

June 15, 2009

SENECA DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Newbery Award Under Fire

The Newbery Award can dramatically boost book sales; it sets the standard for aspiring authors; and Newbery books are usually the first choice of parents & teachers. However, many book lovers are wondering if children, librarians, & other book lovers are still rushing to read Newbery winners.

For her article in *School Library Journal*, Anita Silvey spoke with more than 100 individuals—including media specialists, children’s librarians, teachers, and booksellers—in 15 states. Many public librarians claim that the most recent winners wouldn’t be the books they would choose for their kids. School librarians said that Newbery titles of recent years don’t interest students. Book critics & reviewers commented that the present-day Newbery committees seem dismissive of popularity & appear to be searching for a special book—one that attracts only a few readers.

Newbery committee members respond that if their top picks aren’t exciting that means there were “no good books.” However, Ms. Silvey says “although great books are rare, there are always a handful of them each year.” She points out that the Newbery committee does work very hard, spending long hours

reading, evaluating, and attending meetings. They deserve appreciation for their service.

Historically, public & school librarians, teachers, booksellers, critics, reviewers, authors, and publishers all desire the same thing—a book that can be enjoyed, admired & recommended, without reservation, to children. When the Newbery Award began, its founders clearly sought books that would have broad appeal. The name of the award also points to the vision behind it. John Newbery, who was a successful publisher, believed that children’s books should “offer readers delight and instruction in equal measure.” Thus he tried to publish works that would be popular & profitable.

Ms. Silvey feels that current selections have moved away from the spirit & philosophy of those who established the award. Hopefully this trend will be short-lived & the prestige of the Newbery Award maintained.

Based on: Silvey, Anita, “Has the Newbery Lost Its Way?” *School Library Journal*, p. 38-41, October 2008.



District Happenings

Awards:

Johnsonburg Public Library has been awarded a *Picturing America* “We the People Bookshelf for 2009.”

Marienville Area Library and S.S. Bovard Memorial Library in Forest County have been awarded an LSTA Grant for the development of a countywide, Internet-accessible automation system.

Programming:

St Marys Public Library presented *PA One Book, Every Young Child* authors Florence & Wendell Minor on April 14 at the South St Marys Street Elementary School. The Minors read *If You Were a*

Penguin and shared Wendell’s art work.

Johnsonburg Public Library partnered with the Johnsonburg Elementary School 2nd grade in March to conduct an “I-Did-A-Read” program. The program challenged 60 2nd grade students to read 1000 pages during the month of March. It culminated with an awards program in April, where the children were entertained with images of the Northern lights and two Siberian Huskies and their trainers.

(Continued on page 2)

District Happenings (cont'd from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

Marienville Area Library hosted two successful programs. In April, the library & the Forest Area Arts Council presented a mosaic class taught by local artist Brenda Nicklas. Participants created mosaic side tables. In May, Marienville held a book signing for local writer Randi Millward. Randi wrote *Beyond the Traditional Lemonade Stand*, which outlines creative business stand plans for children of all ages. The author donated a book to the library as well as selling many copies at the signing. As a result, several young people were inspired to set up a stand that evening with lemonade and cookies, that sold out!

Warren Public Library hosted *Pennsylvania One Book, Every Young Child* authors, Florence & Wendell Minor on May 12, 2009. They read *If You Were a Penguin* & Wendell showed some of his artwork from other books.

Construction:

Sugar Grove Free Library will be under construction for a new

foyer entrance to make the library ADA compliant and insure patron safety.

Fundraising:

Bradford Area Public Library reports the successful completion of two events that raised funds for the library's endowment fund. The Derby Chapeau Tea held in March and The Derby Gala held in May featured live & silent auctions, southern style food, & a variety of activities with a Kentucky Derby theme.

Decoration:

Hamlin Memorial Library in Smethport will soon have a mural decorating their new meeting room. Artist & library employee Julie Mader using a grant from the PA Council of the Arts will paint a mural that reflects Pennsylvania in general, Hamlin's service area, & highlights from the community. It will include 5 digital photo frames showing current photos.



District Reminders

QuickBooks Training: Warren County Public Libraries will participate in the first library oriented QuickBooks training on June 19, 2009 from 9:30 AM to Noon at the Warren Public Library. Training session for other libraries in the District will be scheduled soon.

Access PA Fall Training: Registration for AccessPA/POWER Library Fall Training is now open. Go to www.accesspa.state.pa.us under "Information for Libraries" and register.

District Meetings:

September 18, 2009—*Ask Here PA* presented by Ask Here PA Coordinator Vince Mariner—9 AM to Noon—Hamlin Memorial Library, Smethport

October 9, 2009—*What's the BIG Idea? Making Math & Science Come Alive for Children & Families in Your Library* presented by Bonnie Hogue, Director Johnsonburg Public Library—9 AM to Noon—Wilcox Public Library

Audit

Now is the time to turn financial records over for audit or financial review. Ask accountants to have audit completed no later than **September 1, 2009**.

Mobile Lab:

Please share your comments and suggestions on the recommendations from the Mobile Lab Committee. Email Kristy Wallace at ypl@youngsvillelibrary.org and carbon copy me.

District Professional Collection

Landau, Herbert B., *The small public library survival guide: thriving on less.* Chicago, American Library Association, 2008.

Herbert Landau left the corporate world and became the director of a small public library in rural PA. (Milanof-Schock Library, Mount Joy, PA) He discovered that most of his professional knowledge did not work there, and, with his staff, began making it up as he went along.

Landau's library was hit with a 43% cut in state and county funding, so, using his business skills, he raised sufficient funds to make the institution stable again. In this short book, he shares some of what he did and learned in the process. While the book may seem

to promote some nonorthodox methods, these approaches worked for Landau. His customer centered procedure brought in funds, volunteers, and in-kind donations. His book is full of hands-on guidelines for gaining local support & building partnerships. The techniques described are easily implemented and low-cost or no-cost.

This is a user-friendly guide with an appendix that includes sample documents. For example, one of the items in the appendix is "How to evaluate and describe old and rare books."

(Continued on page 3)

More District Professional Collection

(Continued from page 2)

Larson, Jeanette, *CREW: a weeding manual for modern libraries*. Austin, TX: Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 2008.

For more than 30 years, *The CREW Method* has provided guidance to librarians in small and medium sized public libraries on how to weed their collections. It has been more than a decade since the first revised edition brought technology and OPACs into the process. This new edition retains much of the same basic information but the impact of technology and its effect on library collections has been taken into consideration.

Designed for use by librarians and staff in smaller libraries, *The CREW Method* attempts to describe step-by-step how to go about weeding the library's collection. This manual offers guidelines and explains the reasons behind the guidelines. However, each library should consider their particular situation and adjust the guidelines accordingly.



Quick Notes

Copyright: How do you know if an item is protected by copyright or is in the public domain? Here are two tools to consult. *The digital copyright slider* located at library-copyright.net/digitalslider/ is a free tool. Slide the arrow to the correct date and read the information that appears in the windows. Another free tool *The Copyright Term and Public Domain chart* at www.copyright.cornell.edu/public_domain/ will also help. It includes works published outside the U.S., works never published, and sound recordings.

Telephone Contact: Want to avoid dealing with an automated phone system or a computer when you call a major



Meet the Librarian

Sue Watson was named Director of the Marienville Area Library in January 2009. As such, she is one of the newest librarians in the Seneca District.

Sue was born & raised in Northern MN. She has a college degree & taught Kindergarten, Vocal Music & Remedial Reading for two years. When her family was transferred, she moved to Pittsburgh, PA. However, no teaching positions were available at that time so Sue began to work in sales for various hotel chains & was in the hotel field for the next 20 years. She had two stints as a Regional Manager covering 8 states. Before moving to Marienville, she worked at Passavant Retirement Center. Currently, Sue & her husband Frank operate the

All libraries need to weed their collection periodically in order to maintain resources that are vital, relevant, and useful. Weeding essentially enhances the value of the collection. However, libraries do experience scrutiny from the public and funding bodies which can mean they must justify discard practices. The new edition addresses this concern and others and includes suggestions from practicing librarians.

WARREN LIBRARY MATERIALS OF INTEREST

Teamwork and Team Play: How to Be a Good Sport & You're Rude, Dude!

Educational programs on DVD for grades 3-6. Programs use humorous vignettes to help students learn. Resource includes a short DVD, teacher's resource guide, student handouts to copy, and pre- and post-tests. Published by Human Relations Media —www.hrvideo.com

corporation? Try using the web site "gethuman 500 database" at gethuman.com. The site gives you the company phone number (usually a toll-free number) and explains how to get to a human.

Books in series: What is the next book in the series? What is the first book in this series? Ever get asked such questions? Well when you do get that question and don't know the answer, go to www.kdl.org. Click the "BOOKS & MORE" tab at the top of the page; then on the left under "Popular Links" click "What's next? Books in Series." You can then search for the series in question and the site will list all the entries in the series in series order.

Forest Lodge, Campground & General Store.

Sue has volunteered for Big Brothers & Sisters in remedial reading at East Forest School & played the piano & organ at various churches. When asked, she joined the Marienville Library Board of Directors and when the opportunity came to work at the Library as a "fill-in" employee, she accepted that position. Then when Marlene decided to retire, Sue applied & was appointed as Director.

Sue enjoys reading, crosswords, Free Cell, walking, and taking care of 3 cats & a dog. She is especially grateful to her husband Frank for letting her spread her wings at the library **and** having dinner waiting to boot!

Seneca Library District

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Seneca Library District



Moments in Our Lives

- ◆ **Sandi Tudor**, Warren Public Library Administrative Assistant, is delighted to share that she will be traveling to Italy in February!
- ◆ **Kimberly Wilson**, Sugar Grove Free Library Director, is awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild in July. What fun!
- ◆ **Julie Greenman**, Sugar Grove Free Library Assistant, is expecting her second grandchild in December. Congratulations!
- ◆ **Lori Rounsville**, Hamlin Memorial Library Director, reports that her oldest son and his fiancée are moving to Charleston, SC in June.
- ◆ **Lois Strycula**, District Consultant, reports that her youngest daughter and her husband are moving to Baltimore, MD in June.

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WWW.WARRENLIBRARY.ORG

Serving libraries in five counties.



*"The only way to do all the things
you'd like to do is to read."*—Tom Clancy



Unique Place Names

- **Blue Ball, PA** took its name from a tavern which was located "at the sign of the Blue Ball," established by Robert Wallace in 1766.
- **Toast, NC** is credited to E.P. McLeod, the school principal who supposedly thought of it while buying groceries one evening in 1927.
- **Truth or Consequences, NM** is named after a popular radio show nationally broadcast in the 1940s & 1950s.
- **Long Society, CT** is named due to a long strip of land extending nine miles along the western border to Norwich that became a separate ecclesiastical society or parish from the rest of Norwich.
- **Turniptown, PA** became Turniptown after a farmer on his way to Strasburg with a wagon full turnips had an accident that sent turnips rolling down the hill.
- **Jackpot, NV** was know as Unincorporated Town No. 1 until the day in 1959 when the Elko County commissioners were awarded a gambling license.
- **Rough and Ready, CA** was named by Gold Rush prospectors who had served under General Zachary Taylor, nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready."
- **Peculiar, MO** got its moniker in 1868 when the first postmaster wrote a letter to the postmaster general in Washington, D.C., saying, "We don't care what name you give us as long as it is sort of peculiar."
- **Short Pump, VA** refers to a hand pump whose handle had to be shortened.
- **Hot Coffee, MS** was the location of a store where a fresh pot was always brewing.
- **Scratch Ankle, AL** has 2 stories behind its name. One claims that animals would get under the school during bad weather & soon all students would be scratching their ankles. The other says that log crew horses and cows that were kept in pens near the railroad attracted hordes of flies which bit people around their ankles.
- **Leeper, PA** is named for a lumberman who owned most of the land in the area.
- **Dime Box, TX** earned the name because before there was a post office, early settlers erected a community mail box on the road to San Antonio and the freighters would pick up mail for a service charge of a dime.
- **Burnt Cabins, PA** was so named because the cabins of the early settlers were burned down by order of the provincial government in 1750, after the Indians complained about white encroachment on their lands.