

MPL Budget Bulletin

2011 ~ 2012

May 2011

VOTE! @ The LIBRARY JUNE 7th – 6am–9pm VOTE!

Director's Message

During the month of January, 2011, Mahopac Public Library hosted series of focus groups which were open to school district residents and provided a wealth of information about how our Library is used. We discovered that the Library is not only the *Heart of the Community* but also a place of *Endless Opportunities*. And did we have an abundance of opportunities this past year! Last summer, 451 children and 103 teens participated in the Summer Reading Program, reading a total of 253,126 minutes or attending one of the 298 programs that were offered. During the school year, reluctant readers had the opportunity to read to a therapy dog in the A.R.F. (Animal Reading Friends) program.



Beau, the A.R.F. dog, with Chris & Jeremiah

The Ramona Readers book group Skyped with one of their favorite authors, Grace Lin, who lives in Massachusetts. And the Light Bite adult Book Group enjoyed lunch at the Culinary Institute following a tour of FDR's Hyde Park home and Presidential Library.

We were proud to receive a Federal grant which enabled us to upgrade the computer lab and expand its hours of operation. Our Public Computer Center provides opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed to learn new skills or refresh their existing skills. This tied in nicely with a

grant received from New York State that focuses on job search strategies.

The Friends of Mahopac Library continue to support the museum pass program which provides discounted admission to some of the area's finest museums including the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, the Katonah Museum of Art, and the Danbury Rail Museum.



Atka the Wolf at MPL

The Friends also funded a visit from Atka, a gray wolf from the Wolf Conservation Center and a year-long international film series. Grants from the Putnam Arts Council and Mahopac National Bank provide support for the BAMB concert series featuring local and regional musicians, and our BAMB Lends-A-Hand project collects non-perishable food items at each concert which are donated to St. John's food pantry in Mahopac.

The Library provides opportunities to read (print and ebooks), to listen (audiobooks, Playaways, music CDs), to



Grand opening of the PCC at MPL

watch (DVDs, videos, TumbleBooks), to research and explore (online resources in literature, law, genealogy, business, auto repair, sample tests). It provides opportunities for diverse groups to meet – the New Moms, Support Connection, MSA, SEPTO, NAMI, Literacy Volunteers, Rotary Club of Lake Mahopac, elected officials, 2010 Census takers, mah jongg and bridge players, writers, weather observers, quilters and crafters, scout groups, home schoolers, and AP exam takers.

In addition, a variety of programs and activities are offered that enrich the participants – preschool story times, age-related book discussion groups, French for grades 1 through 3, the MPL Teen Players, the Teen Library Council, the Anime Manga Gaming Club, practice SATs and ACTs, a gardening series, local author book talks, yoga, Tai Chi Qi Gong, defensive driving, and estate planning. Gallery exhibits feature the work of local artists and students from the Mahopac schools. Two program highlights were the Origami Peace Crane project which demonstrated our support for the people of Japan after the devastating earthquake and tsunami, and an evening with Holocaust survivor Kuba Beck who was one of the individuals included on Schindler's List.



Holocaust survivor Kuba Beck

All of this is only possible because of you, our community members. On behalf of the Library staff and the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for your continued support of this incredible and vital resource.

Sincerely yours,
Patricia Kaufman, Director

President's Message

Dear Mahopac Central School District Residents,

The Mahopac Public Library is a *very* busy place. Last month alone, in April, over 23,000 men, women, and children came through our doors, and every year the number of visitors increases. People come in not only to borrow books, audio books, CDs, DVDs, and other materials, but there are a wealth of programs of interest to pre-school children, teens, moms, dads, and senior citizens. And folks from all over our town partake of them in great numbers.

In these difficult economic times, the board is struggling to keep the Library open sixty-plus hours a week. We are open seven days a week — and late, until 9:00 pm four nights a

week — to meet the ever-growing demand for our programs and services.

We appreciate the support you have given us in the past to help make this town resource the success that it now enjoys. Please continue to support us by voting at our annual budget election and for one of the candidates running for our Board of Trustees.

I appreciate your careful consideration of this year's Budget and Trustee election. Mahopac Public Library has truly become YOUR Library and we hope to see you on Tuesday, June 7th, between 6 am and 9 pm, for the Library vote.

Sincerely,
Regina C. Morini, Board President

Trustee Candidate Statements

The following candidates are running for one seat on the Board:

Silvio Balzano

Silvio Balzano has lived in Mahopac for almost 15 years. He, his wife and three children are active patrons at the Library. Currently Mr. Balzano works at Fordham University. He is the Treasurer of the Mahopac Italian American Club, and was recently appointed as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Carmel. He has volunteered for Community Cares, Cub Scout Pack 71 and is a former Mahopac Sports Association coach. He has managed both higher education and non-profit organization budgets and feels that these skills are essential in this role. He has a strong sense of community and feels that the Library and the services it provides are critical to its patrons.

Diana Simpson Feaver

Diana Feaver is a Mahopac resident and the mother of two boys ages 8 and 2. She currently works as a Teacher's Aide substitute in the Mahopac School District. A professional vocalist, Diana is also a voice and guitar teacher. Diana received a BA in English from Appalachian State University, and an MA in Music from Meredith College. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Chad, Africa, from 1997-98, and enjoys reading, music, yoga, bike riding, and playing with her children.

Dr. James Fitzpatrick

In Mahopac, we are all neighbors. However different we may be, we are all united in our desire to want "the best for our kids." That's why we choose to live here, send our kids to the Mahopac schools, and support our public Library! We recognize learning as the pathway to success, and we know that reading promotes life-long learning! Our Library is central to that learning experience and that's why I'm running for the Library Board. You might know me as the chiropractor who serves this community in a family practice along with my wife, Dr. Siobhan Delamere-Fitzpatrick. We have five children, some of whom attend the local schools, and some of whom are home schooled. We're active in our church, participate in local sports, raise chickens and grow fruit trees. We are a family who uses the Library a great deal and are grateful for its availability. I look forward to the opportunity to serve this community as a Library Board member. I'd like to improve something that's already great, and continue to develop it to serve families, kids and seniors in new and meaningful ways.

Thomas L. Honohan

Tom Honohan graduated from the University of Notre Dame with Degrees in Electrical Engineering and Liberal Arts. He has lived in Mahopac for over 30 years, is married, and has four grown children and seven grandchildren. Now retired, Tom has spent his life working in Industrial Field Sales and Regional Manager positions for corporations such as Westinghouse, GEC of England, and Nordic Controls, which is now part of Siemens. In his volunteer life, he coached MSA youth soccer for 15 years as well as boys and girls MSA basketball. He has been a member of the Food Pantry Group at St. Joseph's, the Town of Carmel Ethics Board and a Trustee of Mahopac Public Library where he has held positions as President, Vice President, and Chair of the Buildings and Grounds and Board Development committees.

Marsha Waldman

Marsha Waldman has lived in Mahopac for nine years with her husband and daughter, who is now in high school. She is a member of the Friends of Mahopac Library and the Putnam Arts Council, as well as a volunteer for the School District's Committee on Special Education. Marsha earned her degree in Literature from Reed College and a Masters in Instructional Technology and Media from Teachers College, Columbia University. With dual NY Certification in English and Technology, she has been an English teacher, an educational software developer and a specialist in integrating computers into the school curriculum.

Need an Absentee Ballot?

Applications for absentee ballots are available at the Library's Information Desk. They must be completed and returned to the Election Clerk before ballots can be issued. The completed application must be received by the Clerk no later than Tuesday, May 31, 2011 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter and no later than Monday, June 6, 2011 if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Ballots must be received by the Clerk no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 7, 2011.



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Web site: www.mahopaclibrary.org

Library Hours:
Monday ~ Thursday:
9:30 am to 9:00 pm
Friday & Saturday:
9:30 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday: 1 to 5:00 pm
(In July & August:
closed on Sundays and
open on Saturdays from
9:30 am to 3:00 pm.)

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TRUSTEE & BUDGET VOTE INFORMATION

The Annual Meeting of the Mahopac Public Library will be held on Monday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the library. There is one vacant trustee position, and the candidates will attend the Annual Meeting.

VOTE on Tuesday, June 7, 2011
VOTE at Mahopac Public Library, 668 Route 6
VOTE from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm