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DIGITAL LIBRARY SERVICE PROVIDES 24/7 ACCESS TO MATERIALS

Patrons Can Checkout and Download Popular and Award Winning Audiobooks & eBooks From The Comfort of Their Homes

Upper Hudson Library System never closes! We have a new digital library which patrons can browse, checkout, and download digital Audiobooks and eBooks anytime of day from anywhere in the world. All you need is a library card from one of the 29 public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer counties, a computer, and brief Internet access. The new online service is available by visiting <http://digitalcollection.uhls.org>.

Our online collection has over 1,000 exceptional titles and is sure to have something that fits your tastes. From popular novels by Nora Roberts, Catherine Coulter, Dean Koontz, and Amy Tan; to the classic works of Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Franz Kafka, even Homer — our audiobook and eBook collection spans nearly every genre. The collection also includes children’s books, educational titles, and a wide variety of non-fiction including business, history, and self-help.

Getting started is easy. Just visit our web site <http://digitalcollection.uhls.org>, install the free software from our website, then browse our collection and select the titles you want. When you’re ready, check out your materials by entering your library card and download the digital books to your home computer. Once downloaded, you can transfer them to your portable device, or burn the audio books directly to CD. When the lending period is up your digital books are automatically returned — so there are never any late fees!



Digital books are compatible with most home computers. eBooks (digital text based versions of a book) can be read on PCs, MACs, PDAs, and Smartphones. Downloaded audiobooks (digital versions of traditional audiobooks on tape or CD) can be enjoyed on your PC or on hundreds of portable WMA/MP3 players. You can burn audiobooks to CD and listen to them in the car or on any standard CD player.

Visit our digital library 24/7 or for more information contact Jo-Ann Benedetti at 518-437-9880 ext 225.

Latest Edition is a bi-monthly newsletter for the public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Please send comments, information or changes of address to:

Jo-Ann Benedetti,
Editor
jo-ann@uhls.lib.ny.us

Heidi Fuge,
Copy Editor
heidi@uhls.lib.ny.us

Upper Hudson Library System
28 Essex St
Albany, NY 12206

www.uhls.org/uhls
518-437-9880

Digital Books Primer

Confused about digital books? Here are a few hints to get you started:

Q: What types of materials can I checkout from the library?

A: We are pleased to offer the following types of materials for checkout and download from this website:

- eBooks in the **Adobe® Reader®** and **Mobipocket Reader®** formats
- digital audio books in the **OverDrive Media Console™** format

Q: What is an 'eBook'?

A: 'eBook' is short for 'electronic book', a digital version of a print book that can be read on a computer screen, laptop, or handheld device. eBooks are available in a variety of different formats. The two formats we offer are **Adobe® Reader®** format and **Mobipocket Reader®** format.

Q: What is a 'digital audio book'?

A: A 'digital audio book' is a digital version of an audio book that is rights-protected and optimized for download. Audio books can, in many cases, be downloaded to a portable device, such as an MP3 player, and some can even be burned to CD.

Q: What software do I need?

A: The required software varies by format.

Adobe® Reader® 6.0 and 7.0 are available for desktop and laptop computers. Adobe® Reader® 3.0 is available for PDAs with Palm OS and Adobe® Reader® 2.0 is available for the Pocket PC.

Mobipocket Reader® is available for desktop and laptop computers with Microsoft Windows® operating systems, Smartphones, Pocket PCs, and Palm OS PDAs.

OverDrive Media Console is available for desktop and laptop computers with Microsoft Windows operating systems.

For more information on all of these formats and links to download the free software, go to ***<http://digitalcollection.uhls.org>***.

Q: To which devices can I transfer OverDrive audiobook titles?

A: Look for the **playsforsure** logo on your device. Note that in order to use OverDrive audiobook titles on a device, the device must either support the bit rate of 32kbps or be able to transcode 32kbps files to a supported bit rate.



You may want to check device documentation to determine if a device supports protected Windows Media content at 32kbps.

Note: If you are using a Pocket PC, you need to have a memory card with sufficient memory space installed in order to transfer audiobook files from your PC to your PDA.

Grants

Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form

Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form is a viewing and discussion project for libraries and other non-profit institutions from National Video Resources and the National Endowment for the Humanities, in collaboration with the American Library Association and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Applications are being accepted through **February 10, 2006**.

Looking At: Jazz will offer libraries and other non-profit organizations an outstanding program of six carefully curated viewing and discussion programs accompanied by a selection of compelling documentary films, compelling essays written by eminent scholars, and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs.



Libraries (public, academic, special) and non-profit institutions or venues related to music or jazz history (examples include but are not limited to university departments, archives with an extensive jazz collection, museums, jazz institutes or societies, or performance venues) are eligible to apply.

Fifty institutions will be selected to receive a grant to present a series of community programs around themes in jazz history. The programs will consist of screenings of award-winning documentary films, supported by scholar-led discussion and extensive suggested reading lists. All fifty selected institutions will receive materials and resources (films, written materials, publicity materials, access to an electronic discussion list and project Web site), inclusion in a 1-½ day training workshop and a cash grant of \$1,000.

Either a library or a non-profit organization can be the lead applicant, provided they create a partnership that includes both a library and a non-profit organization or venue. Grant guidelines require that, after the viewing and discus-

sion series, the documentary film packages become a part of the participating library's circulating collection.

Program plans that include supplemental programming featuring live jazz performances are strongly encouraged. For example, a library might offer a discussion and film program one night while a partnering jazz venue offers a related performance on the following evening. Please go to <http://www.ala.org/publicprograms> for additional information.

We the People Bookshelf on Becoming American

As part of the *We the People* initiative, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is collaborating with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office to present the *We the People Bookshelf*, a program to encourage young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history.

Public and school (K-12) libraries are invited to apply to be among the 2,000 libraries selected to receive the third *We the People Bookshelf*, which contains fifteen books focusing on Becoming American, as well as programming and publicity materials. Go to <http://www.neh.gov/wtp/bookshelf> for application information. Deadline is **January 17, 2006**.

The Starbucks Foundation

The Starbucks Foundation funds programs for youth ages 6 to 18 that integrate literacy with personal and civic action in the communities where they live. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Letters of inquiry are reviewed twice yearly, **September 1** and **March 1**. Information and a downloadable inquiry form are available at <http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/foundation.asp>.

Hannaford Charitable Foundation

The Hannaford Charitable Foundation provides financial support for programs and organizations, including libraries, dedicated to improving the communities in which the supermarket chain operates. Guidelines are available at <http://www.hannaford.com/community/charitable.htm>. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

From the National Endowment for the Humanities....

Implementation Grants for Special Projects

These Special Project grants support a variety of public humanities program formats, including public discussion forums, hands-on learning experiences, discussion series based on reading or film-viewing, multi-faceted conferences, or symposia. Small exhibitions or interpretive publications might serve as common texts for such programs. Living history or historical impersonations might also be appropriate if they are deeply grounded in scholarship. Applicants for an implementation grant should have already identified their project's key humanities themes, relevant scholarship, and program formats. Most of the planning and consultation with scholars and programming advisors should already have taken place. Special Projects may take place at diverse venues, including community centers, places of worship, 4-H clubs, neighborhoods, parks, visitor centers, workplaces, state fairs, or in fields under tents. Development of a content-rich website might also be a Special Project. The audiences might be the general public or non-academic groups, such as senior citizens, youth, members of civic organizations, members of a profession (i.e. journalism or medicine), history and heritage tourists, hobbyists, or local citizens.

For additional information, go to: <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/NEH/OPUB/OPO/QI/listing.html>.

Implementation Grants for Libraries and Archives

Description: Implementation Grants support public humanities programs that interpret and use collections in libraries and archives. Public humanities programs promote lifelong learning in history, literature, comparative religion, philosophy, and other fields for broad public audiences. The topics and interpretive themes should ap-

peal to a wide range of people or directly to a target audience. Support is available for various activities that use a range of formats, including reading and discussion programs, exhibitions, conferences, and Web sites.

Additional information is available at <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/NEH/OPUB/OPO/LI/listing.html>

Preservation and Access Grants for Stabilizing Humanities Collections Grant

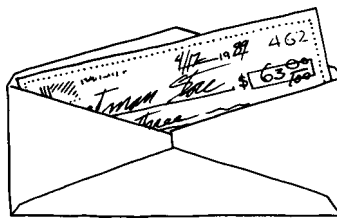
These grants help museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations preserve their humanities collections through support for improved housing and storage, environmental conditions, security, lighting, and fire protection. Eligible activities include:

- the purchase of storage furniture and the rehousing of humanities collections and materials that directly document the collections, such as field notes, site maps, or catalog records;
- the improvement of environmental conditions under which collections are stored or exhibited (which may encompass the installation of climate control systems); and
- the installation of security, lighting, and fire detection and suppression systems.

For additional information, go to: <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/NEH/OPUB/OPO/PZ/listing.html>.

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions

Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-size institutions, such as libraries, museums, and historical societies, archival repositories, town and county records offices, and colleges,



improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. These may include special collections of books and journals, archives and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural and cartographic records, decorative and fine arts, textiles, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, furniture, and historical objects.

For additional information, go to: <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/NEH/OPUB/OPO/PG/listing.html>.

Grants to Preserve and Create Access to Humanities Collections

These grants support projects that preserve collections and create intellectual access to collections that, because of their intellectual content and value as cultural artifacts, are considered highly important for research, education, and public programming in the humanities. Collections may include, but are not limited to, books, journals, newspapers, manuscript and archival materials, maps, still and moving images, sound recordings, and objects of art and material culture.

For more information: <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/NEH/OPUB/OPO/PC/listing.html>.

Interpreting America's Historic Places: Implementation Grant

Implementation grants for *Interpreting America's Historic Places* support public humanities programs that exploit the evocative power of historic places to address themes and issues central to American history and culture. Projects may interpret a single historic site, a series of sites, an entire neighborhood, a town or community, or a larger geographical region. The place as a whole must be significant to American history, and the project must convey its historical importance to visitors. Applicants for implementation grants should have already done most of the planning for their projects, including consultation with scholars and programming advisers, identification of the key humanities themes, articulation of program components, and performance of relevant research.

New York Council for the Humanities Grants Program

The Council awards Major Grants (\$2500 and higher) and Mini Grants (\$250 to \$2500). Council grants are meant to provide financial support for public programs presented by not-for-profit organizations across New York State that bring humanities scholars and scholarship to a general public audience.

Special consideration is given to projects that reach underserved populations; to projects that, without funding, might not happen; and to organizations that need financial seed money so that they may secure long-term support from other sources.

Any not-for-profit organization or institution with tax-exempt status in New York State is eligible to apply for a grant. All projects must be rooted in one or more of the humanities disciplines, integrally feature humanities scholars, and be intended for the general public.

The two annual deadlines for Major Grants are **March 1** and **November 1**; Mini-Grants are accepted on a rolling basis.

For more information: <http://www.nyhumanities.org/grants/>.

New York Council for the Humanities - Speakers in the Humanities Program

Launched in 1983, the Speakers in the Humanities program brings the best in humanities scholarship to thousands of people at cultural organizations in every corner of New York. To host a lecture in your town, just select a topic, contact the Speaker, and apply for funding through the Council. Any not-for-profit organization in New York State is eligible to use the program. Speakers events must be open to the public and free of charge. If your application is successful, the Council covers the cost of the Speaker's honorarium and travel expenses.

To apply to host a lecture, go to <http://www.nyhumanities.org/speakers/>.

R. R. Donnelly Foundation

The R. R. Donnelly Foundation supports libraries, educational institutions, and other organizations that enhance the cities and towns in which their employees live and work (a commercial printing facility is in Albany). High priority is given to activities that support the written word. The Foundation is also interested in ensuring the future strength of communities by funding programs that serve children and youth. Special consideration is given to any grant that fulfills both of these priorities. Awards range from \$25 to \$15,000, and proposals are accepted between **January 1** and **November 1** each year. For more information, visit <http://www.rrdonnelly.com/wwwRRD/AboutUs/Community/CommunityRelations.asp> or email Susan Levy at susan.levy@rrd.com.

Funding for Literacy Services

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation provides funding to nonprofit organizations providing direct literacy services to their communities. Services include adult basic education, GED preparation, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), family literacy or workforce literacy initiatives. See <http://www.dollargeneral.com/community/dgliteracy.aspx> for more information.



HSBC in the Community

HSBC established HSBC in the Community (USA) Inc., to focus primarily on two critical issues: education and the environment. Their educational focus is on K-12 public schools and post secondary institutions as well as adult education, such as public library programs and welfare to work programs. The environmental focus will fund programs that target conservation, sustainable development, or environmental education, promote good environmental practices, and programs that increase environmental public awareness, among others. For program information and application guidelines, go to: http://www.hsbcusa.com/corporateresponsibility/contributions_grants/application_guidelines.html

(more grant information on p. 14)

UHLS News

Information and Outreach Services (Jo-Ann Benedetti, Manager - ext. 225)

DELIVERY BAGS

A special legislative grant from Senator Hugh Farley allowed UHLS to purchase 1,000 zippered bags to be used with our delivery service. These bags will be used to package smaller items such as letters, small books, videotapes and CDs or DVDs. These bags will ensure that if a CD/ or DVD case pops open, the CD will not be separated from its case.

The funds from Senator Farley were part of a larger grant given to UHLS, the Mohawk Valley Library system and the Southern Adirondack Library System to purchase supplies to increase the effectiveness of our joint delivery service.

The bags are currently being distributed. If you have questions or concerns, contact Jo-Ann Benedetti at 518-437-9880 ext 225.

NEW DATABASES FOR 2006

Central Library Advisory Committee met and decided to purchase the following databases for 2006:

- *Literature Resource Center* (Thompson Gale)
- *Biography Resource Center* (Thompson Gale)
- *Book Review Index* (Thompson Gale)
- *Testing and Education Reference Center* (Thompson Gale)
- *NY State Legal Forms* (Thompson Gale)
- *American History Online* (Facts on File)
- *Reference USA* (InfoUSA)
- *Children's Literature Comprehensive Database*
- *Times Union*

Youth and Family Services

Mary Fellows, Manager— ext 228

SUMMER READING PROGRAM—RECAP

UHLS libraries finished up their summers with a 5% increase in total participants as compared with summer 2004! Along with our two other local systems, UHLS saw a marked decrease in the number of kids and teens registered for the Summer Reading Program. However, attendance at programs was up by 14%, so the overall numbers were positive.



What accounts for the decrease in registration? Several factors may be at work. First, many schools are assigning their students reading over the summer. The net result, other than making reading a chore rather than a pleasure, is that kids and parents feel that doing the required school reading is all the reading the kids can or want to do.

Secondly, kids and teens are increasingly spending leisure and social time at the computer. When libraries can do online signup and tracking of summer reading in conjunction with traditional methods, I predict a resurgence in registration statistics. Already there is software available to do this, though it is expensive. There are discussions going on about this software being available statewide at no costs to individual libraries, and some of us are lobbying strongly for that. If we are successful, that software may be available for summer 2007.

As always, youth services staff are evaluating their efforts. They analyze the statistics and learn from the results - what worked, what didn't, and why - so that next summer can be even better!

Member Library News

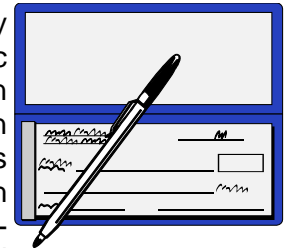
Albany Public Library—Main

ALBANY PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL APPEAL

Libraries open minds, enrich lives and bring us together. As our world changes, Albany's libraries face new challenges with increasing demand for more books, materials and programs, housed in aging and outdated facilities.

The initial success of APL's first comprehensive annual appeal is a clear indication that people are excited about helping APL continue its mission. To date, the library has received over 200 generous individual contributions, ranging from \$5 to \$1,000.

Your gifts to the library through the Albany Public Library Foundation mean the difference between merely adequate libraries and great libraries. With private support, we can expand our collections and services to include what customers want and need in materials, technology and programming.



Donations to the Annual Appeal can be sent to Albany Public Library Foundation, 161 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210. Credit card contributions can be processed by calling 518-427-4346. For more information call Elissa Kane at 518-427-4346.

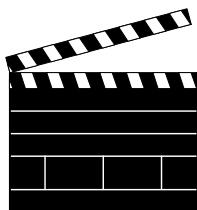
MEET THE AUTHOR: KIRBY WHITE

Kirby White, author of *The Long Stair*, will discuss his work on Tuesday, January 24, at 12:15 PM in the auditorium at 161 Washington Avenue. Based in Albany's Arbor Hill and Sheridan Hollow neighborhoods, the title *The Long Stair* refers to the stair that connects Sheridan Hollow with Elk Street, which runs behind the Albany Public Library's main location on Washington Avenue. All net proceeds from sales of *The Long Stair* will go to support the affordable housing efforts of the Albany Community Land Trust. Kirby White is a founder of the Capital District Community Loan Fund and has written numerous manuals and technical publications to support the growth of Community Loan Funds and Community Land Trusts across the United States.

ALBANY INDEPENDENT FILM FORUM PRESENTS: *WAL-MART: THE HIGH COST OF LOW PRICE*

This just-released documentary takes you behind the marketing glitz to reveal the reality of Wal-Mart's inner workings. Producer/Director Robert Greenwald takes you on an extraordinary journey that will change the way you think, feel -- and shop.

Director Rob Reiner said, "The free market functions effectively only when consumers have all the facts. This brilliant new film by Robert Greenwald tells the real story of the corrosive effects that Wal-Mart wreaks upon the communities in which it operates and the men and women it employs." For more information about this film go to <http://www.walmartmovie.com/>.



Screening will be Thursday, January 12, at 6:30 PM in the auditorium at 161 Washington Avenue. The film will be followed by a panel discussion.

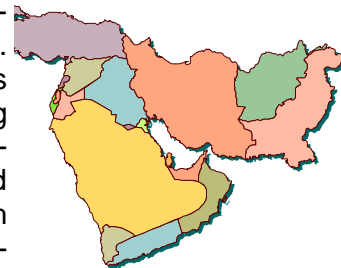
IRAN AND SYRIA:

EYEWITNESS VIEWS AND DIALOGUE

On Thursday, January 19, at 7:00 PM at the Main Library, three Capital District residents will present a program with slides and discussion about their remarkable travels to Iran and Syria.

John Amidon, Diane Reiner and Carole Ferraro recently returned from a trip to these two Middle Eastern countries as members of the U.S. Academics for Peace delegation. The purpose of their trip was promoting mutual understanding as an alternative to war. Said delegation member Carole Ferraro of Albany; "We went to demonstrate that dialogue is essential if we are to avoid conflict with Iran and Syria."

The group met with government and university officials and spoke with people from diverse backgrounds. They had meetings with the outgoing President of Iran, Muhammed Khatemi and in Damascus, with President Bashar al-Assad of Syria and the First Lady. Iranians and Syrians were stunned to meet members of this American delegation on the street, as U.S. citizens rarely travel to either nation.



This program affords area citizens an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and increased understanding regarding crucial Middle Eastern nations.

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides low-income taxpayers free electronic filing of returns. Tax help will be available on Saturdays from February 4 through April 15, 2006. The Main Library, the Pine Hills Branch, and the Howe Branch all plan to have volunteers at their locations.

For more information about how the library can help with your tax preparation contact Chris Saagas in the Reference Department at Albany Public Library: 518-427-4323.

Albany Public Library—Delaware

FAMILY AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Come join us Saturdays in January for free movies that the entire family can enjoy!

January 7 - - *The Dark Crystal*
 January 14 - *Because of Winn Dixie*
 January 21 - - *Ice Age*
 January 28 - - *E.T.: the Extraterrestrial*

All movies start at 2:00 PM. Popcorn will be served.

Albany Public Library—Pine Hills

CONNECTING WITH AMERICA

Please join this discussion group for recent immigrants. Discuss life in America and further your understanding of American culture. Fridays, January 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 4:30 PM. Call 482-7911 for more information.

Albany Public Library—North Albany

FREE COMPUTER CLASSES

Introduction to Computers – For the computer novice, a hands-on introduction to mouse skills and working with Microsoft Windows, including opening, saving, and printing files. No previous computer knowledge required. Class is on Wednesday, January 11 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Introduction to the Internet – Learn the basics of navigating the World Wide Web. Basic computer and mouse skills required. Wednesday, January 18, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Advanced Internet – Discover more sophisticated techniques for successfully searching the World Wide Web. Previous Internet experience required. Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Call 463-1581 to sign up for these classes.

Altamont Free Library

KIDS BOOK CLUBS

In January and February, young readers have a variety of book club sessions to choose from - come to all or come to one. Our 2nd and 3rd grade book clubs will be meeting on January 30th at 4:00 PM to discuss *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, Roald Dahl's tale of a cunning fox who pits his wits against the meanest three farmers imaginable. The 4th and 5th graders will meet January 31, at 4:00 PM to discuss the fantasy story *Twenty-one Balloons*, by William Pneu du Bois.

In February, readers have the choice of discussing *Frindle*, by Andrew Clements, on Monday the 27th at 4:00 PM or *The Year of Impossible Goodbyes* by Sook Nyul Choi, the story of a young girl's escape from North Korea, on Tuesday, the 28th at 4:00 PM.



SCRAPBOOKING

Join us at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays in February as local craft guru Mary Heidinger leads us through a four part scrapbooking class. Her work will be in the Library display case in January. Preregistration is required and participants bring their own supplies. For more information, call the library at 861-7239.

Bethlehem Public Library

UPCOMING ADULT PROGRAMMING

Russell Series Travels to Japan and China

"Neon, Noodles, Blossoms and Teriyaki Burgers: a year in Japan" is the title of our next library travelogue on Sunday, January 22, at 2:00 PM. The slide presentation and commentary by Dr. April Selley also includes a side trip to Taiwan and Hong Kong. The program is second in the library's series of travel lectures made possible by the Al Russell Memorial Fund.

A Little Sunday Music: Our annual winter music series sponsored by Friends of Bethlehem Public Library continues on February 5, at 2:00 PM with a performance by the Capitol Chamber Artists. Celebrating its 37th season in 2006, the ensemble has established a national and international reputation for musical excellence.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Bookchat: On Thursday January 5 at 7:00 PM, our new group gets kids, moms and dads talking about some great books for teens and tweens. January's selection is *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J.K. Rowling.

Skytellers: Native American myths and legends investigate the reason for day and night, why we have seasons, the origin of the stars, and other phenomena of the night sky. Each narrative is paired with the story that scientists tell today. Carol Ann Margolis is the tale-teller on Thursday February 23, at 7:00 PM. For grades 2 - 5.

Guilderland Public Library

READING CONNECTIONS

January marks the beginning of the third year of *Reading Connections*, a parent/teen book discussion group open to students in grades 7-12 and their parents that features fine teen literature and a visit from a popular author. This program, which encourages communication between parents and their teenage offspring, was funded for two years by a New York State Library Development grant. The discussion sessions are run by librarians from the Guilderland Central High School and Middle School and the Teen Services Librarian from the Public Library. For details visit the Teen Lounge portion of our website at: <http://www.guilderlandpublic.info/teen/teengrant.html>.

FEBRUARY CONCERT

The Guilderland Public Library's popular musical series, The Second Sunday Concerts, begins on Sunday, February 12. Cole Broderick, jazz composer/pianist, will perform selections of his new, surprisingly soulful compositions. The concert begins at 2:00 PM and will be held in the Library's Helderberg Room.



DOIN' DISNEY

Come to the Guilderland Public Library each Friday evening in January for another wonderful Disney Family Film. Show time is 6:30 PM. Visit the Youth Services portion of our website for details: <http://www.guilderlandpublic.info/youth/ysprograms.html>.

Stephentown Public Library

PRESCHOOL STORYTIMES

Join us on Fridays from 10:00 - 10:30 AM in the Children's Room for stories, songs and activities for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers. Themes follow the seasons as we explore the world around us.

BOOK CLUB FOR ADULTS

Our book club meets the first Tuesday of each month at noon. Please contact the Library at 733-5750 for location, as this fun group likes to mix things up!

FINE AMNESTY

Start your New Year off right by returning your overdue library materials during the week of January 2 - January 7, 2006.

Voorheesville Public Library

NIMBLEFINGERS QUILT SHOW

Meet the talented artisans, enjoy refreshments and see the wonderful quilt show which will be hung for the month of February. Open house and reception February 14, from 1:00 PM—3:00 PM.

KIDS, GO WILD WITH PAINT AND MARKERS

Bring your own bag or t-shirt to decorate! January 23, at 6:30 PM. No signup is necessary.

FEBRUARY VACATION PROGRAMS

Exercise Your Way to Good Health (A Cooks Club program) February 21 at 7:00 PM.

Uglydoll Workshop February 22 and 23 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.

Indoor Olympics February 23 at 10:30 AM.

Signup for each program in advance by calling 765-2791.

LIFELINES PROSE WRITERS SUPPORT GROUP

Adults who write prose can come and share a short piece of their writing. January 19 and February 16, at 7:00 PM. No signup necessary. Call Barbara for information at 765-2791.

KUDOS

Suzanne Fisher, head of adult services, was one of 27 librarians across the nation to be honored as a *New York Times* Librarian of the year. Fisher was awarded a plaque, a cash prize and feted at the NY Times building in NYC. The Library also held a reception in her honor and she was featured in the *Albany Times Union*.

THANKS SENATOR BRESLIN!

Senator Neil Breslin visited the Library to receive our thanks for the funds he gave for the purchase and installation of new computer work stations and chairs.



Senator Neil Breslin

William K. Sanford Town Library

Tune Up Your Skills

On Saturday, January 21, from 8:30 AM—2:00 PM, the Youth Services staff invites parents, caregivers, and childcare professionals to attend this professional workshop to get you excited and energized about working with kids! Topics include nurturing, stress, safety, nutrition, kids and TV, and on a lighter note, crafts, music, and fun activities.

Dr. Randy Cale, a licensed psychologist, author, speaker and parenting coach, is the opening speaker. Barbara Lukas, from WMHT, presents a workshop on how to use TV to help 3-6 year olds develop school-readiness skills. Meet and mingle with other professionals and parents who deal with children on a daily basis. You'll enjoy this opportunity to "tune-up" your skills.

Cost of the all-day program is \$10 to cover the cost of materials. Please register in advance, with the Youth Services Department at 458-9274.

NOON BOOK REVIEWS

Thursday, January 26, at 12:15 PM:

Frank Taormina (a teacher, principal, and administrator for 30 years at Niskayuna High School) reviews *Teacher Man* by Frank McCourt. *Teacher Man* tells the story of McCourt's 30-year teaching career in the New York City Public School system and is filled with wonderful stories from both inside and outside the classroom.

Thursday, February 16, at 12:15 PM:

Are Men Necessary?: When Sexes Collide by *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd will be reviewed by Cailin Brown, Ph.D., a local journalist and assistant professor of public communications at the College of Saint Rose.

NEW TEEN GALLERY

In early November, the library opened its new Teen Art Gallery, which was created in part with an Upper Hudson Outreach mini-grant. A dedicated group of 14 energetic young people with a strong interest in art formed a gallery committee, which met during the summer and throughout the fall. The group created a logo contest (over 40 logos were entered and the winner, chosen by the committee, won an MP3 player.) They also designed a gallery brochure, created a Web site, and made artistic t-shirt "uniforms" to be worn at the opening receptions.

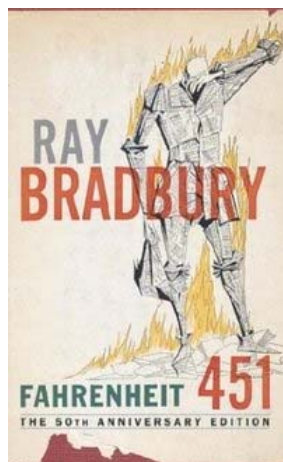


The first show included works from students in the North and South Colonie school systems. The January show theme will be fashion, and will highlight the work of a recent graduate of a fashion institute. Upcoming shows will include cartooning, and a hands-on graffiti exhibit that will be created throughout the month by the public.

Any young adult of high school or college age is encouraged to submit their work to the gallery committee for consideration for inclusion in a future show.

FAHRENHEIT 451: COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

As part of our participation in the American Library Association's national "Bookshelf on Freedom" program, we will be having a special book discussion of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. The overall theme of the evening is freedom and living in a free society. As you may know, *Fahrenheit 451* takes place in a future society where books (and all they represent) are not only



banned, but burned. Our panel of book discussion leaders are all from fields concerned both with freedom in our society and many of the themes of the book, such as "freedom of speech, the value of imagination, the authority of the state, [and] individualism versus conformity."

Our panel: Paul Elisha is an author and commentator on WAMC radio; Rachel Baum is President-elect of the New York State Library Association and Assistant Dean at SUNY Albany's Library School; Joanna Peterson is on the ACLU's Capital Region Chapter's Board of Directors and has also taken part in several area "Banned Books Week" programs.

Join us on Wednesday, February 15, at 7:00 PM. Call the Information Desk at 518-810-0314 for reservations. For a copy of the book, reserve online at the library's web site or call us for a copy.

Top 10 Library Stories of 2005

According to *American Libraries*, the magazine of the American Library Association, the following were the top ten library stories of 2005:

Disaster Strikes—and Strikes again

A triple blow hit our shores from August to October with hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. Damage to libraries in coastal Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana was extensive, and several libraries in New Orleans were completely destroyed.

Google Changes Everything

Late last year, Google announced an ambitious and unprecedented project to digitally scan books from the collections of five major research libraries.

The Unkindest Cuts

Funding shortages continued to plague public libraries across the nation, as several drastically cut hours and staffing, or closed altogether. Close to home, the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library began a shutdown process to close 16 of its 52 branches by the end of the year.

Patriot Act Reauthorization

The house and senate passed separate bills reauthorizing the USA Patriot Act—both making permanent 14 of the 16 expiring provisions but placing different sunsets on sections 215 and 206.

E-Rate Under Fire

Scrutiny of the program that provides discounted telecommunications services failed to let up and the Government Accounting Office called for more rigorous oversight of the program.

Funders Fail School Libraries

Shoestring budgets were still adding up to inadequate support at many media centers across the country—that is in schools lucky enough to have them.

Challenging Times

All over the country, library resources are being challenged by members of the community, as well as state legislators.

Degrees of Separation

Education for librarianship became controversial when library schools started teaching information science rather than for library science. Of greater concern is the lack of PhDs to teach in these programs.

The Theft Wave

Thievery reached epidemic proportion. Yale University lost \$900,000 in maps from their special collections, and four students stole 500,000 worth of holdings from Transylvania University in Kentucky. A former employee of Kenyan College Library sold \$50,000 worth of stolen books on eBay.

Storytelling Revival

Due to a burgeoning number of symposia on oral history, expanding collections in libraries and archives, and projects such as Story Corps, there is a full-scale revival of the spoken word. Our own Library System will be celebrating its 4th annual *Riverway Storytelling Festival* in 2006.

MORE GRANT/AWARD NEWS

Health Awards for Libraries

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) announced today that applications continue to be submitted for the 2006 Health Awards for Libraries. All libraries in the United States are eligible to submit an electronic application at <http://www.nclis.gov/award/healthawards06.html>. Applications will be received through **January 31, 2006**.

The awards, to be presented in May 2006 at the National Library of Medicine, are designed to mobilize the resources of libraries to help citizens learn how to live healthy lifestyles and to provide citizens with consumer health information, particularly when they require information in a critical or unusual situation. The 2006 NCLIS Health Awards will recognize libraries that excel in providing these resources.

A winner in each state will be determined by a panel of local judges selected by the state librarian. From these state winners, ten finalist libraries will be chosen by a panel of NCLIS Commissioners. Three recognized leaders in national policy on healthcare, Joseph Califano, Edward J. Hill and Louis W. Sullivan, will select the \$20,000 grand prize winner. The other nine finalists will receive prizes of \$1,000 each.

For additional information, go to: <http://www.nclis.gov/news/pressrelease/pr2005/2005-13HealthAwardsDeadline.pdf>

Art and Cultural Materials

Since 1990, Art Resources Transfer has distributed books, videos and interactive materials on art and cultural issues at no cost to public, school and alternative libraries in rural and inner-city areas through the Distribution to Underserved Communities (DUC) Library Program. Even shipping costs are covered! Their goal is to make information about contemporary art and cultural issues available to people of all income levels in all geographic locations through their local libraries. Materials and order forms are available at the DUC web site, <http://www.ducprogram.org/>.

Partnership for a Nation of Learners Community Collaborative Grant

The PNL Community Collaborative Grant Program, a funding initiative of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, encourages museums, libraries, and public broadcasting licensees to collaborate to produce skills and resources that promote community, work, family, and society. Grants will be made to collaborative projects that involve at least one library and/or museum and at least one public radio or television licensee. Application due: **March 1, 2006**. For more information, go to <http://www.partnershipforlearners.org/>.

Preserve America Grants

Preserve America grants offer a new type of funding from the Federal Government to support communities that have demonstrated a commitment to recognizing, designating, and protecting local cultural resources. Additional information is available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hpg/PreserveAmerica/index.htm>.

Calendar of Events

January

- 02** **Closed**
- 06 Directors' Association Meeting 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 09 Coordinated Outreach Advisory Committee Meeting 9:00 AM—12:00 PM
- 11 Technology Advisory Council 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 11 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 11 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 13 Youth Services Advisory Council 8:00 AM—2:00 PM
- 17 Resource Sharing 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 18 Horizon Basics 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 19 Adult Services Advisory Council 9:30 AM at UHLS
- 24 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 25 Database Maintenance 9:30 at UHLS

February

- 03 Directors' Association Meeting 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 06 Administration Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 08 Services Committee 3:30 PM at UHLS
- 08 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 08 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 15** **Deadline for Latest Edition (March/April)**
- 16 Horizon Basics 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 23 Adult Services Advisory Council 9:30 AM at UHLS
- 24 Youth Services Advisory Council 8:00 AM—2:00 PM at UHLS
- 28 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS

March

- 03 Directors' Association Meeting 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 06 Administration Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 08 Services Committee 3:30 PM at UHLS
- 08 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 08 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 13 PULISDO 8:00 AM—5:00 PM
- 14** **Library Lobby Day**
- 15 Horizon Basics 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 15 Adult Services Advisory Council 9:30 AM at UHLS
- 17 Youth Services Advisory Council 9:00 AM—2:00 PM at UHLS
- 28 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS

Board of Trustees

PRESIDENT: Charles Diamond (Watervliet)
VICE PRESIDENT: LouAnne Lundgren (Poestenkill)
TREASURER: Mary Alice Molgard (Berne)
SECRETARY: Jeffrey Cannell (UHLS Directors Assoc.)

MEMBERS: Erin Apostol (Albany)
Rachel Baum (Bethlehem)
Cris Blanchard (Sand Lake)
Anne Evans (Nassau)
Brian Hartson (Guilderland)
Mary Muller (Troy)
Lois Prenovost (Brunswick)
James Reilly (Voorheesville)
Pat Spohr (Altamont)
Hawley Zwahlen (William K. Sanford)

TRUSTEE EMERITI: Philip Erlich
Harry Howansky
Katherine Wells
David Worden

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Philip Ritter

MISSION STATEMENT: The Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) coordinates programs and activities to assist and complement the resources and efforts of its twenty-nine member libraries to improve library and information services in the local communities of Albany and Rensselaer counties.

VISION STATEMENT: Upper Hudson Library System and its twenty-nine members will operate as a consortium and be a part of a dynamic statewide and national network, operating in cooperation and collaboration with educational and cultural organizations, community human service agencies and the business community to provide library and information services to the people of the Capital Region of New York State.

QUOTE: It often requires more courage to read some books than it does to fight a battle. — Sutton Elbert Griggs (1872-1930)

Upper Hudson Library System
28 Essex Street
Albany, NY 12206

Telephone: 518-437-9880
Fax: 518-437-9884
www.uhls.org/uhls/