

FLLS NEWS

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WINTER 2005/2006

Karen Creenan, Executive Director

FLLS SAYS "THANK YOU" TO ASSEMBLYWOMAN LIFTON AND SENATOR VALESKY

Finger Lakes Library System's new Polaris integrated library automation system is now in place and operating due, in part, to special Legislative Grants from Barbara Lifton,

Assemblywoman for the 125th District, and David Valesky, Senator for the 49th District.

Lifton provided \$20,000, and Valesky \$6,400 toward the purchase of Polaris. Library users throughout the Finger Lakes Library System service area are enjoying the benefits of Polaris thanks to their help.

FLLS and its members greatly appreciate the support for libraries shown by Assemblywoman Lifton and Senator Valesky.

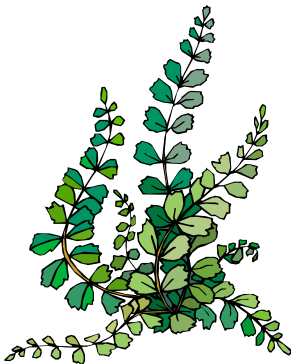


Weedsport Free Library Director, Cheryl Austin, looks on as Senator Valesky sign up for a library card during a "thank you" reception held at library on December 20, 2005.

GOVERNOR PROPOSES NO INCREASE...

- ◆ Governor Pataki maintained level funding for libraries in his Executive Budget for 2006-07 released on Tuesday, January 17, 2006.
- ◆ Libraries have received no increase in New York State aid since 1998, and funding was actually cut by 5% in 2004.
- ◆ During this same period, libraries have been coping with an inflation rate of 16%!
- ◆ Once again we need library advocates to contact their New York state elected representatives and urge them to increase funding for libraries in the final budget.
- ◆ FLLS will distribute advocacy tools and information in the coming weeks to help with this effort.

IN MEMORIAM



We are sorry to report that William Weitzel, the first director of the Finger Lakes Library System, passed away on January 16, 2006, at the age of 92.

Mr. Weitzel served as director from 1958, when the system was granted a provisional charter by New York State, until he retired in 1979. Under his leadership Finger Lakes Library System grew from 17 member libraries to twenty-nine libraries, a bookmobile, two reading centers and outreach services in Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga and Tompkins Counties.

During his tenure many basic system services were established. Those who remember Mr. Weitzel, do so with affection and respect for his accomplishments.

2006 NYSALB Trustee Institute

Save the Date

April 29 and 30

*Holiday Inn
Syracuse/Liverpool*

The Ninth Annual Trustee Institute will take a little bit of your time and provide you with a very big opportunity to share and learn with other trustees from across the state. The Institute begins Friday evening, April 29, 2005, at 6 pm and concludes at 3 pm on Saturday afternoon. The location is conveniently located opposite Thruway exit 37 at the Holiday Inn Syracuse/Liverpool, New York.

- Friday evening's program will include the opportunity to learn about the success of other trustees as well as information about the Patriot Act and other national legislation that affects libraries.
- Saturday, two sets of concurrent programs will be offered.
 1. For new trustees there is "basic" training, only much more enjoyable than "boot camp".
 2. Do you know what a blog is? Do you want one at your library? We have a program that will discuss new technologies and what to look for that will help enhance your library's service to its community.
- How do we secure reliable funding for our libraries and library systems? Will creating a special district library be your answer to this question? Trustees who have utilized this option will share information about avenues to success and pitfalls to avoid. We will also have local and state legislators presenting a discussion of the political situation in Albany and what trustees can do to help secure funding for library services.

In addition to all these programs, there will still be time to do some sightseeing.

- The Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse contains a canal boat and a rare example of a weigh station.
- The village of Liverpool is home to the Saint Marie Among the Iroquois Living History Museum.
- The village of Skaneateles is a short forty minute drive away.

Registration brochures will be mailed March 1, 2005. NYSALB members who mail early will receive two discounts. You may also register on line at www.nysalb.org beginning March 7, 2005.

2005 FLLS Annual Meeting Highlights

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Finger Lakes Library System was held on October 19, 2005, at the Highland Park Golf Club in Auburn.

The meeting was well attended with 93 librarians, trustees, staff and guests; providing a quorum of 23 eligible voting trustees.

Board President Kathleen Cusick and Executive Director Karen Creenan decided to do something a little different from their normal "State of the System" speeches this year. A DVD entitled, "Everyday Creativity" was shown in preparation for the System's next five-year plan, due October 2006. This presentation was well-received by the attendees. In fact, we have received several requests to borrow the DVD for use in individual libraries (which we gladly accommodated)!

Our Guest Speaker was Mary Jane Meaker, a.k.a. M.E. Kerr, a young adult author, who grew up in the Auburn area. She gave a very entertaining speech on how she became a published writer and answered questions from the audience.

A delicious lunch was followed by the System awards:

- * The Joan Cooke Youth Services Award was presented to Cathy Sorber, of the Apalachin Reading Center, by Annette Birdsall, Youth Services Coordinator, FLLS
- * The Library Director of the Year Award was presented to Kay Zaharis, Cortland Free Library, by Marisa Iacobucci, FLLS.
- * The Ruth Polson Public Service Award was presented to Donald and Ann Cramer, Seneca Falls, by Karen Creenan, FLLS.



Cayuga County Member Library Quilt displayed at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Left to right: Carla Piperno-Jones, Springport Free Library, Union Springs; Susan MacCormick, Aurora Free Library; Evalyn Taylor, Port Byron Library; Lisa Carr, Seymour Library, Auburn; Libbie Messina, Lang Memorial Library, Cato; Cheryl Austin, Weedsport Free Library; Sally Otis, Hazard Library, Poplar Ridge; Leslie Joshi, Powers Library, Moravia; Linda Clum, Fair Haven Public Library.

See more pictures of the quilts on page 10...

A New York State Children's Choice Award



The Youth Services (YSS) and School Library Media (SLMS) Sections of the New York Library Association are pleased to announce the creation of the 3 Apples Book Award, a New York State Children's Choice Award. The 3 Apples Book Award was developed to encourage the joy of reading for pleasure, and to give the children of New York State the opportunity to participate in honoring their favorite books. The choice of books to nominate is as wide as the children's reading interests and tastes, making this truly a Children's Choice award.

Each year, children in grades three through six, ages 8 to 12, will have the opportunity to nominate their favorite book at either their school or public library. Every child will have the opportunity to nominate once. The top nominees will then be announced and children will be encouraged to read the books selected. Opportunities to read the nominated books will be provided through the New York State Summer Reading Program at their local public library and through their local school library. Children will then vote for a favorite from those books nominated and a winner will be announced the following February. Every school and public library that participates in the program will celebrate the award with their children.

Here's how you can participate! (Nominations will begin in March)

- * Give your patrons a chance to choose a book to honor
- * Encourage them to read!
- * Collect and submit nominations from your 3rd-6th grade (8-12 year old) patrons. Submit the nominations electronically.
- * Give the children an opportunity to read/listen to the nominated books.
- * Collect votes from students who have read/listened to at least 3 of the nominated books. Tally and submit the votes electronically.
- * Celebrate the winning book.
- * Fill out an evaluation form.

Please visit www.3applesbookaward.org for copies of guidelines, forms for nominating and voting, timelines, suggestions for programs and promotions, and news about this year's activities. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Annette Birdsall
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607/273-4074 x. 27

Member News:

Apalachin Reading Center

Thanks to a generous contribution from our local Lions Club, we have been updating our meeting room. Walls have been painted, the floors refinished and new curtains and an area rug have been added. New folding chairs, tables, lamps and an easy chair have been purchased. We have a cupboard for storage and many other new smaller items. Everything is looking wonderful and everyone coming to meetings or book clubs is enjoying the new look.

A preschool story hour was held at the local fire station in October, where we read about fire fighting and got to see how a fire person gets dressed and ready to put out a fire. We had a special Halloween story hour where we dressed in costumes and listened to spooky stories, made crafts and enjoyed cider and donuts.

We have been collecting coats for people who are in need with a local church youth group, participated in the Lions Clubs "trick or treat" for glasses campaign. "Odyssey of the Mind" has met here to work on their project. We have had girl scouts and boy scouts come in to learn about the library and work on badges. We also have had a girl scout troop come and help us with a bottle drive that will benefit the library.

Our adult book club has been meeting regularly as well as our Apalachin Women Writers. Our writers have been holding workshops and their numbers have been increasing. Our Mother/ Daughter book club, which has taken a break this fall will resume in January.

This fall three of our board members have had to resign. We thank them for their service to the library. They are Cathy Wunder, Rosemary Conning and Marilyn Legault. We also thank our current board members for all the time and energy they give.

Seymour Public Library District, Auburn

New programs for children and adults were introduced, and a new budget was approved by voters this fall at Seymour Library.

Story time began in September with some significant changes: the introduction of a "Baby and Me" program for babies up to 15 months old and their caregivers, and the addition of an afternoon session of the preschool Story time. We continue to offer morning Story time sessions for preschoolers and toddlers

A "Smartest Card" campaign in September encouraged residents to sign up for library cards and suggested ways existing patrons could make the best use of their library card.

Craft classes for adults continue to be an attraction, with staff and community members teaching knitting, crocheting, scrap booking and quilting. Everything old is new again: One member of our knitting class reported that her college-age son, whose girlfriend

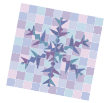
is an avid knitter, wondered why an "old lady" like his mother had decided to take up knitting! A spate of newspaper and magazine articles on vintage aprons prompted a staff member to bring in her large collection of aprons and talk about them. Our American Girl program, based on the series of popular books and dolls from American history, celebrated the fall holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving with old-fashioned games, crafts and stories.

A writers' group has begun meeting at the library, and our two adult book groups continue their lively monthly discussions.

In October, voters in the Seymour Public Library District overwhelmingly approved a new budget by a vote of 225 to 36!

Aurora Free Library

A fall basement cleanup was held to help make use of the basement "jail" room for the Morgan Opera House (located above the library) to use as a dressing room as well as an office.



Thanks to a NYSCA Decentralization Grant and the Mandell Theater Group, over 170 people were treated to the Rochester Children's Theatre's production of Stuart Little in November.

As part of the Christmas in Aurora festivities the library hosted a book signing by local author and illustrator David Kirk. David graciously donated many of his books for the library to sell during this event. A book sale and ornament making craft were held as well that evening.

The library continues to raise money for its roof repair and is currently holding a "12 Days of Christmas" fundraiser. Many thanks to the local businesses who donated 12 great prizes to support the library! Happy Holidays!

Lang Memorial Library, Cato

Despite the state's on-going project to widen the street in front of the library, the staff at the Lang Memorial Library continued to present their regularly scheduled meetings and programs. Children from the story hour enjoyed watching the crane and front-loader as the workmen dug trenches and moved tons of dirt. While most adults are glad to have the construction postponed until spring, the children look forward to once again having a front row seat at a real work zone.

The costly but necessary purchase of DVDs for the audiovisual collection has been a strain on the library's A-V budget. To help extend the short life of the DVD, we opened an account with Azuradisc, a company specializing in disc repair. Joining with Weedsport and Port Byron (a larger order reduces the cost), we were able to save DVDs we thought were no longer usable for

(continued on page 5)

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a cost of \$3.40 each. Disc repair not only helped our bottom line, it made patrons happy to see some of their favorites back on the shelf.

The board will begin the new year by reviewing the library's by-laws and policies. Requests for wireless access and Google's e-book project are just two of the topics that have been and continue to be discussed.

Even though the work outside has been interrupted, inside we maintain our efforts to meet the community's changing needs.

Phillips Free Library, Homer

Phillips Free Library has recently added a DVD collection that is proving to be very popular. We have about 70 titles so far and expect to add several DVDs every month. For any library planning on adding such a collection, we suggest taking the DVDs out of the cases and keeping them behind the desk in binders as a security measure. We learned this the hard way.

The library has also made several changes in policy. Our loan period has changed from four weeks to three weeks for all materials except videos/DVDs, which circulate for one week. Fines were raised for the first time in years. Children now receive their cards, with adult privileges, when they turn 13. Previously, children's cards were kept at the library until the child turned 18.

Our capital campaign continues, with some construction already begun in terms of exterior work and the construction of a handicapped-accessible ramp. We hope to begin the major phase of renovation sometime soon.

Interlaken Public Library

Our year has gone fast. The Polaris system is going well; it's much easier than Dynix was.

We have three new board members and are working hard on plans to add more space to the library. We will put the children's area into what is now the genealogy section. The genealogy items will go into the new addition, with a computer and more space. It will be better for the patrons and can also be used for reading and meetings. Our dream is to make the "Teen Section" in the northeast corner of the library with their computers and etc. What would we do without our dreams? The plans are on paper and we will keep you updated. Our Pre-K story times are going well. Mrs. Carroll and her puppets, with the stories are fun. We have a donated Christmas tree, from Gary Hunt for the children to enjoy, and us too! We have the children add decorations when they come in.

Our library dinner is December 5th at "Deer

Head Inn" this year. It is for the volunteers and the board members. This is always a fun evening.

We want to thank Grace Saxton, who was 95 January 1st, for all of the books on tape. She will receive a gift certificate for something of her choosing, from the library. Her gifts to this library are used by our patrons along with inter-library loans; one of our most popular items to go out.

Have a wonderful 2006.

Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca

Our library will hold its first public referendum on supplemental funding using the Ithaca City School District ballot mechanism on February 7. If we are successful we will increase our acquisitions budget and make Sunday hours permanent. A Citizens Steering Committee has formed to help with advocacy.

On Saturday, January 14, we will celebrate five years of being in our new library with a 5th Year Anniversary bash! Music, performers, give-a ways, an antique book road show, book laminating workshop, book repair demonstrations, amnesty day for fine forgiveness, photos and videos of our library's history, and plenty of anniversary cake will be featured. We invite all of our FLLS friends to join us. The events begin at 10:30 and run until 4:30.



Peck Memorial Library, Marathon

Peck Memorial Library has been undergoing staff changes. In October we hired Teresa Baker as a library aide. Teresa has resigned and we have added Beth Bolvig Knapp. Beth has worked as the church librarian at Homer Congregational for several years. She is excited to work for our library.

Our Open House was December 6. The "Awesome Appleby Singers" under the direction of Nancy Barber, sang Christmas carols on the Green and then all the children and adults were invited to the library for refreshments and to meet the board. It is always exciting to see all the people who come in.

The fall craft line up was Beginning Knitting, Christmas Wall Quilt, Tapestry Weaving and Wreath making. We have had great attendance for all.

For the children's story hours, we are starting "The Flat Stanley Project." It has been so great to see where Flat Stanley has gone. We received pottery from North Carolina, shells and sand from Florida and from Japan - Flat Stanley had a web blog. So the children will be learning of places far and near.

We are in the middle of a capital fund raising campaign and it has been great to see how many people in our community support the project.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

As library director I have so appreciated the board this year. For all of their support during staffing changes and for the unity as we go forward in the capital fund campaign.

Powers Library, Moravia

Powers Library welcomed a new Director October 1. Leslie Boba Joshi, a recent transplant to the Finger Lakes region from Seattle, WA, comes to Powers steeped in library experience, having worked in libraries every step of her career since elementary school. With a Master's Degree in Librarianship, as well as a Master's in English, Mrs. Joshi offers expertise in literary subjects as well as the administrative side of running a library.

Meanwhile, library programs at Powers continue, and continue to grow! Community groups making ongoing use of our facilities include boy scouts, a knitting circle, a nutrition group, a seniors' computer workshop, and tutoring sessions for special needs students. Recently Powers was a stop on a Historic Moravia Tour organized by Barbara Adams, during which visitors to the library were treated to a display and talk by local award-winning wildlife artist Steven Fland.

We have expanded our hours, remaining open during the lunch and dinner breaks, thanks to a flexible staff who stagger their meal times. Still growing into our newly expanded space, Powers has been rearranging our interior to better suit the collections and patrons' needs. We now have a table and chairs in our reference corner at which one can sit and spread out a newspaper or pore over an atlas, and we welcome you to relax in our cozy magazine window-nook, complete with footstool!

The Holiday Season at Powers meant a visit from Santa Claus and a holiday book drawing. This year we offered drawings for an adult title, a juvenile title, and a picture book for the little ones. It's a great way to promote books and reading for the holidays! We are lucky to have as one of our volunteers a former professional Christmas tree trimmer. Nancy Snedeker once again made the library's Christmas tree the envy of the neighborhood!

Nancy was also our contact in donating much-appreciated surplus books to a charity working in Kenya. Faced with trying to store boxes of unsold books after our last sale, we were able to help others and ourselves by finding willing recipients also in students at The George Jr. Republic. Every community needs its books, and what one group cannot use will be welcomed by another if only you can find them!

We at Powers look forward in 2006 to hosting the first Sleep-Over at the Library, which is planned to take place during the schools' winter break in

February. This spring should see the completion of the installation of our new landscape plan, a part of the overall expansion that the library has undergone during the past few years. Until the gardens are in place, however, we still have the best front lawn in town for building a snowman. So, welcome winter and let it snow at the Library!

Cady Library, Nichols

Summer is gone ... our beautiful fall is history and winter is "hustling" on its way ... time to do some "fall house cleaning" and "Indoor projects" here at the library. We've been helped with these chores by our boy scouts ... more specifically some boy scouts who are working toward their eagle scout badge. It's amazing how much an attic can accumulate after 50 years of neglect! Lots of everything and very little of anything... up and down the stairs the boy went with help from a number of his scouting friends as they cleaned out years of "stuff" and organized what we did want to keep up there. We now have a nice clean, spacious attic ... thanks boys.



Running up and down the stairs was another boy scout, also working toward his badge, and an archeologist from Binghamton University putting together an archeology display on our second floor. The subject is our own "Englebert Digging" site. When the construction company was putting the new Rte. 17 Expressway through Nichols, they uncovered an ancient Indian burial ground and long house on the Englebert Farm just east of the Village of Nichols. Work on the highway came to a stop while the archeologist from Binghamton carefully dug up and cataloged all that they could find. Most of the artifacts were taken to the Tioga County Historical Museum in Owego. And now, thanks to this eagle scout, they have returned part of the collection for display at the Library. The museum also gave him a glass topped display case. He took the old finish off and refinished it with a dark antique finish. Visitors to the library can now view antique Indian tools and arrow heads plus see pictures of the Binghamton crew as they worked on the "dig". Thank you to both of these hard working boys ... their friends ... and the archeologists from Binghamton University for giving us this interesting, historical display.

Newfield Public Library

The library recently received a generous donation to help us supplement our collection of sound recordings. As a result we have many new titles of both books on tape and CD for adults and children.

Thanks to another generous person, we have also purchased a small collection of books and multi-media kits in Spanish, hoping to encourage local students that are studying Spanish. Community

support, whether direct donations or support for various library fund raisers continues to help us meet the needs of the community.

As the new year approaches, our library is anticipating another good year, but it will be a year with several changes. Library trustee Florence Emery will be leaving the board after many years of service. Florence has been instrumental in the success of the library. She assures us that she will continue serving as a volunteer, for which we are very thankful!

Another change is that Newfield will have a new representative on the Tompkins County Legislature. Long time representative Dan Winch has retired from the board this fall. He has been a solid supporter of libraries, and we feel privileged to have had Dan representing us. As we look forward to working with our new representative, Greg Stevenson, we would also like to say "Thank you Dan for your faithful service to the community."

Best wishes for Happy Holidays from the staff and board of the Newfield Public Library.

Ford Memorial Library, Ovid

The Edith B. Ford Memorial Library held an open house on Saturday, October 1, for the one hundred children's books we received from Brownstone Press. We had many children, who were delighted with the selection, the refreshments and balloons. Our story hour reader, Simeon Reigle, read from several of the new books. A good time was had by all.

Simeon Reigle is 16 years old and one of our library pages. He has turned out to be a wonderful story time reader. Simeon is a great chess player, very interested in books on tape, and has a number of little sisters he constantly reads to.

Book Club has just finished Edith Wharton's *House of Mirth*. They chose their selections for next year at their last meeting. December's meeting featured a tea party and reviews of E. L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*.

Work has been underway to decorate the library for Christmas. A lovely artificial tree with a train under it is in the main lobby. Lots of ivy, Santas, snowmen, and other ornaments adorn the foyer. We are looking forward to a very merry holiday season!

Hazard Library, Poplar Ridge

Well, if you like heat you have loved this past summer! Let's hope for a beautiful autumn to match.

Things were busy at the Hazard Library this past summer. The library hosted four events this summer to entertain both children and adults. All these programs were held at the Friends Meeting House in Poplar Ridge. This year's theme was "Listen to the Music". On July 14 the "Sounds of the Rainforest" could be heard throughout the Meeting House. July 21 brought Howard Lyons using native instruments and songs to celebrate the Iroquois culture. Karen

Abercrombie entertained the crowd on July 29 with her amazing "Boxful of Stories". Entertainment was presented by Bart and Kevin on August 4. Bart and Kevin entertained with funny songs and sing-a-longs. Every show was a crowd pleaser.

To promote a love of reading, Hazard Library always runs a summer reading program for area children. This year's theme was "Tune in @ Your Library". This program encourages children to read all summer long. August 6 was King Ferry's annual Wheat Harvest Festival parade. Hazard Library was well represented. Many children marched in the parade with their kazoos and a variety of other musical instruments to follow the theme of "Tune in @ Your Library". The day was beautiful and fun was had by all. Thank you to all that volunteered to represent the library.

If you love to read and you love a good bargain then I am sure you visited the Annual Hazard Library Book Sale. This year's sale was held at the Poplar Ridge Firehouse and ran for four days beginning August 13. Shoppers young and old found lots of treasures. A big thank you to all the volunteers that worked the sale, that moved books before and after the sale, to all the people who donated books, and a big thank you to Charlene and Floyd Hamilton for all the time and effort they put in each year to make the sale the success it is.

In the past few months Southern Cayuga has lost two gentlemen that have been part of our community for years, Mr. Carl Botsford and Mr. George McCann. Both families requested memorial donations to the Hazard Library. Books purchased in memory of these gentlemen or anyone that money has been donated in their names will have a bookplate in the front of the book. These memorial donations are a wonderful tribute to a loved one.

Port Byron Library

Our Friends group pulled off a coup this Fall when they staged their first annual "Funky Fashion Frenzy." Models, young and old, strutted down the "runway" at the local high school while tongue-in-cheek descriptions were read about their outfits. The group hopes to buy a TV-VCR/DVD assembly for our community room with the proceeds from the event. Also, we expect to see more members join the group now that they've had publicity.

Our book club meets once a month, choosing different books to discuss each time. This group is also growing as more people become aware of it.

Unbelievably, we've completed our first year in the new location. There are still some problems to solve; but we'll deal with each one as it comes along.

Over the summer, we had a book sale in a tent across from our library. (It was graciously provided by the Conquest Fire Department.) Along with a raffle, the sale took place on two of our hottest days. Another

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

raffle was held for the Christmas season.

Our summer reading program was held each morning during a single week in August. We had guests in attendance from local radio stations, band members and bell choirs! Then, too, our traveling library continues each month in Savannah and Throop. In addition, an outreach program at the middle school open house should help us keep open the lines of communication with the school.

Due to our ongoing financial concerns, we have now hired a bookkeeper who is helping us determine where our income and expenses stand. Also, there are myriad of forms from several layers of government which have to be deciphered and addressed.

Our first exhibit in the display cabinet was well received as it was of model cars. Other collections will be displayed in the future. We are also encouraging local artists to loan their work for a month at a time, in our hallway gallery.

We enjoy the articles by other librarians in our local newspapers and often add them to our bulletin board. Thanks, again for publicizing the public library mission!

Seneca Falls Library

Of course the Seneca Falls Library was thrilled to have Don & Ann Cramer, Board Member and Friend of the Library, chosen for the **Ruth Polson Distinguished Service Award** at the Annual Meeting of the Finger Lakes Library System. The Cramers received the award at the Seneca Falls Library Donor Appreciation evening on November 19. The evening is a celebration for the library and includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and the Central New York Jazz Foundation 'All That Jazz' evening of music. Over 100 people were on hand to cheer the Cramers as they received the award. Also, the Cramer family visited for the occasion and was there to add to the celebration. The Cramers were thrilled to receive such a prestigious award.

December at the Seneca Falls Library included many opportunities to celebrate the season.

The Seneca Falls Library hosted several holiday events. They were open to all and always free.

Seneca Falls Library Holiday Calendar

Kids Knit 2 Heidi Egan helped attendees make a pair of needles and then taught them to knit. For kids ages—7 and up.

4 Holidays Pre-school Story Hour. November 16, 23 and 30 and December 7.



All Events Sponsored by Sinicropi and Healy

Holiday Music

Three Holiday music events took place in the Library in December. Annie Bachman performed a holiday piano concert; Alan Mandel hosted a Sing-a-Long for kids, families and the young-at-heart. (Attendees brought their voices and/or instruments to join in. Also, a chance to decorate the Angel Tree. Who is the person who most influenced your life? Decorate and place the name of that favorite angel on the tree. Let's see how many angels we can fit on the tree. Cocoa and cookies included.) and the Seneca Singers sang Holiday Favorites.

Spencer Library

Spencer Library is very pleased to have received grant from NYS Senator, Tom Libous' BOOKS program to run our "Boredom Busters" events. About 50 children and adults came to our Oct. 10 Columbus Day school break activity, Deb Youngling, local potter and art teacher, led the class in mask-making. Spencer/Van Etten schools are on an austerity budget this year. Elementary and high school students are without art teachers, field trips, etc. The library board is hoping that these once a month activities at the Spencer Municipal room behind the library will enrich our youths lives.

The second Boredom Buster was held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The Seely family introduced their small rodent collection to a roomful of young people, daycare providers, parents, and grandparents. Teenagers held the rabbit, rat, chinchilla, guinea pig, etc. so that everyone could enjoy finger petting these special mammals

Preschool story hour is being led by The Crazy Hat Lady, also known as Devra Johnson. Tuesday mornings are special times for families with young children to have the library to themselves to read and do crafts together.

The library display case now has a collection of "Santa Clauses form around the World". The librarian is booking new exhibits to be displayed each month. 2006 will be Spencer's bicentennial celebration year. The library is looking forward to sponsoring several activities and making its long history better known to current residents.

Springport Free Library, Union Springs

The Springport Free Library has been getting ready for the holiday season. We are decorated and have special holiday book displays set up throughout the library. A holiday party has been planned for our patrons. Volunteers will be reading from favorites like "Night Before Christmas", and trustees have been working hard baking gingerbread and other treats. Our children have begun making paper snowflakes. The

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

snowflakes will be used to decorate the building.

The exterior of our building has received a new coat of paint and damaged wood was repaired. Hollyhocks and sunflowers were planted around the building. We received a donation of a picnic table. The table was placed under a tree, and the shady spot was enjoyed all during the hot summer. The library is a historical site, and we have begun looking into having a historical marker placed out front.

We are excited about the January kick off of our handicapped accessibility project. A lift will be installed, allowing handicapped patrons to reach, both the first and second floor of the library. We hope that this project will continue to grow and lead to more projects making the library comfortable and accessible.

Both the staff and our patrons have made the shift over to our new Polaris circulation system. We have received many words of praise about the PowerPac on-line catalog. It seems to be more user friendly and we have seen increased use of the catalog.

We would like to take this time to thank all of the members of the community who support their public library. We received a record number of donations in both materials and funding. Many thanks to everyone, and most especially to the trustees who have worked so hard to keep us moving forward. Have a very Happy Holiday season. We're looking forward to the next exciting year.

Waterloo Library & Historical Society

It seems like the months are rushing by with only the weather as a reminder of the seasons. The Waterloo Library has been busy partaking in a number of activities.

October 31 to November 5, the Waterloo Library in conjunction with the Seneca County United Way, celebrated "Harvest Good Books: READ!" That week, book nook presented speaker Phil Forsline, Apple Curator for the USDA-Plant Genetic Resources Unit at the New York State Experiment Station. His talk was about his trips to Kazakhstan and his search for ancestral varieties of apples. It was a great talk and tied in nicely with the harvest theme. The library also decorated the main bulletin board with the harvest theme.

The Friend's of the Waterloo Library have resumed their monthly meetings after taking a break in the summer. They even had another fund raiser the month after their first meeting! A book sale was held at a local craft bazaar. The Waterloo Library applauds their efforts and greatly appreciates the work and time that goes into these fund raisers. The Friend's also decorated the library for Christmas.

This three-year-old tradition is something that everyone looks forward to and is enjoyed by all library patrons!

For the past few years, the village of Waterloo has held the Real Christmas, which reminds us all of the true meaning of Christmas. The Waterloo Library is proud to be a part of this day long celebration by hosting two story telling sessions for the children. Holiday stories are read to the children and each child receives a special treat. The theater above the library, Fatzinger Hall, will also be used for two plays; "It's so sad when an elf goes bad" and "Oh Little Town". A puppet show will also be performed in Fatzinger Hall called "The Little Shepherd". The Real Christmas is a community event that the library is pleased to be a part of. Safe and Happy Holidays to all.

Waverly Free Library

The 11th Annual Bob Fox Trivia Tournament is scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 28 at Lefty's Right Hand. Form a team and join the crowd. It is a lot of fun and a great way to spend an evening with friends.

The Young Critics Club continues to meet reviewing books and the movies they inspired. Waverly businesses stay open late and provide entertainment and demonstrations on the First Friday of the month. To celebrate Ben Franklin's 300th Birthday, the library will present "An Evening With Ben Franklin" on the First Friday in January.



2005 Annual Meeting Pictures



Cortland County Quilt:

Julie Widger, Lamont Memorial Library, McGraw, Suzanne Vetter, Kellogg Free Library Cincinnatus; Lois Papp, Phillips Free Library, Homer; Kay Zaharis, Cortland Free Library; Kathy Cusick, Board President, Peck Memorial Library, Marathon.



Seneca County Quilt:

Jackie Grey, Seneca Falls Library; Lynn Patti, Waterloo Library; Susan Porter, Sam Dickieson, & Michael Caraher, Seneca Falls Library.



Tioga County Quilt:

Mary Charlotte Donnelly & Beverly Dann, Waverly Free Library; Fran Howe, Candor Free Library & Cathy Sorber, Apalachin Reading Center.



Tompkins County Quilt:

Janet Steiner, TCPL, Ithaca; Judy Barkee, Ulysses Philomathic, Trumansburg & Sarah Dovi, Southworth Library, Dryden

“Top 10 List of Pet Peeves”

10. Patrons who leave voice mail when the library is not open requesting their books be renewed. We have no problem renewing materials, but it would be helpful if they included their name in the message!
9. Patrons' weird home answering machine messages. We have to listen to all sorts of songs, babies blabbing, cute poems, etc., before we can leave the message that requested material is available at the library.
8. Materials of all types returned dirty, sticky, housing crawly things, smelling of tobacco smoke, etc.
7. Patrons who haven't bathed in a while. Even though personal hygiene may be addressed in library policy, it is still a challenge to approach these patrons with concerns.
6. Parents who send their kids to the library with an assignment and expect the library staff to do the assignment for them.
5. For libraries with public scanners, the inability of some patrons to learn how to use the scanners. They leave piles of family photos and specific instructions for staff to do the scanning for them.
4. Male patrons who need to wear suspenders to keep their britches hiked up. We're not old enough to see that much flesh! And while we're talking about flesh...we are baffled at women of all ages who try to pour themselves into halter tops, short shorts, etc... What are they thinking?
3. Vandalism to rest rooms. It is hard to conceive that patrons would actually smear feces on the walls, but it happens. Where were these folks raised?
2. General theft and destroying of library materials. This is a violation of law, but it is still hard to catch the culprit.

And the number pet peeve (at least at this time) is...

1. Unattended children in the library. The library is not a baby-sitting service. Even though there are firm policies in place, parents still think the library is a safe place to drop off their kids.

*Rural Library Service Newsletter,
Paulding County (OH) Carnegie Library, June 2005*

The Books Most Borrowed in U.S. Libraries – Fiction & Non-Fiction

“Library Journal’s Best Sellers is compiled from data on books borrowed and requested (placed on hold) at public libraries throughout the United States. It includes statistics from urban, suburban, and rural libraries. We thank the many contributing libraries as well as Polaris Library Systems, The Library Corporation (TLC), and Sirsi Corporation.”

From www.libraryjournal.com ; Copyright 2005 by Library Journal.

Below is a list of 15 of the most borrowed fiction and non-fiction books in U.S. libraries for the week of November 15, 2005. Titles marked with an * are owned within FLLS and are available through ILL.

A big thanks to the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System who reprinted this in their newsletter, and gave us the idea to reprint it in ours!

FICTION

1. ***Lifeguard** by James Patterson & Andrew Gross
2. ***The Mermaid Chair** by Sue Monk Kidd
3. ***4th of July** by James Patterson
4. ***True Believer** by Nicholas Sparks
5. ***Chill Factor** by Sandra Brown
6. ***The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini
7. ***Eleven on Top** by Janet Evanovich
8. ***Point Blank** by Catherine Coulter
9. ***Sentenced to Die** by Judith Jance
10. ***The Historian** by Elizabeth Kostova
11. ***Blue Smoke** by Nora Roberts
12. ***The Broker** by John Grisham
13. ***Sweetwater Creek** by Anne River Siddons
14. ***Girls in Pants** by Ann Brashares
15. ***Vanish** by Tess Gerritsen

NON-FICTION

1. ***A Million Little Pieces** by James Frey
2. ***Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist...** by Steven Levitt
3. ***Natural Cures “They” Don’t Want You to Know About** by Kevin Trudeau
4. ***Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking** by Malcolm Gladwell
5. ***1776** by David McCullough
6. ***The World is Flat** by Thomas Friedman
7. ***The Tipping Point** by Malcolm Gladwell
8. ***French Women Don’t Get Fat** by Mireille Guiliano
9. ***You: The Owner’s Manual** by Michael Roizen
10. ***Your Best Life Now** by Joel Osteen
11. ***100 People Who Are Screwing Up America** by Bernard Goldberg
12. ***The 3-Hour Diet** by Jorge Cruise
13. **Women in Career & Life Transitions** by Sandy Anderson
14. ***Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed** by Jared Diamond
15. **Love and Logic Magic for Early Childhood** by Jim Fay

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