



MPL Newsletter ~ Winter 2006

Mahopac Public Library

From the Director

by Patricia Kaufman

In mid-October, one of our librarians resigned to take a position with Broward County Library System in Florida. She had worked here in various capacities—Circulation Clerk, Youth Services Librarian, Reference Librarian—for 14 years. Those 14 years of service made me think about other staff members and the years that they have spent working at Mahopac Public Library. People work at a specific place for a variety of practical reasons and some of those reasons undoubtedly play a role here. But there are some other, non-practical reasons that come into play at Mahopac Public Library.

This is a staff that cares—about one another and about the people who use the library. And because they care, they pull together to make things happen. For example: After the fire in our temporary space, staff members sat outside the building in 90+ degrees, enabling users to get their materials. Then, there was the patron who had to take her son to Johns Hopkins for medical reasons. She was waiting for a specific audio-book to take along on the drive and our copy had just arrived. Staff immediately processed it so that she could borrow it.

After the burst sprinkler pipe, all the staff stepped up to the plate to rearrange materials and equipment so that we could continue to serve the community even though 2/3 of the building was closed because of water damage.

And everyone pitches in to help—covering desks, answering telephones, signing up people for computer time—allowing other staff to offer programs or class tours, to attend workshops and meetings, or to handle behind the scenes tasks that make this library

the wonderful resource that it is. I have been told by staff who have worked in other library systems that this is not your typical library. But then, this is not your typical staff. The two newest employees have been here for four months. Lillian Nicolaidis has been with us the longest—for almost 18 years. At present, exclusive of pages, there are 35 staff members and they have worked here for an average of 6 1/2 years.

In addition to the staff, there is another group of people who, over the years, have helped to make Mahopac Public Library one of the best there is, our volunteers. They fall into several categories: teens who do community service; adults who come in week after week (some of them have been volunteering for more than 20 years) and do whatever we ask of them; adults who participate in the Adopt-A-Shelf program; adults who share their interests with other adults, offering programs in needle arts, chess, writing, weather, and digital photography; and the Friends of Mahopac Library who, through the proceeds of the Book Barn, are able to enhance our programs and services. Finally, there are the Mahopac Public Library Board of Trustees who serve without thanks but whose passion for libraries translates into advocacy, visibility, and funding.

New Self-Defense Training to Be Demonstrated at Mahopac Public Library

by Debra Feiman

Krav Maga is a highly effective self-defense system developed in the Middle East. It is recognized as the most efficient training for real-life situations, emphasizing practical defenses against true-to-life attacks. Krav Maga, based on instinct and natural reflexes, is easy to learn and allows people of all ages and fitness levels to master self-defense techniques. Mahopac Public Library, in cooperation with Yorktown Total Fitness, will present a demonstration of this technique, for women and young girls ages 10 and up, on Saturday, January 14, from 2-3 pm. A four-hour Krav Maga self-defense course, for women ages 16 and up only, will be held on Saturday, January 28, from 11 am until 2pm. Registration for the 4-hour class is limited; please call: 845.628.2009, ext 100. The demonstration and 4-hour class are both free.

Self-defense training for women is more than a healthy work-out. The National Victim Center reports that more than 700,000 women are sexually assaulted each year. Only 20% of sexual assaults against women are perpetrated by unknown assailants; the remainder are committed by friends, acquaintances, partners and family members. Acquaintance rape is particularly common among adolescent victims. It's a shocking fact that one out of every three women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime.

The library is pleased to be able to offer this class to women in our community. The Mahopac Library is located at 668 Route 6 at the corner of Route 6 and East Lake Boulevard. For library hours and additional information, please call 845.628.2009 x 100, or visit the website at: www.mahopaclibrary.org.

The Land Use Center at MPL

The Land Use Center at Mahopac Public Library provides land use resources for town, village, and county land use decision makers, for planning departments, conservation advisory commissions, and zoning boards, students, and the public concerned about such issues. Builders and developers have found the materials helpful as well. The Center is the first of its kind in a public library in the Hudson Valley—and possibly in the United States. Open during library hours, including evenings and weekends, it gives access to materials at times when government offices are not open. People with library cards from the Mid-Hudson Library System can borrow circulating materials. Other people can borrow materials on interlibrary loan through their library. Westchester County Planning Department will allow us to borrow their materials on interlibrary loan for use in the building. We are the only library to whom they extend those privileges. Reference materials include the *United States Code Annotated* and *McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York, Annotated*. The collection, currently about 200 titles, is developed on an ongoing basis. —Jane Daniels

Chess classes with Sal Catalfamo

will resume on

Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

The six week session will meet on

Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m.

to 6 p.m. until February 28.

There is a \$30 fee per participant.



Chess Tournament Winners

Chit Saraswat was the winner of the tournament

held on September 24, 2005. There was a three-way tie for second

place: Lucas Petersen, Justin Welte, and Sophia Hastings.

Upcoming Chess Tournaments

January 28th from noon to 4:00 in the Periodicals Room

February 25th from noon to 4:00 in the Periodicals Room

March 26th from noon to 4:00 in the Periodicals Room

Informal Chess: The library now offers the opportunity to play impromptu games of chess (or checkers) in the café area. Just ask at the information desk to pick up the boards and pieces.

Reading, and Other Activities, Still Live

by Patricia Kaufman

Reading is still alive and well in Mahopac. During the summer, 510 children and 90 young adults participated in the summer reading program. The children logged the number of minutes, rather than the number of books, read for a total of 3,846 hours.

The young adults read 251 books. This fall, we introduced a reading reward program for adults. There were 79 participants and in six weeks they read 367 books. Computer access continues to be a major draw. We consistently see over 2,000 people a month using our computers. With the addition of 10 more computers and the opening of our computer lab, we expect to see this number exceed 3,000 people per month.

Our programs for preschool and elementary school children are well known. We are now targeting other age groups—adults of all ages and young adults. For the adults, in addition to three book-discussion groups and two writing groups, we have monthly *Movies for the Grown-ups*, two craft groups, and a Scrabble group. A grant from the Putnam Arts Council allowed us to offer a fall jazz

concert series. A speakers' series on various topics will debut in January with a program on self-defense.

For the young adults, we are expanding the theater program, offering more productions during the year. We began a monthly Harry Potter book discussion group and the summer knitting class continues to meet. With our new and improved Young Adult area and an expanding graphic novel collection, we are seeing a steady increase in the number of 6th through 9th graders coming into the library.

Fall into Reading/Reading into Fall a Big Success

by Sheelagh Kaplan

The library hosted a very successful adult reading program this fall. Seventy-nine patrons signed up and read a total of 367 books in a seven-week period this autumn. The program afforded opportunities to choose from our treasure chest of donated items and culminated in a wine-and-cheese party on November 16th. To pick up a list of books recommended by our patrons, stop at the Information Desk. We have plans to repeat this program in the spring, so watch for sign-up details.

Online Registration for Children's Programs through 3/17/06 starts on 1/16. A library card is required to register. Go to the Children's Calendar page on mahopaclibrary.org and follow the easy directions to register for programs.

Friends Focus

by Margery Amato

Would you like to support Mahopac Public Library by helping at a book sale, creating a gift basket for a drawing, or participating in other FUNd raisers? Then Friends of Mahopac Public Library is the group for you!

The next event sponsored by the Friends is a Valentines/Romance book sale. Lovingly used books from our Book Barn will be on sale in the library lobby from January 14 to February 14. Surprise someone you love with the gift of a good book for Valentine's Day! Books for both children and adults will be included in the selection.

Who are the Friends? FoMPL is a group of people dedicated to serving and supporting our library. It is the mission of the Friends to stimulate increased awareness and resulting use of the library; to stimulate increased financial support – both public and private; to encourage gifts, endowments, and memorials for the library; to sponsor cultural and related programs for the community; to help provide facilities for the library; to communicate the needs of the community to the trustees; to encourage volunteering within the Friends and the library.

To join Friends of MPL, you may use the mailer available in the library or send your name address, phone number, e-mail address, and annual membership dues to: Friends of Mahopac Public Library

668 Route Six, Mahopac, NY 10541

Dues are: \$10 Friend; \$ 5 Senior Friend (65+)

\$25 Special Friend; \$50 Sustaining Friend;

\$100+ Best Friend

Valentines/Romance Book Sale

January 14 – February 14

In the lobby of

Mahopac Public Library

The MPL Teen Library Council

is now forming a "Tekkie Teen Committee" of technologically savvy teens that would like to design, create and maintain a teen webpage for the library. Interested teens should call the library for more information or attend the next monthly TLC meeting. The Teen Library Council meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 2:30 - 3:30pm.

Reading Groups at the Library

Mahopac Public Library hosts three flourishing book discussion groups. The Light Bite group meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1pm. Their upcoming selections are *The Last Time They Met* by Anita Shreve on February 15th and *True Believers* by Nicholas Sparks on March 15th.

The Flo Brandon Book Review Group meets on the first Friday of the month at 11 am. Their upcoming choices are *Man & Superman* by George Bernard Shaw on February 3rd and the portable Dickens, edited by Angus Wilson, on March 3rd.

The Evening Book Group meets on the first Monday of the month at 7.30 pm. They will discuss *Middlesex* by Jeffrey

Eugenides on February 6th and *House of the Spirits* by Isabelle Allende on March 6th.

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.

*Safe, secure, convenient **Wireless Access** for your laptop computer will be coming soon to MPL. Watch for announcements in the local newspapers, and at the library.*

MPL WINS AWARD

Mahopac Public Library was selected as the Outstanding Public Library Building in New York State for 2005 by the Public Libraries Section of NYLA (New York State Library Association). There were eight nominees for this award. In the notification letter, MPL was advised that the reviewers were, “particularly impressed with the visionary planning which took place at Mahopac, and a facility that will accommodate growth for many years to come.”

—Patricia Kaufman

YOUNG ARTS GALLERY AT THE LIBRARY

Mahopac Public Library is pleased to announce the inception of the Young Arts Gallery, an exhibition program designed to display the work of young artists in the Mahopac Central School District. The first exhibitors were 46 students from the Fulmar Road Elementary School whose artwork, selected by their art teacher, Sharon Tobin. Autumn was the theme of this first exhibit of work created by children in grades 1-5.

In January, Laura Davis will select and install work created by students at Lakeview Elementary School. The Lakeview exhibit will open on January 9 and run through February 17. This partnership with the school district is very exciting and complements the ongoing exhibit program on the library's third floor. Students visiting the library can view their own work on display, as well as the work of professional, working artists.

The Young Arts Gallery is located on the first floor of the library adjacent to the Children's Wing of the Mahopac Public Library. Visitors can view the exhibit during regular library hours. For further information about the Young Arts Gallery, contact Debra Feiman at the Mahopac Library, 845.628.2009, ext 108, or via email at: dfeiman@mahopaclibrary.org —Debra Feiman

Upcoming Sunday Movies at 2:00 at MPL

January 22 ~ *Calendar Girls* (with high tea)
February 19 ~ *Chocolat* (with chocolate fondue)
March 19 ~ *Finian's Rainbow* (with Irish soda bread)

Polish Works Available

by Helen LiMarzi

Mahopac Public Library is pleased to announce that it has added a new Polish language collection of books, videos, and computer software to the library. The collection was made possible, in part, by a donation from the Nowodworkski Foundation, and also by members of the Polish community, who donated books from their personal collections. The materials include fiction and non-fiction, some written in English by Polish authors, and others written in the Polish language. There are bilingual materials (English/Polish) as well. The collection spans a diverse range of topics from art and culture to biographies.

LearningExpress, LLC to Provide a Virtual Reference Library of eBooks Free to MPL, in January

Beginning in January, 2006, LearningExpress, LLC, a leading provider of print and online skill-building and test-preparation resources, will be offering libraries—free of charge—new electronic versions of its most popular reference titles. A list of approximately 30 titles will be available each month to libraries and their patrons, for a total of over 150 titles. Now, in addition to the wide range of skill-building courses and practice tests available with the LearningExpress Library platform, libraries will also have quality supplementary online resources in the form of eBooks. These resources will benefit customers who want to improve their skills, or prepare for college admissions or career certification and licensing exams. Providing electronic versions of reference materials gives libraries an opportunity to expand its universe of information tools and reach out to a larger constituency of users. Younger users who have grown up using the web will find the addition of eBooks to be especially useful. This represents a tremendous value for Mahopac Public Library and its patrons—providing an expanded suite of targeted information, from any web-enabled computer at any time.



Mahopac Public Library

668 Route Six
Mahopac, NY 10541

Phone: 845-628-2009

Fax: 845-628-0672

Email: 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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MPL's DVD COLLECTION

by Jennifer Boyer

Mahopac Public Library has been offering DVDs for circulation for several years. Our collection started with just three titles, but now we can offer more than 800 feature films, children's programs, travel, health, and television favorites. Our collection is changing continually with a growing number of foreign films available to take home. We have films presented in Russian, French, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Tamil.

Traveling to Alaska, Paris, or the United Kingdom? How about Mt. Fuji, Beijing, or Mexico? We have DVDs available for all these locations, among others. The Library also offers a growing collection of popular titles, without the wait. Our *Eureka! Quick Flicks* collection consists of a second copy of more than 20 of the most popular films which may be available at any given time. These films cannot be renewed, and they cannot be reserved.

Don't forget to check the top of the DVD counter to see what's in!



HEALTH & WELLNESS PROJECT

EVENTS AT THE
LIBRARY

- 1/25: 4.30pm: Women's Self-Defense Demonstration
 - 1/28: 11am: Women's Self-Defense Program
 - 1/31 & 2/5: 1.30pm: Taking Medications Wisely (date & time subject to change)
 - 3/14: 11am: Yoga for Mobility
 - 3/21: 4pm: Teen Yoga
 - 3/23: 7pm: Ticks, Lyme, Rabies Program
 - 3/28: 7pm: Menopause Program
- For more information call 628-2009 x 100

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Our Local History collection is growing. Thanks to a donation by the Reed Memorial Library in Carmel, NY, Mahopac Public Library now owns the Putnam County Courier on microfilm from 1849-1999. This will help local historians and genealogists immeasurably, since they will have 150 years of information at their fingertips. Newspapers can be an invaluable source when searching for ancestors, or researching primary sources about events of lasting historical importance for homework assignments.

In addition to our new microfilm, several works of local interest have been added to our collection. This includes *Putnam County*, by Guy Cheli; *Danbury*, by the Danbury Museum and Historical Society; *The Statue of Liberty*, by Barry Moreno; and Westchester County: *Protect and Serve*, by Michael J. Lavin. These materials, and others in the Local History Room, are available at any time the Library is open. Please inquire at the Reference Desk on the second floor. If anyone would like to use the Local History Room for research, an appointment is necessary. Please call the Reference Desk at (845) 628-2009x130 to set up a time. —Jennifer Boyer