

# THE LIBRARY Connection



TOMPKINS  
COUNTY  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

APRIL 2006

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



Inman Family

Two big booksales require two experienced coordinators. Ginger Cohen (right), spring coordinator, and Betta Hedlund (left), fall coordinator, check out the new advertising panel on a TCAT bus.

## Spring Booksale Hits the Big Time Everything Goes!

For the first time ever, the Spring sale equals the Fall sale. Donations have reached an all-time high, overloading the storage space, so that it is no longer possible to store the better books for fall. We are making our two sales equal in length, price and number of items. Every book, record, puzzle, video, CD and DVD, etc. in the building will be on sale—an estimated 250,000 items! Prices will range from \$4.50 to \$1.00 on the first day, to \$1.00 per plastic bag on the last day. Collector's Corner will also be open for the first time at a Spring sale. See the special pull-out-

and-keep-in-your-pocket insert for full price details.

Ithaca Friends of the Library workers consider their sale the best in the country—near the top for number of books, but definitely the top for organization and presentation. It would be easy to become complacent, but continuous change is necessary to keep this sale on top and make it even better. Customers will see new tables and shelves, a better arrangement of the check out area and a few changes of location of sections for greater efficiency.

*continued on page 4*

## Language Learning at the Library

For people looking to learn a new language or improve their English speaking skills, there's no better resource than RosettaStone Online, an online language learning tool to help users practice listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and improve communication abilities. The RosettaStone Online Language Learning Center is a database for learning up to 29 languages, including English, and is available for free from the library's webpage. All that's needed is a Tompkins County Public Library card and access to the Internet. The RosettaStone is also available on computers within the library.

The RosettaStone is named after Napoleon's discovery of an engraved, granite stone along the banks of the Nile River in 1799, a discovery that was a key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics. The RosettaStone database is our patron's key to language learning.

*continued on page 6*



### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY Spring Booksale

509 ESTY ST., ITHACA, NY 14850

April 22-24,

April 29-May 1,

and May 6-9

First day: 8 am – 8 pm

All remaining days except  
last day: 10 am – 8 pm

Bag Sale on Last Day:  
4 pm – 8 pm

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the aftermath of the library's referendum defeat, we are re-examining our library services, hours and finances. And—as part of a new long range planning process—we will be re-examining our mission. The mission statement of the library was last revised in 1994 and is printed below.

The referendum raised many questions about the mission of the library. Should we only be about books? Must we always be free? Do we really serve everyone in Tompkins County? What's the information role of the library in the age of the Internet?

There must be a basic consensus within the community and our stakeholders about our mission, which then will enable us to have productive and meaningful discussions about what activities must be undertaken to carry out that mission.

A mission statement must clearly state who we are, what societal needs we address and how we address them, and what makes us unique. It should clearly state our philosophy and core values. A mission statement can then lead to a vision statement, which paints a picture of what success looks like.

As always, your suggestions are welcome. Write to me at [librarydirector@tcpl.org](mailto:librarydirector@tcpl.org)

*Janet Steiner*



Janet Steiner

Terry Harbin

## A New Acquisition

# Chase's Calendar of Events

When is Buddha's birthday, the next solar eclipse, Bolivian Independence Day, Grandparent's Day? How about Egg salad week, Wear your Pajamas to work day, or The Great Bathtub race?

*Chase's Calendar of Events* will answer these questions and thousands more. First published in 1957 Chase's now includes more than 12,000 entries listing events, holidays, observances, festivals, proclamations, and anniversaries, to mention a few of the categories. Organized by date, each entry includes a brief description of the event or observance and contact information when

available and appropriate. This great reference book is a wealth of information as well as being a fun browsing tool. It is full of surprises. Call the reference desk at 272-4556 if you would like us to look up a date or event, or come in and see for yourself.

Chase's Calendar of Events 2006 is located at the Adult Reference Desk. All new acquisitions are made possible through funds provided by the Friends of the Library, donors to the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation and the New York State Library Book Aid Fund.

The mission of Tompkins County Public Library is to enhance the lives of all people in Tompkins County by connecting them to the world's wisdom, knowledge and culture through free and open access to information and creative expression in many formats. 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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# If You Build It, They Will Come . . . Teens @ the Library

Teens and libraries: Some may consider that an oxymoron, but not the staff at the Tompkins County Public Library who are striving to improve their relationship with the teen community. In November 2005 we launched our new teen website ([www.tcpl.org/teen](http://www.tcpl.org/teen)), and began to improve the actual physical space of the teen area. Check out the two new computers for teens (ages 14–17) loaded with educational and fun software and don't miss the exciting large new teen fiction section and the fine shelving that houses it.

Support for the expansion of TCPL's teen services has been provided through a special legislative grant made possible by New York State Senator George H. Winner, Jr. and a gift from Ellis Bradford in memory of Paul Bradford.

Latoya Peterson (right) works with Wendy Sumner (left).



## Teen Programs

### T.A.G., You're It!

Tompkins County Public Library Staff realize that teens know best what they need from their local library, so a Teen Advisory Group has been organized. Interested teenagers who would like to perform a community service, meet new people, and improve the library for themselves and their friends are encouraged to join. T.A.G. meets once a month. For more information contact Adelle Leise at 272-4557 ext 277.

### Writing From Experience

We are excited to announce "Writing From Experience," a writing workshop for young people in grades 9–12. Award-winning novelist Ernesto Quinones will teach a free creative writing workshop for teens in May. This four-session workshop is an introduction to creative writing through discussion, exercises, and methods of writing from one's own experiences. All aspiring teenage writers in grades 9–12 are welcome.

Ernesto Quinones has an MFA from City College of New York and has taught writing at the college level. He has published two novels and recently had an article published in the *New York Times*. Space is limited and registration is required. Contact Adelle Leise at 607-272-4557 ext 277 for more information.

## Annual Summer Reading Program

This year's theme for the annual Summer Reading Program is *Books: a Treasure!* The program will begin on Monday, June 26 and run through Monday, August 7.

This is a great opportunity for young readers to keep up their reading skills during the summer months while enjoying reading as well. As incentives for children to become involved we are planning performances by local entertainers who are extremely popular in the community. Each interested child who registers for the program receives a reading log and a prize. When they have read six books each child receives a certificate and a prize.

Visit us in Youth Services at Tompkins County Public Library to learn more about the program and to find a treasure to take home with you! Patricia Lia

## Volunteers Provide Invaluable Service

On March 14, Assistant Director Susan Frey announced the appointment of



Diana Goodrich

Diana Goodrich to the position of part-time Coordinator of Volunteer Services. Diana has experience working with volunteers in the non-profit setting and is currently working at Olin Library at Cornell.

This is good news, as the library will once again be able to welcome new volunteers to our already large volunteer workforce. Over 90 volunteers currently work in all areas of the library providing invaluable assistance to librarians, clerks, pages and administrators alike. From the telephones to the bookshelves, you can find volunteers any day of the week helping the library to provide excellent service to our community.



# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

## What's in a Name?

As one of the many changes at the Booksale, sorters now have new titles. It was felt that the old names, “Rough” and “Fine” Sorters, implied that the latter job was of higher status and required more skills than the former. The new titles “Primary” and “Category” Sorters reflect the actual situation - that the two jobs are very different, but that both are equally important and both can require a high level of skill.

In this article, we focus on the job of Primary Sorter. Because of the size of the task there is not just a single chairperson, but rather a number of “shift chairs” who take turns on different days. In addition, there are usually a number of experienced sorters working who can serve as resources, because the shift chair is often involved with the frequently hectic job of dealing with incoming donations. Ellie May, sometimes referred to as “Queen of the Rough Sorters” is a good example of the kind of person who enjoys primary sorting. After twenty years of experience, she is very knowledgeable about the books that she sorts and where they go. She prefers primary sorting, because she enjoys the social interaction and the chance to borrow non-fiction books to read.

Primary sorting of hardcover and trade paperbacks, involves picking up a book from a tray, deciding which category it belongs in and then looking for other books in the same or nearby categories so that one can efficiently deliver them to the proper boxes. The difficulty is in making the correct decisions. There

are 57 non-fiction and 14 fiction categories. Some decisions are easy, *Gone with the Wind* or *Introduction to Geology* for example. Some are not so simple, what about *Bimbos of the Death Sun*. Is this Sci-Fi, Sex, or Humor? Wrong! It is about murder at a sci-fi convention and because the author, Sharyn McCrumb, is a popular mystery writer, it goes in Mystery. If there's a dust jacket with a blurb, it usually solves the problem, but sometimes the only way to find out is to read the book. So sometimes one sees a sorter standing in the aisle, doing just that. As a last resort, it's always possible to drop it in the “Where the heck does this go” box, and let someone else worry about it!

The mass-market (small size) paperback sorting section is on the other side of the building and combines primary and category sorting. Suzanne Spitz, who also does paperback pre-20th century fiction, has worked with the paperbacks for over ten years and is now helped by Pat Clark. They sort out mysteries, romances, sci-fi and non-fiction to send to their categories and then alphabetize the remaining fiction by author in hundreds of flat boxes.

When you come to the Booksale you will benefit from the enormous amount of work done during the course of the year by all our sorters. Thanks to them we believe we have the best organized booksale anywhere.



Suzanne Spitz sorting

Beryl Barr

## Everything Goes!

*continued from page 1*

The Booksales have grown so large that overseeing them is more than a one-person job. This year the coordinator for the spring sale is Ginger Cohen, while Betta Hedlund will take over for the fall. There are also four assistant coordinators: Beryl Barr, Frances Fawcett, Maria Gasser and Carrie Shearer.

For more information about the Booksale and how you can be involved check out the Friends' website at [www.booksale.org](http://www.booksale.org).



Ellie May, Queen of the Rough Sorters

Beryl Barr



## More Who-dunnits than ever!

Two of the Booksale's hardest workers sort across the aisle from each other. They resemble each other, both are named Jean, and they both sort mysteries. They are Jean Robinson and Jean Strout.

Jean Robinson has sorted paperback mysteries since 1990, helped by her husband, Ken, when he is not working on the Agriculture section. This year Carrie Shearer will be in charge of this section in addition to her many other roles at the sale, but Jean and Ken plan to continue doing most of the sorting.

Hardcover mystery, across the aisle, is headed by Jean Strout who has been sorting it since 1984. For the last two years she has been helped by Jack Clark, who also does Military Fiction.

These four have diverse and fascinating backgrounds. The Robinsons both taught economics at Cornell and Jean was recently pictured on the front page of the Ithaca Journal, helping a woman with her income tax as part of the RSVP volunteer program. Jack Clark is retired from the Hotel School

where he taught Hotel Engineering and served as Dean. Jean Strout also taught at Cornell and then became Program Director at the Special Children's Center. And here we have a wonderful Booksale coincidence. Laurel Hodgden (Children's Sec-



Beryl Barr

Jean Robinson



Kylikki Inman

Jean Strout

tion) was Jean Strout's thesis chairman in Human Ecology at CU and when Jean in turn was on the faculty, Carrie Shearer was a student and remembers being very much in awe of her. What all these people have in common is a great deal of knowledge about and fondness for mysteries and a great love for the Booksale.

Both mystery sections have grown every year and now each takes up a complete side of an aisle. The most popular authors such as Alexander McCall Smith, Patricia Cornwell, John Grisham and Mary Higgins Clark will sell out early. Many other favorites also sell well, but not necessarily at first-day prices. Then there are older authors such as Rex Stout, Andrew Garve, Georges Simenon, Dorothy Sayers and Michael Gilbert, who still make great reading. Some of these are out of print, so the book sale is a great place to look for them. At the end of the sale very few mystery books are left. (Workers report that buyers will frequently come in on bag sale day and haul away several bags full to last all summer.) If you are browsing in these sections when the workers are restocking, they will be glad to recommend their personal favorites.



Katelyn Inman

### Neither Flood Nor Fire

... nonetheless the Fire Department and many volunteers turned out to help when an ice dam on the roof caused water to pour into the booksale building early in March.



Katelyn Inman



# Your Gateway to Library Resources and the Web

## PowerPAC Tips

PowerPAC is the library's new catalog that you see when you search for a book, check your account, and renew your items. It is available in the library at designated catalog computers and available from home at [www.tcpl.org](http://www.tcpl.org). Here are some tips that can help you with PowerPAC:

### View Items Out on Your Account

If you want to know what you have checked out and when they are due, log in to your patron account and choose the tab at the top left of your screen that says, "Items Out." This lists all items currently out on your card, when they are due, and the number of renewals left for each item.

### Renew Items on Your Account

Log in to your account and choose the tab at the top left of your screen that says, "Items Out." At this point if you want to renew your items, place a check mark in the box to the left of each title by clicking once in the box. Click on "Renew Selected Items." If it renewed successfully, a screen will appear that says, "items successfully renewed." Click "back" to see the new due date. PowerPAC renews the items from the date you renew them, not from the date they are due. An item can not be renewed more than once or if someone has placed a hold on it.

### Book Reviews and Summaries

Are you wondering what Joan Didion's book *The Year of Magical Thinking* is about? Have you heard a lot of buzz about *The Historian* and want to read a few reviews before adding your name to the hold request list? PowerPAC has book reviews, summaries, book jackets, and excerpts for many items we own.

"How can I access these," you say. Simply search for a title like *Life of Pi* and click on "Reviews and More."

Once you click on "Reviews and More" you will see a screen that may have some of the following information:

- Large Cover Image
- Fiction/Biography Profile
- Summary
- First Chapter or Excerpt

- Library Journal Review
- Publishers Weekly Review

Occasionally, people have trouble opening the reviews and summaries because of pop-up blockers on their computers. Many web browsers (Internet Explorer, Opera, Firefox) have pop-up blockers so we don't get overrun with pop-up ads when we visit a variety of websites. If you want to read the reviews and summaries, you may need to disable your pop-up blockers while using Power-

PAC. For assistance with disabling your pop-up blockers, please visit our site at <http://www.tcpl.org/polaris/faq.html#pac-faq6>.

If you have any questions about searching the library collection or checking your account, please stop by the Adult Services Reference desk and we will be glad to assist you. If you would like a private training session, please call Lawrence Carey at 272-4557 ext. 256 or visit the reference desk for an appointment.

## Language Learning at the Library

*continued from page 1*



Volunteer tutor Karen Compton (left) with Jin Song.

The RosettaStone has been made available in-house as a CD-ROM product to library patrons since 2003. The growing popularity of this resource over the past several years influenced the library's decision to lease the more comprehensive online version. A usage log shows that the number of users of the CD-ROM increased nearly 60% from 2004 to 2005. This trend is related to changes in the area's demographics that confirm the growth of an international population with a need for English as a Second Language classes. In fact, ESL classes at Tompkins Learning Partners and TST BOCES have high enrollments and waiting lists.

The RosettaStone Online offers interactive movies that provide images, text and voices of native speakers that simulate the natural language learning pro-

cess. Languages available for learning are: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Danish, Dutch, English (US), English (UK), Farsi (Persian), French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese (BR), Russian, Spanish (Latin America), Spanish (Spain), Swahili, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese, and Welsh.

The library offered this new resource on a free, trial basis in December 2005. Within a month, TCPL reached its maximum number of 100 registrations, and the library purchased a regular subscription through a donation from the Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library. Currently, the product has 209 active users. There is no limit to the number of users who wish to make use of this resource. The library has already offered one training session for a multi-lingual, international BOCES ESL class last January. More training sessions are planned for the future.

Visit the RosettaStone Online Language Learning website through TCPL's database page <http://www.tcpl.org/navigateway/> or come to the library to try it. Then, you can experience this powerful, immersion-based learning method to improve your language skills.

# How You Can Help

There are numerous ways you can help the Tompkins County Public Library by supporting the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation. No matter which way you choose, your involvement makes a difference. Gifts to the Library Foundation are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Contributions to the library can be either restricted or unrestricted. Unrestricted gifts provide the library maximum flexibility in meeting needs. A restricted gift is one that must be used solely for the purpose specified by the donor. Donors wishing to restrict a gift for a specific purpose should make their intentions clear when making a charitable contribution.

Donors wishing to contribute can do so in a number of ways—you can give cash, write a check, or charge on a credit card by phone, mail or online gift; you can donate gifts of stock or other appreciated assets; or you can contribute in-kind gifts such as professional services or supplies and equipment.

## Special Giving Opportunities

### Gifts in Honor and Memory

Gifts made to the library in memory of special persons or in honor of important occasions are lasting tributes that benefit others. Your generosity can make possible the purchase of books, into which book plates are placed to commemorate the person or occasion, or can simply be used where most needed.

### Book Funds

You may choose to set up an endowed book fund, a yearly book fund or a one-time book fund. With a minimum gift of \$5,000, you can establish an endowment that will fund book purchases in perpetuity. A yearly book fund of any amount can

ensure a particular subject or type of book is bought, or can augment the general collection development efforts. A one-time book fund to which many people can contribute is an excellent way to mark an event such as a retirement, birthday or wedding.

### Planned Gifts

Planned giving is a creative way to give through which you can support TCPL and receive financial benefits. This type of charitable giving, which involves contributing your assets through wills and estate plans, often allows you to increase income, avoid taxes, and make a more generous gift to the Library Foundation than you may have thought possible.

### Bequests

Of all the gifts you give, a bequest (a gift you designate in your will) may be the most meaningful one you'll ever make. Through a bequest, you can remember loved ones in special ways, perpetuate your values and help shape the future of the Tompkins County Public Library. We hope you'll tell us when you have named Tompkins County Public Library Foundation in your will. We would very much like the opportunity to thank you for your generosity.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

The library is pleased to offer sponsorship opportunities through which you can support the library and its programs while maximizing the reach and effectiveness of your philanthropic dollars. Sponsorship is a progressive and wonderful way to show your commitment to education, enrichment and lifelong learning.

For information on how to make a gift, please contact Suzanne Smith Jablonski, Executive Director of the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation at (607) 272-4557 ext. 231 or by e-mail at [ssmithjablonski@tcpl.org](mailto:ssmithjablonski@tcpl.org)

## Support Tompkins County Public Library Foundation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

My check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed,  
made payable to *TC Public Library 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

## EXHIBITIONS

### Inter Act Ion

An interactive Art Exhibit curated by Pete Rush  
April through June  
Opening reception April 20, 5 – 7 pm

### Primitive Pursuits

Cooperative Extension exhibit  
on environmental issues  
May

### Discovery Month at the Library

Exhibits by Discovery Trail  
member organizations  
May

### Asian Americans in Tompkins County

Presented by the Ithaca  
Asian American Association  
May

### From Books to Dolls

Soft sculpture dolls inspired by children's  
books—presented by the Doll Club of Ithaca  
June

## YOUTH AND TEEN SERVICES

### Toddler Storytime

for ages 16 months to 3 years  
Tuesdays (10:30 – 11 am)

### Preschool Storytime

for ages 3 to 5 years  
Wednesdays (11 – 11:30 am)

### Babies, Books and Bouncetime

for ages 0 to 15 months  
First and third Thursdays (6:30 – 7 pm)

### Family Storytime

for all ages and their parents or caregivers  
Saturdays (11:30 am – noon)

### 4-H Community Public Presentation Program

Cosponsored by Tompkins County Cooperative  
Extension 4-H Program and Cornell University.  
For youth ages 6 to 18.  
Thursdays (5:30 – 7:30 pm)  
Last date of this series is April 20

### T.A.G. Teen Advisory Group

T.A.G. meets monthly. Call 272-4557 ext. 277  
for details.

## ADULT SERVICES

### Ebay Workshops

Learn How to Sell on Ebay  
Saturday, April 22 (2 – 4 pm)

### Learn How to Search the World Wide Web

Pre-registration necessary—call 272-4556  
Tuesdays and Saturdays (1 – 3 pm)

### Discover the New Polaris PowerPAC Library Catalog

Hands-on workshops  
Tuesdays (6:30 pm)

### Asian American Cultural Series

Co-sponsored by the Ithaca Asian American  
Association  
Thursdays, April 13 & 20 (7 – 8:30 pm)  
Films and discussions presented by  
Professor Changhee Chun, Ithaca College,  
and others.

### Author Reading

Saturday, April 15 (2 – 4 pm)  
Local Latino novelists Ernesto Quinones,  
Helen Viramontes, and H. G. Carrillo will  
read from their recent novels.

### Discovery Day at the Library

May is Discovery Month in Tompkins County  
Saturday, May 20  
TCPL, in partnership with The History Center,  
will present programs and activities around  
the theme of Generation to Generation. For  
more information go to [www.tcpl.org/events](http://www.tcpl.org/events)

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

## The Library Connection



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
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NAVIGATING A SEA OF RESOURCES

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