

FLLS NEWS

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Karen Creenan, Executive Director &
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INTO THE FUTURE! NEW POLARIS AUTOMATED SYSTEM COMING IN 2005

Welcome to the New Year! In 2005, the Finger Lakes Library System will mark the end of fifteen years with the Dynix automation software and vendor, and the beginning, we hope, of a long and beneficial relationship with GIS Information Systems. The company is headquartered in Syracuse, and has more than thirty years experience in the library automation business. A fifteen member committee, representing our member libraries and the system staff, devoted a great deal of time in 2004 to evaluating leading ILS products on the market. They enthusiastically chose GIS's Polaris as the best product for us. We are excited about Polaris and we are certain our members and their cardholders will feel the same. It is windows based, very flexible and extremely easy to use.

Member library staff and trustees will have an opportunity to get acquainted with Polaris at the next System meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2005. Kathie Graham, a representative of GIS, will provide a two-hour demonstration of the system's circulation, holds, and holdings records functions, as well as the PAC. This will not be a training session (plenty of that later), but an opportunity for you to see how Polaris looks and works.

We expect to "go live" with Polaris in July, 2005. What will happen between now and then? For the next six months, we will be very busy working with a migration consultant from GIS on the migration process. New servers will be installed at FLLS headquarters. All Bibliographic, Authority, Holdings, Patron, and Circulation records in the Dynix system must be converted (accurately) to Polaris. And, of course, there is training. A core group of ten will be trained on all aspects of the use of Polaris over a seven-day period. FLLS Computer Network Services staff will receive an additional three days of System Administration training at GIS headquarters. Then we will schedule regional training sessions.

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ALA Launches Funding Website

School, public, and academic libraries in more than 40 states have absorbed more than \$50 million in funding cuts over the past year, according to the results of a national ALA study available at www.ala.org/libraryfunding/.

"Unfortunately, the news from around the country only seems to be getting worse," said ALA President Carla Hayden. "Libraries have experienced cuts of up to 50% in funding this past year. This information should serve as a rallying cry to library supporters that our ability to serve people is being compromised. We need our supporters to speak up on our behalf and influence elected officials to support libraries."

The site features state-by-state budget-cut information, searchable by type of library, name, or city, compiled from information received from libraries in 2003 as well as newspaper reports. It also includes links to ongoing library funding coverage in *American Libraries* and to ALA's "Issues and Advocacy" pages, which includes suggestions on how to get involved.

A "Tell Your Story" component of the website allows library advocates to submit stories of how funding issues have impacted their communities and allows for the retrieval of stories to share with legislators, decision-makers, and the media.

American Libraries June/July 2004

2005 NYSALB Trustee Institute

The Ninth Annual Trustee Institute will be held at the Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool, New York, on Friday evening, April 29, and Saturday, April 30, 2005. The hotel is conveniently located opposite Thruway exit 37.

This year's Friday evening program will still include the opportunity to share your library's successes, along with an update about the Patriot Act and other federal legislation affecting libraries. Saturday's programs are designed to provide basic guidelines for new trustees, tips for communicating with politicians, information about special district libraries and much more.

Specific details and registration information will be available in February 2005.

Trustees and directors are welcome to attend.

NEW YORK STATE FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES: THE SAGA CONTINUES

As we look back on 2004 and forward to 2005, it is easy to feel like we are riding a rollercoaster. Last January Governor Pataki proposed a budget that included a 5% decrease in New York State Aid to libraries. The legislature restored those much needed funds in their proposed budget. Governor Pataki then vetoed that restoration. In spite of a valiant effort, the Assembly fell one vote short of overriding the Governor's veto. Now it is January 2005. The Assembly passed a supplemental budget for 2004 that again restores funding for libraries. The Senate has declined to do the same effectively eliminating any possibility of a retroactive restoration of 2004 funds. Now it is time for the Governor to release his budget for 2005 and, as this is being written, we do not know what it contains for libraries.

What we do know is that libraries need more state aid, not less. Libraries last received an increase in funding in 1998! Even if the Governor's budget does not propose continued or new cuts in funding for 2005, libraries will receive the same amount of funding we have been receiving for the last seven years. It is not enough.

Ninety percent of the Finger Lakes Library System funding is derived from state aid. New York State budget deliberation is of serious continuing concern to us. It should also be of concern to our member library directors and trustees. Just as local libraries depend on local funding, public library systems depend on state aid to continue and expand services to member libraries. Systems supplement local library services and are an essential link between the library user and the world of information beyond the library doors. New York State aid for libraries also provides direct funding to public libraries, funding for library construction and other special programs and initiatives.

Whatever Governor Pataki proposes for libraries in his budget for 2005, we need our member library trustees, library friends, advocates, and users to contact their local New York State representatives. Our legislators need to be reminded of the value of libraries, and why New York State funding is important to the local community. There is now an easy way to express your support for libraries to your elected representatives. A link from the Finger Lakes Library System website to "LOBBYNET" software at the New York Library Association will generate a fax to your state legislator. It is a quick and easy way to make your feelings about state funding for libraries known.

Karen E. Creenan, Executive Director

Department News:



Adult Services, Marisa Iacobucci

"The winter solstice marks the shortest day and the longest night of the year. The sun appears at its lowest point in the sky, and its noontime elevation appears to be the same for several days before and after the solstice. Hence the origin of the word solstice, which comes from Latin solstitium, from sol, "sun" and -stitium, "a stoppage." Following the winter solstice, the days begin to grow longer and the nights shorter." Taken from: <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/wintersolstice1.html>

Winter Solstice has come and gone and that means time is chasing the darkness away. I always approach the darkest day of the year with a combination of exhaustion and oddly enough, joy. Once the shortest day has passed, it just means that the days are getting longer, and this cheers me. Plus the new year is about to begin...rich with possibilities!

So...I would like to wish you all a warm and cozy, dark time of the year. Enjoy it if you can! Lots of hot chocolate and book recommendations for patrons to hunker down with on all those cold nights to come. And here's wishing you a very joyous start to the New Year!



Outreach Services, Melanie Hemingway

[Excerpted from an article in the Ithaca Times]

Thanks to the Prison Program of the Durland Alternatives Library, Cornell University, and the Mail-It Books-By-Mail program at the Finger Lakes Library System - the residents of Tompkins County and beyond can enjoy the pleasure of a good book, listen to a book on tape, or take part in a myriad of other literary activities.

Can't get to the library? The Mail-It program brings the library to you - covering Tompkins, Cortland, Tioga, Seneca and Cayuga counties. This service is absolutely

free, providing eligible patrons with regular or large print books, audio books and videos. Information and referral services are provided for those with special needs, including Talking Book and Braille Library resources. "Bi-Folkal Kits" offer memory-grabbing titles such as:

- "Fifties" (with a fudge recipe by Mamie Eisenhower and some fun Elvis stuff!)
- "Train Rides"
- "Farm Days"
- ...and more!

Each kit contains a videocassette or slide carousel, song booklets and memorabilia to spark conversation. A manual is included to help the leader plan group activities.

Cassie and her co-workers, Linda Pierro (Mail-It Service Coordinator) and Melanie Hemingway (Outreach Department Head), working from an in-take sheet filled out when a patron first expresses interest, pride themselves on personal service whether by e-mail, phone or letter.

"Library services for our patrons help them stay mentally active, connected and engaged." Linda offered. "Many (of our patrons) have lived interesting lives as scientists, entrepreneurs, teachers and parents. They care deeply about life and community. Our services are valued."

Some use the service during recovery from an illness or surgery. "Our program would be a terrific addition to a patient discharge packet," Linda suggested. Others use the service seasonally if they have difficulty getting out in inclement weather.

Established in 1980, Mail-It averages about sixty new patrons each year. "We'd love to reach more people," assured Cassie.

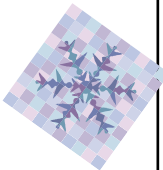
The Mail-It program also serves incarcerated youth and adults in the region.

Carol Youngs is a freelance features writer. She can be reached at writer8218@aol.com

Member News:

Apalachin

Apalachin has been a busy place this fall. We have two regular book clubs going that are very well attended. Our mother and (teen) daughter book club had a Halloween party and discussed the book, *The Witches of Worm* by Zilpha Ke Snyder. We dressed up and enjoyed some delicious snacks while talking about this scary book. On Monday evenings our adult book club has been reading great books like *Step, Ball, Change* by Jeanne Ray; *Fortune's Rocks* by Anita Shreve, and *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama. We look forward to more interesting discussions next year.



We held a Halloween Preschool story hour on October 30th. What fun! We all dressed up, read Halloween books, made two crafts and had cider and donuts. Our regular weekly story hour has up to 18 regular attendees. What a crowd!

We are so pleased to have AWW or Apalachin Women Writers meeting regularly at the library. This is a newly formed group. Experienced and novice writers are meeting monthly to inspire and encourage each other. The goal is for everyone to get their work published.

Santa made his annual visit on December 4th. Lots of excited children came to let him know what they would like him to bring them. Several even asked for paper and pencils so that they could write it out for him while they waited in line!

Unfortunately, our library assistant Jill Koehler, resigned in October. She has taken a full-time position. She was a great asset and is really missed. A search is on for another assistant.

We wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Auburn

Several new programs for adults were offered this fall at Seymour Library. Our "Coffee and Conversation" book groups for adults are going strong. We've begun offering special "Coffee and Conversation" theme nights for people who have particular reading interests or who can't fit a monthly book club into their schedule. Our first theme night in October looked at mysteries, and in November, we hosted a program on cookbooks and food writing. We also offered our first craft night for adults, with staff members showing how to make woven ribbon stars, a traditional holiday decoration. The craft night yielded a nice photograph and article in the local newspaper, as well as participants who can't wait to come back for the next program.

In October, we hosted an open house for home-schooled families. They will continue to meet monthly at the library to exchange ideas and learn about library resources.

Special events included a program to celebrate National Library Card Sign-Up Month in September, in which Reva Roller Dome, the roller skating rink in Auburn, generously provided a coupon for free skating for any child who presented a library card. Auburn author Howard Ford, who wrote a guide to local historical markers called "Sure Signs," spoke at the library in October. Finally, we invited children to listen to "Stories Around the Campfire," an evening program with stories and crafts with a camping theme.

Aurora

The Aurora Free Library had a busy fall. We held a Mother Goose Story time twice a month and hope to resume in March.

The Traveling Lantern Theatre Company from San Diego performed "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" to over 125 people in November. We thank the NYSCA DEC Grant for funding that wonderful program.

A movie night was held in October, and we have put together a bookplate program. The library once again received funding for a Family Theatre Series from NYSCA DEC and will bring the Tri-Cities Opera and Rochester Children's Theater to the library in 2005.

At Christmas in Aurora we offered Children's Gift Making which was well-attended and the library held its first annual 12 Days of Christmas Raffle which generated over \$1000. Our book club read *Life of Pi* in December and is reading *A Prayer for Owen Meany* for January. *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama was a favorite this fall.

Berkshire

The Berkshire Free Library continues to move along with our interior remodeling project. The kitchenette cabinets for our meeting room have arrived and we are hoping to have them installed before the end of the year. The doorway into the handicapped accessible restroom still needs to be widened. The library office has a computer desk waiting to be installed, but all should be completed soon.

We have seen a steady growth in numbers of new patrons each month. As of the end of November, we

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had registered 107 new people this year. Our circulation has also increased steadily. Many people have mentioned that until they saw our lovely new sign out front, they didn't realize that Berkshire had a library. We were quite amused to see in a real estate ad recently, that the property for sale was "across the street from the new library"! We've been here since 1926.

We had purchased a number of nice cloth book bags as a fundraiser about a year ago. There are two left, so we decided to raffle them off, one in January and one in February, to the Patron-of-the-Month. Each time someone checks out books during those months, he/she will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be chosen during the last business day of that month.



Cato

What a difference a day makes! This fall the Lang Memorial Library went from dull and ordinary to bright and cheerful in just one day! How did that happen? With the installation of new carpet and the addition of two Queen Anne style chairs. Of course, the days before and after were anything but dull and ordinary.

To store the library books and furnishings, we rented a container that allowed us to move the library outside while the carpet was removed and replaced. Patrons and board members pitched in and the job was completed without too many sore backs or muscles.

Despite our best-laid plans, staff and patrons were still shelving books just minutes before we opened the library for its 20th birthday celebration that Saturday. We began the day with a special "Celebration of Peace" presented by Juanita Willson. Juanita shared a collection of artifacts from her family, the Onondaga Wolf Clan, and taught the participants the art of beading. The program helped promote a better understanding of American Indians who live in our communities.

The celebration became even more festive when the cake arrived. Former Lang Library Board members and community leaders shared stories from the past and dreams for the future. Children were entertained with a variety of craft projects and by having their faces painted. It was a wonderful day, and we certainly don't plan to wait 20 more years for the next party.

The Lang Library is also very pleased to announce the formation of its new Friends Group. The small group

has had only two organizational meetings but was able to host a table at the local Christmas Bazaar. This initial fundraising event was a great success as the Friends were able to collect enough funds to purchase a digital camera for the library. Library staff and board members look forward to working with our new Friends and truly appreciate the hard work and dedication everyone has shown.

Cortland

Thanks to the outcry of the users of the Cortland Free Library, 80 percent of the proposed 15% cut in the city budget was restored. When users of the Library learned about the City's proposed reduction, dozens called or sent an e-mail to their council person expressing how important the library was in the community. Letters in the newspaper and several editorials also stressed the need.

At the common council meeting where the library's allocation was discussed in detail, the city manager stated that "the community has spoken." He noted that the community didn't necessarily care where the money came from, they just wanted the library funded. What a relief that was for all concerned.

The library is constantly buzzing with many volunteers who are helping with the collection validation in preparation for automation. A job can be found for anyone who wants to volunteer!

Homer

Our capital campaign continues to grow as pledges and gifts are returned. Some outdoor work in progress had to be halted due to weather.

We have a new staff member to replace Suzanne Vetter who became the Director at Cincinnati. Her name is Priscilla Berggren-Thomas and she is already proving to be a valuable and excellent worker.

The Homer Downtown Businessmen's Association sponsored a Holiday Celebration on Dec 11 and the library offered a story hour with Chanukah and Christmas stories.

Our circulation statistics continue to grow and I am looking forward to a positive end of the year report for 2004.

Interlaken

Merry Christmas, everyone! Where do the years go? Our story times are going well. Our Christmas one should be fun as we are making mice as the craft. It has a candy cane tail! We have 15 Pre K little ones in two

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groups. We also do things with the Christian school. Wendy Barrows does their story times. We will miss Mrs. Carroll for the Pre K story times in January, February and March as she is going south.

We would like to thank Mr. Charles and Alice Moore for all their help through the years as a trustee and volunteer. They are leaving to go to Virginia to be closer to their families. They will be missed.

We are going to have a new computer as soon as the board approves purchasing another one.

We had an unexpected gift of 2002 World Book Set. It is great! Also along with it, we received a 12 vol. set of Science and Nature. What a wonderful gift.

Have a wonderful New Year and a healthy one, too.



Ithaca

Even though we continue to have a gap between what we aspire to accomplish and the resources we have, our library continues to be a vibrant and valuable community asset. Due to a generous donation, wireless technology has expanded our Internet service. Our Technology Committee is drafting a new Technology Plan, which is ambitious and visionary. County funding for 2005 will increase, allowing several positions to be restored. Unfortunately, at this writing, funding for our popular Sunday hours has yet to materialize.

A new Collection Management Plan will be ready in January 2005, and we encourage member libraries to use it as appropriate to your libraries. An extensive review of our Rules of Behavior, accompanied by consequences, was approved by the library board of trustees in December. However, our Internet rules continue to be abused, so we are planning to install PC Time Management Software to control time limits on our computers.

We are eager to continue working on the "One County One Card" project with our colleagues in other public libraries in Tompkins County. This will be followed by a library registration campaign in the spring of 2005.

We are grateful to the Friends of the Library for once again holding one of the biggest and most successful book sales in the country. Their contribution to the library will be used solely for library acquisitions, including an expanded collection of the popular Anime videos.

Public Programming will continue in 2005 with another Cornell Community Read, book discussions, Internet Training, Author visits, Families and Science Together, Creative Writing for Teens and multiple programs for toddlers and preschoolers.

Marathon

The Board of Trustees of Peck Memorial Library has recently announced that effective, January 1, the library will be increasing the number of hours that the patrons can be served. The change of schedule will accommodate and meet the demands requested by its patrons.

After a six-month study, keeping accurate records of the ebbs and flows of the library's patrons, a recommendation was made to the board that the library establish hours that accommodate family's schedules. In January, the new hours will find the library open each afternoon after school.

Aaron Isaacs entertained a group of 150 for a Halloween Magic show in October. On Halloween, over 700 people enjoyed "A spooky night in the Opera House," as the library transformed the second floor into a haunted house. We had 87 volunteers that night to make sure everything ran smoothly. Board member, Rich Holl was in charge of that exciting endeavor.

We celebrated Christmas on December 9, with our Annual Open House. The *Awesome Appleby Singers*, the choir from Marathon Appleby Elementary School, caroled on the Green, and afterwards they and their families all came over for punch and cookies. The Board supplied the cookies and the punch. It was the best ever!

We hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Newark Valley

With the onset of winter, I am taking the time I spend inside and putting it to good use. We are working on getting more volunteer help and trying to plan ahead for the next year's programs. I was talking to my younger brother in Massachusetts and he did a musical version of Shel Silverstein's *The Missing Piece*. It was part of a course he took in collage. I have talked him into doing it for our summer reading program. I can't wait to see it. We are also trying to find funding for new computers before we change to the new computer systems.

A local Girl Scout Troop has been decorating the library for the different holidays and seasons. We

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have been looking very festive. It has also brought I am diligently working on the complete inventory of the library. This will also entail the personal collection of artifacts once owned by Lee Roy Tappan. He is the person who made the library possible.

We keep plugging away at new ideas for programming and keeping the library running as smoothly as possible. We have said goodbye to our snowbirds for the winter and hope they make it back safely in the spring.

Nichols

Can it be December again already?...When you're in the "business" of stamping books three weeks in the future, you turn around twice and "the future" is here looking you in the face. It can surely make time go by fast! Remember how everyone was nervous about Y2K?...What was going to happen in this new century? Well, the century is here, and we're handling it very well, thank you, and we're running hard to keep up with half of a decade's disappearance.

Nichols is looking to the future with its library. In 2004, we made many changes which will enable us to be used by a larger circle of people in the community. The two new meeting rooms, one of which is still a work-in-process, will create a beautiful area to hold events of any nature. Club meetings, Scouts, bridal showers, even weddings plus a small reception can be hosted on our second floor. The Town and Village of Nichols is currently under-going a community development program. How can our aging town come to life again? Not everyone can agree on which Church to center activities in...Activities sponsored by the one school in town are only for the young people who have children attending elementary school....Fire company activities are for the young...Senior citizens clubs are only for the old...The only one common ground we have in town is the LIBRARY! We have something for everyone...young and old...all church affiliations...all levels of intellect...new comers and the faithful old timers in town. Come one...come all to our well-equipped Library. I'm sure to have something that will be of interest to you.

Our Summer Reading Program was a great success, thanks to our Senator Libous. The children learned much about New York State, from its history and legends to its famous people and sayings, plus our symbols and flags. Do you know what our state muffin is and how it came to be our state muffin? Ask any child in Nichols and they should be able to tell you. Who's "Uncle Sam" and where did he live? Another question our children can answer with it's attachment to NYS. We live in the most important state in the Union...in the most beautiful part of that state...and in one of the most historical regions

of our state. Why shouldn't we be proud, and why shouldn't we be able to "talk up" our Town to whomever wants to listen. We here at Cady Library...in the "center of the community" can give ourselves a pat on the back for all we give to our Town and will continue to give to the town in the future. Happy 2005!

Newfield

During the fall months, several successful fundraisers have been held for the library. Library Trustee Kelly O'Gara Sinn organized a Pampered Chef party with proceeds going to NPL. Debi Brown, who did an outstanding job, organized our traditional Election Day Bake Sale. In December, the library hosted an Arts and Crafts Show featuring the work of several local artists. A portion of the sales was donated to the library. Many thanks to all those that have helped with these endeavors and to the community for their continuing support of the library.

Local artist Annemarie Zwack led the "Design-A-Book" workshop at the library in early December. The participants worked on illustrating a story, either one of their own or one supplied for their use, with Annemarie guiding them and answering questions. Everyone enjoyed the evening. The Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County/NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Program provided funding for this program.



Library Trustee Mary Humpton completed her term in December. Debi Brown will fill her seat on the board. Kelly O'Gara Sinn resigned from the board; her seat has not yet been filled. The library board and staff would like to sincerely thank each of these board members for their many contributions to the library.

Owego

The Coburn Library is enjoying the year-end season. Our annual fund drive appeal has to date brought in \$13,500 in donations. Additionally, the Friends of the Library did very well in book sales and presented the library with a check for \$2,089.

This past October, Joyce Jackman celebrated her 25th anniversary as a Library Assistant in the Coburn Library. Her previous 7 years' experience in the Wayland Library adds up to a total of 32 years of commitment to libraries. The Board of Trustees and library staff celebrated the event with a lunch at the Treadway Inn.

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Seneca Falls

Happy 2005 from the Seneca Falls Library! As the library starts 2005, the Seneca Falls Library would like to thank all who gave of their time and resources last year – the first full year in the new facility. Your contributions helped immensely during the new library’s inaugural year at 47 Cayuga St.

Some of 2004’s highlights include the big jump in visits and cardholders, the launching of adult programming, frequent use of our community meeting room, the Ken Burns/Paul Barnes collection donation to the library and the purchase of more than 400 new books.

All of this would not have been possible without our supporters. An updated list of 2004 donors will appear in a future newsletter. That listing will include both people who gave to our annual membership campaign, businesses who donated or sponsored various events and those who gave to the library’s first-ever endowment drive in November and December.

As the library moves ahead and tries to become more financially independent and less reliant on government grants, we will continue to fund-raise. Those of us who love books and the library realize this is necessary, if not always easy to do. Each year we plan to hold two fund-raising campaigns – one in the first quarter for membership and the other at the end of the year for our endowment.

Proceeds from our membership drive will go towards the library’s operating fund and help pay for costs that keep us in business, such as heat, salaries, books, building maintenance and the like.

The endowment drive proceeds will be added to our current endowment, whose principal remains untouched. By growing our endowment we can increase the amount of interest income applied to our annual operating costs.

Although we are reaching out twice a year for support, I would also like to point out that whether you are able to give or not, use of the library is free to all. Please check out some of our new books or partake of some of the programs at the library. They exist for our community’s cultural enjoyment.

As a fundraiser the library is hosting a “Love the Library” dinner-dance on February 12th at the Chiropractic College. A swing band will entertain the dancers and a silent auction will accompany the evening. Everyone is invited. The price of a ticket is \$50.00 per person. Call the library for more information and to purchase a ticket to a wonderful evening.

Happy 2005!

Trumansburg

Peggy Haine, Jack Katz and Bill McAneny will be replacing Daryl Anderson, Scott Sears and Emma Lou Shiekh on the Ulysses Philomathic Library’s Board of Trustees effective January 1, 2005.

The theme for the 2005 Speaker Series is *Feasts, Facts & Fancies: The Wonderful World of Food. A Taste of Serendip: Jim Gair Cooks Sri Lankan Food* will be presented on Thursday, January 20. The February 17 event, *It’s A Hard Job, But Someone Has to Do It: Reviewing Local Restaurants*, will be presented by Peggy Haine. All events (unless otherwise announced) are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Melvin Community Room of the Library. Please join us! All of us at UPL wish everybody a Happy New Year!



Union Springs

The Springport Free Library would like to thank all the members of the community who baked and purchased baked goods at our Annual Christmas Bake Sale. We had a lot of fun, and we never cease to be amazed at the wonderful holiday baked goods our patrons make. Next year we may begin to collect recipes for a library cookbook.

We would like to thank FLLS Director Karen Creenan for stopping off at our library. It was wonderful to have some time to talk about the future direction of libraries, and to take a tour of our own library building.

The library is decorated with wreaths and poinsettias, thanks to generous contributions from library patrons. In keeping with the spirit of the season, our board of trustees, has presented several Friday night craft programs. The children have made ornaments, scented bath salts and soaps. They are enjoying making gifts to bring home.

We would like to congratulate Pat Dwello on winning our compost raffle. A big thank you to Fessenden Dairy for making this raffle possible. We understand this compost practically guarantees a fabulous garden!

A thank you to Brian Cowger for donating a subscription of *Lapidary Journal* to the library. If you are interested in gem stones, crystals, or the art of jewelry making, this is the magazine for you.

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Dogs Unwelcome

The bad news is if you've got four legs, you're no longer welcome in Baxter Memorial Library (Gorham, ME). The good news is if you've got four legs, it's more than likely you can't read.

For more than 50 years, pets have been allowed in the library to honor an unwritten rule created by former governor and library trustee Percival Baxter.

That all changed in January when a patron was attacked by another patron's large Catahoula.

Aside from a few scrapes and cuts, no one was badly injured. But the incident was enough to convince the library's board of trustees to change the policy immediately.

The story goes like this: Baxter, a trustee of the library during the 1950s, noticed a dog tied up outside the library before a board of trustees meeting. Always the protector of those with fur, feathers or scales ' Baxter informed the group that pets would be allowed in the building from that day forward.

Portland (ME) Press Herald

Help Your Library Save with a "Chiller" Installed by the New York Power Authority

One of the many rising costs associated with maintaining a library building is the cost of climate control. In some instances, these costs are unnecessarily inflated to a library's lack of resources that would allow them to update their building's cooling system. Continuing to use outdated and inefficient cooling systems can drastically increase utility bills of the library, taxing already overburdened budgets.

The New York Power Authority (NYPA) offers a program through which your library can potentially upgrade its cooling system at no net cost to the library. In instances where an upgraded cooling system would save energy, the Power Authority may install the hardware known as "chillers" and provide low interest financing that may result in little or no net cost, as these systems pay for themselves over time. If you are interested in this program, contact the Power Authority at 914-287-4271 and request an energy audit. Qualifications and financing for this program is determined by the Power Authority.

*News from the NYS Assembly
Committee on Libraries and Education Technology
December 2004*

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Waverly

The Waverly Free Library will be busy this New Year. Basic Computer classes will be offered to Senior Citizens as part of a grant from the Tioga County Senior Citizens Foundation. Topics to be covered will include how to use the mouse, basic windows, setting up an email account and searching the internet.

We hope to use the FLLS Trainers Toolbox for these classes. Kids in grades 4,5 and 6, will have a chance to "READ THE BOOK AND THEN SEE THE MOVIE" during the months of January, February and March. This is made possible with a grant from Senator Libous' BOOKS program.

The FIRST SUNDAY programs continue. The April program will be "THE ART IN THE ART," featuring Dr. Frima Fox Hofrichter, art history professor, discussing the book, the movie, and of course the art of *THE GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING*. This is made possible with an Arts Council Decentralization Re-grant Program grant.

Weedsport

The Weedsport Free Library announces some new landscaping... a brick garden! Community members and out-of-towners are invited to purchase engraved bricks, which will be installed in the front flower bed of the library. The area will also include stone benches in memory of recently lost staff members Val Deverell and Sarah Lee. Proceeds from the project will be used to establish an endowment fund for the library. The Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, and the staff are excited about the project and look forward to the installation in the Spring of 2005. After the initial brick orders are installed, additional bricks will be added twice a year. The brick garden and benches will enhance the front of the library for years to come. Share this information with coworkers, friends, or family that may have a tie to Weedsport. They can reach the library at 315-834-6222.



Time Management, Part II

Marisa Iacobucci,
Adult Services

In continuing with our Time Management tips, taken from a workshop presented last year by Judith Siess and sponsored by SCRLC, here are some suggestions about filing and all those mounds of "important" papers that you don't know what to do with.

Note: information found in *italics* is a hint from the speaker.

Filing

You can only do 4½ things with any piece of information:

1. T Toss it
2. R Redirect it
3. A Act on it
4. F File it
- 4½. Read it.

"Logic-based disposal"

- Does it require action on my part? If yes, keep it.
- Does it exist elsewhere?
- Is it outdated? Toss it. Any computer info 2+ years old, goes.
- Will I really use it again?
- Are there tax or legal implications? File it
- What's the worst thing that could happen if I don't have this info?
Does anyone else need this info?

Other Filing Tips

- *Never file envelopes unless the postmark is significant.*
- *Write a keyword on the item when you read it. (to indicate where it is filed)*
- *File according to how you'll use it, not where it came from.*
- *Judy's first law of filing: If it took a long time finding something, file it where you first looked for it because that's the logical place for it.*

"Here's an Idea..."

Support Summer Reading Programs with a "Love Your Library" License Plate

One of the most important ways that children can maintain their reading and comprehension skills over their summer breaks is to read. To that end, the State Library helps to organize a statewide summer reading program in which libraries across the state may participate. Currently there is a small grant available through the state library to help with the costs associated with organizing and promoting this program. However, there is no money available to provide participating libraries with funding for books, posters or staff to coordinate this program.

In an effort to increase awareness and participation in this program, Assembly bill 9705-A (Galef) was enacted this year which instructs the Department of Motor Vehicles to create a "Love Your Library" license plate. Proceeds generated from the distribution of this plate will be placed in a dedicated fund to help subsidize the statewide summer reading program.

*Sandy Galef, Chair,
Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology
News from the NYS Assembly Committee on Libraries and
Education Technology, December 2004*

Libby Libra's Last Lap

After serving as cat-in-residence at the Haysville (Kans.) Community Library for over 20 years, Libby Libra passed away, April 30. Abandoned outside the library as a kitten in 1983, she was brought inside "and we just kept her," said Library Director Betty Cattrell.

A dogged survivor, Libby had been run over by a car while sunbathing in the library parking lot, was catnapped from the library for two weeks, and was in the library when a tornado ravaged downtown Haysville in 1999 and damaged much of the library building, the Associated Press reported May 4. "There wasn't any part of her body that wasn't bruised," said Cattrell.

Although she was a potent mouser in her youth, in recent years Libby confined her duties to welcoming library patrons. "She took her job as a greeter seriously," Cattrell said.



FLLS Calendar 2005

- January 3 System Closed — New Year's Day Observance
 17 System Closed — Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance
 20 DAC Meeting — 10:00 am
 26 Board of Trustees Meeting — 5:30 pm
 27 System Meeting — Demonstration of Polaris Automation System
- February Black History Month
 14 Annual Reports due @ the System
 17 FALCONS Meeting — 9:00 am
 21 System Closed — Presidents' Day
 System Meeting for February is cancelled.
- March Women's History Month
 Read Across America — "Where It's Hat!"
 15 NYLA Lobby Day — Albany
 16 Freedom of Information Day
 17 DAC Meeting — 10:00 am
 24 System Meeting — Summer Reading "Tune in @ Your Library"
 25 System Closed — Spring Day
 30 Board of Trustees Meeting — 5:30 pm
- April Great New York State Read Aloud — Cancelled for 2005
 Poetry Month
 1-2 YSS Spring Conference — Lake George
 11-17 Young People's Poetry Week
 18 National Library Week; National Volunteer Week
 28 System Meeting — to be announced
 29-30 NYSALB Conference— Syracuse
- May Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month.
 Dance Month
 4 National Library Legislative Day — Washington, D.C.
 5 DAC Meeting — 10:00 am
 19 FALCONS Meeting — 9:00 am
 25 Board of Trustees Meeting — 5:30 pm
 26 System Meeting — to be announced
 30 System Closed — Memorial Day Observance

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Copies of this newsletter are available in large print for visually-impaired readers. Contact our Outreach Department for further information.

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FLLS NEWS

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