Horse: The Lakota Warrior’s Life & Legacy*.

At the end of September, we restarted our community jigsaw puzzle. To date, we have completed four puzzles. The community puzzle will continue through the winter.

In November, we added two learning kits to our collection - one on magnets and the other on math.

Library clerk Charity Lazore will be reading to the children of Head Start as part of the *Reading is Fun* program throughout December.

We created a project that could lead to big changes; an idea tree on which patrons can “leaf” a suggestion. It’s an interesting way to get feedback from those we serve.

- Karmen Miller, Library Clerk
The Lake Placid Public Library has had a busy fall and is already expecting a much busier winter with the 40th Anniversary of the 1980 Olympics being celebrated this coming February.

The Gallery has been all aglow with the featured artworks of grades K-2nd from LPES. The library held a special reception in the gallery on December 12th for the artists and their teacher, Mrs. Rebecca Philion.

The LPPL continues to provide children’s programs such as weekly homework club, tutoring, and special event days. In September we held a Fall Fun Day of crafts, games, books, and more. In October, a special day for making your own Halloween costume event was held. The Tuesday homework group created floats for the Thanksgiving Day parade. The children used all kinds of boxes, tubes, tape, paper, foam, and anything Mrs. Armstrong could pull from her closet. Each child’s float was based on a book or a favorite book character.

The library offers meeting space for group gatherings. Presently, we host two book clubs, a French club, knit club, and Literacy Volunteers. Anyone wishing to start a class or a group utilizing the many library rooms, please contact Bambi at (518) 523-3200 or email her at librarian@lakeplacidlibrary.org.

Every Friday morning at 10:15 AM, Ms. Linda shares story time with many youngsters and their parents. In November, Ms. Linda told a story about a beautiful turkey who thought he was the best until he lost all of his feathers at the hands of a crafty fox. With the help of the children, the turkey was able to recover all his colorful feathers.

The LPPL held another successful Holiday Card Making Event this year that took place on December 14th, during the festive Holiday Village Stroll. We provided space and materials throughout
the library for people to come relax, warm up, and show their creativity.

The AARP Tax Preparation Program will once again provide free services from January through March this year. Last year, the group assisted in 345 e-files, plus 20 paper files and amended returns. This program was developed over 10 years ago and has provided invaluable service to so many people of all ages from the community.

This winter, the LPPL and the community of Lake Placid will be marking the 40th anniversary of the 1980 Winter Olympics. On February 22nd, the library will host Dan Jansen, a four-time Olympian and gold medalist speed skater, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. After meeting this amazing Olympian, attendees may attempt the Olympic Paper Chain Challenge. There will be crafts, prizes, fun, and Olympic-caliber (craft) competition for all ages. Free and open to the public.

In the spring, the LPPL is planning a roof repair project. We are hoping that it won’t affect our hours of operation, but we will keep you informed.

The children’s room staff is gearing up for some fun-filled days at the library this spring.

- Madonna Barney, Assistant Librarian

Chateaugay Memorial Library

This summer, we finished up our most recent construction grant. We replaced our roof and added new vinyl siding. This was a large project that we desperately needed. This will add beauty and longevity to our small-town library. We are very pleased with the outcome. Stop in to see the new upgrades.

- Melissa Erhardt, Director
Elizabethtown Library Association has partnered with Families First and the Adirondack Community Action Program to hold a Holiday Food and Gift Drive. Non-perishable food items, gifts, and winter wear collected at the library will be distributed in the community during the holidays.

The library is offered a Holiday Library Raffle for an Adirondack gift basket, hand-sewn and stitched pillows, and mittens. All proceeds will benefit library programs. The drawing was held on December 20th.

We are using *Snowflake Bentley* by Jaqueline Briggs Martin and *We’re All Wonders* by R.J. Palacio for the readings in the local school about how unique we all are.

Did you know that Elizabethtown Library Association celebrated their 135th anniversary this year? It was chartered all the way back in 1884 with Miss Mary Elizabeth Hale having the honor of being its first librarian.

- Angela Heroux, Director

Need more news? Go to [cefls.org/newsletter](http://cefls.org/newsletter) to see all the past issues and click “Subscribe” to have the latest updates end up right in your inbox!
Belden Noble Memorial Library Celebrates its 120th Birthday

The Belden Noble Memorial Library in Essex celebrated its 120th birthday this year. The celebration included the unveiling of a “History Wall,” which tells the story of how the library came to be. The wall includes many images, including a sepia photograph of the library’s interior taken around 1905.

Get to Know Your Neighbors completes its second successful season

The second season of the Get to Know Your Neighbors series was completed in October. This year’s series provided six more opportunities for attendees to learn more about their neighbors. All events were well-attended, and many fascinating stores were shared.

The Magic of Christmas in Essex Celebrated on December 7th


- Tom Mangano, Director
Since expanding our building size 10 years ago, we have experienced a tremendous growth in patrons. As our library family grows, in addition to the read and re-read loved books on our shelves, we offer the newest releases for our patrons to enjoy. We continue offering the community fun, unique, innovative, and interesting programs.

Our Youth Summer Program, “A Universe of Stories,” was a huge success. Some of our activities were:

- **The Night Sky** - Centering on space and constellations, young children created glow-in-the-dark night sky pictures to take home.
- **Galaxy Paintings** - Teens painted their own glow-in-the-dark galaxy to take home.
- **10 Little Monkeys** - Young children interacted with stories, songs, and puppet play.
- **Zodiac Pillowcase** - Teens made their own unique pillowcase with zodiac designs.

**My Mother the Astronaut** - Presentation by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company; a visit to NASA. This project was made possible with the funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts.

- **The Planets** - Story time about the planets in our universe. Hanging solar systems were made by the children to take home.
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

- **Anti-Gravity in a Bottle and Candy Bark** - Teens created an anti-gravity galaxy in a bottle and made and decorated edible glitter galaxy candy bark to take home.

- **Space Travel** - Children focused on space travel and made take-home finger rockets.

- **Summer Reading** - Youths (up to 18 years old) logged hundreds of books read this summer. Each reader who submitted their reading log had their name entered into a raffle. The winner received a gift card.

Our Adult Summer Programs were well-attended. Favorite activities included:

- **Tarot Cards** - An informational presentation followed by individual readings.

- **Palm Reading** - An introduction into Palmistry including individual readings.

- **Psychometry** - An overview of object reading along with individual readings.

- **Alcohol Ink Art** - Participants made colorful paintings on framed glass, on votive holders, and on vases.

The Black Watch Memorial Library hosts an ongoing Children’s Play Group. Twice a month, parents bring their preschoolers to the library’s reading room for some fun time. It’s never too early to get into the habit of going to your local library.

The CEFLS Board of Trustees held their September meeting at the Black Watch Memorial Library.

Halloween! What a fun time of the year. We participate in the Downtown Ticonderoga Trick-or-Treat event every year. Hundreds of children (and almost as many adults) dressed up in costumes and paraded up and down the main street, stopping by to pick up their treats. This year we handed out approximately 1,500 pieces of candy!

Libraries value volunteers. To show our appreciation of our volunteers, our Board of Trustees hosted its annual luncheon in November for our volunteers and their spouses. This year’s gala
event, held at the Fort View Inn in Ticonderoga, hosted approximately 20 people. Thank you to our volunteers for all you do to help make our library a success.

Christmas: We recently held a Bookmark Contest for our patrons to design bookmarks using a Christmas theme. Two winning designs were chosen by a panel of judges and sent to a printer to be made into bookmarks for our patrons to use. The winners each received Walmart gift cards.

For the holidays, the Black Watch Memorial Library created a uniquely-designed “Book Christmas Display” titled *Pearls of Wisdom* which is on display at the Hancock House Museum in Ticonderoga. The exceptional design showcases a selection of 20th-century authors and their novels. We are proud to announce that, out of approximately 50 trees on exhibition, ours won Best Display.

Happy Holidays from Heather, Emma, Marcia, Linda D., Linda C., Susan P., Anne, Susan S., and the Black Watch Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Boyce, Ms. LaPointe, Ms. O’Connor, Ms. Peters, and Ms. Cunningham.

- Heather Johns, Director

Make Things Possible with Maker Kits
Available for in-library use and patron checkout.
[cefls.org/library-of-things](http://cefls.org/library-of-things)
The Mooers Free Library is proud to announce that improvements are underway. We received a $5,000 grant from the Clinton County Tobacco Settlement Fund which was put towards some much-needed landscaping. Our next step will be installing raised beds for a community garden. Other changes are also underway! Old furniture is being replaced thanks to the New York State Construction Grant. Wood Works in Chazy built our new shelves and meeting tables. They turned out beautifully. We are doing our best to keep the library functional for our patrons as we begin the process of installing our book cases and transferring our collection. Please excuse our mess during this transition!

-Jennifer Lavigne, Director

We’ve had a great response to the VR Headsets over the past few months, with them going out to libraries to be used by audiences young and old.

It’s our hope to have headsets available for individual checkout early in the new year, but you can still request them for your library events in the meantime.

Contact David (dfuller@cefls.org or 518-563-5190 ext. 122) for more information or to schedule the headsets for your library. Make sure to act fast as the schedule could fill up quickly.
Dawn Klotzko of Cabin Creek Stitchery is offering two community sewing workshops; *Sew a Library Tote Bag* took place in November and *Sew a Winter Theme Placement* was in December.

Fred Balzac’s playwriting workshop culminated with a reading of plays-in-progress on December 8th. The workshop “Writing the Naturalistic Play as a Method of Reporting the Truth: Modeling Chekhov, Ibsen, Hansberry, and Miller in 2019” was made possible with the funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts.

On Saturday, December 14th, all ages were welcome for French Story Time with Madame Miriam.

Steve Amstutz displayed his black and white photographs in a recent exhibit titled “On Foot in China, India, and Nepal, from the Travels in Asia, 1983-1985.” In January and February, Upper Jay painter Susan Hoffer will exhibit her artwork, and a reception was held on Saturday, January 4th.
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Other recent programs: Beginner Instagram Class taught by Maria Levesque; book discussion series of “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism” by Robin DiAngelo, led by Manon Prevost-Mullane, M.A. in Intercultural Relations; “Living an Authentic Life with Dual Diagnosis” presented by Rosamond Grace Lincoln-Day, Ph.D., LCSW-R; and International Year of the Salmon presentation by Don Lee to accompany the traveling exhibit on the history of the Atlantic salmon in Lake Champlain, with thanks to the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Lake Champlain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Our annual Holiday Sale ran through Saturday, December 21st during library hours (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 12:00 to 5:00 PM, Saturday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM): new and gently used holiday items and decorations and a quilt raffle were available. Many thanks to the volunteers and donors who make this fundraiser possible.

We are also grateful to the Lake Placid Education Foundation for a grant in support of our technology services.

This summer, patrons, bees, and butterflies enjoyed our new pollinator garden, planted by The Adirondack Pollinator Project and a crew of volunteers with compost soil delivered by Sugar House Creamery, our neighbors up the road. The Pollinator Project is a project of AdkAction (adkaction.org/pollinators) in collaboration with Lake Placid Land Conservancy, The Wild Center, and Paul Smith’s College. Along with the new garden, we received 2 donations of benches from community members to our beautiful riverside location.

- Karen Rappaport, Director

Why pay a subscription fee when you can view, download, and print your favorite magazines with a library card?

cefls.org/e-magazines
Our snowbirds have almost all departed for warmer destinations and the library has taken on a calm and peaceful feeling. To celebrate the holiday season this year, the Paine Library is hosting an Artisan Holiday Sale. Handwoven baskets and beautifully created quilted items by Luvie Tuller are available. Other items on sale are handcrafted stoneware pottery by Trisha Best of Mace Chasm Pottery and original photography by Anne-Marie Littenburg.

If you are thinking of visiting the library, you will be happy to know we have a brand-new code-compliant entrance. Railings are currently being fabricated by Jefford Steel and should be installed soon. Work also continues in the lower level. The children’s area is getting a new facelift and we will be creating a new distance learning center. Get ready for some language classes! Have you ever wanted to learn Spanish, French, or Italian? This will be a perfect opportunity. We will also be developing other areas of learning. Community input will be a valuable tool in proceeding with planning.

Regular programming continues each month with Monday Tech Time by appointment from 9:00 AM to 12 noon. Wednesday Banjo Lessons: Beginner banjo on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 PM; Intermediate banjo lessons on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Youth Band meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. On Thursdays, Jam Band meets from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on the 1st three
NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

Thursdays of the month. On Friday, Story Hour meets for 3- to 5-year-olds from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. Readers Group meets on Wednesday evenings once per month from 5:15 to 7:00 PM. Watch the **Paine Memorial Library Book Club Facebook page** for details. Friends of the Library meet every other month on the 2nd Tuesday at 1:00 PM. Watch **our Facebook page** for special programming as it pops up.

We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

- Cheryl Blanchard, Director

---

Say hello to **Libby**. She’s making it easier to check out ebooks with OverDrive. Download the Libby app on Android, iPad, or iPhone.

---

**SENSORY KIT**

For people on the Autism spectrum and their families and caregivers

Thanks to generous grant funding from the Autism Alliance of Northeastern New York, Sensory Kits were designed for children on the Autism spectrum and for their families and caregivers. Each kit includes sensory objects that families can try, books for both the individual on the spectrum and for their caregiver, and activities based on a theme. The themes include: They’re available for in-library use and patron checkout.

- Communication Skills
- Exploring the Senses
- For Siblings
- Learning about Emotions
- Medical Visits
- Thinking about the Senses

Find them on [cefls.org/library-of-things](http://cefls.org/library-of-things)!
We are finally getting near the completion of our 3-phase construction project. Our new parking lot with improved drainage has been installed, our upgraded exterior LED lighting is illuminating our new facility, and our exterior security cameras are on their way. We only have a few more items to complete, including a new lift for better accessibility, and we will be finished!

Past and upcoming programs:

- **Wednesday, December 11th** - Back by popular demand was a Holiday Folded Book Art program. This easy craft combines a love of books with paper crafting.
- **Saturday, December 14th** - We offered a holiday open house with crafts all day, visits from Mrs. Claus, and, of course, food.
- **Tuesday, December 31st** - We hosted our 2nd Red Cross Blood Drive. We started the new year right with the gift of life!
- **Wednesdays, January 8th through 29th** - Our 4-week Knitted Mitten Workshop. Participants will learn how to knit using double-pointed needles.

**Jane Bouchard, Director**

If libraries are looking for more bookmarks, brochures, or fliers, they can request more at cefls.org/marketing.
**News from Member Libraries**

**Westport Free Library**

**Hunkering Down in Westport**

When winter arrives early in Westport, the fun doesn’t stop, it just moves inside. Many of our active groups who routinely meet in the library are forced to suspend their activities during the summer months when there are “just too many other things going on.” Once the weather is cold and the days are short, our book clubs, writing groups, and knitters return to business as usual. Common interests, a crackling fire, and good company guarantee that these like-minded people will keep the library full of warmth and good cheer. Add a steady flow of hardened year-rounders (loading up on books for the next big storm) and you have the recipe for another great winter at the Westport Library.

- Dan Van Olpen, Director

**Dannemora Free Library**

Dannemora Free Library was approved for a Merging Literacy and Play grant for the next New York State Construction Grant funding. We will be installing a door directly to the playground behind the library, along with constructing an reading/event area outside. We are looking forward to an outside reading area and the chance to interact with the families that use the playground.

- Eileen Cody, Director

**Chazy Public Library**

Chazy Public Library hosted their Annual Story Time & Ornament Decoration Event on December 7th at the Chazy Orchard Store. Space was limited and refreshments were served to the attendees.
Fall and winter is a time of regrouping after the hectic summer months. Quieter circulation days do not mean leisure time, however.

We are busy with school programs, grant writing, and winter programming. We are still bringing order to the building after the renovations. In fact, we have completed a beautiful rehab of the Archives Alcove with a gift from Annette Merle Smith. The room is welcoming and warm. There is a display cabinet with items of interest from the Archives and a computer with Archives photos. Currently, we are developing stories for the computer display. Come and enjoy the new space.

Library/School Program

Students are excited to be here. Kindergarteners are listening to classic stories. With the help of the Archives, first graders are researching the people after whom the streets are named. Second graders are exploring chapter book series. Third graders are studying libraries of the world and animals they love. Fourth graders are studying wolf topics within the Dewey Decimal System categories and in different fiction genres. Fifth/sixth graders are preparing “memoirs” for the ADK Story Project. In addition to weekly class visits, many students also tumble in the door after school to meet friends, do homework, play games, and hang out. The energy they bring is contagious.

Archives

Our Archives have taken a prominent role in library life with the evolution of the Town of Keene Historical Society and the My Adirondack Story Project. Students as young as first graders are using the Archives to research local history; People are using photos for the story material. Therefore, we have increased Archive hours significantly, both to accommodate the increase use and to catch up on work that was in progress when Nina Allen passed away. The Archives are now open 14 hours each week. Margaret Hawthorne and Elizabeth Rogers make an incredible team and are both efficient and productive.
**NEWS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES**

The Keene Valley Library has also been awarded a grant from the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services of New York to evaluate the archive material preservation techniques and accessibility.

**Tea at Eleven**

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, from September to June, we take a break for tea at the library. We brew a pot of our current favorite infusions and invite anyone who is in the library at that time to join us. Often there are cookies or crumpets to share. It is a time to get to know our patrons and visitors and to breathe a bit in a busy day. You are welcome to join us, always, even if you just come for tea.

**Thursday Lunch Book Group**

Each Thursday, a group meets to discuss a book in depth, chapter by chapter. Currently, we are discussing the latest book by Ram Dass and Mirabai Bush, *Walking Each Other Home*.

“Everybody you have ever loved is part of the fabric of your being now,” says Ram Dass. The body may die, but the soul remains. Death is an invitation to a new kind of relationship, in the place where we are all One. Join these two lifelong friends and spiritual luminaries as they explore what it means to live and die consciously, remember who we really are, and illuminate the path we walk together.” Come and be part of the conversation.

**Old Maps**

Nancy McArthur has undertaken an inventory of the many hundreds of maps in the Alpine Room. She is flattening them, cataloging them, and organizing them. The end result will be searchable and accessible to the public. This is a project that has been waiting for exactly the right person and Nancy has taken it on with great enthusiasm, finding treasures of history hidden in the map case.
Programs and More

We have several programs planned for the new year, so watch our website at keenevalleylibrary.org for more information or call the library at (518) 576-4335 for details.

- **3D Printer Course**
  Date TBA
  4 weeks of introductory instruction.

- **Gingerbread House workshop**
  Date TBA

- **Crafternoons**
  Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 PM
  An opportunity to try out new crafts and to relax with friends. Planned courses include knitting, felting, painting with alcohol inks, drawing, and etagami.

- **Family Movie Nights**
  Beginning in January, Fridays at 6:00 PM

- **Game Nights/Dungeons and Dragons**
  Fridays at 3:30 to 5:00 PM
  Watch for our event postings in Next Door Keene or Jay Community News

- **Wellness Day**
  January 25
  A full day featuring talks and demonstrations on yoga, nutrition, meditation, and more.

- Karen Glass, Director

**Book Club in a Bag:** 12 copies of a title, laminated discussion guides, and more than 60 to choose from.  
[cefls.org/library-of-things](http://cefls.org/library-of-things)
I’d like nothing more than this to be an article about definitive steps you can take to make sure that your network and computers are safe and secure. I’d like this article to show you the bulletproof armor of Internet security. But that’s just not the case. Ask any professional, and they’ll say the same thing: You have to plan what you’ll do, not if you get hit, but when you get hacked.

A slew of businesses, organizations, and government entities have fallen victim to hacking and ransomware over the course of just the last year. And libraries are especially easy targets. After all, what other location lets anyone into their doors and allows them to use any of their public computers? With so many one-person libraries, too, how many libraries have a computer security specialist on full time?

You might not know what kind of attacks are out there. Ransomware is a big buzzword at the moment. That’s when an attacker gets into a computer (sometimes months before the actual attack) and then locks down the files. They then hold those files for ransom, stating that they’ll unlock the files once they’re paid (but there’s no guarantee that they’ll follow through).

Doxware - also known as extortionware - is when an attacker gains access to sensitive data and demands payment or the data will be released to the public. You’ve likely seen scareware, which tries to trick a user into downloading a program under the guise of fixing a problem or removing a virus. This can also take the form of telling you to call “Microsoft” or another company. Of course, you won’t be talking to a Microsoft representative, but a hacker instead. Phishing refers to the various attempts to get credentials or personal information. A link might lead to what looks like a legitimate page to log in to an account or to change a
password, but it’s really sending the info you enter to a hacker.

So, what can you do to protect yourself from an attack? Well, there are the basics. Mainly, ensure that you have the latest operating system and latest and greatest updates installed on every computer (or other piece of technology) on your network. That means Windows Update, antivirus, anti-malware, and even the hardware. You might not know that some of your computers’ components should be updated and aren’t covered by Windows Update. It’s good practice to check for updates through the computer’s maker (Dell, HP, etc.) to see if there are any major updates. Many times, these companies provide software that can check for updates as well. Just make sure to get that software from the manufacturer themselves, not a third party.

If you can, make your network more secure. Have an up-to-date firewall between the Internet and your router. Split your network so that the patron computers aren’t connected to the same router as your staff computers. Even if that’s not possible, it’s always a good idea to turn off communication between computers on your network. You shouldn’t be able to see your staff computers on your public computers.

The most common reason for a successful attack is not because of network or computer security, however. No, the biggest flaw in any system is a user. It’s the person who mistakenly clicks on a link in a suspicious email (or maybe the email looked legitimate). So it’s best to have a good email client. Outlook (including the Office 365 system) and Gmail do a good job filtering out the bad stuff. Also, using the web version of an email client means you’re not downloading the contents of an email onto your computer, as long as you don’t click any links or download attachments. So keep an eye on suspicious links. Normally, you can hover over the link and it will show you where it’ll go. If it looks like it’s from Amazon, but you’re not sure, don’t click on the link, but go to Amazon’s website directly and log in properly to see if you’re prompted there. And mark those emails you know aren’t right as junk so you won’t get them from the same address anymore.

But I mentioned earlier that you should be prepared for when you’re hacked, not if. It’s nice to think that if you simply backed up your files on an external drive that you’re covered. In the event
that all of your files were locked down by ransomware, that you could just revert to a backup of your operating system. But the truth of the matter is that many times, a hacker infiltrates a network long before they launch an attack. So your backup from 2 months ago might be just as compromised as the computer is now. And if you keep backups on the same computer or another computer on the network, chances are that those are compromised, too. That’s why it’s a good idea to keep multiple backups on multiple drives across a large timespan, and to keep those backups some place secure outside the building.

That’s a lot of info, so where do you start? There are plenty of ways to protect yourself and they almost all lead back to the important task of figuring out what is most important to you. What kind of data do you have on-hand that you want to make sure is secure and/or recoverable. Do you have a particular computer that you do your financials and payroll on? Make sure you’re regularly backing up that computer to multiple physical drives that are taken offsite and kept for long periods of time. It might be a good idea to take that computer off the network entirely, so if you’re attacked, there’s no way in to that machine. Also, do you have policies, procedures, reports, logos, letterheads, etc. stored somewhere? While paper copies are well and good, it’ll make your life a lot easier if you don’t have to recreate all of those things in digital form if you lost all your data. Consider putting them on an external drive or saving them to cloud services like Google Docs. And, perhaps most importantly, don’t store your passwords on your computer or in a simple file in the cloud. Use organizers like LastPass or Google’s password tools in Chrome or just use good ol’-fashioned pen and paper.

There’s plenty more to consider, of course, but this is just an intro into what you should think about in terms of protecting your library, yourself, and your patrons on the Internet. If you can, talk to a IT professional to go over a plan that you can follow.

- David Fuller, Content Manager/Collections Specialist

Sprechen Sie Deutsch? ¿Hablas español? Parlez-vous français? Can’t understand one of these? Find Mango Languages at cefls.org/mango.
Or current resident