

# THE LIBRARY Connection



TOMPKINS  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

JANUARY 2007

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

## Community Support Promotes Positive Outlook

### Library balances budget

For the first time in several years, thanks to an increase in revenue from the County and the Friends of the Library, the library's operating budget is balanced. For the past several years the library has run at a deficit, a situation that could not continue and maintain a financially healthy library.

The Tompkins County Legislature approved a permanent increase of 3.8% for the library. Their appropriation of \$2.6 million funds salaries and benefits, together with one time support for the collection, technology and an analyst to assist in streamlining library work processes.

The Friends have increased their annual gift to the library by 10%—a result of two highly successful booksales. They are underwriting the costs of maintaining the green plants, purchasing the Alice Gant banner hanging in Youth Services, providing half of the collection supply budget, and supporting 78% of the acquisition budget.

### Grants from local Foundations and Community Organizations help the Library meet its mission

**A significant grant from a local foundation, together with funding from the Friends of the Library, will allow the library to seek professional public relations and marketing assistance to reach out to the community and promote library services to the public.**

*continued on page 3*



Dewey Neild

Library Director Janet Steiner (center) and Sally Grubb, Acting Executive Director of the Library Foundation (left) receive a check from Sunrise Rotarian President Roni Mays



Past, present and future booksale chairs (l to r) Beryl Barr, Ginger Cohen, Carrie Shearer, Regina Lennox and Betta Hedlund

### Plaque honors 60 years of Friendship

The support of the Friends represents 60 years of giving to the Library. From small beginnings in 1947, when the Friends were first established to raise funds for a record player, until today, when they provide 8.2% of the library's annual budget, the Friends have given—in total—over \$3 million to the library. To honor this incredible achievement, the Library Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation passed a joint resolution thanking the Friends for their 60 years of giving. On December 19 at a brief ceremony in the Avenue of the Friends, in the presence of Friends, Trustees, Foundation Board Members, Library Staff and Patrons, a plaque commemorating this support was unveiled.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

At the beginning of a new year, it is traditional to look back at the past year—amazing achievements and spectacular failures characterize our library’s performance. Despite the fact that the need for adequate and proper funding for basic operations seemed to permeate our thoughts every day during 2006, we—staff, trustees, friends, donors—worked hard to deliver high quality library service. We built a better working relationship with the County legislature. We created the Library Advisory Council to improve and increase our communication with the community. We garnered numerous grants and delivered quality public programming, including another successful community read, *The Great Gatsby*.

As we look forward to 2007, we are buoyed by the success of the Friends book sales, which will enable the library to not only buy books, but also maintain our green plants and purchase Alice Gant’s beautiful wall hanging for our Youth Services Department. Appropriations from the County will ensure that we meet our salary and benefit requirements, that our technology stays robust, our collection grows, and that processes are streamlined. Our new board president Hank Dullea, will lead Trustee efforts to forge a new Strategic Plan.

I remain ever hopeful that our library will reach its full potential, guided by our new mission statement and our vision of the future. Thank you for your understanding, loyalty, and support.



Janet Steiner

Terry Harbin

## New Assistant Library Director, Rosie Rice

Rosie Rice started her new job as Assistant Director of the Tompkins County Public Library this September. Rosie came to the position from the Reference Department, which she’s headed since 1990. She joined the TCPL staff in 1978 as a Reference and Interlibrary Loan librarian, and has also worked in the Young Adult section. Rosie moved to Ithaca after graduating from SUNY Albany with her Master of Library Science degree in 1973.



When asked why she made the move to administration, Rosie replied “It was time for me personally to make a change and take on new challenges. Although I’ve been a part of this library for almost 30 years, I’m still learning the job, which is so different from working on the floor in a day-to-day capacity with patrons. I’m invigorated by my new position and enjoy discovering new things under the tutelage of Library Director Janet Steiner.”

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.

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# The History of the Community Read



The Tompkins County Public Library has just finished the fifth Community Read. Each year the library urges members of the public to read and discuss the same book—the 2006 title was *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The Community Read began in 2002 with *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. The library

had received a traveling exhibit about *Frankenstein* from the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health and the American Library Association. At the same time, Cornell University picked *Frankenstein* for their second freshman read, and a community partnership was born. Each year since 2002, Cornell and TCPL have worked together to distribute thousands of copies of one book to the community, local libraries, area agencies and schools.

After the success of the town/gown reading of *Frankenstein*, the community read *Antigone* by Sophocles. The classic Greek tragedy inspired mask making workshops at TCPL and a Cornell Center for Theatre Arts production of the play, in addition to area book groups and readings.

In 2004, the surreal world of Joseph K., a banker who must defend himself against charges that are never described to him, was the Community Read when Franz Kafka's *The Trial* was selected. The Kitchen Theatre adapted the book into a play and the library held a debate about national security vs. individual freedoms.

The epic story of the destruction of traditional Ibo village life in Nigeria caused by colonization and the introduction of Christianity was explored in the 2005 reading of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. In addition to group discussions, Chinua Achebe spoke to the public at Cornell University and TCPL held performances of West African dance and drumming. Robert Morgan, of *Gap Creek* fame, facilitated a discussion about the William Butler Yeats' poem "*The Second Coming*" and its role in the novel.

In 2006, people were urged to reread the classic novel *The Great Gatsby*. Discussions were held at the library about luxury during the 1920s and the role of ethics in the novel, and there was a program that explored the Jazz Age.

Ithaca's Community Read is one of the few in the country that involves a partnership between a university and local residents. Reading together creates an opportunity to reach across barriers, to connect with new people and ideas and to talk with others about things that matter. When people read great litera-

ture, the experience stimulates them to think about themselves, their relationships and their surroundings. When people talk about great literature with family, friends and neighbors, the discussion deepens their initial reading experience.

We look forward to the 2007 Community Read with great anticipation.  
*Sarah Glogowski, Adult Services Librarian*

## Community Support

*continued from page 1*

## The Sunrise Rotary Club and Gannett Foundation Support New Cards for Kids

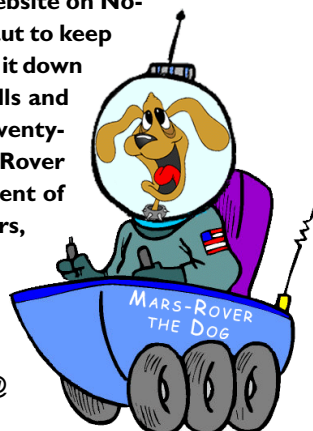
Kids Discover the Trail is a project underwritten by the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI), which seeks to ensure that every kindergarten through 5th grade student in the Ithaca School District visits at least one Discovery Trail site each year. The Discovery Trail is a coalition of local educational organizations that promote awareness and understanding of the connections among art, history, literature, science, and the natural world. The library will design and distribute colorful kid-friendly library cards to all kindergartners who visit as part of the Kids Discover the Trail project, as well as all children aged 2 and up who register for a library card.

The Sunrise Rotary Club and Gannett Foundation agreed to underwrite the project because of the importance of reaching out to the youngest members of the community and encouraging them to visit the library regularly. As well as library cards, these grants also support outreach to children and their families and promotion of the project.

## Children's Site Webstronaut Announced: The Votes are in and Mars-Rover is out of the Dog-House

The library launched a new children's space-themed website on November 20 but soon decided the site needed an astronaut to keep kids company while navigating its pages. After narrowing it down to five very promising animals, they opened up the polls and let the public vote for their favorite 'webstronaut.' Twenty-five days and 66 votes later, the results are in and Mars-Rover the dog has prevailed. Named after Cornell's Department of Astronomy and their involvement in the mission to Mars, Mars-Rover the Dog received 31% of the votes.

After being sworn in, Mars-Rover was quoted as barking, "I promise to do a Doggone-good job." Cosmos the Cat, in great dismay over losing to a dog, had no comet. For more news visit Mars-Rover the Dog @ [www.tcpl.org](http://www.tcpl.org).



## Discovery Trail

The Library is a founding member  
of the Discovery Trail.

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



# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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

## 2006 Fall Booksale is a Big Success!

Betta Hedlund



**Cornell University Into the Streets Student Group provided great assistance during clean-up.**

At the end of the 2006 Fall Booksale it was obvious that this test year of “two equal sales” was a definite success. With the same prices, hours and quality of books at the Spring and Fall sales, total income rose 9% over 2005, with attendance for the year at 35,935 visits! This was a great satisfaction to the dedicated workers who put in over 18,000 hours of hard work. The change in the schedules of the sales was also appreciated by the volunteers. In the past, the Fall sale ran for nine days before a break—the result was an exhausted group of volunteers. With the three day on, four day

off schedule, it was not only possible to take care of the demands of daily life, but also do a more efficient job of refilling and organizing shelves.

Booksale Coordinator, Betta Hedlund, did a magnificent job of juggling hundreds of details, while keeping morale high among the volunteers. She was helped by Assistant Coordinators, Beryl Barr and Carrie Shearer who move up to be Joint Coordinators for 2007, Maria Gasser who remains as an assistant along with newcomer Carl Best, and Frances Fawcett, who is also Secretary of the Friends. Betta, herself, will become President of the Friends in 2007.

There is only one way in which the Spring and Fall Booksales are still not equal—the number of books on the shelves! Not nearly as many books are brought in from November to April, as are donated from June to August. The only solution to this problem is for our wonderful book donors to bring in more books in late winter and spring instead of waiting until summer. Obviously we don’t expect crowds of donors during a blizzard, but there are many pleasant days during these months, while summer days can be uncomfortably hot. Enjoy your summer more by clearing out now! Book sale volunteers would also enjoy their summers more if not faced with a huge deluge of books in July and August.

Books can be donated 24/7 by bagging them in plastic grocery bags and sliding them down the drop slot next to the Booksale’s front door. If you have too many books to bag, or need a receipt, the site will continue to be open Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9 to 12. More hours will be added later. If these hours are not convenient, e-mail us at [info@booksale.org](mailto:info@booksale.org) or call us at 272-2223 to make an appointment and we will get back to you within 48 hours. (If you’d like a receipt, please count your items, divided between hard and soft cover books.)

### Friends elect new officers

The annual Friends of the Library meeting was held at the library on November 17, 2006. The following officers were elected for 2007. **President**—Betta Hedlund, **Vice-President (Membership)**—Sharon Woloszyn, **Booksale Coordinators**—Beryl Barr and Carrie Shearer, **Co-Treasurers**—Joe and Emily Metz, **Secretary**—Frances Fawcett. The Friends’ revised By-Laws were approved. Refreshments were served and Jennifer Schlossberg of TCPL spoke about new technologies that promote reading and web use. Beryl Barr was in charge of the arrangements for the evening.

### Friends of the Library Meritorious Service Award



Betta Hedlund

**Ginger Cohen**

The first Friends of the Library Meritorious Service Award was given to Ginger Cohen on Dec. 14, 2006 for over 25 years of tireless effort on behalf of the Friends. Serving in positions ranging from Hospitality, Mailing, Membership, Treasurer, Booksale Chairman, and President, Ginger has been a vital part of the unparalleled success of our Book Sales and an important voice on our Board.



# The Cookbook Section



**The Cookbook Ladies: (l to r) Jane Dieckmann, Peg Lacey, Nancy Leeming**

Adventure) was in charge of the section when it was still a part of Homemaking, (now titled Domestic Arts). The number of cookbooks mushroomed, until it needed its own section, of which Mary continued to be in charge until 1987. Mary is currently helping the Campus Club gourmet group to put together a cookbook.

The Cookbook section is one of the most popular at the Booksale. Many readers rush to it immediately on the first morning of the sale, and by the end of bag day only a few cookbook pamphlets are left. Located on the back left wall of the building, the section is divided logically by categories such as vegetarian, ethnic, pastry, etc.

The Cookbook section is staffed by five women, all of whom are enthusiastic about food and its preparation. A lively discussion as to the advantages of measuring by volume or weight developed in the middle of an interview with the group. Each worker is responsible for certain sections, but these responsibilities change every year, so that everyone is familiar with all the books.

**Mary Berkelman** (who also sorts

In 1987, **Jane Dieckmann**, a famous local cookbook & history author, took over the section and sorted it by herself for several years. As the section continued to grow, more help was needed. Mary returned to help. **Nancy Leeming**, who has volunteered at the Booksale since 1969, started helping in cookbooks about ten years ago. She also works at the History Center.

**Cindy Gratton** came to cookbooks about three years ago. She works in the admissions office at Ithaca College and, like Jane, enjoys playing the piano; they often play duets together. **Peg Lacey** recently joined the group as the new person in charge. Peg is a food professional and recently created a recipe for gourmet biscotti for dogs!

## 60 years of Booksales

This Fall the Friends of the Library celebrated 60 years of Booksales and John Murphy has attended every one! We found Mr. Murphy in our Collector's Corner entertaining the workers with stories of Booksales past.

From the first sale in 1946, held in the then "Cornell Library", to the 2006 sale held in the Friends' own building on Esty Street, he hasn't missed a single one. He even stopped by the 1980 sale on his way to Sayre for surgery!

As a child, Mr. Murphy summured on the shores of Cayuga Lake, but by the time of the first Booksale, he was a permanent resident. John went to Cornell University, receiving his MA and Ph.D. there. He then worked as assistant to the Comptroller, and had several teaching positions until his retirement in 1989.

Mr. Murphy and his daughter, Linda, sorted the Record Section at the Booksale for quite a few years and he, personally, has a huge collection of 78s. His other passion is the study of Opera, about which he has a huge library at home.



**Mr. Murphy**

Kyllikki Inman

## Recycling after the sale!

The week after the end of the booksale has always been a little like the day after Christmas—the good feelings remain, but someone has to deal with the mess.

The worst job has always been the recycling of hard-cover books, since the covers have to be removed. Some of the covers come off easily, but other books are so well made that a sharp knife, strength and determination are required. Even with 89% of books selling, 11% of 485,238 is still a lot left to deal with.

This year, Assistant Coordinator, Maria Gasser, found and made all the arrangements to get help from an organization known as *Better World Books*. They came



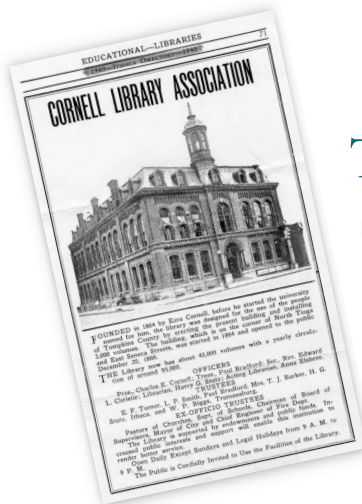
the weekend after the sale with a truck and 23 huge boxes. Volunteers and Bill Apgar's crew from the County's Department of Probation filled the boxes. Then they were tightly packed onto the truck with a powerful forklift.

The truck returned to Indiana where the books are sorted. Many are sent to Third World countries, some are sold on the internet to pay for the shipping costs and any remaining are recycled. We hope that *Better World Books* will come regularly after future sales. Thanks Maria!

(l to r) **Jim Hedlund**, the truck driver, and **Maria Gasser**



Top photo: Katelyn Inman; bottom: Betta Hedlund



## The Importance of Reading...

In 2004 Ellis Bradford decided to make a significant donation to the Tompkins County Public Library in memory of his father, Paul Bradford. Paul Bradford served as a Trustee of the Cornell Library Association in the 1940's. This gift has endowed the Holly G. and William W. Bradford book fund to support the Dewey Decimal System 600 series, and the Emily Willson Bradford book fund to support the Dewey Decimal System 300 series. We asked him to tell us why he made this generous gift.



## ...is why I'm a Tompkins County Public Library fan

One Ithaca evening in the late 1930s, at 305 Willow Avenue, the Paul Bradford family's doorbell rang. The Rev. Paul J. Cuddy, an Assistant at The Church of the Immaculate Conception, said he often made Willow Avenue calls. With 305's shades up and lights on, he had repeatedly seen parents and two or three children, all reading. Whatever our faith, he wanted to meet us.

Who led Bradfords to climb stairs at 115-117 North Tioga Street, home of the 1864 (before the University!) Cornell Library Association? Our mother, born Emily Willson in 1900, grew up in an Old Forge, PA, mining town. Her father did hands-on surface work. Her parents were not readers, but their son and daughter wanted, and got, college training. Mansfield State Normal made Emily a teacher in 1918. She had her own children reading before they started at Fall Creek. Then she taught others until her sudden death in 1957. So ended Inlet Valley's two-room grade school, Tompkins County's last. In her classroom, grades one, two and three learned together.

In the early 1900s, many students, like my Bradford uncle, went to work after grade eight. Paul Bradford, my father, was born in 1898 at 302 Elm Street, Ithaca. For years his mother was a State Street Methodist Church Sunday School teacher. She read her Bible. His father, a janitor/night watchman, read his *Ithaca Journal*. He loved his Cayuga Lake cot-



**Three generations of the Bradford family (l to r) Emily Willson Bradford, Paul Bradford holding Carol Taylor Bradford, Ellis Eugene Bradford, in March 1953**

tage, reaching it by rowboat, over six miles, Inlet to Willow Creek.

Miss Frances White, a West Hill School teacher, stimulated my father's education: Ithaca High School, 1914; Cornell Arts College, 1918; every day working at newspaper distribution. In 1922, Ithaca's only Certified Public Accountant, he joined the now Tompkins Trust Co. He cared about the Library, too, living to age 96. Miss White, retired before my IHS years, encouraged me with a set of Charles Dickens' works.

My 16th birthday came in May 1940. My IHS senior year ended one month later. Was Ellis ready for Hamilton College at age 16? My parents' decision: "No." That fall classmates with me were filling an IHS home room, all taking a 13th year. In 1940-1941 more IHS language classes were good for me. So were typing and mechanical drawing.

Still, my IHS Class remains 1940. At the School's Foster Hall Awards Day that year, Principal Frank R. Bliss said that records of four stu-

dents, all boys, showed straight "1s" for each of the three IHS years. He urged girls to meet that challenge. Did Cornell or Ithaca College families feel challenged too? Three of the four boys had fathers in downtown businesses: Brooks Pharmacy, Driscoll Bros. Building Materials, and Tompkins County Trust. The fourth father was a State Health Officer. Girls and academic families have surely done better since. Their parents and teachers deserve my cheers and thanks, just as do my parents and teachers. Then there's my wife, Clara Golay, with even more Ithaca ties than mine. Reading aloud to each other has been important to us since our 1991 marriage. Different approach, but in our 80s, that's good, too.

*Ellis Bradford*

(left) Ellis Bradford and Clara Golay  
(below) Paul Bradford wearing signature white socks



## Grant Ensures Art Exhibits Continue

A Community Arts Partnership/NY State Decentralization Grant ensures art exhibits in the library continue during 2007.

TCPL has once again received funding for four major art exhibits during 2007. The first exhibit *Questioning the Great Divide—Me and Not Me* is curated by Fernando Llosa and Kim Schrag and opens in conjunction with the Light in Winter Festival on January 23. For more information about this and other exhibits go to [www.tcpl.org/exhibits](http://www.tcpl.org/exhibits). A grant has also been received by former TCPL employee and artist Jane Dennis, to decorate the “little room” in Youth Services.

## Successful Annual Appeal Provides Unrestricted Funds

This year’s annual appeal, chaired by Carol Sisler, had the theme *Our Lively Library Lives* and promoted the importance of providing lively library services in our community. The purpose of the annual appeal is to provide unrestricted funds to the library for use where most needed. This year, thanks to many generous donations, the appeal raised over \$66,000 and the Campaign 2007 has reached \$301,000.

Despite these successes and this

outpouring of community support for which the library is extremely grateful, the need to raise additional funds continues. The Trustees have identified many important needs moving into the future including the endowment of a number of staff positions. From \$200 for a new reference library chair to \$1,000 for a writing workshop for adults, there are many opportunities to support a lively library. For more information call the Foundation office: 272-4557 ext 232.

## 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

### Postcards from Mars

An exhibit of photos taken by the Mars Rover Explorer

In Youth Services through February

### Questioning the Great Divide: Me and Not-Me

An exhibit of Art and Poetry

Curated by Fernando Llosa and Kim Schrag in conjunction with *Light in Winter*

January through March

Opening reception Friday, January 26 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)

## YOUTH AND TEEN SERVICES

### Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays (10:30 – 11 am)

### Family Storytime

Saturdays (11:30 am – 12 noon)

### Families Learning Science Together

January 13, *More Micro World*

February 10, *Volcanoes*

March 10, *Entomology*

Second Saturdays (2 – 3 pm)

### T.A.G. Meeting

Tuesday, January 30 (4:30 – 5:30 pm)

### Mother-Daughter Book Club

Discussion of *The House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer

Saturday, February 3 (1:30 – 2:30 pm)

### Johnny Only

Thursday, February 22 (2 – 3 pm)

### Princess Storytime

Saturday, February 24

(11:30 am – 12:30 pm)

## ADULT SERVICES

### Postcards from Mars

Jim Bell, leader of Cornell's Mars Rover Camera Team, talks about his favorite photographs and stories from Mars

Saturday, January 27 (2 – 4 pm)

### Internet Classes

Call 272-4556 to register

Tuesdays (1 – 1:40, 1:40 – 2:20, 2:20 – 3)

### Discover the New Polaris PowerPAC Library Catalog

Call 272-4556 to register for private session

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Big Red Wrestling vs. Arizona State

Attend the match and help Cornell Wrestling raise money for TCPL.

Call 254-BEAR (254-2327) for tickets.

Bartels Hall, Cornell University

Sunday, January 21 (1 pm)

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

## Librarians Receive Awards

Two librarians from the Tompkins County Public Library received awards at the Finger Lakes Library System annual awards ceremony in October last year. Adelle Leise received the Joan Cooke Youth Services Award for her devotion to young



adult programs designed to encourage reading for teens. Jennifer Schlossberg was presented with an award in recognition of her innovative “teen Web site.”

(l to r) Jennifer Schlossberg and Adelle Leise are congratulated by Karen Creenan, FLLS Executive Director

## The Library Connection



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
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NAVIGATING A SEA OF RESOURCES

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