



# MPL Newsletter ~ Spring 2006

Mahopac Public Library

## Notes From the Director

by Patricia Kaufman

To paraphrase Mark Twain, the reports of the death of public libraries have been greatly exaggerated. There were people who felt (and some still do) that with the advent of the Internet, public libraries would not be needed. However, two recent surveys—one conducted by the American Library Association and the other by the OCLC Online Computer Center, Inc.—indicate just the opposite. People not only are using their public libraries (in 2005, about 135 million people, or two thirds of the adult American population, visited public libraries) but also believe that public libraries will be needed in the future (92% of those surveyed). The reasons are both pragmatic and philosophical.

As the prices of both print and non-print materials go up, people are borrowing more in more varied formats—from books to CDs to DVDs to downloadable audiobooks. They are using our computers—because they do not have one or because ours are newer or faster or because they cannot find what they are looking for on the Internet. (I overheard one of our patrons tell a librarian who had helped him find something on the Internet, “That wasn’t on my Internet at home.”) They are using our databases to do research, get information, or to do homework assignments. They are asking questions—“What do I read next?” or “Can you help me with my resume?” or “What 20<sup>th</sup> century French portrait painter painted in the style of Dada?”

People are meeting in our meeting rooms, looking at the exhibits on the gallery walls, attending

all sorts of programs—from preschool story times to movies for grown-ups, learning how to use computers and to search the Internet in our computer lab, researching water quality in our Land Use Center, discovering Carmel’s past in the Local History Room, or reading the daily newspaper over a cup of coffee in the café.

When one of the surveys asked “What is the first thing you think of when you think of a library?” the overwhelming response was “books”. But when asked “What do you feel is the main purpose of the library?” the answer was more than books; it was information and research and learning as well as books.

Because public libraries provide access to a broad range of resources and materials to anyone who wants them, they play a necessary and increasingly relevant role in today’s society, giving everyone the opportunity to be informed and the chance to succeed. Public libraries, as a place, bring people together to meet and interact and, as a resource, they let people explore the world and beyond. I hope you will visit us here at Mahopac Public Library very soon.



## NEW DATABASES ON OUR WEB SITE

Mahopac Public Library has recently subscribed to new online databases. These databases—unlike the Internet—are verified, indexed and well researched sources. The library has been careful to make sure that as we add databases, we reach out to all areas of the community. In doing so, we have recently added a business database and a children/young adult database.

**Hoover’s Online** is a business database that may be used in the library. It provides insightful information about industries, companies, and the people who lead them. With Hoover’s you can analyze complete industry coverage, view detailed company fact sheets, get stock and financial parameters, and much more. Before the library had Hoover’s Online, a customer would have to search through a variety of sources to get the information provided in this one database. It is amazing what is available at the touch of a few buttons.

SATs are coming! Having trouble keeping that huge paperback book open? **Learn-A-Test** is just the database for any high school students looking for extra practice. This is a remote access database with practice tests in the various subject areas. Learn-A-Test isn’t restricted to just the SATs. There are AP (advanced placement) exams, civil service tests, driver’s tests, practice with writing and TOEFL -- all available in the privacy of your home brought to you remotely from your library. Another exciting new database is **Grolier’s Online**. It is a remote access database that gives aid for homework, reports, and stimulates the mind to want to learn more. There are two home pages: one for young adults/adults and one specifically geared to kids. Grolier has seven encyclopedia databases including the America the Beautiful states series, Encyclopedia Americana, Lands and Peoples, Book of Knowledge, and others. The site is curriculum based and also includes news, an international news desk, dictionaries, an atlas, and more. Online subscription databases allow the Mahopac community to access information quickly and easily. They open up a world of ideas that would otherwise take hours to discover. Any questions? Ask your reference librarian. We are always glad to help. – Hilary Albert

## BUDGET VOTE INFORMATION

On Wednesday, June 7, the residents of Mahopac Central School District will be asked to vote on the Mahopac Public Library Budget Proposition for the year July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. The vote takes place at Mahopac Public Library from 9:30AM to 9:00PM. Budget details and ballot information will be sent to district residents prior to the election.

The Annual Meeting of the Mahopac Public Library will be held on Tuesday, June 6, at 7:30 PM at the library.

There are three vacant trustee positions. Nominating petitions and absentee ballots are available from the Election Clerk. Call for information: 628-2009 ext. 107.

## MPL Spring News for the Family by Joan Rose

### Animal Reading Friends (A.R.F.) at the Library

Our "reading" dogs are back this spring and they're looking for children to read to them. This is a wonderful way for children to practice their reading skills in a warm, friendly, and relaxed setting. These certified therapy dogs are well trained, good listeners, non-judgmental and are quite cuddly & fun to pet. It's a great way to motivate children to read and feel good about the entire experience. If you have questions about this program or are interested in making an appointment to read to one of our animal friends, call the Mahopac Public Library at 845-628-2009 ext. 135.

### Children's Programs Birth to 6 Years

Registration for our Spring Programs begins on Tuesday, April 18 beginning at 10 a.m. Once again, we are offering a variety of programs including *Baby & Me*-birth through 12 months, *Mother Goose*-13 months through 23 months, *Two's & Three's*-2 through 3 years, *Story Time*-3 through 6 years, *Rhythm & Reading Time*-3 through 6 years, and *Theater Story Time*-4 through 6 years. All of these programs are designed to develop listening, thinking, language, imagination and social skills, plus it's a great way to meet other parents. You are encouraged to make use of the wide variety of books, kits and parenting materials available for loan. All programs are 30 minutes in length. On Tuesday, April 18 you may register online or in person. Beginning Wednesday, April 19, you may register for any of these programs by telephone, online or in person. A library card is required to register. Stop by to pick up a schedule or visit our website at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) to see our calendar of events. If you have any questions, please call (845) 628-2009 ext. 135 or ext. 136 for more information.

### Free Pregnancy Workshops

The Putnam County Department of Health, in collaboration with the Mahopac Public Library, is sponsoring FREE Pregnancy Workshops! Pregnancy is a good time to take special care of yourself. You'll feel better and your baby will be healthier, too. Maternal/Child

Health Nurses offer prenatal classes designed to help pregnant women learn how to have the healthiest pregnancy possible. Topics include Breastfeeding Information, Infant Care, Nutrition & Pregnancy, Labor & Delivery and Post Partum Information. Join us for four Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning April 19. To register for all or any of these workshops visit our website at [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call (845) 628-6558 ext. 2119.

### New Moms Network at the Library

This wonderful group of mothers and their delightful children, birth to one year, meets every Friday at 2 p.m. This program is hosted by a maternal and child health care nursing and lactation consultant from the Putnam County Health Department. Topics discussed may include nutrition, growth & development, breastfeeding, sleep patterns, colic, immunizations, parenting skills, coping techniques and much more. You may drop-in or register at (845) 278-6558 ext. 2119. Siblings welcomed.

### FYI

#### *The Adoption Album: Our Children, Our Families*

Did you know you may view *The Adoption Album* at the Mahopac Public Library? This is published by the New York State Adoption Service (NYSAS). Children of all ages are waiting to be adopted. NYSAS welcomes responsible, caring adults who are ready to share their time, their hearts, and their lives with these waiting children. When you adopt a waiting child, you will be giving that child a permanent, loving, committed, and safe family and another chance in life. To learn more about the process of adoption, visit the NYSAS website at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/adopt>.

### FLY TYING with Our Local Experts

*Presented by Tom Farmer and Trout Unlimited.*  
Sunday, April 23, 1:30-3:30 pm  
Create and tie your own fly. A free-two hour class for ages 13 and up. Bring your own materials or use material provided by Trout Unlimited. Register online: [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org) or call: 845.628.2009, ext. 100

## Friends in Focus

by Marge Amato

Have you heard about FOML, the Friends of Mahopac Library? Volunteers in this non-profit organization participate in creative and fun activities to support our library. Have you seen the latest raffle? It's a huge flower-pot filled with items for springtime and gardening! You may participate in the raffle, sponsored by the Friends, for a suggested donation of \$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5. Tickets are available at the library's Information Desk. The drawing will be on Earth Day, April 22. The next meeting of the Friends of Mahopac Library will be the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 2 at 8 PM in the library's Community Room on the third floor. Trustee Alice Walsh will show the DVD *Mahopac Public Library, The Heart of Our Community*. Helen LiMarzi will speak about "What is a Friends' Group?" and describe how our Friends have made a difference in the past and can in the future. Committee chairs will share their plans for upcoming exciting events and activities.

Nominations for officers of FOML are now open. If you are a member of FOML and would like to run for office or you would like to nominate a member with his/her permission, please submit the nomination in writing at the Info Desk or by mail to Friends of Mahopac Public Library, 668 Route Six, Mahopac, NY 10541. The election of officers will take place at the Annual Meeting. If you love books, you'll love the Book Barn! This used book sale goes on all year long! It's located on the basement level of the library and on carts in the library entry. Currently, gardening books are featured in conjunction with the Earth Day theme.

Good news! The Book Barn has extended its Tuesday hours until 8:30 PM! Former Book Barn volunteer Meryl Silverstein is back! Drop by on Tuesday evenings and buy a book from Meryl.

The Book Barn is open Tuesdays 1 - 8:30 PM, Thursdays 2 - 7 PM and the third Saturday of each month from 1 - 4 PM. Watch for Friday hours at the Book Barn beginning after Memorial Day. Saturday, May 20 will be Friends Discount Day at the Book Barn. Just show us your Friends membership card and we'll give you a 50% discount on as much as \$50 worth of regularly priced items. That's up to \$50 worth of books and videos for only \$25! The Book Barn will be open as usual from 1 - 4 PM on Friends Discount Day.

Ready for an evening out with some Friends? Join us for an evening at the Schoolhouse Theater on Thursday, June 15 for a performance of *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, a romantic comedy by Alfred Uhry. The Friends will enjoy a special reception before the performance begins. Tickets will be available at the Information Desk of the library.

A summer social is also in the works. Friends will picnic on the lawn at Boscobel and enjoy a performance of Shakespeare's romantic comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Bring your own picnic, then join the Friends for pot luck desserts before the show.

For updates on these events or just to find out more about the Friends, take a look at our page on the library Web site. Go to [mahopaclibrary.org](http://mahopaclibrary.org), then click on the Friends link. You'll find **Friends of MPL** listed under Library Pages. Check us out!

## Reading Groups at the Library

Mahopac Public Library hosts three flourishing book discussion groups. The Light Bite group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. Their upcoming selections are *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson on April 19<sup>th</sup> and *The Inn at Lake Devine* by Elinor Lipman on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Flo Brandon Book Review Group meets on the first Friday of the month at 11 am. Their upcoming choices are *The 9/11 Commission Report* on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and *Our Endangered Values* by Jimmy Carter on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Evening Book Group meets on the first Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. They will discuss *Falling Angels* by Tracy Chevalier on May 1st, and *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

All of these groups welcome new members and the discussion books are available for pick up at the circulation desk. Registration is not necessary, just read the book, and drop in to discuss it with fellow readers.

— Sheelagh Kaplan

## The EqualAccess Project

Mahopac Public Library is one of 15 libraries in New York State selected to pilot the *EqualAccess* Project. This is a professional development program that provides public librarians and staff with training and technical support that will enable them to transform their libraries into information and education centers, based on the needs of their communities. Models for library programming and services target three populations—older, active adults; youth from 10 to 18 years old; and health information consumers.

The program was developed by Libraries of the Future, a national nonprofit organization that champions the role of libraries in American life and promotes new approaches to sustaining and developing them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with major funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The program already has been implemented in Arizona and Pennsylvania. Over a three-year period, 60 public libraries in New York will participate in the program. — Patricia Kaufman

## GREAT GARDENING SERIES

*Presented in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County*

### **PART I – Color in the Garden**

Thursday, May 11, 7:00 pm

Explore how colors combine and compliment each other to make your garden a beautiful place.

### **PART II – Organics in the Garden**

Thursday, May 25, 7:00 pm

Learn to use nature to combat garden problems and raise healthy plants with least-toxic methods.

### **PART III – Invasives in the Garden**

Thursday, June 8, 7:00 pm

Find out how to recognize the secret “codes” that describe invasive plants and how to combat them.

Register online at: [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org), or call: 845.628.2009, ext. 100

### **FAMILY PROTECTION PROJECT, Pt 2**

Saturday, June 3, 3-4:30 pm

#### **KNOW AND GO FOR KIDS**

In cooperation with Yasuragi Center Adam Mitchell, Child Safety Expert An obstacle course, set up at the library, will teach kids how to escape danger in a busy environment. Kids will learn that while they can't beat up the “bad-guy” they can certainly outsmart them!

For ages 6 and up.

## Spring into Books/ Book into Spring

It's time to dust off your reading glasses and sign up for our Spring into Books adult reading program. Following on our successful fall program *Fall into Books* where 79 readers read a total of 367 books and won lots of prizes along the way, we are excited to repeat the fun. To qualify you must read a minimum of five books between April 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. Let us know the titles and whether you would recommend them to a friend. You then qualify for a prize from our “treasure chest” and an invitation to a garden party at the library on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. For every 2 books read after the initial 5, you are entitled to win another prize from the treasure chest. Sign up began on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and is ongoing.

— Sheelagh Kaplan

## Upcoming Movies at MPL Thursdays at 6 pm

**April 20 ~ Singin' in the Rain**

**May 18 ~ The Secret Garden**

**June 15 ~ Father of the Bride**

## Save Money at the Library!

Check out our latest offering in the café area of the library. We now have a grocery coupon box for you to browse through and help yourself to coupons. If you have coupons that you are not using and want to bring them in for other patrons, that's fine too. While you are there help yourself to a cup of coffee and browse through our new book selection.

## Improve Your Writing Skills Now

Good writing skills are essential for success on standardized tests, in the classroom, and in the workplace. Now, you can have free, unlimited access to online courses and writing prompts to help you significantly improve your writing skills and achieve your goals. Just visit the library, log on to any computer, and within seconds, you will be on your way to writing a great essay! Through LearningExpress Library, a comprehensive website designed for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as adults, you have 24/7 access to interactive courses and instantly scored practice essays, from any web-enabled computer—in your library and even in your home! Whether you are looking for a focused review of the five-step writing process or would benefit from targeted essay writing practice, LearningExpress Library has the tools you need for effective results. Sharpen your writing skills or prepare for critical standardized tests, such as the SAT or GED, with a complete course series and multiple writing prompts. With each practice essay you complete, you will receive detailed feedback and an instant score report that lets you know which skill areas need the most improvement. Sample essays are also provided with each response. LearningExpress, LLC is a leading provider of print and online educational and professional resources that are used in over 4,000 libraries and 5,000 schools, and benefit over one million students, teachers, administrators, and career professionals around the country. To find out more about how you can access LearningExpress Library, ask at the reference desk on the second floor.



## Mahopac Public Library

668 Route Six  
Mahopac, NY 10541

Phone: 845-628-2009

Fax: 845-628-0672

Email: [library@mahopaclibrary.org](mailto:library@mahopaclibrary.org)

### Library Hours:

Monday ~ Thursday:

9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday:

9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1 to 5:00 p.m.

(In July & August the library

closes on Sundays and

opens on Saturdays from

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Newsletter edited by David Keaton

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ORGANIZATION  
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10610

## Postal Customer

### Special thanks to this year's community service volunteers:

Kim Ruggiero, Amy Titcomb, Sal Gentile, Chris Wendler, Joe Calderella, Alexandra Guzman, Bobby Esernio, Mrig Mehra, Loni Astrachan, Jordan Teicher, Natalie Donahue, Ilo Holliday, Andre Aivazians, and Katie Leteve.

### *Discovering American History*

Monday, May 8, 7:15 pm

#### **Somers Confederates: James Wright & His Nephews**

A one-day history seminar hosted by George Mahoney in the Land Use Center. Register at the Information Desk and pick up the seminar pamphlet.

Monday, May 15, 7-8:30 pm

#### **Social History of the Hudson Valley During the Civil War Years**

Howard D. Hellman, author of *Crown Thy Good* will facilitate an interactive presentation of daily life in New York City and environs. Copies of *Crown Thy Good* brought to this event will be signed by the author.

Sunday, May 21, 2-3:30 pm

#### **Susan B. Anthony and the 1895 New York State Woman Suffrage Convention in Newburgh, NY**

Presented by Shannon Risk, Executive Director of the Putnam County Historical Society and Foundry School Museum. Susan B. Anthony, and the suffrage campaign sought the rights already held by male citizens including the right to vote, pursue an education, own property and possess their own children!

Monday, June 5, 7-8:30 pm

#### **A Revolutionary War Road Trip on US Route 9**

Presented by Raymond C. Houghton, PhD.

Fasten your seat belts for a driving tour and multi-media trip that traces the many British attempts to gain control of the Hudson River during the Revolutionary War.



### HEALTH & WELLNESS SPRING PROJECTS AT THE LIBRARY

4/19: 7.00p: **Outsmart Your Fat**

**Cell** : Quick, natural weight loss

5/17: 7.00p: **Healthy Eating**

**Made Simple** : Simple, healthy-meals; cooking demonstration

5/19: 10.00a: **"I Have Hearing Loss; What are My Options?"** :

Common causes, treatments for hearing loss discussed

5/24 & 5/31: 6.00p: **Heartsaver**

**CPR Course** : Putnam County

Bureau of Emergency Services

2-part 6-hour course. \$15 fee

Registration is required for the Fitness, Health & Wellness series. Register for these and other library programs online at: [www.mahopaclibrary.org](http://www.mahopaclibrary.org), or call: 845.628.2009, ext 100.

### *POETS & WRITERS SERIES*

Saturday, April 29, 3:00 pm

#### **Reading and Book Signing with local author Ted-David Mizingou**

Mizingou, born in a small Congo village, describes his journey from the jungles of Africa to the streets of New York City in his autobiographical story, *Darkened by the Sun: A Story of Love, Faith, Hope and Miracles*.

Sunday, May 7, 3-4:30 pm

#### **Modern Heroes**

Journalist David McKay Wilson of The Journal News profiles the personal journeys and life changing experiences of individuals he has identified as 21<sup>st</sup> Century heroes. On May 7, Wilson looks at the lives of International Justice Mission Founder Gary Haugen who fights child prostitution and human trafficking in South Asia, and photographer Ted Haddock who documents human rights abuses around the world.

Monday, May 22, 6:30 pm

#### **Living Wills, Powers of Attorney & Health Care Proxies**

Presented by attorney Joseph Tock

*For further information about adult programming at Mahopac Public Library, please contact Debra Feiman at 628.2009, ext 108.*