



STATE LIBRARY NEWS

For the People, the Government and the Libraries of New York State

Fall 2001-Winter 2002

FRIENDS' GOVERNING BOARD ISSUES FIRM STATEMENT

Philip B. Eppard, President of the Friends of the State Library, expressed the Governing Board's deep concern about the end of State operating funds for the Library and other cultural education programs on March 31, and the transfer of the Library from the State Education Department to an Institute for Cultural Education. They issued a statement supported unanimously by the elected members of the Governing Board of the Friends of the New York State Library. They urge that:

1. The Legislature exercise its wisdom by restoring the \$19 million needed for the Office of Cultural Education in the fiscal year that begins April 1, 2002.
2. The Legislature study the Institute proposal and hold hearings on the proposal before the end of 2002 so as to be able to make a measured policy decision in 2003.
3. The Legislature, even in the tight fiscal situation caused by September 11 and recession, enact necessary and appropriate parts of the "New Century Libraries" program, particularly the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVEL), A.6048A/S.3166A in this session.

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"SHORTCHANGING LIBRARIES"

Editors Note: *The pain of budget cuts for libraries is a statewide phenomenon. Newspapers throughout the State have been writing eloquent editorials in support of restoring cuts. The New York Times recently featured an editorial entitled "Shortchanging Libraries." Here is an excerpt:*

"libraries are community-based educational centers that serve young and old alike. They're a place where someone out of work because of 9/11 can go to find job listings or learn how to write a resume. Immigrants can attend English-language 'conversation circles' led by volunteer tutors. Students can find a quiet, safe place to do homework. In the current economic downturn, the libraries are busier than ever: Visits were up 12 percent in the last quarter of 2001, while book circulation rose 19%."

And upstate, the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* spotlights the importance of libraries in the lives of New Yorkers:

"Monroe County residents were not shy about using their library cards last year, clamoring for information about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and career advice because of the slumping economy.

"The borrowing of books, magazines, videos and other materials hit a 10-year high

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BUDGET EVOKES STRONG RESPONSE



"Libraries are a crucial part of education for all New Yorkers," says Janet M. Welch, State Librarian.

Two critical issues emerge from the 2002-03 Executive Budget:

It provides no State operating funds to the State Library and other Cultural Education programs after March 31, 2002.

It proposes transfer of the State Library (along with the Archives, Museum and Public Broadcasting) from the State Education Department to a public benefit corporation to be called the New York Institute for Cultural Education.

The plan proposes a new capital investment program to upgrade the collections of the Library, Archives and Museums. It will be funded by increasing existing surcharges for filing records with county clerks. This includes fees for

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“SHORTCHANGING LIBRARIES”

Continued from page 1 last year in the Rochester Public Library and Monroe County Library System. Library director Richard Panz said that people tend to use libraries more during tough economic times. People also turned to the library for information about Islam, Afghanistan, terrorism and the Mideast.

“The Pioneer Library System, which includes 42 libraries in Livingston, Ontario, Wayne and Wyoming counties also said it experienced a surge in borrowing.”

A TBBL TIP

It's tempting to pet those genial guide dogs when you see them walking or even sitting with their owners, but please do not. “They are on the job and should not be distracted by even the most well-intended interference,” says Jane Somers, Director of the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Library.

FOCUS ON LOCAL HISTORY

Members of a recently organized team of State Library Reference staff are consolidating and expanding local history resources and making them easier to find. Team members responsible for specific counties are contacting county and municipal historians, local historical societies and others for publications and other information.

“Materials on New York State and Local history have been a traditional strength of the State Library,” says Interim Director Mary Redmond. “By making these contacts, we hope to identify and add even more of these publications to our holdings for the use of people who come here to do historical research about the state, its counties, towns, regions, and cities.”

Visit the State Library's Web Site <<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>>



Search Excelsior, the online catalog of our holdings, and access national and regional databases. Use the State Library Web site to:

■ **Get down to business.** Visit the New York Loves Small Business Web site.

■ **Give the gift of life.** Enroll in the NYS Organ & Tissue Donor Registry.

■ **Check school performance.** Consult State Education Department public school report cards.

■ **Keep up to date.** Learn how to subscribe to free U.S. Government e-mail newsletters.

And Much More

Instructions for reaching these sites are available at:
<<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/friends/nysl.n.htm>>

If you don't have Web access from your computer, dial into our catalog at (518) 474-9851 or telnet <[nysl.nysed.gov](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov)>. For more information, call (518) 474-0719 or e-mail: <excelsior@mail.nysed.gov>.

You can also access our Web site from many public libraries.

KUDOS

Carol A. Desch, Director of Library Development at the State Library, was awarded the State University's Year 2001 Distinguished Alumna Award in Information Science and Policy for her outstanding work. She received her Master of Library Science from the University at Albany in 1977.

New York State Library News is produced by the Friends of the New York State Library and the New York State Library to inform New Yorkers about collections and services of their State Library.

Editor: Miriam S. Soffer

This newsletter is not published at State expense.

ELECTRONIC REFERENCE STATION OFFERS NEW SERVICES

You can now check your e-mail at the State Library's public Internet terminals. And if you want to do some word processing, you can do that too. These services are offered at the State Library's Electronic Reference Station on the seventh floor of the Cultural Education Center. For more information, call (518) 474-5355.

DO YOU KNOW...

In 1949, a blue and gold New York State Freedom Train streaked through the State and stopped at 159 communities. It exhibited the Flushing Remonstrance, a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation and 82 other freedom-related documents from the State Library's collections.

FRIENDS' GOVERNING BOARD ISSUES FIRM STATEMENT

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The statement points out that New York was the only State Library that operated on less state funding in 1999 than it did in 1994. In the 11 states with comparable state libraries, state funds for operation increased from 16 to 195 percent over the five-year period. Those 11 states increased their numbers of subscriptions for journals, reference materials, and other serial publications anywhere from 8 to more than 100 percent while the State Library's decreased.

To obtain a copy of the entire statement, request it from Philip B. Eppard, President, Friends of the New York State Library, c/o School of Information Science and Policy, The University at Albany, Draper 113b, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222-0001; email: p.eppard@albany.edu.

AWARDS HELP PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

Grants totaling \$500,000 have been awarded to libraries, historical societies and other institutions to preserve unique photographs, brittle newspapers, architectural drawings, scrapbooks and other collections. These grants are part of a \$2.24 million comprehensive statewide program to preserve endangered items that document our State heritage.

For information about applications for next year's awards, call Barbara Lilley (518) 486-4864 or e-mail blilley@mail.nysed.gov.

BUDGET EVOKES STRONG RESPONSE

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filing a mortgage, registering a deed, or applying for a gun permit. Under this proposal, up to \$5 million in State funds will be provided to match revenues generated by Institute fundraising activities. Until this year, the State Budget funded this. Republicans and Democrats disagree on the budget.

"I think his (the Governor's) motivation is primarily political," said Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, D-Irondequoit, and head of the Assembly Committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports development. "I see this more as a territorial or turf issue. It's a solution in search of a problem. I'm not sure what evidence anecdotally or empirically, the governor has given."

"This isn't about politics," according to Kevin Quinn, spokesman for the Executive Budget Office. The change would "make our cultural institutions even stronger, and allow the Education Department to focus on its core mission of overseeing the state's schools."

Richard Mills, Commissioner of Education, says, "Some might want to suggest that the focus of the State Education Department be on elementary and secondary education only," said Mills, "people don't think that way about education. The library, museum and archives are fundamental to the educational mission in this state. To pull out pieces of the State's education infrastructure is not supportable. I can't see the logic behind it. It's a major step backward." The State Library has been under the Board of Regents since the 1840s.

"Libraries are a crucial part of education for all New Yorkers," says Janet M. Welch, State Librarian and Assistant Com-

missioner for Libraries. "They play an undeniable role in improving student achievement and are vital to lifelong learning. Libraries are the place that immigrants turn to for learning English language skills. They provide valuable family literacy skills for adults who read below the sixth grade level, and they provide crucial research resources to college and university students," Ms. Welch added.

Assemblyman Jack McEneny says, "From my point of view, the only problem we have with cultural education is a money problem. We don't have an administrative problem. The current system is working as well as it can with the money it's given. If you give it more money, it will be better."

WHIRL AROUND THE WORLD

■ An Indonesian student at the State University is a bit homesick and misses reading the news from Jakarta.

■ A tourist from Botswana wonders what's happening there.

■ A visitor from downstate New York wants to keep up with the political scene there.

All these people, and anyone who visits the State Library's Electronic Reference Station, can access Dialog@Carl, a collection of full text newspapers from all around the world. You can check the *Jakarta Post*, the *Botswana Gazette*, the *China Photo News*, and many other newspapers from a wide range of countries. If you prefer something a bit less exotic, you can read *Newsday* or the *New York Times*.

To access Dialog@Carl, come to the State Library's Electronic Reference Station, click Gateway, scroll down to Dialog@Carl, and select the newspaper of your choice. For more information, call (518) 474-5355.

TBBL SPEEDS SERVICE



Van Judd and **Jane Somers** discuss the new Materials Handling System.

Upstate New Yorkers with visual disabilities are receiving their requests for books on tape faster than ever. Previously, staff of the State Library's Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL) sorted, inspected and prepared cassettes for mailing manually. Now a new Materials Handling System sorts them. The System, basically a huge conveyor belt consisting of five modules, was designed for TBBL's specific requirements. This state-of-the-art technology increases the rate and number of cassettes distributed, eliminates repetitive motion often endured by Library staff, and frees staff for other demands.

"The System has propelled the distribution of cassettes into the twenty-first century," says Jane Somers, Director, TBBL. The Center for Advanced Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute created the system in cooperation with the State Library. Van Judd, Principal Librarian, was instrumental in the design. The Library holds a patent on one module and will offer it for sale to other organizations throughout the world.

TBBL provides talking book and braille materials without charge to 39,000 upstate New Yorkers who are unable to read conventional print. For information, call Van Judd, (518) 474-5955.

NEWSPAPER NOTE CARDS

Create your own message on the blank side of 5 x 7 note cards featuring quotes from newspapers published between 1869 and 1923. These unusual cards are available in packs of 6, 12, and 18 for \$8, \$15, and \$20. To obtain a pack, send order, return address and check to Friends of the New York State Newspaper Project, P.O. Box 2402, Empire Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220.

TELL US

Send comments and questions about the State Library and its newsletter to Mary Redmond: mredmond@mail.nysed.gov

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY TREASURES

■ A student wants to read the first published version of Gray's poem, "Elegy in a Country Churchyard" for her Ph.D. thesis;

■ A historian searches for a letter from General John Burgoyne about the Battle of Bunker Hill for a book he is writing;

■ A horticulturalist wants to consult *The Gardener's Dictionary*, published in 1768 for a television talk show.

These and other eighteenth century treasures can be accessed at the State Library on The Eighteenth Century Microfilm set. Over 79,000 units have been entered in this collection. Based on a British Library catalog, it will eventually contain every notable item printed in any language in Great Britain and its colonies, and printed in English anywhere in the world from 1701 to 1800.

For information, call (518) 474-5335.

PAPER TRAILS OF NYS WOMEN AT THE STATE LIBRARY

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are just two of the women represented in the holdings of the State Library. There are over 250 women's history-related collections about both famous and not-so-famous women in the Manuscripts/Special Collections Unit. For an alphabetical list and brief description of these collections, visit <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/women.htm>.

THE DAY THE WORLD DIDN'T END



Father Miller (above) planned to spend a week in New York City "as he believes that if he purifies New York, he can purify the rest of creation," says the November 14, 1842 *New York Herald*.

The nineteenth century's most spectacular comet appeared in the Northeastern sky every night from February 28 to April 1 in the year 1843. Secular newspapers said this phenomenon heralded the Millerite prophecy of the second coming of Christ. The faith of true believers was so strong it needed no such signs, but the number of converts soared after this heavenly event.

The belief that Christ would return to earth was at the core of the Millerites' doctrine. Most of the Adventists who preceded them prophesied a thousand years of heaven on earth before the second coming, the day of judgment and the end of the world. But William Miller (1782-1849), founder of the Millerites, expected the Advent before the Millennium. Miller anticipated the physical reappearance of Christ but accepted followers who adhered to the concept of a spiritual return. Otherwise, Millerites generally followed Protestant precepts.

Millerites were one of many religious sects and communal colonies that flourished in upstate New York from 1799 to 1850. In contrast to New Amsterdam, settled by the Dutch for commercial reasons, New England was settled by people fleeing religious persecution.

Evangelical movements were sweeping the nation when New Englanders settled in western New York. Their fervor helped make the region rock with revivalism, charismatic preachers, and camp meetings whose midsummer attendance peaked at 5,000 souls on a single Sunday.* Because of this religious fervor, historians often refer to the region as "the burned-over district," evoking an image of raging forest fires and the new growth that follows.

William Miller was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and moved with his family to Hampton (Washington County). In 1816, he joined the Hampton Baptist Church. Intensive study of the Bible led to his interest in prophecy. In 1831, he predicted the Second Coming would occur in 1843 and later changed it to October 22, 1844. Anticipation spread through New England, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and western New York.

When October 22 ended but the world did not, shock and disappointment ravaged the sect. Many returned to their previous churches or joined the Shakers or other community groups. Reorganization of those who continued to believe in the Second Coming led eventually to the establishment of Seventh-Day Adventists. After 1850, disillusion and changing social and political tides dampened the spiritual fires

consuming western New Yorkers, but their ideas continue to contribute to modern-day religious beliefs.

Major sources for this article are *The Burned-Over District* by Whitney Cross, *Millerites and Early Adventists*, on microfilm, and articles from the *New York Herald*, all from the collections of the State Library. If you would like help finding more resources on Millerites and other religious sects flourishing in 19th century New York, call the State Library's Reference Desk at (518) 474-5355.

*Parts of this article are from "Upstate New York Literature," by Miriam S. Soffer to be published in the forthcoming *The Encyclopedia of New York State*.

VISIT THE NEW NETHERLAND ONLINE BOUTIQUE

You can purchase books, videos, housewares and many other items from the New Netherland Project's online Boutique. By ordering an interesting and unusual item, you will be making a contribution to the Project, which receives a royalty for each item ordered through its Web site.

The New Netherland Project is translating the remains of the archives of New Netherland (about 12,000 pages). These documents show the impact of the Dutch in the state's colonial history and give a new dimension to our knowledge of this period. The Project supports many programs ranging from a annual seminar for scholars (open to the general public) to curricula for fourth and seventh graders.

To visit the New Netherland Boutique, go to www.nnp.org.

ON A COOL NOVEMBER DAY...

By Elizabeth Duncan



Elizabeth Duncan is Principal Librarian for Collection Acquisition and Processing, State Library

Before I came to the New York State Library, I was Head of Technical Services at Albany Law School's Schaffer Law Library. For 14 years I administered the acquisitions, cataloging, serials control, and government documents processing, all very similar to what I am doing now as Principal Librarian for Collection and Processing.

My first day at the State Library was filled with mixed emotions. It has frequently been said that change is good. Change can also be frightening. My familiar environment and predictable workday were no longer there. As I walked toward the Cultural Education Center on that cool November day, I felt as though I was in a surreal world. Sounds and sights around me blurred. The only thing that stayed in focus was the entrance to the building, which seemed exceptionally bright and clear. This, I thought to myself, was a good sign. The entrance was beckoning me.

As I entered the building, the apprehension I had felt earlier turned to excitement. I was

finally here and about to embark on a new chapter in my career! However, along with the excitement came anxiety. Was this the right move for me? Would I be able to manage the challenges that are waiting for me?

Meeting with members of the Research Library's Executive Group put me instantly at ease, and I began to focus on my day. I was introduced to my staff, given a tour of the facility, and assigned policy documents to read. For weeks I carried an organizational chart to help me remember names, and there was more than one occasion when I took the wrong elevator!

As I began to settle in, I was pleased to find a hard-working, dedicated staff. When I had interviewed for the position, I had asked the search committee what they like most about working at the New York State Library. They had unanimously answered how they enjoyed working with a collection of such quality and strength. They were correct, but also modest. Having a strong collection does not happen on its own. A knowledgeable staff is what makes it a reality.

Now that I have been here for just over a year, I know I made the right decision in joining the staff here. I look forward to the challenges ahead and hope to make valuable contributions. My goal at the Research Library is quite simple: give staff the guidance, support, and resources necessary to uphold the Library's mission of serving the government and people of New York State.

CAST YOUR VOTE

The Friends of the State Library have announced the slate for election of Board members who will serve from April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2004:

President: Philip B. Eppard, Dean, School of Information Science and Policy, The University at Albany

Vice President: Zebulon S. Robbins, Jr., retired director of the Capital Region BOCES

Secretary: Joseph F. Shubert, State Librarian Emeritus

Treasurer: Jeffrey W. Cannell, Director, Albany Public Library

Board of Directors:

Bebe Morhead, Records Coordinator, Colonie Town Clerk's Office

Jane Schneider, Attorney
Katherine Storms, Reference Librarian, State Library

The election will take place March 26 at the Annual Meeting (see details on page 8).

WHAT'S NEW?

When you exit the elevator and enter the Library, ever stop to look at the exhibits? It feels like window shopping at a bookstore. Three showcases display dustjackets of new acquisitions. "Earth Day, the Middle East, women's achievement, AIDS awareness, are a few of the topics we plan to highlight during the coming year," said Shawn Purcell, Reference Services. "Shawn does most of the work for the exhibits, assisted by a somewhat fluid exhibits committee that brainstorms periodically on themes. Sometimes we coordinate exhibits with programs sponsored by the Library, Museum or Archives. We are open to suggestions," said Sally Legendre, Associate Librarian in Reference Services. If you would like to recommend a theme, call (518) 474-5355.

DIVE INTO "2002: SPLISH SPLASH READ"

Stephen Campbell



Poster for statewide summer reading program

From the Falls of Niagara to the shores of the Atlantic, this year's summer reading program salutes New York's many bodies of water and all the amusing things that happen in and on them. Come with your children to "2002: Splish Splash Read," this summer's statewide reading program. The State Library, in cooperation with libraries throughout the State developed a new manual for the program and is distributing a kit to 1200 libraries. The Brooklyn Public Library was coordinator. The program encourages children and their parents to enjoy reading during summer vacation through a wide variety of activities. Local librarians contributed ideas for the

manual and can adapt it to meet local interests. The kit enables every community in the state, no matter how small or remote to conduct a high quality reading program.

"Studies show that children who continue to read during summer vacation perform better when school resumes," says Ann Simon, Library Development Specialist. The program also provides an opportunity to use computers and search the Internet. In addition to the educational benefits, summer reading programs offer the opportunity to socialize. It's free for everyone from toddlers to teens. Parents are encouraged to participate, too.

LEGISLATORS: CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC

Not Hocus-Pocus, but Lexis-Nexis® are the magic words that bring wide-ranging information about the environment, health care, and a host of other major issues you address during the Session. You can search the Lexis-Nexis® Government Periodicals Universe, a database which indexes government periodicals, by subject, title, or author on a topic of your choice. To use this valuable research aid, go to <http://web.lexis-nex.com/usgpi> or call (518) 474-5355.

To join Friends of the New York State Library, complete the form below and mail it with your check.

New York State Library News

Yes, I want to join Friends of the New York State Library.

new member

renewal

My check for \$25 \$50 \$_____ is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make check payable to *Friends of the New York State Library* and mail to: Treasurer, Friends of the New York State Library, PO Box 2247 Empire Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220

BE A FRIEND

Join the Friends of the New York State Library. In addition to the deep satisfactions of preserving your heritage and sustaining a world renowned public research library, you can obtain special discounts at local book stores. Select:

■ **Supporting Membership.** \$25. Receive discounts at four book shops: 20% at Borders Books & Music in Colonie and the North River Book Shop in Albany, a one-time 20% discount at the Book House, Stuyvesant Plaza, and 25% off one purchase at the Open Door Bookstore in Schenectady.

■ **Contributing Membership.** \$50 or more. Receive all of the above plus recognition in the *New York State Library News*.

Every Friend also receives:

■ **Free admission** to the Friends Annual Meeting featuring a talk by an author of a recently published book.

■ **Invitations** to other stimulating programs at the State Library.

■ **A subscription** to the *New York State Library News*, an illustrated quarterly newsletter.

■ **Remote access** to Health Reference Center-Academic, a database for health and medicine.

TAKE A TOUR OF DISCOVERY AT FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

Do something different. Instead of a lecture, the Friends are featuring "behind the scenes tours" at this year's annual meeting. The general public is invited. It's Tuesday, March 26 at the Cultural Education Center, seventh floor. Tours will begin at 2:15 and 3:15. You can:

- Visit the stacks, almost one hundred miles of the State Library's fabulous collections, and learn about the inner workings of this area;

- Find out about the Health Reference Center-Academic Database, what it offers, and how you can use it on your personal computer or at the Library;

- See our Manuscripts and Special Collections, housed temporarily on the third floor, and find out what is involved in adding special materials to the Library's collection.

After the tours end the Friends will conduct a business meeting and election at 4:00 p.m. The slate is listed on page 6.

STATE LIBRARY FEATURED IN SIRSI CALENDAR

"Perched atop the dazzling Empire State Plaza in Albany, the New York State Library offers a wealth of information and learning. The Library holds more than 20 million items in its collections and its state-of-the-art information systems give New Yorkers the leading edge on knowledge."

So says the SIRSI Corporation's 2002 calendar which features the State Library for the month of August. The quote captions a picture of the Cultural Education Center, the building housing the State Library. SIRSI, one of the world's largest library automation vendors, provides the software that runs Excelsior, our online catalog. The State Library is one of only 12 institutions chosen from the more than 8,000 SIRSI customers worldwide. Kathy DeMers, State Library Webmaster, made the arrangement. The State Museum provided the picture and Valerie Chevrette, State Library Public Information Officer, wrote the caption. To see the calendar, visit the State Library on the seventh floor of the Cultural Education Center.

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to express our deep appreciation to the following Friends who have joined at the \$50 or above level since our listing in the summer 2000 New York State Library News:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Barron
 Barbara S. Beverley
 Robert Brittenham
 Meg Cairo
 Jeffrey W. Cannell
 José E. Cruz
 Nancy Johnsen Curran
 George Damiano
 William De Alleaume
 Philip Eppard
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 Lee Stanton
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State Library Hours

Monday through Friday
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call
 (518) 474-5355 or e-mail
 <refserv@mail.nysed.gov>.