



NCLS @ CCESS

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*Keeping the lines of communication open
in the North Country Library System.*

May 2006



Potsdam Public Library's Proposed District Referendum Up For Vote June 15th

The proposed referendum will ask school district voters to approve the creation of a public library district with boundaries the same as the Potsdam Central School District. The Oswego School District Public Library is currently the only district library in the North Country Library System. For more information about forming library districts, contact your Consultant at NCLS or go to www.nclsweb.org, click on "Grants & Funding", then click on the "Forming a library district" link.

The Board of Trustees of the Potsdam Public Library requested this referendum vote in order to provide enhanced library services to all residents of the Potsdam School District and to comply with the Board of Regents policy that urges public libraries to shift tax support from general appropriations by towns and villages to a direct public vote. This shift will reduce town and village appropriations for library services and provide taxpayers with the ability to determine the desired level of public library services.

The library has a budget of \$349,574 for the 2005-06 fiscal year, which ends May 30. If the proposed referendum passes, a new annual budget of \$465,000 will go into effect. This will save the library from making drastic cuts in staffing and services such as reduced hours, elimination of new materials purchasing, and reduction of newspaper and online subscriptions.

The vote will take place on June 15th from 8am-8pm in the basement of the civic center in Potsdam. We wish them the best of luck with the referendum!

School Ballot Referendums to be voted on May 16th

Hopefully the success of school ballot referendums this year will mirror last year's results. In 2005, nineteen of twenty libraries had successful referendums that either increased previous appropriations or put new annual funding in place.

Libraries that have referendums on the ballot for the first time this year are:

- Pulaski Public Library for \$20,000
- Hannibal Free Library for \$35,000
- Croghan Free Library for \$10,000
- Harrisville Free Library for \$15,000

A number of other libraries will have referendums on their district ballots for increases in funding. Stay tuned for the results and good luck to all the libraries! Get out and vote on May 16th!

NCLS to Implement System-Wide Card

Both at the SIRSI automation meeting and the Director's Organization meeting in April, representatives from member libraries voted to implement a system-wide card for all NCLS member library patrons.

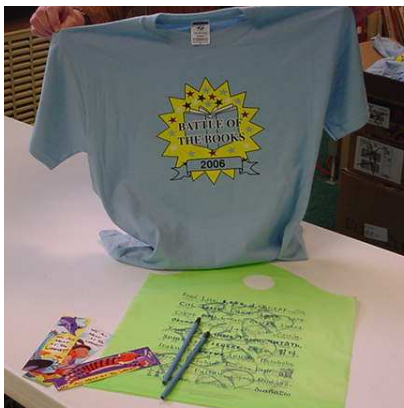
A system-wide, "universal" card will allow all patrons of automated and non-automated libraries alike to have records in the SIRSI database. This will allow patrons to use their universal card at any member library without registering as a new patron or carrying multiple cards.

Another benefit of a system-wide card will be the ease of transition to the SIRSI circulation system for non-automated libraries, as an important step in that process (adding patrons to the database) would already be completed.

North Country Regional Book Battle

Book Battle programs are competitions similar to jeopardy or whiz quiz games but questions come from a controlled list of books that participants read in preparation for the matches. Book Battle programs are a great way to get boys to read, but girls enjoy them just as much. Team members can be from the same grade, mixed grades, same class, scout troop, home school group. The North Country Regional Book Battle is a competition that requires teams of four students in grades four through six to read books from a reading list that was distributed in November. During the competition, the teams are asked questions about the books on the list. They then must give the correct title and author of the book.

The libraries listed below are holding local battles in their libraries during May. The winning team from each library will compete for the North Country regional title on Saturday June 10th at the Remington Museum in Ogdensburg. There will be three winners, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Each team member will receive a medal. The winning team will bring home the trophy cup to their home library where it will reside until next year's regional championship.



Prizes of t-shirts, pencils and bags are given to participants and the winning teams also get gift certificates for local bookstores.

We are hoping to get more libraries involved in next year's book battle, so contact Regan DeFranza at rdefranza@ncls.org for more information or to sign up for next year!

Good luck in this year's battle to the libraries of: Norfolk, Potsdam, Watertown, Gouverneur, Heuvelton, Massena, and Ogdensburg!

Flat Stanley visits NCLS!

NCLS Outreach and Consultant Assistant Lia King had a special visitor today! Her grandson put Flat Stanley on the mail truck for a visit to NCLS all the way from Knickerbocker Elementary School. While Stanley was here, he wandered off into the stacks and occupied himself for hours reading one book after another. Here's how we found him:



Hundreds of thousands of elementary school students worldwide have sent the character across the globe as part of the Flat Stanley Project, a reading program centered on paper cutouts of the title character from the 1964 children's book *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown (who passed away in December 2003). For more information about the Flat Stanley Project, please visit www.flatstanley.com.

The program is designed to improve the reading and writing skills of elementary school students while they learn about new people and places. Students read the book, write new stories about Stanley and send them to other students in far-away classrooms. In this case, Stanley was sent along with a letter to visit NCLS. Now Lia will return Stanley with a letter detailing his adventures at NCLS along with the picture we snapped of Stanley upon finding him in the stacks.

**Gates Rural Sustainability Grant Seminar
May 16th
Carriage House
Watertown, NY**

The Gates Foundation is sponsoring a Rural Sustainability workshop on Tuesday, May 16th in Watertown from 9:30am-4:30pm. Yvonne Reff, Head of the Information Technology Department at NCLS, will also be present to help facilitate the workshop.

At the workshop, the Gates Foundation will be eliciting and organizing librarians' and library boards' experiences regarding public access computing (PAC), brainstorming strategies to meet challenges of PAC, assisting participants in developing a concrete plan for implementing selected strategies, and helping participants create concrete activities within this plan. The workshop will also include a discussion of the NOVEL databases and the Public Library District Initiative.

Libraries who attend will be paid a stipend (amount depends on number of attendees and miles traveled). Libraries that fulfill all the requirements (pre-workshop survey, attendance, etc.) of the workshop will be entered in a drawing for one of five brand new public access computers.

In addition, a delicious lunch will be provided at the Carriage House Inn! The maximum number of participants (fifty-seven) representing thirty-nine libraries have signed up to attend.

Calendar of Events

April-May 2006:
www.nclsweb.org
Click on "Event Registration"

May



- 2nd- Requests, Requests...What Do I Do?
NCLS Service Center, 9:30-12pm
- 3rd- Requests, Requests...What Do I Do?
NNYLN, 10-12:30pm
- 9th- What's My Job? Trustee Orientation
Pulaski Public Library, 6:30-8pm
- 10th- *HeritageQuest* Online Database
Hawn Memorial Library of Clayton
6:30-8pm
- 16th- Gates Rural Sustainability Seminar
Carriage House, Watertown
9:30am-4:30pm
- 23rd- What's My Job? Trustee Orientation
Potsdam Public Library, 6:30-8pm
- 25th- What's My Job? Trustee Orientation
Lowville Free Library, 6:30-8pm
- 31st- What's My Job? Trustee Orientation
NCLS Service Center, 6:30-8pm

Getting to know NCLS Staff: Susan Charley

Susie has been at NCLS for twenty-nine years and is currently the Associate Director and Outreach Coordinator at NCLS. She is also the Correctional Facilities liaison and in charge of Annual Reports and the State Construction Grant.

Susie grew up in Lima, Ohio and moved around quite a bit in her grade school years due to her father being an air traffic controller for the Federal Aviation Administration. She graduated high school in 1965 in Sackets Harbor (with 3 of Funny Cide's owners), in 1967 in JCC's 2nd graduating class, 1969 from SUNY Oswego, and from Library School in 1981 from the University at Buffalo. After college, Susie lived in Ohio and Mississippi and was a high school French teacher and traveled with a class of students to France in the early 70's. She also worked as a reference assistant at the Lima Public Library (OH) and loved doing reference work.

Susie and her husband, Jerry, have a retirement home waiting for them in beautiful Dyersburg, Tennessee where much of Jerry's family lives (and where it hardly ever snows!). Her dream someday is to spend her time as a volunteer in their local public library and also, to work part-time in a big chain bookstore like Books-A-Million or in a Hobby Lobby, to take classes in cooking and archaeology, to learn to play golf well, and she's thinking of opening her own bead or roasted nut shop.

She also has a brother who lives in Alaska and has made five trips there so far, which will certainly be a frequent vacation destination upon her retirement. Other family members include Sammy the cat (rescued from the Sam's Club parking lot) and a (Heinz 57) dog named McGruff the Crime Dog (aka "Gruffy" who was rescued from the Ft. Drum pound.

Favorite movie: *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*

Favorite book: Just listened to the *DaVinci Code* on audio book and loves all non-fiction

Hobbies and talents: Reading and beading (and jewelry and purses are her weaknesses!)



Automation Update

The William H. Bush Memorial Library of Martinsburg has begun bar-coding their library collection and the Adams Center Free Library will begin bar-coding in early May.

The Hepburn Library of Madrid and the Morristown Public Library will “go live” and begin using the SIRSI automated circulation system in May.

The Lowville Free Library and Hannibal Free Library are still on schedule to “go live” by early to mid summer.



If your library is interested in learning more about automation, please contact your Consultant at NCLS.

If your library has newsworthy information to share in *NCLS Access*, please contact Amy Degnan at NCLS: 782-5540 or adegnan@ncls.org

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Freedom Song! A Joint Project of the Fulton Public Library and the Safe Haven Museum and Education Center

Fulton, NY: May 2, 2006 -- The Fulton Public Library, (<http://fultonpubliclibrary.info>), 2005 winner of a National Endowment for the Humanities / American Library Association "We the People" Bookshelf on Freedom in cooperation with the Safe Haven Museum and Education Center (<http://www.oswegohaven.org>) will present a series of musical presentations entitled: "FREEDOM SONG!"

The first pair of events are scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at 1:30 pm in Fulton, NY at the David E. Vayner Branch Library of the Fulton Public Library, 365 West First Street (in the CYO Building) and at 7:00 pm in Oswego, NY at Safe Haven, 2 East Seventh Street (on the grounds of Fort Ontario) the performers at both of these events will be "Concinnity: A Unique Women's Vocal Ensemble" under the direction of Mary Lou Carpenter-Bjorkman (<http://www.concinnitysingers.com>). Performing in a variety of styles ranging from Renaissance to Contemporary, primarily a cappella, this concert will feature songs of freedom.

As winners of a National Endowment for the Humanities Bookshelf (<http://www.wethepeople.gov/bookshelf/freedomlist.html>) the Fulton Public Library is one of one-thousand libraries across the country. As part of the award, libraries are expected to hold programs or events to raise awareness of these classic books and engage young readers. Each year, NEH selects books that share a theme important to the nation's heritage. In the Bookshelf's inaugural year, the theme was "Courage." For 2004-2005, the theme was "Freedom." And in 2006 the theme was "Becoming American," which the Fulton Public Library has also been honored with receiving.