

THE LIBRARY *Connection*



TOMPKINS
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

JANUARY 2009

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

Spectacular Origami Exhibit

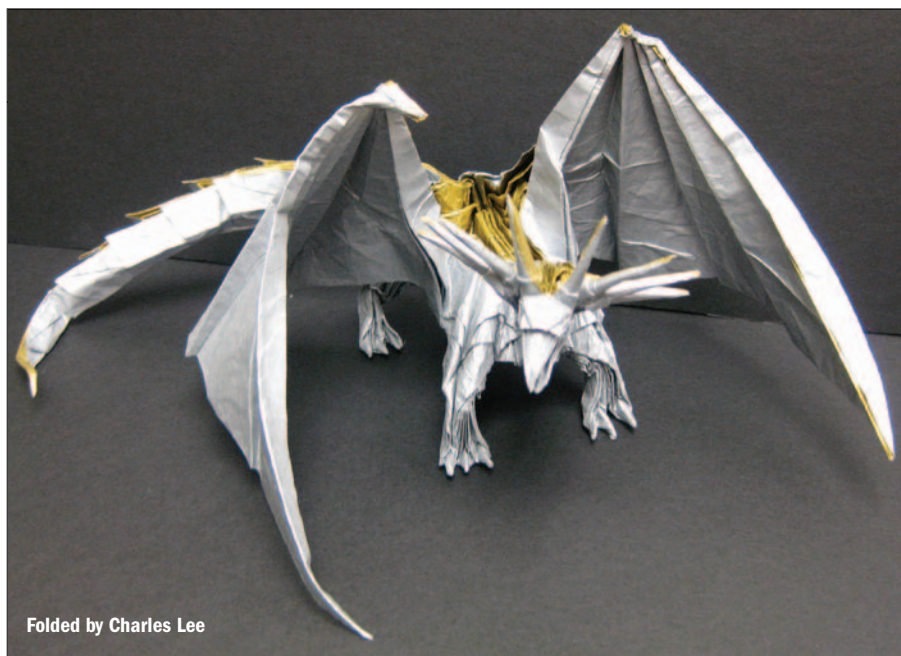
The last decade of the 20th century has seen a revolution in the development and application of mathematical techniques to *origami*, the centuries-old Japanese art of paper-folding. As often happens, theory originally developed for its own sake has led to some surprising practical applications, from safer airbags to gargantuan space telescopes. Physicist Robert J. Lang is one of the world's leading masters of origami, and a pioneer in the marriage of origami and mathematics with designs of great detail, complexity and realism. Lang is one of the featured speakers at this year's Light in Winter Festival.

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Brooks Family Foundation, the library has been able to assemble an exhibit of origami models, including many of Robert Lang's spectacular creations. Also featured are models created by members of the Cornell Origami Club and more traditional models made by members of



Created and folded by Robert J. Lang

the local Japanese community. In addition, several "pop-up books" from the collection of Barbara Kretzmann will be displayed showing intricate paper engineering. The exhibit will be on display in the Avenue of the Friends.



Folded by Charles Lee

To enhance our patrons' appreciation of this exhibit, origami workshops, presented by local origami maker, Mari Snyder, and her colleagues, will be held from 12 to 4 pm on Saturday, January 17, while demonstrations by members of the Cornell Origami Club will take place during the exhibit opening reception on Friday, January 23. These free workshops are appropriate for all ages and skill levels and will take place in the BorgWarner Community Room. The demonstrations will feature more complicated folding. The Opening Reception for the exhibit will take place from 4 to 7 pm in the BorgWarner Community Room. Robert J. Lang and members of the Cornell Origami Club will be present at the reception from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

Year of Cultural Celebrations

Recognizing the important role cultural diversity plays in our community, the Library has selected Cultural Celebrations as the theme for its 2009 public programming.

"Ithaca is a wonderful melting pot of culture, and TCPL hopes to highlight the histories, traditions and contributions of those many cultures during 2009," said Carrie Wheeler, the Library's public programming and community relations coordinator.

From Spanish Storytimes to origami workshops; Celtic dancers to African drummers, the library plans to host an assortment of culturally-relevant programming. Each program will be free and open to the public.

The year of Cultural Celebrations kicks-off in January with an origami exhibit in the Avenue of the Friends, featuring the work of heralded artist Robert Lang.

The celebration continues in February, as we celebrate Black History Month with a February 12 discussion by RIT Professor

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ten years ago, in February of 1999, five executive directors of local groups met over lunch. We talked about our organizations—what did we have in common? Did we have a shared mission, similar audiences, or the same needs? Could we collaborate and, if so, on what?

On that day, the Discovery Trail began. Initially called the Partnership for Lifelong Learning, the group grew to eight institutions: our library, which initiated the first meeting; the Johnson Museum of Art; the History Center; the Sciencenter; Cayuga Nature Center, Cornell Plantations; Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; and the Museum of the Earth.

We changed our name to the Discovery Trail, hired a part-time coordinator, applied for a major grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (which was not funded), received generous funding from the Park Foundation to market the

partnership and ultimately began a remarkable and impressive collaboration with the Ithaca City School District and the Ithaca Public Education Initiative called Kids Discover the Trail.

Our mission is to promote awareness of the programs and collections of our members and to foster understanding of the connections among art, history, literature, science and the natural world.

The Discovery Trail is an outstanding model of collaboration among eight institutions whose directors consistently seek to find ways of working together for the benefit of our greater community. When I look at life through different lenses and see the beauty of geology, the excitement of science, the glory of art, the timelessness of nature and the connection to our past history, I see that each organization enriches the other. My life and my institution, Tompkins Country Public Library, are immeasurably better because of the Discovery Trail.

Happy 10th Anniversary!



Janet Steiner

Terry Harbin



First *Pride of Workmanship* Award

At the library staff meeting held November 5, Director Janet Steiner announced the creation of a new award for library employees—*The Pride of Workmanship Award*—and made the first presentation to Carol Vorhis. Carol is Senior Library Clerk and has been with the library since 1979.

In presenting this award to Carol, Janet Steiner said “you are one of those individuals who have given so much to the library over the past thirty years. In my opinion, you are one of our most valued employees and deserve to be thanked properly.”

She went on, “you have maintained a quiet, steadfast and reassuring presence at the front circulation desk. Your job requires you to deal with unhappy patrons, who are often stressed and angry. Your confident, low-key and approachable style means that patron disputes are resolved to the satisfaction of the patron. You provide personalized attention and find creative solutions that help the patron remain a library user.”

“Your handling of damaged library items has been an amazing saga of wet, dirty and dog-chewed items over the years. On the surface, this appears to be one of those thankless tasks, but you handle it with dignity and good judgment. You listen to patrons objectively and with an open-mind. As your supervisor Jon Long wrote, ‘our patrons walk away feeling they have received empathy for their situations.’

“Your greatest skill is one that is in short supply these days. It is your ability to listen—to patrons, to co-workers, to those who need an ear. You set a good example for everyone at the library by taking pride in your work, and expecting little in return.”

“I am so glad to give you the first *Pride of Workmanship* Award. Congratulations! And thank you very much for everything you do to make this a better library and a better world.”

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The Library Connection is published
four times a year by the
Tompkins County Public Library Foundation,
101 East Green Street,
Ithaca, New York 14850
(607) 272-4557

Web page: www.tcpl.org/Foundation
Printed by Arnold Printing Corp., Ithaca, N.Y.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Walk

On Monday, January 19, the City of Ithaca will unveil the first of the new street signs designating State Street as Martin Luther King, Jr. Street. Ithaca's Board of Public Works voted unanimously on November 13 to dually designate State Street as Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, following four years of discussions that began with a proposal made by Gino Bush and the Ithaca High School Circle of Recovery Class. The renaming of State Street is the first of many ways the City will be recognizing Dr. King in the future and the first step in the development of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Walk.

The Library also has made a commitment to honor the work and vision of Dr. King. At its September 23 meeting, the Tompkins County Public Library Board of Trustees adopted a resolution in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Walk. The resolution, which was unanimously passed by the Board, stated the following:

The Tompkins County Public Library is committed to fully participating with the City of Ithaca in creating a living memorial honoring the life, work and dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The library serves all community members without regard to race, age, or economic status. The library opens its doors each day to those seeking information as well as inspiration. Free and open access is provided to the full range of resources which connects our lives with the work of Dr. King.

Library Director Janet Steiner is an active member of the City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Walk Implementation Committee.



Leaving Stanley Point by Treacy Ziegler

A Year of Art at your Public Library

Made possible by grant support from the Community Arts Partnership and additional funding from the Brooks Family Foundation

The library will again present five major exhibits during 2009. **Seeing In the Dark**, curated by pastel artist and arts organizer Laurel Guy, will feature the work of artists inspired by the night and exploring contrasts between light and darkness. The opening reception for this exhibit is being held in conjunction with the Light in Winter Festival from 4 to 7 pm on Friday, January 23, in the BorgWarner Community Room. The exhibit will run through the end of March. **Art and the Librarian**, curated by quilter and senior library clerk Beth Killheffer, will feature art work in a variety of media created by Tompkins County librarians, staff and Trustees. It will be on display during April and May.

In June we are pleased to welcome back the annual Ithaca High School Student Art show, **Visual Culture at Ithaca High School**. July through September we present **A Senior Summer**, curated by senior artists Germaine Colvin, Mary Schuler and Sue Kilgore. This exhibit will feature work in a variety of media created by artists over 65 years of age. A common element among the works to be shown is the life experience that guides each artist. Our final show, **Prints to Books—Books to Prints**, which is curated by artist, print and book maker Christa Wolf, will feature the work of artist members of the Ink Shop and Olive Branch Press and runs October through December.

FLLS Mail-It Service Reaches Out to Patrons

Given the number of packages they regularly receive, it's no surprise that users of the Finger Lakes Library System's Mail-It service often feel as though they have more than one birthday. Through this free program, residents of Tompkins, Tioga, Cortland, Seneca and Cayuga counties who are unable to visit a local system library, can receive library materials by mail. Open to anyone who lacks library access due to disability, visual impairment, or other special need situations, the program provides library service as close as their mailbox.

FLLS offers Mail-It as part of its efforts to assist its 33 member libraries, including TCPL, to address the needs of underserved individuals. To help meet the demands of this popular program, the Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library generously fund the purchase of materials for Mail-It patrons, including large print books, DVDs and audiobooks.

Responses to Mail-It have been overwhelmingly positive since its inception in 1982. For patrons who spend the majority of their time at home, receiving regular packages of books, CDs and DVDs can be a lifeline to the outside world. As one patron commented, "Reading has always been important to me. But now that I'm confined to a wheelchair and quite disabled, it's my escape." In addition to the lifelong readers who flock to the service, Mail-It has also allowed many others to discover the joys of reading even late in life. One happy patron, for example, reported that "my husband never used to be a reader, but now he's been listening to the tapes with me and enjoys them as much as I do. Now he knows why I liked to read so well."

So if you know someone who might need Mail-It service, please contact the Finger Lakes Library System at 607-273-4074, ext. 30 or 47.

Corinne Weible, Outreach Services Manager, Finger Lakes Library System



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

www.booksale.org

Fall 2008: Yet Another Successful Friends Booksale!



Lee Miller with a cart load of books for a classroom

The statistics:

272,668 items on the shelves, over 17,000 customers, and 89% sold! This compares with 14,000 customers and 87% sold in 2007. Because of the economy, the pattern of attendance changed this year, with more customers coming toward the end of the sale. On the last weekend, when books were least expensive, there were long lines, and on Not-for-Profit day (when free books are made available to non-profit groups) there was the largest attendance ever.

As in the past, *Better World Books* took most of the books left over after Not-for-Profit day and will distribute these around the world.

The statistics behind the statistics:

More than 200 volunteers put in 11,431 hours from June through September in preparation for the sale, and many more during the sale. In addition, volunteers from 12 community groups each hosted a shift, serving as greeters, pricers, floaters and staffing the information desk. This was the third sale at which local groups have joined us, and their help

has been tremendously appreciated. The groups helping this Fall were Alpha Phi Omega, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Cayuga Bird Club, Challenge Industries, Community Building Works!, Cops, Kids & Toys, Ithaca College Theatre Department, Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI), Mental Health Association in Tompkins County, Ten Thousand Villages, Tompkins County Public Library Foundation and Tompkins County Public Library Board of Trustees.



Sandy Wold finds treasures for the MacCormick Center

Keep the Books (etc.) Coming! The Booksale needs your help NOW to make the May Sale a success. Our Esty Street building is heated year-round, and we need to keep our volunteers busy sorting throughout the winter and spring. The earlier you can bring in your donations, the easier our sorting job will be! Thanks so much!

“An Afternoon Tea” Brings Library-Serving Groups Together



Volunteers, staff and board members of the Tompkins County Public Library, Finger Lakes Library System, Friends of the Library and Tompkins County Public Library Foundation came together for the first time to mingle and reflect on the shared mission of promoting libraries. Special thanks to the event organizing committee, led by Ginger Cohen.



A Mission of the Friends

To paraphrase a portion of the Friends formal mission statement, “The Friends provide books and materials to community members for their knowledge and delight.” After some experiences at this year’s sale, we decided that “delight” might be more informally expressed as “making people happy”. Here are a few examples of how the Friends made people happy at the Fall sale.



Suzette LaVigne

On “School Day,” children coming with classroom groups are each given a free book. A kindergartner from the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School proudly showed a volunteer the book that she had discovered, exclaiming, “This is the happiest day of my whole life!” On Senior Day, Suzette LaVigne confided that, thanks to the Booksale, she is gradually replacing her whole library, which was lost to water damage. Nancy Cool was thrilled to find Christmas presents for her husband,

a book on New Zealand, which they visited recently, and another on building log cabins, one of his hobbies. An out-of-town customer was overheard reminding her family, “We need to leave time for ice cream.” When a volunteer suggested Purity, the reply was “We know. We come from Connecticut every year just for the Booksale and Purity ice cream.” A customer from even further away told the Information Desk volunteer that she was taking as many books as she could home with her to the Netherlands the following day. There, her \$4.50 books would cost ten times that! On Not-for-Profit Day, workers from many organizations were delighted to find and take away thousands of items, free of charge.

Finally, no one else was quite as happy as the volunteers who came in after the



Nancy Cool

Not-for-Profit day to count their few remaining books, to feast on pizza and to contemplate three weeks free from booksale responsibilities—until November 5th that is, when the whole process started over again!



The Booksale as Recycler The Booksale was represented in the annual Recycling Day at the Ithaca Mall. In addition to a large poster with scenes from the sale, made by Kyllikki Inman, the display included many examples of the kinds of items sold (selected directly from incoming boxes) and the delightful miniature of the “Booksale” beautifully crafted by Dick Tabor.

Annual Meeting

The 2008 Annual Meeting was held November 16 in the BorgWarner Community Room at the Tompkins County Public Library. The guest speaker was Dr. Patricia Zimmermann of Ithaca College, who spoke about the relationship between books and films.

A slate of officers of the Board of Directors was presented to the members and were elected, and the 2009 budget proposed by current treasurer, Larry Denison, was approved. Three new life memberships were proposed and approved: Jean and Ken Robinson and Laurel Hodgden. Jean and Ken together have volunteered 2000 hours. They not only sort Agriculture and Paperback mysteries, but also take care of the plantings next to the parking lot and have done carpentry and painting inside the building. Both are retired economists and volunteer each year to help seniors prepare their income taxes. Laurel Hodgden has volunteered over 6000 hours since 1983. She and her daughter Kyllikki are in charge of the Children’s section and sort Architecture and Scandinavian Languages. They also serve as co-editors of the Friends’ pages in *The Library Connection*. Laurel is a retired Child Psychologist.



Jean and Ken Robinson



Laurel Hodgden

Photos: Nancy Cool

New Board Officers

- PRESIDENT: Jack Clark
- VICE-PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP: Alene Wyatt
- VICE-PRESIDENTS FOR THE BOOKSALE: Beryl Barr and Tammy Kubinec
- SECRETARY: Alice Linton
- TREASURER: Ginger Cohen

Julee Johnson, chair of the Community Organizations Grants Committee, distributed a brochure describing the work of the committee and listing the grants awarded in 2008. This committee uses its limited funds to help local groups whose missions involve education, literacy or skills development. The 21 grants were divided almost equally among organizations serving preschoolers, school age children, teens, adults with literacy problems or who are dealing with a crisis, the elderly, and persons with disabilities and mental health needs.

As always, the high point of the annual meeting was the break for refreshments and conversation. Hospitality was organized by Ginger Cohen, with treats homemade by volunteers.

Celebrate Library Lovers Month this February

Tompkins County Public Library Foundation kicks off Library Lovers Month in February, a month-long celebration of Tompkins County Public Library and all the libraries in our community.

It is a well known, but often taken for granted fact: libraries are part of the American experience, a place for education and self-help. The library is the rare institution that offers opportunity for people of all ages and all backgrounds. From finding a job to launching a business, from researching a paper to learning about the world, libraries help people get started.



Shop the Ithaca-Wide Book Fair, February 28

On February 28, shop at any one of our many local book stores, and a portion of the proceeds from your purchase will be directed for the benefit of the library. There will be special events taking place in many locations, so you will have even more reason to visit and support the library through your purchase. You will need to present a voucher at the time of the sale, which will be available at the library and on our website at www.tcpl.org/foundation/librarylovers.html.

Please put it on your calendar to buy a book—or two or three—on February 28 at any of the following participating stores:

- ♥ Autumn Leaves
- ♥ Barnes & Noble
- ♥ The Bookery I
- ♥ The Bookery II
- ♥ Borders
- ♥ Comics for Collectors
- ♥ Colophon Books
- ♥ The Cornell Store

Help celebrate Library Lovers Month and show your love and support for libraries and all they offer.

50 Ways to Love Your Library . . .

1. Make a tax-deductible contribution by check, credit card or online donation.
2. Give a gift of stock or securities.
3. Set up a trust or annuity with the Library Foundation as a beneficiary.
4. Contribute an in-kind gift of goods or services.
5. Establish an endowed fund.
6. Include the Library Foundation in your will.
7. **Buy Books during an Ithaca-wide Book Fair**
8. Volunteer your time and talents at the Library
9. Visit the library often!
10. **Give your loved one a special Valentine's Day gift with a contribution in his or her name.**
11. Contact your county legislator and advocate for library programs and services.
12. Write to your state and federal legislators to request that library service be viewed and funded as a necessary public service.
13. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper recognizing the good work of a librarian or support staff member.
14. Speak up for libraries at community meetings.
15. **Tell us your story of why you love your library.**
16. Become a member of the Friends of the Library.
17. Volunteer to work at the Friends book sale.
18. Donate your used books to the Friends book sale.
19. Attend the Friends book sales in May and October.
20. Donate new audio and video recordings to be added to the library's collection.
21. "Adopt a Periodical" by contributing toward the purchase of a three-year subscription.
22. Put some spare change or a few dollars in the library's donation box.
23. Have your congregation, club or organization host a fundraiser to benefit the library.
24. Have your business sponsor a program or service at the library.
25. Host a library tour for friends and colleagues.
26. Serve as a table host at the Library Foundation's annual fundraising luncheon.
27. Host an event in your home for friends to promote the library and cultivate future volunteers, supporters and donors.
28. Honor a special occasion like a birthday, wedding, retirement or child's birth with a gift to the library in their name.
29. Memorialize a loved one with a gift to the library.
30. Bring a friend to the library who's never visited before.
31. Attend a program at the library.
32. Attend an art exhibit opening at the library.

Tell Us Your Story of Why You Love Your Library

There are many ways that libraries change and enrich lives. Has TCPL made a difference in your life? Tell us in 250 words or less why you love your library, and you will have a chance to win a book store gift certificate. Entries can be submitted by:

- ♥ Completing a form online at www.tcpl.org/foundation/librarylovers.html
- ♥ Dropping your essay in the box at the Library Lovers Month table in the Library
- ♥ Emailing your response to foundation@tcpl.org

33. Say "thank you" to a library staff member.
34. Read the annual Community Read book.
35. Start a Community Read book discussion group.
36. Explore the library's website.
37. Tell your friends about some of the library's best-kept secrets like the online databases.
38. Send a handwritten note of thanks to a library donor.
39. Create a win-win partnership between the library and your organization.
40. Conduct a library card sign-up drive at your workplace.
41. Share your copy of the newsletter with a neighbor.

42. Participate in a telephone "thankathon" for donors.
43. Hold a meeting or event in the BorgWarner Community Room.
44. Organize a kids' field trip to the library.
45. Write an article about your library experiences for this newsletter.
46. Bring your children to Storytime.
47. Do your homework at the library.
48. Learn a new language using the library's RosettaStone software.
49. View the front page of the newspaper for the day you were born using the library's microfiche periodicals collection.
50. Discover friendships and more in the aisle of your favorite section of the library.

Year of Cultural Celebrations

continued from page 1

Vincent Golphin on Emmett Till and the Force of the American Memory. On February 28 there will be a panel discussion by area teens entitled "Teens Talk: An afternoon of insight on race, equity and hope".

Other programs currently being planned for 2009 are performances by local Celtic dancers, a film presentation of a live opera performance, ethnic food tastings, a discussion on the Iroquois Indians' influence on the women's rights movement, and an exhibit of Tibetan art. Many additional programs will also be added throughout the year.

The Library is also looking for local organizations interested in collaborating on culturally-centered programs. For more information, contact Carrie Wheeler at (607) 272-4557 extension 248 or cwheeler@tcpl.org. To learn more about Library programs, visit www.tcpl.org.

Give a Special Valentine's Day Gift

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Giving Options:

Gift of \$ _____

Min. \$50 required for a bookplate.

Min \$5,000 required for an endowed fund.

Purpose _____

(To "adopt" a periodical, please view the list of titles available for adoption at www.tcpl.org/foundation/adopt.html.)

Gifts in Honor and in Memory:

My gift in honor or in memory of the following person(s) or occasion: _____

Please send a notification card to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Method of Payment:

My check is enclosed, made payable to *TC Public Library Foundation*

Please charge to VISA MC Amex (*circle one*)

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please contact me about making a gift of stock, corporate gift or other special gift arrangement.

Your gift can be unrestricted, which gives the library the most flexibility, or designated for a special purpose. We'll send a special valentine to the person you honor, to let them know of your gift.

- ♥ Feeling romantic? Give a gift of any amount to be used to buy new romance novels.
- ♥ Is your sweetie a movie lover? Contribute in your loved one's name for the purchase of new films on DVD.
- ♥ Does your sweetheart have a favorite author, love to cook, travel, or knit, or have another interest? Give a gift of \$50 or more to buy a bookplate to be placed in a new book.
- ♥ Is there one of the library's magazines your loved one can't do without? "Adopt it" in his or her name.
- ♥ For a lasting and more considerable tribute, you can set up an endowed fund in his or her honor with a contribution of \$5,000 or more.

Please mail completed form and gift to:

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

Thank you!

CALENDAR

EXHIBITS

Seeing in the Dark

Curated by Laurel Guy
Exhibit features work of artists inspired by the night and exploring contrasts between light and darkness.

On display through March 2009

Opening Reception

Friday, January 23 (4 - 7 pm)

Origami and Paper Engineering

Spectacular origami and engineered paper-crafts by world-renowned artist and physicist Robert Lang, the Cornell Origami Club and local members of the Japanese community.

On display through January 31
in the Avenue of the Friends

Opening Reception

Friday, January 23 (4 - 7 pm)

ADULT SERVICES

Film Presentation: *Street Fight*

Wednesday, January 14 (6 pm)

"The Cone Sisters of Baltimore: Collecting at Full Tilt"

*Book Discussion and Author Signing.
Facilitated by co-author Nancy Ramage.*
Saturday, January 24 (12 to 2 pm)

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Origami Workshops

Appropriate for all ages and skill levels.
Saturday, January 17 (12 - 4 pm)
Friday, January 23 (5:30 - 6:30 pm)

Babies, Books, and Bounce

For newborns - 15 months.
Mondays (10:30 - 11 am)

Toddler Storytime

For ages 16 months to 2 years.
Tuesdays (10:30 - 11 am)

Preschool Storytime

For ages 3 to 5 years.
Thursdays (3 - 3:30 pm)

Family Storytime

For all ages and their caregivers
Saturdays (11:30 am - 12 pm)

Families Learning Science Together

*Co-sponsored by the Cornell Center for
Materials Research*
January 10, February 14, March 7,
April 11 (2 - 3 pm)

FOR TEENS

Mother-Daughter Book Club

Lead by local author Emily Rhoads Johnson
Girls ages 10 - 13 with an adult
January 11, February 8, March 8,
April 12 (1:30 - 2:30 pm)

Teen Movie Nights

Teens ages 12 - 17
January 28 (6 - 8 pm)

Teen Game Nights

Teens ages 12 - 17
January 21, February 11, March 11, 18
(6 - 8 pm)

Teen Advisory Group Meeting

Teens ages 12 - 17
January 27 (4:30 - 5:30 pm)



The Library is a founding member of the Discovery Trail. For further information visit www.discoverytrail.com

For event updates and detailed information please visit www.tcpl.org

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.

The Library Connection



TOMPKINS COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

NAVIGATING A SEA OF RESOURCES

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