Dungeon Dwellers Take Home TABOB Trophy

After a day-long, hard fought “battle” on Saturday, July 25, the Peru Dungeon Dwellers won the fourth annual “Take a Bite out of Books” competition.

Eight libraries from throughout the CEFLS service area fielded one or more teams this year. Participants included the Whiteface Whippersnappers (representing Wilmington and AuSable Forks), the Dannemora Smarties, the Saranac Lake Fin Chasers and the Unfocused Actors, the Schroon Lake Polka Dots and Laffy Taffy’s, Sherman Free Library’s Moriah Sharpies, Plattsburgh Public Library’s Omegas and Young Shakespeare’s of Buxton, and the this year’s champions, the Peru Dungeon Dwellers. The Saranac Lake Fin Chasers claimed second place in an exciting final round of competition.

Kathie LaBombard, “retired” CEFLS Youth Services consultant, prepared over 700 questions for the competition. Questions were gleaned from six books, Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick, The Alchemist: Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott, Shakespeare’s Secret by Elise Broach, Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz-Ryan, Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis, and Marley: A Dog Like No Other by John Grogan. Teams from all seven libraries blazed through the questions to the amazement of onlookers throughout the day.

The TABOB planning committee would like to thank all of the team participants, coaches, volunteers and sponsors who contributed to making the Battle a success for all teams involved. We already can’t wait until next year!

The first row left to right is Polly Lake (coach), Carah Powell, Gretchen Comfort(coach) Back row left to right: Ellen Silverman, Bruno Greselin, Leagan Carlsen and Brianna Estrada.

Photo by (and thanks to) Wendy Silverman who helped out in many different ways.
Member Library News

News From Clinton County

Mooers Free Library

We are busy with the summer reading program and are enjoying a great turnout this year. The festivities began with Stan Burdick and his cartoons earlier in July, and continue every Wednesday with programs at 10:00 a.m.

We are also holding a story hour for grades Pre-K through second every Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This year promises to be busy with more activities for all ages on tap for the fall and holiday season.

The wireless Internet has been a great addition to our services. We are looking forward to getting our new computer and know it will be well received by patrons.

-Edie Morelock,

Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point

On July 1, I was hired as a full-time Technician/Director. In such a short period of time I have been able to attend a CEFDA and CEFCAT meeting. I want to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and for all of your help. This has been a very exciting and busy summer for us at the Dodge.

There is a lot happening at the Rouses Point Dodge Memorial this summer. Our summer program has consisted of performances in July by Speedy Arnold and Nan Hoffman. Sheri Amsel will visit in August. Stampin' Up (scrapbooking) workshops are being held for kids in July and will be repeated for adults in August. On a weekly basis there are reading programs sponsored by the Town of Champlain/Village of Rouses Point Youth Commission for children ages 5 and older.

Additionally, we have been hosting preschool story time for children age 3-5 and game day for children age 8 and older. I have been doing outreach programs at the Champlain Children's Learning Center twice a month for children age 3 – 12.

-Donna Boumil, Director

Beach Reading

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society tells the story of how the members of the Potato Peel Pie Society endured the German occupation of their town during WW2. This story of friendship is told with humor. I laughed and cried at the same time all through it. The only bad thing about it is that it ends. A nice, quiet book is Jon Hassler's Staggerford Flood. Mysteries continue to be most popular with our patrons. Those usually not on the shelf are: Michael Connelly's Scarecrow, Janet Evanovich's Finger Lickin' Fifteen, First Family, by David Baldacci and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson.

--Judy Weaver, Waverly Reading Center.

I've only read Finger Lickin' Fifteen by Janet Evanovich so far this summer. It was (of course) laugh out loud funny, especially when Lula gets stuck. I won't tell you when or where. If you want to know, you'll have to read it.

-- Colleen Pelleiter, Head of Reference and Technical Services Plattsburgh Public Library

Long Lost by Harlan Coben is, as usual, a real page turner! I also recommend Sword Song the Battle for London by Bernard Cornwell. This is an absolutely spellbinding, great historical adventure. The Enchantress of Florence by Salman Rushdie can be summed up as “completely mesmerizing!”

-- Cheryl Blanchard, Paine Memorial, Willsboro

One Second After by William Forstchen is at the top of my bag. If you think you're safe up here in the North Country if the United States is attacked by an EMP (electromagnetic pulse), think again. They will come! This book is a fascinating and utterly terrifying bag addition. The scariest part is that this could really happen.

-- Jane Bouchard, Schroon Lake

My pick for a summer read is The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett. I really enjoyed this book. It is short, and funny with a surprising twist for the conclusion.

-Laura Pritchard, Danemora Public Library
Chazy Public Library

Wow, it has been a busy summer! In mid-June our story time readers got together and bounced ideas off each other for programs and publicity. What a creative group!

To promote the Summer Reading Program, Diane Sabourin and Esther Dominy did a wonderful program called "Bugs" for the two kindergarten classes, who walked over from the school on June 23. All the children received a little bug bag filled with goodies and a bug book mark with the summer story time program schedule printed on the back. Diane also made flyers with the program schedule to hand out at the library desk and post at the post office; and a special flyer/poster for storyteller Karen Pilsworth's program “Stone Soup and a Little Bit More” on July 1. Since the program was held on the same day as soccer camp and summer school, we only had 13 children, but they were enthralled.

John and Diane Sabourin made a colorful sandwich board poster to put out the week before a story time. It is very visible to people driving or walking by. At the June 25 story time we had 20 children packed into our small children's room. They had a wonderful time "Making Boogie-Woogie Butter" with Carol Ladd.

On July 11, eleven children enjoyed Diane Sabourin’s program “In the Champlain Valley” which featured history with lots of action. I hope this interest keeps on for the rest of the summer. Two more story time programs and an ending party are scheduled.

For a change of pace, we held our Chazy Quadricentennial event was on July 18. A dedication ceremony was held for a historic marker that commemorates The Twins Ferry. The ferry, which ran between Chazy Landing and Isle de Motte from 1905 to 1937, was the first gas powered ferry on Lake Champlain. This event was a collaborative effort of the Chazy Historian who undertook planning, publicity, program, and a pictorial display, the Chazy Friends of the Library, who provided partial funding to buy the very expensive marker, and the Chazy Library, which was awarded a Quadricentennial mini-grant. It was a lot of work, a lot of fun, and the event at Chazy landing surpassed my expectations. It was a well attended, interesting program, followed by an elegant reception on the lawn provided by the Sweet family, and IT DID NOT RAIN on our parade!

--Frannie Fairchild, Director
News From Essex County
Schroon Lake Public Library

The Schroon Lake Public Library continues to thrive during the summer months. We seem to be especially busy when it rains and everyone runs from the beach to escape the lightning (which seems like an everyday occurrence). We have a full range of programs planned this summer for both children and adults. Story times are held every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and our crafts programs are held on Fridays at 11:00 a.m.

To help us celebrate the summer reading “Be Creative” theme, we held several exciting programs. Get Creative @ Your Library with cartoonist Stan Burdick was held on Thursday, July 16. We hosted “Get Creative @ Your Library” with Beth Bidwell from the Wildlife Institute of New York on Thursday, July 23. This program was followed by “Get Creative @ Your Library” with Penelope the Clown on Friday, August 7. Many children enjoyed “Get Creative @ Your Library, Learn the Art of Watercolor Painting” with Amy Kutell which was held on Thursday, August 6 and 13. We will hold a “Make Your Own Sundae Party” compliments of Stewart’s Shops on Friday, August 14 at 12:00 p.m.

Our Friends of the Library group continues to be an invaluable source of support for our library. This year resident Tess Daley hand painted a beautiful oak bench with a scene of Main Street Schroon Lake. This bench will be raffled off mid-July with all proceeds supporting the library. The Friends sponsored a highly successful House and Garden Tour of Homes in Schroon Lake on Sunday August 2. This fundraiser allowed patrons to get an inside view and history of some of the beautiful homes in our area. The Friends annual Wine & Cheese will be held on August 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Schroon Lake Fish & Game Club. This event continues to be very popular with residents and is a whole lot of fun. It features great food, great drink, and great friends.

On Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. author Marty Podskoch will be at the Schroon Lake Public Library to showcase his new book, Adirondack Stories II - More Historical Sketches. It is the second book of illustrated Adirondack Stories that have appeared in newspapers during the past two years. His presentation will also include the 100th anniversary of the establishing of fire towers in NY State.

Our library expansion has been put on hold for the time being. Although there is money available for library construction it is not nearly enough and because our library is on the 2nd floor, the town needed to secure funding for the first floor (we can’t build a second floor without a first floor) which they were unable to do. I’m still optimistic that progress will be made next year.

-Jane Bouchard, Director

Beach Bag continued...

The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry is without a doubt a good read. Told from the point of view of a woman who proclaims herself a liar and crazy in the first paragraph, it is the story of women helping women and the story of the conflict between perception and reality. Email me when you have read the ending and we’ll talk!

Still Alice by Lisa Genova, is a wonderful book about a painful subject. Although this is Genova’s debut novel it is masterful. I didn’t want to miss a word and I couldn’t put it down. Alice chronicles her descent into Alzheimer’s disease, and every fear I have had was laid bare in her narrative. The reader travels with her intimately. I needed to finish the book so I could come back to myself again and not be Alice. It is one of those books where you have to close the cover and shake yourself to come back to reality.

One or more titles in the Harry Dresden series definitely belongs in a beach bag. Think Janet Evanovich fantasy complete with wizards and werewolves! The hero is funny, campy, overly hyper detective wizard in modern day Chicago. His energy is so strong that he steps in a room and all the computers crash from the vibes he projects. The characters are wonderful and atypical; helpful, lovable werewolves, vegetarian vampires and a police lieutenant who believes in the "other side" of Chicago. A good read.

Karen Glass, Keene Valley Library Association

Editor’s note: Dresden Files titles by Jim Butcher include Storm Front, Fool Moon, and Grave Peril.

A few books that were suggested to me are Fatally Flaky by Diane Mott Davidson (I have started to read it and it is good so far), and True Colors by Kristin Hannah. For the most part it is particular authors such as Nora Roberts, Stuart Woods, James Patterson, David Baldacci that we cannot keep on the shelf. Oh, the Stephenie Meyers Twilight series is still extremely popular.

Donna Boumil, Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point
New York Library Assistants’ Association Annual Meeting

NYSLAA’s 31st Annual Conference was held on June 10–12, 2009. Library assistants from all across New York State came together to attend workshops, network, exchange ideas, and just have some fun.

A variety of workshops on topics such as “Spam, Spyware and Viruses”, “Dealing with Difficult People and Mastering Conflict”, “Blogs, Wikis and RSS” and “Finding your Personal Power to Influence People” were offered. Our keynote speaker was Sister Anne Bryan Smollin, who spoke on “Finding the Joy and Laughter in Each Moment”. She started out telling us of the different parenting techniques through each decade, from the fifties to present day. From “You live under my roof, you live by my rules” to “I can’t do a thing with this child”, Sister Anne was truly amazing. She had the group rolling with laughter throughout her entire presentation. But her message was simple. Turn your stress into humor. Laugh off the stressful situation. Sounds too simple to work, but we should all give it a try.

Next year we’re off to Corning. I hope to see some of you there. As always, check out NYSLAA’s web site: nySLAA.org. I’m told the pictures from this year’s conference should be up soon.

-Tracey LaBarge, CEFLS

Poetry at the Westport Library

The Westport Library Association held its Second Annual Poetry Reading on Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. The program featured experienced local adult poets and student poets from the Westport School classes of Scott Gibbs.

The student portion of the reading, entitled “Charm Bracelets and Old Sneakers, Snapshots of a Teen’s Life”, involved the students reading poems in a collage effect, one at a time, but skipping around the group. The following students participated: Nancy Armitage, Cassidy Carroll, Liam Davis, Justin Floyd, Kim Hughes, Ashley Magoon, Martha McKinley, Alexa Melendez, Brittney Orr, Camille Peasley, Elizabeth Peasley, Michelle Quaglietta, Christina Sherman and Alan Ware.

Local adult poets included Dipu Basu, Bonnie Haberle, Judith Dow Moore and Elizabeth Ward. Albert Haberle treated the audience to a surprise reading.

Judith Dow Moore introduced the poets whose combined talents resulted in a very interesting and entertaining program. Delicious refreshments were served, and the crowd of over fifty people seemed to enjoy the evening. We all look forward to the 3rd Annual Poetry Reading.

This event is part of a new program at the Westport Library called Voices of Westport, sponsored by the Westport Library Association and made possible, in part, by a CAP Grant from the Arts Council for the Northern Adirondacks.

-Ellen Few Anderson

The tremendous success of the Westport Library’s three-day book sale is once again due to the generosity of many people. We thank you all: donors, workers, and buyers alike. This year we offered our usual huge selection of books, many valuable and rare, and vintage postcards which were of great interest. The opening party bubbled with laughter. The winner of our raffled authentic Westport chair is delighted; it will make its new home in the Town of Keene. This annual event is an important fundraiser for us, and we love seeing old books find new homes. Thanks to all who made it happen.

-Shirley Bullard, Secretary/ Westport Library Association
News from Essex continued...

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

At the Sherman Free Library we are being creative with art, dancing, and music making. Everyone enjoyed a visit from magician, Ron Cain on Thursday, August 13.

Ten children are competing to “Be A Reading Champ”. The children earn prizes for reading books during the summer. The size of the book is determined by the grade they just completed in school. There is a grand prize of a $25 gift certificate at the Dollar General Store.

The Moriah Sharpies competed in the TABOB challenge at the Champlain Centre mall on Saturday, July 25. They enjoyed reading the books and are looking forward to next year.

-Jackie Viestenz, Director

E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library, Wilmington

Our Children’s Garden is going strong. We have several regulars that come by to tend the garden. So far the kids have harvested radishes and lettuce. They are anxiously awaiting cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, carrots and peppers. Hopefully we will see them soon.

In March, we submitted 10 entries into the Baker & Taylor’s Penguin Young Readers contest. We were notified that they had selected one of the ballots we had entered. We won 9 copies of Nathaniel Philbrick’s The Mayflower and the Pilgrims’ New World. We also received 10 recently published Penguin titles which include: Miracle on 49th Street by Mike Lupica, Slab by Ellen Potter, The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John, Simon Bloom: The Octopus Effect by Michael Reisman, Grovashm Grange by Anthony Horowitz, Stolen Children by Peg Kehret, The Dragonfly Pool by Eva Ibbotson, Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love by Lauren Tarshis, The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings by Alan, Gratz, and It’s Only Temporary by Sally Warner.

During the month of August, our friend Jan McCormick will assist our Summer Reading kids in an exciting three part workshop. On August 8 the kids learned the art of paper marbling. On August 15, the kids will bind their paper into book form and then on August 22 they will work on their own stories for the book. What an awesome way to “Be Creative!”

-Samantha Baer, Director

Literacy Volunteers recognized at Serve.gov

The third group of inmate literacy tutors to be trained by the Essex/Franklin Literacy Volunteers at the Adirondack Correctional Facility was off to a good start. All ten men were motivated and engaged and showed up reliably for the two hour classes. We were half way through the course when President Obama kicked off his United We Serve initiative and unveiled the Serve.gov website which was calling for contributions.

At the beginning of the second week of training, as we moved from learning techniques to improve reading to assisting students with writing, the men were asked to practice their own writing and coaching skills by writing the best possible sentence they could telling the President what they were planning to do as literacy tutors and why. They then exchanged sentences and critiqued one another’s efforts, revised and handed them in. I submitted their sentences to serve.gov and within two weeks I received an email that read, “Your story is now live on www.serve.gov. Thank you for sharing it. Please share with the men and thank them for what they are doing on behalf of the Administration. I hope others will be inspired by their testimony”.

While the emphasis of our tutoring program here is on creating opportunities to serve others it is a great feeling for us to be recognized and featured on the President’s website and an awesome reminder of the power of literacy to imagine him sitting somewhere in Washington reading our words.

Please visit the site and check out our story under the Education heading and maybe even share a story there of your own.

-Suzanne Orlando, Librarian, Adirondack Correctional Facility
More from Essex County...

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

Our summer schedule is into full swing at the Paine Memorial Free Library! Children have been busy with our three Summer Reading Programs, our art shows have been fabulous this year and have been bringing many new faces into the library. Be sure to check our schedule of events and especially our Art Reception dates on our website http://www.willsborony.com/painememoriallibrary/.

On Wednesday July 8 The Paine Memorial Library hosted Mr. Beau the Clown who entertained 60 children registered at the Noblewood Summer Reading Program. With over 30 years of clowning experience he dazzled the audience. He started out as a Dad and put on his makeup and costume during the show. This made it not so scary for the children. What great clean fun this was. The children went wild for Mr. Beau. He juggled, told jokes, did some pantomime, magic and kept the children laughing for over an hour. He used lots of the children as helpers, so they were able to take part in the show too. Afterward he stayed around for another hour and visited with the children. Every child went home with balloon animals. It was an excellent addition to the reading program.

On June 9 we held our 13th Annual Golf Scramble at the Willsboro Golf Course. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served. Money prizes were awarded to eleven teams, and 27 gift prizes, valued at over $1,500 were given away. Stop by for one or several of our wonderful events!

-Cheryl Blanchard, Director

From ALA’s “Great Web Sites for Kids” comes this neat “web site of the month”:

www.nps.gov/webrangers

Webrangers lets children experience activities similar to those included in the NPS’ onsite Park Rangers program. Participants can choose to complete activities as a visitor or register to design their own ranger station and earn online patches. The activities are rated as easy, medium and hard, and include topics for learning such as trees, animals, historical events, and the effects of nature on the park.

Check out this site, and others ALA recommended sites for kids at www.ala.org/greatsites
CELEBRATE 400 YEARS!
Hudson – Fulton - Champlain

Thanks to a mini-grant from the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Community Mini-Grant Program, CEFLS has added some important resources to our collection. Approximately 50 print and DVD titles are now available for adults, young adult, and juvenile readers. You will notice a book plate in each item purchased that acknowledges this terrific gift.

We encourage you to take a look at these titles, and to enjoy many of the library and community based Quadricentennial events that are taking place on both sides of the lake this summer.

Check the CEFLS web site (www.cefls.org) for a description of the titles below and availability information. The web site’s revamped Summer Reading page includes a link to the Explore New York New York State Reading List: A Picture of NYS History, Culture and Diversity. Many of the titles on the NY State List are owned by CEFLS and member libraries.

ADULT

*Historical Atlas of Canada* by Derek Hayes
*Empires of the Atlantic World* by John H. Elliott
*In Search of Empire* by James Pritchard
*Champlain the founder of New France* by Edwin Asa Dix
*Voyages of Samuel de Champlain: 1604-1618* by William Grant
*Champlain, the founder of New France* by Edwin Asa Dix
*Champlain: the birth of French America* by Raymonde Litalien
*Voyages of Samuel de Champlain: 1604-1618* by Samuel de Champlain
*Founding Fathers* by Ronald Rudin
*Lake Champlain: an Illustrated History* by Adirondack Life
*Founder of New France* by Charles W. Colby
*Champlain’s Dream* by David Hackett Fischer
*Samuel de Champlain* by Elizabeth MacLeod

YOUNG ADULT

*Air we breathe* by Andrea Barrett (fiction)
*Ask Me No Questions* by Marina Tamar Budos (fiction)
*Journey into Mohawk Country* by Harmen Bogaert
*Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore Cooper (fiction)
*A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly (fiction)
*Seeking the Northwest Passage* by Don Thompson
*Samuel de Champlain: Explorer of Canada* by Harold Faber
*Samuel de Champlain: Explorer of the Great Lakes Region* by Josepha Sherman (book and CD)
*Voices from Colonial America* by Richard Worth
*Ghost Voyages IV: Champlain and Cartier* by Cora Taylor

JUVENILE

*Exploration and Conquest* by Betsy Maerstro
*Samuel de Champlain: from New France to Cape Cod* by Andrianna Morganelli
*Samuel de Champlain* by Elizabeth MacLeod

RELATED LINKS:

http://www.exploreny400.com/Home.aspx (New York)

http://www.celebratechamplain.org/ (Vermont)

http://www.quebec400.gc.ca/bienvenue-welcome-eng.cfm (Quebec)

http://www.ci.burlington vt.us/quadricentennial/ (Burlington)

Recommended! http://www.champlainquadricentennial.com/ (Champlain College)

This site features a pdf format book list, good materials and activities for educators and parents plus an image gallery)
More from the Beach Bag...

Dr. Oliver Sacks, author of *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, has produced *Musicophilia: Tales of Music and the Brain*. Humans are a musical species. Did you know that music occupies more areas of our brains than language does? Oliver Sacks tells of people struggling to adapt to different musical conditions. The power of music, the tune that runs constantly through your head, musical hallucinations, and how lightning created a musician are all parts of the tales of the power of music. Since these are tales about individuals coping with musical mental problems, it is a thoughtful and readable book.

A mystery series, based on events of World War I has popped into my view. Try *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear. This series, though written like a biography with dates of happenings, etc., is the fictional account of Maisie Dobbs, who rises from the servant class, graduates from Cambridge, becomes a nurse in World War I France and later sets up as a psychologically astute sleuth. Of course she was lucky and had lots of help, but she worked hard. Her books, though mysteries, deal with the aftermath of the Great War and how the English coped with the devastated wounded men, their own relatives. Military chaplains are recommending this series to families who have suffered loss in the Iraq War, and especially those whose loved ones suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome. In the series are *Maisie Dobbs* (H.Holt, 2003), *Birds of a Feather* (2004), *Pardonable Lies* (2005), *Messenger of Truth* (2007), *Incomplete Revenge* (2008), and *Among the Mad* (2009). The series also deals with British social customs and manners of the 1920’s and 1930’s and is quite absorbing.

-Stan Ransom, Plattsburgh Public

Are We There Yet?

The Scene: You’ve loaded everything and everyone into the Family Truckster, sung all the songs and played all of the word games, and now Trip Ennui has set in big time. Just when a chorus from the back seat of “are we there yet,” “she’s looking at me” or “his feet are on my side” becomes unbearable, out comes the iPod!

In time to save the day on that next family car trip, we are pleased to announce that, thanks to a combination of member library and CEFLS funds, our subscription to NetLibrary’s downloadable audio books has been renewed for another year with no interruption in service. Now you can sit back, relax that white knuckle grip on the wheel, and listen to a downloadable book the whole family can agree on (or break out the ear buds and listen individually).

Over 750 more titles are now available and “listenable” on iPods. The new collection works with a wide range of MP3 players – iPods, iPhones and other portable listening devices, and includes contemporary best-sellers, classics and children’s favorites. A complete list of titles for adults, children, and young adults is available on the NetLibrary Website (www.netlibrary.com) or from the free software download: NetLibrary Media Center. After a one time account creation, Library patrons can search for, check out and download eAudiobooks to a computer of directly onto their personal players via the new NetLibrary Media Center interface, which is more user friendly than ever.

The CEFLS website includes instructions on establishing your account and a link to a complete list of supported iPods and players. Just navigate to www.cefls.org/audiobooks.htm for details. Titles include classics, best sellers and family favorites. Check out Across America on an Emigrant Train by Jim Murphy (for illustrative purposes, “see, it could be worse”), titles in the American Girls collection, or Heir Apparent, by Edgar Award Winning author Vivian Vande Velde.

Our 2009-2010 shared NetLibrary subscription is possible, thanks to the generosity of your colleagues at the Weed Library, Malone, the Saranac Lake Free Library, the Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro, and the Lake Placid Public Library (to date).

Happy trails, enjoy your family-time listening, and be sure to push “pause” and send us a post card!
Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

We are grateful to the talented community members who presented very enjoyable summer reading programs. Julie Robinson Robards started us off with a sing-along concert incorporating songs with library books, including some inventive adapted lyrics to encourage summer reading. The concert was made possible by an anonymous donation for children's services. Josh Calhoun presented two outdoor papermaking workshops. Participants used old shirts and botanicals to make exquisite handmade paper using AuSable River water from behind the library. The library welcomed Dracula, Prickly Pete, Felicity, Harriet the Spy, Fancy Nancy, Scheherazade, Mary Poppins, the Princess and the Bee among others for “Come as Your Favorite Character Ice Cream Social.” Participants read from books describing their character, and the event was hosted by board president Marie-Anne Azar Ward as Professor McGonigle. Grace Potthast finished up with “Capture It In Paint,” giving the opportunity to “Express Yourself at the Library” in watercolor.

Our annual Books, Antiques, Food & Things Sale was extremely successful, thanks to the prodigious efforts of a cadre of volunteers headed up by Sylvia Norton. Sylvia has served on our Board of Trustees for twenty years and has earned the title Miss Wells Memorial Library. Well done! Books and selected items will continue to be sold through Columbus Day. Also for sale are new canvas tote bags with a line drawing of the library.

The library held an artist reception on July 5 for Caroline Fine who is exhibiting her photography through August. Caroline enjoys portrait work as well as whatever catches her eye. Her prints and cards are available for sale.

Local poet and photographer Nadine McLaughlin donated a copy of her most recent poetry collection, Sunrise, Sunset subtitled Poetry... just for the Joy of it. Thank you, Nadine.

The Upper Jay Methodist Church has generously donated two lovely long wooden tables for our meeting space. Church trustees have also underwritten the cost of a fire-proof file cabinet to protect Church records in our archives for the benefit of the community.

A flowering crab tree has been planted in the front yard in memory of our late treasurer, Vern McDonald, who served on the Board of Trustees for a number of years.

-Karen Rappaport, Director

Not at the bottom of the bag yet...

Here are 2 books about living with dogs. A Three Dog Life is a memoir by Abigail Thomas about her late marriage to a wonderful man who, while walking their dog one night, is hit by a car. He suffers traumatic brain injury. This is Abigail's story of her life after this tragedy. From Newsweek "Neither a downer nor a smug testimonial to the triumphant human spirit, just the perfectly honed observations of a clear-eyed and witty writer." The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein is a novel told through the eyes of a dog named Enzo. Enzo lives with Denny, a professional racecar driver and has educated himself by watching TV and observing life with Denny. His reflections on the world are funny and wise. You will learn a lot about racecar driving and you will meet one of the most original and endearing protagonists in modern fiction. Also, this book probably has one of the best endings ever. Ever.

My other recommendations:
- The Women - T. C. Boyle
- The Great Man - Kate Christensen
- Mudbound - Hillary Jordan
- Deaf Sentence - David Lodge
- The Land of Marvels - Barry Unsworth
- Happy Summer Reading. Cheers!
--Becky Pace in Peru

I recommend Sworn to Silence by a new author, Linda Castillo. This thriller, set in Amish country is about a serial killer who may or may not have come back to kill in Amish country. It is an excellent read with a surprise ending that I didn't see coming. Confessions of an Alien Hunter by Seth Shawstack is also a great beach bag pick. Shawstack is the head of SETI and the book describes the efforts of SETI to find alien life on other planets. SETI is not searching for the typical "gray men" aliens but more of a primitive beginning life. I found it so interesting to learn of the different ways to search for life.

One more good read is: Finger Lickin Fifteen by Janet Evanovich, a perennial favorite author for the beach!

- Edie Morelock, Mooers
Central Library News

Stan Ransom, the Lake Champlain Minstrel, performed songs and stories from the Lake Champlain Basin on Tuesday, July 21. Stan has explored Lake Champlain songs on his CD, “Songs of Lake Champlain.” He has been honored with an “Award of Merit for his sustained efforts in preserving the folk music of New York State” by the American Association for State and Local History.

On Monday, August 3, cartoonist Stan Burdick displayed his work and presented a program called “Tall Tales and Riotous Rhymes” to an appreciative crowd of adults and children.

Helen Ianelli was honored on June 27 by the Friends of the Library, who have named the auditorium the “Helen Wilcox Ianelli Gallery.” Helen and guests were also there for the opening of the new art show. Helen presented the Local History Room with a 1916 Atlas of Plattsburgh, a rare treasure for all to enjoy and use.

More from Essex County...

Black Watch Library, Ticonderoga

We are busy again this summer providing activities for the young people of Ticonderoga and its surrounding communities. Tuesday morning story hours are for the young children, and an hour on Tuesday evenings has been reserved for our second year of Young Adult Night. One book that has been popular with our tweens and young adults is a book by Ticonderoga author, Jodi Auborn. The book is entitled Stormwind of the North Country, and is an adventure about a fourteen year old girl and her horse in the Adirondacks. The Black Watch Memorial Library owns a copy for circulation, and we have copies for sale.

The Black Watch Memorial Library is having a very busy summer. Patrons and visitors are returning to the area and our only public computer has been in high demand. Our renovations are progressing smoothly and the new section is changing daily. We are excited that our completion date is now closer to the end of September this year.

- Beth Nadeau

Have You Heard?

Patricia Perez, director of the Lake Placid Public Library, will leave her post at the end of August and will relocate to sunny Florida.

Larry Hahn, director of the Dodge Library, West Chazy has resigned his post as of the end of July. We wish Larry the best of luck and welcome his replacement, Linda Dupee.

Donna Boumil is the new director at Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point. See the news from Rouses Point elsewhere in this issue for a run down of how busy Donna has been since her July 1 appointment.

Welcome, Donna!
News From Franklin County

Saranac Lake Free Library

The SLFL has a collection of paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures that are displayed upstairs in the library and in the Adirondack Research Room. The art collection comprises works by local artists or works that are of importance to the Saranac Lake area. Some works were donated from the Rehabilitation Arts and Crafts Guild and the Saranac Lake Art League, two art groups that were very active in the 1930’s and 1940’s when Saranac Lake was a center for tuberculosis care. Others were private donations.

In an effort to protect the works from dirt, mold and acid, the board is planning to raise funds to support the conservation of the art work. Many works in the collection need archival matting and backing, as well as conservation glass. Some require a new frame. Average cost of restoration is $150, but donations of any amount are welcome.

Our very successful Mary MacIntyre Children’s Summer Reading Program with its theme Be Creative @ Your Library had more than seventy children participate, and ran Wednesday July 8, 15 and 22, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Children were organized in preschool, first and second, and third and fourth grade groups. The first week featured visual arts, the second drama and the third music and movement. Children enjoyed stories, craft projects, activities, special guests, and, on the final day, a parade through the library and an ice cream social. More than ten volunteers assisted with the program.

Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Children enjoy a puppet show during the Children’s Summer Reading Program at the Saranac Lake Free Library
Photo: Pat Wiley

Beach Bag continues...

At the top of my beach bag is The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Irish author Michael Scott. This was one of my suggestions for TABOB books, and it was almost everyone’s favorite out of the six books that participants read. Why it should be in the beach bag? I read this book and loved it, then my husband read it, and my 17 year old daughter and 14 year old son, they all loved it too! It is the first book in a series but after you read it, you will be glad there are more to come. If you are suffering withdrawal because you’ve already devoured all the Harry Potter books, then this is definitely the book for you!

I would also recommend Alexander McCall Smith’s No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series for a beach bag read. Botswana’s heat (which is nearly another character), the unhurried pace and interesting characters seem a perfect match for a relaxing beach read; you can sip your iced tea while Mma Ramotswe sips her favorite bush tea and ponders clever and quirky ins and outs of mysteries large and small. If you are unfamiliar with this delightful series, by all means start with the first one, No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency or if Precious and Mma Makutsi are already old friends then catch up with their adventures in the newest title, Tea time for the Traditionally Built.

— Peggy Orman, Saranac Lake

Seniors in the Driver’s Seat

Pat Galeski participates in a computer class at the Keene Valley Library, while Betsy Brooks of CEFLS looks on. Eileen Clar was the instructor for the class, which is part of an ongoing series supported by Federal Library Services and Technology Act Funds, awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

— Betsy Brooks
Top Technology Trends for Libraries

Here are a few of the things I’ve been reading about in library blogs and publications that are mentioned often as the top trends for libraries to watch. Even with the down economy, there is a lot of excitement in some of these areas, and it’s fun to read about them and speculate about the future.

Mobile Computing

Probably they are more visible in higher income, more urban places, but certainly you can see it in our area as well – more people are walking around with iPhones, Blackberries and other smart phones that can provide email, the web, directions, a calendar, games, and music. Some libraries (including CEFLS) have made their catalogs more adaptable to smart devices, and the downloadable audio books are something we provide that can be used on them. It is possible that people will get much of their Internet browsing done on the small screen in the future, but will come in to libraries for tasks that require more thought, a bigger screen, better keyboard or faster Internet speed.

Our library catalog at horizon.cefls.org can be viewed on a smart phone – there is a link in the upper right for “All Libraries (ADA) Mobile” that brings up a simpler form of the catalog that’s easier to read on a small device. This form of the catalog should also work better for visually impaired users.

Social Networking

Facebook and Twitter are much in the news these days. Many libraries have Facebook pages, including our own Plattsburgh Public Library. Some libraries are also Twittering about events and schedules to their followers. Social networking opens up a lot of marketing opportunities. It’s free, which is also a plus, but it does take time.

More importantly, social networking is taking on an important role in the world by making governments listen to the people they govern. Libraries have always promoted openness and transparency in society, and we need to be plugged in and ready to help people navigate the information jungle.

Cloud Computing

All kinds of services that replace locally run versions are becoming available on the Internet. Google, for example, provides Google Docs, which is a whole office suite similar to Microsoft Office, but it runs entirely online. Online games are replacing PC games, and there are applications online that allow you to design a house or edit your digital photos. Google Calendar is another great online application for busy people. It sends you e-mail to remind you of where you need to be.

Libraries will be moving away from buying and maintaining servers and powerful PCs, and will begin accessing all the software and data over the Internet with less powerful computers. This, of course, depends on good broadband speeds. We hope to save money on the hardware and staff to run it, but we will be trading capital expenditures for more monthly fees. We’ll need to start thinking about what new services and databases to subscribe to.

Digital Publishing

You’ve probably heard that publishing is under siege. The Kindle, Google Books, and printing on demand will start making an impact on libraries as well in the next few years. They may draw users and support away, and it’s up to us to promote sharing in a world where there’s a widening divide between the haves and the have-nots. Perhaps we can use some of the new formats to our advantage. I recently heard about a fairly new invention called “Espresso Book Machine” that is available in some libraries and book stores. It can print and bind paperback books on demand and is especially good for self-publishing. You can read about it at http://www.ondemandbooks.com

Continued on next page
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Collaboration

We are in an age of creative collaboration! This is sometimes referred to as Web 2.0. People are putting up photos on Google Earth, adding their comments to the opinions of the experts, and creating software, books and music together online from around the world. Our libraries can be places to foster that collaboration and creativity. We can bring people together in one place to use technology tools, and we can also provide tools online that people can use from anywhere.

People are already collaborating in our libraries, but I see this growing in the future. We can become training hubs to grow the skills people need to participate. One thing I’ve seen some libraries do is to invite users to post reviews on catalog records. Library blogs that allow comments also increase the dialog about what a library can be. Collaboration can be low-tech as well – it can be as simple as a wall full of sticky notes where people share what they were doing during an event such as the first man on the moon or the assassination of JFK.

Open Source

The model of big businesses designing the products and consumers buying them is being challenged by the Open Source software movement. Microsoft is threatened by Open Office and Linux, and our present library software vendor, SirsiDynix, also has competition from open source alternatives. Open Source software is collaborative, and libraries may be able to influence its development to include all of the features we want in order to keep changing and growing with the times. We’ll be looking at these alternatives as well as the cloud computing models, as we consider the best tools to use in the future.

-Betsy Brooks, CEFLS

Kiwanis Funds Mother Goose Activities

The Kiwanis Noon Club of Plattsburgh has made another generous donation to CEFLS to support services to children aged 0-5. This year’s grant will allow us to purchase materials from Mother Goose Programs, and to offer related training for librarians and caregivers.

Mother Goose kits focus on the concepts and skills needed to introduce language and literacy to infants and toddlers. Our new “Mother Goose Cares About the Early Years” kit for librarians and child care professionals provides a “balanced integration of literacy and language development with all of the other skills of development: cognitive, social, emotional, and motor skills”.

Watch for more information about a free CE workshop, and MG resources coming this fall! If you see a Kiwanian, please thank a Kiwanian for continuing to support library based literacy efforts.

Summer Reading Melt Down

Summertime and the reading is easy! How do you Motivate kids to read when school is out? Here are some Tips from creative parent readers of Family Fun magazine (August 2009 issue):

⊙ Stage an Outdoor Read-In: Grab a picnic blanket, a cooler of popsicles, and a bag of library books, then stake out a shady spot. All ages will enjoy taking turns to read both old favorites and new finds aloud.

⊙ Give Quirky Challenges: Challenge tweens to unusual reading challenges. Read under the dinner table, read to the dog, read upside down. Devise a new ending to a story and read it aloud.

⊙ Award Book Bucks: Award “Book Bucks” for every Book tweens read. Bucks are then redeemed at a family “Book Buck store” which is stocked with small toys and trinkets found in dollar store bins.

For lots more information on summer reading, the latest issue of the “Buzz for Teens”, and links to cool sites for kids and parents, check out the newly revamped summer reading page on the CEFLS web site (www.cefls.org). The site also features a link to the Explore New York New York State Reading List and a run down of newly acquired Quadricentennial books for all ages.
Taking Stock at the Saranac Lake Library

Last winter at a CEFDA meeting Betsy Brooks mentioned that the system had acquired two IPacs for the use of member libraries who wanted to inventory their collections. It seemed like a good and much delayed idea to do a complete inventory so I signed up to give it a try.

I began the process in May by running reports of all our missing items, looking for them and withdrawing the truly missing. I then ran reports of items that hadn’t circulated since 2004 and weeded. We began scanning with the Children’s and A/V collections. It has been revealing to see how many items we have lost. I have withdrawn over 1,000 missing items (we hadn’t really inventoried in over 10 years) and we now have a base line to determine the actual loss rates of various collections.

The IPac devices can be frustrating; they slow down or lose the signal and are not ergonomically designed. We have problems in certain sections of the library where other Wi Fi signals interfere with ours; in those cases we move the books to a different location in order to scan them. After each session I do the final “exception” checks which are typically incorrect collection coding. After running the final inventory report for each collection we go back to see what we missed, wand them in and then I do the final withdrawal for that collection. The collection is marked as inventoried in Horizon after the final report is run.

Currently we are half way through the Adult Fiction and I am still weeding as I go through and look at the books. I typically put in an hour or two most days and have two librarian volunteers who put in a few hours a week. We hope to finish Fiction by the end of August and then begin the Non Fiction section, which needs to be weeded and shifted as we go along. I saved the hardest for last, but it has been a very satisfying project and well worth the effort.

--Betsy Whitefield, SLFL
Pat Wiley, Photo

Web Surfing

Whether it’s information or entertainment you want, the world of the Web has it all. Here is our annual rundown of some recommended sites we’ve come across while toiling around on the web.

Cities Around the World: http://www.uwm.edu/libraries/digilib/cities/
This site (sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee libraries) includes more than 6,000 images of 450 cities from the American Geographical Society’s collections. It also includes historic maps.

Ann Arbor (MI) District Library: http://aadl.org
After selecting “Research,” then “Books, Reading and Literature,” you’ll be treated to an amazing amount of information: lists of bestsellers from 1900-1995; book titles featured on NPR; books sorted by genre (Reader’s Robot); and Reading Group choices. There’s a great collection of helpful reader’s advisory material here.

Fictiondb: http://fictionindb.com
Although .com sites are often suspect, this site has lots of good information that might be helpful in selecting and reviewing books. Especially useful is “If you like (a certain author) try …”

Kent District Library: http://kdl.org
Select the “What’s next” database and you’ll get help finding adult fiction titles in series. Search by author, title or series. This should be a big hit with library users.

Newspaper Archive: http://newspaperarchive.com
Again, this is a .com site, and it provides only partial access for free. However, what you get is pretty substantial. Copies of countless newspaper articles are available. Coverage includes major events as well as front pages from specific dates. Some archival pages some pages from the New York Times are included.

PBS: http://www.pbs.org
When was the last time you checked out the PBS site? There’s more than just broadcast schedules these days. You can watch videos of Victory Garden excerpts, instructions from Ask This Old House, watch Julia Child prepare 26 different dishes, or—even better, if you’re one who enjoys the big surprises it offers, watch an episode of Antiques Roadshow.

-Elizabeth Rogers, CEFLS
Mrs. Carter’s 3rd grade students from Saranac Elementary School toured the bookmobile during an end of the school year “show and tell” visit.
Summer Reading for Tweens

With no “Harry Potter” or “Twilight on the horizon, what is a self-respecting tween to read this summer? For starters, there are the six titles chosen for the TABOB competition (Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick, The Alchemist: Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamal by Michael Scott; Shakespeare’s Secret by Elise Broach; Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan; Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis, and Marley: A Dog Like No Other by John Grogan) plus the recent or upcoming books recommended below. If reading isn’t exactly fundamental with this middle audience, perhaps a title here will compel “tween-agers” to momentarily think outside the Xbox.

Rick Riordan wraps up the saga of 15-year-old demigod Percy Jackson with The Lost Olympian. In the fifth and final installment, Percy must fulfill the apocalyptic prophecy of his 16th birthday and decide the fate of Western civilization.

Cassandra Clare’s “Mortal Instruments” trilogy reaches its denouement with City of Glass. Young heroine Clary must battle an army of demons commanded by her father Valentine to save her mother in this melodramatic finale to the best selling fantasy tale.

Sisterhood of the Travelling Pants author Ann Brashares, who has a way of neatly blending social issues into compelling narratives, introduces new trio of BFF’s in 3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows. During the summer before high school, Ama, Polly and Joe must each face a personal challenge. Ama, for example, is afraid of heights, but tackles mountain climbing.

—— extracted from Summer Reading for Tweens by Steve Benet, San Antonio Express News, June 19, 2009

Dungeon Dwellers Take Home TABOB Trophy

After a day-long, hard fought “battle” on Saturday, July 25, the Peru Dungeon Dwellers won the fourth annual “Take a Bite out of Books.”

Eight libraries from throughout the CEFLS service area fielded one or more teams this year. Participants included the Whiteface Whippersnappers (representing Wilmington and AuSable Forks), the Dannemora Smarties, the Saranac Lake Fin Chasers and the Unfocused Actors, the Schroon Lake Polka Dots and Laffy Taffys, Sherman Free Library’s Moriah Sharpies, Plattsburgh Public Library’s Omegas and Young Shakespeares of Buxton, and the this year’s champions, the Peru Dungeon Dwellers. The Saranac Lake Fin Chasers claimed second place in an exciting final round of competition.

Kathie LaBombard, “retired” CEFLS Youth Services consultant, prepared over 700 questions for the competition. The teams blazed through the questions to the amazement of onlookers throughout the day.

The TABOB planning committee would like to thank all of the team participants, coaches, volunteers and sponsors who contributed to making the Battle a success for all teams involved.

Check out the newly renovated pages on the CEFLS Web site (www.cefls.org) for hot-off-the-press information, cool links for parents, librarians and teens, plus news you can use for everything “Summer Reading!”
KIWANIS FUNDS MOTHER GOOSE

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Award Book Bucks: Award “Book Bucks” for every book tweens read. Bucks can then be redeemed at a family “Book Buck store” which is stocked with small toys and trinkets found in dollar bins or at garage sales.

2009 Summer Reading Program
“Be Creative: Explore New York”

To commemorate the Quadricentennial, the NY State Library and partners have compiled four reading lists that celebrate the history, culture and diversity of New York State. Each list covers one reader age group: Picture Books, Elementary, Tween, and Teen and Up. There are also books marked in “Braille” and “Recorded format” for use by students who have a disability that affects their use of print materials. For a complete list of titles, see the updated Summer Reading page of the CEFLS web site (www.cefls.org). Here are a few samples of the wide range of books on the “Teen and Up” list. All are owned by CEFLS and/or member libraries.

Barrett, Andrea The Air We Breathe (2007) In the fall of 1916, as US involvement in WWI looms, the Adirondack town of Tamarack Lake houses a sanitarium for TB patients. The timely theme focuses on how the tragedy and heartbeat of war extend beyond the battlefield.

Bauer, Joan Backwater (2005) When young Ivy begins to study her family’s history, her discoveries rattle the other members of her clan. Also check out Peeled by Joan Bauer (2008). In an upstate community, high school reporter Hidy Biddle investigates strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.


Bat-Ami, Miriam Two Suns in the Sky (2001) In 1944, an upstate NY teenager falls in love with a Yugoslavian Jew living in a refugee camp, despite their parents’ conviction that they do not belong together. (ALA Best Book for Young Adults)

Bruchac, Joseph Bowan’s Store: A Journey to Myself (2001) Bruchac, now a well-known children’s author relates his childhood and high school years spent living with his grandparents near Saratoga, and his discovery of his Abenaki heritage.

Carvell, Marlene Who Will Tell My Brother (2004) During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, and his place in the world.

Godbersen, Anna The Luxe (2007) In Manhattan in 1899, five teens of different social classes lead dangerously scandalous lives despite the strict rules of society.

Kerr, M.E. Your Eyes in Stars (2006) Two teenaged girls help each other make sense of their families and selves as they approach adulthood in pre-World War II upstate New York.

This issue of Buzz for Teens is an online publication of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, 33 Oak Street, Pittsbrugh, New York 12901 (518) 563-5190 www.cefls.org