

THE LIBRARY Connection



TOMPKINS
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

JANUARY 2005

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

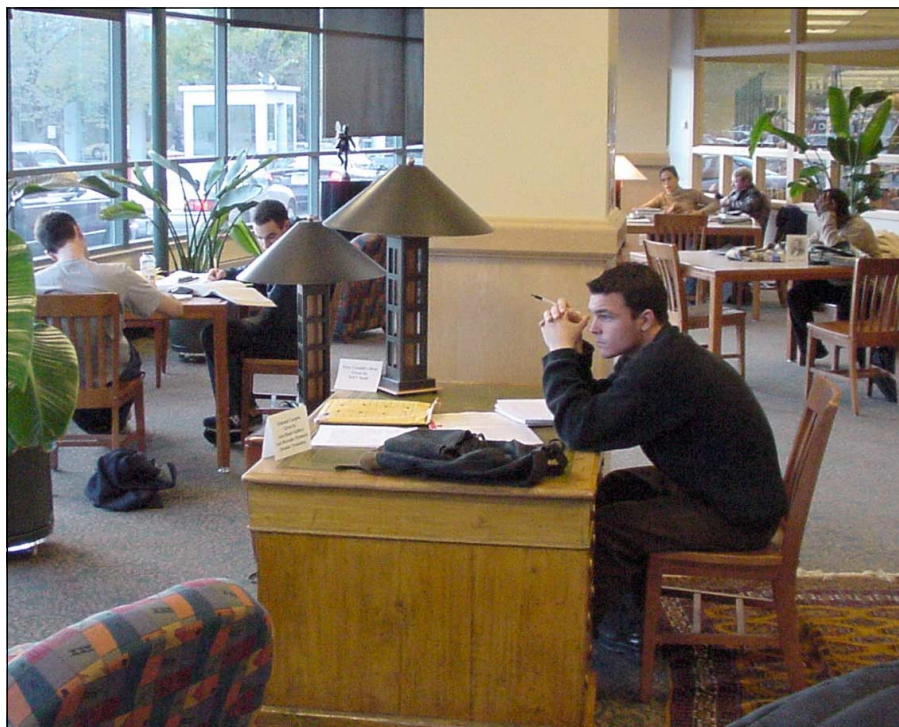
Two Major Gifts Keep the Library Open on Sundays

Thanks to two gifts of \$25,000 each from the Brooks Family Foundation and from Vector Magnetics, Inc. the library will be open on Sundays in 2005.

Late in 2004 the Brooks Family Foundation offered the Library Foundation a gift of \$25,000 and challenged us to raise the additional funds needed to achieve the goal of offering library service on Sundays from January through May, and from September through December. Vector Magnetics, Inc. responded immediately with a matching gift of \$25,000. An additional \$10,000 is needed to provide a full schedule of Sunday hours, which includes special programs for adults and families.

"The library is a favorite weekend gathering place. In addition to resources and information services, in the past the

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Searching for ideas in the sanctuary of the Ezra Cornell Reading Room

The Library as a Refuge for Ideas

"...I remembered that I went to the library and got a copy of Mein Kampf—it was there! And in my little way, in the fourth or fifth grade, I read it. And I remember thinking how dull it was, how egocentric, how unexceptional. We hated Nazis in my house. And when I brought the book home—a book my mother knew something about—its appearance in our house and in my hands occasioned a rather long conversation that included my mother describing the distinction between Nazis and Germans, included also the beginnings of a lifelong suspicion I have for demagoguery and its political rhetoric, as well as founding in me a belief I later learned more clearly from Conrad, that evil so often has its beginnings in the banal. Indeed it is literature's as well as the library's vital mission to remind us to pay attention to the small things—or else risk missing the very large." [Excerpt from a talk delivered by novelist Richard Ford to a convention of American booksellers in Chicago from the *Library Journal*, July 1995.]

The Tompkins County Public Library provides an opportunity to experience, confront, and reflect upon ideas that are contrary to our own without personal threat or condemnation. Its resources provide endless possibilities to those who choose to take advantage: what might I learn? what might I become? Through the library, we experience hope. We open our minds to new ideas, information, and opportunities. We make connections to the past, present and future—to people, places, and ideas.

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2004 Most Successful Year Ever for Booksale

There were more volunteers, more items donated and more items sold than ever before. The funds the Friends give will support the acquisitions budget in 2005 enabling the library to put books on the shelves, support database subscriptions, and purchase CDs and DVDs. Together with the Endowed Funds and gifts and memorials the Friends support the heart of the library—the collection.

For more information about the Booksale and from the Friends, see pages 4 and 5

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the past month I've encountered three library users who have questioned the validity of having certain items with which they do not agree in our collection. Books ranging from gay sex to abortion to Christian fiction have all been challenged.

While I understand that books and their contents can elicit passionate responses (and really, isn't that why they are so powerful?), if we were to limit ourselves to including only books that conform to their point of view, we would be presenting a very narrow set of ideas to the public.

As a matter of library policy, we are committed to including a diversity and range of attitudes and ideas, not suppression and conformity. We are a forum for information and ideas. Books and other library resources are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all people in our community.

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. Those who wish to censor what others read or watch, to determine what is good and bad for their fellow citizens, are antithetical to everything that a public library stands for.

Yes, ideas in some books are controversial, perhaps even dangerous. But while they may appear harmful to some, it is a hundred times more harmful to society to remove them from our library's collection.

The article by Amy Humber the library's Adult Collections Manager *The Library as a Refuge for Ideas* explains the challenges faced by our librarians. *Janet Steiner*



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Essay Contest Winners



Mayor Carolyn Peterson and Vice Provost Isaac Kramnick congratulate *The Trial Essay Contest* award winners (from l to r) Lydia Hsu—2nd prize, Elizabeth User—3rd prize, and Maria Murphy—1st prize.

Fix Your Car or Look up a Book Review

Databases for 2005: Need the engine wiring diagram for your 1980 Volvo? Planning to replace the brake pads on your 1988 Honda Civic and need some instructions? Have a TCPL library card? Then visit the Auto Repair Reference Center (ARRC) at www.tcpl.org/navigation and search through a database of repair information for approximately 25,000 vehicles. ARRC's information is supplied by Nichols Publishing, the

former publisher of Chilton information, and can be accessed in the library or from your home Internet-accessible computer. ARRC includes automobile information from 1954 to the present for domestic and imported vehicles. In addition to over 100,000 factory drawings and photographs, it also includes technical service bulletins, recalls, wiring diagrams, specifications and maintenance schedules, a labor time guide

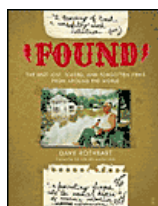
and estimator, quick tips, a complete guide to vehicle ownership and maintenance, and much more. ARRC updates repair procedures regularly. Even if you are not feeling adventurous enough to repair your car, you can use ARRC to know more about what magic your mechanic is performing.

Don't have any car troubles, but are interested in knowing what other great resources are available to you with your library card? Check out the complete list of subscription-based, quality information at www.tcpl.org/navigation. Among these resources are Biography Resource Center, Business and Company Resource Center, General Reference Center full-text magazine index, and Literature Resource Center. And making a come-back appearance is the ever-popular Reference USA Residential and Business Directories, which is an online, national residential and business directory.

The librarians at the Tompkins County Public Library are skilled in guiding you through the research process. We can help you select the most appropriate databases for your research, and construct effective and efficient searches for quality results. Please contact the Adult Services Reference desk at 272-4556 for assistance.

Jennifer Schlossberg

Good Books You May Have Missed



Found: the Best Lost, Tossed, and Forgotten Items From Around the World

Davy Rothbart (2004)

Have you ever found a letter on the street and wondered how it got there and who wrote it? The authors of *Found* magazine ask people to send them "found" items to include in their magazine and web site. This book shows some of the more interesting items people have sent in over the years, including love letters, odd photographs, threatening letters found on car windshields, and flyers.



Raveling

Peter Moore Smith (2000)

This psychological novel traces the unraveling of the Airie family. Twenty years ago, daughter Fiona disappears during a drunken party the family holds, causing the family to slowly disintegrate. Their son, Pilot, suffers from schizophrenia and is obsessed with finding out what really happens to Fiona. A good mystery with

many twists and turns, it also features strong characters who make the decline of the family very disturbing.



Gutted: Down to the Studs in My House, My Marriage, My Entire Life

Lawrence LaRose (2004)

LaRose and his wife were married less than a year when they decided to leave Manhattan and try to find a home in Sag Harbor, NY. After LaRose loses his job, all the family can afford is a "fixer-upper". Throughout it all, LaRose and his wife consider divorce, have a son, and finally finish their dream house. This book will appeal to anyone who has ever built or remodeled a home.



The Dog Fighter

Marc Bojanowski (2004)

Settling into a 1940s Mexico town, a young drifter becomes a dog fighter under the thumb of a corrupt entrepreneur and faces a difficult choice when he befriends an elderly poet and falls in love with an innocent woman.

Are you having a hard time finding something new to read? We keep lots of recommended reading lists at the Adult Services Reference Desk, have reference books to help you choose the perfect horror, romance, historical fiction, or other type of book. We also have a great database, Novelist, devoted to readers' advisory, or finding the perfect book for you. Stop by the reference desk to learn how.

Sarah Glogowski, Adult Services Librarian

The Library as a Refuge

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The library is, in essence, a sanctuary where ideas and information that may be accepted or denounced, mainstream or controversial, unifying or divisive, comfortable or exciting, can coexist, protected from moralizing, partisan, or agenda-driven viewpoints that might seek to dictate what we should read, what we should hear, or what we should learn. It is a steward of embodiment of ideas which are at once both fragile and potent.

The challenge for us librarians is to maintain a balance between volatile opposites and provide our patrons with a haven where they have the opportunity to decide for themselves what is good, right, and true.

Amy Humber, Adult Collections Manager



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWS

This Was a Great Year

This was the most successful year ever for the Friends of the Library book sales: more volunteers, more items donated, more items sold. We sold 85% of the 311,293 items available. Categories which sold out included Fiction's 100 Best, literary sets, old books, science fiction, CDs/DVDs/video movies, and comic books. Many other sections had record sales.

Because the fall sale has become so large, a new plan for administration of the sales was instituted this year. Instead of one coordinator, a three-person team divided up the chores and responsibilities. Doug Reid oversaw the start-up in the winter, Betta Hedlund ran the spring sale, and Ginger Cohen managed the fall sale. Winnie Kostroun was assistant coordinator throughout the year, and Rich Shumway the transporter

and invaluable resource. Regina Lennox and Sue Manning kept the web site current and the computer data base under control. Excellent publicity by Christie Lerch and Maureen Mozeleski ensured that people knew about the fall sale, and book lovers came from all over the country. The first person in line arrived Thursday at 7:00 PM for an opening Saturday at 8:00 AM; that's 37 hours in advance! There were so many shoppers when we opened that we had lines until 4:30 in the afternoon.

We hope you will again give us your hardcover and paperback books, DVDs and videos, records and CDs, puzzles and games, and audio books. Until March 1st we are open every Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM to receive them. We also hope you will volunteer—either during the sales or as a sorter year-round. The continuing success of the Booksale is dependent on our donors and our volunteers.

Ginger Cohen, Fall Coordinator



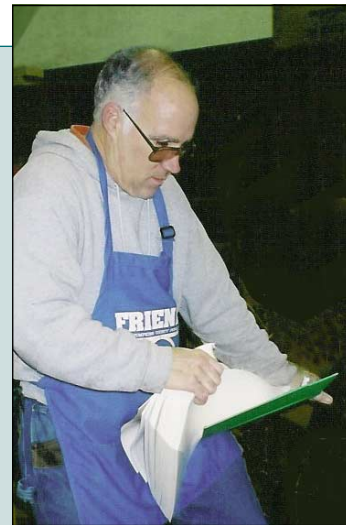
Empty shelves

After the Booksale

One of the most frequent questions asked about the Booksale is: "What happens to the books that don't sell?" Some book lovers are horrified at the answer, which is that all remaining books, except those in Collector's Corner, are recycled to be made into new paper products. (An exception to this is the Children's Section, where many of the unsold books are distributed to various community educational and charitable groups.)

It's true that none of us like the idea of destroying books, but because of the limited space, the Booksale cannot afford to have great numbers of books on its shelves which no one wants to buy. The process is simple: paperback books are recycled whole, while the hardcover books must have their covers removed first. After the sale this work is done by volunteers and workers from the Probation Department.

The Booksale must pay for two dumpsters, one for recycling paper and one for trash (the hard covers). Throughout the year volunteer Mike Zaitlin



Mike Zaitlin pulling covers from books and then recycling at the dumpster



The Foreign Language Section



Lorrie Young sorting books in the Foreign Language section

One of the most interesting places at the Booksale is the Foreign Language section. Because of the cosmopolitan character of the Ithaca area, books in over 20 languages are regularly donated. Lorrie Young has been the fine sorter for this area for ten years. Lorrie reads French, Italian, Spanish and Latin, and she is familiar enough with several others to sort those languages as well. Helping her are Ruth Windmuller—German, Giok Po Oey—Asian Languages, Tatyana Kislukhina—Russian, and Laurel Hodgden—Scandinavian Languages.

Lorrie’s special pride is the Foreign Language Fine Arts section, where she places art books and other books of special interest, which are not valuable enough for the “Collector’s Corner”. One of the most exciting finds this year was a book about the feudal castle of Kyoto, Japan complete with blue prints. This has been a very popular area even with those who do not read the languages.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting

This year, as an experiment, the time of the Annual meeting was changed from Saturday afternoon to Tuesday evening. It was held on November 15 in the Borg Warner Room at the Library. There was good attendance for a talk by Deborah Homsher on “Book Clubs and Community”. Coffee, cider, cookies and conversation followed. Arrangements this year were excellently handled by Linda Silber, Hospitality Chairperson. After the refreshments the business meeting was held. The Friend’s 2005 budget was approved, officers were elected, and By-Laws changes were approved.

Booksale Dinner

and Booksale transporter Rich Shumway do the recycling of the books that aren’t good enough to make it on to the shelves for the sale. After the books are recycled, volunteers wash the shelves to make ready to put new books on for the next year’s sale. This turn-around happens in the space of two weeks, then sorting begins again....



One of the rewards for volunteers at the Booksale is the annual wrap-up dinner which takes place at the end of October. All volunteers and their family members are invited to share in a dish to pass dinner. It is a cheerful occasion and held at the Booksale building which is enlivened by colorful tablecloths, balloons and the great variety of delicious food. The Fall Booksale Coordinator reports Booksale statistics, which always meet with great applause. Some of the popular recipes from this year’s dinner including *Apple Broccoli Salad* from Anne Terrell, *Rice and Corn Casserole* from Bruce Layton and *Armored Turnips—a Medieval recipe* from Jules Hojnowski, can be found on the Friends’ website at www.booksale.org/recipes.



Boys and Books



Fostering a love of reading

Michael Sullivan, the author of the book *Connecting Boys with Books: What Libraries Can Do* states unequivocally, “It’s not that boys can’t read, they just don’t.”

If you question most teachers and children’s librarians, you will probably get a similar response. The boys who

do love to read, and who, by the way, have a special place near and dear to the book-loving heart of any librarian, happen to be the exception to the rule.

Unfortunately, all of the many studies on the subject draw the same conclusion, that girls not only tend to read more, but that they outrank the boys in grade-level reading ability.

But boys should not have to play “catch-up” with the girls if parents and teachers use some of the following strategies:

- Boys enjoy reading non-fiction books, magazines and comics—allow and encourage them to do this.
- Boys tend to like sports, adventure, and humor in books—try not to be critical of their choices.
- Other topics that interest boys are mysteries, fantasy, scary stories, and sometimes, animal stories, historical fiction and science fiction.
- Except for the Harry Potter phenomenon, it’s best not to overwhelm boys with too many pages. There is always time for heftier books when they have found an interest.
- Since boys tend to like action, remember to seek out opportunities to hear storytellers, and find other forms of creatively expressing written ideas through movement, theater, or arts and crafts.

A few recommended titles for the various grade levels:

- 4th Grade *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar
Goblins in the Castle by Bruce Coville
Magic Tree House (any in the series)
by Mary Pope Osborne
- 5th Grade *Harry Potter* series by J. K. Rowling
Animorphs series by K. A. Applegate
Weasel by Cynthia DeFelice
- 6th Grade *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli
Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis
Woodson by Gary Paulsen
- 7th Grade *Jason’s Gold* by Will Hobbs
The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
Never Trust a Dead Man by Vivian Vande Velde
- 8th Grade *Whirligig* by Paul Fleischman
Freak the Mighty by W. Rodman Philbrick
Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers

Library Receives Grant

NY State Council for the Arts/CAP Grant to display curated art exhibits during 2005

One of the library’s most successful partnerships in recent years has been with local artists and the **Community Arts Partnership (CAP)**. This partnership has enabled the library to present four curated art exhibits each year since moving to its new location at 101 East Green Street.

The grant the library receives supports the curators and enables us to produce exhibit catalogs and to hang each show. Four shows are planned for 2005. The first exhibit *Bodies Through Technology*—a multi-media art show is curated by Renate Ferro and co-sponsored by the Light in Winter Festival in memory of Dorothy Reddington. The opening reception which is being held in conjunction with the Light In Winter Festival will be held on Thursday, January 27. The show will feature new media artworks from Cornell University’s Rose Goldsen Archive as well as two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and computer generated interactive art by such artists as Graham McDougal, Xiaoen Chen, Susan Weisand, Renate Ferro, Kumi Korf, Tim Merrick, Jane Denis, Stan Taft, as well as others.

The other exhibits are *Collage* curated by Carol Schwartzott, *On Cayuga* curated by Carol Abitello Ast, and *Landscape Photographs*, curated by James Burlitch.

Two Major Gifts

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library has offered stimulating cultural activities on Sundays including changing art exhibits and displays, live music performances and An Afternoon with an Author series co-sponsored by The Bookery,” said Library Director Janet Steiner.

Sundays are second only to Saturdays in popularity as measured by circulation per hour. Students working on assignments and regular Internet users rely on Sunday access, as do working adults and families and rural residents for whom weekday visits are difficult.

The Brooks Family Foundation co-director stated, “While we hope that in 2006 public funding will ensure a full schedule of library hours, we are pleased to be able to help make this essential service possible this year.”

“We are grateful for the generosity of the Brooks Family Foundation and Vector Magnetics, Inc.” stated Robin Moss Hinchcliff, President of the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation Board of Directors. “Providing weeklong library access has been a top priority for fundraising. We are hopeful other community members will join the effort to assure a full, robust Sunday schedule.”

For information about contributing to meet the goal for Sundays in 2005, please contact Suzanne Smith Jablonski, Executive Director, Tompkins County Public Library Foundation, at 272-4557 ext. 231 or ssmithjablonski@tcpl.org, or return the form found on page 7.

Young People's Time and Talent Raise Funds for TCPL



Library Director Janet Steiner (back row, center) and TCPL Foundation Executive Director Suzanne Smith Jablonski (front row, left) are pictured with the Panhellenic Association's 2004 Executive Board.

Cornell University's Panhellenic Association is the governing board representing the interests of 12 inter/national sororities with nearly 1,500 members. In 2004, the Association launched a pilot program to assist the library through fundraising activities. In December, a pair of basketball tournaments was held at Ithaca High School and on the Cornell campus, along with a raffle to be run through February. Funds raised will be used to augment the children's foreign language collection. The Association plans to hold an event in 2005 to celebrate cross-cultural exchange, highlighting the books and other materials to be purchased.

The Fingerlakes Unschoolers Network (FUN) is a nonsecular support group for people interested or involved in home education. FUN sponsors field trips and workshops, publishes a bimonthly newsletter, prints an annual directory of members who wish to be listed and maintains a list of contact people in local districts.

One of its activities is a variety show, bringing together children of all ages to delight with dance, magic and music performances. Since countless FUN members are avid library users, when it came time for the children to decide to whom to donate the proceeds from their October 2004 show, the choice was clear: Tompkins County Public Library. The show raised \$391, which was used to adopt three children's magazines for three years.



The Blues Bandits rock out to raise money for the library.

Support Tompkins County Public Library

If you wish to make a gift directly to the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation, please fill out the form at right and mail it to the address given. Please also feel free to call the Library Foundation, 272-4557 x 231, for information on stock gifts, endowed book funds and planned giving.

Mail to:

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

Thank you!

Yes, I would like to support the Library!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my gift of: _____

I wish to pay by credit card: MasterCard Visa AMOUNT _____

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____

CALENDAR

EXHIBITS

Bodies Through Technology

Multi-media art exhibit curated by Renate Ferro

Opening Reception Thursday, January 27 (5–7 p.m.)

YOUTH SERVICES

Family Storytime for all ages with parents and caregivers
Saturdays (11:30 a.m.–noon)

Toddler Storytime for ages 16 months to 3 years
Tuesdays (10:30–11 a.m.)

Babies, Books, and Bouncetime for ages 0 to 15 months
First and third Thursdays (6:30–7 p.m.)

Families Learning Science Together
Third Saturdays, January 15 through June 18 (2–3 p.m.)

TEENS

4-H Public Speaking for ages 6 to 18
Every Thursday from February 3 (5:30–7 p.m.)

ADULT SERVICES

Book Discussion Group at Danby Community Library
January 25 (7 p.m.)

Internet Classes
Tuesdays (1 and 3 p.m.)
Wednesdays (12:30 and 2:30 p.m.)

Reading Between the Lines Book Group
Third Tuesdays, February through May (7–8:30 p.m.)

Library Book Discussion Group
Fourth Thursday, January through June (7–9 p.m.)

For detailed information please visit www.tcpl.org

Androcles and the Lion

The Hangar Theatre School presents *Androcles and the Lion*: a joyful comedy of courage, compassion, friendship and strength of character—Saturday, March 26, 3pm at TCPL



Sherri Eden Barber (Mouse) and Anndre Dimapilis (Lion)

The Hangar Theatre offers a refreshing, original theatre piece that tells the story of a lion and a boy named Androcles who meet in the jungle and through acts of kindness toward each other become the best of friends. Then, in a surprising turn of events, Androcles and the lion suddenly become rivals, as unwitting players in the scheme of the young emperor who is a bully. With the help of an unexpected hero, a tiny mouse, everyone becomes friends. And in doing so, they learn the positive ways in which children, lions, mice, and even emperors can get along together.

Their Principal Sponsor, Borg Warner Morse TEC, generously sponsors the Hangar's School Tour program. The performance at the library is made possible by community donations.

The Library Connection



TOMPKINS COUNTY
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NAVIGATING A SEA OF RESOURCES

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