

THE LIBRARY Connection



TOMPKINS
COUNTY
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 2004

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

Generous Gifts Support Library Programs and Services

Gifts and grants supplement county funding to serve as a stabilizing force. Bringing the library closer to achieving the high level of programming envisioned for county residents, gifts and grants this year keep residents linked to electronic resources, continue the learning and reading experience for children, enable access to cultural activities and ensure that gaps in reference and non-fiction titles are minimized.

Stories in the Park

On Tuesday afternoons in the summer, families can enjoy story time in the outdoors at the Dewitt Park Farmers Market. Hearing stories read aloud not only increases kids' chances for success in school but also provides a wonderful way for families to share an enriching experience. Stories in the Park 2004 was made possible in part by a grant from Target Stores.

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Entranced, two toddlers creep closer and closer to Eileen Willauer as she reads.



Friends of the Library
FALL BOOKSALE 2004
509 Esty Street, Ithaca
OCT. 2-11 & 16-18

Oct. 2	8 am – 8 pm
Oct. 3 – 11	10 am – 8 pm
Oct. 16 – 17	10 am – 8 pm
Oct. 18 (bag sale)	4 pm – 8 pm

For volunteer opportunities
and more information see pgs.
4 & 5 or visit www.booksale.org.

FALL BOOKSALE 2004

509 Esty Street, Ithaca • October 2-11 and October 16-18

Come to the big green warehouse at 509 Esty Street, Ithaca on October 2 to find a wonderful selection of books, videos, CDs, audio books, records, puzzles, games, maps, posters, and comic books. The sale opens at 8 am on Oct. 2 when prices range from \$4.50 to \$1.00, decreasing daily until the last day at 4 pm when books sell for \$1.00 a bag. There will be something for everyone! And don't forget:

SENIOR DAY: Oct. 12 (10 am-2 pm)

The sale is open only to people 65 and over or those with disabilities which limit

their shopping on other days. Each person may select one free item (not from collectors' corner) and buy others at the regular price.

GIVEAWAY DAY: Oct. 19 (3-6 pm)

Items are offered free to not-for-profit organizations, home schoolers and classroom teachers. Bring a note on your organization's stationery authorizing you to select books and bring your own boxes. Book sale volunteers who have donated at least 20 hours are also welcome.
Ginger Cohen, Fall Booksale Coordinator

THIRD
LARGEST
booksale in
the U.S.!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

“How’s the library these days?” Well-meaning questioners are usually looking for a one word positive answer—Busy, terrific, great! If I can get their attention for more than a second, I might say that the library is outwardly successful but internally we are dangerously stressed.

And if I can hold their attention longer, I might describe our successes:

- Summer Saturday hours
- Sunday hours funded by donors and state legislators
- A successful spring Friends booksale
- A third Cornell/Community Read: *The Trial*
- Wireless access to the Internet

It’s the second minute of my two-minute speech which I have yet to perfect. How to tell the story of what happens when library activity rises but staffing levels decrease? How to convey the story of pressing new technology needs which compete in the library budget with the demands of library users for more books, DVDs and recorded books? And how to describe the erosion of library services such as fewer public programs and community partnerships with sufficient clarity that listeners are inspired to DO something about it?

A library is more than a beautiful facility. A library is community of people with shared values. We believe that open and free access to information is the foundation of a democracy; that information is powerful; that libraries can change people’s lives. These values should never be compromised even in times of fiscal challenges.

Please add your voice to mine. As the 2005 county budget hearings begin, let your county legislators know how you feel about your library. Let’s all be able to answer the question, “How’s the library these days?”

Janet Steiner



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Library Hosts Russian Librarians



The Tompkins County Public Library hosted a group of eight visiting Russian public librarians this summer. Our guests arrived at 9 a.m., toured the library and spent time in each department learning about our American library practices and procedures. Although talking through a translator was time consuming, by their departure at 5 p.m., we felt like close friends. In addition to visiting our library, they spent time at Cornell, TC3 and the South Central Regional Library Council. Shopping and visiting local landmarks made their week in Ithaca unforgettable!

Library Requests Support for Basic Services

Restoration of library services is the top priority for funding in the library's 2005 county budget request. Library trustees signed off on a proposal that would address the erosion of basic library services. In the past two years, library hours were reduced, staff laid off and library acquisitions slashed in half.

The library's budget request to the county legislature included a 3.5% increase to maintain existing personnel and

meet contractual obligations as well as projected increases in employee benefits. The library also requested that eight positions be restored by either re-hiring those laid off, or increasing the hours of employees whose jobs were reduced at the start of January 2004.

Those positions include the Health Information Center Librarian, a Youth Services Librarian, Library Clerks, Pages and Administrative Staff.

Trustees also requested funding for the replacement of obsolete and aging technology equipment.

The total request totaled \$2,244,32, an increase of 14% over 2004 funding. The county's appropriation is approximately 70% of the library's operational budget. The remaining revenue is achieved through donations, including funding from the Friends of the Library and the TCPL Foundation, fees and fines.

Mary Oliver "Retires"



Mary Oliver, phone volunteer for more than 17 years, decides to retire.

Mary Oliver, after 17-plus years as a phone volunteer, has decided to "retire". A patron long before she was a volunteer, Mary tells the story of the day she was talking with then assistant director Nancy Maginnis, when the phone rang. Nancy remarked at how the phone rang incessantly, and Mary said, "It sounds like you need someone to just answer the phone." Good things quite often originate with an off-the-cuff comment, and Mary's comment turned out to be a good thing for the library. Nancy took it as a proposal and Mary accepted. Since that day much has changed, but not the need for a cheerful professional voice on the other other end of the phone when a patron calls for information. Staff and patrons alike will miss Mary.

Generous Gifts

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NEW SERVICE! Information Literacy Mobile Laptop Training Center

Children and adults will be able to participate in workshops on employment, consumer health, personal finance and homework resources as part of the new Information Literacy Mobile Laptop Training Center. Made possible by a New York State legislative project through Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, the lab will bring customized instruction to users at TCPL and throughout the community.

NEW SERVICE! Library 'Unplugged' with Wireless Internet Access

Library users can now access the Internet from anywhere in the library without having to plug into a wall outlet. You will need a laptop equipped with a standard network interface card (NIC) that is compatible with Wi-Fi standards 802.11 b or 802.11 g (a standard feature on most new laptops). Funding for this project came from Wing Eng and Janine Thuy T.H. Eng. A library volunteer and tech expert, Mr. Eng invested in his vision to connect library users to the riches of the online world.

Through "Designate a Dewey" Initiative, Technology Resources Get a Boost

William Bradford and his brother Ellis, Ithaca natives, grew up with libraries and

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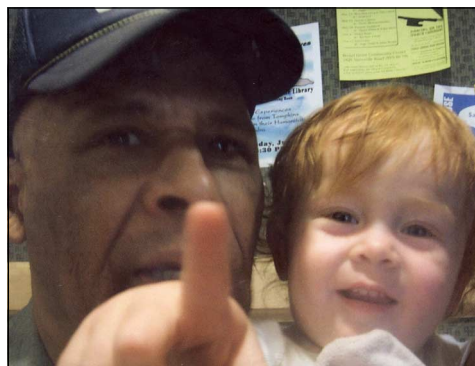
A Very Special Thank You

To the wonderful library staff,

We wanted to thank you all so much for being such a wonderful resource for us during our years in Ithaca. As a student couple with a small apartment and a very active toddler, we found the library, with its wonderful children's section, baby story time, and our son's beloved friend Mert, to be an absolute godsend. We are moving back to NYC next week, but will always remember your wonderful library with affection and gratitude.

Thanks again,

Andra, Randy and Diego Gordon-Gatica



Diego Gordon-Gatica saying goodbye to the library and to Mert. In July we all said goodbye to Mert La Bad who retired from his third career as a library security guard to spend more time with his family.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWS

Fall Booksale 2004

First day prices by category

A	\$4.50	Hardcover books, Videos, CDs, Adult audio books, Computer software, Trade (large) paperbacks, Multiple disc record albums
B	\$3.00	Children's hardcover books, Children's pop-up books, Children's videos, Puzzles, Games
C	\$2.00	Mass market paperbacks, Single disc record albums
D	\$1.00	Cassettes, Comics, Maps, Pamphlets, Patterns, Posters, Sheet music, Children's records, Children's paperbacks, Children's audio books, Little Golden Books, Hard page baby books

NOTE: Prices go down everyday until the last day when a grocery bag full costs only \$1.

Volunteer Jobs at the Booksale



Barb Wilcox at the information booth

Volunteering at the Booksale is entertaining, sociable, educational and beneficial! When you volunteer at the sale, you are raising funds for local libraries and having the pleasure of helping people find books they love. Here are some jobs to be done during the sale:

The **greeter** welcomes people, offers maps of the sale, and clicks a counter that counts people as they enter.

At the **information booth** a volunteer knowledgeable about books and the Booksale offers information on where to find specific books or authors.

Floaters are responsible for putting stray books back where they belong, straightening shelves, answering questions and helping find lost items and people!

The **Pricer** separates the books by price category, counts them and fills out a price total sheet.

There are two lanes of **cashiers**, one for credit cards and one for cash and checks. (To be a credit card cashier, you need to have a half hour class before the sale on how to use the machine.)

Please consider volunteering at the Booksale. I know you'll have a good time—I've been volunteering there 21 years and I still love it! *Kyllikki Inman*

The Spring Booksale Line

As the Spring Sale has become larger, the first day line has become longer—there are even book lovers who camp out all night as there are in the fall. We interviewed the people at the front of the line at 7:30 a.m.

Laurel Hodgden

Used book dealers Tracey and Bob Nudelman were first in line. Bob is called "Tallahassee" at the Booksale because he used to come from Florida for the sale. He always tries to be the first in line. Tracey and Bob pitched their tent at 6 pm Friday.



Fourth in line was one of the most dedicated book seekers. Joe Mirabito arrived at 3:30 am after bicycling almost all night—65 miles from Norwich, NY! He was looking for religious books for his own use.



Next was Jesus Sagala, a Cornell graduate student from Mexico, who was hoping to find biology, ecology and evolution reference books.



Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers before, during and after the sale and now is the time to sign up. Call the booksale at 272-2223 or register on line at www.booksale.org.

Anyone who has worked during one of our previous sales knows how enjoyable it is! Shifts are usually 2-1/2 hours.

The different jobs are described in the article *Volunteer Jobs at the Booksale*.

We also need volunteers before the sale to distribute posters and book-marks, to make phone calls, and after the sale, to clear out and clean. Home-made goodies are always appreciated.

This year we're accepting help from groups. If your business or club wants to provide the volunteers for one afternoon, call us soon so we can reserve the time for you. Volunteers are critical to our success, and we need 40 to 100 people every day—so sign up now!
Ginger Cohen, Fall Booksale Coordinator



(Clockwise from top left) Greeter Ellie May, helped by Jene Peck; Beryl Barr prices books for a customer; Amanda Ufford is the credit cashier; Floater Diane Irwin busily re-shelves books

The Spring Sale

“The Spring Sale just keeps getting better and better,” an eager, early shopper remarked. The 2004 sale opened its doors well-stocked with more than 172,000 items and ended five days later after 10,369 people had shopped in the Friends’ giant green warehouse.

Proceeds were up ten per cent over the previous year. Volunteers worked 6,526 hours to run the sale—at \$17.19 per volunteer hour that equals a donation worth \$112,182!

The beneficiaries of the sale are Tompkins County Public Library, the Finger Lakes Library System and recipients of outreach grants. In addition, some books, videos, and books on tape bypass the sale and go directly to area libraries—1,514 books and 622 videos and tapes worth over \$39,000 were selected before the sale started.

For similar success this Fall we need volunteers and customers. Why don't you try both roles this October?

Betta Hedlund, Spring sale coordinator



Sixth in line: Joe Wetmore, owner of the Autumn Leaves, a bookstore on the Commons, arrived around 4 a.m. and was looking for “BOOKS!!!”



Vladimir Dragon, another well-known local bookseller, is particularly interested in Architecture books. With him was a friend who was identified only as “Doctor X”.



Doctor X was hoping to find a Gutenberg Bible and some incunabula. Doctor X commented, “You can characterize everyone in line as an optimist.”



Bob Riedal was well prepared for a long stay, sitting in his folding chair with a coffee cup holder! He was looking for the *Evergreen Review* from 1993.

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Kyllikki Imman (photos)

Two Generations, One Passion

David Lee and Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, and Peter and Dorothy Rinaldo recently joined the Tompkins County Public Library Foundation First Edition Society, a group of supporters who commit \$5,000 or more over five years. In a conversation with Foundation executive director Suzanne Smith Jablonski, they described how making an investment in TCPL was a natural decision for these two generations of library lovers.

Dorothy Rinaldo, who grew up in a “bookish” family, put her fondness for reading to good use as a reference librarian. Now retired after a long career at Sarah Lawrence College, Dorothy continues to use her skills and expertise as a volunteer in the library at Kendal at Ithaca, where she and her husband Peter have lived since 2002. A retired chemical engineer, Peter Rinaldo is no stranger to libraries himself, as he served for many years on the Ossining Public Library board.

When asked why she and Peter chose to support the library, Dorothy states that it was a behind-the-scenes tour of the library that inspired her. “I saw [the gap between] what the library does and what it would like to do,” she says.

With parents like Dorothy and Peter, a love of libraries was in Marjory



Clockwise from top left: Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, David Lee, Dorothy Rinaldo, Peter Rinaldo

Rinaldo-Lee’s blood. “One of my earliest memories is of using the encyclopedia in my hometown library in Lexington, Massachusetts,” she remembers. Her husband David Lee tells of growing up with libraries as well: “I grew up in a very small town in rural western Massa-

chusetts. The library was one of the very few community facilities. In the summer, I’d go once a week, take out 8–10 books, read them during the week and go back the next week for another set.”

Marjory and David raised their chil-

continued on next page

Spring Booksale Line

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Sharon and Michael Yahn were still cheerful even though they arrived from Pennsylvania at 4:30 a.m. They were interested in antiquarian books.



The daughter-mother team of Mary Lynn Faiola and Maria Ayme came from Romulus for the sale. They were comfortably settled in their lawn chairs, with blankets and books to read.

Two Generations

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dren to perpetuate the family tradition of librarygoing. When their teenagers Alex and Julie were younger, the library was a frequent family stop; today, they visit the library to meet friends for a quiet place to study.

As a professor and member of the Ithaca City School District Board of Education, David is dedicated to the life-long learning opportunities the library provides. "The key to economic success is education," David asserts. He sees how the public library complements the offerings of public schools, and gives adult learners a chance for self-improvement.

For Marjory, supporting the library is an expression of her commitment to equal participation. "An important part of a vibrant democracy is the ability for everyone to have access to information. The library provides that access." Marjory adds, "We want to make sure we have a community resource for all...to develop a love of libraries, books, reading and learning."

Dorothy, Peter, David and Marjory have shared their passion by joining the First Edition Society. Thanks to their support, other families can take advantage of the library's resources, and build library going traditions of their own.

Generous Gifts

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learning in their blood. Their father Paul Bradford was a trustee of the Tompkins County Public Library, and their mother Emily Willson Bradford a teacher. So when thinking of a way to honor his late brother William and his wife Holly, Ellis decided to "designate a Dewey", establishing the Holly G. and William A. Bradford Endowed Book Fund to support the 600s section, Technology.

Association of Fundraising Professionals Provide Tools for Achievement

The Finger Lakes Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is the professional association of individuals responsible for generating philanthropic support for a wide variety of nonprofit, charitable organizations. Because of their dedication to promoting consistent and high standards of professional practice, the Finger Lakes AFP has made a gift to establish a collection of fundraising resources at TCPL.

Melodious Music on Sundays Nourishes the Soul

Back by popular demand thanks to a gift from Arthur Kuckes, Music on Sundays provides an inviting forum for hearing the best talent Tompkins County has to

offer. From September 12 through December 12, the Ezra Cornell Reading Room will be alive with the strains of classical music, folk, jazz, blues and pop.

Summer Reading Program

Through the Summer Reading Program, children grades K through 6 improve their literacy skills and develop a love of reading, learning and libraries. Sponsored in part through a grant from the Helen Thomas Howland Foundation and its administrative partner, the Community Foundation of Tompkins County, this year's program drew 882 registrants.



Anneke (left) and Tanya (right) Van Renesee share *The Day of the Dragon King*, a story they have been reading during the Summer Reading program, with their mother Lesley Greene.

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

Quilted Landscapes Art Exhibit *curated by Alice Gant*
October through December
Opening Reception October 21 (5–7 p.m.)

Music on Sundays *Ezra Cornell reading room*
September 12 through December 12
Every second and fourth Sunday (3–4 p.m.)

Ithaca Reads *The Trial* *essay contest for high school students*
Entry deadline Sunday, October 31

Ithaca Reads *The Trial*—A Debate
Thursday, October 7 (7–8.15 p.m.)

YOUTH SERVICES

Homework Help to the Rescue *using our new mobile laptop training center for grades 3–5 and 6–8*
Mondays, October 11 through November 8 (6:30–8 p.m.)

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

Book Play *stories and activities for preschoolers ages 3 and up*
Wednesdays, October–December (10:30–11 a.m.)

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

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

ADULT SERVICES

Database training using our new laptop training center

How to search our online catalog
Second Monday of the month (6–8 p.m.)

Shopping on eBay
Saturday, October 2 (2–4 p.m.)
Saturday, November 13 (2–4 p.m.)

For detailed information please visit www.tcpl.org

Local Celebrities Read...

We asked, “What were your favorite children’s books, and what are you reading now?”

CASEY STEVENS WHCU Radio Personality

Favorite childhood author — “A.A. Milne, of course!!!”



Currently reading — “This summer, I am working my way through the *New Yorkers* that piled up while I did an online Sociology course with TC3, but I am also thrilled with (and working through!) *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger, and *Villa Incognito* by Tom Robbins.”



Photo: Dede Hatch

BRIGID HUBBERMAN

Director, Family Reading Partnership

Favorite childhood books — “It will come as no surprise that through my childhood, and to this day, I am a very big fan of picture books! My first book to own, and one I cherish to this day,

is Robert McCloskey’s *Time of Wonder*. It was a gift from a friend for my fifth birthday—his five-year-old writing is still in the front. The emotional connections to the book itself make it a favorite that I keep in my office.”

Currently reading — “As I became a reader myself, I loved biographies. I recently read and liked very much *The Color of Water* by James McBride. I am now making my way through Dan Brown’s *Angels and Demons* together with *The Other 90%* by Robert K. Cooper, and *The Generosity Factor* by Ken Blanchard and S. Truett Cathy”

The Library Connection



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