

LATEST EDITION

Coordinated Outreach Mini-Grants Announced

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The UHLS Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council met on January 10, 2006, with 9 of 10 members present, reviewed all of the 2006 Outreach Mini-grant applications, and made recommendations regarding the funding of these grants. Twelve applications were reviewed and nine programs were funded for a total of \$10,489. Congratulations to the following libraries:

Albany Public Library: will reach more preschool children by expanding the library's *A to Z Literacy Fair* to the Howe Branch, expanding on an existing program they have in partnership with WMHT and Head Start. The library will purchase early literacy tools such as an alphabet rug with bean bags for games and large felt room dividers with felt letters and words for word play.

Altamont Public Library: will provide greater opportunities for Library use to residents of local group homes who are developmentally disabled. The library will purchase adult-themed books for low-literacy adults as well as the video or audio book for non-readers. The library will conduct eight book discussions with the Center for the Disabled staff, and establish a book club for this population.

Bethlehem Public Library: will bring professional library services (books, librarian-led book discussions, reference/reader's advisory services) to nursing home and assisted living residents who cannot come into the library. The grant funds will be used to purchase two audio cassette players for low vision users and audiobooks. This is an extension of the program started last year with Outreach Mini-grant funds.

Brunswick Community Library: will create a lap-sit story hour for toddlers with seasonal themes and basic early literacy concepts. The grant funds will be used to pay the presenter and help pay for materials and supplies.

William K. Sanford Library: will train elders to tell stories. Professional storytellers will hold eight weekly training sessions for ten seniors to introduce storytelling, familiarize them with folktales, help them to select a story or folktale to tell, and then coach these senior storytellers on performing. Participants will then perform in elementary schools in the community and at the UHLS Riverway Storytelling Festival.

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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Around the State

MARCH 14—LIBRARY LOBBY DAY 2006

Once again it is time to meet with your state legislators and show them how important library funding is to you and your patrons. NYLA has identified the following legislative priorities:

2000 Census NOW!

-- \$2.6 Million to Implement the 2000 Census for Library Funding

- State funding for libraries and library systems in New York is based on census data that is 15 years old.
- NYS law requires that the latest census (2000) be used to calculate library aid. But so far neither the Governor nor the Legislature have funded library aid at that level.
- Libraries are serving more people, providing more services, yet receiving less money – when inflation is figured in.
- Library funding has been flat since 1998. Inflation has gone up 19.8% in that time.
- Every library and library system would gain if the 2000 Census is implemented. Those that have lost population would be protected from cuts.

Add a Chapter to New York's Best-Selling NOVEL

-- \$7 million for NOVEL

- Free to all users and available 24/7 from everywhere -- library, home, work, and school.
- Saves libraries \$80 million through statewide licensing – for every \$1 invested in NOVEL, a library would pay \$30 to buy the same information services.
- Adds thousands of resources to every library's collection – more than a library could afford on its own.
- Serves all New Yorkers – students, teachers, business executives, health professionals, college professors, people with disabilities, seniors, Spanish-speaking individuals, and others.
- Information is the fuel for economic growth. Half of the proposed NOVEL funding would be used to purchase Science, Technology, and Medical databases targeted to academic research and technology business users.

Return on Investment? \$13 to \$1: NY's Library Systems

-- \$3 Million Increase For Library Systems

- For every \$1 of State Aid that New York State's library systems receive, library users receive more than \$13 in services.
- NY's Library Systems connect all the state's libraries, helping them do more by sharing, saving, and learning together.
- No library alone can provide all the materials and services it needs for its users. New York's network of library systems ensure that library users get needed information when and where they need it.
- Equity of access -- even the smallest and poorest libraries in New York are rich in resources through library systems.

Got Bricks?

-- \$1.85 Million Increase For Public Library Construction

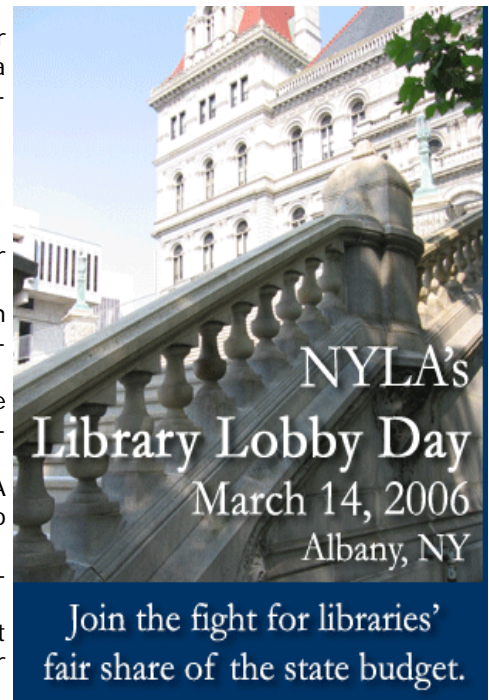
- Build libraries where a seven year old in a wheelchair can choose a book off the shelf -- 34% of public libraries are not fully accessible to people with disabilities.
- Build libraries where a senior citizen using a walker can use the bathroom. Not possible in 34% of New York's public libraries!
- Provide computers for research, for homework, for job searches. New computers can't be installed in 38% of New York's public libraries because of inadequate wiring.
- Libraries need to shore up old foundations, bring electrical service up to code, add connections for computers, put in elevators to make the building accessible to those that can't climb stairs, and add space for

meeting rooms.

- New York ranks 11th in the country in on-going State funding for library construction. Other states: Florida (\$5.4 million), Georgia (\$4.7 million), Illinois (\$2.9 million), Massachusetts (\$16.4 million), and Pennsylvania (\$2.5 million). **New York? Only \$800,000!**

Libraries – Education for Life

- State aid for library services has remained flat for six years prior to last year's cut of 5%.
- The buying power of library aid has been reduced by \$25.5 million over the past six years due to inflation. It would take \$114.4 million in today's dollars to remain current with inflation.
- Library Aid makes up less than one-tenth of one percent of the state budget and yet libraries serve 75% of New York's households.
- Cut in state aid has resulted in loss of \$500,000 in federal LSTA funds this year and \$300,000 next year if the cuts are allowed to remain.
- Libraries are a \$1.6 billion industry in New York generating another \$3 billion in economic activity.
- Recent Zogby International Poll of registered voters showed that 80% of respondents supported restoring cuts to aid and another 61% of respondents favored an increase in aid.
- New York state ranks 11th in the nation in per capita in state funding for public libraries, behind states like Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.
- New York state ranks 14th in the nation in state support for database licensing (i.e. NOVEL), behind states like Alabama, Illinois, Michigan and Texas.
- New York state ranks 11th in the nation in per capita state support for public library construction, behind states like Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.



Phil Ritter, UHLS Executive Director will be setting up appointments to meet with legislators. Charles Diamond, President of the UHLS Board of Directors, has agreed to speak on our behalf. Please join us and show your support.

For additional information about arrangements for Lobby Day, Contact Phil Ritter at 518-437-9880 ext 222.

Grants/Awards

WOMAN'S DAY WANTS TO KNOW HOW LIBRARIES HAVE CHANGED LIVES

Woman's Day magazine announced the editorial initiative in its March 7 issue, which reached subscribers last week. In the issue, the magazine declares that "libraries are magical places" and asks readers to submit their stories in 700 words or less. Stories can be sent to womansday@ala.org from now until May 10, 2006, when the promotion closes. Four of the submissions will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Woman's Day*.

Librarians can promote the initiative in their library by downloading free promotional tools from the ALA @ your library® Web site, <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/sponsorship/wdchangelives.htm>.

[ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/sponsorship/wdchangelives.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/sponsorship/wdchangelives.htm). Tools include a sample press release, downloadable logos, sample newsletter copy and flyer.

In the same issue, *Woman's Day* highlights the two winners from last year's editorial initiative, which asked people why they would want to research their family trees at the library. The four-page article features librarians Howard Gruenberg from the Urbana (Ill.) Free Library and Shellie Cocking from the San Francisco Public Library guiding the winners through library resources to help them discover new parts of their family history. It also includes a sidebar with tips on plotting family history from ALA member Stephen C. Young of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Young is chair of the ge-

nealogy committee for the Reference and User Services Association's (RUSA) history section.

The ALA partnership with *Woman's Day* began in 2002 with a series of workshops for aspiring writers led by writers from the magazine. It has developed into a multi-program partnership that has resulted in approximately \$4 million in library-related editorial coverage in five issues of the magazine, donated ad space and an online book club featuring ALA members.

NN/LM OFFERS GRANTS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region (NN/LM MAR) seeks to promote outreach by public libraries throughout the region. One method of doing so is to make small awards to Network members to encourage them to interact with new communities and agencies, ideally leading to larger-scale projects. There are five \$350.00 exhibit awards available to public libraries in the Middle Atlantic Region. The award is to be used to promote awareness of health information resources--specifically highlighting NLM's consumer databases (e.g., MedlinePlus and NIHSeniorHealth.gov) by exhibiting within the library, at meetings or at health fairs. **The event must take place by April 30, 2006.**

BARNES AND NOBLE CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM

Barnes & Noble, a bookstore chain that has stores nationwide, supports nonprofit organizations that focus on literacy, the arts, and education (K-12) in the communities where company stores are located. Funded organizations must be willing to work with the local stores on in-store programming. Limited support is also provided for national nonprofit organizations that focus on literacy, the arts or K-12 education.

Requests are accepted throughout the year. Local and regional organizations should submit proposals to the community relations manager or store manager at the local Barnes & Noble store. For more information, go to http://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/our_company/sponsorship/Sponsorship_main.html.

Mini-Grant Awards

(Continued from page 1)

East Greenbush Community Library: will expand the current *Books on Wheels* program to seniors in the community. The library will use funds to purchase additional materials in large print and audiobook formats. In addition library staff will hold a social event/book talk at a local nursing home and a rehabilitation center.

Poestenkill Library: will provide additional computer training sessions for seniors citizens. The library already offers classes and has a long waiting list. The grant funds will be used to hire a trainer and to purchase a large (19") computer monitor to enable seniors with low vision to enlarge the text without having to scroll excessively. The library will create a *Seniors Guide to the Internet* in 3-ring binders.

Sand Lake Town Library: will continue an Employment Resource Center that assists the unemployed and underemployed in finding jobs. The library will purchase materials related to resume writing, job searching, interviewing, career transition, and civil service manuals. In addition, the library will host two training sessions with an Employment Specialist.

Stephentown Memorial Library: will provide library services (large print, regular print, audio books and CD/Cassettes) to fifty seniors who are unable to get to the library and will deliver materials to these homebound patrons.

Troy Public Library: will provide adult learners with new books on test preparation (such as GED, SAT) as well as civil service exam manuals. The library will also offer programming on test preparation.

UHLS News

ANNE EVANS RESIGNS

At the January meeting, the UHLS Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Anne Evans. Mrs. Evans was one of the two trustees representing small Rensselaer County libraries. The UHLS Board will be seeking another representative.

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

GATES SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

The New York State Library is pleased to announce New York's participation in a joint Webjunction and Gates Library Foundation program entitled the "Rural Library Sustainability Project." Ms. Mary Ann Stiefvater will be conducting the training.

The Rural Library Sustainability initiative is a nationwide multi-year project designed to provide small and rural library staff with practical resources to address their unique challenges and responsibilities concerning public access computing. Small and rural libraries, as defined by the Gates Foundation, are public libraries that serve populations under 25,000. Twenty-five UHLS libraries are eligible to attend.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, **May 3, from 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM** at the Mid-Hudson Library System Auditorium (105 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601) Directions can be found online at <http://midhudson.org/help/directions.htm>.

There is no fee for this workshop, and the Gates Foundation is providing financial support for participants in order to encourage workshop attendance.

Please contact Jo-Ann Benedetti at 518-437-9880 ext. 225 if you have questions, and if you would like to attend the workshop.

OVERDRIVE DIGITAL RESERVE

The first few weeks with OverDrive downloadable books have been a huge success! UHLS and Albany Public Library purchased 1,000 digital books in both audio and eBook formats. In just 6 weeks, 1,370 were checked out and there are 242 patrons on the waiting list!

For detailed statistics on your patrons' use of the downloads, or to set up an account to order additional content, please contact Jo-Ann Benedetti at 518-437-9880.

MEDIA RELATIONS WORKSHOP APRIL 27

The Adult Services and Youth Services Advisory Councils are sponsoring a workshop on media relations on **April 27, from 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon** at UHLS.

"When to Say What to the Press: Practical Skills for Writing News Releases, Managing Interviews, and More" will be presented by Communication Services, a local Public Relations firm. The workshop will help participants learn how to access the press, how to tailor your message and how to keep in control, even in a crisis communications situation. Participants will get a step-by-step overview of how to build a public relations operation on a shoestring. The workshop will review best practices in press releases, building relationships with the media and staying one step ahead. Participants will have time to practice hands-on crafting of a news release.

DEBBIE CANZANO JOINS

COORDINATED OUTREACH ADVISORY COUNCIL

At the Director's Association Meeting held on January 6, 2006, Debbie Canzano was selected to replace Judy Felsten on the Coordinated Outreach Advisory Council. Her term will expire in 2009. Welcome Debbie!

Youth and Family Services

Mary Fellows, Manager— ext 228

RIVERWAY STORYTELLING FESTIVAL 2006: WHERE STORIES COME ALIVE

What has 30 storytellers and 26 great storytelling events in local public libraries in Albany and Rensselaer Counties? The fourth annual Riverway Storytelling Festival – Where Stories Come Alive!

Eleven UHLS libraries are hosting storytelling concerts during the week-long festival, May 1-7. Twenty-six separate events are planned, including sixteen concerts, five workshops for librarians, educators and storytelling aficionados, student performances and a day of stories at the New York State Museum.

Riverway Storytelling Festival kicks off on **Monday, May 1, at 7:00 PM** with four evenings of free family storytelling programs at seven public libraries around Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Hoosick Falls, Altamont, Stephentown, Nasau, Castleton, and the Pine Hills Branch of Albany Public Library are all locations of early weeknight concerts. These events allow local folks to come and enjoy professional storytelling in their hometown libraries.

On Thursday morning, one hundred twenty area third-graders will travel to the New York State Museum to enjoy storytelling throughout the Museum. As you may imagine, excitement is high, and energy and laughter flow among the exhibits as four professional and ten trained student tellers weave their story magic.

We will inaugurate a new family event, “Our Favorite Stories,” on Thursday evening. Six storytellers will share the stage and some of their favorite tales at the East Greenbush Community Library, beginning at 7:00 PM. The event is free, but tickets are necessary and may be reserved by calling the East Greenbush library at 518-477-7476 ext. 6.

UHLS member library staff get in free to daylong Friday workshops on storytelling, which are also

open to the public (workshop fee of \$75, including lunch). The workshops will be held at Guilderland Public Library. “Cinderella Leaves the Book: Multi Uses of Story in Library and Classroom Settings” and “The Techniques of Telling” will be taught by master tellers Dan Keding and Judith Black respectively. Dan, from Urbana, Illinois, and Judith, from Marblehead, Massachusetts, will be performing throughout the weekend and will also teach workshops on Saturday.

Friday evening festivities, held at Guilderland Public Library, begin at 7:00 PM with “Things That Go Bump in the Night: A Ghost Story Concert for Families.” Tales of mild suspense will be told by storytellers Judith Black, Eshu Bumpus, Dan Keding, Mary Murphy, and Bob Reiser. At 8:30 PM, the lights are turned down for “Tales to Keep You Up All Night: A Ghost Story Concert.” The stories will be scary stuff, intended for ages 12 and up. These concerts are each free, but require tickets from the library. Call 456-2400 ext. 9 for information.



Riverway kicks into high gear on Saturday, with various events during the day and two performances in the evening. The site for Saturday morning and afternoon events is the Albany Public Library. Two concurrent workshops, “The Ghost Story: Boo!!” and “Creating Original Fairy Tales from Your Life, Part 1” are offered in the morning, followed by a juried showcase of tellers from throughout the northeast. Story swaps, where anyone can tell a story, happen during lunch.



In the afternoon, there is a family storytelling concert and two additional concurrent workshops, “Belly Laughs and Beyond: Bringing Humor to Stories” and “Creating Original Fairy Tales from Your Life, Part 2.” There is a charge for the workshops and for lunch; all other events are free.

“Laughin’ Night, “ a funny stories double-header,

begins with “Stories that Make You Giggle and Grin,” a storytelling concert for families from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. The concert, held at the William K. Sanford Town Library in Colonie, features storytellers Judith Black, Eshu Bumpus, Dan Keding, Mary Murphy, and Bob Reiser. At 8:30 PM, the tellers take the stage for “You Might As Well Laugh: Comical Tales of Being A Grown-up,” a storytelling concert for adults. Tickets are \$9/ adult and \$4/child under 12 for the family show, and \$9 per ticket for the late concert. Tickets may be purchased in advance at UHLS, and will be available until gone at the door the evening of the concerts.

Sunday starts with two storytelling performances at Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center’s Albany History Fair: a program at 1:00 PM for families, and another at 1:30 PM for adults. *Stories Alive!*, a storytelling concert for families, concludes the Festival on Sunday afternoon. Bethlehem Public Library is the site for this finale concert, which begins at 3:00 PM and features tellers Judith Black, Eshu Bumpus, Dan Keding, Mary Murphy, and Bob Reiser.

Although Riverway Storytelling Festival will officially end on Sunday at 4:30 PM, the strengthened literacy, community, and understanding that we have all created by sharing stories in our libraries will live on!

For more information, see www.riverwaystorytellingfestival.org, or contact producer (and UHLS Manager of Youth and Family Services) Mary Fellows at mary@uhls.lib.ny.us or 437-9880 X228.



NEW CHILDREN’S CHOICE BOOK AWARD

New York State now has a children’s choice book award. Called the *3 Apples Book Award*, this project has been 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. It is co-sponsored by the Youth Services and School Library Media Sections of the New York Library Association, which together represent the public and school libraries of the state.

The book is chosen by election. Each year children in grades 3-6 (ages 8-12) nominate their favorite book, creating a statewide ballot of fifteen of the most popular titles. After reading or listening to at least three of the nominated books, the children vote to select one as their favorite. That book and its author are honored with the presentation of the *3 Apples Book Award*, and celebrations take place across the state in school and public libraries.



Nominations open **March 1**. Libraries are encouraged to participate. For more information and full instructions, see <http://www.3applesbookaward.org/index.cfm>.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM PRIZE BOOKS

The NYS Library announced that it will again award Summer Reading Program grants. UHLS is eligible for \$6,000. The money will be spent on Summer Reading Program prize books (paperbacks) to be distributed to all libraries holding a Summer Reading Program. As in past years, libraries will be asked to estimate how many books in various age categories they need, and UHLS staff will fulfill those requests to the extent the \$6,000 allows.

This year’s Summer Reading Program theme is *Books: A Treasure*. The theme may be interpreted through castles and dragons, through pirates, or in any other way libraries can make it work.

A Year on the Caldecott Committee: Months 1 and 2



In the world of books, the Caldecott Medal is the Oscar of picture books. Named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, the Caldecott Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children. For authors, for publishers, for picture-book loving librarians, teachers and the general public, winning the Caldecott Medal is a Big Deal.

I was one of the lucky few asked to run for election to the Caldecott Committee last year. When I was actually elected, I was thrilled. Because this award is so important to us “book people” and because the process is interesting, I’d like to share some of the experience with the *Latest Edition’s* readers.

In January, at the ALA Conference in San Antonio, the 2007 Caldecott Committee met for the first time. We number 15: seven of us elected, seven appointed by the president of the Association for Library Service to Children, and one chairperson.

As we waited for the meeting to start, we were all glancing around at each other—we are going to spend hours upon hours together, discussing, debating, persuading, and celebrating our choice of “the most distinguished American picture book for children.” I wonder: out of the 600-700 picture books that will be published in 2007, how will we ever choose?

As we go through our introductions, it is clear that we are a varied lot. The oldest among us has worked for her library system for 60-plus years. There are well-known children’s literature experts among us, people who have been on and even chaired the Caldecott Committee before, and one member is a former American Library Association president now working in Moscow, Russia. It is hard not to feel a bit intimidated. And yet we are equals at this table and in this decision.

The rest of our first meeting is taken up with discussing the rules. There are pages and pages of rules. This award is a huge financial coup for authors and publishers – nearly every public and elementary school library will buy the Caldecott winner, and many parents besides – as well as a major profile booster of both author and publisher. Therefore, many people care about who wins, how the winner was decided, and who said what that most influenced the decision.

We are told again and again that we cannot – not now, not in the next year, not after the winner is announced, not ever – talk about what happens in our Committee meetings. This process, painstakingly defined, is conducted with professionalism and secrecy. We have each agreed to follow the rules. What we can talk about, when asked, are the books we personally like and why. That’s what I’ll be sharing with you next fall and winter when I begin talking about my favorites.

When we parted, it was with excitement for the months to come when we begin to get books and start our analysis. Though in mid-February the UPS driver has yet to darken my door with boxes of books, I am ready: two seven-foot bookcases stand ready to receive the most distinguished American picture book for children and all of its many companions.

YOUTH SERVICES SECTION SPRING CONFERENCE

Corning, New York is the setting for *Snapshots: Focus on Youth Services* on **Friday, March 31** and **Saturday, April 1**. This annual conference offers workshops relating to the myriad of services that libraries offer youth. For more information, see http://www.nyla.org/content/user_12/ SNAPSHOTS.pdf.

Automation Services

(Joe Thornton, Manager - ext. 230)

ONLINE TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

UHLS has developed a training webpage for member libraries. Go to www.uhls.org and click on the link "Training page for UHLS staff". Here is an opportunity to train new staff, review basic procedures in Horizon, or develop an alternative perspective on basic operations you do everyday! The website alerts library staff to upcoming training events scheduled by the Upper Hudson Library System, and the Training Center also provides interactive video demonstrations on basic Horizon procedures, library practices, and other computer procedures.

The website is not meant to be a substitute for on-site training, but instead, it supplements library staff with tools to manage the challenges of technology training in libraries today. Please feel free to use the comments link on the website to make suggestions about future video productions you think will be helpful for your library. Feedback is especially welcome. For more information contact Robert Carle at 518-437-9880 ext. 238.

Member Library News

Albany Public Library—Main

AUTHOR TALKS ABOUT SLAVERY IN NEW YORK

On Sunday, March 19, at 2:00 PM L. Lloyd Stewart will talk about his book *A far Cry From Freedom: Gradual Abolition (1799-1827) New York State's Crime Against Humanity* in the auditorium at the Library's main location, 161 Washington Avenue.

Historians have had difficulty associating New York State's brand of African enslavement, which they have concluded to be of a rather benevolent and mild nature, with the "barbarism" that existed in the southern states of America. *A far Cry From Freedom* seeks to clarify some of the misleading "facts" about the history of African enslavement and abolition in New York State.

L. Lloyd Stewart is a third generation native of Albany, NY and an eighth generation native of New York State. In 1984, he founded and served as President/CEO of Stewart Associates, a lobbying and consulting firm.

VISITING AUTHOR: GREGORY MAGUIRE

The Friends of Albany Public Library present Gregory Maguire, author of *Wicked*, Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 PM at 161 Washington Avenue. Maguire, who grew up in Albany, always delights us with his new perspective on old stories. Free to the public.



CENSORSHIP EXHIBIT

The Albany Public Library and its partner the Albany Center Galleries are bringing the touring exhibit "Censorship in Schools and Libraries" to the display cases on the first and second floor in the main library during the month of March.

Created by the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship, the exhibit presents 30 illustrations of censorship with accompanying text that highlights incidents of censorship that have occurred in the United States during the past 150 years. Included are the censorship of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *In the Night Kitchen* and *The Catcher in the Rye*. It also includes continuing efforts to censor the popular *Harry Potter* children's book series.

For more information, visit the Long Island Coalition Against Censorship at www.the-licac.org.

SIENA COLLEGE STUDENTS DONATE TO THE HOWE LIBRARY

On Friday, January 27, students of the 21st Century Leaders Society of Siena College presented over 300 children's books and audio CD's to the John A. Howe Library. The Society also made a monetary donation to the Library.

Faculty advisor Cheryl Buff said that this is the third year the Society has donated to the Howe Library and has doubled the size of the gift this year. This gift will directly benefit the children of the South End.

The 21st Century Leaders Society is the honor society for School of Business majors. Members are selected based on a combination of academic achievement and demonstrated outstanding leadership characteristics. The society is endowed through a donation from Vincent Puritano '59.

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free income tax assistance for low-income taxpayers at three locations of Albany Public Library this year, from February 4 to April 15.

Taxpayers must bring identification, Social Security cards, dependents' and qualifying children's Social Security cards, all income statements (such as W-2's, 1099's, etc.), copies of last year's returns, and all other materials necessary to complete their tax return(s).

Main Library

Assistance is on a walk-in basis; no appointments or reservations will be taken. Volunteers will be available on Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

Howe Branch

Assistance is by appointment only and will take place on Saturdays from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Call 427-4125 to set up an appointment.

Pine Hills Branch

Assistance is by appointment only and will take place on Saturdays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Call 482-7911 to set up an appointment.

For any additional information about the VITA program at the Albany Public Library contact the Reference Department at 518-427-4303.

APL CO-SPONSORS REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

The Albany Public Library is joining with the Times Union and Capital Region BOCES to sponsor the 27th Annual Capital Region Spelling Bee. Approximately 100 Capital Region students from grades 4 through 8 will come together to test their spelling skills against each other. The Spelling Bee is being held at the Empire Center At the Egg at 6:30 PM on Monday, March 13. Admission is free. We invite you to come and cheer on these outstanding young people. For more information contact the Capital Region BOCES at 456-9215.

FREE TUTORING

The Albany Public Library is offering free tutoring for elementary and middle school students, primarily in reading and mathematics, at both the Main Library and the New Scotland Branch.

America Reads/Counts is a federal work-study program that provides tutors from the Albany College of Pharmacy. Tutors are carefully screened and receive extensive training before participating in the program.

Students are reminded to bring homework assignments with them. Parents should attend the initial session to meet the tutor and discuss any issues that may be relevant to the tutoring process. The library has been partnering with the Albany College of Pharmacy in this program for four years, and it is very popular with both parents and children.

To register your child or for more information please call the Main Library Children's Room at 427-4310 or the New Scotland Branch at 482-6661.

Altamont Free Library

COMPUTER CLASSES

Computer Classes for adults continue in March and April. This five part series includes navigating the Windows environment, Word Processing, the Internet, Email, and using the internet safely. The class meets Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM. Registration is required as space is limited. Call the Library at 861-7239 for more information.

Bethlehem Public Library

LIBRARY TEAMS UP FOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Bethlehem Public Library is partnering with the New York State Veterans Oral History Project to record and preserve the memories of Bethlehem's veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War, and the wartime defense industry. Project coordinator Michael Russert will speak at the library on Wednesday April 5, at 2:00 PM.

Interviews will be conducted at the library in June and videotaped for the museum archives. Selected interviews will be cablecast on TV-18/Bethlehem. Information packets and pre-interview forms are available at the library information desk. Call Michael Farley at the library, 439-9314 ext. 3024.

Established by Governor Pataki in 2000, the project is operated by the Veterans Research Center of the New York Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. The library is honored to be a partner in this important documentary effort.

PERSONNEL

John Sobiecki was appointed to the Bethlehem Public Library board in February, to fill a vacant seat. A 15-year resident of Delmar, John is a managing principal at Cannon Design in Albany.

THROUGH THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

On Sunday, March 19, at 2:00 PM, Melita Gesche will give a slide presentation of her voyages through the Passage on a Russian icebreaker in 1997 and 2004. Gesche is a retired physician and avid Arctic traveler. This program is made possible by the Al Russell Memorial Fund.

AUTHOR TALK: DAN HOFSTADTER ON NAPLES

Praised in the New York Times Book Review, Dan Hofstadter's new book, *Falling Palace: a romance of Naples* (Knopf 2005) weaves the tale of an elusive personal romance with a vivid and haunting evocation of the legendary city.

Hofstadter's recent collection of essays on French writers, *The Love Affair as a Work of Art*, was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle award. He has written for most national magazines and was a regular contributor to The New Yorker for eight years. Come hear Dan speak on Sunday, April 12, at 2:00 PM at the Library.

A PYRAMID OF SNACKS

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Barbara Stevens will explain the benefits and delights of healthy snacking to children in grades 3—6 on Thursday April 20, at 11:00 AM. This program is part of Kids Cookin' by the Book, a project supported by LSTA funds awarded to the NYS Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and distributed by the Upper Hudson Library System.

Brunswick Public Library

LAPSIT STORY HOUR TO BEGIN

Beginning March 6th we will offer a lap-sit Story Hour for ages 0-2 on Mondays at 10:30 AM. This half hour of fun, stories and song is made possible by a grant from UHLS.

RED CROSS TRAINING FOR BABYSITTERS

On April 20th, from 9:00 AM—4:00 PM the Red Cross will provide training to those 11 years of age and up who want to be babysitters. Training includes how to: interview for a babysitting job; choose age-appropriate toys and games; perform first aid; learn diapering and feeding techniques; and more. The cost is \$42, bring a brown bag lunch. Register in advance at the Library; the program will be held at the Brunswick Community Center on Keyes Lane.

East Greenbush Community Library

WE'RE CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE!

The new East Greenbush Community Library building opened five years ago on March 4th with over 700 people in attendance to get their first glimpse of the new facility. In those five years, the circulation has almost doubled and services have expanded to fill our wonderful new information and community center.

Let us show you around the library (*even behind our closed doors*) and its many services! Please join us for a Tour of the 2006 version of the East

Greenbush Community Library on Sundays, March 12, 19 & 26 at 2:00 PM, with Debbie Shoup and Michael Catoggio. Celebrate our last five years and share your thoughts on what you would like to see in the next five years!



SPRING BOOK SALE

Please join us for our annual Spring Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The sale starts Thursday evening, April 27, 5:00 PM-8:30 PM with special pricing for hardcover books (\$2.00 each) and soft bound books (\$1.00). Regular pricing resumes on Friday, April 28, 9:00 AM to 8:30 PM and Saturday, April 29, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The Book Sale will finish with a bag sale on Sunday, April 30 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Bags of books will be just \$2.00 each.

MURPHY'S LAW

Local sportscaster Dan Murphy will broadcast his radio show, "Murphy's Law", *live from the library* on Monday, April 17, 3:00 PM. Along with his regular segments and taking calls from listeners, Dan will interview some special guests. Members of the audience can be part of the show, as well. A Q&A session will follow the show, where you can ask Dan questions and share your thoughts on sports and broadcasting. For all ages. No registration required.

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL WAR

Amy Murrell Taylor, Assistant Professor of History at U. Albany, will discuss the ways in which women influenced the Civil War and the ways in which the war transformed women's lives. At the library, Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 PM.

IRISH MUSIC AND TALES OF OLDEN DAYS

On Saturday, March 18, at 2:00 PM, famous Irish seanachie (storyteller) Batt Burns and renowned concertina player Sean O'Dwyer, will share an afternoon of traditional Irish music & entertainment in conjunction with the Irish American Heritage Museum.

Guilderland Public Library

MUSICAL OFFERINGS IN MARCH AND APRIL

The Guilderland Public Library's popular musical series, The Second Sunday Concerts, continues in March and April with performances on Sundays at 2:00 PM.

Sunday, 3/12: Annie and the Hedonists will perform their eclectic mix of acoustic folk, torchy blues, standards, gospel and more. *Metroland* has praised the group for their "tight...harmonies framed by a variety of knockout lead instruments, including guitar, mandolin, trumpet, keyboards and dobro."

Sunday, 4/9: Sonny & Perley, the wonderful husband-and-wife jazz duo, return to the Library for another great performance of timeless standards from the great American songbook. Music critics have praised pianist Sonny Daye's "stellar piano work." Perley Rousseau, says one reviewer, is a "supersongstress," with a "beautiful voice, wonderful intonation, and stage presence."

GET HEALTHY @ THE LIBRARY!

Guilderland Public Library has made a New Year's resolution to help patrons stay healthy. The Library has two Consumer Health Information Specialists on hand to answer your questions, and devote special times during the week to your detailed questions (Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 PM; Thursdays 1:00-3:00 PM; some Saturdays.) New health related programs are being offered throughout March and April.

Registration required. Call the Reference Desk at 518-456-2400 ext. 7.

Medicare Part D: March 1, 10:00 AM -12:00 PM. Are you utterly confused about the new Medicare benefit that will help pay for the cost of prescription drugs? Help is here! Experts from the Albany County Department for the Aging's HIICAP department (Health Insurance Information and Counseling Assistance) will present a 2-hour program on the basic facts about Medicare Part D, how it works with EPIC, and how you may be eligible for help to pay the premium for Part D.

Medicare Part D Clinics: March 8, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and March 15, 10:00 AM -2:00 PM. Work with a HIICAP expert on your Medicare Part D questions. Bring a list of your prescriptions. Four appointments each hour.

Mobile Mammography Returns! March 23, 10:00 AM -2:00 PM, the Bellevue Woman's Hospital Mobile Mammography Van will offer screenings to women of all ages in the hospital's mobile unit, conveniently parked in the Guilderland Public Library lot. This service is a joint effort with the Town of Guilderland Senior Office; call Mary Ann at 356-1980 ext. 1095 to schedule an appointment.

Kids and Depression: April 4, 7:00 PM. Are you a parent or educator concerned that a youngster is depressed? Nathan Naparstek, PhD, a psychologist for the Schenectady City School District and in private practice, will discuss his new book, *Is Your Child Depressed?: Answers to Your Toughest Questions* (McGraw-Hill, 2006). Participants will learn strategies to help a child experiencing the depression.

TEEN HEALTH @ THE LIBRARY

The Guilderland Public Library is committed to expanding our health services to teens. If you are 12 to 18 years old, register for any of these programs by calling the Teen Services Librarian at 518-456-2400 ext. 11.

Yoga: Not Just for New-Agers! On Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 PM, Yoga Instructor and master of the art of de-stressing, Christine Carpenter, will offer instruction on basic yoga poses, breathing techniques, and healthy ways to ease stress. Following the instruction session, there will be an herbal tea "buffet" and brewing demonstration. Wear comfortable workout clothes and bring a mat or beach towel.

Self Defense Class on Monday, March 13, at 7:00 PM. Master Frank Noguera of Northeast Tae Kwon Do and Combat Hapkido of Colonie will teach participants a variety of basic self-defense techniques that could quite possibly save your life by distracting or temporarily disabling an assailant. Self defense isn't just for a select few...a little knowledge goes a long way for everyone!

Healthy Minds/Healthy Bodies, Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 PM. For preteens or teens and their parents! How do the mind and body work together to promote healthy eating habits and a positive body image? Elaine Cornelius, Clinical Social Worker, and Tammy Weber, Registered Dietician, will lead this lively workshop about healthy eating, lifestyle, and self-esteem.

Rensselaer Public Library

VACANCY

Rensselaer Public Library seeks dynamic, energetic, and creative leader as a full-time Library Director to serve this diverse community along the Hudson. MLS and New York State Public Librarian certificate required.

Send cover letter and resume by April 15 to:
Ken Ryder
Rensselaer Public Library
810 Broadway
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Arvilla E. Diver Memorial Library

TURN OFF YOUR TV MONTH

Join us for the following workshops during April for *Turn off your TV month*:

March 29: the library is hosting a "Star Party" featuring a visit from the Schenectady Planetarium.

April 5: Cornell Cooperative Extension is coming to do a no-bake cooking workshop called, "Family Fun With Food."

April 12: we'll be discussing and watching live scenes from Harper Lee's, "To Kill A Mockingbird."

April 19: in celebration of Shakespeare's birthday, Judy Lees, a Shakespeare authority, will give a talk about his life.

April 26: usher in Spring with a Master Gardener. Topics will include dressing up the front

of your house, planting demos and free seeds to participants. Funding for part of this series was obtained through an Art\$Grant awarded by the Arts Center of the Capital Region.

All workshops start at 7:00 PM.

APRIL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

During Spring vacation, the Library is offering a week of activities. On April 18, at 1:00 PM, Cornell Cooperative Extension staff is coming to talk about nutrition and exercise. On April 19, we'll be hosting an evening story hour with refreshments. And then on April 20 at 1:00 PM, Sean Fagan is coming as "Shakespeare's Clown" to teach the children how to juggle, act, and dance. Contact the library at 518-753-4344 for additional information.

Voorheesville Public Library

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Help your child solve problems, become more assured, and begin to develop empathy and self control, and other interpersonal social skills. Workshops on March 21 and 28 at 7:00 PM. Signup required, please call 518-765-2791.

GUYS READ TOO!

New! Book discussion for guys in grades 4 – 6 with a male reading buddy - dad, brother, uncle, friend. March 22, at 7:00 PM. Please sign up at 518-765-2791.

POETRY OPEN MIC

The Every Other Thursday Night Poets invite you to an afternoon of open mic poetry readings and refreshments. Bring your own poetry or a favorite poem to share. April 15, from noon – 4:00 PM. For information, call Barbara at 518-765-2791.

AMERICAN GIRLS TEA

On April 30 at 2:00 PM, bring your doll, bring your mom and dress up for an elegant tea party. Reservations required at 518-765-2791.

Calendar of Events

March

- 03 Directors' Association Meeting 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 06 Riverway Planning Committee 9:30 AM—12:00 PM
- 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 at the Capitol**
- 15 Horizon Basics 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 16 Adult Services Advisory Council 9:30 AM at UHLS
- 17 Youth Services Advisory Council 9:00 AM—12:00 PM at UHLS
- 21 Resource Sharing 9:00 AM—12:00 PM at UHLS
- 27 UHLS Staff Meeting 9:00 AM—12:00 PM
- 28 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS

April

- 03 Riverway Planning Committee 9:30 AM—12:00 PM
- 07 Directors' Association Meeting 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 10 Administration Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 12 Horizon Basics 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 12 Services Committee 3:30 PM at UHLS
- 12 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 12 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 13 Adult Services Advisory Council 9:30 AM at UHLS
- 15 **Deadline for May/June Latest Edition**
- 25 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 27 Writing Effective Media Releases 9:00 AM—12:00 PM at UHLS
- 28 Youth Services Advisory Council: Book Review 9:00 AM—10:00 AM; Meeting 10:00 AM—12:00 PM; Teen Services Discussion Group 12:00 PM—1:00 PM at UHLS

May

- 01 Riverway Planning Committee 9:30 AM—12:00 PM
- 05 Directors' Association Meeting 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 08 Administration Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 10 Services Committee 3:30 PM at UHLS
- 10 Finance Committee 4:00 PM at UHLS
- 10 Board of Trustees 4:30 PM at UHLS
- 17 Horizon Basics 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 19 Youth Services Advisory Council: Small Library Concerns 9:00 AM—10:00 AM; Meeting 10:00 AM—12:00 PM; large Library Concerns 12:00 PM—1:00 PM all at **EGRN**
- 23 Automated Services Committee 9:00 AM at UHLS
- 29 Memorial Day—UHLS Closed**

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: We will never be a civilized country until we expend more money for books than we do for chewing gum. -- Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915)

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