



# MHLS BULLETIN

Mid-Hudson Library System | Serving the Staff and Trustees of Public Libraries in the Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Putnam & Ulster County Area  
103 Market Street - Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 - 845.471.6060 - Fax: 845.454.5940 - <http://midhudson.org>

## ilovelibraries.org

### New ALA Advocacy web site targets public audience.



The web site strives to increase the visibility of today's library, as well as about the issues facing libraries in communities throughout the country.

"The idea behind [ilovelibraries.org](http://ilovelibraries.org) is simple," said 2006-2007 ALA President Leslie Burger, who made the Web site one of the top initiatives of her presidential year. "We want to reach out to people who use and love libraries and offer them a chance to get involved in the health and vitality of America's libraries."

The site will contain a variety of features designed to attract - and hold the attention of -- library lovers of all kinds: reviews of new and award-winning books, fast-breaking library news, library spotlights, a "find a library" feature, blogs and news feeds, as well as library related links on YouTube and flickr. Interactive software will allow users to share their library stories, connect with other library lovers, and contact Congress about library issues.

### MHLS Announcements

**MHLS will be closed Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

There will be no deliveries.

### MHLS Libraries



**The Big Read comes to two MHLS member libraries! The Hudson Area Association Library and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District** have been chosen by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to take part in the second cycle of Big Read Grants. The Big Read, launched nationally in October 2006 by the NEA, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Arts Midwest,

encourages literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss one book. Mrs. Laura Bush is the honorary chair of the Big Read. The Hudson Area Association Library will facilitate the Big read around *Fahrenheit 451* and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District chose *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "By joining the Big Read, these cities and towns are showing that reading is necessary to the cultural, civic, even economic fabric of their communities," said NEA Chairman Dana Gioia. "Yes, this is about reading, but it's also about getting people to leave their homes and offices, unplug themselves for a few hours, and enjoy the pleasures of literature with their neighbors." The Big Read is the Largest Federal Literature Program Since The W.P.A. To learn more, visit <http://www.neabigread.org/>.

Third and fourth grade students of Mrs. Hopf, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Burkhalter, and Mrs. Kleinke at Cahill Elementary School in Saugerties held an all day read-a-thon to benefit the children's collection of the **Saugerties Public Library**. Stephanie McElrath, children's library program assistant, visited the



school during the read-a-thon and promoted the 2007 Summer Reading Program, Get a Clue@ Your Library!

The **Chatham Public Library** has used a grant of \$500 from the Wassermann-Streit Y'diyah Memorial Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to buy films and books relating to the Jewish tradition.

**Midge Quick, director of the NorthEast-Millerton Library** was nominated for the first ever *BookPage* Spotlight Award. *BookPage* is a monthly book review distributed nationwide by more than 2,000 bookstores and libraries [<http://www.bookpage.com/>].

## Marketing, Advocacy & Funding



**Reaching the local Spanish-speaking Community:** The free monthly publication "La Voz" (The Voice) is a widely distributed Spanish newsletter, published by Bard College and edited by Mariel Fiori. *La Voz* contains news articles, advocacy

issues and creative writing. Ms. Fiori has invited member libraries to announce their programs or events in *La Voz*. Submissions may be in English or Spanish. The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. If your library would like to publicize an event or program in *La Voz*, you may email Mariel Fiori at [fiori@bard.edu](mailto:fiori@bard.edu), or mail to: *La Voz*, Bard College, P.O. Box 5000, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504.

## Reference & Collection Development

**Central Library *Stumped* pads are now available through the MHLS Online Materials Request Form:**



The MHLS Central Reference Library, the Adriance Memorial Library (AML) of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District, provides reference support for all member libraries. Member libraries or patrons can call the AML reference desk for help with reference questions after exhausting the resources in your library.

① AML reference librarians are available Monday-Thursday 9-9, Friday and Saturday 9-5, and Sunday 1-5. Call 845.485.3445 x3303, or 800.804.0092.

② AML provides *Stumped* pads to member libraries with handy tear-off sheets that provide patrons directly with the contact information for the AML reference desk.

**NEW!** Request additional *Stumped* pads through the MHLS Online Material Request Form at <http://midhudson.org> (or get there directly at [http://midhudson.org/forms/material\\_request.htm](http://midhudson.org/forms/material_request.htm))

③ For more in-depth reference support, patrons may submit their request on a *Subject Search Form*, which is sent to AML by their home library. *These forms are also available through the Online Material Request Form.*

## Programming



**Follow the Clues!** Seventeen MHLS member libraries are doing "letterboxing" (also known as "The Outdoor Treasure Hunting Pastime") as part of their summer reading programs.

Here's the basic idea:

- Someone hides a waterproof box containing at least a logbook and a carved rubber stamp, and perhaps other goodies.
- The hider then usually writes directions to the box (called "clues" or "the map"), which can be straightforward, cryptic, or any degree in between. Often the clues involve map coordinates or compass bearings from landmarks, but they don't have to.
- Once the clues are written, hunters in possession of the clues attempt to find the box. In addition to the clue and any maps or tools needed to solve it, the hunter should carry at least a pencil, his personal rubber stamp, an inkpad, and his personal logbook.
- When the hunter successfully deciphers the clue and finds the box, he stamps the logbook in the box with his personal stamp, and stamps his personal logbook with the box's stamp.
- The box's logbook keeps a record of all its visitors, and the hunters keep a record of all the boxes they have found, in their personal logbooks.

Learn more at <http://www.letterboxing.org>. To see a list of area libraries participating and to read the clues, visit the MHLS Youth Services page:

<http://midhudson.org/Letterboxing/main.htm>

## Youth Services

**Intellectual Freedom for Kids:** ALSC has just released *Kids, Know Your Rights! A Young Person's Guide to Intellectual Freedom*. This four-page, full-color, PDF brochure is free to download and speaks directly to kids in grades 5 and up, using simplified, kid-friendly language to tackle such difficult, abstract ideas as challenges to the First Amendment, how censorship affects children, and how they can defend their right to read, privacy and confidentiality, and respecting the opinions of others. Access the brochure online at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscpubs/KidsKnowYourRights.pdf>.

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>.

"What do most people care about? Public safety, employment, housing, and education — and the library speaks to all of those needs. Crime? Libraries are a sanctuary for at-risk kids, on the loose after school lets out.

Employment? Libraries offer help wanted ads and books and programming on job-hunting, résumé writing, computer literacy, and ESL.

Housing? Libraries provide books and workshops on home remodeling, the home buying process, and financial planning.

Education? Librarians teach children to love reading, provide homework help, and offer guidance on college planning, SATs, and financial aid."

- Jose Aponte, "Outgrowing the Library," *Library Journal*, 2003 <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA281649.html>

# Around the System | June 2007



← Warren Graham, author of **Black Belt Librarians** got June off to a great start. With over 50 member library staff in attendance he walked them through security and safety tips for working with the public illustrated with engaging, humorous and sometimes outrageous stories from his 25 years in the security business, most recently as head of security for the Charlotte & Mecklenburg Co. Public Library in North Carolina. Warren's book is available through the MHLS Professional Collection.

*\*\*Check out next week's Bulletin for a write-up of the workshop\*\*.*



← The 2007 Advanced Trustee Session, **Smart Growth for Your Library** brought out a big crowd in both locations. Trustees shared their past, present and future to help each other predict growth and proactive change rather than defaulting to reactive change.



↑ Laurie Shedrick leads **Circulation Essentials**, held quarterly in conjunction with Orientation for New Staff.



← Michael Pierce of Generations Online wowed the group at the **Reaching Out: Computer Training for Seniors** workshop. Michael gave the group a tour of this online resource that is available, free of charge, to all member libraries to help them orient seniors unfamiliar with the Internet and email. The second half of the workshop was a roundtable discussion about best practices in offering technology workshops for seniors (and others). Tips from the event will be posted on the MHLS Programming page.



← **Who are these excited people?** MHLS staffers Josh Cohen, Margaret Keefe and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (not shown) met up with Janet Huen and Lauren Muffs of the Poughkeepsie Public Library District upon their arrival at the Washington D.C. Convention Center for the opening of the **American Library Association Conference**.

Stay tuned for more information and pictures from the MHLS staff's conference experience!

(l-r): Janet Huen (PPLD), Lauren Muffs (PPLD), Josh Cohen (MHLS), Margaret Keefe (MHLS); behind the camera: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MHLS)