



This child is reading to his new reading-buddy at the Mahopac Library's A.R.F. (Animal Reading Friends) program. The program, called Human Animal Relational Therapy Programs, Inc. (H.A.R.T.), helps kids learn to read by supplying a non-threatening, attentive reading partner. H.A.R.T. Programs, Inc. is a local organization consisting of volunteers and their pet partners who have been trained, evaluated and certified through the Delta Society to provide animal-assisted therapy and animal-assisted activities in schools, nursing homes, hospitals and other facilities—like public libraries.

A C R O S S T H E

B O A R D

{ Enhancing Your Library's Value & Visibility in Your Community }

Book Discussion Groups Tap dance classes Bus Trip to Ellis Island Basic Computing for Seniors Cartooning @ the Library Live Hawk and Raptor Demonstration Tropical Story Hour "Let's Talk About Sex" Song Writing Seminar Yoga Lessons Mother Goose Day "Gardening with a Sense of History" Adoption Workshop The R.C. Lacy Foreign Film Fest Genealogy Classes Puppet Shows Blood Pressure Screening Making Mardi Gras Masks Safe Driving Courses "Ghosts of the Hudson Valley" Bilingual Story Hour "The Art of Soup" "Live Bats in the Library" Taxpayer All-Nighter "Islam: Questions After 9/11"

Programs at libraries in the Mid-Hudson Library System reflect the variety and diversity of the communities and patrons that are served. As libraries grow and stretch to meet the needs of their patrons, library programming has evolved into a main attraction in many communities. Meeting rooms are filled to capacity, newspaper's pick up the story and libraries bring different worlds into their local communities. ☞ Listed in the display text above are some of the great programs going on in MHLS member libraries. Below are some other great examples of library programs: the **Patterson Library** (Putnam County) has done a popular "Big Trucks" Program. With the support of the local fire, police and highway departments, a variety of trucks were brought to the library for children to explore. As an added bonus the library invited a costumed celebrity character, *Bob the Builder*, to meet the children. Bob was the library's only out-of-pocket expense. Books about trucks, heavy equipment and more were on display for the children to borrow. ☞ The **Howland Public Library** in Beacon (Dutchess County) hosts the *AARP Tax-Aid*, a free, volunteer-run tax preparation service for middle-to-low income taxpayers with special attention given to those age 60 and over. ☞ The **Desmond-Fish Library** in Garrison (Putnam County) is known for its wide-ranging library programming. Recent events included an *eBay Seminar*, designed for both the novice and more knowledgeable collector and seller. The presenter discussed the use of digital cameras and demonstrated using scanners to post items for sale through this virtual marketplace. ☞ At the **Woodstock Library** (Ulster County) the Friends Group sponsors the "Library Forum" every Saturday at 5P.M. Upcoming Forum events include: "The Human Face of the Iraqi People"; a talk by *Steve Clorfeine* on Nepal; the *Woodstock Poetry Festival*; and a reading by *Deborah Artman* and *Lydia Davis*. ☞ The **Claverack Library** (Columbia County) holds an annual poetry series. This year poet and playwright *Cornelius Eddy* opened their 2003 Distinguished

Poets Series. ☞ The **Catskill Public Library** (Greene County) held it's first annual *Street Fair* in June to kick off their Summer Reading Program. The Fair included pony rides, a petting zoo, food vendors, a book sale and lively entertainment provided by the *Community Center Drum Corps*. The event attracted over 300 people and more than 100 kids signed up for the SRP.

Steps for Library Programming

- [1] **Decide on your target groups.** Identify topics that are attractive to those groups. You might want to use the Mid-Hudson Library System's *EZ Library Program Database* <<http://midhudson.org/ezprogram/>> for help. Partner with an organization serving your target group. Read the local newspaper to find out about current issues and events in your community.
- [2] **Create a budget.** This will ensure that you can take advantage of the MHLS Incentive Program if you are a "Package A or B" library. Your library may receive programming support in the form of 50 percent of speaker or presenter fees up to **\$250** for Package A libraries and up to **\$500** for Package B libraries. (Not sure which package your library receives? Ask your director or call *Doris Formby* in the MHLS Business Office at extension 10 to find out.)
- [3] **Develop a calendar of events and publish it at least quarterly.** Identify materials in your collection that support the topic. Ask participants what other topics would be of interest to them.
- [4] **Review (or create) a Meeting Room Policy.** Having an MRP can help keep your library out of wrangles. Sample policies are available at <http://midhudson.org/departments/member_information/library_policies.htm>.
- [5] **Be sure you are carrying the proper insurance for your facility.**
- [6] **Attend the programming at your library!**

Programs could highlight a particular strength at your library—maybe you have a unique local history collection, adaptive technology or a special collection devoted to a local author. Programming is a great publicity opportunity—always issue press releases announcing upcoming programs and invite the press in for coverage. ☞ The rewards of offering good library programs are many: heightened awareness of the library in the community, healthier communities, staff satisfaction and happy, involved patrons. ☞ **Resources for Library Programming** are available on the MHLS Web site at <<http://midhudson.org/resources/programs/main.htm>>. Included is a link to the *EZ Library Program Database*, where library staff can share and search for library programming ideas in many categories including topic, audience, cost and program type.

S u c c e s s S t o r y G u i d e l i n e s

Trustee Success Story Recognition Award

Purpose: To highlight an effort by a library trustee that resulted in a positive outcome for the library. **Award:** \$200 to the trustee's library and a certificate of recognition for the trustee. One in each county served by the Mid-Hudson Library System. **Criteria:** Entries will be judged on what the result was for the library, and how easily the project can be replicated. **Application Procedure:** Applications should be in the form of a letter, two pages maximum, to the Trustee Services Committee c/o Peggy Winn at MHLS.

Include the name of the person being recognized; the name and address of the library, including name of county; the director's name; and a description of the successful effort. *Backup documentation, if available, should also be submitted at this time (for example news releases, published articles, pictures).* **Deadline:** August 15, 2003 (winners will be notified in early September). Awards will be presented at the 44th Mid-Hudson Library System Annual Meeting on November 1, 2003 at the Casperkill Country Club in Poughkeepsie.

T r u e E d u c a t i o n S e s s i o n s

Trustee Essential Education Sessions

(formerly Basic Trustee Education)

Each year, MHLS provides an education series specifically for member library trustees. Many of those who have attended commented on how valuable it was to meet with and discuss library issues with trustees outside of their own library board. There is a **\$100 incentive grant** to libraries if at least one of their trustees attends a Mid-Hudson Library System Trustee Training. The System will mail checks based on attendance. Essential sessions are designed to educate public library trustees in the background and structure of libraries in New York state, the roles and functions of a board and running effective meetings. Trustees who attended in the past said: "This workshop opened my eyes to many trustee responsibilities and duties. I learned a great deal of information that I will share with fellow members." "\$100 incentive was a great idea." "Very well done. Covered many basic areas. I learned a

lot!" "Well run and informative." "All was most helpful—will share info with my board." "I hope you will offer this annually." (See calendar and registration information below.)*

Consultations In addition to the education series, a listing of the Trustee Consultations available from MHLS can be found on the MHLS web site at <<http://midhudson.org/trustees/consulting.htm>>. Topics include *Sustainable Funding, Policies, Long-range Planning, Friends Groups, Roles and Responsibilities of the Trustees and Director, Space Planning and Running Effective Meetings*. These consultations are meant to address your board's specific needs at a time and place of your choosing. **Please Note:** This and other information is available through *Rebekkah Smith*, Coordinator of Member Information. You can reach Rebekkah at 845.471.6060 extension 39 or rsmith@midhudson.org.

* T r u s t e e E d u c a t i o n C a l e n d a r

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|---|--|---|--|
| 1. TUE 9/9/03 (6 – 8 PM)
MHLS Auditorium | 2. SAT 9/13/03 (10 AM – 12 PM)
Kingston Library | 3. TUE 9/16/03 (6 – 8 PM)
Catskill Library | 4. WED 10/1/03 (6 – 8 PM)
Kent Public Library |
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Register online at <<http://midhudson.org/registration.htm>> or by calling 845.471.6060 extension 46.

Questions about the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)?

Check out MHLS's CIPA FAQs at <http://midhudson.org/resources/CIPA_FAQs.htm>.

ACROSS THE

BOARD

A Mid-Hudson Library System Publication for Trustees
103 Market Street Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

C H A N G E S E R V I C E R E Q U E S T E D

