



# C-E-F TRAILBLAZER

## Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System News

*"First Multi-County Library System in New York State"*

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Director

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In accordance with Trailblazer tradition at year's end, we would like to thank all the members of the C-E-F Staff who worked hard at the various stages of the Trailblazer's production (typing, reproduction, assembly and mailing):

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Shawn McArdell  
Paul Regis  
Marge Wachtmeister

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**HAPPY HANUKKAH**

and

**BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR**

Mary Shaw Hopkins  
Editor



## LIBRARY STANDARDS DEFENDED

A considerable amount of attention has been devoted in the past year to the Minimum Public Library Standards. As more and more officials have become involved, including Governor Cuomo, we should pause to take another look at the Standards.

First of all the Minimum Standards are good. The last time they were changed was 37 years ago. It is time to bring them up-to-date as a means of encouraging all public libraries to improve their library services. The Standards offer a yardstick to chart the development of this improvement.

The first four Standards require that the library board of trustees operate by written bylaws, have a written long-range plan of service, present an annual report to its public, have written policies for the operation of the library, and present annually a written budget. This budget should enable the library to carry out its long-range plan of service and should also help the library to meet or exceed the Standards. Who can object to these Standards above?

The Fifth Standard would require that the 739 public libraries in New York State be managed by a director who has a master's degree in Library Science. I am in favor of this except for libraries serving under 2500 population, wherein I have suggested a modification of this standard. Libraries serving over 2500 population would, according to the new Standards, be open at least 25 hours per week. Considering that in the small library the librarian or library director will need to spend some time preparing the books and planning programs, this amount of hours open plus preparation time is certainly enough to justify employing a full-time library director with a master's degree. For libraries serving populations of less than 2500, and open either 12 or 20 hours per week, there is less justification for requiring a director with an MLS degree. I give great credit to the directors of our small libraries, most of whom do not have a library degree, for the fine job they are doing. Our job is to assist them in making their libraries grow, and standards will help. Already many of them, and their Library Boards, have convinced their funding bodies of the need to open additional hours or to improve the quality of their book collections.

I have proposed the establishment of a Continuing Education Certification Program leading to the issuance of a Library Director's Certificate after five years of attendance at workshops, conferences, and continuing education programs given by the public library systems, by the State Library, by local educational institutions or by a combination of these.

The Sixth Standard requires an up-to-date collection of materials selected to meet community needs. Why object to that? This Standard focuses on books, the library's stock in trade, and promotes the weeding and updating of the library collection as well as measuring the effectiveness of that collection in meeting community needs. So who wants an out-of-date book collection with obsolete information?

The Seventh Standard requires all libraries to be open some additional hours per week. Unless the library is open, the community cannot get to the information inside it. Many more people are working these days and cannot get to the library on weekdays only, so some evening and weekend hours are specified.

Standard Number Eight requires a library building which meets community needs, including adequate space, lighting, shelving, seating, access by the handicapped, and a restroom. These seem most appropriate to consider as standards. The degree to which a community can provide for additional library space is indeed limited by the amount of funds the community has, which is one good reason to provide library construction state funding under the Library Omnibus Bill. Access by the handicapped is required of all libraries and

buildings receiving any federal funding. This restriction does not apply only to libraries but to all public buildings. As for restrooms, the days of the chamber pot and outhouse in the backyard are over. This may be a surprise to some in the suburbs and cities, but we in the rural areas do appreciate modern conveniences, just like they do in Albany. Besides, I believe OSHA regulations require it.

Standard Number Nine specifies a telephone, photocopier, microcomputer and other equipment to facilitate access to information. At C-E-F the microcomputer, which each public library has or will have shortly received from us, is used to request interlibrary loans via our telecommunications network as well as exchanging information among the libraries in the system. Naturally a telephone is needed because the modem just won't work without it. Photocopiers are used to copy information from books and magazines to give to patrons and to send out on interlibrary loan as well as to prevent the mutilation of library materials. We are all expecting to use the microcomputers to gain access to the grant information to be offered by the new Office of Rural Affairs as part of RAIN, the Rural Assistance Information Network, though Mr. Gerace, the Rural Affairs Commissioner, has surprisingly come out against having microcomputers in public libraries. Our smaller communities could certainly benefit from this, as the public libraries can supply the necessary connection between the grant information and local government.

The final standard requires that libraries publicize their hours of opening, borrowing rules, services, location and phone number. Why keep it quiet? If people don't know where the library is or how to get in touch with the library, they won't use it as much. It's as simple as that.

And you thought Standards were just for kicking around!

As I emphasized above, the Standards require some attention by the State of New York for passage of the Library Omnibus Bill which would provide each library with some funding to help to meet the Standards. Public library systems are also helping their member libraries to meet the Standards, and can also help them especially in Standard Five with some enlargement of the training staff at the public library system to help with the training and development programs.

This article is an attempt to counteract the "Chicken Little" response which sees the Standards as something which will cause the sky to fall. That is not so. State Librarian Joseph Shubert, Regent Laura B. Chodos and others have assured our libraries that they will not be closed down. We are continuing to work with our rural communities, starting libraries and helping them to grow. The new Waverly Public Library reading center will be open soon.

Ladies and gentlemen of the public and the press, government officials and legislative bodies, rejecting standards and denying good library service to the people of New York State is not the way of progress in the Empire State. We do need your help to assure the people of New York State that they can have access to timely up-to-date information and good library services even in the smallest upstate community. Don't let our New York State residents, especially the children in this Decade of the Child, be disappointed in their library service. They are going to need it in the 1990's. I urge you to look again at the Standards and see them in a positive way. What steps can you take to help libraries meet the Standards? When will you vote for the Library Omnibus Bill which will enable small libraries to meet the Standards?

Stanley A. Ransom  
Director

## C-E-F AUTOMATION ACTIVITIES

On November 1st, Edward O'Connor, our automation consultant, presented his recommendations for establishing a MARC Union Catalog. His suggestions have been adopted by the C-E-F Board.

Elizabeth Rogers, Head of Reference at C-E-F, has been appointed C-E-F Data Base Conversion Coordinator as of November 14th. She will be planning to oversee the conversion of 127,000 Gaylord data base records to MARC format records and to implement plans to convert an additional 100,000 C-E-F and member library records through local input and matching with a MARC data base. Following this conversion, C-E-F will be expecting to purchase an integrated system which will also allow for a combined circulation system.

As a preliminary project, she and other staff will be involved in an extensive weeding project.

Stanley A. Ransom

## BLACK POETRY DAY

Amiri Baraka and the Blue Ark Jazz Group were an outstanding success on Black Poetry Day in Plattsburgh. Over 142 persons were treated to an evening of Black poetry and jazz at the PSUC Hartman Theatre on October 17th. Copies of Baraka's newest book, "The Music" were available for purchase.

The successful event was made possible by grants and co-sponsorship of the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York State Writers Institute, the PSUC College Auxiliary Services, PSUC Department of Arts and Sciences, PSUC Minority Concerns Committee, PSUC Student Music Council, the PSUC Akeba Student Organization, PAFB Officers' Spouses' Club, PAFB Black Heritage Committee, Lloyd Archer of Quick-Cast, Ltd., and an anonymous donor.

Linda Cousins, poet and publisher from Brooklyn, visited several correctional facilities and read her poetry.

Bernard Finney, from the New York State Library's Division of Library Development, was a speaker at St. John's School in Plattsburgh and also visited and read Black poetry at Altona Correctional Facility on Black Poetry Day. The poetry programs were well received and appreciated by the community.

Stanley A. Ransom

## 1988 NYLA CONFERENCE

The 1988 NYLA Conference was held October 12-16th in Buffalo.

Due to a tight budget C-E-F staff was represented this year only by Stanley Ransom, Leona Salzman and Elizabeth Rogers. Lee Salzman turned the gavel of President of the Public Libraries Section over to Marie Bruni, after a most successful year.

Lee also presented the Moshier/Wynkoop award to Joyce Perry of Stevens Memorial Library in Attica.

Janet Decker and Anne Russell attended from the C-E-F Board, and librarians from nine of our member libraries also attended.

There were many excellent programs, the content of which will be incorporated into our C-E-F services as we can.

Next year the NYLA Conference will be in Saratoga Springs on October 25-28, 1989.

Stanley A. Ransom

### HEADQUARTERS HIGHLIGHTS

#### LEE SALZMAN REPORTS:

On October 3 and 7, Literacy Caucuses were held at Clinton Community College and Saranac Lake Free Library. Funded by a Gannett Literacy Challenge Grant to the New York State Education Department, our caucuses were 2 of over 11 caucuses conducted Statewide during September and October. Over 50 individuals participated locally, and their ideas and recommendations will be presented by local delegates at a State Literacy Convention in February, 1989.

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At the ninth annual Current Trends in Reading Conference held at SUNY/Plattsburgh on October 21, Leona Salzman presented two workshops on the topic "Families at Risk: Intergenerational Illiteracy." She stressed the need for collaborative community efforts in literacy programs, including networking with public libraries. The library system also had an exhibit at the conference, and Stanley Ransom discussed public library services with approximately 20 of the conference's over 100 participants.

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"Citizenship and Literacy" was the topic of the Plattsburgh League of Women Voters' October meeting, and Leona Salzman was the invited speaker. Members took the opportunity to ask questions about library

services in general as well as discuss the program topic. Lee suggested some supplementary reading for the group, including Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know by E.D. Hirsch, Jr.

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This year's NYLA Conference in Buffalo had a number of outstanding outreach related programs. Among those programs attended were Caring for an Elderly Relative; It's a Deaf, Deaf World and Literacy Connections: Parents and Children Reading Together.

\* \* \* \* \*

The C-E-F Outreach Department is fortunate to have an RSVP volunteer working with us. California Cole joined us in August, and has already volunteered over 40 hours. Cal is primarily assisting with our New York State Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped services.

Leona Salzman  
Assistant Director/  
Head of Outreach

#### REPORT ON MICROCOMPUTERS IN MEMBER LIBRARIES

We now have Apple IIe microcomputers placed in all but two of our member libraries. Except for the one library that



has no phone, all of these have access to Interlibrary Loan through the HOB0 program operated by the North Country 3R's. Our libraries also have a variety of other software packages including Quick Card, Appleworks, Print Shop, etc.

Our 28th library is scheduled for installation December 2, and the last library has asked to wait until their building program is completed.

I will be continuing to provide support for all of these installations if any problems occur. In addition, if a library or group of libraries in a region would like a workshop on a computer-related topic, I will travel to present the workshop. Please call. One such workshop is scheduled for Wilmington on December 5.

Hugh Starke  
Administrative Assistant

#### NEWS FROM REFERENCE AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Much has been happening in the Reference Department (I think I always start with that . . .). As we continue to process interlibrary loan requests, we're hard at work on establishing new procedures and starting new projects.

We have an expanded version of HOB0 (our regional electronic mail program), courtesy of Tom Blauvelt (of NC3Rs fame). We'll begin to set up a more direct version of inter-system sharing using some of the enhancements Tom has provided us with. This should improve the turnaround time among member loans.

We're very pleased with the progress of C-E-F libraries during 1988 -- we now use microcomputers to send and receive requests from nearly all of our 29 members. It's been a long haul, but we really are pleased with everyone's cooperation and hard work. Now that our members have both microcomputers and microfiche of our holdings, we should see continued improvements in ILL.

There are many projects getting under way at System headquarters, including our work on the C-E-F data base. The first step in this massive automation project is to weed our book collection (and this is no small task, as those of you who have been through our stacks can attest). We'll be working on a comprehensive weeding program, concentrating on our non-fiction collections. We plan to start in December, and spend the winter in the stacks. We should emerge in early spring, see our shadows, and head back into the stacks until we're finished.

As we weed, we'll be identifying and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of our collection. We will then use this evaluation in formulating our Collection Development Plan. This is one of the most challenging projects we'll work on, and certainly one of the most important ones.

As we clean the stacks, the Reference Department is busy adding to its CD-ROM collection. We have just purchased Bowker's "Books Out-Of-Print Plus," which provides us with much-needed subject access to titles. There are many excellent CD-ROM products, and we look forward to adding more when we can.

Heading into another holiday season, we in Reference and Interlibrary Loan look forward to a successful and productive 1989.

Elizabeth Rogers  
Head of Reference  
and Interlibrary Loan

#### OUTREACH NEWS

The past few months have been exceptionally busy ones for the C-E-F bookmobile department. We have crossed the boundary of our service area to visit another system (I always feel better when I drive back inside that invisible line along the Northway); local dignitaries were hosted on a busy daylong run and we have spread holiday cheer along with books around the North Country.

On October 25, Assemblyman Chris Ortloff visited Franklin County with the staff of Bookmobile B. Franklin County Legislator Bruce Jackson joined Mr. Ortloff at the Moira stop. Both representatives are strong supporters of rural libraries on the state and county levels. Our patrons enjoyed the opportunity to speak with their legislators on their own doorsteps, and turned out to do so in record numbers. Mr. Ortloff and Mr. Jackson helped to check in and shelve books, which gave Mike Pavone and Mary Seguin a chance to control the crowd.

During the week of November 14, we were pleased, but not surprised, to note that circulation to date for this year finally surpassed 1987 circulation to date. We have watched our statistics carefully, and expect to exceed last year's total circulation by about 2,000 transactions. This is especially significant since bookmobile circulation nationwide has been falling steadily since 1980. The increase at C-E-F reflects the hard work and dedication of the bookmobile staff, and proves that our patrons really appreciate our willingness to literally go the extra mile for them.

On October 23, the bookmobile staff had a chance to see a state of the art vehicle when we toured the Southern Adirondack Library System. We picked up some good ideas to incorporate into the specs for our own new "dream" bookmobile: rear windows that are possible to see through, and steps that our patrons don't have to be Heidi in her prime to climb, were just a few. The opportunity to exchange ideas about day to day service with other "bookmobilers" was also appreciated.

We have been blanketing the area with Holiday Turkey Raffle entry forms for a month and a half. The incentive for patrons to "check out five books and enter the drawing" has improved our circulation but not the tempers of the guys at the front desk! The winners were drawn on November 14. Elaine Geno, a regular patron at Westland Road, and Debbie LaBelle from Fort Covington each were the lucky winners of a \$15 coupon which is redeemable for a Thanksgiving or Christmas turkey at any Grand Union store.

Julie Wever  
Outreach Librarian

C-E-F CLASSIFIEDS

To be given away:

An AB Dick 525 (desktop model) mimeograph machine, including a few masters. Contact Liz Rapalee at Wadhams Free Library.  
Phone: (518) 962-8717.

**REMINDER**

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF THE TRAILBLAZER IS  
JANUARY 17, 1989.

**MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES**

**AKWESASNE LIBRARY  
AND CULTURAL CENTER**

We are saddened to report the recent death of Librarian Margaret Jacob's mother, Sarah Tarbell. Many donations in her memory have been received by the Akwesasne Library. These donations will be applied to the rising costs of producing the Ka ri wen ha wi newsletter.

**AUSABLE FORKS FREE LIBRARY**

The 1988 Fund Drive, benefiting the AuSable Forks Free Library, received generous support from the people and businesses in the AuSable Forks area. "Once again," said library fund drive chairman Norah Horstmyer, "the residents and summer visitors of the Towns of Jay and Black Brook; AuSable Acres and Fern and Silver Lakes have shown their appreciation and goodwill towards the little library on West Church Street." Over \$2,200 has been realized; several people have joined the AuSable Forks Free Library Association and much interest has been shown in the workings of the library and the association which operates it.

The trustees of the association and Norah Horstmyer, Chairman of the drive, thank supporters for their generosity.

**WEAD LIBRARY, MALONE**

Director Dave Minnich reports:

We owe a tip of the hat to the New York Telephone Company, for the Library has received a donation from them of \$500

toward the cost of renovating part of the library building's lower floor for use as a children's area.

**SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY**

"What Would You Do If" was the title of a talk given on November 3 by Ellen Creighton, Outreach Educator of the area crisis helpline, as part of the library's Brown Bag Luncheon series.

Allan Logie was the guest speaker at the November 17th Brown Bag Luncheon. Mr. Logie has been a Program Coordinator for New Enterprise Economic Development and his talk centered on the skills needed to start and run a new business.

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The Adirondack Experiences of novelist Upton Sinclair was the subject of an illustrated talk by Charles Alexander, Professor of Humanities, at Paul Smith's College at the library's evening program on November 18.

Sinclair, author of The Jungle, one of the most influential books of this century, spent much time in the Tri-Lakes area, Keeseville and at Racquette Lake.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director  
Mary S. Hopkins, Editor



## CEF Humanities Series, 1989: "Time Slices"

Thanks to generous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the New York State Council on the Arts and the Adirondack North Country Association, we are able to offer a new group of humanities series, "Time Slices," to a limited number of libraries in Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties. There are three "Time Slices" themes. Each comprises a five-part lecture/reading discussion series on a decade in twentieth century American history and culture. We've chosen to look at the 1920's, 30's and 40's. As in our earlier "American Dreams" series, we will lend participating libraries a set of paperback copies of books on the theme. We will pay scholars and writers to lecture on each of the set books and to engage in discussion with adult audiences in libraries or alternative sites in the community. As presenting librarians, you will form a committee, choose the series, engage the scholars from a list we'll provide, supply the hall, and do all the publicity. We will give you a workshop and a guide to presenting a humanities series and be on hand to help when necessary. We hope to be able to purchase and distribute to the libraries presenting "Time Slices" series a collection of videotape versions of films of the period that could circulate while the series is going on. This is how the syllabus looks at the moment, on the verge of the final cut.

### 1920's:

Theme lecture on the Twenties  
Sherwood Anderson, Winesburg, Ohio  
Ernest Hemingway, In Our Time  
Willa Cather, One of Ours  
T. S. Eliot, The Waste Land  
Anzia Yezierska, Bread Givers  
Dorothy Parker, The Viking Portable Dorothy Parker

### 1930's:

Theme lecture on the Thirties  
F. Scott Fitzgerald, Tender is the Night  
Nathanael West, Miss Lonelyhearts  
Josephine Herbst, Rope of Gold  
Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God  
Richard Wright, Uncle Tom's Children  
John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath  
lecture on the WPA and the arts

### 1940's:

Theme lecture on the Forties  
Saul Bellow, Dangling Man  
Documentary film, "Rosie the Riveter" (World War II and women workers)  
Bruno Bettelheim, Surviving and Other Essays  
John Hersey, Hiroshima  
Christina Stead, The Man Who Loved Children  
Arthur Miller, "Death of a Salesman"

A library presenting a "Time Slices" series will be asked to develop and present a single original program or exhibition of local history, "Local Time," that pertains to the decade under consideration at that library. Possible ways to go about this include one or a combination of: home movies or photographs made during the 1920's, 30's or

40's that illustrate local manifestations of current events of the period; the collection and presentation of oral histories from local people who recall significant events of the period, displays of artifacts and documents from the period: kitchen equipment, suffrage or early Planned Parenthood literature, "flapper" costumes and other women's and men's fashions, WW II ration books or uniforms, etc. The committee presenting the series will most likely want to consult with local historians, historical societies and people who are repositories of local history and mores. School children might be involved. Senior citizens' certainly would be a valuable resource, and might be able to present something collectively, like a "sing" of popular music of the period. "Local Time" is a challenge to have fun with the past. It's meant to be a bridge between the more general themes of "Time Slices" and the talents, artifacts, and memories of particular people in the community.

To be considered for a "Time Slices" series, please write a letter to:

Abby Zito, Project Director, "Humanities Series in Upstate New York"  
R.D. 1, Box 244  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

indicating

1. Previous experience in public programming, or if you have none, why you'd like to begin with "Time Slices"
2. Names and affiliations of people, including a member of the local library staff, who are willing to serve on a committee to present "Time Slices." Presenting a humanities series is a lot of work, but local feedback is usually very gratifying. Many libraries presenting humanities series have gone on to win grants to continue public programming. Committee members usually divide up these tasks: book distribution and collection; publicity; contacts with scholars; contacts with schools; hospitality.
3. Choice of decade (1920's, 30's or 40's): first, second and third.
4. Ideas for the "Local Time" segment of the program.
5. Ideas about collaborating with other libraries in neighboring communities: a library in each town might choose a different decade, and work at developing an audience that travels from town to town over the course of six to nine months. (This is optional, but will maximize the resources and outreach of the program)
6. Ideas for publicizing the program throughout the community.

If you have questions about the project and would like to discuss it before writing, call (802) 388-7650, days or evenings.

Presenting libraries will be awarded series on the basis of interest, creativity, and track record. Letters of interest should be sent by December 31, 1988. We'll hold a "Time Slices" workshop in the winter for presenters.

Abby Zito, NEH Project Director