Netlibrary Adds Titles that Play on iPods, iPhones

Netlibrary's downloadable audiobooks offerings now include a number of titles that can be played on iPods and iPhones. These titles are in mp3 format, and can be played on most players—they don’t have any digital rights management, so there’s no need for a license.

Many of the available titles are classics, but there are some popular fiction and nonfiction titles as well. Authors whose works are now available range from Susan Wittig Albert to Sarah Strohmeyer. Available fiction and non-fiction series include Amelia Peabody, Horrible Harry, Kay Scarpetta, Last Mountain Man, Modern Scholar, Ranger's Apprentice, Smart Pass, Sookie Stackhouse, and Spanish-language Audiolibros.

You and your patrons can use this to search at www.netlibrary.com for titles by author or series name. You can download an mp3 and transfer it manually to an iPod or iPhone, or import it into iTunes. These can also be played on the computer or another type of mp3 player.

Within the next few weeks, we will have access to a new interface for Netlibrary (called Media Center) that will allow people to download directly to their mp3 players or iPods.
Member Library News

From Clinton County

Chazy Public Library

Chazy Library is planning to hold a program on Thursday, June 4 to introduce a therapy dog to children age 5 to 8. Linda LaPier will explain what her therapy dogs do to help people. She'll bring the dog who is best with children. We are hoping this will lead to appointments at the library with the dog as a reading partner, over the summer, for children who are having difficulties with reading.

We are also looking forward to again hosting story teller Karen Pillsworthy, on Wednesday, July 1, to kick off our Summer reading Program. She was such a hit last year – we were thrilled to have wall to wall children, who were enchanted with her presentation.

On the “good book front, I highly recommend The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney. This wonderful first book combines history (18th century fur trapping on Georgian Bay, Canada), mystery, suspense and romance. It is a page turner, but I also savored the succinct wit, humor and vocabulary of the writing. My husband is now reading it with equal delight.

-Francie Fairchild, Director

Mooers Free Library

At the Mooers Library, we have planned a variety of activities for all ages. In May, the library will host a photography show that features the work of local photographer Kyla LaBarge. In June, a dairy display of cows and dairy foods will take center stage.

We will kick off our summer reading program on Wednesday, July 1 with a program on cartooning with Stan Burdick. Our summer reading program will feature fun activities for all ages. Times and dates are not yet firm. As always, our book sale will be held on Labor Day.

We are in the process of setting up a book club group and several patrons are already interested in attending. Times and dates are not yet set. It promises to be a busy summer and we are looking forward to it.

-Edie Morelock, Director

Man Reading

Child 44
by Tom Robb Smith

I do not usually read stories about the murder of children, but the reviews of this title were so good, and the location and time frame intrigued me. The story takes place during the vicious reign of Stalin, which was a time when crime did not officially exist. The population was terrified of being reported for subversive activity against the state. This could consist of merely stating a criticism of the Soviet government or not reporting on ones neighbors. The result was either death or sentencing to the gulags, where life expectancy was very short. Only the well connected received good housing and food.

The story centers around Leo Demidov, an investigator for the MGB, the state security, who is asked to investigate the murder of a colleague’s son. At first he goes to the family, in order to convince them not to pursue the murder. To do so, would jeopardize both the family, as well as the investigator. Leo’s family was placed in an apartment that would be considered luxurious, at the time, but in the course of the investigation and demolition of their son, they lost the apartment. The writing is excellent, the story is harrowing, and the reader will be unable to put the book down.

This book is up for the Mann Booker Award. Readers of books by Martin Cruz Smith will enjoy how Leo has to work against the system to solve the murder, in spite of the repercussions to his family. Readers interested in non-fiction about Stalin and the Soviet Union may be want to check out The Gulag Archipelago by Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, which is an exhaustive study of the gulags or The Whisperers: Private Life in Stalin’s Russia by Orlando Figes.

--Larry Hahn, Dodge Library
CEFLS Board Says Good Bye and Hello to Members

The CEFLS Board of Trustees would like to say thank you to Ms. Nancy Howard (Franklin County) and Ms. Lisa Newton (Clinton County) for their service on the Board. Both ladies resigned earlier in the year. We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

The Board would also like to welcome three new members: Mr. Charles “Kip” Thompson, Ms. Mary Elise Minnich, and Mr. Edward Scharmer. Mr. Thompson resides in Elizabethtown with his wife. He is retired from the financial sector and will be representing Essex County. Ms. Minnich is a long time Malone resident, and currently lives in Vermontville. She teaches Instrumental Music at Saranac Lake Middle School and is representing Franklin County. Mr. Scharmer will be representing Franklin County and is retired from IBM. Mr. Scharmer resides in Saranac Lake and has spent countless years promoting the Winter Carnival and the Saranac Village at Will Rogers.

-Kate Williams, CEFLS

Clinton County continued...

Dodge Library, West Chazy

A spring time story hour for early elementary students will be held on May 12. Stories about spring, including one called North Country Spring will be featured. We will also be making flowers out of tissue paper. Our summer story times are coming soon. Stay tuned for dates and times.

The library has purchased two copies of the locally filmed movie, Frozen River. It is about the smuggling of immigrants into the U.S. from Canada thru the Mohawk reservation. Familiar locations in this film include the Point Au Roche boat launch, a home on the Jersey Swamp Road, the Pioneer Motel, and Diamond Dolls. Melissa Leo gives an award winning performance and the film was a winner in the Sundance Film Festival. We are also celebrating the centennial of Abraham Lincoln and are loaning the wonderful book Looking for Lincoln.

I am in the process of building up our DVD collection for both juveniles and adults. We are grateful to Mrs. Trombley, who donated many juvenile DVDs. We cannot thank Stewart’s enough for their generous donation of $500.00, part of which will be used to purchase more juvenile DVDs.

The library board is in the process of finding a new member now that Mrs. Julie Layne and her family have left the area. I have been emailing and writing our representatives to urge them not to cut library funding. In a time of economic distress, libraries have assumed an even greater importance to our communities.

The Dodge Library is now offering readers the Plattsburgh Press Republican, on those days which we are open. In addition, I have ordered Parent’s magazine, Family Fun and Rolling Stone, which were requested by our patrons in a recent survey. That survey also indicated that our patrons are generally satisfied with our services and would not change anything. As always, we are grateful to CEF for their wonderful services to member libraries and for such a fine staff of people to work with.

-- Larry Hahn, Director

New York State Library Web Site
Links Resources on H1N1 (Swine Flu)

In response to the rapidly evolving H1N1 (Swine Flu) situation, the New York State Library has posted links to web sites and information on the Flu. Included are reports from the Centers for Disease Control, the New York State Department of Health, the State Education Department, and the World Health Organization. Links to web sites and documents provide information on flu prevention and scope as well as media and other news and information resources.

To access these sources, go to the New York State Library web site at www.nysl.nysed.gov and click on “Hot Topic: Selected H1N1 (Swine Flu) Websites” under “What’s New.”

-excerpted from a NYLINE message dated 5/13/2009

-- Larry Hahn, Director
News From Essex County

Belden Noble Library, Essex

Educational Presenter Don Thompson from Vermont will become Samuel de Champlain. On June 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the Essex Community Church (for the Belden Noble Library), he will give a first person account of 17th century life in the colony of New France, using authentic costume, artifacts and anecdotes. This is part of our Lake Champlain Quadricentennial celebration, as is the banner we had made, which will hang from our balcony for the rest of 2009. We are planning several programs for the summer, specifics to follow.

-Karen East from Essex

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

On Thursday, June 4 Andy Flynn is going to present a program on Adirondack History. He writes a column for the paper and has published several books of stories about the Adirondacks.

Again this summer we are encouraging children in grades K-6 to "Be a Reading Champ". Children will receive prizes for books read during the summer. The one who reads the most books will get a grand prize.

We are participating in Be Creative @ Your Library in July and August on Thursday nights from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We're starting off with a local duo of folk singers and hope to end the sessions with a magician or other performer.

We'll be sending out our annual appeal letter in July. We've had good response from this in the past and hope that the economy doesn't dampen our results this year.

We're participating in the TABOB (Take a Bite out of Books) competition in July. The participants have started reading the books and really love them.

-Jackie Viestenz, Director

Library Assistants Meet at Clarkson for Spring Conference

Nearly 30 participants from throughout the North Country attended the Northern New York Library Network’s Spring 2009 Library Assistants Conference, “Library Smorgasbord”, held April 16 at Clarkson University's Adirondack Lodge, in Potsdam.

Kathryn DelGuidice, of the Center for Life Long Learning at SUNY Canton, talked about “Essentials of Customer Service” during the first of four diverse programs. Customer service is about treating others as you would like to be treated yourself. Every interaction with a patron is an opportunity to convince someone that the library is indispensable.

Northern New York Library Network’s Executive Director John Hammond then discussed “Politics and Money: Advocacy to Make It Through the Recession.” This year, while there was an 8.7% increase in state spending, there was an 8% cut to library systems.

“In the end, programs will be cut,” Mr. Hammond said. Libraries must send a clear message, must create relationships to find allies, must participate in Legislative Days and advocate all year round.

During the final morning session Jim Crowley of Crowley Computers talked about “Viruses, Worms and Spyware.” While malicious programs can cause damage to computers and slow them down, Mr. Crowley pointed out that it is a lot easier to keep them clean through a variety of protection methods than to clean them up after an infection.

Library Assistants were able to meet with peers and exchange ideas during lunch, which was followed by Mr. Crowley’s afternoon presentation on “Microsoft Office 2007: Transition.” Mr. Crowley showed the differences with previous versions, highlighting interface changes. “Once you get used to Microsoft Office 2007, you’ll never want to go back,” he said.

Clarkson Library Director Michelle L. Young ended the conference with a tour of the Library. Following the conference, the Library Assistants Committee met with NNYLN Regional Services Coordinator Bridget Doyle who provided the committee with background information and set up a meeting for June 24, at 10 a.m., at the NNYLN office in Potsdam.

-Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake Free Library Assistant
More from Essex County...

Schroon Lake Public Library

We expect this summer to be busier than ever so to meet the needs of our patrons we have a full schedule of events planned. We will be offering the “Get Creative @ Your Library” Summer Reading Program for young people, preschool aged through young adult. Programs, prize drawings, story hours, and reading incentives will be featured. Families are invited to join the Read-to-Me portion of the program which is called “Build, draw, write, paint, explore, and create”! Everyone can be creative at the library this summer. Registration for this program begins on June 24; the program begins on July 1. Adults and Young Adults can sign-up for their summer reading program beginning July 1. They will also have the chance to enter to win a chance to win one of four themed baskets every time they read a book.

Story times will be held every Wednesday during July and August at 10:30 a.m. Crafts for Kids will be held Friday mornings at 11:00 a.m. from July 17 through July 31. Other special programs on tap include Learn to Draw with Stan Burdick which will be held on Thursday, July 16 at 2:00 p.m. Stan, an area cartoonist, will teach kids how to perfect their drawing skills using pencil and paper. Adirondack Animals Up Close and Personal will be held on Thursday, July 23 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Beth Bidwell from the Wildlife Institute of Northeastern New York will introduce us to a variety of native species of birds and reptiles from a Great Horned Owl to a snapping turtle. Children will learn the art of watercolor painting with Amy Kutell at a time and date to be announced. Penelope the Clown will be at the library on Friday, August 7 at 11:00 p.m. to entertain with a fun filled program for the whole family.

Author Ben Z. Rose will be at the Schroon Lake Public Library on Saturday, July 18 to discuss two of his latest books. General John Stark, Maverick General takes a look at General John Stark who survived Indian captivity, and later fought alongside the British in the French and Indian War as part of Rogers Rangers. The second book, Mother of Freedom: Mumm Bett and the Roots of Abolition, analyzes the life of Mum Bett, one of the first slaves to gain freedom through the courts. A book signing will follow the lecture. The time of this program is to be announced.

Author Marty Podskoch will be at the library on Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. to showcase his new book, Adirondack Stories II, 101 More Historical Sketches. It is the second book of illustrated “Adirondack Stories” that have appeared in newspapers during the past two years. This title contains stories about forestry, mining, sports, hotels and inns, hunting, and many more. His presentation will also include the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishing of fire towers in New York State.

- continued on page 6
Schroon Lake news continued...

Get your thinking caps on, the “Battle of the Books” program has begun. This has been a great program for our library. This year I had more kids show up than I expected and I ran out of books and had to order more! If all the kids stick to the program we will be able to send three teams into Battle this year!

--Jane Bouchard, Director

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

With encouragement and advice from Edie Morelock at Mooers Free Library, Wells Memorial Library recently began outreach services for homebound library patrons. We have one happy patron so far. Thanks, Edie!

Julie Robinson Robards will present a family sing-along concert to start off our Be Creative @ Your Library summer reading program. The concert is made possible by an anonymous donation for children’s services. Join us on Sunday, June 28 at 2:00 p.m. to hear this terrific singer. Julie is also an antiques expert a published author, and owner of the new Red Barn Antiques and Artisan Gallery in Upper Jay. In July, Josh Calhoun will present two programs on papermaking. The first program will involve making paper. The second session will cover using the paper to create a drawing or story. Josh is a PhD candidate in English literature at the University of Delaware and enthusiastic about paper, books, literature, and literacy. Tuesday, July 21 is “Come as your favorite book character” hosted by our board president Marie-Anne Azar Ward.

Thanks to a Stewarts Holiday Match Grant, we purchased 27 juvenile books on CD and juvenile DVDs. We appreciate the continued support Stewarts has provided to our children’s collection. The library received a generous endowment from the now-closed Upper Jay Methodist Church. Thanks to the church trustees for supporting library programs, services, and collections. Thanks also go to a generous anonymous donor for a $100 donation for fuel oil.

Volunteers helped make our Spring Fling Book Sale possible, and are already at work on our annual Books, Antiques, Food and Things Sale which scheduled for Friday-Sunday, July 10, 11 and 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This popular sale offers a wide variety of items including antiques and collectibles, toys and games, stuffed animals and dolls, hobby and craft supplies, furniture, electronics, tools and hardware, linens, glassware and dishes, kitchen items, hardcover and paperback books for adults and children, houseplants and baked goods.

-Karen Rappaport, Director

Photo Sharing With Flickr

Flickr is a photosharing website where you can store your photos and share them with your friends and family, or with the whole world if you want. If you have any photos in digital form on your camera or computer, we encourage you to sign up for a free account there, upload some photos, and start sharing! It’s a much easier process than emailing photos to people, and you don’t have to worry about those pesky attachments.

Ewa and I would especially like it if anyone has, or could take, photos of people reading. Of course you would need the permission of the people involved. We’re featuring photos of people reading on the CEF Website, and the easiest way to get them to us is to use Flickr.

Take a look at what we mean by going to www.flickr.com. There are prominent instructions on signing up, which is easy if you have a Yahoo ID, and only slightly harder if you need to create one.

After doing this, you can sign in to the site. There’s an easy “Image Uploader” to help you upload some images from your computer. You can add some “tags”, which are words to describe the places, people or objects pictured. You can make an album or “set” to group like pictures together. Finally, you can click on the “Share This” link to email a message to your friends so they can visit the site and see your photos.

There are also photo sharing groups — and we have set one up called Northeastern New York Reading. You can see it (even without an account at Flickr) by going to the website address http://www.flickr.com/groups/nyyreading/. We only have a couple of pictures there now. We’d love to have you add some, and we’ll feature them on the CEF website if we can. We seem to have a “reading with pets” theme going, but feel free to branch out!

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS
Black Watch Memorial Library Begins Major Expansion Project

On April 14, 2009, our General Contractor, Bast-Hatfield, started a long awaited expansion project for the Black Watch Memorial Library in Ticonderoga. Our addition has been planned for many years and is highly anticipated within the community. The goal is to improve the service we offer and to double the size of the Library. Our plans were drawn up by the Butler Rowland Mays Architectural Firm. The design preserves the integrity of our historic site while adding the space needed.

Our building is essentially unchanged since 1905, and yet, the need for library services has greatly expanded over the years. The existing library main floor consists of 1,170 square feet. The new addition will almost double our existing square footage. The library’s current collection of approximately 15,000 items are jam packed into every available space. This expansion will allow for a more efficient use of the building.

Unfortunately at the present time, we are unable to provide services to those with physical disabilities. The only access to our building is by means of a flight of stairs to the front door. The addition will have a new handicap accessible main entrance and a handicap accessible bathroom on the main floor. This expansion is necessary to provide services to the whole community.

The staff and the Board of the Library would like to acknowledge the generosity of our community as their donations year after year helped make our dream become a reality. We consider this a community-funded project as all funds were raised and used for Public Library Construction matching grants. The continuous support of the Major and the Vickers’ families and the Friends of the Library cannot be ignored. However, the large donation of Jane Parmley not only allowed us to start construction, but will also provide us with a much needed circulation desk.

Due to rising costs, our construction will use up most of the capital fund that we have raised. Therefore, we will need to continue to find creative funding alternatives for our new interior furnishings. We will be posting a wish list of items at the Library and will continue to explore additional grant opportunities. A handmade picnic table donated to the Library by Ron’s Custom Woodcrafts will be raffled off on July 17, 2009. All proceeds from our raffle will go to our internal furnishings fund. We are confident that our new building will be sufficient to meet the needs of Ticonderoga and its surrounding communities.

We have set up a page on MySpace (www.myspace.com/ticonderogapubliclibrary) and one on Facebook (I Love the Black Watch Library). Check out our construction progress as we post new photos and information. Look for information on our May 23 story hour when Dora the Explorer meets Samuel de Champlain. Please feel free to stop by our construction site and stop inside – we love to show off our plans! We look forward to seeing you all at our Open House Ceremony at the end of this year.

-Heather Johns, Director
Essex County news continued...

Wadhams Free Library

The falls of the Boquet River are beautifully frothing and roaring next to the Wadhams Free Library, and we’re feeling a lot more secure behind our reconstructed retaining wall. We have a few rocks to replace in another section of the wall and a little landscaping to do, and then it’s done!

On April 22 in our Wednesdays in Wadhams lecture series, Chris Maron and John Davis told us about the new Champlain Area Trails group (CATS) and their growing network of regional hiking and ski trails.

On Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m., Whallonsburg resident Andy Buchanan, Lecturer in American History and Military History at the University of Vermont, will talk about “The Champlain Border Land, 1609 - 1812.” He’ll discuss two centuries of war and cultural exchange in the Champlain Valley, and how early explorers, traders, settlers, and soldiers interacted with the Native Americans who lived in the Lake Champlain region, from first contact to the early decades of American independence, and how European politics often dictated alliances and enmities in the “new” world.

On Wednesday, June 3, we’re excited to be hosting poet Chase Twitchell, who will read from her work and also tell us about AuSable Press, the not-for-profit literary press she founded in 1999.

We’re very pleased to be offering CEF’s computer classes for seniors, “Computer Cruisin’ @ Your Library” on two Saturdays: May 16 and May 23.

We’re looking forward to story hour starting up again after its winter vacation and to seeing our summer friends.

-Liz Rapalee, Director

Westport Library Association

On April 22, 2009, the Trustees of the Westport Library Association hosted the library’s first Volunteer Library Luncheon. The Board members provided a variety of quiches, salads, desserts, and beverages. One of the volunteers commented, upon her arrival, that it looked like a “Martha Stewart” table. I think her description was accurate. We have over 25 volunteers who are involved with getting out mailings, “manning” the annual book sale, shelf reading, book covering, decorating for holidays and various other projects that arise from time to time. We are fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. There is always work to be done in the library and our director, Stephen Smith, is especially appreciative. One of his humorous comments goes like this: “The beatings will continue until morale improves.” Our librarian is not only knowledgeable in his field, but does have a wonderful sense of humor. We also like his Australian accent!

-Linda Rockefeller, Westport Library Association

TABOB Project Receives Lots of Local Support!

The CEF member library “Take a Bite out of Books” project has received support from several local funders, including the Stewart’s Foundation, Kiwanis Noon Club of Plattsburgh, the Morning Rotary Club of Plattsburgh, and Target.

“Take a Bite out of Books (TABOB) features a game style quiz competition among teams of fifth, sixth, and seventh graders who represent libraries in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties. Participants are quizzed on their knowledge of six books that are selected by area librarians. A formal competition is slated to be held at the Champlain Center Mall on Saturday, July 25.

Jackie Vliestenz, Director of Sherman Free Library, Port Henry, reports that eight teams have been formed. Plattsburgh Public Library, Peru Free Library, Schroon Lake Public Library, Champlain Memorial Library, Dannemora Public Library, Sherman Free Library, AuSable Fork Free Library, E.M. Cooper, Wilmington, and Saranac Lake are represented by enthusiastic teams of readers.

“We’ve chosen some great books that are sure to appeal to middle school aged boys and girls. Kids are now busy reading Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick, The Alchemist: Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott” and four other highly popular titles. The support of local service clubs and businesses is key to our ability to offer TABOB again this year.”

For more TABOB news, including a complete reading list of books that teams are now reading, visit the CEFLS web site at www.cefis.org
Catching Up With Technology:
The ESenior Project

We're having a good time getting back to basics in our ESenior classes, made possible by CEF's LSTA grant to teach computer literacy schools to senior citizens. We've held classes on Computer Basics, Internet Basics, and Email Basics in Champlain, Dannemora, Ellenburg Depot, Saranac Lake, and Malone. Classes are scheduled to be held in Keeseville and Wadham in the near future. We'll be adding more libraries to the schedule soon, and we expect to add a few more classes over the summer to be taught in the fall along with the basics.

What have we learned from the experience?

- There is a need for very basic classes that take learners through the steps of turning on the computer and recognizing what appears on the screen, practicing using the mouse and keyboard, etc. If you have anyone you think would like to “start at the beginning”, you can point them to our curriculum at www.cefls.org/eseniors.htm. They can print out the lessons and try them out at the library or at home.

- Many of our senior citizens don’t have anyone close by to help them with computers, or their grown children don’t have time to help them as much as they would like. This is another potential role for a library – could a community member offer computer clinics?

Some people are looking to enhance their technology skills because of the current economic downturn. We've met people going back to work, people starting small businesses, and people hoping to keep their jobs. The tutorials mentioned in part one might help some of these people as well. We also have put some job-hunting resources in the CEF website at www.cefls.org/databasecareer.htm, and the New York State Library has a page of resources for job seekers at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/outreach/careers.htm.

We've heard a number of requests for more advanced classes, including Word Processing and Digital Photographs. If you've noticed a specific need in your community, let us know so we can take it into account in designing the next group of classes.

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

Essex County continued...

E. M. Cooper Memorial Public Library, Wilmington

The Friends of the Library have planned their Annual Food and Bake Sale for Saturday, June 13, 2009 starting at 10:00 a.m. at the library. They will be selling all kinds of baked goods, salads, Michigan Sauce, and more. The Friends are currently holding a raffle for the painting Mountain Greenery by D. Morgan. Tickets are on sale at the library for $1 for $2 or 3 for $5. The drawing will be held on Saturday June 13, 2009 during the Friends Annual Food and Yard Sale.

This summer, board member Gail Mitchell, along with Boy Scout Troop 24, will help the children in the summer reading program learn to garden. We are working on this project in conjunction with Wilmington Visitors Bureau President Susan Hockert. We will have a “square foot” garden that the kids will plan, build and maintain. The youth and their families will enjoy the “fruits of their labor” and some of the produce will be donated to the Food Pantry.

-Samantha Baer, Director

Books are the bees which carry the quickening pollen from one to another mind.

James Russell Lowell (1819-1891) American poet, critic and editor.
More from Essex County...

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

As spring moves along, I can feel the gears moving and kicking up a notch at the Paine Memorial Free Library. Many of our summer friends are already showing up, and our committees are busy preparing for our summer events. We would love to have you stop by and check them out!

From Tuesday, June 2 through June 16 we will host an art show that features paintings by Shellee Bailey and collage artwork by Alice Wand. A reception will be held on Wednesday, June 3, at 5:00 p.m. The photography of Jean McMahon and Matt Durant will be on show at the library from June 18 through July 1. A reception will be held on Wednesday, June 24 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

A variety of activities for children will get underway in June. On June 5 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. we will host a preschool story time parent’s day program. On June 12, the preschool story hour group will enjoy a special trip and picnic lunch from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Summer reading begins on June 22 and will run for six weeks on Mondays through Thursdays. Story hour for children aged three to five begins on July 3 and will run from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The Summer Reading Program at Noblewood Beach begins on July 6 and will run daily for six weeks.

We will hold a paperback book sale on Saturday, June 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. On Thursday, July 1, raffle tickets go on sale for a Patricia Reynolds painting. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the library. An art show that will run from July 3 through July 21 will feature art work by Kate Puccia, and sculpture by Al Ulmer. An artists’ reception will be held on July 15 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. proceeds to benefit the library. This show will be followed by a show that features photography by Antje Munroe and “2D & 3D Artwork” by Carolyn Vanderhoof. An artists’ reception will be held on July 29 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Other major events slated to occur in July include the 12th Annual Paine Memorial Golf Scramble in memory of Ellie Campbell, which will be held on July 9 at the Willsboro Golf Course. The rain date will be July 10. On July 25, we will hold our 26th Annual Willsboro Folk Craft Fair from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Point Road. Our Friends of the Library will meet on July 7 at 3:00 p.m. and the Annual Meeting of the Paine Memorial Library will be held on July 16 at 3:30 p.m.

Stop by and visit one or many of our summer events!

-Cheryl Blanchard, Director

We Dig These Gardening Books!

Adventures with Hardy Bulbs by Louise Beebe Wilder
In this chatty 1936 classic which has recently been republished, Wilder details her adventures with over 300 species of bulbs and offers history, tips for planting and care.

All New Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew
It’s hard to believe that Mel Bartholomew wrote the original Square Foot Gardening over 25 years ago. The revised edition incorporates raised bed gardening and soil mixes. Even if you don’t want to lay your garden out in a grid, there is useful information in this updated classic.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver
This diary of sorts tells the story of the Kingsolver Family’s resolve to turn their backs on fast food and out-of-season asparagus and “eat locally” instead.

Garden Primer by Barbara Damrosch
This book covers all the basics on flowers, vegetables, bulbs and houseplants, and will get novice gardeners up to speed without overwhelming them. The new edition is “100% organic.”

The Gardener’s Palette – Creating Color in the Garden by Sidney Edelson
If getting the right color combination is your downfall, check out this introduction to the art of combining shades and tones.

Heirloom Vegetable Gardening by William Woys Weaver
Back when America was first discovering the Brandywine tomato, Woys Weaver compiled this tome of 100s of heirloom vegetables and their stories. Interpersed with the varieties and their descriptions are recipes and well researched growing tips.

The Way We Garden Now by Katherine Whiteside
In this “lively, practical and encouraging” book, Whiteside offers 41 easy “pick-and-choose” projects for planting your paradise. Illustrated with charming watercolors, each project includes simple numbered steps and no-nonsense advice that is delivered with a spoonful of humor.
News From Essex County...

Keene Valley Library Association

Summer is just around the corner and we are ready! We are in the process of a full library inventory, which is a major undertaking. We have purchased more than 1,200 books and materials since last year, and even added air conditioning to add to the comfort of our summer lectures and evening programs. Here is a sample of the programs for all ages that will be on offer.

On Monday, June 8, Dr. Steven Purdey will present a program on the “Nunoo Project, Helping children and Aplacas in Peru”. Dave Reckhahn and Rob Hastings will follow on Monday, June 22 with a program on “The Rivermede Project.”

Our summer lecture series kicks into high gear on in July. On Sunday, July 5 at 3:00 p.m., Michael Graves will offer his one-man show about Samuel Clemens, followed by questions and answers with playwright Adam Klasfeld. The show then goes into rehearsal for off Broadway in New York City. See it here first at this special fundraising event for $8.00. On Monday, July 6, Jim Gorman, deputy science editor of the New York Times and editor of Science Times will tell us “how to build a dinosaur. On July 13, Dan Plumley and Joe Doolittle will describe the work of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks. Colin Wells will lead us on an exploration the surprising historical origins of faith and reason on July 20. On July 27, another local author, Chuck Dumas, will share his life-long study of the American Civil War. On Wednesday, July 29, Fran Yardley will present a program on stories and history of the Bartlett Carry Club on Upper Saranac Lake.

On Monday, August 3, Andy Flynn, educator at the Visitors’ Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths will join us to talk about “Turning Points in Adirondack History.” Brian Mann, News Reporter and Adirondack Bureau Chief for North Country Public Radio will tell us about “Ten Years at the NCPR News Bureau on August 10.

Programs for children will be held every Thursday night from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and will include music, science, math and stories.

We also have two major library benefits planned. On Tuesday, July 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. our Summer Benefit will be held at Uplands, the historic home of Phebe Thorne. Everyone is invited to support the library while enjoying refreshments, music by “Too Human” and good company. Tickets may be purchased for $35.00. Our “Biggest Book Sale” will be held from August 7-9, and will feature books, videos, puzzles, magazines and more. A special sale on materials for children will be held on the patio.

We invite you to come and visit us this summer, and to check out our web site (www.kvvi.net~library) for complete information on the many events that will take place.

-Karen Glass, Director

Calling all Construction Projects!

For the fourth year in a row, the NY State Legislature has provided a special appropriation of $14 million in capital funds for public library construction in the state budget. Under this appropriation, CEF will receive a total of $318,676 to reallocate for library construction projects big and small.

Eligible project activities and expenditures include site acquisition, construction, and renovation or rehabilitation of a facility. Routine maintenance is not fundable under this program, however we have learned that computers and equipment that incorporate new technology, as well as furnaces and generators are allowable expenditures. “Green” projects are a high priority. The deadline for all applications to be received by DLD is Friday, September 11, 2009. In order for CEF to review and recommend the applications, CEF has established a local deadline of Friday, August 14. You must contact CEF if you plan to submit an application.

Application materials and a useful FAQ sheet are available online at www.nysl/nysed.gov/libdev/construc/

If you were not one of the 30 attendees at the May 8 “Going Green” workshop at the Peru Free Library, you missed a good presentation (and some great refreshments provided by the Peru Library and Becky Pace, our hostess). Grace Kelly’s Power Point program is also available at the link above. Information on NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) funding incentives is available at www.nyserda.org
News From Franklin County

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

It’s spring once again — sort of. Today I was in the grocery store and there was a display of OFF bug spray. I told the owner that he was an optimist, and that Mother Nature was supplying her own “bug spray” in the form of little white flakes falling from the sky this morning. Hopefully by the time we get this issue of the Trailblazer we will be having true, warm spring weather. There seems to be no “mud season” here in Tupper Lake this year. We have been very busy even during the school’s two week vacation period. Perhaps the economy has something to do with it — people are reading!

We are reprinting our local history “bible” which was written by Louis Simmons and originally published in 1976 under the title of “Mostly Spruce and Hemlock.” Many people have been trying to buy the book, but with a limited printing, the hard cover edition is no longer available. Thanks to Andy Flynn who has dedicated many hours to the project, it will be available in paperback this October. The reprinted edition will include an index by Carol Poole. We already have well over 300 pre-orders.

We are holding a student sign contest for different areas and events in the library. Every Wednesday during April and May we show a movie for the little ones, complete with popcorn. That yummy smell even brings in the adults. May ends with a brown bag luncheon that features our own Lyndsay LaBarge who is a student at St. Lawrence University. Lyndsay spent the spring semester of her junior year in Africa and will have stories and pictures to share.

On June 11, we will host a concert by Dan King et al. The Jackman Art Exhibit will be on show from June 28 through July 4. It is well worth travelling to Tupper Lake to view if you haven’t seen this amazing display of Adirondack art. At some point in June we will have a visit from the Library Fairy. We are not yet sure what this will involve, but it is certain to include entertainment for grade school children — and probably us too.

By July all of our summer people will be back and the library will be in full swing. On tap for summer are programs for all ages including a July 1 lecture on antique post cards and book signing by Sherelene Schatz, the Jackman show, our Annual Art Show which will run from July 12-18, and the summer reading program.

-Submitted by Sue LaBarge for Linda AuClair and the staff of Goff-Nelson Library

Saranac Lake Free Library

Fourteen young people from grades five to seven are participating in Take a Bite Out of Books (TABOB), meeting on Tuesdays as they read and discuss six books and prepare for the Battle of the Books, the Jeopardy-style competition to be held in July against teams from other libraries.

Plans are also underway for the preschool to fourth grade Summer Reading Program with its theme “Be Creative @ Your Library,” to be held Wednesday mornings in July.

Come to the Fair, our summer fund raiser, will run Tuesday, August 4, to Thursday, August 6, with thousands of paperback and hard cover books for sale, along with baked goods, toys, plants and white elephant items.

-Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Elizabeth Rogers works in the Adirondack Research Room at the SLFL on Wednesdays entering Adirondack Room holdings into the Horizon database.

Job Seeking by the Numbers

Did you know that nearly 3/4 of job seekers now use the Internet to seek employment. Almost 73% of libraries are their communities sole provider of free Internet access. In every state in the country, library staff and users report increased use of library computers and Internet access to search for employment, prepare resumes and file for unemployment benefits. Aiding job seekers is increasingly viewed as a “critical role” for public libraries.

Download the complete ALA report on “Job Seeking in U.S. Public Libraries” at www.ala.org
**More from Franklin County...**

**Wead Library, Malone**

This Director was somewhat nonplussed to hear someone asking an extended family member how to solve a particular problem. It involved locating a business which had been absorbed by another. The individual being questioned didn’t have the answer. Why should he? Information science is not his specialty. The answer was found because the librarian happened to overhear, and inquired as to whether the party involved wanted his assistance. Once that reassurance was given, the answer was provided within a relatively short period. The point is that the library should be considered a resource for information, whether the information is practical or theoretical. Some information is found easily; some may take awhile. Of course, dreamers may look for peace, justice, and the American way. There are entire bibliographies on those subjects, and lots of books to recommend. The idea is that a library can make living much easier, in terms of finding education, information, or recreation. Not using it can make for more stressful living: It’s a choice to be made.

The Library’s annual book sale is in the planning stages and is expected to be held Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6. Momentarily, the Census folk no longer have need of our facility, but who knows what other plans or needs may develop between now and 2010?

In March and April, our daily average circulation was 241. The average daily circulation for this two month period was 230. An average of 558 reference questions were recorded during this time and wireless was used at least 76 times each month. Sixteen story hour sessions drew an audience averaging 90. Sue Wool, our children’s librarian, visited FamiliesR-Us six times and interacted with 66 individuals.

*excerpted from Director David Minnich’s May report*

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**COMPUTER CLASSES** – Betsy Brooks (standing), Automation Librarian for the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System, recently presented three computer classes on Computer Basics, Internet Basics, and Email Basics, for adults 50 years and older at the Saranac Lake Free Library. The Petrova Elementary School Art Show can be seen in the background. The workshop was made possible with funds from CEF’s LSTA “E Seniors in the Driver’s Seat” grant.

*(Photo Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake Free Library)*
Fifth grade students from Mrs. Maureen King’s Oak Street School class helped plant an Adirondack Crabapple tree in the side yard of Plattsburgh Public Library on Friday, April 24, Arbor Day. They joined 75,000 fifth grade classes across the country who were also planting trees.

The tree was donated by Margaret and Jerry Garrand in memory of their son, Gary. Cook and Gardener Nursery found the young tree in Vermont and helped to plant it. The tree was also a part of the Library’s Quadricentennial Celebration to provide a lasting legacy for the community. The group celebrated the tree planting with a litany of dedication, saying, "We dedicate this tree!"

- Stan Ransom, Director