

Trailblazer Summer 2001

The Newsletter of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System

Summer 2001, Volume 3, Issue 2

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Oprah Book Club Author Chris Bohjalian to Speak at CEF Annual Meeting July 18

Please join us at the Inn at Smithfield (446 Route 3, Plattsburgh) for the CEF Library System's Annual Luncheon Meeting on Wednesday, July 18. We are especially excited this year to welcome acclaimed novelist Chris Bohjalian as our guest speaker.

Bohjalian, who resides in Vermont, is the author of *Midwives* (a recent Oprah Book Club selection) and five other novels, including *The Law of Similiars*, *Water Witches*, and *Hangman*.

Chris has described his writing as "traditional adult fiction inspired by the work of contemporary novelists such as John Irving and Joyce Carol Oates." His latest book, *Trans-Sister Radio*, was published in 2001. He is currently working on a new novel titled *The Buffalo Soldier* that takes a look at the life of a child and his foster parents. Copies of Chris Bohjalian's books will be available for sale after the luncheon – be sure to have him autograph one for you.

To RSVP for the luncheon, which is \$13.00 per person, please contact Penny Cowan at CEF headquarters (563-5190 x 10) before Friday, July 13. We anticipate that a

large crowd of Bohjalian fans will attend the luncheon, so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Author Chris Bohjalian

News and Notes

The 9th Annual CEF Book Sale, which was held on May 11, netted over \$1,100. Thanks are due to the crack teamwork of the CEF staff as well as to Kitty Miller, our “paper-back lady” and Dave Lyons and Ken Lushia, who provided additional man power. The photo below was taken just after the doors opened at 9:00 a.m. and shows our early birds settling in to roost.

Sarah Lushia has replaced Jane Ryan as Director of the Dodge Library, West Chazy. Welcome Sarah and best of luck in your retirement, Jane!

The smiling face that you see on the Wednesday van delivery belongs to Bob Welch. Bob has joined Dave Lyons on our van driver roster and we feel very fortunate to have two great substitutes. Dave and Bob are covering for Calvin Mitchell, who is recovering at home from heart surgery.

Do you have patrons who have difficulty reading large print or holding a book? The New York State Talking Book and Braille Library provides books on tape free of charge to qualified individuals. Call Barb Deyo (563-5190 x 20) at CEF for an application and more information.

Seniors check out the CEF Library booth while listening to the hits of the 1950's at the Clinton County Seniorama on May 4. Barb Deyo was behind the booth and the camera.

The Computers Have Arrived, Thanks to Bill and Melinda

Think back to last June, when many of us gathered at SUNY Plattsburgh to attend a Gates Foundation teleconference to see what the grant had in store for us. We'll never forget those lengthy questionnaires everyone had to fill out and the short time period

they gave us to do it in! Then, fast forward to October, when we gathered at the Plattsburgh Public Library for the “Before Your Computer Arrives” workshop. The words “data cabling” were mentioned there for the first time – and it wouldn’t be the last time we’d hear them. The paperwork was less of a problem after that, but the cabling, electrical work, space planning and furniture buying would occupy many hours of each library director’s time.

Now, a year after the first meeting, 21 libraries have their new computers and printers, and in some cases their new data cabling, new furniture, upgraded electrical service and new high-speed Internet service. Staff at these libraries have all had two half-days of training. Congratulations on making it through! The larger installations of four computers and a content server are scheduled for mid to late July in five of the libraries. I’m optimistic that these will go as smoothly as the others have.

When I say the installations have gone smoothly, I’m not saying there were no problems. I guess my motto for the installations has been “all’s well that ends well.” The Gates Foundation trainers have been conscientious, good-natured and persistent in getting each library set up. There have been some problems with getting the previously existing library computers to use the shared Internet connection and the printer, and I will work with you to get those loose ends tied up after the Gates installation. If your email or your ILL programs don’t work as they once did, please let me know. If you want to change Internet homepages on the profiles or add bookmarks and you’d like some assistance, I’ll be glad to come and help you.

One of the high points of the process for me has been seeing children play on the new computers during some of the open houses held at your libraries. Almost all of the adults were reluctant to try the computers (especially in front of an audience), but the children looked like they’d been born with headphones on and a mouse in one hand.

I’d like to mention a few people who really helped this whole process happen. Time Warner Cable, Adelphia Cable, and the Champlain Telephone Co. all donated free high-speed Internet connections to libraries in their areas. Westelcom was very responsive and timely in doing data cabling. Technically skilled volunteers helped set up the computers in many libraries, and I wish I knew all of their names so I could thank them all! Undoubtedly there were more people and organizations that helped out as well.

I commend all of the library directors and board members who ventured far outside of their comfort zones to obtain something good for their libraries and their communities. And, of course, we owe thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their generosity, their clever computer designers, their energetic trainers, and their foresight in knowing that we’d need some help with the installation!

Have fun using the computers, within reason. We only hope that all of our library directors won't take full advantage of the "Resume Wizard" in Microsoft Word and the "Streets and Trips" program to plan interview trips – we need you around here!

Destination: Vacation

Having trouble zeroing in on the perfect summer vacation? The Internet is a great place to start. There are many (too many) sites offering everything from general information to accommodations booking. One of the best places to start is your favorite search engine, where you can search the place you're thinking of traveling to. Local chambers of commerce and tourism bureaus often have great websites. If you have a specific activity in mind but don't know where the best spots for it are you can check sites like <http://www.themeparks.about.com>. Listed here are amusement parks, zoos, water parks and other recreational sites in the United States and some countries abroad. Want to see what Canada has to offer? Check out <http://www.parkscanada.pch.gc.ca>, where there's information on things like national parks, historic sites, rivers and even heritage railroad stations. The U.S. National Park Service also has a great homepage at <http://www.nps.gov/>. The Internet is one place the government often shines. This site has great information on our parks, accessed in a number of different ways.

Concerned about crime rate? Find out where your destination ranks among America's safest and most dangerous cities at <http://www.morganquinto.com>. Looking for a little culture this summer? Check out <http://www.museum.com> for information on museum exhibits and addresses as well as full descriptions. Planning your vacation around your dog? You'll want to visit <http://www.dogpark.com>, which lists parks and other sites in the U.S. and Canada where dogs can roam off-leash.

If you're hoping to go global, the U.S. State Department is an excellent resource for information on nearly every country—country descriptions, medical facilities, road conditions, customs regulations, consulate locations and the ever-useful information on criminal penalties and detention policies are all found at <http://travel.state.gov>. This site is a gold mine of useful, relevant information, including the latest travel advisories and warnings, which are updated regularly.

Once you've decided where to go there are plenty of websites useful for finding flight schedules and prices, accommodations, and car rental information. If you're comfortable with it you can book most of your flights and hotels online. The most widely used sites are <http://www.travelocity.com> and <http://www.expedia.com>. Others include <http://www.travelweb.com>, where you can find good weekend specials; <http://travell.com>, offering discount travel information on flights, cruises and hotels; <http://www.travelterminal.com>, which boasts that it offers the lowest

airfare available—as long as you’re willing to fly at times when these fares are offered and finally, <http://www.LastMinute.com>, offering the obvious—information on flights, lodging, entertainment and restaurants if you’re flexible enough to leave at a moment’s notice. These sites all offered comparable fares when I searched them. As always, it’s a good idea to check on any reservations or bookings long before you pack your bags.

Whatever your travel destination, be sure to take time to enjoy yourself and relax. Read a good book. Take a nap. Go for a walk. Enjoy the scenery. Have a good vacation!

-- Elizabeth Rogers, Head of Reference and ILL

PR Corner

Just in time for summer reading, The Romance Reader and The Mystery Reader websites have come out with a new version of free bookmarks for libraries. They are pre-packaged in mixed sets (half romance, half whodunit) so they can be shipped quickly. First-class stamp requirements are:

- 5 - 34c stamps for 175 bookmarks
- 7 - 34c stamps for 350 bookmarks
- 10 - 34c stamps for 600 bookmarks

Request your bookmark sets from TRR/TMR Bookmarks; PO Box 2516; Midland, MI 48641-2516. More details (and lots of good genre information) can be found on each website at www.theromancereader.com and www.themysteryreader.com.

Check out classroomclipart.com where you’ll find a large variety of photographs, clipart and historical images that can be used for school reports, projects and general educational purposes. Another good clipart site is school.discovery.com/clipart. The site includes hundreds of easy to use clips for teachers, students and parents. Kids Domain at www.kidsdomain.com is also worth a visit. The site contains hundreds of crafts for kids, icons, brain builders, a safe “playplace” and much more.

Books for the Barbie

Livingston, A.D.
Grilling, Smoking and Barbecuing
(CEF)

Chelf, Vicki Rae
The Sensuous Vegetarian Barbecue
(Bookmobile)

Kirk, Paul
*Paul Kirk's Championship Barbecue Sauces: 175 Make Your Own Sauces,
Marinades, Dry Rubs, Mops and Salsas*
(CEF)

Stovel, Edith
Picnic! Recipes and Menus For Outdoor Enjoyment
(CEF)

Darling, Abigail
Teddy Bear's Picnic Cookbook
(CEF, Lake Placid)

Barich, David
The American Grill
(CEF)
The Asian Grill
(CEF)

Ginsburg, Art
Mr. Food Grills it all in a Snap
(CEF)

Weight Watchers Slim Ways: Grilling
(CEF, Malone)

Voces Intimae Encore!

Voces Intimae, the latest creation of early music expert Oliver Brookes, is available to present concerts in area libraries from mid-July to mid-October.

Mr. Brookes will perform a wide-ranging repertoire on the period instruments that accompany him from the United Kingdom to Willsboro Bay each year. Suggested offerings include works by Mozart, Faure, and Debussy. He will be joined by

harpichordist Clive Henery, who will no doubt do his best to add some Scott Joplin music to the program.

For more information, or to schedule a presentation that is guaranteed to please all audiences, contact Julie Wever at 563-5190 x 18. We are able to sponsor five programs at no cost to host libraries. Bookings will be made on a "first call, first served" basis, so call early to avoid disappointment.

Oliver Brookes (left) demonstrates the gemshorn and Clive Henery is called into service on the hurdy gurdy during a Fall 2000 performance at the Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Library.

MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

In Clinton County:

Mooers Free Library

The Mooers Library is very proud of our new computers and happy to report that usage is up two fold. A class that will cover computer basics will be offered over the summer; the dates are not yet set.

Our summer reading program, which will run for four weeks, will begin on July 7th. We hope that the weather holds for our "reading under the tree" for kids this year.

At some point over the summer, the front steps of the library will be torn down and reconstructed. The library will remain open and patrons will enter the library by the side entrance. The Friends of the Library have planted lots of cheerful flowers around the building and they look great.

Thanks to everyone at CEF for the support and help with our Gates Computers. Our new workstations are a wonderful addition to the service we can provide our community.

-- Edie Morelock, Director

In Essex County:

Hammond Library, Crown Point

The Hammond Library is looking forward to a very busy summer. We will be hosting a six week program series on puppets that will be offered on Saturdays from July 7 through August 11. Each one hour session will present children with a different puppet to make or play with, and scripts for a puppet show will be included. Children will be sent home after the program with a brown bag snack. We'll have physical disability puppets, self portrait puppets, make at home puppets for a rainy day play time, and more.

We are also excited and pleased to welcome back Rob Chrust, The Family Juggler. Rob will present a one hour program on July 25th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for kids and their parents. This juggling lesson with scarves was a big hit with our patrons last year. The scarf sets used during the program will be given as gifts to all who participate and this program promises a terrific turn out.

The installation of our Gates computers is right around the corner, and we are certainly looking forward to that. In addition to the regular open house, we would like to host a one hour training session on EBSCO Masterfile Select. We might schedule this program closer to the summer's end so we can have a "Back to school" theme to work with. Stay tuned!

-- Barbara Wright, Director

Belden Noble Memorial Library, Essex

Last summer's "Bridging the Centuries" program will be a hard act to follow, but the library board has some interesting programs planned for Summer 2001. One highlight will be an art exhibit by Sid Couchey and we also hope to show Ruth Couchey's beautiful photographs. On July 18 at 7:30 p.m., neighbor Pat Parsons will visit us at the library to give a slide talk on her recent trip to India where she visited the "Rock Garden" in Chandigarh. The garden consists of 25 acres of statues created from concrete and recycled refuse. On July 23 at 7:30 p.m., Elaine Macey will discuss genealogical research at the library. On August 14 at 7:30 p.m., at the library or nearby in the Essex Community Church, Dr. Robert Akeret will give a book talk and signing for his latest release, *Photolanguage: How Photos Reveal the Fascinating Stories of our Lives And Relationships*. On August 21 at 7:30 p.m., Essex Historian Shirley LaForest and author/Historian Morris Glenn will discuss the history of Whallonsburgh. This program will most likely be held at the Essex Community Church since the library could not hold the crowd that attended this program last year.

These programs, plus bake sales, a book sale and story times will keep us busy for the summer!

-- Karen East, Director

Elizabethtown Library Association

The Elizabethtown Library Association is pleased to announce that its annual book sale will be held on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14 (which is also Elizabethtown Day) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the UCC Parish Hall on Route 9.

Like so many other libraries in the North Country, the Elizabethtown Library is truly enjoying its new public access computer, courtesy of the Gates Foundation. This makes a total of two public access computers in Elizabethtown!

-- Susan Hughes, Director

Lake Placid Public Library

The Lake Placid Library staff was pleased to host PULISDO (Public Library System Directors' Organization) members from throughout the state at a catered dessert reception on May 16. We received many "oohs and ahs" about the results of our expansion project as well as the desserts provided by Adirondack Kitchen.

On June 27, the Lake Placid Garden Club held a reception and dedication to Helene Urfirer whose memorial helped to establish the computer room and a Literacy Volunteers office at the library.

--Patricia Perez, Lake Placid Public Library

Black Watch Library, Ticonderoga

The Black Watch Library is preparing for our summer residents. A six week children's reading program will begin on July 5th. We are also preparing to hold a book sale on July 14.

Our new computers from the Gates Foundation are up and running, and our patrons are very pleased with them. We were fortunate to be able to buy the tables and chairs needed for workstations with Stafford Grant money.

Our library expansion project will be underway as soon as an architect is hired to work with library planning consultant Nolan Lushington. -- Maureen Johns, Director

Westport Library Association

Anne de la Chapelle, who has been the assistant librarian for the past five years, will be the new director as of July 1. Marilyn Trienens, who has been director, is resigning to take on the full time of school librarian at the new Willsboro Central School. Anne received her MLS from SUNY Albany this past August, and the community is delighted that she has agreed to take on the new responsibilities.

Our two new Gates Foundation computers are working beautifully. The entire library had to be rearranged to show them off to the best advantage. We are grateful to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their generosity and to Senator Ron Stafford for providing the funds for much needed furniture to accommodate the computers.

Our second annual "Come Forth on the Fourth" fundraising benefit is scheduled for July 4th. Last year's event was successful – and lots of fun. The Repercussion Theatre from Montreal will be back in Westport on July 29th to perform "Twelfth Night" and delight the audience beforehand with the Festival of Fools.

-- Marilyn Trienens, Director

Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro

Every five weeks the library staff brings a rotating collection of books, books on tape and videos to the Lakewood Apartments for the residents to enjoy. The collection is housed in the beautiful common room, which makes it easy to access. Residents are glad to see me bringing in new books and are always willing to help in the book rotation.

The library's second Tea and Talk Social was held on April 10, under our annual Easter Egg Tree. This month's theme was Easter Memories. Some of the stories really made me laugh. There was much humor shared while talking about the old days, when some of the things people had to face really weren't that funny. It was a wonderful opportunity for people to visit and meet others. Our third Tea and Talk Social was held on June 12th. Participants had a good time recalling school days.

George McNulty has collected and indexed over 600 local history photographs for the library. The photos are available for viewing on CD and are indexed according to subject headings such as Architectural History, Commercial History, General views, Industry, Military and Veterans, to name just a few. This project is a great addition to our library collections.

Richard E. Greer of Lewis wandered into the library one afternoon and asked if he could try the old piano that lives in the second story. To his surprise the Steinway, which was donated by the Paine family in the 1950's, sounded quite good. Mr. Greer thought he might be a good teacher and offered to give piano lessons free of charge. Currently he has a full schedule of six students on two different days. Karen and Frank East, directors of the Belden Noble Memorial Library, Essex, were thankful for the lessons their son is receiving so they donated money to have the piano tuned. If lessons continue to go well, Mr. Greer might add another "lesson day" next year. Thank you to Richard Greer and Frank and Karen East for putting the old Steinway back into service.

--Cheryl Blanchard, Director

Wilmington E.M. Cooper Memorial Public Library

The Wilmington Library will be sponsoring art lessons this summer for children ages 3-16. The younger group will be introduced to the basics of drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. The older group will be painting a mural on the Wilmington Youth Center building. These classes will be taught by local artists Cynthia Allen and Grace Potthas.

The storytelling husband and wife team "The Storycrafters" will be coming to the library on June 30 at 10:00 a.m. They will perform "Catch the World by the Tale," a lively, participatory show of tales and music from around the world. These programs are free and made possible, in part, with a Developing Community Arts Grant with Public funds from the NY State Council on The Arts Decentralization Program administered locally by the Arts Council for the Northern Adirondacks.

We now have two computers online that are set up specifically for public use. They are in constant use and are greatly appreciated by local people who do not have Internet access in their home, and by vacationers.

We have begun to put together a "Town Historical Section" in the library. Our town historian has been scanning pictures from her collection, and many are now hanging on the walls or are in albums for public viewing. It is an interesting collection of Wilmington's people and places - some photos date back to the early 1900's. At the same time, we have enlarged our Adirondack book collection with many new informative titles.

Our annual summer fund raiser, "The All in One Sale", (food, crafts, books, and yard sale items) will be held on Saturday, June 16th at the Library at 10:00 a.m. This fund raiser will benefit our window replacement project.

-- Meg Stone, Librarian

In Franklin County:

Chateaugay Memorial Library

The library board and director are very gratified by the results of the vote on the library proposition that appeared on the school budget for public vote. The fact that the proposition was approved will mean that they library will be able to update the book collection, present more programs, and increase services to the community.

The two new Gateway computers received through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation were installed in the library on Thursday, May 17. They are completely equipped with a great deal of software which is being enjoyed by library customers of all ages.

The Storytime Program conducted from September through May was very successful in terms of participation and enjoyment of both children and adults. Mary Legacy planned and carried out reading projects and related events. We are extremely grateful to Mary for all of her time and effort. Mary will also coordinate our summer reading program and we are expecting to have an exciting time with "2001 – A Reading Odyssey".

--Jeanette Hotchkiss, Director

Wead Library, Malone

Recently it was our pleasure to be informed that we had helped a local author to achieve publication in a magazine of national stature. We had obtained for him the requisite information and publications, which assisted in his writing efforts. Obviously, his work was felt worthy by the editors, for, as Robert Service stated decades ago, "the proof of the poem is in the printing."

The library's annual book sale, which took place June 8th and 9th, netted \$988.85 for the library and its programs. Thanks are due to Mary and Tom Groves and Hope Reilley who volunteered their time. We've also received a \$200.00 donation from David W. Twiddy to be used for acquisitions.

We will be offering 2001: a Reading Odyssey as our free summer reading program on Wednesday mornings from July 18 to August 15. Our summer activities will also include two special programs for the whole family to attend. On July 25, the

Waickman Family of Saranac Lake will perform “Music From Around the World”. On August 8, the Oakwood Theatre Company will present a puppet show about Anansi the spider, which ought to send some imaginations spinning!

-- David Minnich, Director

Saranac Lake Free Library

Six local first grade classes have recently visited the library. After Director Betsy Whitefield introduced the children’s section, each class toured the Charles Dickert Memorial Wildlife Museum and viewed the Children’s Art Show on display in the Cantwell Community Room. Teachers arranged for parents to fill out registration cards before the visits, so children were able to receive a library card after their tour.

We will be offering 2001: a Reading Odyssey as our free summer reading program on Wednesday mornings from July 18 to August 15. Our summer activities will also include two special programs for the whole family to attend. On July 25, the Waickman Family of Saranac Lake will perform “Music From Around the World”. On August 8, the Oakwood Theatre Company will present a puppet show about Anansi the spider, which ought to send some imaginations spinning!

--Pat Wiley, Saranac Lake Free Library

Beached With Books

A good book in your beach bag is as essential as sunscreen and a few not-so-healthy snacks. Here are a few hot recommendations from some readers we know.

A Painted House by John Grisham is a semi-autobiographical novel about the author’s childhood on a cotton farm in rural Arkansas where a “painted house” is a status symbol. I’m also waiting to read *Scarlet Feather* by Maeve Binchy. The plot involves two friends who decide to take the plunge and open their own catering business.

--Kathy Cayea, Head of Adult Services, PPL

On my list of books I’m trying to find time to read is *Sharpe’s Fortress*, the third in Bernard Cornwell’s series about the British wars in India. *Morgan’s Run* by Colleen McCullough is another Australian epic (remember *The Thornbirds*) about the convict settling of Australia. The blurb says that it combines the elements of *Tom Jones* and *Mutiny on the Bounty*. I’m also looking forward to discovering a great new

(to me) author named Brendan DuBois. He has written four books set on the seacoast of New Hampshire (*Dead Sand*, *Black Tide*, *Resurrection Day*, and *Shattered Shell*).

-- Francie Fairchild, Director, Chazy Public Library

I would definitely recommend *The Keys to the Street* by Ruth Rendell. This is a good and suspenseful mystery set in London. There's some romance, some action, and just a good storyline. Also on my list is *Water Witches* by Chris Bohjalian. Dowsing has always fascinated me and this story, set in Vermont, grabbed my attention from the first page. Chris will be the speaker at the CEF Annual Meeting too! Another good bet is *Firefly Summer* by Maeve Binchy. After the death of his wife, Patrick O'Neill decides to uproot his children from America to return to the land of his ancestors. This story has a lot of Irish atmosphere and characters that you can care about. I also recommend *Colors of the Mountain* by Da Chen. Growing up in China after the Communist take-over was not easy. This true story of a young boy's journey into manhood is both inspirational and interesting. Reading this book will make you realize just how precious our freedom to obtain a good education is and how much we take it for granted!

-- Kathie LaBombard, Children's Services Librarian, CEF

There are two books I'm planning to read over the summer that have had great reviews by our patrons and staff. One is Barbara Kingsolver's *Prodigal Summer* (I loved *The Poisonwood Bible* which was one of my favorite reads of last year) and the other is *Seabiscuit*, the biography of the great race horse, by Laura Hillenbrand. Since there are so many books to read, I decided to let the patrons have the first read. Now I'm ready for my turn!

-- Patricia Perez, Lake Placid Public Library

I would definitely recommend *Chocolat* by Joanne Harris. When a beautiful single woman opens a chocolate shop in a small French town, she faces opposition for the local priest. Reviews say this novel is "delicious" and "light" but it has a serious side as well. The author has since written *Blackberry Wine: A Novel* and *Five Quarters of the Orange*, so if this turns out to be a good beach book, there's the bonus of a possible reading binge! Another good one is *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith. This book by a talented new author meets one important beach book criterion: it's thick! Set mostly in the cultural melting pot of London, it takes on weighty issues such as race, class, and sex with a light touch.

-- Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian, CEF

Here are a few books that I've read recently and recommend highly, though I'm not saving them for beach reading! *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant is a wonderful retelling of Bible history and deals with roles of women through the voice of Dinah, daughter of Jacob. It features a fast moving plot, great female characters and wonderfully written prose. *Name Dropping* by Jane Heller is a breezy fast-paced romantic thriller about two women with the same name whose lives get intertwined. Elizabeth Berg's most recent novel, *Never Change*, is a moving story about loneliness, loss and healing. I have loved ALL of Berg's books and recommend them highly. *Summer Island* by Kristin Hannah captures all of the aspects of mother-daughter relationships. *Prodigal Summer* was my first experience with the work of Barbara Kingsolver but not my last! I listened to the CEF audiobook, which was read by the author, and was mesmerized by her wonderful accents which were so perfect for this set of three intertwined stories from Appalachia.

-- Susan Hughes, Director, Elizabethtown Library Association

One book that would be good for the beach is Diane Mott Davidson's new book, *Sticks and Stones*. Another good read is *The Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Travy Chevalier. It has mystery, romance and history. What more could one want?

-- Donna Hanus, Director FEH School Library System; CEF Board

The reality is that when I go to the beach, I spend part of the time in the water, part of the time watching the endless parade of people and part of the time sleeping. If I ever do have time to read on the beach, here's what I'll choose. My all time top pick is one of Larry McMurtry's earliest books, *Moving On*. The story includes a mixture of a young Texas couple, graduate school and the adventures of the professional rodeo circuit. The wife is restless and temperamental and McMurtry does a great job developing her character. I read this again recently and enjoyed it at least as much as I did the first time. Next, I have to tackle *Lonesome Dove* again. If you want something more serious to read, try Jeffrey Lent's *In the Fall*. This is the story of a Civil War soldier returning to his native Vermont with an African-American wife. The descriptions of wartime conditions are moving and the description of the adjustment of the community to the presence of a former slave make this an excellent read. The latest Louise Erdrich book, *The Last Report on the Miracles At Little No Horse* is a complex story of a priest living on an Ojibwan reservation, who is really a woman masquerading as a man. With moving descriptions of the dismal life on the reservation and Erdrich's character development, this book is well worth the time it takes to read it as carefully as it deserves.

-- Elizabeth Rogers, Head of Reference and ILL, CEF

Tops on my list is *Big Stone Gap* by Adriana Trigiani, and its sequel, *Big Cherry Holler*. Both books, which are set in rural Virginia, lets you take a peek into the lives of some interesting characters. Plus, they are quick to read!

--Ann Garcia, Director, Keeseville Free Library

I love non-fiction because I always seem to learn something and sometimes a laugh is thrown in to make me feel good. My list of summer reads includes *The O'Reilly Factor: The Good, the Bad and the Completely Ridiculous in American Life* by Bill O'Reilly. Mr. O'Reilly touches on subjects like Janet Reno, South Park and Viagra with a sense of humor and honesty that I really enjoy. I also like *Who Moved My Cheese?* This book took 15 minutes to read but somehow got the point across about the importance of dealing with change on a daily basis. This is a good beach book, but bring more because it goes fast!

-- Edie Morelock, Director, Mooers Free Library

One of my recent readings was *The Courage Tree* by Diane Chamberlain. The plot takes a look at what happens when parents try to take control of their daughter's decisions concerning the well-being of her child.

-- Carol White, Director, Akwesasne Library

Jane's pick: *The Quilter's Apprentice* by Jennifer Chiaverini, a tale of two women, one young, one old, who learn to craft new lives and mend old ones as they sew a quilt. This is a heartwarming story of relationships that, like pieces of a quilt, can be connected with discord or with harmony. I have recommended this book to many people and all have given it the thumbs up. And, the best part is, there is a sequel: *Round Robin*. Linda's pick: *Purgatory Ridge* by William Krueger. This is a tale of suspense set in a small Minnesota town. Ex-sheriff, Cork O'Connor tries to keep the peace between the local Anishinaabe Indian tribe, developers, and environmentalists. Great writing! Kathryn's pick: *The Painted House* by John Grisham is written in the form of a narrative by a very young boy growing up in a world of adults experiencing some very serious problems. The characters are clearly defined and leap from the pages. The boy discovers how the adults in his life handle their problems - some with violence and some with the ability to make necessary changes. As usual Grisham writes a compelling and thought-provoking story.

-- Schroon Lake Library Staff

Continuing Education Opportunities

Watch for more information coming soon about a variety of continuing education opportunities for member library directors, staff and trustees that are taking place this summer. Here are a few highlights:

- July 23 Grant Writing: Basic Elements of a Grant Proposal
Saranac Lake,
NC3R's *Fee: \$10.00*
- July 24 Organizing Your Historical Records
Fort Edward, State Archives & Records Management *Free*
- August 3 Internet Access to New York's Historical Records
Canton, NC3R's *Fee: \$10.00*
- August 20 20 Conflict Management and Confrontational Skills
Fred Pryor Seminars, Burlington, VT *Fee: \$195*
- September 18 Conducting a Records Inventory
Canton, State Archives & Record Management *Free*
- September 30-October 2 Reach Your Peak: New England Library Association Annual Conference
Burlington, VT *Fee: \$75 for three days if registered by 9/21 or \$35.00 for Sunday and \$45.00 for each additional day (10/1 and 10/2).*

All of these opportunities are recommended for the CEF scholarship program. If you have questions, or need an application, please call or e-mail Kathie LaBombard at 563-5190 x 21; e-mail: labombar@cefls.org

NYSLAA Conference a Success, as Usual

This year The 23rd Annual New York State Library Assistants' Association Conference was held at St. John's University, in New York City on June 13th –15th, sponsored by METRO's Library Assistants, Support Staff and Associates of New York City. Workshops, meetings and networking with fellow library assistants proved to be a valuable experience. For those of us fortunate enough to have extra time in New York, the sightseeing and tourist attractions helped to round out the visit (although I must say that I could have done without the subway experiences). Next year the conference will be held in Oneonta. For more information about NYSLAA or the conference, check out our website at www.english.cornell.edu/nyslaa. Hope to see you at next year's conference.

-- Tracey LaBarge, Senior Library Clerk

One Funny Guy!

It was sad this morning to hear of the passing of Jack Lemmon, a legendary performer with multiple talents. In the course of his career, he worked with some of the best actors Hollywood had to offer, most notably his "Odd Couple" partner, Walter Matthau. C-E-F has several videos that you can borrow to have your own Jack Lemmon film festival. From early in his career, there's the classic *Some Like It Hot* with Marilyn Monroe and Tony Curtis. When Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis dress as women to join an all girl band, they get more than they bargained for! Another early one is the original *Out-Of-Towners* starring Jack with Sandy Dennis. (A recent version starred Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn). The best, though, were when the two friends, Lemmon and Matthau, got together. In *Grumpy Old Men*, and the sequel, *Grumpier Old Men*, both were at their comedic best, playing irascible neighbors in competition for the same fish and the same women. They teamed up again in *Out To Sea*, which, although not as good as the *Grumpy Old Men* series, still is a joy to watch. Walter and Jack are gone now, but the standard they set for comedy lives on.

-- Kathie LaBombard, AV Librarian

ILL Top Ten List

It's always interesting to hear what others are reading—these books must be good because we have lots of requests for them:

Anne Tyler, *Back When We Were Grownups*
James Patterson, *First to Die*
Sue Grafton, *P is for Peril*
Anita Shreve, *The Last Time They Met*
Joyce Carol Oates, *We Were the Mulvaney*s
Jeffrey Deaver, *Blue Nowhere*
Maeve Binchy, *Scarlet Feather*
Mary Higgins Clark, *On the Street Where You Live*
Belva Plain, *Looking Back*
P.D. James, *Death in Holy Orders*

-- Elizabeth Rogers