More Library Cuts Proposed but Libraries Continue to Play a “Vital Role” For Many New Yorkers

“Stimuli” has been the buzz word lately so we are taking the opportunity to note that the current economy has “stimulated” library use across the state. The 2009-10 Executive Budget proposes to reduce state funding for library services by 18% or $18 million, which, on top of the 3% cut that occurred in 2008, would reduce library aid to a level not seen since 1993. “Libraries continue to be targeted for disproportionate cuts to solve the state’s budget problems. We are willing to do our part, but an 18% cut is both unfair and counter-productive,” according to Michael J. Borges, Executive Director of the New York Library Association.

Borges also stressed that library traffic is up, and circulation is up. As New York faces its most difficult economic period in decades, libraries around the state are playing an increasingly vital role in helping people search for jobs. “Public library usage has rapidly increased, particularly with people seeking help in finding employment, he noted. “Libraries provide people not only with help in finding jobs, but also with accessing public assistance programs, with basic computer training, help with resume building and career development. In February 2009, NYLA announced the results of a recent survey which shows that 80% of the libraries in the state have helped someone search for a job in the past three months.

Continued advocacy is key and we encourage all members of the “library community” to tell their story. Visit the NYLA web site at www.nyla.org for the most current advocacy information.
Member Library News

News From Clinton County

Mooers Free Library

We are busy this winter keeping warm and fighting the snow flakes. But there are activities going on every day at the library. The pre-school story hour is a success. We have tutors coming in to tutor for math and Spanish. The new computer and wireless connection is a great hit and we have many users. I am looking forward to spring.

-- Edie Morelock, Director

Dodge Library, West Chazy

The Dodge Library is the proud recipient of a Hudson-Fulton Quadricentennial grant of $1,000. This grant will be used to provide musical entertainment for our community and will span a period of three weeks this summer. We are also receiving a flag, which has flown over the capitol, through the generosity of Congressman John McHugh. We will be displaying it in a flag case. We currently have a picture of Abraham Lincoln by Matthew Brady (not an original!), which we have on display, in order to commemorate the Lincoln Centennial. As you know, Matthew Brady is one of the most famous civil war photographers.

We are looking forward to the summer reading program. Last year, we had help from Mrs. Trombley, who conducted reading and craft programs. Mrs. Julie Layne, one of our board members, is leaving the area and going to California. She will be missed, as she always had wonderful suggestions to improve the library. We are currently conducting a survey of our patrons, in order to determine what services or changes they would like our library to have. We are grateful to Mr. Kevin Downs, who continues to work with me and the board, even though it is in an unofficial capacity. We also appreciate help from Mr. Norman Taber's class, which is making improvements to both our website and our brochure. Mr. Taber is our board president and teaches at Plattsburgh State University.

We are still in the process of automating our library and have made great strides, with the help from staff from CEF. I know that our member libraries are very grateful to CEF for all of the services they provide.

The group Crossing North will appear at our library for the Hudson-Fulton-Lake Champlain Quadricentennial. They will be here, in the summer, at a date to be announced.

-- Larry Hahn, Director

Champlain Memorial Library

There was a lot of toe tapping and finger snapping going on at the Champlain Memorial Library on Thursday, February 19. The library was lucky to host an evening of music with Charlie Stone and Split Rock. The trio, which features Charlie Stone, John Kains and Tom Venne, delighted their audience with such country/folk songs like Tennessee Flat Top Box, Walk On By, and You Are the Only One. The group also sang some original songs (Two Hearts and Time Was) which were written by Charlie Stone. For A White Sport Coat the trio was joined by two audience members, friends and colleagues Miles Moody and Gary Vancour who are both members of the group Towne Meeting. It was a great way to spend a cold winters evening. Thanks Charlie and Split Rock!

--Alison Mandeville, Director

Public Library Workshop Scheduled

"Saving Green by Going Green"

The Peru Free Library and CEFLS will co-sponsor a workshop on public library construction and green initiatives on Friday, May 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar and save the date. More details about workshop speakers and registration information will be forthcoming soon.

The session at Peru Free Library is one of several that DLD staff is planning to hold at public library sites around the site. All workshops are free and registration is open to all public library and system staff and Board members, as well as other interested parties in New York State. The major topic at each workshop will be the 2009-2010 New York State Public Library Construction Grant Program application process. In addition, the installation of geothermal wells and/or photovoltaic panels at each of the workshop locations will be highlighted.
Man Reading

Danger’s Hour

by Maxwell Taylor Kennedy

This is the true story of the kamikaze attack on the carrier, Bunker Hill, during World War II. The carrier had steel and wood decking. One sailor slept with his nose, literally inches, from the deck where the planes took off and landed. The kamikaze were a last ditch effort on the part of Japan to destroy the carrier fleet and its escorts. Their training was brutal. However, it is a myth that they were drugged, in order to commit such a suicidal act. Mini-sub were also used, in addition to the planes. Two planes managed to get through the escort ring surrounding the carrier, Bunker Hill. They caused devastating fires that melted metal and entrapped many sailors in areas, from which there was no escape. Numerous sailors had to jump from the ship, in order to escape the heat and flames, only to be attacked by sharks. The attack killed 393 sailors. The Kamikaze were very young, often in their early twenties. They received little flying practice. Many kamikazes wrote poems about their eventual death. But, Japan was experiencing its last gasp and was rapidly losing resources. Japan’s air fleet was fatally damaged and manufacturing was very limited, as the war neared its conclusion. In addition, Japan made the serious error of dispersing its manufacturing, which crippled production. It is often argued that the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were necessary. These bombings were of civilians and not really military targets. “General Dwight Eisenhower said that he felt that the atomic bombing was unnecessary from the point of view of saving American lives.”(p. 443). Kennedy did thorough research, using primary resources and interviews. Many survivors were reluctant to relive the nightmare they had been through, even after all these years. At the time, burn treatment was inadequate and they were not able to replace fluid loss. Nor, did they have the antibiotics and other burn treatments, available today. That is why numerous sailors died from their burns. This is a story of extreme bravery and the reader will not soon forget the terrible destruction that war can bring with it.

Larry Hahn

Central Library News From Plattsburgh Public Library

Our active Friends Group has scheduled a variety of programs to enliven the library throughout the spring. “Quilts: A Textile Art Exhibit” will continue on the second floor display area until March 27. The Members Art Show is also ongoing in the Hale-Walter Art Gallery until March 27. “Blossoms and Booms,” floral photos and paintings will be on display from April 2 to May 29. “Pretty Pots” may be picked up and decorated until April 2. The Silent Auction will take place from April 4 to May 7 at 2:00 p.m. The Friends’ Book Sale will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25.

Noted local historian David Glen will give a talk on “The Battle of Valcour and How it Changed American History” on Saturday, March 21 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. This program is part of the NEH “We the People Created Equal Series.”

A wide variety of programs that illustrate a cross-section of life in the Champlain Basin will be hosted to celebrate the Quadricentennial. All programs will take place in the Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. On March 24, Steve Frederick will talk about maple sugaring in the north country, and samples from the award-winning Chazy maple producer will be “on tap.” Other programs in this series include “Afro-Americans in the Champlain Basin” by Don Papson on April 14, an exhibit of birch bark canoes and construction on the first floor (May 1-15); “Atlantic Crossing: Musical History of Lake Champlain,” with Maritime Director Art Cohn (May 14); Robert Resnik (All the Traditions) and Marty Morrissey: “Lake Champlain Folk Music” (June 2); “Lake Songs and Stories” with PPL Director Stan Ransom (July 21) and “Karen Glass: Teller of Tales on August 11.

The Teen Club’s “39 Clues” Discussion Group will meet on Friday, March 20 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. All attendees will receive a free book.

Stanley A. Ransom, Director

The Plattsburgh Public Library Staff celebrated February 6, Wear Red Day for Women.

Director Stan Ransom, Colleen Pelletier, Karen Ricketson, David Robinson, Betsy Smith, Mary Heffernan, Jody Gibbons, Caleb Mosher, Kelly Sexton, Renata Flemming, Brigitte Tardiff, Sherry Silcio. Photo by John Consiglio.
**News From Essex County**

**AuSable Forks Free Library**

The AuSable Forks Free Library will hold a winter book and bake sale on **Friday March 13** from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday March 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please stop by to pick up some books at a great price and buy some of our delicious baked goods. For more information call 647-5596.

On December 6, Mrs. Claus visited our library to read stories to the children of all ages. She drew a large crowd as you can see from the picture below. A nice craft and treats followed the visit.

-- *Carole Osborne, Director*

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**Westport Library “Lights up” for Children**

Westport Library is in the midst of renewing its Children's Room, with the addition of a new rug, new bookcase and totally re-organized books and resources. Next will come brand new lighting, which will replace the current "space ship" lights; they really look like they came from outer space! New lighting fixtures will resemble lighting in the main reading room, and will brighten what is now a dreary place to try to read to a child as the sun sets on a cold winter afternoon. Westport board members are looking forward to the completion of this year-long task and have applied for a local grant to fund the new overhead lights. Another local grant funded the carpet, with enough money left to pay for professional installation of the new lighting.

-- *Jack Buttmer, Board President*

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**“PRESS PLAY”**

**Any Week is Teen Tech Week @ Your Library**

The American Library Association encourages all libraries to celebrate the third annual Teen Tech Week from March 8-14. The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has set aside this week to emphasize how to “connect teens with different technologies, especially those available through the library”. In order to gain the skills necessary to compete in today’s job market, teens need access to digital and online information, as well as guidance from trained professionals who can help them use these resources effectively, efficiently and ethically.

Did you know:

Nearly one in four youth aged 8 to 18 do not have Internet access at home.

A study conducted in June 2007 for ALA found that one-quarter of teens who regularly visit the public library and nearly one-third who regularly visit the school library said their primary reason to use the library’s computers is for fun.

On average, eight to eighteen year olds spend six hours and 21 minutes a day using media (including TV, video/DVD/movies, video games, audio media, computers and print media). Furthermore, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, 71% of teens report that the Internet is their primary source for completing school projects.

Yet, multiple studies have shown that the majority of teens lack the critical thinking skills and technical expertise to use the Internet and other electronic resources effectively.

Since this issue gives such short notice about “Teen Tech Week” proper, we say “any time is a good time to assure teens that the library is a trusted resource for accessing information.” To get started, check of the wealth of resources provided on the ALA web site. Ideas, promotional materials and links are available to either promote Teen Tech week from March 8-14 or to help teens use technology effectively at any time of the year at your library. All are available free through ALA and YALSA at the following web page:

http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ysala/teentechnow/ ttw09/publicity/publicity.cfm?audio

excerpted in part from the ALA web site, www.ala.org
Wadhams Free Library

Ted Cornell, who’s been President of our Board of Trustees for the last 15 years, is stepping down. He has guided us through a number of projects huge and small, including our building addition and major renovation project, the school ballot funding initiative, our hundredth birthday celebration, story hour theatrics, the carefully-crafted lecture series, the “Rock the Wall” retaining wall rebuilding project, and many more. He’s kept us going forward while making sure everyone’s ideas were heard and considered, and he could write a book about “The Art of the Meeting.” We’re a much bigger little library now thanks to his leadership. We’re happy he’ll stay on as a trustee. And we’re looking forward to lots of new activity at the Whallonsburg Grange Hall for which he’s organizing renovations and programming.

In the first of our Winter/Spring series of Wednesdays in Wadhams lectures, we enjoyed hearing from Colin Wells about the new book he’s working on in “Faith and Reason Together for the First Time.” That lecture spawned a philosophy discussion group. Town of Essex Historian Shirley LaForest’s talk on “Local Settlers and Settlements” was so popular that she had to do it twice, and she’ll repeat it this summer at the Adirondack History Center Museum. Jen Kretser from the Wild Center told us about teaching the principles of Leave No Trace in the Adirondacks and in the Altai Republic, and showed beautiful pictures of people on the other side of the world who are, and are not, very much like us.

On March 25, we’ll hear from Navy Reserve Captain Kendra James who was mobilized to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for nine months in 2008. On April 22 John Davis and Chris Maron of the new Champlain Area Trails (CATS) group will tell us about their growing network of regional hiking and ski trails. On May 20, Whallonsburg resident Andy Buchanan, Lecturer in American History and Military History at the University of Vermont, will discuss two centuries of war and exchange in “The Champlain Borderland 1609-1812.”

On May 16 and 23 we’ll host CEF’s computer classes for seniors.

March 28 is Pizza Night! Dogwood Bakery will sponsor a benefit dinner for the Library - their delicious wood-fired pizza, with salad and fancy desserts provided by trustees and friends of the Library.

All creatures will wake up from hibernation soon and story hour will begin again. Can’t wait.

Liz Rapalee, Director

Wilmington E.M. Cooper

On March 3, we were pleased to host the second year Webelos Cub Scouts from AuSable Valley’s Pack 54. The boys were working on their Communicator Activity Badge. The boys had to use the computers exchange e-mail, look up websites that interested them, and write a letter to a friend. They also had to learn how books are catalogued so they are easy to find. The boys will be writing about their experience and we will be posting it on our website.

Samantha Baer, Director
More from Essex County...

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

The Paine Memorial Free Library has embraced the winter weather by providing more opportunities for programming on Wednesday evening talks. Our schedule is as follows:

March 11 Kenda James will share her adventures with desert deployment. Kenda is a Navy Reserve Captain who was mobilized to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for nine months. She was responsible for overseeing over 500 sailors performing cargo handling, customs and expeditionary support operations.

March 18 Alice Wand and Dennis Kalma will talk about their month long trip to South Patagonia

April 1 Paige Atkinson will present a program on Ecuador or Australia. Program details are yet to be confirmed.

It seems this winter has been long and often times it is difficult for children to get out into the deep snow and play. Area children often take advantage our wonderful children's corner that was donated by Ann and Lauren Choate as a winter refuge. It's a great spot to read, do puzzles or other activities. Pre-K from Willsboro Central School visit us twice per month so they can play and burn some steam off. Before they go back to school they enjoy a story read by Cheryl Blanchard, Library Director. We are also looking forward to Essex Head Start returning to the library for programming services. Suzette Montville, our part time library assistant has accepted the teaching position at head Start and is anxious to bring the children back into the library.

Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Belden-Noble Memorial Library, Essex

Our project this winter has been to reconfigure our too short Victorian bookshelves, which house our adult fiction section. Steven Cross, our contractor, carefully disassembled the shelves, notched new boards on the ends to add another “one inch plus” to each shelf, and reassembled the wall of shelves using the same boards and molding that have been in place for 110 years! You would never know that any changes have been made, except for the fact that the books can now stand upright rather than lying flat, and are so much more accessible, a Godsend indeed!

On March 26, at 7:00 p.m., Chef John Ferry will present an as yet untitled illustrated talk regarding his interest in culinary history.

Coming in June, Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson will be making a stop at our library! Details will follow.

- Karen East, Director

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

We are hosting a show of art by women during the month of March. Twelve local artists are displaying their oil and water color painting, quilts, and knitting. There will be a meet the artist reception on Saturday, March 14 from noon to 2:00 p.m.

The Adirondack preschool comes for a story time on Tuesdays. They are read two stories and color a picture.

Jackie Vistesenz, Director

Books on a Budget

For cost conscious libraries and readers who want to buy or borrow (or if you are bored and just want to try something new), these sites from the March issue of *Oprah* magazine might fit the bill! If you check them out, please let us know what you think.

www.bookmooch.com – this site lets you post books that you would like to exchange. Whenever one of the 100,000 “moochers” requests one, you earn a point formailing it. Each point can be redeemed for any of the “million-plus” titles in the BookMooch inventory – all you pay for is the postage.

www.paperbackswap.com – do you have hardcover books, paperbacks or audio books that you want to get rid of? Trade them here and get updates on newly available titles through a daily e-mail digest. The online postage system lets you print the postage on a mailing label directly from your computer.
Essex County news continues...

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

It was our best year ever for our annual Christmas Sale, thanks to the hard work of volunteers, and all those who donated and purchased items. We are grateful for the many volunteers who help with sales, events and refreshments, snow removal, library maintenance, and beautification. Archives volunteers plan to index materials and put genealogy holdings on discs.

This winter we have a fantastic life-size display of Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates by Jay artist Joan Turbek lighting up our children’s section. In November and December, Terry Young exhibited etchings, drawings, and handmade books. At an artist reception, Terry described how he became interested in papermaking and bookbinding, and demonstrated various bookbinding techniques. He generously donated a collection of his hand-bound pamphlets and books, which are for sale with proceeds to benefit the library. Wilmington artist Meg Stone is exhibiting antler-handled baskets and collages in January and February, with silk-screened note cards for sale. Kathy Donnelly of Saranac will exhibit nature photography in March and April.

December’s Tea & Talk program “Christmas Programs and Pageants” was well attended, with participants reminiscing about Upper Jay’s community Christmas tree, church pageants and school celebrations. February’s program was lively with “Childhood, Silly, & Camp Songs.” The topic for March is “Cabin Fever: Do you get it and what do you do about it?”

Winter Saturdays have been busy with weekly meetings of SABLE - Soup and Bread Library Epicures. In January through March from noon to one o’clock, members gather to sample soup, bread and cookies, and share and evaluate recipes. As of mid-February, 150 children and adults have attended the popular SABLE meetings. The library hosts monthly meetings of the Writers’ Collective and Quilters’ Gathering, as well as a February meeting of the AuSable Valley Garden Club.

Our Spring Fling Book Sale will take place on April 3 and 4. Cartons of books remaining from previous sales were sent to the Essex County Jail, Adirondack Correctional Facility, Altona Correctional Facility, Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility and Camp Gabriels for inmate libraries.

Fantastic and fun local musician Julie Robinson Robards will start off our summer reading program with a sing-a-long concert on Sunday afternoon, June 28th.

~Karen Rappaport, Director

Black Watch Memorial Library, Ticonderoga

Winter has been a very exciting time here at the Black Watch Memorial Library. An invitation to bid on the additions and renovations to our Library has appeared in papers with sealed bids to be submitted by March 13. Butler Rowland Mays Architectural Firm has been instrumental in this project.

We have held two preschool story hours in the past month and a half. Denise Fleming’s book, The First Day of Winter, guided us through the steps of making a “snowman” in the Library. The snowmen which are on display here were featured in our local paper, The Times of Ti. Our second story hour was in celebration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday. The Cat in the Hat came and sat with us as we read stories and played rhyme games.

Many programs are in the works for the coming months. We will let you know more about them soon. Till then, stay warm and read a good book.

Beth Nadeau, Black Watch Library
News From Franklin County

Wead Library, Malone

Service is a library’s “product.” The types of services offered by libraries have altered with the decades. With apologies to Shakespeare (12th night - ‘Malvolio’), “some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.” Some changes are definitely thrust upon us. The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance’s decision to cease mailing about a million tax forms to individuals may have saved postal costs for that department, but it also has resulted in a large increase in traffic through our door by people seeking tax forms and publications. It’s probable that a huge group of individuals have located this library for the first time in decades, if not in their lives, through necessity; for they were in need of a taxing solution. Unless an individual is online in a cosmopolitan area, obtaining tax forms can be an exercise in demonstrating the octagonal wheels created by bureaucracy. The numbers have caused a second order (since received) for another complete supply of the required forms. It’s too bad that these folks in question haven’t found their own reasons to use the many other enticements offered at this institution. Items such as tax forms may be needed, but they’re a long way from sheer enjoyment.

Four sound discs of WICY radio archives are now available at the library for loan. This material was provided from a collection of audiotapes owned by Monte Coughlin. These include live broadcasts from the Amvets Club on Pearl St.; Al Dufrane & the Bunkhouse Buckaroos; Johnny Irving show; and the Maureen and Sheila shows; Don Paye show intros.; broadcasts of the mid-1960’s to the 1990’s; the day following the WICY fire (1970); 40th anniversary; Hospital addition ceremony; the Christmas shows of the ’70’s & ’80’s and the WVNV start up jingles.

The library’s annual report, as submitted to the Division of Library Development, New York State Education Department, indicates the following statistical information:

3,164 additions were made to this collection; however, there were 2,052 items discarded, leaving a net gain of 1,112.

Our total holdings number 50,962. There were 608 new patrons added in 2008, or about 50 each month. About one fourth of the total patrons reside outside of the library district.

Library visits totaled 36,278, up slightly from 2007.

Sixty eight thousand, nine hundred fifty-five circulation transactions took place last year, 1,683 more than in 2007.

There were about 600 fewer reference questions recorded, but the total was still more than 4,700.

In terms of inter-library loans, we borrowed 4,767 items, while we lent 5,910, an increase of 853 over 2007. Our patrons now have access to 30 databases, as compared with last year’s 28, and most of these can be used remotely.

There were 107 library-sponsored programs in 2008, with a total attendance of 2019.

Our summer reading program attendance was 369 in 2008. We offered early literacy programs in conjunction with FamiliesRUs for 4-5 year olds, and that program’s attendees totaled 990.

-Excerpted from Director David Minnich’s February report

Get Creative with Mother Goose

Wendy Martin

from the Vermont Center for the Book says, “We have put together a very quick document to help librarians who are already familiar with the What’s the BIG Idea? Librarian Manual make direct connections to this summer’s CSLP offering, Be Creative @Your Library.

Follow this link on our site to download the pdf:

There is also a link from the front page of our site:
http://www.mothergooseprograms.org

Thomas and Michael Disbman enjoy the BIG Idea Discovery Center materials at the Wead Library. Building materials were out during the month of January, and the boys created a playground on the library floor. February’s Discovery Center materials included geometric shapes and tangram sets.
Focus On...

LAKE PLACID PUBLIC LIBRARY

A Classic for 125 years!

A History: It all got started on December 29, 1883. A public notice was posted calling all those interested in forming a library to meet on January 15, 1884 at the Baptist Church. In what must still stand as one of those most productive meetings ever held in this area, eighteen people managed to adopt a constitution of eight articles, elect four officers, three board members and three trustees and voted to file incorporation papers. The next step, of course, was building an actual place for books and reading. Clara S. Potter, a member of the association, has received credit for suggesting a plan for raising the necessary funds and for seeking “small subscriptions of lumber.” In a letter to the board she noted, “Over two hundred books are now waiting to be put into this library, and a large line of daily and weekly papers and magazines have been promised to the library when completed. Plans and specs for the building were drawn up free of charge by James Lawrence breeze of New York City and R.W. Clifford was chosen as builder. Land for the site which the library still occupies was leased from the Adirondack Baptist Church for 50 years with an option for an additional 50 years at a very generous rate of one dollar a year. The church would then donate one dollar a year back to the library. The existence of the library on this site was later threatened when the church sold the property.

- Excerpted from an article written for the 2008-2009 Newsletter by Board member Lisa Forrest. The newsletter may be viewed on the LPPL library website.

Expansion: The Lake Placid Public Library has continued to acquire a good selection of books and other materials, with regular additions to the collection selected to meet the needs and desires of the community. As the library became crowded, plans to expand have continued as well.

The enclosure of the back reading porch was completed in 1941 and was followed by the addition of a separate children’s room. A reference room on the middle floor level was completed in June of 1952. The Library also made its final mortgage payment in 1952 and at last owned its own land! In 1954, Lake Placid joined the Clinton-Essex Library System (Franklin County joined soon thereafter). The benefits of joining the system at that time included a larger book pool collection, in-depth reference and better access to interlibrary loans.

The Board of Trustees marked the Library’s Centennial Year with an expansion program. Rather than an addition, their aim was to more efficiently use the existing space. The steep narrow stairway to the children’s room was replaced and large picture windows were installed above it. The unheated and inaccessible basement became a large, bright office and cataloguing room. Casement windows were installed overlooking the Main Street porch, entry steps were replaced, and new floor tiles were placed in the main stack area.
Lake Placid Library, cont.

The last expansion project, which was completed in December 2000, included a three-story extension to the main building and the purchase of the Giambruno property next door. A connector was built between the buildings, and an elevator that provides handicapped access was installed. The annex houses a computer room as well as a gallery and a community room.

From its beginning the Library enjoyed a working relationship with librarian and fellow townsman, Melville Dewey. He was the founder of the American Library Association, the first School of Library Science at Columbia University and the inventor of a method of cataloging based on the decimal system, known as the Dewey Decimal System. He served as State Librarian and as Secretary to the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. In 1895, he and his wife Annie started a retreat for vacationing teachers, librarians, and other like-minded individuals, who enjoyed the beautiful scenery and repose which the mountains offered. The retreat was the beginning of the renowned Lake Placid Club. Melville Dewey encouraged the growth of the young Lake Placid Library by donating $40 worth of newspaper and magazine subscriptions to the Library if the trustees would agree to keep the building open six nights a week. Dewey was also billed $20 a year for allowing his guests to use the reading room and borrow books. This arrangement continued until the Club built its own library.

Celebrate a Classic: The Lake Placid Library today is not just Dickens, Keats, Hemingway and Shakespeare. It’s also classic movies, classic music and art. The Lake Placid Library community will be celebrating them all this summer with a weeklong series of events. Library Trustee Dave Messner is in charge of the organizing committee. “Our celebration will bring people of all ages together to take advantage of the many treasures the library shares with the community,” said Mr. Messner. Taking the idea that the Lake Placid Library itself is a classic, Mr. Messner and his team have planned the events below. All events are free to the public—just like the Lake Placid Public Library.

June 30 (Tuesday) – Author Appreciation Night (7:00 p.m.) held on the LP Library grounds on Mirror Lake

Featuring notable regional authors Lee Manchester, Schereleene Schatz, and Barbara Campbell

July 1 (Wednesday) – Classic Mirror Lake Melodies: Welcoming Canoes, Kayaks and other Small Boats (7:00 p.m.) held behind the LP Library on Mirror Lake. Featuring Cameron Anderson playing a bagpipe medley; Kim Weems singing Kate Smith’s rendition of God Bless America, vocalist Brenden Gotham; classical music by Alice Rogers, and jazz tunes performed by Dave Mihanec.

July 2 (Thursday) – Classic Movie Night (7:00 p.m.) held on the LP Library grounds on Mirror Lake will feature WALL*E, a film for the entire family.

July 3 (Friday) – Library Open House and Children’s Classic Bedtime Story Night (7:00 p.m.) held on the Library grounds on Mirror Lake. Noted storytellers Glenda Mitchell and Barbara Kelly are featured. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas to this bedtime story hour.

July 4 (Saturday) – March of the Classics (5:00 p.m.) - The Library Board will lead those interested in dressing up like their favorite character to march in the July 4 Parade.

All content and photos excerpted from the Lake Placid Public Library web site (www.lakeplacidpubliclibrary.org) and the LPPL Holiday newsletter. Patricia Perez is the library director.
Cabin Fever Books

We have arrived at that point when winter just can’t end quickly enough. However, a good book or a good listening title can do wonders – just like that giant one hour leap forward that we will take on March 8. We asked readers from around the system for their advice on how to cope with the dog days of winter. Here is what they came up with to “lighten” the winter blahs.

I just finished a great juvenile fiction book called The Underneath by Kathi Appelt. What a great read! This book will definitely be on my list for next year TABOB. It has everything – magic, suspense, promises kept, loss, loyalty and love. I loved it! I also really enjoyed The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein narrated by a dog named Enzo. It is narrated by a dog named Enzo, who has educated himself by watching TV, and believes he will come back as a human in his next life. Enzo tells the story of his life with his owner a race car driver. Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm during the Great Depression by Mildred Armstrong Kalish is also a lot of fun. It will have you laughing out loud and perhaps give you a couple of household tips. – Alison Mandeville, Champlain Memorial Library

I just finished The Little Giant of Aberdeen County by Tiffany Baker. This is her first novel and it was an excellent read. I loved her descriptions. She writes of a girl named “Truly” who is born a giant with a sister who is beautiful and perfect. The story centers around Truly and her views of life and coping with her giant status. I enjoyed every page and highly recommend it as a cabin fever read. – Edie Morlock, Mooers Library

I’m currently reading Victory of Eagles: A Novel of Terneraire by Naomi Novik. I read the first three books and they were great. This one is holding up to that pattern. It is a fantasy set during the Napoleonic Wars and the wars include dragons. Terneraire is the dragon referred to in the title. I’m also looking forward to reading Doomwyte by Brian Jacques. It’s another novel of Redwall and I always have to have something to eat when I read them because they do such great descriptions of food. I think my favorite food name was butternut cream pie. Too bad they don’t include the recipes in the book. Colleen Pelletier, Plattsburgh Public Library

The Lace Reader by Brunonia Barry is 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! I also recommend The Ranger’s Apprentice series which is fantasy from Australia! The great battle between Good and Evil plays itself out with magic and adventure. Will, the apprentice is trained by the Ranger Halt to move stealthily and fight evil with strength and composure as he comes of age in the land of Arulean. Karen Glass, Keene Valley

I highly recommend An American Lion by Jon Meacham. Andrew Jackson is elected president of the US in 1829 but before he even gets to Washington, his beloved wife dies. Jackson’s life that follows is really an exciting story of “the people’s president!” with perhaps even more bumps and bruises than modern presidents endure. This book will make you take a look at the man on your $20 bills before you spend them. I also liked Foreign Body by Robin Cook. A 4th-year medical student along with her mentor, the NYC Medical Examiner, investigate suspicious deaths of American Citizens who for various reasons chose to have surgery in third world countries and died as a result of that decision. Once you start this medical mystery by Cook, you won’t put it down until you have turned the last page. – Judy Weber, Waverly Reading Center

Franklin County news continues...

Saranac Lake Free Library

The 20th annual Winter Book Sale, held February 13 and 14, was a big success, realizing $5,800 for the library. Hundreds of hard cover and paperback books were for sale, along with a large section of individually-priced special books, including very old and new, coffee table, nature, art and cookbooks. Videocassettes, DVDs, audiocassettes and jigsaw puzzles were also for sale. Around forty volunteers assisting with setting up, sorting and selling at the event. The Thomas B. Cantwell Community Room was gaily decorated, celebrating the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival theme, Pirates of the Adirondacks. Winter programs are the following:

• The Library Lunch Series offers a variety of adult programs at noon every other Thursday, and runs through April. Desserts and beverages are provided by the library’s Refreshments Committee.

• Tech Tot Tuesdays, a math/science program for 3 to 5 year olds at 10:30 a.m. through mid-March, uses books and supplies provided by the “What’s the Big Idea?” program, funded by a National Science Foundation Grant.

• Story Hour is offered for preschoolers on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

TABOB, the Take a Bite Out of Books program for 5th to 7th graders, will meet Tuesday afternoons at 4 p.m. starting in mid-March.

~Pat Wiley, Library Assistant

Gag Reflex, an improvisational theater group, presented a program recently for the Library Lunch Series, with over 80 people attending.
Cabin Fever continued...

I thoroughly enjoyed every page of Wally Lamb’s new novel *The Hour I First Believed* - all 700 of them! This multi-dimensional novel engaged me from the start. It told a story which spanned from Columbine, Colorado to Three Rivers, Connecticut. It spoke about family and heritage, and how decisions affect not only our lives but the many lives that touch ours. “Life is messy, violent, confusing and hopeful,” one of the characters concluded. Hope is what I gleaned from this excellent novel. - Patricia Perez, Lake Placid Public Library

I recommend *Random Acts Of Love* by Danny Scheinmann, which is a story about a fugitive from a POW camp in 1917, who walks 7,000 kilometers, in Russia, in search of his beloved. It is fiction, but based on a true story. *Defiance* by Nechama Tec is a good read about Jewish defiance of the Nazis and it is the basis for the recent motion picture. Also not to be missed is *The Silent Man*, a CIA thriller by Alex Berenson. To round out my historical suggestions, I’m also including *Retribution* by Max Hastings, which looks at the final months of the war with Japan. Hastings is very hard on General Douglas MacArthur! It is sure to be an instant classic on the subject. – Larry Hahn, Dodge Library, West Chazy

**Country Called Home** by Kim Barnes [2008] In the 1960s a young couple from the East travel to Idaho seeking adventure and escape. But the wilderness tests their strengths, both emotional and physical. The couple—Helen and Thomas—along with their baby daughter Elise, and a shy young local boy named Manny, struggle to survive together, and to find meaning in the raw, unforgiving landscape. Beautifully written; a tense but touching story.

*Plainsong* by Kent Haruf [1999, 2000] Written in a spare, vivid style, this contemporary story is set in a small town somewhere on the high mountain plains of Colorado. The lives of several people become unexpectedly linked: a single father struggling to raise his two young sons; a pregnant teenage girl with nowhere to go; and two brothers, shy old ranchers who are more comfortable around animals than people. How their fates intertwine is poignant enough to break your heart and I enjoyed the lovely writing and characterization. - Ann Sayers, Independent Youth Services Consultant

I’m dreaming over some of our new garden books: *Creative Vegetable Gardening* by Joy Larkom - beautiful artistic designs from the formal to the casual; *Quick and Easy Container Gardening* by Tessa Eveleigh - gorgeous colors and clever ideas; and *Making Concrete Garden Ornaments* by Sherri Hunter - okay, maybe this year. I forgot my all-time favorite winter read, the Fedco Seed Catalog. I also like to read about somewhere really bleak and icy and windy, like the Arctic. It always makes me feel so much warmer, next to the wood-stove.

**Liz Rapalee in Wadhams**
Encyclopedia Britannica Now Available Online

The public libraries of Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties can now offer the online version of Encyclopedia Britannica to their patrons both inside the library and from home, work or school. Always up-to-date, this great resource offers over 73,000 articles, 2,000 video clips, 4,000 quotations, a world atlas and timeline, entries from the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus, recommended websites, current magazine and journal articles, and image and sound files. A friendly kids' interface is included.

People can log in by going to library.eb.com and entering their 14-digit library card number. For libraries that do not have the 14-digit barcoded library cards, please use the database card issued by Plattsburgh Public Library or contact Betsy Brooks for assistance at 563-5190.

Database Changes in the Works for NOVEL NY

The State Library recently announced some major changes in the databases that will be available to all New Yorkers via the NOVEL NY program. The NOVEL NY databases, which are available through the CEF website, some individual library websites, and the novelnewyork.org website, currently include these 14 titles:

1. EBSCO Primary Search (with the Searchasaurus/Kid's Search interfaces) Primary Search includes Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia, the Encyclopedia of Animals and the American Heritage® Children's Dictionary*, 3rd Edition from Houghton Mifflin
2. Gale Business and Company Resource Center, including Business ASAP
3. Gale Newspapers (InfoTrac Custom Newspapers, National Newspaper Index, and New York Custom Newspapers),
4. Twayne's Authors Series
5. Gale Health and Wellness Resource Center
6. Informé – (Spanish language database)
7. InfoTrac Junior
8. EBSCO MasterFile Select
9. TopicSearch
10. Gale Health Reference Center Academic
11. Nursing and Allied Health Collection
12. General Science Collection
13. Science Reference Center
14. Gale Virtual Reference Library (a set of reference books on health, history 90 x35.

After April 1, there will be only 9 titles, consisting of the first 5 above, plus:

6. Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
7. Grolier New Book of Knowledge
8. Grolier Encyclopedia Americana
9. Proquest Platinum - this replaces EBSCO Masterfile Select as the major database for magazine article searches.

We will be changing the CEF website at the end of March to delete the old and include the new resources. To read more about these changes and the rationale behind them, see the FAQ page at the NOVEL NY website: www.novelnewyork.org/09dbfap.php.

Online Safety is Easier Now with Firefox

Surfing the Internet can be a lot of fun, but there are some websites that can infect your computer with viruses and worms just by looking at them. There are many sites which offer popular screen savers, games, interesting cursors, etc. that entice you to download spyware and adware along with their legitimate offerings.

Now there's a new Add-On for the Firefox browser that's very impressive in providing advice about the safety of a given website. It's an official Firefox Add-On called LinkExtend, and if you have Firefox, it can be installed by going to Tools/ Add-Ons/Get Add-Ons and typing in LinkExtend. After a quick install, try a Google search and you will see safety ratings to the right of each listed site. I often look up lyrics to songs, and some of these sites are definitely not safe, but some are perfectly fine. I look forward to using LinkExtend to avoid the bad ones.

Betsy Brooks, CEFLS
This issue of The Trailblazer as well as a full complement of archived issues is available on the System’s web site. While you are visiting, be sure to check out the Calendar of Events that lists upcoming activities at member libraries in Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties.

The Trailblazer is published quarterly by the CEF Library System.

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