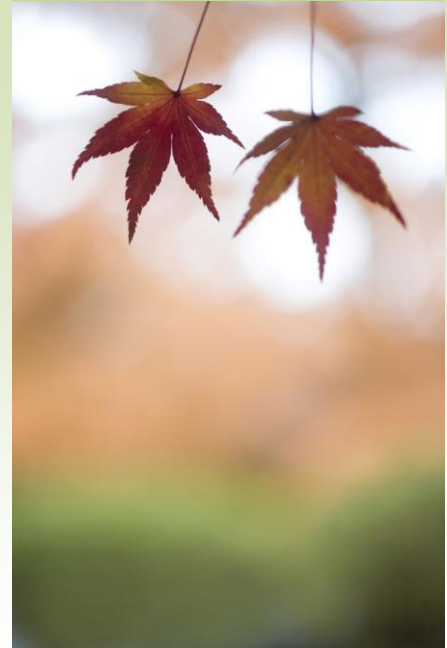


The Lamplighter



IN THE SYSTEM

Congratulations, Douglas Lay!

The Awards and Honors Committee of the Wisconsin Library Association has announced that WVLS Trustee Douglas Lay has been named WLA's 2008 Trustee of the year!

This award, which is conferred upon an outstanding library trustee, recognizes Doug's long-term dedication and commitment to the advancement and development of library service in Wisconsin. Doug's resume, which includes a 24-year tenure on the WVLS Board of Trustees, a 29-year membership in WLA, appointments to the LSTA Advisory Committee and COLAND, and active involvement in WLTF and Library Legislative Day activities for a number of years, is certainly impressive.

In addition, this honor signifies how very much the Wisconsin library community values and appreciates Doug's contributions. Doug will be honored at WLA's Awards and Honors Banquet on Thursday, November 6, 2008 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton.

Congratulations, Doug! This recognition is well deserved and long overdue!

(Marla Sepnafski, Director, Wisconsin Valley Library Service)

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New Director Named at Rhinelander District Library

Please join us in welcoming Ed Hughes as the new Director of the Rhinelander District Library. His first day was August 18, 2008, and he is already enjoying being back in Wisconsin and working with the staff, library board and community. Previously, Ed was a supervisor at one of USA Today's "Top Ten Libraries", the Rapid City Public Library in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Ed and his wife, Bobbalee, are happy to be back in Wisconsin living closer to his family and back in the state where he grew up. While growing up in Appleton, he remembers vacationing in the Rhinelander area. He received his Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Ed also has experience working in academic libraries, such as the University of Wyoming and the University of Wisconsin - Stout. He loves to see others develop their skills and grow, which is why he relishes the management aspects of his job.

(Inese Christman, WVLS)

V-CAT Administrator / Technology Coordinator

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) is seeking an innovative, personable, team-oriented individual who will join us in our quest for a new library automation system.

In addition to this primary responsibility, the V-CAT Administrator / Technology Coordinator also administers the integrated library system (currently using SirsiDynix Horizon software, version 7.4.1); coordinates WVLS technology efforts in cooperation with WVLS Tech Team members and program managers; maintains the V-Cat Informational web site; and maintains and manages a mission-critical WAN with 32 service outlets.

WVLS is a federated public library system located in Wausau, Wisconsin. WVLS provides service to 25 public libraries and 212 non-public libraries in its 7-county service area. For more information about WVLS, visit our Web site at <http://wvls.lib.wi.us>

Compensation range for full-time position: Salary negotiable depending on experience and qualifications. Attractive benefits package is provided. Complete job description and application forms are available at <http://wvls.lib.wi.us/jobs/jobopp.html>

Mail cover letter, resume, application form and salary history, and complete contact information for three references to: Human Resources Division, Wisconsin Valley Library Service, 300 N First Street, Wausau, WI 54403. Applications received by Friday, September 19th will receive first consideration. Position will remain open until qualified candidate is determined.

Questions about this position and the application process may be referred to Barbara Freimund (telephone: 715/261-7250; freimund@wvls.lib.wi.us)

WVLS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

YOUTH MATTERS

Coming Soon – Teen Read Week

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has planned some exciting things to help celebrate **Teen Read Week** held October 12 – 18, 2008. This year's theme is "Books with Bite @ your library!" You don't want to miss this, so register your library before **September 12, 2008** at this website <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2008/index.cfm>



Why should you register? YALSA is a nonprofit organization that depends on its members for support. By registering, you are letting them know that teen literacy is a concern and you are willing to do something about it!

Here are some of the 2008 registration incentives:

- The first 4,000 registrants will receive one free paperback from Galaxy's Golden Age series, courtesy Promotional Partner Galaxy Press.
- Twenty-five registrants will be chosen at random to receive a complete set of titles from Zest Books (about fifteen books total). The drawing will be held on Monday, **Sept. 15, 2008**.
- All Teen Read Week registrants will receive a complimentary issue of TeenInk magazine, courtesy Nonprofit Supporter TeenInk. Issues will be sent after registration closes on Sept. 12.
- The first 1,000 registrants who register in September will receive a free movie poster featuring *The Secret Life of Bees*.
- All registrants can download YALSA's pocket-sized, illustrated "Books with Bite Recommended Reading Pamphlet", full of recommended titles drawn from YALSA's awards and booklists and annotated by YALSA's Teen Read Week committee. These tri-fold pamphlets can be printed on 8.5 x 11" paper, cut to size, and then handed out to teens by the dozens.

(Young Adult Library Services Association website, August 25, 2008)

Any Schools or Libraries Interested In a Unique Presentation?

Is your school or library interested in having speaker Karen Land talk about her Iditarod adventures? Karen travels in a small, economical Toyota Rav with two dogs, Borage and Jigs, in the back seat, and her dog sled, mushing clothing, and gear stashed in a travel carrier on top!



Karen does several talks in one day. She visits schools during the day and local public libraries in the evening. Usually, the students love the talk AND Borage so much that they often bring their parents and friends back to the library in the evening for more! The school and library

talks are unique.

Currently, Karen is gathering a list of schools and libraries who would like to book a program. Karen requires at least 10 presentations in the same state before she is willing to come to Wisconsin to present her program.

If your school or library is interested in this program, please contact Stacey K. Orr, Adult Services Coordinator, at the E.U. Demmer Memorial Library, 6961 W. School St., PO Box 760, Three Lakes, WI 54562, or e-mail Stacy at: sorr@wvls.lib.wi.us

FROM HITHER & YON



WPLC Receives 'Digital Pioneer' Award

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) was one of 13 recipients of the "Digital Pioneer" award (aka the "Digies" award) presented at OverDrive's Digipalooza '08 conference on July 26 in Cleveland. The award recognizes OverDrive partner libraries that have shown excellence and leadership in delivering digital media downloads to their communities through successful collection development, website management, and promotion and community outreach.

WPLC was chosen for this award from the hundreds of public libraries and consortia that offer OverDrive-supplied media for leading technologies for authentication for member libraries. The full list of recipients and their areas of accomplishment is available at: <http://www.overdrive.com/aboutus/getArticle.aspx?newsArticleID=20080804>, the OverDrive website. WVLS is a member of WPLC and feels honored to be a part of this consortium.

Congratulations WPLC!

New Tool for Estimating Social Security Benefits

People planning for retirement got a new tool this week: a fast and easy online estimator for their Social Security benefits. It can be found at: <http://ssa.gov/estimator/>

The Social Security Administration unveiled its new retirement estimator on its web site, and it takes just a few points and clicks and some personal information to produce benefit estimates within a few minutes.

The new calculator will be followed this fall by an updated online application for benefits that Social Security Administrator Michael Astrue promises will reduce application time from the current 45-minute process to 12 minutes – and eliminate the need for follow-up visits to the agency field offices.

The online calculator permits future retirees to create a more accurate estimate of benefits since people can factor in a higher estimate of their upcoming earnings. People can factor in different alternatives for retirement ages.

(CNNMoney, July 23, 2008)

GRANTS

ALA and Scholastic Library Publishing Announce 2009 National Library Week Grant

Libraries across the United States are invited to apply for the \$3,000 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant, which will be awarded to a single library for the best public awareness campaign incorporating the 2009 National Library Week theme, "Worlds connect @ your library."

The grant is sponsored by Scholastic Library Publishing, a division of Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, and is administered by the Public Awareness Committee of the American Library Association (ALA). This year's application deadline is **October 17, 2008**. National Library Week is April 12-18, 2009.

All proposals must use the "Worlds connect @ your library" theme, which incorporates The Campaign for America's Libraries' "@ your library" brand, on any and all promotional and publicity material supporting National Library Week activities. The grant application form and guidelines are available on the campaign website www.ala.org/@yourlibrary/nlwgrant, or call the ALA Public Information Office at (800) 545-2433, ext. 2148.

The winner will be announced following the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver. Information on last year's winner, the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, NC, and the winning application can be viewed at the campaign website found at: www.ala.org/@yourlibrary/nlwgrant.

INFO TO GO

A No-Obligation Book Club?

In the September 2008 issue of *Real Simple* magazine, the editor announced the start of their very own "No-Obligation Book Club". You can participate online at this address: <http://realsimple.com/bookclub>. This book club is for people who enjoy discussing books with others, but can't deal with the deadlines and reading assignments of regular book clubs. This book club is here if you want to attend, read at your own pace (more or less), weigh-in if you have an opinion – or not.

The September issue also features responses to their monthly question which was "What is the best book your book club has read?" The responses are very interesting and offer insight into titles that are great for discussion, and may just be the book for your book club to explore.

(Heather Eldred, Director Emerita, WVLS)

End of the Line for Cassette Tapes

If you've been a librarian for more than a couple of years, you probably have memories connected to cassette tapes – circulating those books 'n' tape combinations; practicing your storytime songs or puppet shows or storytelling; or learning songs in your car on the way to work.

But those days are over, and the cassette tape will soon join its brother, the 8-track, and its cousins, the 5 ¼ and 3 ½ inch floppy disks and the VCR cassette, in the Misty Never-Never Land of Obsolete Technologies.

This New York Times story, "Say So Long to an Old Companion...Cassette Tapes," reminds us of what's passing. It reflects on the things that made cassettes special, right to the end:

While the cassette was dumped long ago by the music industry, it has lived on among publishers of audio books. Many people prefer cassettes because they made it easy to pick up in the same place where the listener left off, or to rewind in case a certain sentence is missed...

Cassettes have limped along for some time, partly because of their usefulness in recording conversations or making a tape of favorite songs, say, for a girlfriend. But sales of portable tape players, which peaked at 18 million in 1994, sank to 480,000 in 2007, according to the Consumer Electronics Association. The group predicts that sales will taper to 86,000 in 2012.

That's the end of the line for cassettes, but can you guess where cassettes hung on longer than anywhere else? In libraries, of course. Libraries accept and give up technologies reluctantly (why do you think it took libraries 12 years or so to get into video gaming?), and this story reminds us how perfect cassettes have always been for one important kind of library material:

...for audio books, the cassette is an oddly elegant medium: you can eject it from your car, carry it home and stick it in a boombox, and it will pick up in the same place, an analog feat beyond the ability of the CD.

Now that books are available on CD, and soon they'll all be downloadable, the things that I will **not** miss are the careful rewinding of the tape or the splicing of the broken tape to get it back together again for one more check-out.

(The Monkey Speaks Blog, July 31, 2008)

Some of the "52 Ways to Use Your Library Card" (In Celebration of Library Card Sign-up Month)

1. Borrow or download an audiobook for your next road trip or commute.
2. Take a computer class.
3. Learn about home improvement.
4. Connect with other people in the community.
5. Read a newspaper from another city.
6. Find a quiet spot, curl up with a book and enjoy.
7. Decide which computer to buy using a consumer guide.

For more ideas go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/otherinit/card/librarycard.cfm>

CONTINUING EDUCATION



NORTHWOODS CONFERENCE FOR LIBRARY FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS – “Working With and In Your Community”

**Rothschild Village Hall - Community Room
Saturday, October 11, 2008
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Conference cost is \$10.00. This fee includes handouts, beverages, snacks, and a box lunch. (Please note that there is plenty of free parking and that the facility is handicap accessible). If you have questions or comments or need special accommodations to attend this conference, please contact Inese Christman at 715-261-7256.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Marathon County Public Library, the staff of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service, and with the support of the Wisconsin Library Trustees and Friends.

To register for the 3rd Northwoods Conference for Library Friends, Supporters & Volunteers, mail completed registration and a check for \$10.00 (made out to the WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE) to Inese Christman, Wisconsin Valley Library Service; 300 N. First Street; Wausau, WI 54403.

Name: _____ Library: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Email: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 30, 2008

WVLS 2008 LSTA Literacy Grant Workshop PROJECT INCLUSION: Serving Children With Disabilities and Their Families

**Thursday, September 18, 2008 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. MCPL’s Wausau Room
300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI 54403**

WVLS member libraries participating in the 2008 LSTA Literacy grant are required to send at least one representative to this event. This WVLS workshop is open to all interested persons. If accommodations for your disability are needed, please call 715-261-7255 at least 48 hours in advance.

To Register: Send this completed form and a check for \$5.00 if you’d like the box lunch, (made out to the: **Wisconsin Valley Library Service**), **ATTN: Beth Sillars, WVLS, 300 N. First St., Wausau, WI 54403.**

Name: _____ Amt. enclosed: _____

Library: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 15, 2008

Welcome to OPAL: Online Programs for All

By now you may have heard about OPAL, the online training program that WVLS belongs to as an institutional member. WVLS utilizes OPAL as a convenient mileage-free way to hold online meetings or offer library information training sessions. If you haven't heard of OPAL, here is a quick 7-minute screen movie that offers an overview of how the OPAL software works: <http://www.tapinformation.com/WILD200706.wmv> (10.4 MB WMV file).

OPAL, or **O**nline **P**rogramming for **A**ll **L**ibraries, is an international collaborative effort by libraries and other organizations to provide web-based programs and training for library users and library staff members.

These live events are held in online rooms where participants can interact via voice-over-IP, text chatting, synchronized browsing, and other functions. Everyone is welcome to participate in OPAL programs. Usually there is no need to register. Nearly all OPAL programs are offered free of charge to participants.

Examples of OPAL public online programs include book discussion programs, interviews, special events, library training, memoir writing workshops, and virtual tours of special digital library collections. Here is a link to their current list of upcoming programs: <http://www.opal-online.org/progschno.htm>

OPAL is administered by TAP Information Services, a small company that helps libraries and other organizations innovate. OPAL was founded in 2003 by the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center, the Alliance Library System, and the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service.

If you would like a "tour" of the OPAL system, need help in checking out your computer equipment, or would like to host a meeting via OPAL, please contact Inese Christman, 715-261-7256 or via e-mail at ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us.
(Inese Christman, WVLS)

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

What Is Your Neighborhood's Walk Score? - <http://www.walkscore.com>

With gas at \$3.00+ a gallon, there's never been a better time to live in a walkable neighborhood. Check out your city to see what is in walking distance of where you live. Even Rothschild is listed. (*Librarians' Internet Index, July 31, 2008*)

Learn a Language the Social Way - <http://livemocha.com>

Livemocha is the first-of-its-kind online language-learning community. It includes fun and interactive lessons that move at the right pace for you and provides the opportunity to have native speakers review and assist you with your speaking and writing.
(*Librarians' Internet Index, July 31, 2008*)

American Library Association – The State of America’s Libraries Report -

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/presscentera/piopresskits/2008staterport/2008statehome.cfm>

In this report, find out how libraries of all kinds continue to play an expanding role in American communities, serving the needs of patrons of all ages and reaching out to those who have been underserved.

(American Libraries Direct, August 27, 2008)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

September is: National Library Card Sign-Up Month, find more information at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/mediarelationsa/factsheets/librarycardsign.cfm>

Sept 1 Labor Day

Sept 8 International Literacy Day

http://www.reading.org/association/meetings/literacy_day.html

Sept 16 Winnefox & OWLS Library Systems - Children’s Services
Workshop, Ripon Public Library, 9:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Details at: <http://extranet.winnefox.org/childrens.html>

Sept 18 **WVLS Workshop** – 2008 LSTA Literacy Grant - Project Inclusion at the
Marathon County Public Library, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sept 20 **WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting** at the Marathon County Public
Library, 9:30 a.m.

Sept 24 Wisconsin Day <http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/observe.html>

Sept 25 Annual Meeting of the System Youth Services Liaisons, Madison

Sept 25 NFLS – How to Weed Without Losing Your Mind! Workshop, NFLS
Office, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. For details, contact Jamie Matczak
at: jmatczak@mail.nfls.lib.wi.us

Sept 27-Oct 4 Banned Books Week sponsored by ALA

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm>

OCTOBER

October is: National Book Month, find more information at:

<http://www.nationalbook.org/nbm.html>

Oct 2 **V-Cat Council Meeting**, 9:30 a.m., Abbotsford Public Library

Oct 2-3 Northwest Children’s Book Conference at the Telemark Resort and
Conference Center, details can be found at:

http://www.telemarkeducation.com/book_conference.html

Oct 11 **Northwoods Conference for Library Friends, Supporters, and
Volunteers** at the Rothschild Village Hall, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Oct 12-18 Teen Read Week 2008 - “Books with Bite”, details at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2008/index.cfm>

Oct 18 **WVLS Executive Committee Meeting** at the Marathon County Public
Library, 9:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER

November is: American Diabetes Month, find more information at:

<https://www.diabetes.org/home.jsp>

- Nov 2 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov 4 Election Day – Don't forget to VOTE!
- Nov 4 – 7 Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference, Madison, Marriott West, Middleton, details at:
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/conferences/2008/index.htm>
- Nov 8 **WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting** at the Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov 13 **WVLS Workshop** on "Starting and Energizing Your Book Club and How to Enhance Your Storytimes to Spark Early Literacy", Northcentral Technical College. Watch for further details.
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Holiday

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"You know, sometimes I'll go to an eighth-grade graduation and there's all that pomp and circumstance and gowns and flowers. And I think to myself, it's just eighth grade... An eighth-grade education doesn't cut it today. Let's give them a handshake and tell them to get their butts back in the library!"

---Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, in a Father's Day address at Chicago's Apostolic Church of God, Peoria, Illinois.



The **LAMPLIGHTER** is a monthly newsletter of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service. 300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI 54403. Back issues are available at:
<http://wvls.lib.wi.us/Newsletter/newsindex.htm>

(Note: Web links in past issues are not checked for currency and may no longer work.)

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ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us
Phone: 715/261-7256
FAX: 715/261-7259

Contributions are welcome! News items should be submitted by the fifteenth of the month. WVLS serves Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties. When the most recent issue becomes available, readers are alerted by a notice posted to WISPUBLIB, or sent an email. To subscribe to WISPUBLIB, send an email message to wispublib@badger.state.wi.us. In the body of the message (subject line is ignored) type: subscribe WISPUBLIB. Then send your email. To have The Lamplighter emailed to you without subscribing to WISPUBLIB, contact Barbara Freimund at 715/261-7252, or email freimund@wvls.lib.wi.us. You may copy, reprint or forward all or part of this newsletter to friends, colleagues or customers, so long as the use is not for resale or profit and the information/article is attributed to this issue of the WVLS newsletter, *The Lamplighter*.