

The Lamplighter



IN THE SYSTEM

The Life and Times of . . .

The Lamplighter is starting a new feature that will hopefully acquaint you with the trustees who provide leadership for the WVLS libraries.

The first trustee to be kind enough to chat with us is Alice Sturzl. Alice is the 2009 President of the WVLS Board of Trustees, as well as an Instructional Media Specialist with the School District of Laona, and a long time resident of Laona, Wisconsin. She is a very hard working board member and has been recognized with many awards and honors. In 2007, Alice was named the Wisconsin Library Association's DEMCO Librarian of the Year.

Alice has been a very active advocate for libraries and information literacy, spending many hours participating at the local, state, and national level during the past 30+ years.

But enough about her accomplishments, what is Alice's favorite type of reading and how does she stay so young and energetic? She loves to read a variety of things, especially history and romance.

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One of her favorite books is “Russka: the Novel of Russia” by Edward Rutherford, that she took along to read while serving as a delegate for the “People to People International “ program that shares friendship and ideas with librarians in other countries. Her visit to Russia was “fascinating” and she still remembers the beauty of St. Petersburg. “Seeing the eight hundred year old Kremlin was just amazing”.

On a lighter note, her “weekend with the girls in Door County”, serves as a prime example of her philosophy of life – “Don’t Worry, Be Happy”. Alice is committed to helping people and making others happy. After getting to know her a little better, I have found that whether she is working for the betterment of libraries or just sharing fun times, she is a joy to be around.

A very big “**THANK YOU**” for sharing your story with us!

(Inese Christman, WVLS PR & CE Coordinator)

WVLS Library Advisory Committee Members For 2009

The 15-member WVLS Library Advisory Committee (LAC) is charged with advising the WVLS staff and Board of Trustees on matters relating to promotion and implementation of programs of cooperation and communication among all libraries and other information sources in the counties which have membership in the Wisconsin Valley Library Service. The LAC members for 2009 are:

Small Public Library Members:

- Cindy Lemerande, Edith Evans Community Library, Laona
- Ann Harris, Francis L. Simek Memorial Library, Medford
- Shirley Lehr, Owen Public Library
- Pat Braun, Greenwood Public Library
- Mary Dunn, Tomahawk Public Library
- Janet Dixon, Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library, Three Lakes

Large Public Library Members:

- Cynthia Taylor, Antigo Public Library
- Stacy Stevens, T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill
- Ed Hughes, Rhinelander District Library
- Phyllis Christensen, Marathon County Public Library, Wausau

School/Special Library Members:

- Beth Martin, D.C. Everest Middle School, Schofield
- Sue Engel, Horace Mann Middle School, Wausau
- Sandra Wurdeman, Mosinee Middle School, Mosinee
- Jonnie Malm, Aspirus Wausau Hospital - Dr. Joseph F. Smith Medical Library

Academic /Technical College Library Member:

- Marc Boucher, Nicolet Area Technical College – Richard J. Brown Library, Rhinelander

The next meeting of the WVLS Library Advisory Committee will be April 30, 2009 at the Nicolet Area Technical College in Rhinelander at 9:30 a.m. Marc Boucher, who is the LAC Chair for 2009, will be hosting this meeting.

“Try It, You’ll Like It”

Have you ever felt like you have too many meetings that require expensive travel and the inconvenience of being “out of the office” for the better part of the day? Well, WVLS has found a way to help you with some of these problems. WVLS has subscribed to a product that will let you attend meetings online, share information with others, and participate in online training sessions without leaving your desk.

This new product is called “GoToMeeting” and “GoToWebinar”. Some of you may have already experienced this product by attending the WVLS Network Committee meeting or some online training offered by another library system.

It is easy to connect and all you need is a computer with speakers and a microphone or a computer with a telephone nearby or a computer with a headset/microphone. It is easy to invite participants and it offers the capability to chat online, talk with each other directly, and to view computer screens that are shared among the participants.

So I hope the next time you are invited to join a meeting via the GoToMeeting/Webinar product, you will “Try It” and find out that you “really like it.”

Here is a possibility - on March 25, 2009 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., the Nicolet Federated Library System is offering an online training session: “Web Services for Small Libraries” via GoToMeeting. If you would like to participate, sign up today by going to this website and registering for this free session: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/588919436>

(Inese Christman, WVLS PR & CE Coordinator)

“Saving Our Stories” – Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) – 2009 Annual Conference

“Mark your calendar now,” says Mary E. Dunn, Director of the Tomahawk Public Library and this year’s conference chair. She would like to invite you to the annual WAPL Conference scheduled for May 6 – 8, 2009 at the Glacier Canyon Lodge at Wilderness Way, Wisconsin Dells.

The keynote speaker will be Emily Sheketoff, the Executive Director of the ALA Office in Washington, D.C. Emily will be addressing library initiatives in Washington focusing on the economic stimulus, Intellectual Freedom, and library advocacy. In addition to Ms. Sheketoff, several Wisconsin authors such as Jerry Apps and John Ivanko will also be featured at some of the sessions.

The blend of topics, covering the latest in technology, genealogy research, and providing exciting children and teen services, promises to provide a must-attend conference. For more details and for registration information, go to:

<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/wapl/conferences/2009/index.htm>

CONTINUING EDUCATION



WVLS Presents...

Technology Gadgets Open House

April 20 – 23, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WVLS Office – at the Marathon County Public Library, 300 N. First Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Have you ever used a Kindle or an iPod?

Well, here is your chance to play with these and nine other tech gadgets. They will be at the WVLS Office located in the Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Library on April 20 - 23, 2009. Tip sheets, snacks, and WVLS staff will be available to assist you as you explore these devices. Thanks to the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, we are able to bring this Gadgets Workshop to you for free.

Please register with Inese Christman for a date and time you would like to stop in and play.

Call Inese at: 715-261-7256
or e-mail ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us



Be Creative & Express Yourself @ the WVLS SLP Workshop

1:30 – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11th, 2009

Quality Inn

688 W. Kemp – Hwy 8 West
Rhineland, WI

Collect all the inspiration a librarian could need for planning an amazing & artsy 2009 Summer Library Program. Join Sonja Ackerman, Wausau School District Library Media Specialist, and Dee Bohn & Jan Nelson of the MCPL – Rothschild Branch as they share tips for games, programs, decorations, promotion, and crafts.

This workshop will follow the 22nd Anniversary session of the Children's Book Fest, sponsored by the School District of Rhineland and the Rhineland District Library.

✚ 8:30 a.m. CCBC Book Exhibit Begins

✚ 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. WVLS SLP Workshop

Please R.S.V.P. to Beth Sillars at sillars@wvls.lib.wi.us or 715-261-7255 regarding the WVLS SLP Workshop by **Friday, March 6th, 2009**. If you have questions or need special accommodations, contact Beth Sillars.

TECH TALK – MAKING TECHNOLOGY UNDERSTANDABLE!

Frolicking on Facebook

I've been in the IT field for nearly 15 years, but I've never had a lot of time to do the "fun stuff". Social networking sites like Facebook seemed too time consuming to get familiar with and I always justified my lack of effort by saying it didn't really contribute to the bottom line in my corporate or self-employment roles. But now that I am in the library world again and facing questions about all these "fun" things, I'm taking some time to educate myself and finding that I am having the time of my life reconnecting with long lost friends. So I thought I'd share the joy and tell those of you who haven't ventured forth into the social networks a little about what you're missing.

Facebook (FB) is called a social networking site because its role is to connect people together online and allow them to share interests and pieces of their lives. When you first set up your FB page, you are asked to provide a picture and some basic profile information such as your name, home town, network (typically the city you live in, but could also be workplace, school or region) and information on your interests, religious and political affiliation, education, work and contact information. Most of this information is optional and can be given at a level you are comfortable with. Once your profile is set up, you can add pictures, videos, links to other sites and notes about anything you like. You can join social, hobby, political, religious, fan, non-profit or just about any other kind of group you can think of that may share your own interests and views. But the ultimate fun comes from searching and finding people you know. Once you find a family member, co-worker or a long lost friend, you can request to be added to their profile as a friend. They'll decide whether they want you as a friend and if they do, you then have access to their profile information and their 'wall'.



A wall is pretty much an online bulletin board. Your wall has your status reports and whatever else you post on it, but it also has commentary and posts from your friends that you and all your friends can see. You also have a news feed page where all your friend's updates get listed too, so you can more easily see what your friends are up to.

So if I haven't convinced you yet to try Facebook for your own benefit, then let me try and give you some reasons why you may want to do this for your library's benefit. One thing I've noticed is that my own daughter and my friend's kids are the most active users of social networking sites. Libraries are often struggling to find ways to get teens interested in what they have to offer and I think getting to know these sites can help you find ways to connect with this segment of the population you serve. There are also many library-related groups on Facebook and connecting with them helps broaden your professional network and gives you more opportunity for professional growth – and your library benefits from your knowledge and

connections. Lastly, because it is often hard to separate the personal and professional on sites like these, I think it helps us all build better relationships with one another. In normal everyday life, we often come to work in work mode and we perform our duties and then we go home and become who we really are. We let our hair down so to speak. The online world often helps people do that more easily. We often lower our inhibitions a bit online and show more of who we are, and it is at that personal level where people really connect. My personal opinion is that life is pretty chaotic and we so easily get disconnected from the people in our lives. Technology can be a tool to bring people together. Wouldn't it be worth twenty minutes a day for awhile to find out?

(Patty Curthoys, WVLS Technology Consultant)

YOUTH MATTERS

Adult Summer Reading Program Manual

Even though this update is about the "Adult Summer Reading Program Manual", many of you may be interested because this year the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), the multi-state consortium responsible for the summer library program for children, has also created an Adult Summer Reading Program Manual.

It was just recently finished and thus, was not available for distribution with the other two manuals (Children's and Teen's). CSLP is not printing this 2009 manual, so DLTCL has provided WVLS with one photocopy to share with the WVLS libraries. (In the future, CSLP will distribute the Adult manual in the fall along with the other two.)

If you are planning on offering an adult summer reading program in 2009, please let Beth Sillars know and we will make a copy for you. Call Beth at: 715.261.7255 or e-mail:

sillars@wvls.lib.wi.us

(Beth Sillars, WVLS)

FROM HITHER & YON

Do You Want to Read About Your Library in Woman's Day Magazine?

In the March 2009 issue of Woman's Day magazine, they announced a call for entries on a timely topic: using the library to help save money.

From February 17 through May 18, women ages 18 and up are invited to send in stories in 700 words or less to <http://www.womansday.org>. Up to four stories will be profiled in the March 2010 issue.

Librarians can download free tools to help collect local stories from the Campaign for America's Libraries Web site (www.ala.org/@yourlibrary). Click on "Woman's Day." Tools

include a sample press release, newsletter copy and a Web button.

More information, including the official rules, can be found at the Woman's Day Web site at: <http://www.womansday.com/ala>

The March 2009 article features four readers who used the library to improve their health and wellness. Featured are a wife who turned to the library for solace during her husband's illness, a new mom who sought answers at the library about postpartum depression, a retiree who learned how to find trusted medical resources at a free library class, and a reader who rediscovered books through the Library of Congress' Talking Books program after she lost her sight.

Woman's Day magazine is a Partner in The Campaign for America's Libraries (www.ala.org/@yourlibrary), ALA's public awareness campaign that promotes the value of libraries and librarians. Thousands of libraries of all types – across the country and around the globe - use the Campaign's "@ your library®" brand. The Campaign is made possible in part by ALA's Library Champions, corporations and foundations who advocate the importance of the library in American society.

Other Partners include Carnegie Corporation of New York, Dollar General, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Univision Radio and Verizon. (*American Libraries Direct, February 11, 2009*)

INFO TO GO

Book Club Fun

I am always looking for a fun activity to do with any number of book groups. They make great ice breakers for the attendees and also give me an idea of who my readers are. Those creative folks over at "Tales from the Reading Room" (<http://litlove.wordpress.com/>) and "Shelf Life" (<http://shelflifeblog.blogspot.com/>) have started a book 'meme' or element of cultural ideas, symbols or practices transmitted from one mind to another through speech, gestures, rituals, or other imitable phenomena. This is certainly suitable for Facebook, but also a great opening activity for a new book group or a refresher for a long standing one.



I've jumbled some of the topics a bit and added some of my own. Once you've answered all the questions, tag 150,000 of your closest friends, relatives, librarians and various sundry other book pushers. Or you could just print it out and take it to book group next week.

1. Which book or books have been on your shelves the longest?
2. What is your current read, your last read and the book you'll read next?

3. What book did everyone like and you hated?
4. Which book do you keep telling yourself you'll read, but you probably won't?
5. Which book are you saving for "retirement?"
6. Last page: read it first or wait till the end?
7. Acknowledgements: waste of ink and paper or interesting aside?
8. Which book character would you switch places with?
9. Do you have a book that reminds you of something specific in your life - a person, a place, a time?
10. Name a book you acquired in some interesting way.
11. Have you ever given away a book for a special reason to a special person?
12. Which book has been with you to the most places?
13. Any "required reading" you hated in high school that wasn't so bad ten years later?
14. What is the strangest item you've ever found in a book?
15. Used or brand new?
16. Stephen King: Literary genius or opiate of the masses?
17. Have you ever seen a movie you liked better than the book?
18. Conversely, which book should NEVER have been introduced to celluloid?
19. Who is the person whose book advice you'll always take?

(Katie Stover from Booklist - Book Group Buzz, February 16, 2009)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Middle-School [Mega]-Librarians Move Blog to Booklist Online -

<http://bookends.booklistonline.com/>

Renowned middle-school librarians Cindy Dobrez and Lynn Rutan have chosen Booklist Online as the best permanent home for their popular blog, "Bookends". Since the blog started in October last year, its' enthusiastic readers have enjoyed posts offering reviews, best practices, general advice, professional tips, personal notes and a good dash of humor when discussing young adult and children's books.

(American Libraries Direct, February 11, 2009)

America's Star Libraries - <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6629180.html>

Library Journal's new national rating of public libraries, the **LJ Index of Public Library Service**, identifies 256 "star" libraries. Created by Ray Lyons and Keith Curry Lance, it rates 7,115 public libraries. Libraries can use this to learn from their peers and improve service to their communities.

(Library Journal, February 15, 2009)

GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) Goes Live - <http://fdsys.gpo.gov>

The U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) hit the "on" switch in early February and brought up its new digital system, FDsys, for access to government information. The system will replace GPO Access (www.gpoaccess.gov). The new system is an information management system that enables GPO to gather, process, preserve, archive, and make U.S. government information available to the public.

(American Libraries Direct, February 18, 2009)

ALSC Announces 2009 Notable Children's Books - <http://www.ala.org/ala/newspresscenter/news/pressreleases2009/february2009/alscncb.cfm>

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), has selected its 2009 list of Notable Children's Books. The list of titles includes fiction, nonfiction, poetry and picture books of special interest, quality, creativity and value to children 14 years of age and younger.

(American Libraries Direct, February 11, 2009)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

March is: National Women's History Month, find out more at: <http://www.nwhp.org/>

Mar 2 **Public Library Annual Reports due in Madison**

Mar 8 Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. For more information, go to:
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/daylightsaving.html>

Mar 8-14 ALA Teen Tech Week – "Press Play @ your Library" -
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw09/home.cfm>

Mar 10-11 **WVLS Summer Library Program Workshop** and the Children's Bookfest – Rhinelander. (For more details, see article in this issue)

Mar 21 **WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting** – at the Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

Mar 22-24 WEMTA Conference in Madison, for more details:
<http://www.wemtaonline.org/se3bin/cliente.cgi?siteid=1000292>

APRIL

April is: National Poetry Month, for more details:

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41>

Apr 2 **WVLS V-Cat Council Meeting** – Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

Apr 3 **College of DuPage Online Workshop** - "Diversity Beyond the Obvious" – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Register with Inese Christman for Login Information or to reserve the DVD at ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

Apr 10 **WVLS Office Closed**

Apr 12-18 National Library Week

Apr 16 **College of DuPage Online Workshop** - "An Ounce of Prevention: Health Reference Basics" – 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Register with Inese

Christman for Login Information or to reserve the DVD at
ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

- Apr 18** **WVLS Executive Committee Meeting** – Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Apr 20-23** **WVLS Gadgets Open House**, WVLS Office, Wausau. (see flyer in this issue for more details.)
- Apr 30** **WVLS - LAC Meeting**, Nicolet Area Technical College, Rhinelander

MAY

May is Preservation Month, for more details go to:

<http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/preservation-month/>

May 6-8 Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries Annual Conference, Wisconsin Dells. Details at:

<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/wapl/conferences/2009/index.htm>

May 10 Mother's Day.

May 11-12 ALA National Library Legislative Day. Details at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/wo/washevents/nlld/nlld2009.cfm>

May 14 **WVLS Public Library Directors Retreat**, Oak Island Park, Wausau.

May 16 **WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting** - Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

May 21 **WVLS Workshop on Adolescent Literacy**, Rothschild Village Hall

May 25 Memorial Day Observed – **WVLS Office Closed**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present." -- Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121 AD - 180 AD)



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<http://wvls.lib.wi.us/Newsletter/newsindex.htm>

(Note: Web links in past issues are not checked for currency and may no longer work.)

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Contributions are welcome! News items should be submitted by the fifteenth of the month. WVLS serves Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties. When the most recent issue becomes available, readers are alerted by a notice posted to WISPUBLIB, or sent an email. To subscribe to WISPUBLIB, send an email message to wispublib@badger.state.wi.us In the body of the message (subject line is ignored) type: subscribe WISPUBLIB. Then send your email. To have The Lamplighter emailed to you without subscribing to WISPUBLIB, contact Barbara Freimund at 715/261-7250, or email freimund@wvls.lib.wi.us You may copy, reprint or forward all or part of this newsletter to friends, colleagues or customers, so long as the use is not for resale or profit and the information/article is attributed to this issue of the WVLS newsletter, *The Lamplighter*.