

Trailblazer Winter 2001-2002

The Newsletter of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System

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Is it really a virus? Virus hoaxes and how to recognize them

All of us who have computers and Internet access are in the same boat these days – we can all be affected by viruses and other mischief. There are some people out there who prey on our anxieties about viruses by spreading false rumors about viruses – virus hoaxes. These hoaxes can also cause damage, by scaring you into taking actions that delete necessary files on your computer. At the very least, hoaxes waste people's time. Think twice before passing on email about a supposed virus! Read on to see how you can verify the information quickly and easily before taking any action you might regret later.

A recent virus hoax instructed people to delete the file “sulfnbk.exe.” While deleting the file won’t disable the computer, it’s a valid windows file, and you may need that file in the future. This hoax was very effective, because it gave clear instructions about how to find out if your computer was “infected.” Everyone who followed the instructions found the file “sulfnbk.exe,” and was instructed to delete it. If you did delete it, don’t worry – it can be restored from a Windows CD if it’s ever needed, with some effort. The next virus hoax might instruct you to delete something REALLY important that will disable your computer! Don’t fall for it. Here’s what to do:

When you receive an email about a virus or other potential threat, make note of what the virus is called, if anything, or the name of the file it supposedly infects. Then, go to one of several authoritative Web sites to check whether the virus is real or not.

The Web site <http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html> is created by Symantec, the makers of Norton Antivirus. Check this site to see a list of current virus hoaxes. Some of the names listed when I looked recently were: “\$800 from Microsoft”, “Blue Mountain Virus”, “Virtual Card for You Virus” and, of course, “Sulfnbk.exe Warning”. They’re all fictitious viruses. You can read about each hoax to see where it originated and other details. Once you have verified that the virus warning you received was a hoax, it’s best to delete the email. Another good site to check for virus hoaxes is the McAfee site: <http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>. I found the Sulfnbk virus hoax on this site as well, along with instructions on how to restore the sulfnk.exe file if you deleted it. These two sites also allow you to find out about real viruses – which ones are going around, how they spread, and what they do. However, as long as you keep your antivirus software up-to-date, you don’t need to worry about these details.

Either of these Web sites can be trusted to separate fact from fiction. To make it easier to check out a potential hoax, put one of these sites in your Internet favorites or bookmarks. That way, you can have it handy any time you receive a questionable email.

-- Betsy Brooks, *Automation Librarian*

Ten Commandments of Being a Good Library Trustee Advocate

(In the printed version of the Trailblazer, the following takes the shape of a bookmark.)

Public Library Trustee advocacy is vital to ensuring the future of public libraries.

1. Have a working knowledge of your public library’s services and programs
2. Be familiar with your library funding sources

3. Know who the key decision-makers are in your community
4. Establish clear roles and responsibilities for the Friends of the Library and support their work
5. Attend civic, educational, and community functions and events
6. Become familiar with local, state and federal existing and proposed library legislation
7. Establish a continuing education budget for trustees
8. Adopt a Library Board Members' Code of Ethics
9. Develop an annual advocacy plan

Believe in the value of partner-ships and collaborations

May 2001: Patricia L. Owens, Consultant, Timber Crest Box 207B RR #2, Canton, PA 17724 (570) 673-8241; powens@epix.net

Local Advocacy Efforts Receive an A+

Graduates of the Fifth Annual Trustee Council, which was held at the Saranac Lake Free Library on October 27, have used the library advocacy skills learned that day with promising results. Full funding was received from the Board of Legislators of Clinton and Franklin counties and the Board of Supervisors of Essex County, thanks to the tireless efforts of CEF board members, and trustees and directors of local libraries. CEF Director Mary Brown, who spearheaded the lobby effort says, "We are grateful for everyone's help and support. We couldn't have done it without you!"

We all will have an opportunity to advocate for libraries at the New York State Library Association Lobby Day which is set for Tuesday, March 19. This is your chance to speak out for libraries, and to tell legislators what libraries do for real life library users. Log on to the NYLA Web site at www.nyla.org for more information on Lobby Day priorities, and watch for local car pool announcements from CEF. Our representatives in state government need to hear from you. As local experience shows, coordinated advocacy efforts really do make a difference!

The "Ten Commandments of Being a Good Public Library Trustee Advocate" bookmark that was prepared by Patricia Owens for the Trustee Council is reprinted on this page. Please feel free to clip and copy it, or request more copies from Penny Cowan at CEF.

PR Corner

February may be the shortest month but it provides a smorgasbord of celebrations that range from the far-fetched to the lucrative. February is National Blah Buster Month, National Grapefruit Month, and Responsible Pet Owner Month. We were interested to note that February 7 is Charles Dickens Day, and February 15 is National Gum Drop Day. Public Sleeping Day, which occurs on February 28, has limited celebratory possibilities. You will find lots more themes to celebrate (or not) at <http://library.thinkquest.org/2886/feb.htm>. A handy index to this site, which lists holidays by month and date, can be found at <http://library.thinkquest.org/2886/index.htm>. I've bookmarked both just to add zest to my life until it's time for the clocks to spring forward.

Best of all, February is also Library Lovers' Month. This holiday provides an excuse for a month-long celebration of school, public, and private libraries of all types. It's also a time for everyone, especially library support groups, to recognize the value of libraries. Numerous Library Lovers' Month activities can be found at www.librarysupport.net/librarylovers. The site, which was created by Friends & Foundations of California Libraries, is a little gold mine of promotional links and tips. Some highlights include ten free bookmarks, a detailed Valentine fundraiser (one library raised \$11,600 but spent \$4,000 in postage!) and a year long promotional calendar of ideas. The "*My Library*" poem featured below is printed from this fun and informative site.

-- *Julie Wever*

A Task of Olympic Proportions

Most of us share a special interest in the winter Olympics, and most of us have some "brush with greatness" surrounding the Lake Placid area (mine is that I bumped into Scott Hamilton at the Cottage one night. Boy is he short.). The 2002 Olympics are fast approaching and of course there's plenty of information to be found on the Web. The **Official site of the Olympics**, at <http://www.sloc.com> provides the basic information about scheduling of events, ticket availability (for the wealthy) and information on the athletes themselves. This is the spot where you can buy Olympic t-shirts and pins. Digging a bit deeper, we find information from *The Salt Lake Tribune* ("Utah's statewide newspaper") which includes some behind-the-scenes anecdotes as well as good information on how preparations are proceeding and the logistics of the whole thing. This makes fascinating reading for Olympic buffs. More interesting reading can be found at **The Road to Salt Lake**, <http://www.ktvb.com/roadtosl>, a site sponsored by a Utah television station. Residents of Utah (Uthans? Utanians? Utahists?) are kept apprised of things like the

progress of the Olympic flame as it burns its way across the country. It's here that we learn that the first Boisean will be competing in the games.

There's a bit of Olympic history at <http://saltlakecity.coolattractions.com> as well as ticket information, venues, maps, schedules, etc. The major networks have their usual coverage of the Olympics, most of which won't commence until the Games begin. CNN has good information to keep you up to date on events and competitions leading up to the Games. At <http://www.sportsillustrated.cnn.com> you can monitor the successes and failures of leading contenders. I enjoy the Canadian perspective on the Games, so for me <http://www.cbc.ca/olympics> is a great site. Since I can watch the events on CBC at home, this is a nice guide for my televiewing pleasure.

Whatever site you choose, hunker down, settle in, stoke the fire and watch the fun on TV, listen on the radio, surf the Web or read the paper as the Games commence on February 8. If you watch NBC be sure to listen for the voice of Lake Placid's own Jim Rogers as he announces some of the ski jumping events.

-- Elizabeth Rogers, Head of Reference & ILL

Feature Library: A Look at the Paine Memorial Library, Willsboro, Then and Now

The Paine Memorial Library was featured in the August 1931 issue of *NY Libraries Magazine*. We have reprinted this charming account of the library's history below.

One of the most beautiful library buildings in the state is the Paine Memorial Library at Willsboro, which was opened to the public in August 1930. It is the gift of Augustus G. Paine of New York, a summer resident of Willsboro for more than 40 years, built in memory of his mother. Besides presenting the building finished and fully equipped to the town of Willsboro, Mr. Paine plans to provide for the permanent endowment.

The library is splendidly situated in the center of the village, well set off by space with fine lawn and trees. The building is one story high, absolutely fireproof. It is built in colonial style, dignified and rich in its simplicity. The material is brick, embellished with a trimming of white marble. The ornamentation is a rare quality of Vermont marble, cut and polished to a high degree. The prominent features of the ornamentation are the dentilated molding of the cornice, the exquisite workmanship of the entrance casement, pediment and urn and the hussar headpiece or lintels over the windows.

The interior is as simple and elegant as the exterior, with the same richness and beauty of finish. A large fireplace on one side of the one large room flanked by deep easy chairs gives warmth and a feeling of hominess which one feels throughout the library. The equipment is modern and at the same time in perfect taste with the room. The books are all shelved in the stack room, which extends back of the large reading room, convenient to librarian and readers. A committee of women keeps flowers in the reading room throughout the year.

At its opening the library contained 5000 new books, carefully selected to suit all ages and tastes. There is capacity for 10,000 volumes. An array of periodicals rivaling the collection in a city library invites readers to the large reading tables. A small table, similar to the larger tables elsewhere in the room, marks one corner plainly for the children.

Willsboro is beautifully situated on Lake Champlain on a route which appeals to travelers and vacationists in search of beauty of scenery. Those who are fortunate enough to be taking this route this year or later should make a point of seeing the library, where a cordial welcome awaits.

Since 1931, there have been a few changes at Paine Memorial. A second story has replaced the original cathedral ceiling. Public Library Construction funds were used in 2001 to repair and restore the marble cornice and to repoint the chimney.

A full range of children's services is offered throughout the week in the renovated basement. Head Start story hour, which is currently attended by 19 children, is held on Mondays. On Wednesdays, the library is visited by 20 "pre-K" children from Willsboro Central School. An open story hour for three year olds is held on Friday mornings.

CEF staff members have visited Paine Memorial to train staff and volunteers in preparation to go on line with MultiLIS in the near future. The library's three public access workstations are popular with community members young and old.

Mr. Richard Greer, a local resident, offers free piano lessons on the wonderful Steinway located on the second floor. Throughout the years the library has continued to be a vital part of the Willsboro community, fulfilling the vision of it's founder.

Book Lines Online

Interested in reading but don't know what you might like? There are some Web sites that are perfect for you. Chapter-a-Day, at www.chapteraday.com posts a daily excerpt from popular books to your Internet address. After two or three chapters the club moves on to a new title. Want to share your feelings and insights about a book you've read? Try www.BookCrossing.com, where visitors are invited to register a book they've read and include comments about it. The follow-through is that readers are then encouraged to share the book either by lending it to someone, donating it to a library or just leaving it somewhere another reader might find it. There's also The Front Porch, at www.co.fairfax.va.us/library/reading/discuss.htm, an online book discussion book hosted by the Fairfax County (Virginia) Public Library. We'd be interested in your comments about these sites and your recommendations for similar forums.

-- *Elizabeth Rogers*

MEMBER LIBRARY NEWS

In Clinton County:

Dodge Library, West Chazy

We are back in the swing of things here at the Dodge Library. Life has finally returned to normal after a bumpy re-opening early in the school year. Construction took much longer than expected and there are some finishing touches that still need to be completed.

But, we are happy to report that lending, Internet, and all other services are up and running as usual.

I have started a new program here called Goodnight Moon parties. Once a month on a Tuesday evening at 7pm, we have a gathering of local children and their parents. I invite everyone to come in their pajamas, and we have a Goodnight Moon pajama party.

The kids come with Mom and/or Dad and listen to an hour's worth of bedtime stories while eating cookies and drinking juice,

then go home to bed. We hosted parties in November and December. Our next party will be Tuesday, January 22nd at 7pm. Anyone interested can call 493-6131 for more details during normal hours or they can leave a message on the answering machine and I will call them back.

-- *Sarah Lushia, Director*

Mooers Free Library

In October, we experienced some difficulties with a witch in the Children's Section of the library. She didn't seem to want to leave; even showing her the broom didn't get her out the door. She finally did leave after several kids laughed at her and called her "silly" so I think that she's gone for good.

The Christmas story hour on December 15 was well received, especially when storyteller Sharon appeared dressed in a complete elf costume and read several holiday favorites to the children. Twelve kids (mostly boys) were as silent as can be listening to an elf read to them!

Our hours will change in January 2002. As of January 2, the library will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We hope that children will find this schedule convenient and will come in to use the computers.

The Mooers Free Library finally rid itself of this witch just in time to decorate for Christmas!

Oliver Brookes, Clive Henery and their period instruments were popular guests at the Mooers Free Library story hour on Saturday, October 20.

-- *Eddie Morelock, Director*

In Essex County:

Elizabethtown Library Associaton

The Elizabethtown Library Association will hold a Winter Book Sale to celebrate "Love Your Library" month in February. Books will be on sale at the library during the week of February 18 - 23 during regular business hours. The library is open Monday and Wednesday 12-6 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 to 2 p.m. Because of limited space, new books will be put out each day as books are sold. Donations are also being accepted at this time. For more information, call 873-2670.

-- *Susan Hughes, Director*

Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay

On Saturday, November 17, over 100 people gathered for a reception celebrating 95 years of service and the grand opening of our new addition. Children and adults admired the workmanship of Arto Monaco's bookbin train. This train has added a great deal of color and organization to our childrens' area.

Since the new addition, the library is the perfect blend of old and new!

The additional space, which the addition provides, has allowed us to add a few new programs to our activity schedule. Adults now enjoy a bridge group and enthusiastic quilters gather for a quilting bee once a month. Our popular tea and talk is still held on the second Wednesday of the month. With the help of Grace Potthast we have two childrens' story and art hours a month.

The library's bright new addition houses an expanded childrens' area that is highlighted by Arto Monaco's bookbin train.

Schroon Lake Public Library

We are very excited to report that our library has taken the first step towards automation. We have signed an automation contract with CEF that will eventually allow us to circulate our books by computer. It will be a major project to get our collection weeded, barcoded, and ready to go, but we are very anxious to begin.

We are already thinking about this year's summer reading program. I have decided that it would be great publicity to have a float in this year's 4th of July parade. To go along with this year's theme (Splish, Splash) Kathryn, Linda and I will be in a bathtub taking a bath while reading a book with the song, "Splish Splash I was Taking a Bath" playing in the background. We could be blowing bubbles too. The only problem is, I'm having a hard time talking Linda and Kathryn into it. I wonder why.

A Friends of the Library group has been formed, which opens up many new possibilities for us. Many local residents have joined the group and we hope that it continues to grow alongside of our other endeavors.

-- *Jane Bouchard, Director*

Keene Valley Library Association

The Brownstone Book Fund has donated 101 children's books to our library. We have chosen titles from a large list and hope the books will arrive in late January. After processing them, we will have a grand unveiling ceremony for parents and children on Saturday, February 23 at 10:30 a.m. Erin Perkins, KCS kindergarten teacher and book lover, will be a guest reader at the ceremony. Parents and children may borrow the new books at that time.

What's all the fuss about Harry Potter? What are the kids so excited about? On the afternoon of Wednesday, January 16 at 3:30 pm, we will host a discussion of the Harry Potter books with Rev. Milt Dudley. Read one or more of the books or see the movie.

Then come and share ideas about the phenomenon that has captured the imagination of J.K. Rowling fans. The library has all four books in book form and on audiocassette.

Did you know we have 2 file drawers of musical scores? There are show tunes, operas, classical pieces, piano duets, Gershwin and Cole Porter hits. And now they are for sale. Though you can buy them at anytime, we will display them for purchase on Saturday, January 19. Browse through them and maybe you'll find something to spark your interest and get you singing or playing.

Our midwinter book sale is almost upon us. On February 16, we will again have a book sale from 9:30 to 4:00. A social atmosphere prevails while you look for those books that will get you through the winter months. There will be also be treasures from the basement.

In February, borrowers are encouraged to bring in those overdue books and support the food pantry hosted by the Town of Keene Library. The Keene Valley Library will support that food pantry by accepting nonperishable food for overdue books in lieu of fines from February 1 through Presidents' weekend.

On Saturday morning, January 26, the Keene Valley Library will host "The Connection To Place". This program will present a book of photographs and writings by local girls, mentored by photography artist Rebecca Solderholm. The work documents that which binds them to the place they call home. Please join us in celebrating the wonderful work of our local young photographers and writers. This workshop is made possible, in part, by a Developing Community Arts Grant with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program administered locally by the Arts Council for the Northern Adirondacks, and by High Peaks Photo in Lake Placid.

-- *Karen Glass, Director*

Keeseville Free Library

Our Christmas season decor featured more than 300 Christmas tins. It took Joyce Shaw and me six hours to put them all up for display. When they are finally up, they go completely around the room. We had a huge turn out for our Christmas party and I think we broke a few fire codes that day!

The library received several nice holiday donations of \$1,000 and \$2,500 - there IS a Santa after all!

The new year finds us keeping our noses to the grindstone and thinking about our 2001 annual report!

-- *Ann Garcia, Director*

Sherman Free Library, Port Henry

The Sherman Free Library will hold six one hour computer classes in January and February. These classes will be for senior

citizens and will cover use of the mouse, word processing and the Internet. In December, Betsy Brooks came from CEF to give a two hour introductory computer class. We are pleased to note that most of those registered for the upcoming classes participated in the December session.

In Franklin County:

Saranac Lake Free Library

We had fun with Teen Read Week by sponsoring a "Pop Open a Good Book" contest. Teens from seventh grade through eighteen years old guessed how many lollipops were in a large glass jar. At the bottom of the guess form, teens listed a favorite book and why they liked it. They then tacked this lower part of the form to a bulletin board.

Recommendations were varied and very thoughtful. Describing *Slaughter House Five*, one young person wrote, "Fantastic writing, original. Kurt Vonnegut wrote it... I mean... C'mon!" Another student suggested Mildred Taylor's *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* because it showed "how close the family is and how they stick together through hardships." Of Lurlene McDaniel's *Starry, Starry Night*, another teen wrote, "It was inspirational. It showed how people go on after something horrible happens."

Clara Fontana won the guessing contest with the closest guess of 254 lollipops. Two hundred seventy seven was the correct answer. Clara said she won by "taking a wild guess!" She received a \$10 gift certificate to Fact and Fiction Book Shop.

From mid October until the end of April the Saranac Lake Free Library presents Brown Bag Lunch Programs which feature speakers from all walks of life with interesting topics to relate. These informal sessions begin at noon in the Cantwell Community Room and generally last an hour. Dessert and beverage are provided by library refreshment volunteers under the direction of

Barbara Gragg and Joy Harvey. Topics to be discussed in January and February include:

January 17: Kenneth Hunkins – The Artic

January 31: John Ward – Pre Carnival Cartoons

February 14: Peter McAfee – Customs Customs

February 28: Debby Ryan – What’s New in Physical Therapy

-- *Pat Wiley*

Goff-Nelson Memorial Library, Tupper Lake

Here we are once again in the middle of the Adirondacks in the middle of winter. The library was well used in December. A childrens’ Christmas party, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, was held in the community room. We also hosted a book signing by local authors Donna Vail Jones and Randy Jones. This was a well-attended event that introduced the first novel of our newest local authors. As a matter of interest to our sister libraries, the description of the story is as follows:

“The Jones’ have taken a controversial subject and added it as a twist to create an intriguing story. Reincarnation and an unconscious drive to right a tragic wrong from the past are the driving forces behind this romantic adventure. A modern couple’s dreams of 19th century Victorian New York City come alive as the story interweaves between the past and the present.”

The autographed book is on sale at the library for \$23.50, as well as at area book stores and would be a nice addition to your local author collection.

A ten part course on the art of woodcarving with Allen Aardsma is currently being held in the community room. This workshop was very popular with local residents last year and Mr. Aardsma had no problem filling the class once again.

Things have slowed down considerably since the Christmas rush and we are using the time to catch up on “back room” chores, with which I am sure you are all familiar. That is not to say that we have a shortage of patrons. Last summer saw our computers used to capacity as our summer visitors came in to check their e-mail and keep in touch with the people “back home.” The “locals” have done their share in filling the void, and it is a rare time when the computer area is vacant. The time between now and March is a rather nice time here at Goff-Nelson as we enjoy the snow and feel sorry for those who have left for Florida (honest!)

-- *Chalice Dechene, Director*

Honoring the President

Although we're especially appreciative of the day off awarded to honor America's first president, it's always good to take a look at his noteworthy contributions to the country's history. Born and raised in Virginia, Washington was trained and employed as a surveyor prior to his entrance into politics. His father died when George was 11, and George went to live with his brother, with whom he designed and built Mount Vernon. He contracted smallpox during a visit to the West Indies, and suffered severe scarring. He traveled to then-distant Ohio early in his military career, where he fought the French. During his early political involvement he didn't favor independence from the British, but he ultimately opposed the repression of the British and took an active role in the Revolutionary War, becoming Commander of the Continental Army. Many feel that America's victory over the British is due in large part to the successes of Washington's leadership. Here's where he was a truly unique president: during his two terms as the country's first President he resisted being involved in partisan politics. After refusing to serve a third term he retired to Mount Vernon, where he died as a result of severe laryngitis suffered after a ride in the snow and rain on the grounds of his estate.

My Library

MY LIBRARY

by Varda One

It's only a room
with shelves and books,
but it's far more magical
than it looks.

It's a jet on which I soar
to lands that exist no more.

Or a key with which I find
answers to questions
crowding my mind.

Building my habit
of learning and growing,
asking and researching
till I reach knowing.

Here, I've been a mermaid and an elf
I've even learned to be more myself.

I think that I shall never see
a place that's been more useful to me.

With encouraging kind friends with wit
who tell me to dream big and never quit.

It's only a room with shelves and books,
but it's far more magical than it looks.

Copyright © 1999 by VARDA ONE. Thank you to VARDA ONE of Hawthorne, California, for giving Friends and Foundations of California Libraries permission to post her poem on the Library Lovers' website: www.librarysupport.net/librarylovers. Varda has also given library support groups permission to reprint or read aloud at any events on behalf of their library.

News to Note

Eileen Clar has replaced Jeanette Hotchkiss as director of the Chateaugay Memorial Library. Welcome, Eileen!

On January 7, 2002, Nancy Howard was appointed to the CEF Board of Trustees. As a resident of Tupper Lake, Mrs. Howard will represent Franklin County.

We are happy to note that the Ft. Covington Reading Center will remain open on a reduced schedule throughout the winter. We had received word previously that high fuel costs might result in the reading center going on hiatus until warmer weather.

A Golden Opportunity for Clinton County Seniors

CEF is partnering with the Senior Citizens' Council of Clinton County to provide library based computer instruction for seniors. This is the FREE computer training opportunity that you've been waiting for!

The project will stress an informal, local approach – seniors can be trained on all aspects of computer use in group or individual settings. We hope that they will then feel confident enough to help their friends and neighbors navigate the world of computers.

This is an ideal opportunity to use the LARGE PRINT module of your Gates computers. CEF Automation Consultant Betsy Brooks and Outreach Coordinator Julie Wever will meet over tea with local senior club presidents in February to discuss how to promote the project to seniors. Meanwhile, if you have a group or a few individuals in your community that are raring to go, please feel free to call Julie Cassel of the Citizens' Council at 563-6181.

Annual Meeting 2002 Speaker Announced

On **Wednesday, July 17, Reeve Lindbergh** will join us as the featured speaker at the 2002 Annual Meeting. Reeve Lindbergh is the youngest child of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh and writer and flier Anne Morrow Lindbergh. She is currently living in

Vermont where she teaches and writes books for children. She has also authored two adult novels, the most recent of which, *Under a Wing*, is a family memoir. Ms. Lindbergh credits her parents with giving her “a love of privacy, a sense of fair play, and a belief that an experience must be written about before it can be completely lived.”

Most of Reeve Lindbergh’s children’s books are written in poem or verse format. Several titles such as the well reviewed *Johnny Appleseed*, *Day the Goose Got Loose*, and *Midnight Farm*, center around farms, farm animals, and country life. Check out more information on Reeve Lindbergh’s books

at <http://my.linkbaton.com/bibliography/Lindbergh/reeve/> and watch for more Annual Meeting details coming soon!

Braille Calendar

If you need a large print or braille calendar for your library or have customers who would like one, request a copy of *Facts: 2002 Calendars* (2001) from The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This six page fact sheet lists a variety of Braille, print/Braille and large print calendars, along with complete ordering information and prices, if applicable. For a free copy, call the Reference Section of the NLBPH at (202) 707-5100 or visit their Web site at www.loc.gov/nls or www.loc.gov/nls.reference/factsheets/calendars2002.html.

- from *Disability Resources Monthly* December 2001

Cabin Fever Programs Available

This winter’s “Cabin Fever” icebreaker programs are worth shoveling a path for! On offer is a performance of Bill Smith’s always popular folk songs and stories for all ages. Bill is available to present a program at your library this spring and summer (but plan to book now for summer because his calendar fills up fast). Bill Smith’s wide-ranging repertoire appeals to all ages.

New to our stable of performers is Bob Bearor of Newcomb. Mr. Bearor is a historical reenactor and the respected author of *The Battle on Snowshoes* and *French & Indian War Battlesites: A Controversy*. In historically accurate 18th century dress, Bob uses slides, music, and personal experience to transport audiences to the famed battles of the French and Indian War. He is dressed and armed as the famous French partisan Ensign Jean Baptiste Leverault de Langis de Montegron, the victorious French commander at the legendary Battle on Snowshoes. Bob explains the equipment, tactics, and weapons of the day, with the help of his wife Holly, who is also dressed in period costume. The Bearors have created two programs that come highly recommended for all library audiences. Program One is a book seminar with slide show presentation and is of particular interest to adult

history buffs. Program Two has widespread appeal for younger or family oriented groups.

For more information on either of these programs or a copy of Bob Bearor's detailed brochure, please contact Julie Wever at CEF.

New Interlibrary Loan Software

Along with mud season and spring flowers, this spring will deliver to us an enhanced interlibrary loan application to ICEPAC, the regional online catalog. During the next few weeks we'll be participating in a pilot project to test the software. Along with System headquarters, the Lake Placid Public Library and the Akwesasne Library will be using the software to place ILL requests.

One of the keen advantages of the new software is that it can be used to request items not included in ICEPAC. This is an exciting enhancement those of us who use Tera Term, Emma, Hobo and NORPAC have been looking forward to. Stay tuned for the latest news on this exciting improvement in service.

-- *Elizabeth Rogers*

Might We Recommend

The CEF Reference/ILL Department has checked out a variety of sources and finds these to be some of the best books of 2001:

Franzen, Jonathan, *The Corrections*

McCullough, David, *John Adams*

Hillenbrand, Laura, *Seabiscuit*

Russo, Richard, *Empire Falls*

Arana, Marie, *American Chica: Two Worlds, One Childhood*

Carey, Peter, *The True History of the Kelly Gang*

Giddins, Gary, *Bing Crosby: a Pocketful of Miracles*

Munro, Alice, *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*

Chaon, Don, *Among the Missing*

Livesey, Margot, *Eva Moves the Furniture*

Bragg, Rick, *Ava's Man*

Erdrich, Louise, *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*

Excitement in the Night Sky

Feeling nostalgic for those nights spent in your backyard tracing Sputnik's flight across the sky? Fear not, there's something even more exciting to track in the twenty-first century sky.

The International Space Station orbits the Earth and can be seen often on a clear night. For sighting information go to <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>, where you'll also find great information about the Station, past and future visits by American astronauts and the design and building of the Station. The nearest city cited here is Burlington, VT so use that as your guide.

Click on www.earthsky.com to visit a site whose creators state up front that everyone has a "gene" for Astronomy. "In a better world, we'd all be able to go into our backyards – look up to see the wonders of the universe – and know what we're seeing." A handy index of "Tonight's Sky for January 2002" lets you know in plain language where to look and what you'll see. Each day's segment is designed to guide your eye to something that you can see that night, or the next morning before dawn. The best part is, you don't need any special equipment to enjoy Tonight's Sky. You just need to look up.

The site also includes a viewing condition forecast and a star pronunciation guide. When you are ready to get serious about sky watching, check out the Skywatcher's Toolbox for a sampling of the best skywatching resources on the Internet.

The winter sky on a clear January night is one of the best things about living in the North Country! Take a thermos of hot chocolate and head out to your own backyard planetarium.

Radical Reading Rallies

Radical Reading Rallies were presented by Mountain Lake PBS to celebrate Children's Book Week in November. Activities brought parents and children into the library together and encouraged them to do a project based on a book that they read together. This was one feature of CEF's *Parents Connect With Books* LSTA project, coordinated by Kathie LaBombard.

Plattsburgh Public Library

Automation Notes

Congratulations to the Schroon Lake Public Library for its recent decision to join the CEF automated system! Schroon Lake joins the ranks of our other automated or soon-to-be automated libraries, which include the Plattsburgh Public Library, the Saranac Lake Free Library, the Willsboro Paine Memorial Library, the Wead Library of Malone, and the Akwesasne Library.

Jane Bouchard, the director of the library, was encouraged by the fact that there are no time constraints to complete the project. "Although it's a very big project, we can take it one step at a time, so it's not overwhelming," she said. The board decided to sign the contract several months ago. Jane said that the board was very supportive of the project, and that board members agreed that automation was inevitable, and the library might as well do it now.

In other automation news, the CEF Web Catalog (also known as CEF CAT) is being used by patrons in the Saranac Lake Free Library and the Plattsburgh Public Library as well as members of the public who are accessing the catalog from home. CEF is planning a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the catalog. If you know of any patrons who would enjoy searching for books from home, please let them know that this resource is available through the CEF Web site (www.cefls.org).

A colorful new design is underway for durable plastic patron cards, which CEF will provide at no charge for the automated libraries. The design is by Stuart Rowley, the Keeseville based artist who also designed CEF's Web site.

-- *Betsy Brooks, Automation Librarian*

Oh, No! What a Disaster!

We've been asked by several libraries for assistance in developing a disaster plan. We have good materials here at system headquarters and are happy to help any way we can. Don't wait until you have a flood to decide what you'll do when it happens. Contact Elizabeth Rogers for more information.

Web Wanderings

This issue's Web site recommendations are a rather eclectic assortment. Some are library oriented for your bookmark page, a few focus on the various February holidays we are looking forward to, and some are just plain fun!

www.spaceweather.com - “Science news and information about the Sun-Earth environment”. This hard-core science site gives current weather conditions in space as well as a cool daily overview of “What’s Up in Space”. On January 16 at Trailblazer “press time”, it featured the two asteroids that tumbled past the Earth-Moon system (neither posed a threat to our planet), and some great images of the northern lights.

www.earthcam.com - See what the penguins are up to at the Biosphere of Montreal or be a world-wide fly on the wall at this fun and educational site.

www.libraryjournal.reviewsnews.com - This site gives excerpts from the current issue of LJ. It probably won’t save you the subscription price, but is fun to browse.

www.akc.org - Watch videos of your favorite breed or get general information about dogs at this addicting site.

<http://atozteacherstuff.com/themes/febholidays.shtml> – This well indexed site provides comprehensive thematic units, lessons, crafts and activities by grade levels PreK – 12. We liked the “Hogitivities” associated with Groundhog Day and were surprised to learn that Robert L. Stevenson wrote a poem about the big day.

www.old-time/com/toc.html - **The** place to go on the Web for anything you want to know about old time radio programming. The site includes many resources and a complete list of the am, fm, short wave radio and satellite stations that broadcast OTR programs.

www.lii.org - The **Librarian’s Index to the Internet** is a searchable, annotated subject directory of more than 8,600 Internet resources selected and evaluated by librarians for their usefulness to users of public libraries.

Annual Report Workshop at SUNY's Feinberg Library

This year, CEF will hold the workshop at the Feinberg Library’s Computer Room 108. This is a hands on workshop—so bring your paper copy!!

*RSVP—So we know to expect you— 518-563-5190 (X12)
- Debbie K.*

Friday, February 15th from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.