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UHLS Annual Dinner Meeting

The Upper Hudson Library System's **44th Annual Dinner Meeting** will be held on June 8th at the Albany Country Club in Voorheesville. All member library trustees, directors and their staff are invited, as well as local legislators and friends.

This is a great opportunity to get together in a lovely setting with your colleagues and other local library supporters. The evening begins with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails from 5:30 to 6:30, giving you time to wind down from a busy day and enjoy a convivial hour with friends. This is also a good time to re-acquaint yourself with the Upper Hudson trustees, all of whom are volunteers on the Boards of the local libraries. Then dinner is served at 6:30.

After that, while sipping coffee and finishing your strawberry shortcake, the evening livens up with the annual Award presentations. The Awards will be presented as follows: the Library Program of the Year Award for rural libraries will be given to the RCS Community Library for their **Family Fun Fair for the Very Young**; the Award for the urban/suburban libraries will be given to the Troy Public Library for their **Adult Summer Reading Program**. **Susan Zweig**, of the Nassau Public Library, will be honored as Library Trustee of the Year.

The **Family Fun Fair for the Very Young** was developed to publicize the RCS early childhood Romp & Read program. The Fun Fairs were extremely successful, far exceeding expectations and were also a very effective collaboration with the RCS Central School District's Pre-Kindergarten program. The Fairs were set up in the public school cafeterias and included activity centers with alphabet crafts, simple storybooks, silly slime play stations and other games suited to children under five. The centers were run by teenagers who then earned community service credits. Library Director Judy Felsten noted that, "our programs share the philosophy that very young children learn through play and everyday language experiences. The Fairs provide a few hours of fun, lightly sprinkled with learning, for preschoolers and parents to enjoy together. It is interesting to see a simple, straightforward idea take hold so well. The Fairs are inexpensive to produce....(and) children have a wonderful time. The Fairs seem to make the connection between learning and play visible; after each Fair, several families join the Romp & Read program for a weekly dose of language and play."

The **Adult Summer Reading Program**, developed by Jyna Scheeren and Kim McMann, was modeled on Troy's youth summer reading program and ran during the same months. Over 100 adults participated, reading 900 books. "It was," said Library Director Paul Hicok, "a smashing success that we plan to repeat annually."

(Continued on page 13)

**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

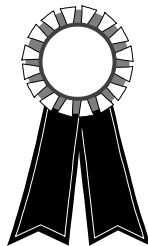
### Award/Grant Opportunities

#### NYLA Awards

**May 30, 2005** is the deadline for two important statewide awards. Please take a moment to consider who has helped you or your library/system provide better services or inspired you to stand strong on important library issues.

The NYLA Outstanding Advocate of Libraries Award is presented to an individual who, or organization that, maintains no primary library affiliation, yet has made a significant contribution to libraries in New York State. The Orange County Legislature received this award in 2004.

The NYLA Outstanding Service to Libraries Award is presented to an individual who, or organization that, has performed through direct affiliation as a trustee or employee of a library or information service, a significant contribution to libraries in New York State. Jerry Nichols received this award in 2004.



Information about eligibility and the nomination form may be found at [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org).

#### Funding for Readings/Workshops

*Poets & Writers* pays fees to writers giving readings or conducting workshops in New York State. While their funding is for writers' fees, organizations must apply.

They encourage community-based groups, including libraries, youth centers, colleges, bookstores, correctional facilities and senior centers to apply for funding; nonprofit status is not required. Applications and guidelines are available online at [www.pw.org](http://www.pw.org). *Poets & Writers* provides support to a wide variety of writers from diverse backgrounds. Writers from all states are eligible for funding. Please contact Nicole Sealey, Program Assistant, Readings/Workshops at 212-226-3586 ext 226.

## 2005 Budget News: Library Cuts Restored!

In case you haven't yet heard the news... library aid has been restored!

When the Legislature passed an on-time state Budget for the first time in 21 years on March 31st, they included the restoration of the \$4.5 million in library aid cut last year. The Governor had until midnight on April 12 to approve or veto portions, or all, of the state Budget.

Last minute negotiations on several outstanding issues related to Medicaid and other items were resolved on Tuesday, permitting the Governor to approve the state Budget, with Library Aid restoration included.

The restoration is an important step forward, and puts the library community in a better position to advocate for increases that are needed -- particularly the \$2.6 million extra for operational aid that would use the 2000 Census with hold-harmless provision to calculate library aid.

On behalf of all libraries and library supporters in the State, I thank those of you who participated in Library Lobby Day, mailed or faxed a letter or visited your state legislators.

Thank you!

*Kathy Miller*

NYLA Legislative Committee Chair, 2005

**QUOTE:** Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it. ~P.J. O'Rourke

## Around the Region

### The Capital District Library Council

#### *Annual Meeting and Dinner*

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Robison Center  
Sage College  
Troy, NY

**5:00 p.m: Registration & Conviviality  
including display of Raffle Baskets and sale of Raffle Tickets**

**6:00 p.m: Business Meeting and Election of Trustees**

**6:30 p.m: Buffet Dinner**

Go to [www.cdlc.org](http://www.cdlc.org) for complete details on dinner registration and the basket raffle.  
Deadline May 6, 2005

## CROSSGATES FAMILY STORYTIME

The Guilderland Public Library, Bethlehem Public Library and Albany Public Library are pleased to announce a new joint community program, Crossgates Family Storytime, which began on Wednesday April 6, 2005. In partnership with Crossgates Mall and the support of the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce, librarian/storytellers from the three libraries will present a storytime for families with children ages 6 months to 7 years on most Wednesdays through June 15, 2005.

Barbara Nichols Randall, Director of the Guilderland Public Library stated, "We hope by offering a storytime at the mall we will introduce the joy of listening and reading to families who may not already be library users. We also want to introduce the many programs libraries offer which support the promotion of literacy and lifelong learning."



The idea for this type of outreach to families grew from the participation of the Guilderland library in the Guilderland Chamber of Commerce Family Expo which is held at

Crossgates Mall each spring. "We saw many of our regular patrons at the Expo but always met residents who were unaware of the programs and services of libraries," Nichols Randall explained.

"All of the libraries in Albany and Rensselaer counties participate in the Upper Hudson Library System. Through this regular networking, Bethlehem Public Library Director Nancy Pieri, Albany Public Library Director, Jeffrey Cannell and I worked together to bring about this cooperative effort," Nichols Randall added.

Sara Nieves, Marketing Director for Crossgates Mall, stated, "Crossgates Mall is delighted to support an outreach to families in the community. We strive to keep the mall a safe family-friendly destination."

The location and additional information about each week's storytime can be found at the Crossgates Customer Service desk as well as the website of Crossgates Mall and each of the three participating libraries. Please go to [www.guilderlandpublic.info](http://www.guilderlandpublic.info) or [www.shopcrossgates.com](http://www.shopcrossgates.com) for more info.

## UHLS News

### Automation Services

(Joe Thornton, Manager—ext. 230)

#### CATALOGING WORKSHOP

Rob Carle will be conducting a Cataloging Workshop at the Upper Hudson Library System on **May 25th, 2005** from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Similar to the workshop held last January, Rob will be covering the following content:

- ☐ Editing MARC records from OCLC CatExpress (245 h subfield and 300 tag)
- ☐ Selecting the correct bibliographic record for serial items
- ☐ Attaching serial items to the correct bibliographic record
- ☐ Authority, bibliographic, and item record relationship (in Horizon)
- ☐ Authority Records and how we and Horizon create them
- ☐ Item record review

For additional information about the workshop, please contact Rob Carle, Training Specialist at 437-9880 ext. 238 or email [rob@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:rob@uhls.lib.ny.us).

**QUOTE:** For him that stealeth a Book from this Library, let it change into a serpent in his hand and rend him. Let him be struck with Palsy, and all his Members blasted. Let him languish in Pain crying aloud for Mercy and let there be no sur-cease to his Agony till he sink in Dissolution. Let Book-worms gnaw his Entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not, and when at last he goeth to his final Punishment, let the flames of Hell consume him for ever and aye. -Curse Against Book Stealers, Monastery of San Pedro, Barcelona

## Information and Outreach Services

(Jo-Ann Benedetti, Manager—ext. 225)

#### COORDINATED OUTREACH MINI-GRANTS

The UHLS Coordinated Outreach Services Advisory Council met on March 9, 2005, with 8 of 10 members present, reviewed all of the 2005 Outreach Mini-grant applications, and made recommendations regarding the funding of these grants. The grants are listed in alphabetical order below; congratulations to the recipients!

**Albany Public Library:** To establish 3 music/audio book listening stations in the children's area at the Main, Pine Hills and Howe locations. The goal is to create audio appreciation that can be utilized by parents/caregivers and their children to enhance early childhood literacy skills such as listening, music, movement and rhythm.

**Bethlehem Public Library:** To 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. Requested funds to purchase 50 regular and large print books to house in the Good Samaritan Lutheran Health Care Center.

**Cohoes Public Library:** To provide basic one-on-one computer instruction to 15 elderly people and to make available a core collection of computer-related instructional materials (books, DVDs, Videos and CDs).

**William K. Sanford Library:** To increase service to the young adults in the Town of Colonie and to increase awareness of services to teens by creating a permanent art gallery for teens within the library. Requested funds for display cases, a special art book collection for the Teen Room, and a graphic art workshop.

**Cheney Library:** To promote reading readiness by creating "theme" backpacks with age-appropriate books for 3 – 4 year olds. Will partner with Morning Star Daycare to promote the program and to seek advice about reading materials.

**Petersburgh Public Library:** To encourage school-aged children to use the library and strengthen their reading skills. The Salem Elementary School librarian will hold three monthly programs. Each student who participates will have the opportunity to sign up for the summer reading program and receive a backpack and paperback book.

**RCS Community Library:** To help reluctant / learning disabled readers of upper-elementary and middle school age move from picture books to chapter books. Purchase 30 chapter books in audio/paperback read-along format and promote their availability through school and public channels.

**Sand Lake Town Library:** To establish an Employment Resource Center to assist and enable approximately 200 unemployed and underemployed adults in finding jobs. Purchase materials related to resume writing, job searching, interviewing career transition, and civil service manuals. Offer two classes on re-entering the job market and resume writing. Create job information links on the library's web page. Partner with Rensselaer County Even Start program and market the classes/resources in local newspapers, the local food pantry, and the local thrift store.

**Troy Public Library:** To provide adult library services in the form of fiction and non-fiction books to the African American Community.

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#### NEW ADDITIONS:

The following titles have recently been added to the professional pool collection:

***The Grant Writing for Dummies.*** Bev Brown-ing, 2001.

***Demystifying Grant Seeking:*** What You REALLY Need to Do to Get Grants. Larissa Golden Brown, 2001.

***Winning Grants: Step by Step,*** 2nd Edition. Mim Carlson, 2002.

***The Employers Legal Handbook.*** Fred S. Steingold, 2004.

## ***NOVEL Database Training Opportunities for Library Staff***

UHLS is offering training sessions for library directors and staff on the use of NOVEL databases in selected subject areas. Polly Farrington will be conducting these hands-on sessions. The purpose of the training is to familiarize you with a variety of the databases offered and provide you with access to materials to promote the use of the databases to your library patrons.

There are two different training sessions being offered. Session 1 includes a basic introduction to the databases, Health databases and Homework databases. Session 2 will cover Business databases and Newspaper databases. Feel free to sign up for one or both of the sessions.

The training will be held in the computer lab at Albany Public's Main Library, so you'll be able to work directly with the databases.

Wednesday May 4, 2005  
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Wednesday May 11, 2005  
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Please register for these sessions with **Katie Quinn at APLM, [quinnk@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:quinnk@uhls.lib.ny.us) or 427-4326.** Due to the hands-on nature of these sessions, space is limited.



\*\*These trainings are supported by Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, awarded to the New York State Library by the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

## Youth and Family Services (Mary Fellows, Manager— ext 228)

### PLANNING FOR "TUNE IN AT THE LIBRARY!" KICKS OFF AT SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY



Mary Fellows and the (not yet Re) Tired Librarians' Interpretive Dance Troupe.

Librarians from Upper Hudson Library System, the Mohawk Valley Library System and the Southern Adirondack Library System gathered to get a jump-start on planning at the fourth annual

Summer Reading Program Planning Workshop on March 3rd. Hosted by the Beatles, the workshop featured a plethora of ideas, samples, model decorations and crafts, giveaways, and a performer showcase. A special appearance by the (not yet Re) Tired Librarians' Interpretive Dance Troupe portraying the Dewey Decimal System provided an after-lunch refresher on the numbers to know.



The 88 attendees left stuffed with ideas, tuneful food, and enthusiasm for the musical summer ahead!

Jazz musician Tom Ross giving a music lesson to the librarians in attendance.

### RIVERWAY STORYTELLING FESTIVAL 2005

In its third year, Riverway Storytelling Festival continued its tradition of attracting users of all ages to UHLS libraries to hear stories from many traditions. Ten of our 29 libraries hosted performances that brought listeners as young as 3 and as old as eighty-something together to enjoy the oral tradition. Total attendance at the Festival was 954, a slight increase over last year.



Two library performances were special highlights: Guilderland Public Library hosted two ghost story concerts on Friday night that engaged first 82 children and families and later 50 teens and adults with stories of varying degrees of eeriness. On Sunday, William K. Sanford Town Library hosted *Susan Klein Live!*, a concert of stories just for adults. Despite the fabulous spring weather, 46 people attended.

Workshops on storytelling that were free to member library staff, student teller performances, *Story Walk!* at the NYS Museum where four schools brought third graders, weeknight performances in UHLS libraries, and a full slate of activities at Albany Public Library all rounded out the seven-day festival. A new feature, *Laughin' Night*, brought 116 people out on Saturday night to hear stories at the College of St. Rose.

Analysis of our experience and planning for the 2006 Festival is underway. Input or feedback from member library staff is actively sought. Send comments to Mary Fellows at [mary@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:mary@uhls.lib.ny.us) or call her at 437-9880 ext. 228.

## COMMON GROUND: STORYTELLING AND LIBRARIES

*“The universe is made of stories, not of atoms. “*

Storytelling has been around as long as humans have had oral language. Anyone who can speak can tell a story. Everyone who speaks does tell stories. We tell them informally as we relate the near car accident, the funny encounter in the line at the market, and other events of our day-to-day lives. We also tell stories to our children to illustrate values or to pass on family history. As a society, we tell stories to share the lessons of the past, to make sense of our current struggles, and to envision the future.

As an effort that has found ongoing success, Riverway Storytelling Festival is a growing part of UHLS' projects. What is the relationship between storytelling and public libraries? How does Riverway Storytelling Festival benefit member libraries?

A primary role of the public library is to introduce children to books and literature. Recent research has emphasized the essential nature of early literacy activities in a child's development into a successful reader, learner, and ultimately worker. For many years, libraries have held storytimes in which books are shared and stories told.

Educators are now linking the value of this storytelling to reading skills: “Listeners encounter both familiar and new language patterns through story. They learn new words or new contexts for already familiar words. Those who regularly hear stories subconsciously acquire familiarity with narrative patterns and begin to predict upcoming events. Both beginning and experienced readers call on their understanding of patterns as they tackle unfamiliar texts.”<sup>1</sup>

Training librarians as storytellers and fostering their use of more storytelling in their work improves the quality of libraries' early literacy work. The general public as well as funders and legislators are becoming familiar with early literacy concepts. When libraries highlight our role in early literacy training, we restate our value and affirm our commitment to literacy.

Storytelling also leads listeners back to libraries. When listeners of any age hear a story that tickles their funny bones or touches their hearts, they want more such experiences. Children want more tall tales just like the one they heard about Pecos

Bill, and adults may seek out books or audios by an engaging storyteller. Where better to find these materials – and a kindred spirit with whom they can share their enthusiasm – than their public library?

There are a number of other benefits of storytelling – creating good listening skills, promoting understanding and tolerance of other cultures, fostering community, valuing wisdom in elders – all of which improve the society in which we live.

As a project of the Upper Hudson Library System, one of Riverway Storytelling Festival's main goals is to link the value of storytelling to the value of libraries. We do this by holding most Festival performances in our libraries, both large and small. We want to surround people with written stories as they hear stories, to create the link in their minds between the world as explored in the oral language of stories and the world as explored through the gateway of the library. We also want to an event that will draw more of the community into the library.

The Festival also benefits library staff. The workshops and performances are unique opportunities for library staff to learn techniques that will enrich their work and make them more effective both at sharing stories and at group management.

Positive publicity for libraries is a strong product of the Riverway Storytelling Festival. The ever-broadening publicity for the Festival gets both the concept of libraries and specific library names out through newspapers, radio, websites, and TV. Partnerships with media sponsors and funders pay dividends in paving the way for collaboration on other UHLS projects.

Riverway Storytelling Festival is about stories and about libraries. It is about remembering why we have stories and why we have libraries. And it is about ensuring that our libraries live, in the familiar old words, “happily ever after.”

<sup>1</sup> Teaching Storytelling: A Position Statement from the Committee on Storytelling. National Council of Teachers of English.

## Why Storytelling?

### Storytelling Traditions

Many of our oldest literary classics were not written as books but told as stories: The Iliad, The Odyssey, Beowulf, and The Norse Sagas head the list. Whether it is around a campfire, a water cooler, or under the spell of an ancient bard, human beings have always gathered together to hear good stories. Storytelling is not just for kids, nor is it an art form that has seen its end. What a delight it is to sit and listen, to imagine, to dream. *And it goes without saying that storytelling is just plain fun.*

### Storytelling frees us to explore life more fully

Storyteller Donald Davis remembers, "I discovered that in a story I could safely dream any dream, hope any hope, go anywhere I pleased, fight any foe, win or lose, live or die. My stories created a safe, experimental learning place." Stories let our spirits soar. Stories make known the unknown.

### Storytelling unites us

If language is the bridge which allows human beings to connect with one another, then story is the vehicle which carries the thoughts, sentiments, and experiences of one person or culture into the hearts and minds of another. Storytelling unites us. What could I have in common with men and women who lived over 4,000 years ago in a land far from my own? Yet when we read the 4,500 year old story, The Epic of Gilgamesh, we feel keenly the destructive egoism of Gilgamesh and the stunningly redemptive love of Enkidu. Through story we find common ground across the barriers of background, race and culture.

### Storytelling defines us

Vast civilizations with their towering buildings and monuments have disappeared, to be remembered only by their stories. Since the beginning of time, humans have told stories to explore and explain their existence. Major religions have canonized their stories in scripture and often define faithfulness as adherence to those stories. Other stories are immortalized as myth, literary classics, tall tales, or even rib-tickling yarns. The stories we pass on in families, schools, churches, and nations speak to what we all share. When we tell our stories we affirm our allegiance to common values and experiences. Through story we define and refine who we are.

### Storytelling speaks to humanity's unquenchable urge to understand

Herodotus initiated his inquiry or (in Greek) "history" to understand the peoples of the ancient Greco-Persian world. This first history recounts tales within tales to understand the motives and manners of Greece's enemies. Storytelling is still central to our understanding of other cultures and other times. School-learned facts are all too easily forgotten, but a well-told story rewards the listener with unforgettable insights.

From the Fable Fest web site, <http://www.bobedmunds.com/mayflower/Storytelling/index.htm>

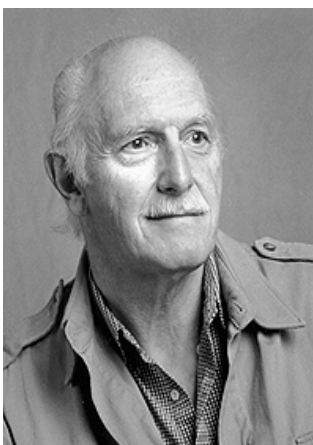
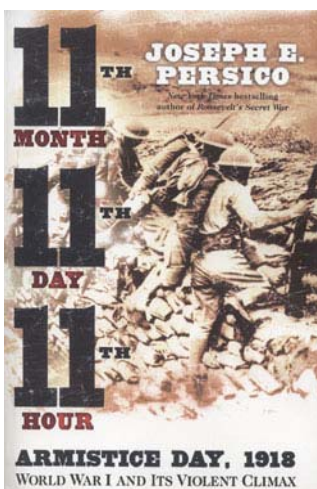
## Member Library News

### Albany Public Library—Main

JOSEPH E. PERSICO:  
CONFESSIONS OF AN AUTHOR

On Saturday May 21 at 2:00 PM the Friends of Albany Public Library will present author Joseph E. Persico in the auditorium of the Main Library, 161 Washington Avenue.

His latest book, *Eleventh Month, Eleventh Day, Eleventh Hour: Armistice Day, 1918, World War I and Its Violent Climax*, has been described by historian, Richard Norton Smith as, "The single finest work I have read on the Great War." The pointless fighting on the last day of the war is the perfect metaphor for the four years that preceded it, years of senseless slaughter for hollow purposes.



Joseph E. Persico

Of Persico's subsequent work, Eric Sevaried described his *Edward R. Murrow: An American Original* as "the definitive" biography of the broadcast pioneer. *The New York Times* said of Persico's *The Imperial Rockefeller*, "No one has written a book like this about Nelson Rockefeller before." His *Nuremberg: Infamy on Trial* was described by the broadcast journalist, Howard K. Smith, as "Simply the best account of the trial." This book was adapted by Turner Network Television as a miniseries that won two Emmy awards. Persico was the collaborator on Secretary of State Colin Powell's autobiography, *My American Journey* which remained for twenty weeks on the *New York Times* best seller list.

His *Roosevelt's Secret War: FDR and World War II Espionage* also reached the best seller list and was chosen as one of the notable books of the year. Persico has also been a consultant, writer and commentator on several PBS and History Channel documentaries. He lives in Guilderland, New York.

### MEETING

The Friends of Albany Public Library will conduct their annual meeting at 1:45 PM. The principal business will be the election of three members of the board of directors for terms ending in 2008. The nominating committee has nominated Roger Owen Green, Judi Baum, and Leonard Tucker. Nominations also may be made from the floor.

### FACES OF LIBERTY: CIVIL LIBERTIES EXHIBIT

The Albany Public Library will exhibit highlights of significant New York Civil Liberties Union court cases over the last three decades, in the Main Library auditorium from May 1 through May 30.

High school students denied the right to read library books, gays denied a parade permit because they were "non-traditional," black male college students subject to a wholesale sweep in search of a suspect, women denied the right to join a public organization -- these are some of the people represented by the New York Civil Liberties Union and its chapters over the past three decades whose stories are told in this traveling exhibit.

"Faces of Liberty" is a photo-journal display that puts human faces on complex civil liberties issues by documenting the challenges for ordinary men women and students who faced unpopularity and adversity to stand up for their beliefs. Panels with photographs and explanatory text will be displayed on the wall of the auditorium.

In conjunction with this exhibit the Capital Region NYCLU will give a presentation in the auditorium on Tuesday, May 3 at 12:15 PM.

## WILL'S GARAGE: HOW TO BUY A USED CAR

Let Readers' Services Librarian and former auto mechanic Will Takach help you find out how to make a good decision when looking for your new wheels. Library resources will be introduced to help aid car shoppers in the overall process. A question and answer period will be held immediately following the program. Saturday, May 14 11:00 AM in the Garage at the rear of the Main Library.

## BOOK REVIEW

***Boss Tweed: The Rise and Fall of the Corrupt Pol Who Conceived the Soul of Modern New York*** by Kenneth D. Ackerman. Reviewed by Helen Desfosses, President, Albany Common Council, Tuesday, May 24 at 12:15 PM.

## MOVIE

***Getting Out*** This is a film documentary about the struggles faced by people returning to the community from prison. There will be a panel discussion after the film and participants will get a copy of *On our Own*, a resource guide published by the Center For Law and Justice. Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00 PM.

## ALBANY INDEPENDENT FILM FORUM

***Every Mother's Son*** is a powerful documentary exploring the New York City Police Department's involvement in the slayings of three men. A panel discussion will follow. Thursday, May 26, at 6:30 PM.

## Bethlehem Public Library

### YOUTH PROGRAMMING

#### ***Create a Butterfly Garden!***

Hands-on instruction for making and maintaining a home garden. Help plan and plant a butterfly garden on the library grounds. Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener and library staffmember Sue Black will facilitate the workshop. For grades 4 and up; May 9, 26 and June 9 at 6:30 PM. Participants must attend all sessions. Parents welcome. Call 439-9314 to register.



### ***No More Pencils***

Middle school students can celebrate the end of another school year on this lucky Friday the 13th. Dress up as your favorite book character; prizes will be awarded. Munchies provided. Friday, May 13 at 7:00 PM. Call 439-9314 to register.

### ***Any Day Art Play***

Shapes, colors and lines figure in this art project for toddlers and their caregivers facilitated by Kyra Teis. Teis is author and illustrator of several books for children, including *Look, Read to Me*, and *Daughters of Eve*. Tuesday, June 21, at 10:00 AM. Call 439-9314 to register.

## ADULT PROGRAMMING

### ***A Revolutionary War Road Trip on US Route 20***

Beginning in Pittsfield and ending on Boston's Freedom Trail, this slide-lecture will parallel Colonial routes taken by Washington, Revere, Knox and the soldiers of Shays' Rebellion. Freelance historian Ray Houghton is your guide. Sunday, May 1, at 2:00 PM. Call 439-9314 to register.



### ***Basics of Landscape Design***

Master gardener David Chinery will introduce and illustrate down to earth principles in this slide lecture. See how some of these simple concepts can be applied to home landscapes. Sunday, May 15, at 2:00 PM.

### ***The Great American Songbook***

Vocal and keyboard duo of Sonny Daye and Perley Rousseau perform music of Irving Berlin, the Gershwins, Rogers and Hart, and Cole Porter. The duo have recorded two critically acclaimed CDs (*Love Dance*, 1996 and *East of the Sun*, 1998) and are working on a third. They bring their unique blend of jazz, Brazilian and international cabaret to various venues in New York, New England and Europe. Tuesday, June 14, at 7:00 PM. Co-sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects. Call 439-9314 to register.



## PERSONNEL NEWS

Bethlehem Public Library welcomes the following new staff members:

- 📖 Ginny LaJuene, adult services librarian (full-time)
- 📖 Donna Dixon, adult services librarian (part-time)
- 📖 Aimee Gervais, circulation services library assistant (part-time)
- 📖 Dorine Fuller circulation services library assistant (part-time)

## FRIENDS

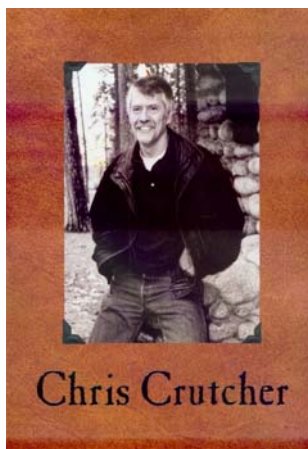
Friends of Bethlehem Public Library will hold their annual meeting and dessert reception on Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 PM. Guest speaker will be Michael Borges, Executive Director of the New York Library Association. He will talk about NYLA's work on behalf of libraries. The public is welcome.

## Guilderland Public Library

### MEET THE AUTHOR

Award-winning young adult author Chris Crutcher will be speaking at the Guilderland Public Library on May 21 at 2:00 PM. There will be a book signing follow the talk. Copies of Mr. Crutcher's books will be available for purchase.

Chris Crutcher currently lives in Spokane, Washington. He has spent most of his life in the Pacific Northwest and it definitely influenced his writing. His work as a therapist and teen advocate has enabled him to write compelling novels that address the life and struggles of teens. His writing has been recognized by many awards: He was recently awarded the *Catholic Library Association Saint Katharine Drexel Award*; in 2004 he received the *Writer's Who Make a Difference Award*; and in 2002 the



American Library Association honored him with the *Margaret A. Edwards Award*. In addition, his 2002 novel, *Whale Talk*, received many awards among them the *ABC Children's Book Seller's Choice Award*.

Chris Crutcher's most recent titles include: *The Sledding Hill*, *King of the Mild Frontier*, *Whale Talk*, *Iron Man*, *Staying Fat for Sarah Bynes*, and *Athletic Shorts*.

Questions? Please contact either Assistant Director Karen Balsen or Teen Services Librarian Trevor Oakley at 518-456-2400.

### KINDERGARTEN READINESS: OFF TO A GOOD START

The Guilderland Public Library will be holding a program for parents of pre-school children, "Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten," offered Monday, May 23 from 6:30-8:00 PM. Ellen Cooper, an educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, will discuss many of the issues: What are the qualities of a good kindergarten program? How can you help your child plan for the big day? How can parents encourage reading skills? What kind of resources are available to help a youngster handle difficult situations? Participants should register by May 20 with Adult Reference by coming to the library or calling 456-2400 ext. 7.

### SCRABBLE CLUB TO DEBUT

The Friends of the Guilderland Public Library are planning the first evening of "Scrabble." Join fellow wordsmiths on Tuesday, May 3, from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Library's Local History Room. Mark your calendar! We want to accommodate as many "Scrabble" players as possible, and will happily consider a different time or evening for later meetings. This group will be open to all ages and skill levels.

## Sand Lake Town Library

### NEW SERVICES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED!

New services for the visually-impaired are being offered at the Sand Lake Town Library. The Library recently purchased "ZoomText" software for a large-screen public access computer, and an Optelec "Clear View" Video Magnifier. The video magnifier can be used by the visually-impaired for every day tasks such as balancing a checkbook, viewing photographs, and reading newspapers, magazines and books. The machine is simple to operate and easily accessible. The "ZoomText" software has a voice synthesizer and enlarges all text on the computer. It will enlarge all computer applications, including Internet browsing.

The purchase of this equipment is a result of the very successful "Braille Book Fundraiser" held at Ed and Carol Murray's restaurant, The Arlington House, in West Sand Lake in December 2004. As parents of a two-year-old visually impaired daughter, the Murray's looked forward to bringing their child to their library to pick out books. Through inquiries, they learned that there are very few Braille books for children available on local public library shelves. Each holiday season the Murray's select a charitable cause for their customers to contribute to, and hoped to make it possible to purchase a small collection of Braille children's books for the Sand Lake Town Library. The response to The Arlington House fundraiser was outstanding, and nearly \$9000 was donated. Additionally, the Library received \$750 for the purchase of books. The Murray's also donated shelving. Over 200 books in Braille format for children from infant through middle school, including the "Series of Unfortunate Events", and "Harry Potter series," have been purchased.

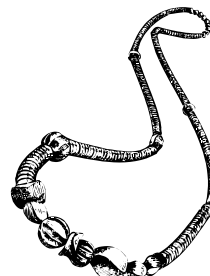
Funds have been set aside to continue to buy Braille books, and for replacement as needed. New materials on the subject of visual disabilities have been added to the Parenting and Children's non-fiction collections as well. The addition of services to the visually-impaired at the Li-

brary was completely supported by the generosity of the community, who made this dream a reality. The materials can be loaned to other libraries through the UHLS Inter-Library Loan request system. For further information, please call the Library at 674-5050.

**QUOTE:** There is a wonder in reading Braille that the sighted will never know: to touch words and have them touch you back. ~Jim Fiebig

### JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Ann Whitney will present two "Beaded Jewelry" Workshops. Participants should bring their own beads to be strung, repaired, or redesigned into a new piece of jewelry. There will be a \$5 fee for jewelry-making materials that will include clasps, wire, and thread. Workshops will be held on Monday, May 9, from 6:00-8:00 PM for adults, and on Saturday, May 14, from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, for teens. Please pre-register by calling the Library at 674-5050. Space is limited to eight students per workshop. Ann teaches basic and advanced bead classes at the Arts Center in Troy.



## Stephentown Memorial Library

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Discussion Group meets the first Tuesday of every month. Anyone is welcome to join the group and the current titles are available at the library. Call Laurenne Teachout at 733-5750 for more information.

## FAMILY FILM NIGHTS

Attendance at Free Friday Family Film nights increases every month and plans are under way for an additional classic film screening which will be sponsored by the library in conjunction with other community organizations. We will show "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" on Friday, May 13 at 7:00 PM at the Stephentown Town Hall. All are welcome to this fun event.



## LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Board of Trustees will award its annual scholarship in June to a graduating Senior who will enter college in the fall. Almost \$10,000 has been awarded in the past eight years. Any graduating Senior who is a resident of Stephentown is invited to apply. Applications are available at area schools and at the library.



## JOB OPENING

There is an opening at Stephentown Memorial Library for a library assistant to work approximately eight hours a week, four on Saturdays. Anyone who is interested, please call Laurene Teachout at 733-5750.

## Annual Dinner Meeting (Continued from page 1)

The program was originally intended to include the parents of the youth summer reading program who would serve as models for their children but it quickly expanded into a community wide event. Participants included senior citizens, college students, older teenagers and young married couples. The program was supported by over thirty local merchant sponsors who donated raffle prizes and proudly displayed the library's sign advertising the program. Each time participants read three books, they filled out a raffle ticket and a reading form. Books listed on these forms were compiled into a summer reading bibliography, distributed on bookmarks available at the Circulation Desk. Due to the popularity of the program, in 2005 it will be expanded to include a weekly program on Wednesday evenings.

**Susan Zweig**, a Trustee at the Nassau Public Library, will be honored for her various programs and projects in support of the Library. "She is," said Library Director Patricia Sahr, "an outstanding library supporter who constantly promotes services both at library programs and at community events. As part of this task, she has developed many flyers and informational brochures." In addition, she recently took on the project of preserving the genealogical and local history records housed at the library. To do this, she is seeking grant funding, is looking into the prospect of a library intern, and has developed a strong partnership with the Rensselaer County Historical Society.

After award presentations are made, we will be entertained by The Storycrafters, husband/wife team Barry Marshall and Jeri Burns. They are nationally renowned storytellers, award-winning radio show hosts, recording artists, and writers. They have been featured performers at storytelling and folk festivals all over the US and the British Isles.

Invitations to the Dinner will be mailed at the beginning of May, with an RSVP date of May 27th. For further information, please contact Heidi Fuge at 437-9880 x 221, [heidi@uhls.lib.ny.us](mailto:heidi@uhls.lib.ny.us).

The Board of Trustees  
*of the*  
 Upper Hudson Library System  
*cordially invites you to their*  
 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Meeting

*Wednesday, June 8, 2005*

*Albany Country Club  
 300 Wormer Rd.  
 Voorheesville, NY*

5:30 - 6:30 PM Cocktails  
 6:30 - 8:00 PM Dinner  
 8:00 - 9:00 PM Annual Meeting  
 with storytelling by nationally-known

*“The Storycrafters”*

and Annual Awards presentations

*RSVP May 27, 2005*

Library affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner choices are (V) Vegetable Wellington  
 (B) Crown sirloin  
 (C) Chicken Picatta w/lemon caper sauce

Names	Dinner selections (circle one)
_____	(V) (B) (C)
_____	(V) (B) (C)
_____	(V) (B) (C)
_____	(V) (B) (C)

# of people \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 per person = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Payable to: Upper Hudson Library System  
 RSVP by May 27, 2005

## Calendar of Events

### May

- 6 Directors Association 9:00 a.m. at UHLS
- 9 Administration Committee 4:00 p.m. at UHLS—CANCELLED
- 11 Services Committee 3:30 p.m. at UHLS—CANCELLED
- 11 Finance Committee 4:00 p.m. at UHLS
- 11 Board of Trustees 4:30 p.m. at UHLS
- 17 Automated Services Committee 9:00 a.m. at UHLS
- 20 Youth Services Advisory Council at UHLS; 9:00 – 10:00 Small Library Concerns; 10:00 – 12:00 Meeting; 12:00 – 1:00 Large Library concerns
- 25 Cataloging Training Workshop 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. at UHLS
- 26 Adult Services Advisory Council—Trip to NYS Small Business Development Center
- 30 **UHLS Closed for Memorial Day**

### June

- 3 Director's Association 9:00 a.m. at UHLS
- 6 Administration Committee 4:00 p.m. at UHLS
- 8 **UHLS Annual Dinner Meeting at Albany Country Club**
- 10 Database Maintenance Advisory Council 9:30 a.m. at UHLS
- 15 **Deadline for July-August issue of *The Latest Edition***
- 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.)

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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

**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:** Th' first thing to have in a libry is a shelf. Fr'm time to time this can be decorated with lithrachure. But th' shelf is th' main thing. ~Finley Peter Dunne

**Upper Hudson Library System**  
**28 Essex Street**  
**Albany, NY 12206**

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