

# THE LIBRARY Connection



TOMPKINS  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

APRIL 2007

A NEWSLETTER OF THE TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
THE TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION, AND THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

## A Passion for the Printed Word Inspires Donors

Elissa Cogan and Barry Chester love books. Their personal printed-and-bound library contains books on architecture, music, decorating, history, religion, economics, business management, entrepreneurship, cartography, transportation, art, mathematics, computer science, and travel (especially Japan because they lived there), plus many reference books, musical scores, cookbooks, and mysteries.

Dismayed by the trend to digital media, Elissa and Barry have bequeathed funds to the TCPL for the acquisition and preservation of books in their original medium: paper and ink.

Barry says, “Our interest in preserving books as *books* was reinforced when a number of years ago we read *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper* by Nicholson Baker. In addition to all the information, knowledge, and history that will be lost permanently to posterity for



Elissa Cogan and Barry Chester

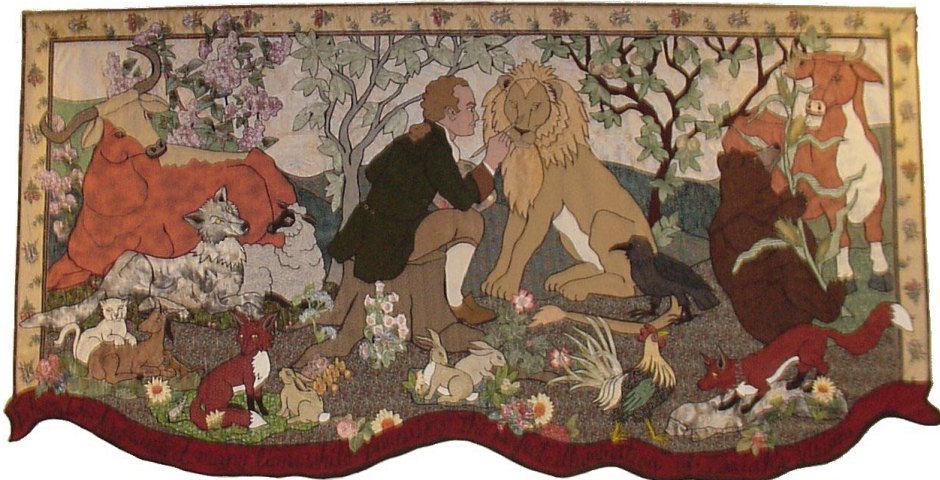
not being persisted in a form that does not require reproduction equipment,

Baker demonstrates how archaeologists use books (and scrolls and tablets) from eras past to discover things having nothing to do with what’s written in (or on) them—they can deduce environmental conditions, or the presence or absence of disease in a particular place at a particular time, from the *material* the information is stored on.”

As Barry and Elissa explain, “Digital media are infinitely accessible; can be kept up-to-date on a minute-by-minute basis; and can contain all kinds of interesting extras, including video and audio portions. But if the digital player—the computer, video player, stereo—becomes inaccessible, for whatever reason—accident, innovation, lack of maintenance skills—the knowledge and information are wiped out, as though they never existed. A book, if printed on acid-free paper with archival inks, is almost forever; it can be taken off the shelf and accessed at any time, by anyone who can read.”

Elissa says, “My mother, Celia Cogan, was a frequent user of TCPL, and my father, Lou Cogan, was an avid reader, and even before we moved back to Ithaca a little over a year ago we decided to bequeath a significant part of our estate to the library, both to honor their memories and to further the cause of making books, maps, and periodicals available to anyone who wants to read them.”

### Folk Hero Banner Added to Collection



*Was He Naive* — Alice Gant’s Folk Hero Banner depicting Edward Hicks at work has been added to the library’s permanent collection thanks to a generous gift from the Friends of the Library.

To find out more about including the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation in your will or estate plan, please contact the Foundation’s executive director Suzanne Smith Jablonski at 272-4557 extension 231 or [ssmithjablonski@tcpl.org](mailto:ssmithjablonski@tcpl.org).

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**M**y grandfather, father and sister were all employed by the J.I. Case Company in Racine, Wisconsin where they assembled tractors. My sister, younger than I, retired from her job at age 50 with thirty years seniority!

More interesting, however, is that each of them was a proud member of the United Auto Workers, Local 180. Both my father and sister were stewards. My father was also the secretary of the union for many years, and active in the retirees union. He especially loved being elected as a delegate to the national UAW conventions—a trip to Atlantic City was a highlight for him!

My father was also an active official in the local musician's union, while my mother, as a part-time sales clerk at J.C. Penney's, was automatically part of that union. We perceived ourselves as a solid blue collar family, with total and unquestioned loyalty to the idea of organized labor and the benefits that accrue to a family as a result.

Through some strange quirk of life, I am now the Library Director of an organization which is represented by the United Auto Workers! I have become management, not labor. Instead of filing grievances, I receive them. At the bargaining table, I see my father on the other side.

I know that labor and management can have a positive and beneficial relationship for both sides. That requires mutual respect, good communication and compromise. As someone who has seen both sides, I believe that we have the potential at our library to achieve the goal of mutual benefit in 2007. I am committed to helping make that happen.

*Janet Steiner*



Janet Steiner

Terry Harbin

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## Librarians Help Patrons Overcome Barriers



Lawrence Carey

**A primary goal of the Tompkins County Public Library is to provide information to people who need it, when they need it. Today, personal computers are required in order to enable people to access information quickly and efficiently and from anywhere in the world.**

**In order to benefit from all that a library has to offer, users must learn new skills. Librarians must make clear what information is available, where it is, how to access it, and how to evaluate it. A skillful reference interview is the first step to identifying what information is being sought, and to determine a patron's skills to access this information. Today, the traditional reference**

**interview must now be accompanied by teaching technology skills, and easing a patron's fears to learn new skills.**

**There is currently an ever increasing demand for Internet access. While some**  
*continued on page 7*

The Tompkins County Public Library serves community residents at each stage of their lives by providing free and open access to the world's wisdom, knowledge and information. The library, through its collections and professional services, fosters an informed, civic-minded community and contributes to the educational, cultural and economic well-being of the County.

Both The Friends of the Library and the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation support the mission of the library through fund raising initiatives. The Friends direct an annual gift to the library based on the proceeds of their annual booksales, while the Foundation seeks private support through personal requests, grants, corporate gifts, endowed book funds and the annual appeal.



# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

[www.booksale.org](http://www.booksale.org)

## The Children's Section

The Children's section is by far the largest at the Friend's sale with over 85,000 total books in 2006 (spring plus fall). This represents a great increase from the years on Dey Street when the Children's section had averaged 10,000 - 15,000 items displayed in the one yearly sale.

The old building had disadvantages besides the lack of space. While the Children's room's old brick walls, in which the birds nested and twittered in the spring, were charming, the location of the room was a disaster. The space was basically a wide hallway between the two

wings of the sale, so there was constant traffic through the middle of the section. The move to our new building on Esty Street in 1992 gave us more than just a larger space. Regina Lennox, then chairperson, gave Children's its own semi-isolated space at the back corner of the building, where kids could enjoy books without bothering other shoppers.

Because the Children's section is a miniature version of the larger sale, with all 87 adult categories represented, it is not possible to work from storage boxes onto the shelves as can be done in smaller sections. Instead, the boxes are pre-sorted into major categories, then fine sorted into sections, and, finally, placed alphabetically on the shelves. Like the rest of the sale, Children's has letters or numbers over each section and a cross-referenced list and map posted giving the location of each section, and books and authors that are frequently requested.

Over the years eight compatible volunteers have come together to form a close and efficient Children's section team. Laurel Hodgden and Kyllikki Inman, mother and daughter, took

*continued on page 4*

## Spring Booksale Begins

### SAVE THE DATE! SPRING BOOK SALE BEGINS ON MAY 5th AT 8:00 AM

The first "Equal Spring Sale" last year was definitely a success and we expect that the 2007 Spring Sale will be even better. Again, all the best books, DVD's, records, games etc., will be out on the first day, with 1000's more to come from storage. Mysteries, Trade Paperbacks and Baby Books are just three of the sections that have more books than ever this year.

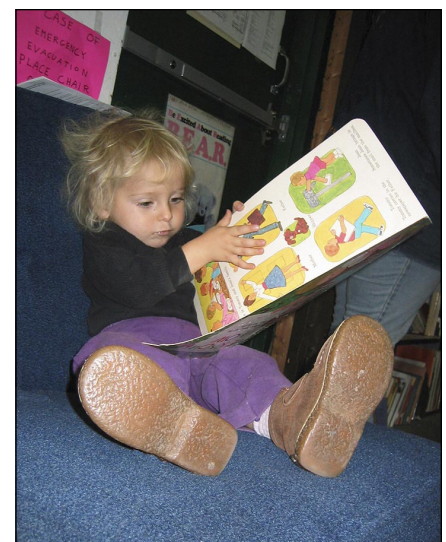
The 2007 Booksales are co-chaired by Beryl Barr and Carrie Shearer. All pertinent information is given on the insert in this issue and on our Website at [www.booksale.org](http://www.booksale.org). If you have questions that aren't answered there, call us at 607-272-2223, (Sorry, but we don't have the volunteer time to check if we have a particular book).

There will be a few changes this year. Because of the spiraling cost of new college textbooks, a new price category has been set for them. All texts less than five years old will now be in a special section at the front of the building and priced at \$20 on Saturday, May 5th, \$15 on Sunday, May 6th and \$10 on Monday, May 7th. Any left will be returned to their sections at the regular price, for the next weekend. Textbooks bought on the first day will have their own 50 book limit, per trip (in addition to the 50 book limit for the main part of the sale) and these text books may be stored while the shoppers choose their 50 other books.

The other prices remain the same, except that children's videos have been reduced to \$1 on the first day (category D). Children's videos will now be located at the end of the Business section shelves, across from the main entrance to the Children's section. Other videos and DVD's remain at their usual price but only movies and TV shows will remain in their usual section; all others will be filed in appropriate sections (e.g. sports in the Sports section, music videos in the Music section, etc.)

There are several other changes in locations of sections. We know that not finding favorite books in their usual spots is frustrating for shoppers. However, patterns in reading and donations are constantly changing so that the numbers of books in any section can change drastically from one sale to the next. It is inefficient and unfair to both shoppers and volunteers to have 20,000 books in storage for one section and none at all for another. In the past, dividing sections into two parts has proved even more confusing. Sections that have been moved are indicated on the maps given out at the Booksale.

We hope to see you on May 5th!



The big blue chair is a favorite place to look at books.



## The Children's Section

*continued from page 3*

change in 1990. Volunteers since 1983, previously they had sorted Fiction, Psychology and Self-Help. Currently they also sort Architecture and Scandinavian Languages. Kyllikki, who works at Pastimes Antiques, also helps price the ephemera (magazines, postcards, photos, etc.) donated to the sale. In Children's she sorts Art, Architecture, Hardcover Series, Hobbies and Mystery. Laurel is



**Jean Nowack sorting her Classics.**

retired from her job as psychologist for Head Start and Pre-K in Tompkins County and sorts Adventure, Paperback Picture Books, Reference and Text Books.

Jean Nowack also began in Children's in 1990. She is an amazing source of all kinds of information and sorts Classics, Ethnic books, Fiction, Music, Poetry and Short Stories. Jean is a professional chair caner who runs Nowack's Country Caning Shop and is an artist-knitter, designing all her own patterns.

Linda Silber started in 1992 and sorts Fantasy, Old Books and Social Studies. A few years ago, Linda showed her devotion to the Booksale by working for months on crutches, with a broken foot. In her other life she is an expert quilter.

Nancy Cool has worked in Children's for seven years. Noted for her cheerful, speedy efficiency, Nancy sorts the fast-growing Easy Reader section, Baby Books, Magazines and Activity Books. Before her retirement she was the supervisor of maintenance staff for ten Cornell buildings!

Julie Eastman has been in charge of Hardcover Picture Books, one of our most popular sections, since 2002. She developed the system of displaying books in boxes by category, facing out. Showing the colorful covers makes the books sell much better and keeps the section



**Mara Kelly checks records for condition.**

more organized. Julie loves to travel and garden, but with the help of Ruby Turner, her assistant, always stays on top of her section.

Mara Kelly came to Children's three

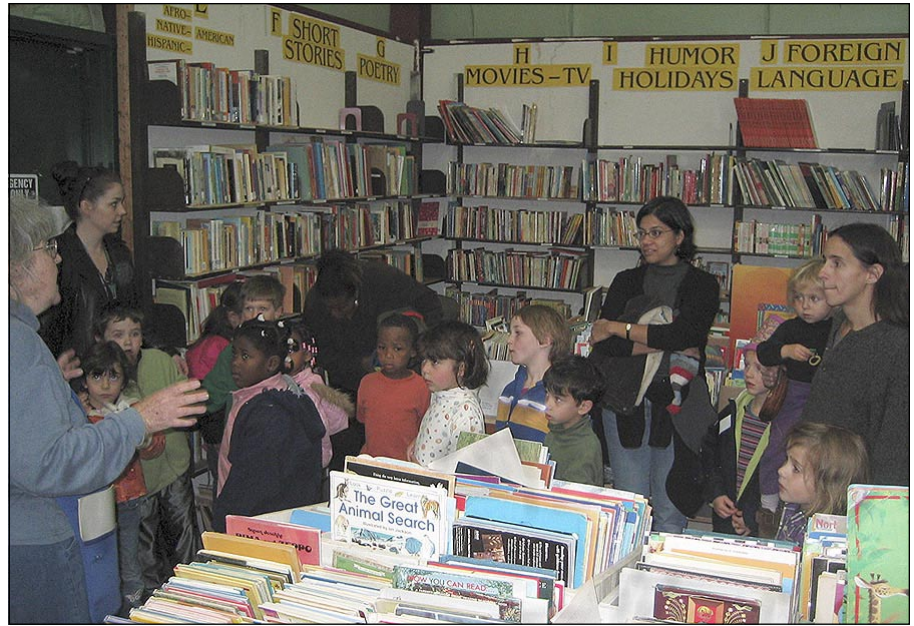


**Some of the Children's sorters take an ice cream break.**



years ago and reminds us of Mary Poppins, who could put things away on their proper shelves by magic. She is so fast that she is always asking for more work, and, as a result, now sorts “everything else” — nine sections! The comparison to Mary Poppins is apt because, although Mara came to the U.S. 26 years ago and has been a citizen for 12, she still retains her wonderful British accent.

Ruby Turner, who joined us a year and a half ago, is in charge of Religion, as well as being Julie’s efficient right-hand woman in Picture Books. She also sorts Adult Anthologies. Ruby moved here from Los Alamos, NM, where she was a member of the Library Friends and worked at their booksale, which was open all year. When she arrived in Ithaca one of her first priorities was to join the Friends here, and we are very glad she did.



**Laurel Hodgden tells a class from Beverly J. Martin Elementary School that each student can have a free book.**



**A kindergartner from BJM enjoying the Reading Room.**

In addition to the eight regular workers, several volunteers help out during the sales or occasionally for sorting or mending. This year they were: Molly Denison, Ann Furman, Sue Hemsath, Ashley Miller, Greta Perl, Nancy Sterling and Alene Wyatt.

Children’s is the only section other

than the Collector’s Corner that is staffed by volunteers at all times. Our current goal is to have two volunteers on duty during daytime hours, one of whom is a regular worker who knows the section well. Even two workers can find themselves almost overwhelmed when the section is crowded. They must:

1. Help patrons find books, often with only a vague description — e.g. “That girl with sticky-out braids” (Pippi Longstocking).
2. Suggest good alternatives to children whose favorites — e.g. “Magic Tree House” — are all gone.
3. Calm and redirect occasional rambunctious behavior.

(Or even break up a fight between two kids who have both reached for the same Garfield!)

4. Help comfort lost children and find their parents.
5. Be ready to evacuate children in case of emergency.

AND, if there is any time left — STRAIGHTEN — STRAIGHTEN — STRAIGHTEN.

School groups come on the second Monday of the sale, by appointment.

Each child may choose one free book and may bring money to buy others. Some children find books quickly and need to be kept occupied. Two years ago the “Reading Room” was built under a table, held up by sturdy 4 x 4’s, and furnished with a rug & pillows. It serves as a place out of the aisles where children can sit and read quietly. During one visit from a kindergarten group things got a little wild. Laurel leaned over and said, “This is a reading room, not a silly room”. After a pause, a small voice replied, “Some of the kids under here can’t read”.

In spite of occasional stresses, Children’s is a wonderful place to work— sharing in the children’s and parent’s pleasure and excitement, with frequent humorous episodes. You hear, “Hey, Mom, a Nancy Drew we don’t have!” or “Look at this cool pop-up!” Adults, too, love children’s books. One man comes each year to seek new Little Golden books for his wife; two other men look for Steven Meader or Howard Pease books (authors from 1950’s), even though we only get one or two a year of each. Many college students are excited to find favorite books from their childhood.

Come and see us in Children’s. It’s a fun place to visit, even if you are a long way from your own childhood.

# 2006 Honor and Memorial Gifts Provide Lasting Tributes

When Annita G. DeSantis passed away in May 2006 at the age of 91, her family naturally thought to encourage her loved ones to contribute to TCPL in her memory. Annita, a lifelong resident of the Fall Creek area of Ithaca until 2003 when she moved nearer to her son, was a passionate reader and had been a library volunteer for many years. She inspired in her children Armida and David the same love of reading and learning. So when the time came to memorialize her, they chose to help other children discover the joys of a good book. Gifts in memory of Annita G. DeSantis enabled the addition of 34 new picture books to the collection.

Honor gifts similarly commemorated the commitment of individuals to libraries. For instance, when TCPL Trustees Lee Miller and Gary Woloszyn concluded their terms of service, their friends and colleagues decided to recognize the impact of their leadership by making gifts in their honor. Both Lee and Gary agreed they couldn't imagine a better tribute than one that benefits library users.

In 2006, gifts in honor and in memory provided just over \$8,000 for the library.

## 2006 Honor Gifts

*In Honor of Ellen Bonn*

Fred and Nancy Bonn

*In Honor of Rajindra Aneja*

Anonymous

*In Honor of Todd Bowers*

Gerald and Caroline Cox (2 gifts)

*In Honor of Elissa Cogan*

Charles and Phyllis Brodhead

*In Honor of Ron Ehrenberg*

Janet Steiner and Edward Kokkelenberg

*In Honor of Charles F. Fenner*

James and Joan Fenner

*In Honor of Mary Maxon Grainger*

Robert G. and Jane V. Engel  
Foundation, Inc.



Judson and Suzanne Kilgore

*In Honor of David and Sally Grubb*

Christopher and Patricia Ober

*In Honor of Carol Kammen*

Anonymous

*In Honor of Judson and Suzanne Kilgore*

Nancy H. Sokol

*In Honor of Rhonda & Trimm Lathwell*

Douglas and Catherine Lathwell  
(2 gifts)

*In Honor of Lee Miller*

Thomas and Ellen Bonn  
Ginger and Harold Cohen  
Thomas B. and Loren Colbert  
Ronald and Randy Ehrenberg  
Carl and Jean Gortzig  
Judson and Suzanne Kilgore  
Lee and Sylvia Miller  
Barbara Page and Richard B. Root  
Michael and Jennifer Schlossberg  
James and Cecile Spero  
Stuart and Sandy Stein  
Janet Steiner and Edward Kokkelenberg  
Syntax Communication  
Teresa Viza  
David and Lyn Weil

*In Honor of Roman Catholic Communities  
of Tompkins County*

Christopher and Patricia Ober

*In Honor of Mo Reycroft*

Tamar Gendler and Zoltan Szabo

*In Honor of Irene and Peter Stein*

Sidney and Delores Saltzman

*In Honor of Stepping Stones Preschool*

Aleza and Michael Simons

*In Honor of Gary Woloszyn*

Eric Acree  
Rajindra and Sarla Aneja  
Anonymous

Ginger and Harold Cohen  
Thomas B. and Loren Colbert

Henrik N. and Sally Dullea

Judson and Suzanne Kilgore

Lee and Sylvia Miller

Barbara Page and Richard B. Root

George and Nancy Schuler

Janet Steiner and Edward Kokkelenberg

David and Lyn Weil

## 2006 Memorial Gifts

*In Memory of Sanjay Aneja*

Rajindra and Sarla Aneja

*In Memory of Mary E. Bates*

Royal Court Bridge Club

*In Memory of Miriam (Mitzi) Bauer*

Rachel Josefowitz Siegel

*In Memory of Jane Crawford*

Donald and Marie Guay

Charles and Nancy Hart

James and Cecile Spero

Yankee Farm Credit, ACA

*In Memory of George Dentes*

Janet Steiner and Edward Kokkelenberg

*In Memory of Annita DeSantis*

Frank and Charlotte Battisti  
Marion and Paul Delisle  
Dennis Gray and Teresa Calabrese-Gray  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Greene  
Donna M. Hanus  
Wayne and Cynthia Horton  
Craig King  
Mark and Carol Lavoie  
Maria O'Connell  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Streeter  
W.E. Cherry Elementary School  
Wayne and Michelle Walbridge

*In Memory of Father of Frances Fawcett*

Margaret V. Anderson

*In Memory of Stephen E. Garner*

Janet Steiner and Edward Kokkelenberg

*In Memory of Caroline Kokkelenberg*

Marianne Simanovsky

*In Memory of Allyn Bryson Ley*

The Book Club

*In Memory of Scott McMillin*

Barry and Molly Adams

Charlotte Fogel

Friends of the Library

*In Memory of Ruth Ann Pierce*

Edward and Jane Salino

*In Memory of Erin Aljoe Schlather*

Raymond and Kathleen Schlather

*In Memory of Cindy Sherman*  
Nancy Given

*In Memory of Dave Soyering*  
Janet Steiner and Edward Kokkelenberg

*In Memory of Phyllis Stout*  
Janet Steiner and Edward Kokkelenberg

*In Memory of Lee Alexander Strelbel*  
Ginger and Harold Cohen

*In Memory of Hilda Terepin*  
Royal Court Bridge Club

*In Memory of Gloria Lou Weiss*  
Richard and Evelyne Curran



George Dentès

## Pro Librarians

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users are self-sufficient, others often ask librarians for help when they have a problem with library computers. By offering one-on-one personalized instruction, our librarians can deal effectively with equipment and software failures, searching techniques, e-mail instruction, text editing and word processing skills. The experience and skills of our reference librarians enables them to customize their instruction to the level of our patrons' skills and understanding.

Other challenges that librarians encounter involve teaching people with hearing or vision or other physical disabilities that make it difficult to perform basic computer tasks. Helping our foreign language speaking patrons also requires understanding to overcome language differences. The professional

experience and empathy of our librarians along with wonderful resources, such as the ELVIS PC for visually or hearing impaired patrons, the Rosetta Stone PC for teaching English, and Spectrum magnifier for the visually impaired all help to overcome barriers to learning.

The library also offers group instruction in library workshops utilizing the library's laptop training lab.

A world of information is available to us all. But for this information to benefit our lives we must seek it, know where it is located, know how to access it, and know how to evaluate it. The librarians at the Tompkins County Public Library are proud of their ability to reach out and give personalized and dedicated attention to each of our patrons by teaching information skills that enrich our lives.

*Lawrence Carey, Adult Services Librarian*

## Teens Write Continues to be a Success!

The Teens Write Workshop led by Irene Zahava, now in its fifth year, has been very popular with an average of 18 teens attending the 8 weekly workshops in both the fall and spring sessions. We were delighted when the spring 2007 session resulted in even larger numbers. The program for students ages 11–17 continues to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for creative writing and group sharing. The spring 2007 session was made possible through the generosity of Carrie Shearer. We are looking for a program sponsor for the fall 2007 session.

## Support Tompkins County Public Library With a Gift to the Library Foundation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

My check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, made payable to *TCPL Foundation*

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my VISA MC Amex (circle one)

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about making a gift of stock.

My company will match my gift.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Company name*

**Please mail completed form and gift to:**

Tompkins County  
Public Library Foundation  
101 East Green Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850

*Thank you!*

# CALENDAR

## EXHIBITS

### Seeing Color

An art exhibit curated by Ben Marlan and Alice Muhlback, featuring the Spirit and Kitsch artists group

April through May

Opening reception Thursday,

April 19 (5 – 7 pm)

### Seeing Color—free classes with curator Ben Marlan

Saturdays, May 5 and May 12

(10:30 am – 12:30 pm)

## YOUTH AND TEEN SERVICES

### Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays (10:30 – 11 am)

### Family Storytime

Saturdays (11:30 am – 12 noon)

### Mother-Daughter Book Club

Selected books *The Folk Keeper* by Frannie Billingsley and *The Moorchild* by Elise McGraw (read one or both)

Sunday, April 29 (1:30 – 2:30 pm)

## ADULT SERVICES

### Internet Classes

#### Features of Library Internet PCs

Call 272-4556 to register for training session

#### Discover the New Polaris

#### PowerPAC Library Catalog

Call 272-4556 to register for private session

#### Review TCPL Business Resource

Saturday, April 21 (2:30 – 4:30 pm)

## MEMORIAL DAY

Library closed

For event updates and detailed information please visit [www.tcpl.org](http://www.tcpl.org)



## Friends of the Library SPRING BOOKSALE

May 5–7, 12–14, 19–22

HOURS: 10 am – 8 pm EXCEPT:

First day: 8 am – 8 pm

Last day: 12 noon – 8 pm

## Discovery Trail

The Library is a founding member  
of the Discovery Trail.

For further information visit  
[www.discoverytrail.com](http://www.discoverytrail.com)

## What's Sarah Reading? — The 100 Book Challenge



Sarah Glogowski

Librarian Sarah Glogowski has created a blog to showcase her reading choices in 2007. *What's Sarah Reading?* can be found at <http://www.tcpl.org/sarah/>. During the past few years, many libraries in the United States have had their readers' advisory librarians take part in a 50-book challenge, where library staff read at least fifty books and post what they thought of them on blogs. Since she usually reads over 50 books a year, Sarah decided to challenge herself by reading 100 books and share her thoughts with library patrons on a blog.

All of the books she will read will be owned either by the Tompkins County Public Library or available through the Finger Lakes Library System. Sarah typically reads fiction, with an emphasis on literary fiction and mysteries. Her favorite mysteries are written by British, Swedish, Norwegian and Icelandic authors. Much of her regular fiction reading is also by British writers. Sarah also reads classics, poetry books, biographies, compilations of short stories and history.

Sarah's favorite writers are Donna Tartt, Joyce Carol Oates, Ruth Rendell, Denise Mina, Ellen Gilchrist, Margaret Atwood and Tom Perrotta.

In the upcoming weeks, Sarah will be reading more of the wonderful mystery series by Sarah Stewart Taylor, which features a funerary arts scholar and amateur sleuth, the Paddy Meehan mysteries by Denise Mina to prepare for a trip to Scotland, *Suite Francaise* by Irene Nemirovsky and *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov, which she re-reads every few years.

## The Library Connection



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION

NAVIGATING A SEA OF RESOURCES

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