



STATE LIBRARY NEWS

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

Spring 2005

LEGISLATORS: WALL STREET JOURNAL COMES TO YOU

The New York State Library now brings you the full text of the *Wall Street Journal* online. You can read it daily or check issues back to 1984 without charge. It's all on the ABI/INFORM database, which you can access remotely with your State Library borrowers card. All State Library patrons are welcome to read the online *Journal* at the Library. For more information, go to <<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/elecres2.htm>>.

SIX DAYS IN AUGUST

Trouble was brewing in 1777 at Camp Van Schaick on Van Schaick Island, located where the Hudson meets the Mohawk. The transfer of command from General Philip Schuyler to General Horatio Gates was going badly. Gates did not want to accept command of the ill-fed, ill-clothed army, and the troops were grumbling about being under Gates' command. On August 22, Governor George Clinton went to Camp Van Schaick to settle the problem. With the help of General Schuyler's loan of \$10,000 for supplies, Governor Clinton negotiated the transfer, and left the island on August 27. That was roughly six weeks before October 7, when the American soldiers captured General Burgoyne at

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THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SALUTES FARLEY AND WELCH



Senator **Hugh T. Farley** & State Librarian **Janet M. Welch**

State Senator Hugh T. Farley and State Librarian Janet Martin Welch are on the American Library Association (ALA) Advocacy Honor Roll for their outstanding work in strengthening library services in New York State. *The New York Times* is also named. The Association for Library Trustees and Advocates also sponsors the Honor Roll.

Senator Farley, Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Libraries since 1978, sponsored all significant library legislation adopted over three decades.

He was a member of the Governor's Commission on Libraries, an elected delegate to the White House Conferences on Libraries in 1979 and 1991, and a recipient of the New York Library Association President's Award. As prime Senate sponsor of the New Century Libraries legislation, he led successful efforts to restore library funding to the State budget. Senator Farley also supports libraries in the communities he represents. Recently, he saved the Gloversville Public Library when the city withdrew funding.

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NEW CENTURY LIBRARIES BILL INTRODUCED

Seventy-five percent of New York households use public libraries each year. That's far above the national average. In response to New Yorkers' thirst for information, Sandra Galef introduced the New Century Libraries Bill (A8086) in the Assembly, and Senator Hugh T. Farley introduced it (S4193) in the Senate. When passed, this legislation will increase State funding enabling all New

Yorkers to obtain the information they need to succeed in the 21st century; it will help libraries fund much needed improvements in physical and technological infrastructure; and continue development of a skilled workforce.

This bill will also enable libraries to provide essential services to students, parents, educators, recent immigrants,

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RESEARCH RESIDENTS CHOSEN

Mary Redmond, Interim Director of the State Library, recently announced names of the 2005 Research Residents and their projects. Out of 27 applicants, the following four were selected:

■ **Joyce D. Goodfriend, Ph.D.**, Professor, University of Denver, "Readers and books in colonial New York City;"

■ **Michael Gunther**, Graduate student, Lehigh University, "The environmental history of the upper Hudson-Champlain corridor, and its interrelationship with social conflict and settlement;"

■ **Susan Ingalls Lewis, Ph.D.**, Professor, SUNY New Paltz, "Businesswomen in 19th century Albany;"

■ **Carli Schiffner, Ph.D.**, Professor, SUNY Canton, "Women's history in three Northern New York counties;"

Each winner receives a \$1,000 grant funded by the Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residency Program in New York State History and Culture, established in 1997. Resident scholars will conduct original research at the State Library and give a brief public presentation about their work. To apply for a future research residency, go to <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/researchres.htm>.

SIX DAYS

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the second Battle of Saratoga, and turned the tide of the Revolutionary War.

This is one of the many significant stories that emerge from the Van Schaick Family Papers (1661-1863).

To consult these or other State Library documents, check the finding aids at http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/fa_toc.htm or visit the State Library.

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:

■ **Discover your family's history.** Browse Ellis Island passenger arrival records.

■ **Plan a vacation.** Explore the National Park Service Web site.

■ **Predict the weather.** Get the forecast of local satellite photos by zip code.

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And Much More

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

For more information, call
(518) 474-7920 or e-mail:
excelsior@mail.nysed.gov.

FARLEY AND WELCH CENTURY LIBRARIES

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Janet M. Welch, a nationally recognized expert in library advocacy, public awareness, and coalition building, has been New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries since 1997. She led a coalition of libraries in obtaining a \$17 million grant from the Gates Library Initiative, bringing computers and training to New York's Libraries. She also worked with the Regents to develop the New Century Libraries Initiative, which includes NOVEL. As Chair of the Legislative Committee for the New York Library Association (NYLA) from 1982 to 1985, Welch helped advance bills totaling \$31 million in new funding for libraries. As president of NYLA, she also organized its Public Awareness Project, and obtained foundation support for library advocacy. These initiatives became national models.

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job hunters, and business people.

For names and addresses of your Legislators, visit <http://senate.state.ny.us> or <http://assembly.state.ny.us>.

Similar bills were introduced in the previous legislative session, but were not enacted. Thanks to the determination and advocacy of Legislators, Friends of the State Library, and other pro-library organizations and individuals, another attempt is being made to pass this important legislation.

NEW NETHERLAND MYSTERY ON TV

Dr. Charles T. Gehring, Director of the New Netherland Institute, will be interviewed on the PBS program "History Detectives" in conjunction with a story about Manhattan land owned by a former West India Company slave. WMHT will air this episode September 12, at 9 p.m.

TELL US

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

FRIENDS CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK



Norman S. Rice, Governing Board, Friends of the State Library, and **Bruce Barnaby**, State Library Staff, talk with visitors at Friends' exhibit.

An enthusiastic response greeted Friends at the recent 2005 National Library Week Celebration on the Empire State Plaza Concourse. The Friends' exhibit, staffed by Friends volunteers Jane Schneider, Norman S. Rice, and Clesson Bush, and State Library staff, displayed membership brochures, the *New York State Library News*, and information about coming events. Exhibit visitors voted for their favorite books. *Gone with the Wind*, by Margaret Mitchell topped this year's list. Other favorites included *Goodnight Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown, *Charlotte's Web*, by E. B. White,

and *The Lord of the Rings*, by J. R. R. Tolkien.

Ten other exhibitors from New York State libraries and pro-library organizations joined the celebration. Legislative Library Chairs Senator Hugh T. Farley and Assemblywoman Sandy Galef cosponsored arrangements for this annual event.

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 the collections and services of the State Library.
Editor: Miriam S. Soffer
This newsletter is not published at State expense.

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.

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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 bookstores. Select:

- **Sustaining Membership.** \$25. Receive discounts at three book shops: 20% at Borders Books & Music in Colonie, 20% single use discount on one in-stock title at the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza or Market Block Books in Troy, 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 *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.
- To join Friends of the New York State Library, complete the form below and mail it with your check.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NEW YORK STATE PROVIDES NEW WAY TO SEE STATE



Detail from book jacket of new *Encyclopedia of New York State*.

In October 1998, the *Encyclopedia of New York State* opened its Albany office in the Cultural Education Center. Seven and a half years later, the Syracuse University Press released the first edition of this beautifully illustrated, 2-million-word book about New York State, and distributed 780 free copies to libraries throughout the State. "One of the most complete works on the Empire State to be published in a half century, this single volume captures the impressive complexity of New York State as a historic crossroads of people and ideas, as a cradle of abolitionism and feminism, and as an apex of modern urban, suburban and rural life. It is a crucial reference for students, teachers, historians, and

business people," says the book's publisher.

The New York State Library and the Cultural Education Center played a major role in the development of the *Encyclopedia*. "It was the great good fortune of the *Encyclopedia* to have been located at the Cultural Education Center in Albany. Close proximity to the magnificent resources of the New York State Library, New York State Archives and New York State Museum was a continual boon," says Peter Eisentadt, Editor-in-Chief of the *Encyclopedia*. "The staff members of the State Education Department were unfailingly gracious hosts, starting with Carole F. Huxley, Deputy

Commissioner for the Office of Cultural Education."

"Learning about New York State is a never-ending quest. For the student, for the casual viewer and for the expert alike, the *Encyclopedia* provides a new way of looking at and reading about New York State," says Mrs. Huxley in the foreword.

"Entries by experts chronicle New York's rich cultural, ethnic, and political history in a cornucopia of subjects," says the publisher. Detailed entries in fields ranging from sociology and the arts to geography and history include articles about sculptor David Smith, artist Rockwell Kent, and upstate literature, by Miriam Soffer, editor of the *New York State Library News*. Her son, Jonathan Soffer, a history professor and author of *General Matthew Ridgway, From Progressivism to Reaganism, 1895-1993*, wrote the entry "Reform Democrats."

"The wealth of materials available at the State Library and the skills, sagacity and constant good humor of Library Staff helped enormously in researching topics," says Mrs. Soffer. You can explore the remarkable new *Encyclopedia of New York State*, at your local public library or the State Library.

New York State Library News
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N.Y.S. Education Department
Albany, NY 12230

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>.