



# MHLS BULLETIN

Mid-Hudson Library System | Serving the Staff and Trustees of Public Libraries in the Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam & Ulster County Area  
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## Spotlight on Library Votes

Multiple library votes have taken place already this year and the results are in! Most of these votes were a success, but a few area libraries did experience a loss. The success ratio thus far for the year is 8:3. The following table provides more detail about these recent member library votes. *[Type of library key: SP = special district public library; SC = school district public library]*

Beacon (SC)	Budget Vote	Loss	921-1521
Beacon (SC)	Budget Vote (revote)	Loss	1554-1304
Catskill (SC)	Budget Vote	Win	626-321
Chatham (SC)	Budget Vote	Win	480-332
Esopus (SP)	Budget Vote	Win	350-200
Highland (SC)	Budget Vote	Win	55-6
Hunter (SC)	Budget Vote	Win	unavailable
Kingston (SP)	Budget Vote	Win	276-125
Mahopac (SC)	Budget Vote	Win	433-391
Marlboro (SC)	Budget Vote	Win	50-5
Rosendale (SP)	Building Referendum	Loss	375-266

### MHLS Libraries

The **Chatham Public Library** has received a grant from NYS Senator Stephen Saland for a new computer and CD-ROM educational games focused on helping kids develop reading, problem solving and computer skills.

The **Hudson Area Association Library** has received a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Fund for Columbia County. The \$921 will be put towards a 12-week reading program that incorporates hands-on

creative activities and involves community volunteers. For more information about grants from the BTCF visit <http://www.berkshiretaconic.org>.

### Professional Development



**SEAL ILL System Training:** Do you or someone at your library need to attend a SEAL ILL System training class? Please

email Judy Fischetti at [judyf@senylrc.org](mailto:judyf@senylrc.org) and she will schedule a class at a time convenient for those attending. Beginning SEAL ILL System classes are held at Southeastern in Highland. The classes take one day and are held from 9:30am - 3:30pm. Topics covered include searching SEAL, placing requests and managing SEAL requests online. *[For more info about SEAL go to <http://othello.senylrc.org/vdx/>.]*

### Managing Your Project for

**Success:** Do you have a new building project, library renovation or new service to implement ahead of you? Are you aware of projects that were begun but never finished because of a lack of personnel, time or money? Planning the project, whether it is small or large, with consideration of essential elements such as scope, time, staff and costs and then managing these elements will result in successful completion of the new service or building project. SENYLRC is sponsoring a workshop **"Getting it Done: Project Management for Librarians"** on Thursday, July 27, 2006 from 9:00am - 3:30pm at Southeastern. This workshop will teach the elements of a project, the process for managing your project, how to build your project team, and the traits of a successful project manager. The trainer, Joseph E. Mihm accredited in the field of project management by the Project Management Institute, will apply the principles and essential elements for successful project management to library projects. Go to <http://www.senylrc.org/ce/> for additional information and online registration.



"Americans appreciate libraries and librarians. Eighty-nine percent of Americans surveyed early this year reported being satisfied with their public libraries. Most agree that public libraries are under-funded and need more support."

-The State of America's Libraries Report, A Report from the American Library Association,  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2006/march2006/stateoflibraries.htm>

## Marketing, Advocacy & Funding

**Library Terms That Users Understand:** A great web site to help library web developers “decide how to label key resources and services in such a way that most users can understand them well enough to make productive choices.” It serves as a clearinghouse of usability test data evaluating terminology on library websites, and suggests test methods and best practices for reducing cognitive barriers caused by terminology.  
[\[http://www.jkup.net/terms.html\]](http://www.jkup.net/terms.html)

## Reference & Collection Development



There has been almost a 50% increase in the number of **New York State newspapers** now available through HomeACCESS.

1. Buffalo News (Buffalo, NY)
2. Daily News (NY, NY)
3. Herald American (Syracuse, NY)
4. Indian Country Today (Oneida, New York)
5. New York Observer (New York, NY)
6. New York Post (New York, NY)
7. New York Times (including Book Review & Magazine)
8. Newsday (Melville, NY)
9. Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY)
10. Post-Star (Glen Falls, NY)
11. Times Herald-Record (Middletown, NY)
12. Times Union (Albany, NY)
13. Watertown Daily Times (Watertown, NY)

## Youth Services

Twelve MHLS libraries are gathering teams of 6th-9th graders from their communities to take part in the **2nd Annual MHLS Battle of the Books**.

- Ten titles have been chosen for the teams to read and do Battle over.
- Hundreds of trivia questions are being written to try to stump these bright young people.
- There will be mini-Battles over the summer in all five counties to help the teams hone their skills and become familiar with the process.
- In early September each team will participate in round robin elimination rounds and then winners will face each other for the championship Battle to be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.



Sponsors so far include Rhinebeck Savings Bank, Ulster Savings Bank, The Chazen Companies, Community Foundation of Dutchess County and Hannaford

Brothers. New this year will be a sophisticated buzzer system so that the competition will be well managed. Scott Meyer of Merritt Books will again be the MC. Find out more – like which libraries are

participating, what titles are being used and a full explanation of the Battle process on the MHLS Youth Services Department webpage at <http://midhudson.org/department/youth/main.htm> under *What's New?*.

**Four lucky NYS families will win a trip to NYC this summer, including lunch with magician, David Blaine.** This great prize is part of the 2006 NYS Summer Reading Program, *Books: A Treasure*. Coupons for this drawing can be found on the MHLS youth services website at [http://midhudson.org/program/ideas/Summer\\_Read2.htm](http://midhudson.org/program/ideas/Summer_Read2.htm), under *Forms*. The coupons, to be filled out by young people who have read over the summer, should be sent to the MHLS Youth Services Department by August 9<sup>th</sup>. A firm in NYC will supervise the drawing of the four winning families. This could be a family from your community so print out the coupons and encourage your local kids to take part.

## Administration & Management

The Small Libraries Roundtable met last month at the NorthEast-Millerton Library to discuss **staff and director evaluation issues**. (See photo on page 3 of *this week's Bulletin*.) Tips from the discussion included:

- Structure, including training and evaluation, help staff and volunteers succeed at the library.
- Importance of clarifying the purpose of an evaluation: motivation vs. clarifying objectives.

Handouts at the event included sample evaluation forms, volunteer evaluation help and director evaluation support. Handouts can be requested by contacting Kerstin Cruger, the MHLS Public Services Team Assistant at x50 or [kcruger@midhudson.org](mailto:kcruger@midhudson.org). *The next meeting of the Small Libraries Roundtable will be held on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Livingston Free Library in Columbia County. Our topic will be Personnel Policies and Employee Handbooks.*

## Job Openings

The Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library in Milton, NY (Ulster County) is seeking a **part-time** (approximately 25 hours per week) **Library Director**. MLS required. Send resume, cover letter and references to SHHHFL, PO Box 802, Milton, NY 12547 or e-mail [miltonlibrary@hvc.rr.com](mailto:miltonlibrary@hvc.rr.com).

MHLS recommends that the minimum starting salary of a full or part-time librarian with an MLS degree be at least equal to that of a teacher with a master's degree in the same community.

Member Libraries are welcome to submit items of interest and job openings to the MHLS Bulletin: [bulletin@midhudson.org](mailto:bulletin@midhudson.org). The MHLS Bulletin is available on line at <http://midhudson.org/bulletins/main.htm>.

“My Dad makes me smile when he takes me to the library.”

-Chung-Wing Ko, grade 1, Gayhead Elementary, “Smile, Dad!,” *Poughkeepsie Journal*, 6.18.06

# Around the System | June 2006



**Friends Groups:** MHLS staff visited the Pawling Library's Friends and Board of Trustees (left); the Palenville Chapter of the Catskill Public Library District's Friends Group (center); and conducted a workshop for more than half a dozen libraries that want to start or revitalize a Friends Group (right).

Directors of small libraries from around the System met at the NorthEast-Millerton Library for the **Small Libraries Roundtable** to discuss staff and director evaluation issues.



Fifteen **new member library staff and trustees** came to Poughkeepsie for the System Tour and got to meet the MHLS staff. Above, MHLS Outreach & Education Coordinator, Merribeth Advocate describes the Talking Books & Braille Library Service to the group.

The **Ulster County Library Association** held their annual meeting in June. Pictured from left to right: Marlboro Library Director, Jim Cosgrove; Libby Post, President of Communication Services & Consultant on the MHLS Getting to Yes Project; and Rachel Baum, President-Elect of the New York Library Association.



Dutchess County Executive William Steinhaus revs up 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at the Morse Young Child Magnet School to kick off the **Dutchess County Executive Summer Reading Challenge**.

Mark Hoops, of the Office of the NYS Attorney General addresses the **Greene County Library Association**.

