

FLLS NEWS

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 1

ISSN 0195-4016

WINTER 2007/2008

Karen Creenan, Executive Director

2007 WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR...WHAT WILL 2008 BRING?

January is the time to reflect on things past and look forward to the future. For FLLS, 2007 was a very good year. A major increase in funding from New York State enabled us to offer some new and exciting services to our members as well as facilitate construction grants for those with library renovation and expansion projects. Unfortunately the additional funding was not given as an annual increase but instead as a one-time allocation. And so it remains to be seen if 2008 will be as good.

As this newsletter goes to print, Governor Spitzer is preparing his proposed budget for 2008. When the Governor's budget is released, the Legislature will advance their own spending plans and the annual budget negotiations will begin. Given the dire predictions heard from Albany concerning revenue shortfalls, we may have a difficult task convincing the Governor and members of the Legislature to increase state aid to libraries.

The New York Library Association's budget proposal includes the following of interest to public libraries:

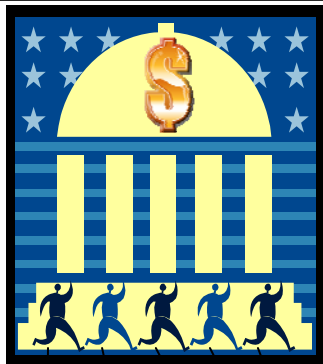
- Make Permanent the \$8 million in supplemental system aid, and the \$14 million in public library construction aid included in 2007-08 Budget
- Add \$7.4 million in additional operating aid to library systems and \$7.6 million in aid for public libraries to purchase books and materials.

Add \$5 million annually to fund Statewide Internet Library (formerly NOVEL)

We need all library advocates to contact Eliot Spitzer and their elected New York State representatives and urge support for continued and new increased funding for libraries. Remind them that libraries are key to the education of all ages starting with babies and continuing through our senior population; that libraries address the digital divide by providing Internet access for all; and that libraries contribute to the economy and workforce development.

Deliver your message by letter, e-mail, phone, or personal visit. Or attend NYLA's annual Legislative Day on March 11, 2008. FLLS can provide current contact information for state representatives. Information about NYLA Legislative Day will be available soon.

We are hoping that next year we can say that 2008 was a very good year also.



Cortland
Cayuga Seneca Tioga
Tompkins

**NYLA
Legislative Day
March 11, 2008
in Albany...
Join us!**

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Youth Services, Annette Birdsall, Consultant



Catch the Reading Bug!

Weave your reading web to catch new readers at the Summer Reading Planning meeting on March 20th at our Summer Reading System Meeting from 9am* - 12N. Choose performers, see sample promotional materials, make simple crafts, learn new display ideas, listen to great book selections and be prepared to have fun. This year any plans you want to share will need to be submitted by email to annette@flls.org so we have more time for fun! *9am registration; meeting will begin promptly at 9:30.

**TRANSFORM
YOURSELF
READ**

For teens, plan a **METAMORPHOSIS @ YOUR LIBRARY!** Transform your summer reading program into a mind altering, mood shifting, reading change for your teens by offering simple ways to participate and great book selections. Come to the Summer Reading Program meeting for ideas and inspiration!

**METAMORPHOSIS
METAMORPHOSIS
METAMORPHOSIS**

Weather slowed, but didn't stop our **Teen Spaces Makeover Contest!** The Friends of Tompkins County Public Library, Demco, and E*vanced Solutions provided a grand prize (\$3,000 value) in materials, consulting and one year's subscription for online summer reading software to one lucky library, in a contest judged by Kimberly Bolan, author of *Teen Spaces*. All our member libraries were invited to participate and hear Bolan's winning ideas for teen space makeovers in a creative workshop on December 13, 2007. Many thanks to all of you for investing in our teens!

And the First Place Winner is ...Diane Grant – Weedsport Free Library

Second Place: Adelle Leise, Tompkins County Public Library

Third Place: Diane Pamel – Southworth Library, Dryden



Kim Bolan secured prizes for our second and third place libraries, giving all of us a very pleasant surprise of another subscription to E*vanced Online Summer Reading Software for Tompkins County Public Library and R E A D letters from Creative Arts and a Califone Spirit Stereo Listening Center for Southworth Library in Dryden.

Pictured left to right, Rob Cullin - E*vanced Solutions, Adelle Leise – Tompkins County Public Library, Diane Pamel – Southworth Library, Kimberly Bolan – Teen Spaces Workshop Presenter.

Look in the next newsletter to see how the winning space is transformed!



Adult Services

Marisa Iacobucci, Adult Services Coordinator

The end of 2007 is approaching and I've noticed that I've started to clean out my filing cabinet. It was an unconscious action at first, but then I began thinking that maybe I was cleaning out the old to make way for the new. Plus I love to weed – as you all know.

One of the things I came across was a list of '10 Ideas to Reduce Stress', from Family & Children's Services of Ithaca that I had put in the newsletter in 2001. I feel the list bears repeating. This time of year, whether it be the onset of cold, dark days, the holidays or the approaching end of the year, can tend to be stressful.

Check over the list and see if you can implement even one thing on it – it may help! I would also like to add one thing to the list. In the first couple of years as the director of a small public library, at the end of each year, I would list all the things on my 'to do' this that I didn't get done. I felt it was a good idea to prepare a new list for the year to come but instead it ended up depressing me. All I saw were the things that didn't happen; the goals I didn't accomplish.

A wise friend suggested that instead of writing out all I didn't do, I should list everything I had done. What an excellent suggestion! Not only did I feel less stressed, I felt really good about all I had done in a year. I still took the time to list what I wanted to accomplish in the year to come, but in doing so I was more realistic (I'll only weed the 500s – 700s rather than the entire non-fiction collection!).

So, check out the list below, implement at least one thing, and pat yourself on the back for all you've accomplished this year. Bravo!

10 Ideas to Reduce Stress

1. Review your obligations and routine activities regularly to determine if they are still necessary or meaningful. If not, let them go and use your time in other ways.
2. Exercise your freedom to choose—to choose friends who you will love or avoid; to choose what you will think, feel and believe; to choose what you will do with your time and resources.
3. Make certain your expectations are realistic and allow for mistakes.
4. Try new things even if they seem small.
5. Engage in at least one activity that you enjoy regardless of productivity.
6. Write things down — don't over-burden your memory.
7. Enjoy music and read for pleasure.
8. Breathe deeply throughout the day.
9. Notice all the good you do.
10. Appreciate all that is going right.

OverDrive®

leading digital media services

Downloadable Media Now Available at FLLS!

Patrons in all FLLS libraries will be able to download recorded versions of books and Ebooks from the Finger Lakes Library System website and from our catalog, all you need is a computer and a library card!

Some of the titles available:

- *The World Without Us* - Alan Weisman
- *Making Money* - Terry Pratchett
- *The Namesake* - Jhumpa Lahiri
- *You've Been Warned* - James Paterson
- *20th Century Ghosts* - Joe Hill
- *Jinx* - Meg Cabot
- *Stardust* - Neil Gaiman

Go to <http://flls.lib.overdrive.com/> for more information

Hot New Films



LA VIE EN ROSE (2007) PG-13

Born into poverty, she survived using the only gift she had - her voice. Edith Piaf's tragic life was a constant battle to sing and survive, to live and love, with no regrets. French with English subtitles.

PAN'S LABYRINTH (2007) R

Ofelia, a dreamy little girl, is uprooted to her new stepfather's military outpost. Powerless and lonely in a place of unfathomable cruelty, Ofelia lives out her own dark fable as she confronts monsters both otherworldly and human.

WILD HOGS (2007) PG-13

Four middle-aged friends decide to rev up their routine suburban lives with a freewheeling motorcycle trip.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN- AT WORLD'S END (2007) PG-13

Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann join with Captain Barbossa in a desperate quest to free Captain Jack Sparrow from his trap in Davy Jones' locker.

Reference/Interlibrary Loan

Linda Beins, Coordinator



New Online Language Instruction Coming Soon...

Finger Lakes Library System has received notification that Rosetta Stone Ltd. "has decided to discontinue access online for public libraries" beyond the end of our current contract which ends January 31, 2008. Any new contract would only provide in-library language instruction and would require us to purchase a separate license for each simultaneous user per language offered. These conditions being placed by Rosetta Stone Ltd. limits access to this database to such an extent that it would be of questionable value to our library patrons. We truly regret the loss of this very popular learning tool and the inconvenience this will cause our patrons.

As a result, we are exploring other options. We have contacted the vendor Auralog which offers the language instruction product, **TeLL Me More**® which teaches the language learning skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, grammar and culture. **TeLL Me More**® currently provides instruction in English (American & British), French, Italian, German, Spanish (South American & Spain), and Dutch; the next version will include Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic. Patrons may take a placement test to determine their level of proficiency, set their own learning objectives, and then test to gauge progress and evaluate learners' mastery level. The lessons include 37 different types of activities and up to 2,000 lesson hours. **TeLL Me More**® has a cultural component that exposes learners to relevant history and culture of the nations in which the target language is spoken. Some other key features of **TeLL Me More**® include: comprehensive grammar and translation.

In addition, TCPL has selected playaways and audio book CDs of the following language learning titles from Pimsleur: Chinese Mandarin; Italian; Japanese; Korean; Portuguese Brazilian; French; and German. Purchased with CBA funds, these items are available to all FLLS area patrons once they are processed.



FEATURED WEBSITE - MedlinePlus.gov



MedlinePlus.gov provides authoritative and current health information from the world's largest medical library, the National Library of Medicine. Both consumers and health professionals can research over 740 diseases, get lists of hospitals and physicians, as well as information from the National Institutes of Health and other reliable sources. MedlinePlus also has extensive information about drugs, an illustrated medical encyclopedia, interactive patient tutorials, the latest health news, and links to clinical trials and other health services and organizations. This is an excellent starting point for people who want to be better health consumers.

New Staff @ FLLS Headquarters

We have new staff members at FLLS.

- ◆ **Dan Kelly** and **Mary Plowe** join **Ben Booth**, part-time Pages, to handle incoming delivery bags, boxing collections for delivery and shelving System materials when they are returned.



- ◆ **Sarah Steinkamp**, Outreach Associate, our newest staff member, is working along with Linda Pierro in the Mail-It Department.

- ◆ **Sam Norton**, Consultant Services Associate, is helping Annette and Marisa with projects for our members.



- ◆ **Lois Maki**, formally library director of the Newfield Public Library, has joined the System staff! She will be cataloging materials for member libraries. Start date is January 7, 2008.

Member News:

Apalachin Reading Center

The Apalachin Reading Center has been working on several projects. No small part of this is our ongoing work on the chartering process.

During September, Lockheed Martin volunteers painted our building as one of their Day of Caring Projects. We supplied the paint and brushes and power washed the building and they supplied lots of man power, tee shirts and food and drinks for the workers. Three coats of paint was needed to cover the old aluminum siding that hadn't been painted since anyone could remember.

Because we had a very old "barn" type structure taken down and away by an area resident (who has reconstructed it on his property), we have purchased a small shed for storage. We had some new lighting installed in our parking lot and the area around the shed landscaped. The landscaping was completed in September.

When the email came through that SUNY Delhi had free shelving available we were the first to call and make a request. Volunteers made the trip to Delhi with a very large truck and collected the shelving and all the accompanying pieces. Volunteers have taken out our old wooden shelving and replaced it with this wonderful "new" shelving. Movable shelves make such a difference. The shelving project was finished on October 20th.

September 29th was the day that we celebrated our 50 year anniversary. We held an open house at the library which was well attended and well received by the community.

Through all this activity, we are still carrying on with our programs and books groups. We have a new group starting called "Craft Together". People bring in whatever craft project that they are working on and sit and work together. Those who want to are learning to knit and our goal is to make hats and mittens to donate to kids who would use them. We have had a tea tasting, a program by the owner of a local tea shop. She gave us a lot of interesting information about tea and we tried lots of different flavors. Our mystery readers and books du jour reading groups are still meeting monthly. We have helped a local church collect coats and the local Lion's club to collect glasses—all for those in need - during October and November. In November we will have a local author, Freddie Remza, talk about her new book and her recent trip to China.

We have had a very busy and exciting 2007. We have been so very fortunate to have a great board of directors and many hard working volunteers. We are looking forward to lots of new adventures in 2008!



Seymour Public Library District, Auburn

Seymour Library has been working to strengthen its ties to the community. Our community reading program, Cayuga Reads, featured discussions and programs based on the book *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell in October and November. All of the programs were well-attended, and we look forward to further growth next year.

We undertook our first "Food for Fines" program, which invited patrons to pay off \$1 in fines for every food item they donated. Local food pantries benefited from the donations, and the library benefited from positive publicity and outreach to patrons.

In December we held the second of our Seymour Suppers, an event that brings together library staff and members of the library and foundation boards for an informal dinner after hours and staff training. Our speakers at the December meeting were Kim Bolan, a library consultant and author of "Teen Spaces: The Step-by-Step Library Makeover", and Rob Cullin, a technology expert and co-author of "Technology Made Simple: An Improvement Guide for Small and Medium Libraries".

Aurora Free Library

The Aurora Free Library joined Hazard Library once again this fall and gave each kindergarten student a free book courtesy of our libraries. This year we chose the book "The Bus For Us" by Suzanne Bloom. The teachers said the students loved coming back to school the next day having shared the book with their families and many wanted to show how they could read the book by themselves. As part of our Family Arts Series, Suzanne Bloom visited the library the following weekend and discussed her work, drew a picture, and read from her books. Children were then able to have her sign their books. It was a wonderful event and a great partnership with our local elementary school.

This fall we also had our annual Book Lover's Ball and raised over \$10,000 to help with the preservation of our building. This fall we hope to finish work on our historic tile roof.

Lang Memorial Library, Cato

The Lang Memorial Library recently hired Katrina Barnes as its new Children's Program Coordinator. Katrina's college and employment background are business related; however she has extensive experience with children as a result of volunteering at churches and schools. Her warm,

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friendly attitude and organizational skills make Katrina a valued addition to our staff.

The library has also improved its teen services. A few years ago when teens would hang out at the library, staff would become stressed and feel more like disciplinarians than librarians. Now, after involving teens with the YA collection development and decisions, our relationship has improved. Together, we check out the latest styles, share funny videos, and discuss the value of keeping "MySpace" private.

After years of teen events where one or two participants attended, we are now happy to report attendance is up. Sixteen teens attended our recent "Dance Dance Revolution" program. The program got crazy and a little loud at times, but in the end we all had fun. It has taken patience and help from FLLS' games, but we finally had teens describe a library event as "awesome!"

Kellogg Free Library, Cincinnatus

We have had an interesting year with Summer Reading programs for children and teens. We also had a teen program recently featuring the Guitar Hero package available from Finger Lakes Library System. It was a fun success!

Here at Kellogg Free Library we will be celebrating Christmas with our Annual Children's Christmas on December 1st.

We are looking forward to the New Year.

Phillips Free Library, Homer

Phillips Free Library has had a busy and exciting year. Priscilla Berggren-Thomas took over from Kathy Hughes as director in August. In September, we closed out our temporary headquarters on Water St. in Homer and began packing for the move back to our newly restored historic building. We re-opened for business on 37 S. Main Street on Oct. 1st.

Along with a refinished basement that now includes meeting rooms, special collection rooms, book sale space, and a planned teen area, we have a new mezzanine for our non-fiction collection, an expanded children's room, and an elevator for handicap accessibility. The Homer community has been as excited about our new space as the staff are. We are getting settled in and planning new programs to utilize our new space.

One new program that is underway is an after school reading and activity program for K-2nd graders. Named Rockin' Readers, this group will be meeting Thursdays at 3:00 pm. We have a growing group of volunteers helping with planning themes, activities, crafts and reading for this program.

The library will be participating in the Big

Read this spring. Plans are underway to hold book discussions and other activities to highlight "Fahrenheit 451". Phillips Library is partnering with SUNY Cortland in helping plan activities for the Big Read.

Committees are forming and volunteers are becoming more active in the library, as we make plans to use our beautiful newly restored facility. Come by some time to visit, if you haven't had the chance.

Interlaken Free Library

This fall we have two Pre K classes and there are twenty kids in each class. We are so happy that Mrs. Carroll will be back reading again after her knee surgery.

We are doing bears again this November and will have lots of them here for the children to enjoy. We will make a moveable bear that they can use as a tree ornament. We are a bit crowded but next spring we will have more space! Our building project is underway. Do have a very happy holiday season.

Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca

We are pleased to announce that former FLLS staff member Cassie Shortle will be our newest professional librarian, working in the Adult Services Department. With the retirement of long time employee Shelley Garvey, Amy Humber has been appointed the Head of Adult Services.

Our library is at the end of a two year Strategic Planning process, which included revising our mission statement, developing a vision statement, analyzing progress made on our old strategic plan, developing six goals and twenty-two strategies for meeting these goals, and conducting a space needs analysis of our physical facility. The plan will be on the library's website once adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Included in the planning process was a benchmarking study, comparing our libraries with similar libraries across the United States. The findings re-affirmed many earlier findings—not enough open hours, an inventory not sufficient to meet the needs of users, and greater than average private fundraising support.

Kindergartners visiting the library as part of the "Kids Discover the Trail" project will receive kid-friendly, colorful library cards, made possible by a grant from the Sunrise Rotary Club and the Gannett Foundation. And, a grant from the Friends of the Library will allow us to give each child their own copy of the *The Lion in the Library*. Once the spring visits are completed, each child registering for a library card will receive one of the new cards.

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Adelle Leise, Youth Services Librarian, and the generosity of the J.M.McDonald Foundation, we no longer need to consider teenagers as one of our underserved populations. The program activity for October was particularly high because Teen Read Week falls in

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October, and Adelle promoted the week with posters, bookmarks, lots of new YA literature, and some fun programs for teens. In the beginning of the week we had a Mother Daughter Book Club, with Teen Scrapbooking and Teens Write falling during the week, and Pam Ehrenberg, author of the highly acclaimed young adult book *Ethan Suspended*, doing a Booktalk session at the end of the week. Jay Lynch, renowned cartoonist for Mad Magazine came the following week to do a presentation on the history of comics, his life as a cartoonist, and a demonstration of his talent and technique.

The monthly TAG (Teen Advisory Group) meetings are well attended by enthusiastic teens. Adelle and the group created some wonderful digital downloads (similar to podcasts) using new software funded by the McDonald Foundation. You can hear these downloads on our Teen Webpage, as the teens did book reviews of their monthly book selection, and Adelle & Jen loaded them on the website. They're really great. They also did some event publicity as digital downloads.

In addition, some of this funding has been used to promote a YouTube contest among teens ages 13-17. The teens are encouraged to do a video telling us why they like, appreciate or value the Tompkins County Public Library. The prizes are \$100 for 1st, \$55. for 2nd, and \$35. for 3rd----all being gift certificates to Best Buy. So far, there have been two groups doing videos (one inside and one outside), but no entries yet. The contest runs from October 15- December 10, and the winners were announced on December 20th, and all of the entries will eventually be shown on our website.

Teens Write was presented by Irene Zahava for 5 sessions during the month of October. All sessions were well attended, as usual.

The first Game Night for teens was a great success, as we had a nice turnout, and everyone stayed for the entire two hours, as they were all having such a good time. We borrow the Dance, Dance Revolution, a video dancing game, and Guitar Hero, another video game from FLLS. These are a **huge** hit with the kids. We also had Scrabble, Chess, Balderdash and Scattergories (good tests for vocabularies) for the teens.

We concluded our community read of *The Pick-Up* by Nadine Gordimer and look forward to working with Cornell University again in 2008. We are hoping to find a way to involve the Finger Lakes Library System member libraries in this fun event.

Carrie Wheeler, Adult Services Public Programming and Outreach Coordinator is planning a 2008 calendar of public programs around the theme of Civic Engagement. Watch our website for announcements of these programs. A highlight of our March calendar will be Cornell University President



David Skorton and his wife Dr. Robin Davisson sharing their favorite books with us on Sunday March 9 at 2 p.m.

Peck Memorial Library, Marathon

Peck Memorial Library had a fall reading challenge for ages 2 to 18 titled "Books Are Sweet." We had 89 children and teens utilize this program. Each participant received a card at registration that they brought in each time they returned their books. When the card was punched 5 times they could go into the treasure chest and pick out a book with a candy bar attached. All who participated loved it and many filled out more than one card. One of the first graders filled out 7 cards. The books were items that we received from Scholastic and "gently used" ones from our book sale. Friends of the Library purchased the candy bars for us.

Upcoming events - Friends of the Library are conducting a wreath sale. The 19 inch balsam fir wreaths can come with burgundy or red bows. Last year they sold about 125 wreaths.

On November 26th we are having "Hanging of the Greens". Friends group is again sponsoring this. The Friends will come and decorate the library for the upcoming Open House in December and the holidays.

In January we will sponsor another reading challenge - the name is still in the works!

Tappan-Spaulling Memorial Library, Newark Valley

Just like everyone else, I am very, very busy! The plans for the addition are moving ahead slowly at this point but there is a lot to do: grants to write, cookies to bake, and banks to rob! I am learning a lot in the process. We are meeting with the architect the end of November to get the final drawings started.

We will be having an open house on December 15th for 4:00-9:00pm. We will have a table set up for bookmark making and stories read every half hour. The Village has a winter festival at the same time and we brought in about 300 people last year and I hope we have the same this year.

Bob Huckabone is doing a presentation on bluebirds on November 20th from 7:30-8:30pm here in our children's room. It was a last minute thing but I hope we have a good turnout. I may see if he will try again in the spring just before the bluebirds start to nest. My children made bluebird houses when they were young and we did have a pair nest in one of them.

After the System Annual Meeting, two representatives from the State Library came to visit and we had a great time. I learned a lot from them. They asked to come to a board meeting sometime to see if there was any thing they could do to help us. I guess I did not know what they offered us and what

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ALOHA INTERLIBRARY LOANS

The book Achievement Factor: Candid Interviews with Some of the Most Successful People traveled more than 5,000 miles from the island of Oahu, Hawaii to the Stewart B. Lang Memorial Library in Cato, NY to fill a patron's interlibrary loan (ILL) request. Previously, we had borrowed the book An Army of Swords from faraway Anchorage, Alaska. We have now received material from all fifty states in the U.S.A!!!

Each month we receive and process, for short-term loan, more than 200 items from libraries across the country; approximately two-thirds come from New York State but the remaining one-third arrive from places as far as Alabama, California, South Dakota, and Utah. As of early December, libraries in more than 300 different cities have sent material for use by FLLS member library patrons. Our ILL Department map of the United States captures the places from which we have obtained material.

If you do not find what you are looking for in the FLLS catalog, just fill out a Request form, available at your public library, for a book, periodical, or on a subject matter. The FLLS Interlibrary Loan staff will try to locate the item you want and send it on to your public library for your use; it usually takes at least two weeks but it could be here sooner. In almost all cases there is no fee. Whether it is non-fiction or fiction, juvenile or adult, book or article, don't limit your research needs and reading pleasure to just the collections of FLLS member libraries. Let your imagination travel as far as the ILLs that come through FLLS.

Member Libraries Receive Construction Grants @ FLLS

Libraries were able to apply for construction grants, for the second year in a row, from the additional \$14 Million New York State Library Construction Grants for 2007-2010.

Finger Lakes Library System's portion of the \$14 Million came to \$381,670 and we used all of it and then some! We received eight applications, all of which were awarded something. All applicants must have matching funds for the project and meet stringent guidelines from the State to be considered to receive an award. System Board members arrived at their recommendations by using "Element 10" of the System "Plan of Service," which is available on our website, www.flls.org. The applications then go Library Development for approval before the final step, DASNY approval (Dormitory Authority State of New York).

The **Tappan-Spaulling Memorial Library** in Newark Valley requested funding to build an addition which would make the library handicapped accessible plus provide much needed room for more book stacks, computer stations, adult and children's programming, a director's office, storage and meeting rooms for community use. This is the first time this library has requested funds from any New York State Construction Grant. Their total project will cost \$220,000. FLLS Board of Trustees recommended awarding the library \$100,000. Due to unused allocated funding to other Library System's in New York State, Library Development awarded an additional \$33,690, bringing their total grant award to **\$133,690!**

Aurora Free Library requested funding to replace the original clay tiles on the roof of this historic building and to address asbestos abatement. This project must replace the roof material with the SHPO-approved material. Their total project will cost \$136,000. FLLS Board of Trustees recommended awarding the library **\$51,000**, which was approved by Library Development.

Cortland Free Library, for the first time since being a member of the System, requested funds to replace the roof of the building and install proper roof drains. Our Board of Trustees recommended **\$33,750** to this \$90,000 project.

Peck Memorial Library in Marathon requested funds to renovate the library building portion that was leased for offices in the past years. This will expand the usable space for library programming, both for adults and children and for computer stations. System Board of Trustees recommended **\$12,205** for this \$48,400 project.



Edith B. Ford Memorial Library in Ovid requested funds to replace the roof and paving the parking area for handicapped accessibility to the library. They will also upgrade electrical and Ethernet outlets, renovate the front sidewalk and install a safety hand rail. System Board of Trustees recommended **\$24,931** for this \$99,724 project.

Phillips Free Library in Homer requested funds to renovate the basement of the library to provide much needed additional space for tutoring, community events and meeting rooms and to furnish this space. System Board recommended **\$65,502** of this \$260,902 project.

Waterloo Library requested funds to restore and renovate all the original stained glass windows (every window in the building is made with stained glass!) and to add SHPO approved storm coverings as an energy savings and to protect the stained glass. Our Board recommended \$89,238 of the \$353,883 project costs. Again, due to unused funds from other library systems in the state, Library Development awarded an additional \$25,000 to help with this project for a total of **\$114,238**.

Springport Free Library in Union Springs requested funds to renovate the basement to be used for community and library programs, meeting place for the Board of Trustees and a kitchenette for library staff and board members use. Our Board recommended **\$5,043** of this \$20,000 project.

\$800,000 NYS Construction Grant

Two of our libraries were awarded construction funding from the NYS Construction Grant \$800,000 of which FLLS received \$21,810.

Hazard Library in Poplar Ridge requested funding to replace the library roof and to upgrade the electrical system. This is the first stage of upgrading the library space. An addition is planned in the near future. This is the first time the library has applied for a construction grant. They were awarded **\$9,767** by the System Trustees for their \$19,533 project.

Interlaken Public Library requested funds to replace current second floor windows with energy efficient windows, updating lighting and removing horsehair lathe and plaster walls and replace with R-23 insulation and fire resistant sheetrock for a total recommendation of **\$12,043**. An additional \$5,961 was awarded by Library Development from unused allocated funds from other Systems, bringing their total to **\$18,004**, for their \$36,008 project.

Congratulations to all libraries that were awarded this funding!
Carol Hendrix, Administration

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they can do other than construction grants. I will definitely use ask for their help when needed.

Newfield Public Library

Early morning on Election Day the Newfield Public Library was filled with many wonderful baked goods. By mid-afternoon, there were just a few items left, and those disappeared when school was dismissed. It was another successful fund raiser thanks to everyone that organized the sale, worked during the day, and especially those that baked goodies. This was the second library fundraiser held this fall. In September the library participated in the Newfield Old Home Days parade and held a used book sale as part of the community celebration. Karin Eisenberg and her team of volunteers once again sorted, organized, and moved many, many books. Thanks to everyone that continues to support the library.

January 2008 will see former board president, Tina Winstead, finishing her term as a library trustee. Tina has been an exceptional board member. Her dedication and attention to detail helped her to successfully guide the library through a time of change and expansion. Her constant support of the library, her ability to think clearly through difficult situations, and her strong leadership abilities made her a valuable asset for the library. Thank you, Tina.

Ford Memorial Library, Ovid

The Edith B. Ford Memorial Library is still under construction. Next up, the lift which will take patrons from the first floor to the basement. That work should start in about a week. The back door will be closed off, so everyone is reminded to use the front door for a number of weeks.

We are holding a raffle through Dec. 21st for a Longaberger's basket. Real maple, hand woven, a beauty. Great for storage of books or yarn, three tickets for \$5 or 2 for \$3. Take a chance, it's a lovely basket. It comes with three bestsellers.

Our Capital Campaign is going strong. We expect to hold our annual Association meeting with year-end report in January. The New Year holds more construction; an ADA compliant bathroom, unisex, a new janitor's closet and many more new plans. In the coming year we also hope to have Gary Xavier back to speak to us about growing up in Ovid in the sixties and seventies. Gary is a writer of mechanical textbooks, a speaker, teacher and journalist.

In the coming month, Lake Country Book Club will be choosing titles for next year. The Trustees are adding a new Trustee to the Board, Honorine Rock. We hope to add at least one more person to the Board in the New Year.

As you can see, things are busy at the Ovid Library. We wish you all good cheer for the coming holidays.

Hazard Library, Poplar Ridge

September is the start of Story Hour for our younger patrons. Sally Otis and Jolly the Clown welcome everyone on Tuesday mornings for songs, stories and other activities. This year our group started with 8 in September and has grown to 20! We have a full house!!!

Our adult Book Club continues to meet monthly. They have met in members' homes over the summer. They read the "Cayuga Reads" book for 2007 called *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell. We had a very good discussion even though it was not a favorite of most members. For November we did a study on Barbara Kingsolver with members choosing one or more of her books to read. The discussion was very interesting with a variety of her titles being chosen. Many left the discussion ready to read some more of her books. In December one of the members reads a short Christmas story out loud to all and a cookie exchange with recipes is enjoyed by all. We have lost a few members so are able to add a couple new members.

We are underway with our plans for expansion of the library space. We have contracted with the architectural firm of Holmes, King, Kallquist & Associates. In 2008 we are looking forward to breaking ground. We are grateful to our Board of Trustees and our community volunteers for their efforts to make a "new" library a reality for our community.

Our 2008 "Southern Community Read" is also in the planning stage. We are working with Aurora Free Library and community volunteers to select the "read."

The "read" will be announced in January 2008.

Planning for our 2008 family programs is completed. We have scheduled Doug Rougeux, the bubble man, for our program during the February school break. Our summer program is set and we have submitted an application for DEC funding for our 5 programs.

Of course, we still provide library services for our community! Happy holidays to one and all.

Port Bryon Library

Hooray! We finally received the news that the NYS Board of Regents has approved our application for the absolute charter! The actual document should be in the mail, soon.

Meantime, we've received the requested \$550 from FLLS towards new books on CD. We chose this medium because our current collection is really small.

The top of our display case features 20 books by Port Byron authors right now. (We have a talented community!) On the bottom portion, we've displayed books from area authors.

We have applied for Finger Lakes Arts Grants for several special programs during 2008. Let's hope we've jumped thru enough hoops to win them!

(Continued on page 12)



FLLS NEWS

"Top FLLS  -Out Items List"

Circulated within the System from 11/01/06—11/01/07

Jan Aguirre, Specialist & Training Coordinator, FLLS

Nonfiction & Fiction Books	Title	BibYTD
Author		CircCount
10. Patterson, James, 1947-	The 6th target	404
9. Binchy, Maeve.	Whitethorn Woods	405
8. Evanovich, Janet.	Twelve sharp	438
7. Picoult, Jodi, 1966-	Nineteen minutes	453
6. Steel, Danielle.	Sisters	483
5. Evanovich, Janet.	Plum lovin	487
4. Patterson, James, 1947-	Step on a crack	538
3. Patterson, James, 1947-	Cross	610
2. Rowling, J. K.	Harry Potter and the deathly hallows	785
1. Gordimer, Nadine.	The pickup	1,560*

*Tompkins County Public Library "Community Read " book

DVDs		
5.	Who killed the electric car?	231
4.	The devil wears Prada	241
3.	Pirates of the Caribbean. Dead man's chest	300
2.	The pursuit of happiness	325
1.	An inconvenient truth	470

Large Print Books		
5. Binchy, Maeve.	Whitethorn Woods	83
4. Patterson, James, 1947-	Cross	87
3. Woods, Stuart.	Fresh disasters	94
2. Coulter, Catherine.	Double take	97
1. Clark, Mary Higgins.	I heard that song before	122

Books on Tape/CDs		
9. Patterson, James, 1947-	Cross	73
8. Hosseini, Khaled.	A thousand splendid suns	75
7. Patterson, James, 1947-	The 6th target	78
6. Hillerman, Tony.	The shape shifter	78
5. Evanovich, Janet.	Plum lovin	79
4. Evanovich, Janet.	Motor mouth	84
3. Braun, Lilian Jackson.	The cat who had 60 whiskers	91
2. Patterson, James, 1947-	Step on a crack	102
1. Rowling, J. K.	Harry Potter and the deathly hallows	131

Periodicals		
5.	Highlights high five.	19
4.	The good life, central New York magazine.	20
3.	Dwell	22
2.	Everyday food	25
1.	Every day with Rachael Ray.	40

(Continued from page 10)

Meantime, we had a great turn-out for our Halloween party. Our favorite magician, Aaron Isaacs, returned to put on a show about safety for our children. Have a great winter, everyone!

Springport Free Library, Union Springs

The Springport Free Library is looking forward to a winter of reading fun. We will be hosting several story hours and craft evenings. The staff will be going out to our local schools and senior housing, in order to pass out information about the library. We would like to let the community know about all the wonderful sources of information and good books available.

We continue to work on a library building expansion. Much of our time and effort is going into the completion of this expansion project. The library hopes to host an open house showcasing completed work and projected plans for the future.

Waverly Free Library Association

We are in the process of redesigning the library's conference room in order to use the space better. The board is working with Jeanne Boodley-Buchanan, a designer, to see what can be done. The room serves many functions. It is a meeting room for small and large groups and it serves as the place where story hour is held, as well as other public programs. Donated items for book sales are stored on shelves and our treasurer uses the room as his workspace. Custom built closets along 2 walls are the only storage the library has. We are excited about this project.

December 2 is the dedication of the Klinko Collection -- a collection of Foreign Films on DVD purchased with money donated in memory of a special volunteer -- Jane Klinko.

Weedsport Free Library

During October the Weedsport Free Library focused on the Underground Railroad. We applied and were pleased to be approved for a "Speakers in the Humanities" program with Dr. Milton C. Sernett, a professor emeritus from Syracuse University on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. Dr. Sernett presented the lecture "North Star Shining: New York State's Freedom Trail—An Illustrated Journey Along the Underground Railroad". The slide lecture was very informative and entertaining.

To enhance the Underground Railroad theme the library quilting group, "Heart-to-Hand Quilters, are in the process of finishing an Underground Railroad sampler quilt. The Friends of the Library funded the purchase of the fabric and once finished the quilt will hang on permanent display in the programming room.

The Friends also purchased \$100 worth of books about the topic, including Dr. Sernett's book, *North Star Country: Upstate New York and the Crusade for African American Freedom*.

Plus the following:

- ◆ *The Underground Railroad: authentic Narratives and First-Hand Accounts* by William Still,
- ◆ *The Encyclopedia of the Underground Railroad* by J. Blaine Hudson,
- ◆ *The Underground Railroad* by Wade Hudson,
- ◆ *Passages to Freedom* by David Blight, and
- ◆ *Harriet Tubman* by Catherine Clinton.

Holds may be placed on these books through PowerPac.

We all came away with a new understanding of the Underground Railroad. By the way, the New York Council for the Humanities has a wonderful menu of programs that your library can apply for. Your only cost is the application fee. For more information, visit www.nyhumanities.org.

NYLA CONFERENCE: BUFFALO

The following members attended the 2007 NYLA Conference in Buffalo this fall with the Continuing Education Grant award made available by the FLLS Board of Trustees, using a portion of the one time only funding increase:

- ◆ Julie Widger, Lamont Memorial Free Library, McGraw
- ◆ Sally Otis, Hazard Library, Poplar Ridge
- ◆ Julia Schult, Groton Public Library
- ◆ Angela Sorrenson, Cortland Free Library

A NEW LIBRARY ON THE HORIZON!

Congratulations to the Lansing Community Library Center! In a special referendum held on December 11, residents of the Lansing School District approved the creation of a public library district and the funding of the new library with tax dollars. The new trustees are working hard on submitting paperwork to the Regents for their charter, and arranging to automate the library. The Finger Lakes Library System is looking forward to welcoming Lansing as a new member library.

Too Late!



From l - r: Brian, Doug and **Robert McLaughlin**.

I'd just turned 16 and was returning from a summer sock hop at the local church hall about 9:30 p.m. In our small rural village of Delphi Falls, NY, social activities were limited in 1959.

There were vacant lots on each side of our house, and many wild critters lived in the hills, woods, fields and backyards. We usually had three or four barn cats for pest control that also were considered pets. In the summer, they stayed outside but were fed regularly near the kitchen door.

I was wearing dressy casual attire for the dance—an oxford-cloth, button-down shirt; chino pants; argyle socks; and white buck shoes—as I approached the kitchen door. The outdoor light wasn't on.

As I tried to open the screen door, I heard an animal nearby munching something where we put out the cat food. I assumed it was one of our cats.

The screen door was locked and, as I started to knock, the odor hit me. It wasn't a *cat* munching; it was a *skunk*, and he'd hit me with a full stream.

Apparently, I was so close that he sprayed me from the waist down, so the odor took a moment to waft upward and register.

When my mother approached the screen door, she also quickly became aware of the odor. She slammed the door shut and the kitchen windows, too.

By now, I was running around, screaming for her to let me in. From the far corner of the house, my father asked if I could see and breathe okay, and I told him I could.

He sent me to the barn, and he followed me in. After giving me wet washcloths to wipe my face, he determined that I'd live.

He found a big metal washbasin, told me to undress and left, saying he'd return soon. When he did, he brought several buckets of warm water and Lux soap flakes. As I bathed, he brought me a T-shirt, shorts and sneakers.

In the meantime, my mother had set up an old Army cot in the storage room off the kitchen for me. There was no way I could sleep in the bedroom that I shared with my two younger brothers.

In the next 2 days, I think I took a dozen baths. It took longer to get the odor off me than my clothes.

Later, someone said I should have bathed in tomato juice. But there was no way my frugal father would have gone to *that* extreme.

It's said that life is a learning experience, as long as you live through it. I did, but it was a pretty smelly experience!

*By Doug McLaughlin, Liverpool, NY;
older brother of Robert McLaughlin,
Cataloging Services, FLLS.*

Previously published: September 2007 issue of *Reminisce*



L-R Mary Catherine French, Library Director. Karel Titus, Trustee of the Year recipient— Sally Limoncelli and Julia Clawson, Trustees of the Lodi Whittier Library, at the FLLS 49th Annual Meeting.

2007 FLLS 49th Annual Meeting Highlights

Our 49th Annual Meeting was held at the Owego Treadway Inn & Conference Center on October 10, 2007, with 93 attendees.

- ◆ FLLS Trustee Lynn Patti called the roll of member libraries. With 17 libraries represented, a quorum was declared.
- ◆ 2006 Annual Meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
- ◆ The President's and Director's combined report to the attendees on what the System used the one-time-only state funding for the members.
 - * FLLS addressed some operational needs that grew to almost desperate levels during eight years of flat funding. The benefits of this may not be obvious to member library personnel and trustees, nor to end users, but a strong and healthy system means better service.
 - * After four years of greatly reduced or nonexistent grants to our members, FLLS released a new developmental grant program. Part one is a collection development grant intended to provide incentive and assistance for member libraries in developing collections of materials in newer formats. Part two offered scholarships for member library trustees to attend the annual NYSALB conference and for member library employees to attend the annual New York Library Association Conference.
 - * One of the latest and most exciting developments in the library field is the availability of information in digital form that can be downloaded from the library website to a home computer or other electronic device. In partnership with our Central Library, TCPL, FLLS will make downloadable audio books and e-books available to Finger Lakes member library cardholders from our website in November, 2007.
- ◆ Guest Speaker, Professor Cynthia Scheibe, gave a very entertaining talk on "Media Literacy on the Internet" and entertained questions from the audience.
- ◆ The following awards were presented:
 1. Library Trustee of the Year Award—given to **Karel Titus**, Trustee of the Lodi Whittier Library, presented by Lynn Patti, Trustee, FLLS;
 2. Joan Cooke Youth Services Award—given in memory of **Sally Sutcliffe**, for her dedication to the children of the Ulysses Philomathic Library, Trumansburg, presented by Annette Birdsall, Youth Services Coordinator, FLLS;
 3. Director of the Year Award—given to **Cheryl Austin**, Director of the Weedsport Free Library, Cayuga County. Presented by FLLS Executive Director, Karen Creenan;
 4. Ruth Polson Distinguished Service Award: given to **Time-Warner Cable of Syracuse and Rochester** for assistance to local libraries in providing Internet Access to their communities. Presented by Rex Helwig, Computer Services Manager.

2007 Annual Meeting Pictures



Trustee of the Year: Karel Titus, Lodi Whittier Library, Seneca County.



Joan Cooke Youth Services Award, in memory of Sally Sutcliffe, Ulysses Philomathic Library, Trumansburg, Tompkins County.



Director of the Year: Cheryl Austin, Weedsport Library, Cayuga County.



Ruth Polson Distinguished Service Award: Time-Warner Cable of Rochester and Syracuse, Andy Lukasiewicz and David Whalen.

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(non-board member)

The **FLLS News** is published quarterly at System headquarters in Ithaca, N.Y. News items are always welcome from librarians, trustees and friends, and should be sent to:

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

Finger Lakes Library System home page: <http://www.flls.org/>

FLLS NEWS

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