

Mid-Hudson Library System

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Local Libraries Win Funds for Seniors Older American Grants Announced

(POUGHKEEPSIE, NY) – May is Older Americans Month. The population of older Americans is increasing. In 2000 12% of the population were at least 65; by 2030 one in every five people will be at least 65, as the baby boom generation ages.

In anticipation of this trend libraries need to create or strengthen programs and materials collections targeted to attract and serve this group, the Mid-Hudson Library System's (MHLS) Outreach Services has awarded Older American grants to 28 member libraries. These grants are funded through Coordinated Outreach State Aid, which comes to MHLS through the NYS Division of Library Development.

Columbia County Libraries:

·Chatham Public Library, \$1100: Seniors (25% of their population) with an interest in local history and area rural life will be targeted by their Life on the Farm: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow grant. A brochure will be created as a joint library / historical society project and distributed at several places, including the local fair. A rotating collection of large-print books on a book card will be supplied to an area senior residence.

·Germantown Library, \$1300: After consulting with the County Office of the Aging, an expansion of senior targeted materials is planned, including a senior-friendly rotating table rack for audio books. One third of the current patrons are seniors, and outreach to the local senior residence will continue to grow that number.

·Hudson Area Library, \$1000: At off-site computer demos, seniors will be able to register for a series of computer classes. In addition, the library will develop a web page specifically to meet the needs of older Americans.

Dutchess County Libraries:

· Howland Public Library (Beacon), \$750: Working with local historical societies, diverse historical programming will be offered in the library as well as at local settings readily accessible to seniors, helping to position the library as a natural starting point for seniors to learn local history and genealogical skills.

· Beekman Library, \$750: A series of “Connections” classes will be held at the Senior Center, exploring genealogy, Interviewing and journaling to record memories. New genealogy collection will start a genealogy reference center in the local history room.

·LaGrange Association Library, \$1300: A six-week program of hands-on workshops includes instruction to search the library catalog, reserve materials online and access library databases, taught by a technologically savvy, enthusiastic senior.

·Millbrook Free Library, \$1200: A fall/winter monthly lecture series at a local retirement community includes Memories to Memoirs (Tell Personal Stories), Guitar Through the Ages, and Computer Literacy.

·Pine Plains Free Library, \$750: Seniors interested in exploring genealogy software

(including grandparent/grandchild partners) will become familiar with several programs and Internet sources of information.

·PPLD/Adriance Memorial Library, \$500: Taught by senior citizens, computer classes will target seniors computer needs with computer basics, more advanced concepts (like downloading pictures from e-mail and creating folders) and what to look for in purchasing a computer.

·Red Hook Public Library, \$1000: Focusing on homebound and sight impaired seniors, the library will expand their materials for this age group, advertising through cable TV and Meals-On-Wheels.

·Morton Memorial Library (Rhinecliff), \$750: In expanding service to the homebound, the library will include visits to a nearby nursing home and also mail books directly to patrons.

·Stanford Free Library, \$750: Computer classes featuring Internet and e-mail use will be advertised at the "Forever Young" club. The library will offer a special weekly time-slot to returning students for continued assistance.

·Tivoli Library, \$1500: In 2000 the library conducted a survey via the water bills. Seniors responded that they would greatly appreciate computer and Internet training. Classes will be taught by Infinet Computer Services of Red Hook.

Greene County Libraries:

·D. R. Evarts Library (Athens), \$1000: Announcements at a popular senior social club and an information booth at a local Street Festival are two of the ways the library will advertise several lectures and sessions targeted at seniors. They will also collect service suggestions from this group through questionnaires.

-Heermance Memorial Library (Coxsackie), \$1000: Targeting a residence for senior citizens that is partially HUD subsidized, the library will sponsor an onsite cooking class Speed Scratch Cooking for Quick and Healthy Meals, along with book delivery to the residence. Computer classes will be conducted at the library using Windows for Grandmas.

-Windham Public Library, \$750: Classes offered at the library during the seasonal downtime of this resort area, targeting local seniors who have a desire to learn and understand computers and the Internet.

Putnam County Libraries:

-Brewster Public Library, \$750: This grant provides seed money to start senior oriented hands-on computer workshops. Some sessions will focus on using the library homepage to find materials and use electronic databases.

-Reed Memorial Library (Carmel), \$750: Partners in this collaborative project include the hospital Education Department and local Office for the Aging, creating health kits that target specific older American health issues and concerns.

-Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library (Cold Spring), \$1000: The library will build their collection of books-on-tape, videos and large print books for seniors, and will establish “mini-libraries” at a local senior center and at an elderly home, as well as deliver to the homebound.

-Desmond-Fish Library (Garrison), \$1000: Programs for older Americans include: a discussion group on the roots of terrorism based on materials from the Foreign Policy Association (run by a retired college professor), talks about the military history and gardening interests of George Washington, and 18th century music.

-Kent Public Library, \$1000: Promotion introductions to their computer classes will be given at several local senior meeting places. Classes include chatting with grand children in real time and e-mailing photographs. Trackballs will be purchased for students with disabilities such as arthritis.

-Mahopac Public Library, \$800: Librarians will visit Adult Day Care clients at the new Senior Center computer lab, two/three times a month, bringing a variety of high interest educational and recreational software.

-Patterson Library, \$1500: A "Senior Leisure Series at the Library" will offer three components targeting mind, body and soul: Internet Skills Training, Genealogy Seminar, Live Theater performance of Love Letters. This pilot project for older Americans will be advertised in several places, including their new library newsletter, mailed quarterly to every household in Patterson.

-Putnam Valley Free Library, \$1000: The library will sponsor recreational programs of interest to seniors on weekends, when the Senior Center and Nutrition Program held in the community room of the library, is closed. Meals-On-Wheels will offer Bookmobile services to the homebound.

Ulster County Libraries:

-Hurley Library, \$1000: The second largest group of users in this library is older Americans. Musical Mornings and a speaker from the local County Office for the Aging (introducing seniors to the services available through their organization) are two of the many programs being introduced through Large Print flyers.

·Kingston Library, \$500: This grant will be used to promote library services, materials and programs to the over-55 population of Kingston (over 25%). A fact sheet will be developed for program planners and staff at area senior residencies.

·Morton Memorial Library (Pine Hill), \$1200: In this “Naturally Occurring Retirement Community” (as defined by NY Public Interest Research Group, as more than 50% of the population is older than 55) the library will hold computer literacy classes for senior adults, plus practice hours with a computer coach at the library.

·Woodstock Public Library District, \$800: A local writer (and library trustee) will run a bi-weekly senior citizens writing workshop. Submissions to a writing contest will culminate in a special library event, where winning entries will be videotaped.