



Weekly Memo

Robert Hubsher, Director

Ramapo Catskill Library System • <http://www.rcls.org>

619 Route 17M • Middletown, NY 10940-4395 • 845-343-1131

October 13, 2008

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- ✓ **RCLS 2009 Holidays Schedule**—<http://www.rcls.org/index.php?s=6&b=9&p=6>
- ✓ **Fall Forthcoming Bestsellers (see page 4)**—http://www.rcls.org/images/uploads/misc/1222876347_Forthcoming_Bestsellers-A20081001.pdf

Candidates for RCLS Trustee

Three seats on the RCLS Board of Trustees need to be filled at the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 17, 2008 at the Eagle's Nest in Bloomingburg. The following are biographies of the candidates:

ORANGE COUNTY - 1 SEAT OPEN

CARL SANDLER BERKOWITZ, Middletown, NY, was born in Cambridge, MA, and has lived in Orange County for 30 years. He sells used and out-of-print scholarly books by mail to university libraries and professors around the world. Carl earned a BA in Classics from Tufts University and an MA in Classics from The Johns Hopkins University. He completed all class-work and comprehensive examinations for a doctorate in Roman Archaeology at the University of Missouri at Columbia. He has taught Art History and Archaeology at the University of Missouri at Columbia and Latin at Vernon (NJ) High School and Monroe-Woodbury Middle and High Schools.

Carl lives in the Town of Wallkill, with his wife, Linda Emanuel. Their two sons, Drew and Jeremy, are now in their 20s. Drew teaches Philosophy at Bridgewater State College in MA, and Jeremy is a Junior at Wesleyan University in CT.

Carl has been actively involved with the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library from its inception and has served as its President. He was deeply involved in the campaign to build the new Middletown Thrall Library building, often serving as the "voice" of the Friends at Middletown School Board meetings. He was involved in the design of the new structure and in planning what resources it needed and services it would provide. He was the original organizer and manager of the Friends of Middletown Thrall Library Book Store.

After being one of the leaders of the long struggle to bring library service to the 12,000 residents of the Town of Wallkill who were outside the old Thrall Public Library district, he was elected as one of the original trustees of the newly created special library district which included those unserved residents. He has been reelected twice, has served for two terms as President of the Board, and is currently its Vice President.

In addition to his service to libraries, Carl has been actively involved for the last 14 years with the Hudson Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America, where he has served in various capacities on the troop, district and council levels. One of his accomplishments was the creation in 2008 of a week-long Cub Scout Day Camp in the Town of Mamakating.

Carl has also been a long-term member of the Board of Trustees of Action Toward Independence, Inc. (ATI), the not-for-profit Independent Living Center for Sullivan and western Orange Counties. It provides advocacy services for the disabled, permitting them to live as fully and independently as possible. Carl is proud to have been the President of the Board for the last five years, which has seen its budget rise from \$300,000 to well over \$1,000,000.

Carl explained some of the reasons he once again seeks election to the Board of Trustees of the Ramapo Catskill Library System as follows:

“My two five-year terms on the RCLS Board (1993-2003), including my two years as President, saw enormous changes in libraries in general and RCLS in particular. It was a period of rapid growth in library usage, and computers in the library went from infancy to full-fledged necessity. All this was done while RCLS underwent a continual reduction in employees, necessitated in part by tightened state funding. And in the five years since my departure from the Board, even more has happened. I hope to be able to learn about how the last five years have affected RCLS and to be part of the next five years of growth and change.”

SULLIVAN COUNTY - 1 SEAT OPEN

IRA SIMON, Monticello, NY, has served as a trustee on the Ramapo Catskill Library System Board since 2003, and is currently the chairman of the Fundraising and Advocacy Committee. Ira served as vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Ethelbert B. Crawford Public Library (Monticello) from 1989 to 1998. In 1998 he was honored with the RCLS Award for Meritorious Service by a Library Trustee. Ira also served as President of the Sullivan County Public Library Association from its inception in 1998 through 2002. Ira has been a volunteer for the New York State Special Olympics since 1971. During this period, he has served as Director of Winter Games, Area Coordinator, Training Clinician and Coach. In 1981 he was the charter recipient of the Dorothy Bheuring Phillips Award which recognizes the Outstanding Volunteer in New York State. Ira is a past President of the Sullivan County Association of Basketball Officials, and continues to serve on their Executive Board. He is a former director of the Monticello Chapter of the National Youth Soccer Organization.

Ira resides in Monticello, NY with his wife Karen, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel for the Monticello Central School District. The Simons have two sons, Andrew, a graduate of Emory University and Matthew, a graduate of the University of Miami. Ira is employed at the Yeshiva Zichron Moshe in Fallsburg, NY where he is the Principal of the Secular Studies program. He is also the co-director of Winston Day Camp, Sackett Lake, NY.

ULSTER COUNTY - 1 SEAT OPEN

ALFRED SMILEY, Wallkill, NY, attended NYMA, Mohonk, and Mount Hermon schools and Brown University. After graduation, he was ROTC commissioned and served as a Personnel Officer in Strategic Air Command based in Plattsburgh, NY resigning as Captain in 1963. Al and his wife returned to Wallkill to teach at the Mohonk-Cragmoor Boys' School adapting Marion Borden's Mansion, barn and adjacent 25 acres. Their home was located at the edge of Marion's former formal garden.

In 1967, the Smileys moved into their current Borden home in Wallkill's hamlet. After receiving a Masters in English Curriculum from Columbia in 1967, a K-12 coordinator position was created in the English Department at New Paltz High School in 1968 for course development and articulation, teaching broad spectrum remedial, GED, to college-credit classes cooperating with Syracuse University.

Al's personal activities include hiking, snowshoeing, canoeing, fishing, hunting (with camera now), keeping bees,

assisting organizations and individuals to promote nature study, historical, and environmental preservation related to community/area growth. He has had a significant role in rejecting Marriott in favor of a state park ownership of Minnewaska and continues supporting their education efforts donating objects for the Nature Center and weekly nature walks with specialist volunteers, who also donate additional time and materials, to help train state personnel and the public.

Mr. Smiley's other community service has included a 42 year membership at the Wallkill Reformed Church, 35 years as a library trustee, and 22 years as a member of the town zoning board. He is a 31 year officer/founding member of the Historical Society (restoration and annual Borden Day festivities), 12 year Scout leader and 5 year member Ulster-Sullivan Mediation while advisor of Student Council at New Paltz High School.

Al has also been a member of the American Legion for 23 years, as well as Mohonk Preserve/Research Center and Friends of the Shawangunks.

Al received the 1986 Town of Shawangunk Man-of-the-Year Award.

He resides in Wallkill with his wife, the former Ann Elizabeth Schulz. They are the parents of four children and nine grandchildren.

Book Discussion for Parents and Kids

Together—Book Talk for Kids and Parents is the New York Council for the Humanities' exciting new reading and discussion program for families. Parents and their 9-to-11 year old children come together at their local library to discuss important humanities themes through shared reading. This program is available to all New York State public libraries and has been successfully implemented at a wide range of sites throughout the state.

The six 90-minute *Together* sessions are co-facilitated by a librarian (often the children's librarian) and a local humanities scholar. Each session promotes lively intergenerational discussion focused on themes of American identity related to picture books and novels. The Council provides copies of the books and a stipend to cover all costs of the *Together* program.

Applications to host a *Together* series for Spring 2009 are due **November 3, 2008** and are available at http://www.nyhumanities.org/discussion_groups/kids_and_parents/together/. The Website guides you through the application process with forms, common questions, and follow-up documents. Please note that funds may not be available to fulfill all requests.

New City Library Offers TumbleBookLibrary

*Sally Pellegrini, New City Library
Head of Community Relations*

TumbleBookLibrary, e-books for kids is one of the newest services offered through the New City Library. This online collection features animated, talking picture books designed to teach children the joy of reading by taking existing picture books and adding animation, sound, music and narration to produce an electronic book. Families are able to read to their children or children may read independently.

In today's fast-paced world, it may not be easy to attend the New City Library's full range of storytimes scheduled throughout the week (check the calendar of events at www.newcitylibrary.org). Now parents can enjoy storytime with their youngsters day or night using TumbleBooks.

Explore this exciting website featuring multiple selections ranging from books in Spanish and French to a variety of TumbleGames. The service is free; all that is needed is an Internet connection. To view, go to the library's homepage, www.newcitylibrary.org, and under "Bulletin Board" click on "TumbleBook."

Many of the databases are for adults. This is one of the many exciting services offered to young children. The New City Library is proud to offer this emerging technology to the most precious customers of today and tomorrow. For further information about TumbleBookLibrary, please call the New City Library's Children's Department at 634-4997, ext. 121.

Forthcoming Bestsellers

*Leslie S. W. Riley,
RCLS Public Services Consultant
and Outreach Coordinator*

The Fall 2008 issue of Forthcoming Bestsellers, a handy guide to up-and-coming new books, is now online at http://www.rcls.org/images/uploads/misc/1222876347_ForthcomingBestsellers-A20081001.pdf.

RCLS provides the list in three ways:

- Member libraries' staff can duplicate the online pdf.
- Purchase copies from RCLS using the order form in last week's Directors' envelopes.
- Subscribers have already received their copies. To learn more about subscriptions, contact Ruth Daubenspeck (ruth@rcls.org or ext. 222)

This list is one of four produced during the year as predicted and derived from *Publisher's Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, Brodart or Baker & Taylor lists, etc. According to the publishers' schedules, the titles will be released during the upcoming three months.

For best results, place copies of the list near your new books area or at the circulation desk.

System Calendar

For a complete and up-to-date list of events, including links to additional information, see the RCLS Calendar at <http://calendar.rcls.org/>.

To add information, contact Ruth Daubenspeck (ruth@rcls.org).

October

Sunday, 12—Saturday, 18
YALSA Teen Read Week

Monday, 13
Columbus Day
RCLS Closed

Wednesday, 15
SUPLA Work Session
Liberty—10 a.m.

Thursday, 16
RCLS Outreach Council
RCLS—1:30 p.m.

Friday, 17
49th RCLS Annual Meeting
Eagle's Nest—8:30 a.m.

Sunday, 19—Saturday, 25
Friends of Libraries Week

Monday, 20
ANSER Committee
RCLS—9:30 a.m.

RCLS Headquarters Extension and E-mail Directory

Executive Director	Robert Hubsher ...	242.....	rhubsher@rcls.org
ANSER Manager and	Tony Castaldo	228.....	tony@rcls.org
Systems Administrator			
Delivery & Building	Chuck Conklin	226.....	chuck@rcls.org
Maintenance Supervisor			
Electronic Resources Consultant ..	Jerry Kuntz	246.....	jkuntz@rcls.org
Fiscal Officer	Brenda Adams	223.....	brenda@rcls.org
ILL/Tech Services Librarian	Linda Hendon.....	237.....	linda@rcls.org
Public Services Consultant /	Leslie Riley	239.....	lriley@rcls.org
Outreach Coordinator			
Youth Services Consultant	Randall Enos	240.....	renos@rcls.org

*No word in the
English language
rhymes with
month, orange,
silver, or purple.*