



The Latest Edition

January/February 2007 Vol. 17 No. 1

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The 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:

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BIG READ GRANT TO UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM TO CELEBRATE *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*

Albany and Rensselaer Counties to participate in national program to promote literacy

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced that Upper Hudson Library System is one of 72 organizations that will receive grants to support Big Read programs between January and June 2007. The Big Read is a new national program by the NEA, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arts Midwest, that encourages literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss one book. Upper Hudson Library System was awarded \$20,000 to promote and carry out month-long, community-based programs on Zora Neale Hurston's novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The Big Read in Albany and Rensselaer Counties will take place in the Spring of 2007.



Modeled on successful "city reads" programs, The Big Read is meant to address the national decline in literary reading as documented in the NEA's 2004 landmark survey *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*. The survey showed that less than one-half of the American adult population now reads literature.

"With The Big Read we want to get everyone in a community—from high school kids and office workers to public officials and senior citizens—reading a great book together," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia. "Our goal is to get people talking about the books with the same conviction that they debate the World Series. We want people to feel worse about not reading the book than they do about missing an episode of *Lost* or *CSI*."

"We are delighted to be partners in The Big Read. It's exciting to know that our partnership on the national level can make it possible for local communities across the United States to connect around reading a good book," said IMLS Director Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice. "My message to the new communities that are now part of The Big Read is: Bravo, I urge everyone to get involved; reading together is a powerful experience!"

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In addition to the grant, the NEA also will provide UHLS with a library of free materials, including reader's and teacher's guides for the *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, an audio guide for the novel featuring distinguished actors and writers, an online organizer's guide for hosting a Big Read program, a customized television public service announcement, Big Read display materials, and a comprehensive program Web site.



For more information about The Big Read in Albany and Rensselaer Counties, contact Jo-Ann Benedetti at 518-437-9880 ext. 225.



Grants/ Awards

ALA Traveling Exhibit Grant: "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country"

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, in collaboration with the Newberry Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), is accepting grant applications from libraries wishing to host this traveling exhibit. The exhibit explores the "Indian Country" as it existed at the beginning of the 19th century; the variety of relationships Native peoples and the Lewis and Clark party forged with one another; the impact of the American presence on the Indian Country; and the efforts of contemporary reservation communities to support and sustain Indian Country and its remarkable cultures in the 21st century.

Libraries selected will host the 1,000 square foot exhibit for a six-week period and present at least two free public programs featuring a lecture or discussion by a qualified scholar on exhibit themes. Also included is a \$1,000 grant from the NEH for exhibit-related expenses, insurance coverage, brochures, banners, and educational and marketing support materials. Deadline for applications is **February 9, 2007**. Application and guidelines are available from the ALA's Public Programs Office.

ALA Benjamin Franklin Exhibit Grant

The ALA Public Programs Office, in collaboration with the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia, Pa., is now accepting grant applications from public, academic and special libraries wishing to host the traveling exhibit, "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World."

Applications are available online at www.ala.org/publicprograms and must be received by **February 9, 2007**.

One copy of the 1,000-square-foot traveling exhibit will circulate to 20 public and academic library sites beginning in November 2007. Libraries selected for the tour will host the exhibit for a six-week period. Participating libraries are expected to present at least two free public programs featuring a lecture or discussion by a qualified scholar. All showings of the exhibit will be free and open to the public.

The exhibit will consist of six sections of colorful, freestanding photo-panels incorporating representations of artifacts from the original Franklin exhibit, and a new text written by the curator. Exhibit content is arranged in thematic sections showing Franklin in the Boston of his youth, Franklin's family and personal life, as well as the years when he built his business as Philadelphia's premier printer. The exhibit also looks at Franklin's commitment to public service, his interests in medicine and public health, and his work in science and philosophy. Franklin's political career in England, France and the United States, and his contributions to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and other major documents are the subjects of the final two sections of the exhibit.

Please see www.ala.org/publicprograms for complete information, including guidelines and application.

Family Literacy Grants

The New York State Library announces a 2007-2009 grant program to help public libraries and public library systems develop or expand services to parents, children, and caregivers.

The Family Literacy Library Services Grant program is a state funded, competitive grant program providing up to \$300,000 each in years 2007 and 2008 for family literacy library projects. The funds for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 will be determined in the State budget, which is scheduled to be adopted by March 31st of each year. The grant cycle runs July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009.

The purpose of the grant is to enable public libraries and their community partners to offer programs, services and materials to encourage family literacy activities, help families use the public library as an integral part of their students' academic success and develop models for planning, evaluation and community needs assessment.

Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with other libraries, library systems, schools, cultural organizations, community groups, social service agencies and local businesses for public library-based programs.

Please note the following:

- 📖 The project cycle will cover a two-year period (June 1, 2007 - June 30, 2009). Therefore, the application submission process will occur *every other year*.
- 📖 Each application will require submission of two FS-20 Budget forms - one for FY 2007-08 and one for FY 2008-09. Unexpended funds from 2007-08 cannot be used in FY 2008-09.
- 📖 Projects must include components for families, including parents and/or caregivers and young people, ages birth to 18.

Funds may not be used to replace funds for existing programs, for building modification or construction, or for overhead and administrative costs.

Deadline for this grant is **March 15, 2007**. For additional information about the Family Literacy Grants, please contact Mary Fellows at 437-9880 ext. 228.

Relatives as Parents Program

The Brookdale Foundation Group has announced the Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Local Seed Grant Initiative for 2007. RAPP is designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting, when the biological parents are unwilling or unable to do so. The program is intended to award seed grants to local agencies, to private support groups and at least two other supportive services to relative caregivers and their families; encourage cooperation and collaboration among various service systems; ensure the development, expansion and future continuity of local services; and create replicable models of service.



The sponsoring agency must be a 501(c)(3) entity or have equivalent tax-exempt status. Selected agencies will be required to attend the Brookdale Foundation's National Orientation and Training Conference in Denver, Colorado in June 2007.

Those agencies will receive a \$10,000 grant over a two-year period (\$6,000 in the first year and \$4,000 in the second year if all grant requirements have been met) as well as training and technical assistance. Matching support in cash or in-kind will be required of all selected agencies.

The deadline for applications is **January 11, 2007**. For additional information, visit www.brookdalefoundation.org.

Community Facilities Program

The United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, has announced its Community Facilities Program to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas. A Community Facilities loan and/or grant would be approved to finance several types of activities including adult and child care centers, town/village halls, courthouses, libraries, museums, schools, fairgrounds. Rural towns, villages and cities of 20,000 people or less are eligible. For additional information, contact any Rural Development Office listed in the telephone book under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Libri Foundation *Books for Children*

The Libri Foundation provides books for children in smaller communities. Libraries are qualified on an individual basis for donations. In general, county libraries should serve a population under 16,000 and town libraries should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000).

Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. Please note: rural is usually considered to be at least 30 miles from a city with a population over 40,000. Applications are accepted from independent libraries as well as libraries which are part of a county, regional, or cooperative library system.

Application deadlines are **January 15th**, **April 15th**, and **August 15th**. Go to <http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html> for additional information.

Nominations Sought for New Verizon Tech Savvy Awards Program

Nominations for the 2007 Verizon Tech Savvy Awards are now being accepted. Four regional awards of \$5,000 each and one national award of \$25,000 will be presented annually. In addition, award winners will receive a scholarship to attend the annual National Conference on Family Literacy, and to participate in the awards presentation. The scholarship includes conference registration fees and a travel stipend of \$2,000.



Successful programs should create innovative ways to employ technology as an important component in family literacy that are easily replicated at other sites across the United States. Organizations that are 501(c)(3) nonprofits, such as community-based nonprofits, libraries, and schools, are invited to apply. Application deadline is **January 12, 2007**.





UHLS News

Adult Services

Jo-Ann Benedetti, Manager— ext 225

Overdrive Update

Our Overdrive downloadable books are a year old! Statistics for the past year show that we have:

1,318 titles in our collection (counting each format of a title only once)

Adobe Reader eBook: 392

Mobipocket eBook: 82

OverDrive Audiobook: 844

8,260 Checkouts

Adobe Reader eBook: 1517

Mobipocket eBook: 249

OverDrive Audiobook: 6494

4,919 Holds

Adobe Reader eBook: 652

Mobipocket eBook: 62

OverDrive Audiobook: 4,205

1,540 unique patrons checking out titles.

In January, we will be adding 50 titles that will have unlimited checkouts, so that you will always have a title available to download. We will also be adding **downloadable videos**. These videos will play on your PC or portable device. Go to <http://digitalcollection.uhls.org> and watch for updates, or call Jo-Ann at 437-9880 ext. 225 for details.

Youth Services

Mary Fellows, Manager— ext 228

Kids Cooking Show and Cookbook

The Kids Cookin' by the Book grant cookbook has been sent off to the printer and is due back in February. Sixteen UHLS libraries participated, with kids submitting recipes for everything from "Matthew's Hot Dog Pizza" to "Pumpkin Cider Bisque." At least sixty percent of the recipes are for desserts, proving what we already know: kids like sweets!



Recipes from the cooking show are included in the book as well. The latest word is that our show will air on Time Warner Cable channel 1009 in early to mid-January. Watch the UHLS website for the details.

(Hip) Hop on Pop: A Teen Services workshop

Project Runway, Silent Scavenger Hunt, and Food Fear Factor (think dried octopus and cold Spam – not for the faint-of-heart librarian or the newly carpeted library) were three of the clever program ideas shared by speaker Kimberly Bolan at this workshop for library staff serving teens.



Forty-two people attended the joint, daylong UHLS/MVLS/SALS workshop in Saratoga on December 6, and are now up-to-date on books, program ideas, and awards for teen books.

Three Apples Award

In January, for the very first time, children across New York will choose their favorite book! There are many awards for children's books, but "children's choice" awards are particularly coveted by authors and beloved by kids – because they chose the winners, of course!



Children nominated favorite books through their public or school library, beginning last March. In April, the 15 books receiving most nominations were announced. Between then and December, kids read as many of the books – or listened to the audio book - as they could. If, by January, a child has read at least three of the books, he or she can cast a vote. Polling places in this election are the state's school and public libraries.

The 3 Apples Book Award was developed to encourage the joy of reading for pleasure, and to give the children of New York State the opportunity to participate in honoring their favorite books. The choice of books to nominate is as wide as the children's reading interests and tastes.

The 3 Apples Book Award is sponsored by the Youth Services (YSS) and School Library Media (SLMS) Sections of the New York Library Association. For more information, go to the award website: www.3applesbookaward.org

3 Apples Book Award Nominees:

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Double Fudge by Judy Blume

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Holes by Louis Sachar

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

A Year on the Caldecott Committee: Months 11 & 12



(Number five in a series describing the experience of serving on the award committee for the Caldecott Medal, the highest honor possible for picture book illustrators)

It's mid-December, and the flow of books is down to a trickle. Many of the books arriving late in the year are self-published. I open these packages gingerly. It is evident that most were not picked up by a major house for one if not many good reasons. There are also a few delightful surprises now and then, such as *The Red Lemon* (Staake), which arrived just last week.

On December 30, our next set of in-depth nominations is due to our chair. The first three, sent in October, were fairly easy to choose. This set proves harder. After nearly a year of looking at all kinds of art, illuminating all manner of stories, valuing the illustrations has become easier but still not easy.

As our committee plans for our meetings in January, we struggle a bit with the schedule. Some of us are morning people, some definitely not. We will meet for at least seventeen and a half hours over three days to come to our final decision. Then we will walk around for an afternoon and evening, perhaps with just a little smugness, hyper-aware that we have a secret many would love to know!

To find out that secret, go to the ALA website, www.ala.org, on Monday morning, January 22. The media conference in Seattle begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 9:00 a.m. At noon Eastern Time, the winners are posted on the website. You may have trouble getting in, but persevere!

In the meantime, here is the list of books the UHLS youth services librarians will consider at our mock Caldecott on January 12. Which one wins your award?

UHLS Mock Caldecott List

Adele & Simon. Barbara McClintock.

Beach. Elisha Cooper, Orchard

Best Winds. Williams, Laura E. Illus. Eujin Kim Nellan.

Boy Who Cried Wolf, The. B.G. Hennessy; ill by Kullkov.

Butterfly Eyes and Other Secrets of the Meadow. Beth Krommes, ill.

Dear Fish. Gall, Chris.

Dizzy by Jonah Winter, illus. by Sean Qualls

Flotsam. David Wiesner.

Jack and the Beanstalk. Matt Tavares.

Little Red Hen. Jerry Pinkney

Mama: A True Story by Jeanette Winter

Moon Plane by Peter McCarty

Move! Jenkins, Steve & Page, Robin.

Pompell: Lost & Found. Osborne, Mary Pope. Illus. Bonnie Christensen.

Railroad John and the Red Rock Run. Crunk, Tom. Illus. Michael Austin.

Shivers In the Fridge. Fran Manushkin. Illus. Paul O. Zelinsky.

Sky Boys. Hopkinson, Deborah, & Ransome, James E.

Tiger of the Snows. Burleigh, Robert. Illus. Ed Young.



Member Library News

Albany Public Library—Main

Author Christopher D. Ringwald at APL

On Thursday January 25 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium at the Main Library, the Friends of APL will host author Christopher Ringwald who will discuss his new book, *A Day Apart: How Jews, Christians, and Muslims Find Faith, Freedom, and Joy on the Sabbath*.

Ringwald is a visiting scholar and directs the *Faith and Society Project* at The Sage Colleges in Albany, New York. He was selected by the Friends of APL as Author of the Year in 2002.

In a compelling blend of journalism and scholarship, *A Day Apart* tells the story of the Sabbath from Creation to present. It captures the struggle, joy and inspiration of the day through the lives of three families—Jewish, Christian, and Muslim, including Ringwald's own, and shows how they each observe the holy day and what it means to them. Ringwald weaves these three very different ancestral experiences with his reflections to illuminate the history, theology, and philosophy of the holy day and its mystical and practical appeal. In the midst of global friction over religion, the holy day of rest offers common ground. For more information call 427-4344.

The New York State Writer's Institute Presents To "Quote" or Not to Quote: Understanding Intellectual Property, Copyright, and Fair Use.

Join us for a panel discussion on Saturday, February 10 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Albany Public Library, Main Location. A lawyer, a librarian, and a publisher will discuss the legal nature and history of intellectual property rights; and the conflict between property rights and the freedoms of inquiry and expression.

Local Author Joseph Cardillo

On January 6 at 12:15 PM at the Main Library, best-selling author Joseph Cardillo will discuss and sign his new book, *Bow to Life---365 Secrets from the Martial Arts for Daily Life*. He is also the author of *Be Like Water—Practical Wisdom from the Martial Arts* now in its 4th English language edition. Joseph was recently awarded Best Capital Region Author of 2006 by *Metroland Magazine*. For more information about the author, go to www.josephcardillo.com.

Changing Careers in Mid-Life

Are you 30, 40, or 50 something, and reevaluating your career goals? If you've been thinking "I don't know what I want, but it's not this," the Changing Careers in Mid-Life workshop is designed to get you started in the right direction.

Join us on Wednesday, January 17, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Main Library to learn about exploring your options, career testing, and ways to move forward. The workshop will be presented by Tom Denham, MEd, Managing Partner and Career Counselor of Careers in Transition. To register or for additional information, contact the Reference Department at 427-4303.

Kids! Vote for Your Favorite Book at the Pine Hills Branch

For the first time ever, 3rd to 6th graders in New York can vote for the winner of the 3 Apples Book Award at the Pine Hills Branch. This award is a true children's choice award, sponsored by the Youth Services Section and the School Library Media Section of the New York Library Association.

An award kick-off Party will be held on Wednesday, January 3 at 3:30 PM. Make your voice heard! Join us for apple snacks, crafts, and the movie *Holes*, which is based on one of the nominated books. Find out which books are nominated and how you can vote!

Altamont Public Library

Nutrition for Young Athletes

Join Guilderland cross-country coach Bob Oates and nutritionist Jean Bigaouette on Monday, January 29th at 7:00 PM for a presentation on student athletes and nutrition, followed by a question and answer session.

Breast Health: What's new for you

Two very special programs are scheduled to empower women to promote health and prevent disease.

Join Judith Bowden, RN, of Bellevue Women's hospital on Thursday, February 8th from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM for an informative, free "lunch and learn program." The session is free and includes a brown bag lunch. RSVP by February 1, 2007 by calling 861-7239.

Then on Thursday, February 22, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Bellevue Women's Hospital's Mobile Mammography Van personnel, including a certified mammography technologist, will offer screenings to women age 40+, even if they are uninsured. Please sign up before February 10th by calling the library at 861-7239.

Computer Classes for Adults

Have you been meaning to learn to use a computer? Get the New Year off to a tech-savvy start with computer classes at the Altamont Library. This 5-part class assumes no prior experience and covers topics including turning the computer on, word processing, email, the Internet and online safety. Call the library at 861-7239 for more information or to reserve your spot. Classes meet 10:30 AM -11:30 AM every Tuesday and begin on January 2, 2007.

Toddler Story Time

Join us Wednesdays at 10:15 AM for a super-informal story time geared toward kids around 18-36 months old. These sessions will include simple books, music and an activity. We'll go for about half an hour and have time for social running around in circles.

Read to a Dog

Reading to a dog is one of those activities that exists on two planes: on one level it is sheer fun to read to Jane, a (hypoallergenic) Portuguese Waterdog who is also a certified therapy dog. On another, reading to Jane helps kids develop confidence in their reading abilities by reading to a not-in-the-least-bit judgmental listener. Wednesdays 3:00 PM-4:00 PM.

Preschool Story Time

Join us as we explore topics ranging from dragons to dingbats through picture books, crafts and activities. This story time is designed with four year olds in mind but children of all ages are welcome. We run for about 45 minutes. Wednesday at 10:00 AM.



Bethlehem Public Library

The Gospel Train

On Sunday, February 18 at 2:00 PM musicians Tom Lindsay and Michael Eck draw from a variety of sources within the African-American and Anglo-Saxon traditions in this exploration of American spiritual and religious songs from the Civil War to civil rights. The duo will accompany themselves on guitar, mandolin, dobro, auto-harp and banjo. They'll also talk about the themes, sources and historical context of the songs they sing.

Chinese New Year

Bethlehem Public Library celebrates Chinese New Year during the February school vacation week with three related programs:

Chinese New Year and the 12 Zodiac Animals

Tuesday February 20 at 2:30 PM - Norma Chang, the Traveling Gourmet, shares folktales and mythology of the Chinese New Year, a show-and-tell session, and of course, food! A Kids Cookin' By the Book program for grades 1-5.

Tai Chi

Saturday February 24 at 2:00 PM - Authentic costumes and music enrich dances representing various regions and historical periods in China. This program is funded in part by the NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Program, administered by the Saratoga County Arts Council. For grade 1 and up with family; no toddlers please.

Chinese Dance Troupe

Saturday February 24 at 2:00 PM - Authentic costumes and music enrich dances representing various regions and historical periods in China. This program is funded in part by the NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Program, administered by the Saratoga County Arts Council. For grade 1 and up with family; no toddlers please.

Bookletters is here!

Patrons can sign up online at www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org for *BookLetters*. This is an email newsletters that connects patrons to their favorite reading topics: hot titles, new authors, material for kids and teens, audiobooks, video holdings, staff picks, best-sellers, book reviews, discussion groups and more. Featured materials are linked directly to the catalog, so patrons can request them right away. *BookLetters* is managed and maintained by library staff. For more information, call 439-9314.

Book a Librarian

Patrons can learn how to identify and use the best information resources for their needs in customized one-on-one sessions. For more information, contact Gordon Noble at Bethlehem Public Library, 439-9314 ext. 3013, or at nobleg@uhls.lib.ny.us.

Computer Partners

Bethlehem Public Library's ongoing tutoring service for the adult beginner is going strong in its second season. Skilled volunteer tutors work with their students one-on-one at the library, using library computers. For more information, contact Michele Giuffre, 439-9314 ext. 3018, or at giuffrem@uhls.lib.ny.us.



East Greenbush Community Library

Friends of the Library Annual Winter Concert : Musicians of Ma'alwyck

On Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 PM the musicians, Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz (director and violinist), Sten Isachsen (guitarist), and Petia Kasarova (violinist), will perform the works of Giuliani, Pleyel and Paganini, as well as Gypsy music of Eastern Europe. Don't miss this musical feast! Please call the library at 477-7476 to pre-register for this free concert as seating is limited.



Fall book Sale nets Library \$13,400

Thanks to the support of our community who donated so many books and media and who supported our sale in overwhelming numbers, the Friends Fall Sale raised \$13,400. The hard work of over 100 volunteers was well rewarded.

Reading with Jackson, the Therapy Dog

East Greenbush resident Sondra Tucker and her certified therapy dog Jackson will be in the Storytime Room to share stories with children at 10:00 AM on Saturday January 13, 20, 27, and February 3. Jackson, a yellow Labrador retriever, is an excellent listener. He is quiet, attentive and does not correct mistakes. Come meet Jackson on January 13th and sign up for 15-minute reading sessions. Bring a favorite book to read or choose one from the library's collection. Ages 7+ are welcome. Reading times are limited, so please call 477-7476 to register.

Waiting for Spring

On Tuesday, February 20, 7:00 PM join the award-winning musical storytelling duo, *Tales 'n' Tunes*, for a lively program of stories and songs which celebrate winter fun and the promise of spring. There will be catchy rhythms, character voices and lots of opportunities to sing along. Ages 3+ are welcome. Please register in advance by calling the library at 477-7476.

Writing Workshop

Writing About Place" will be a three-part writing workshop led by local writer Susannah Risley on Wednesdays, January 17, 24, 31, 6:30 PM -8:30 PM. The first session will include a reading. Classes will focus on writing stories of places important to students. All are welcome; no formal writing experience is required. This event is funded in part by Poets & Writers, Inc. with public funds from The NYS Council on the Arts.

How Money Works

Join Terri Zobre, Independent Representative of Primerica, for a seminar on various aspects of money management on Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 PM. It gets more difficult every day to decide where to put your money to make it work more effectively for you. This seminar is designed to help you find the right answers.

Overdue and Presumed Lost: The Loss of the USS Thresher

Retired engineer Ray Misiewicz tells the story of the USS Thresher a nuclear-powered submarine and the first of only two US Navy submarines to be lost at sea with all hands aboard. Join us on Saturday, February 17, 2:00 PM, in the library.

Book Talk

On Saturday, February 10, at 2:00 PM, local author Frank S. Robinson will be in the library to discuss his new book – *Life, Liberty, and Happiness: an Optimist Manifesto*.

Home Buyer's Clinic

Lisa Golden of Coldwell Banker will present a homebuyer's clinic on Saturday, February 24, at 2:00 PM. Learn the latest in the changing real estate market and tools you'll need to shop for a new home.

Guilderland Public Library

Guilderland Librarian Captures New York Times Award



Maria Buhl, an Adult Services Librarian at the Guilderland Public Library, has been honored as one of the 25 winners of the 2006 New York Times Librarian Awards. Now in its sixth year, the program honors librarians from around the

country who have provided outstanding public service and have had a strong and positive impact on their nominators. The Times received more than 1,300 nominations from 45 states this year.

Ms. Buhl attended a ceremony and reception hosted by The Times on December 13 during which she received a \$2,500 prize and a commemorative plaque. A separate plaque featuring Ms. Buhl's name and title is being sent to the Guilderland Public Library.

When asked what the award means to her, Ms. Buhl responded, "It was a huge honor just to be nominated. And winning was totally unexpected and humbling. I am really proud to be associated with all the other winners.

"This award program fills a niche. It demonstrates that being a Librarian is not just about picking the latest fiction bestseller, but about helping the people in your community get the information they need. Of course it's nice to be recognized, and in a national program, too. But, more than that, it's nice to be honored for doing what I would have done anyway. I have gotten so many thank-you notes from patrons who are grateful for the special programs we run, such as the Consumer Health series. Those thank-you notes from patrons show we're making a difference. This award does, too."

Borrow Melville, and Madden too!

The Board of the Guilderland Public Library recently voted to add popular video games to its shelves. Voting 7-2, the board approved \$3,000 to expand the library's video game collection to include a mix of PlayStation 2, Xbox and Nintendo titles that patrons will be able to borrow like books, CDs and other media. The library also will buy one of each console to play the games there on special nights. Guilderland is the first in the Upper Hudson Library System to make the investment, capping a lengthy discussion that centered on the role of libraries in the community and the educational merits of the game.

Jeff Shaara captures imagination of Library Audience

More than 325 people -- including almost a dozen WWII vets -- packed the Main Reading Room of the Guilderland Public Library Friday evening, December 8, to hear bestselling author Jeff Shaara speak about his approach to writing about history, and to hear him read from his latest work, *The Rising Tide*.

Mr. Shaara was the sixth author to speak as part of the Library's Carol J. Hamblin Notable Author Speaker Series. Previous speakers include Joyce Carol Oates, Paul Grondahl, Joseph E. Persico, Gregory Maguire, and Tim Green. The series is named after the former director of the Guilderland Public Library who dedicated 24 years of service to the Library.

Almost a dozen veterans of World War II attended the event. In a moment saved for posterity, these veterans posed for a group photograph with Mr. Shaara. One vet was overheard to comment, "it's good he's telling our story."



Second Sunday Concerts

Back by popular demand, the Second Sunday Concerts are back at the Guilderland Public Library. Reserve these Sunday afternoons at 2:00 PM to spend a little time kicking back and listening to some top local talent.

Sunday, January 14: Sonny & Perley
 Sunday, February 11: Rada Hastings, Soprano,
 and Jared Shepard, Pianist
 Sunday, March 11: Annie & the Hedonists

Troy Public Library

Family Storytime

Between January 17 and February 21, we will offer a family storytime each Wednesday at 10:30 AM at our Main Branch. Family Storytime will be offered for children up to the age of 5, accompanied by parents and caregivers. We will share stories, rhymes and songs and simple crafts. Please register by calling the Young People's Department at 274-7071.

All Aboard the Underground Railroad

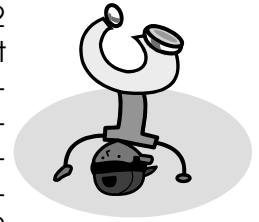
On Wednesday, February 14 at 3:30 PM at the Lansingburgh Branch, Scotia Glenville Children's Museum presents their newest offering "All Aboard the Underground Railroad." Students will learn all about life as a slave in the U.S. in the early 1800s and travel the Underground Railroad to freedom. For kids in grades 3-5. Please call the Young People's Department at 274-7071 to register as space is limited.

Meet Author and Illustrator Matt McElligot

Meet humorous children's author and illustrator Matt McElligot on Friday Feb 23, at Troy Public Library's main branch. Mr. McElligot wrote the hilarious *Absolutely Not*, *Uncle Frank's Pit*, and many more wonderful books. For children in grades 4-8. Call the Young People's Department at 274-7071 for additional information and to register.

Dance Dance Revolution

On Thursday, February 22 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Main Library, come experience Dance Dance Revolution, the newest dance phenomenon for teens, while enjoying refreshments. Kids 12 and up may register by calling the Young People's Department at 274-7071.



Voorheesville Public Library

The Gospel Train

Michael Eck and Thomas Lindsay will be in the library on Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 PM to perform American spiritual songs from the Civil War to the Civil Rights era. They will also tell stories and historical anecdotes about the songs.

The Winter Sky

Enjoy the stars and hot cocoa! Join us for an astronomy program for families given by the Dudley Observatory Rising Star Interns on January 23 at 7:00 PM. Wear warm clothes. No signup is necessary.



Quilt Show

On Sunday, January 21 at 2:00 PM, fabric artist Kris Gregson Moss will visit the library and show us beautiful quilts. She is an enthusiastic teacher and has developed some innovative quilting techniques. Check out her website at www.krisgregsonmoss.com.

Homework Help (For Parents)

Get hands on practice learning how to search databases for current, accurate information from a home computer. Class will be held February 5 at 7:00 PM. Please register by calling the library at 765-2791.

Dancing with the Stars

Free ballroom dance lesson for singles, couples, teens and older will be given on Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 AM.



William K Sanford Town Library

Reading Between the Lines Adult Book Discussion Series Returns

We are pleased to announce that the New York Council for the Humanities will again be sponsoring their adult reading book discussion series "Reading Between the Lines" at the Colonie Library. This will be our third series.

The Council sponsors book discussion groups all over New York State. Our spring 2007 series, which will run from February through May (one book per month), is titled **The First Frontier: New York State and American Expansion, 1775 – 1890**. The four books to be discussed are: *The Battle for New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* by Barnet Schecter; the Pulitzer Prize winning *William Cooper's Town: Power & Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic* by Alan Taylor; *Wedding the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation* by Peter Bernstein; *A Shopkeeper's Millennium: Society and Revivals in Rochester, New York, 1815 – 1837* by Paul E. Johnson.

We again have as discussion leader, Mara Drogan from SUNY Albany's History Department. Mara has led our two previous "Reading Between the Lines" discussion groups. Discussions will be at 7:00 PM on the following Thursday nights: February 15th, March 15th, April 19th, and May 17th. Registration starts on January 15th by calling the information desk at 810-0314.

Real Jane Austen Book Club Continues

The Real Jane Austen Book Club is back this month and we're half done. The response to this book discussion series has been fantastic. The schedule for the concluding books: Tuesday January 30th at 7:15 PM *Mansfield Park* with Phyllis Roth of Skidmore; Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 PM *Emma* with Barbara Black also of Skidmore; Tuesday March 13th at 7:00 PM *Persuasion* with Hollis Seamon of the College of St. Rose. Please join us!

Team of Rivals at Noon Book Review

Doris Kearns Goodwin spent ten years on *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Her time paid off as *Team of Rivals* was one of last year's biggest best-sellers. Our January Noon Book Review welcomes back Frank Taormina, one of our favorites Noon reviewers, on Thursday January 18th to review Goodwin's latest. *Team of Rivals* tells the story of the transformation of Abraham Lincoln from a one term Congressman and "prairie lawyer" to the political genius that he is remembered for today. Doors open at 11:45 AM; review begins at 12:15 PM. As always, you can bring your lunch too.

Nursery School Fair

Saturday, January 20, from 10:00 AM - noon. Parents of toddlers and preschoolers are invited to meet representatives of nursery schools and pre-schools in the Capital District. It's the perfect opportunity for you to preview what's available, all in one place at one time! The Fair will be held in the Stedman Room, and refreshments will be served by the Youth Services Department. Open to adults only. No registration is required. Call the Youth Services Department at 810-0315 for more information.

Calendar of Events

January

- 3 Overdrive Collection Development 1:30 PM at UHLS
- 5 Directors' Association 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 9 Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council Meeting 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 10 Services Committee 3:00 PM at UHLS
- 10 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 10 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 12 Youth Services Advisory Council at UHLS: Book Review 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM;
Meeting 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Book Review and Teen Services discussion 12:00
PM – 1:00 PM
- 17 Big Read Meeting 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 23 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS

February

- 2 Directors' Association 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 9 Adult Services Advisory Council 9:30 AM at UHLS
- 12 Administration Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 14 Tech Advisory Council 9:30 AM at UHLS
- 14 Services Committee 3:30 PM at UHLS
- 14 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 14 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 23 Youth Services Advisory Council at UHLS: Small library concerns discussion group
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM; Meeting 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM; Large library concerns dis-
cussion 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- 27 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 28 Database Maintenance 9:30 AM at UHLS



Board of Trustees

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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: Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill. ~ Barbara Tuchman

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