

Library Supporters Travel to Albany

by Jennifer Morris, Executive Director, Pioneer Library System

Thanks to generous donations from Friends groups throughout Pioneer Library System, PLS was again able to send a bus full of loyal advocates to Albany for the annual statewide Library Lobby Day on Tuesday, March 2. 43 PLS delegates joined over 900 supporters who came from every part of the state to be part of this New York Library Association event.

Delegates met with their individual Assembly members Brian Kolb, Bob Oaks, Joe Errigo and Dan Burling and shared stories of how essential libraries are to their communities and how essential system services are to their libraries. Senator Mike Nozzolio met with a large group in the Senate lobby. “Appropriately, since you are library lobbyists,” he said with a smile. He was pleased to see such a large turnout of constituents and reiterated his long-time support for libraries. Other PLS advocates met with Senator Cathy Young and with staff of Senator Dale Volker.

The message of the day was simple: No more cuts to Library aid!

Governor David Paterson’s budget proposes a fifth cut in Library aid—a reduction of \$18 million since April 2008, leaving libraries to operate with the same funding they had in 1998. The budget proposal for the 2010-2011 fiscal year would take out an additional 3 percent – or \$2.4 million – from public libraries, leaving state library aid at \$84.45 million.

“What organization, what public service can survive at 1998 levels?” said Michael Borges, the executive director of the New York Library Association. “Why would you cut funding for public services where the uses are going up?” According to NYLA,

visits to libraries have risen 9 percent from 2005 through 2008.

State Librarian Bernard Margolis estimated there will be 171 million library visits in 2010. Libraries “are part of the economic revitalization of our country,” said Margolis, referring to their use as an Internet access point for job-seekers.

The proposed cuts will force libraries to either scale back operations or ask local taxpayers to pay more. Libraries are facing potential closures, reduced hours of operation and layoffs because of funding problems, Borges said.

Our elected officials tell us that by showing up and speaking up, we are taken more seriously. A small group of us did just that on March 2. But we need everyone to do their part to save library funding.

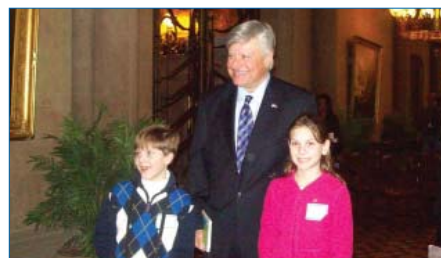
We ask that all library supporters take a few minutes to visit our OWWL.org website and click the TakeAction button for a quick and convenient way to let your elected officials know how much you value your library’s services. Together our voices can make a difference.



Assemblyman Burling and Library Supporters



Senator Volker’s Aide met with Library Supporters.



Senator Nozzolio with Victor Long & Makayla Jensen.



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Snapshot A Day in the Life of Pioneer Library

submitted by Kim Iraci, Communications, Advocacy and Outreach Librarian

What's a typical day at a Pioneer member library? Do community members feel their local library is essential? These questions were posed to Pioneer Library System members and their communities as part of SnapshotNY: A Day in the Life of a Library, a statewide initiative coordinated by the New York Library Association. From checking out materials, to searching for employment, to attending programs, library visitors in person and online shared why their local library is essential. Here's a Pioneer Snapshot of a Day in the Life of a Library.

FUN is always in abundance inside and outside the Library.



COMPUTERS are always in demand.



Comments:

- "The Library is the first place I think of when I have to fix or solve a problem."
- "In the past few months the internet for a job search and how to books- saved hundreds of miles of driving. Thank you."
- "It saves me money and I can use the computer."
- "Education for Everyone"
- "Homeschoolers Haven"
- "I do everything here! My banking, job search, medical research."

- "Brings my family together."
- "It's a great resource for my daughter's school work."
- "It provides internet access for those who do not have it."
- "It's the only place to hang out."
- "Research for my business."

NY: System Member Libraries

CHECK OUT is always busy.



TOGETHER TIME reading a story or doing an activity is always special at the **LIBRARY.**



Comments:

- “I can’t afford to buy books or DVDs.”
- “It’s an essential community service for all citizens.”
- “Small Towns need their library.”
- “In this economy families need free entertainment.”
- “We visit with our children weekly.”
- “It helps me escape the worries at home.”
- “It’s the cornerstone of my children’s education.”
- “It’s a place for people of all walks of life to share in literature and the community.”

You can ALWAYS MEET old and new **FRIENDS** at the **Library.**



- “Since I have a very low retirement income it is my source of entertainment.”
- “Books take me into other worlds—places I can’t go.”
- “My sanctuary! Best place in town to be with friends, meet new people and get any book I desire.”

Tell Us Your Library Story

submitted by Kim Iraci, Communications, Advocacy and Outreach Librarian



"My name is Ethyl Nelson Rindell, and I am a founding trustee for the Eagle Free Library in Bliss, NY. Last June, I celebrated my 90th

birthday. I have to rely on my daughter (Sandy Kushner) to bring me good books to read. I grew up in Pike, NY (six miles from Bliss) where I visited the library there every week while growing up. As a new bride, in 1940, I moved to Bliss, and there was no library to visit. After living here for a while two committees were formed in the town, one to begin a library, and one for a town playground. I joined the library committee. I have lived to see the Eagle Free Library that began with books circulating to the town's people from a pool table in the old fire hall to witness the building of a NEW library, as well as an expansion. Today, I can see this library being used and enjoyed by not only the residents in the Town of Eagle, but by many neighboring towns as well. I especially enjoy visiting my daughter to attend the nice programs at the library, as well as seeing my old "blissful" friends. I have a sense of pride in this little library that grew out of the dream of a few long ago residents to seeing the library that stands in Bliss today for what I hope will be for generations to come."



"I have been bringing my granddaughter to preschool programs with Mary Ferris [Wood Library, Canandaigua] for about 2 years. In

a conversation with the Director of Special Programs at our school district, it was pointed out that my granddaughter benefits as much from these story times as from a preschool

situation. She learns how to behave and interact in a group, as well as gaining background knowledge that will help her be successful at school and in general. Having started so young makes this 'normal' for her. Plus, she enjoys the variety of puzzles in the Children's Section after the program. She is learning fine motor skills and problem-solving, without having to spend a fortune on educational toys (we could never offer her the variety at her fingertips in that box!).

Between Story Time sessions, I bring her one morning each week to continue this wonderful play time. The benefits are yet to be seen as she is not yet 3, but she has learned so much already that it's exciting to imagine her future."



**YOUR STORY STARTS HERE
AT YOUR OWL LIBRARY**



"I am a mother of two children, ages 7 and 9 years old. Since they were little, I have taken them to the Bloomfield Public Library. This experience has helped them gain a love for reading. If it wasn't for the staff at the library and the location of the library, my children would not have benefitted as they have. We visit the library two – three times a week and they love going in and being able to pick a book and a movie. They each have their own library card and have learned the responsibilities of owning the card. We love our small town library and the staff that have been so helpful in helping us grow and become great readers."



"If not for our public library in this rural community where else could a person find an unlimited supply of books, free DVDs, a book discussion

group and a world-class art collection? And if it were not for our public library and its participation in *The Tale for Three Counties*, I and others in the community would not have the wonderful opportunity to hear a published author speaking right here in Perry. It's such a wonderful opportunity to share a book with others in the community and hear an author talk about his or her writing and publishing experience. I'm so thankful for the library."



"The Bloomfield Library is the very hub of our community. I just love going in to select books, movies, magazines etc.

The whole world opens up when you read a book! I can't count the number of books I have taken out and read over the years, but I know without reading and the library my world would be a smaller place. I especially enjoy travel books to learn about a country and then (perhaps) plan a visit."

Popular Programs Bring Crowds to the Phelps Community Memorial Library

submitted by Louise Furber, Director

On Friday, February 5, the Phelps Community Memorial Library presented a collaborative program with the Seneca Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, *The Hudson River, Treasure, Tradition & Romance*. Director Louise Furber gave a slide presentation on the history, economics, art and environmental impact of the Hudson River Valley to a standing room only crowd. Everyone enjoyed the program and the wonderful home-made goodies provided by the Seneca Chapter DAR.

In addition to successful programming for adults, the library also has lots to offer to the young members of

the community. The Progressive Preschool Story Hour Program delighted all with special music, crafts & stories this winter. Children were running back to the story rug begging for the bubble song and the snowman song. The Phelps Community Memorial Library experienced record numbers of Story Hour participants. Everyone could not help but smile when the children were marching around the library in their sound-instrument marching band or squealing and giggling with laughter. The library is more than just books!



A standing room only crowd enjoyed taking a pictorial journey to learn more about the history and tradition of the Hudson River.



Over 40 children recently spent the afternoon at Wood Library creating with LEGOS. This is the 2nd “Leggo My LEGOS” program that the library has offered and the kids had a great time building all sorts of things. Models from the Titanic to a race car track are now on display in the Children’s Room.

Upcoming Events at Wood Library

For Teens:

In mid-April, a representative of the New York State Attorney General's office will present to parents and teens on the dangers of the Internet, like cyber-bullying, identity theft, and sexual predators, and how to be safe online. The presentation, developed in collaboration with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, educates parents about what their children are doing online and how they can protect them from perils that are unique to online life.

For Adults:

"Introduction to Mandarin Chinese." A four session course beginning April 12th. \$5 per session. Registration required.

"Biking the Underground Railroad" – April 21. Jim and Carol May will share their experiences biking the 2000 mile underground railroad around the country assisted by the kindness of strangers, "stationmasters" and "conductors" along the route. Their companion book, *Biking the Underground Railroad*, will also be available.



Wood Library Announces \$500,000 Gift

submitted by Carol Shama, Director

A landmark \$500,000 gift from William B. Rayburn will help fund the expansion and renovation of the children's library at Wood Library. This gift, the largest in Wood Library's history, is one of two lead gifts for the library's \$4 million capital campaign. Wood Library will name its children's library in honor of Bill Rayburn, a Canandaigua philanthropist and retired President and CEO of Snap-On Tools Corporation.

"Bill Rayburn has demonstrated time and again his generosity and vision in meeting the critical needs of our community" said Library Director Carol Shama. "This most generous gift will allow us to dramatically expand and update the children's library, a place visited by thousands of local children and their caregivers every year."

The gift was announced February 11th at the library. Wood Library is planning a significant renovation and expansion at its North Main Street facility. \$2.75 million in gifts and pledges have already been raised in support of the planned \$4 million project.

The renovation and expansion will transform Wood Library. It will expand and update the children's library, establish a new larger dedicated space for teens, create a new 100 seat multi-function meeting room, create a new entrance, lobby, information services center and elevator. It will also add comfortable, well lit seating areas and work spaces.



Bill Rayburn at the announcement of his \$500,000 gift with family members, library trustees and staff.

Look What Happened at the Library

submitted by Missy Young, Clerk

On September 14, 2009 something very unusual occurred at the Wolcott Library. A community member driving home blacked out resulting in her car becoming airborne and landing on the front porch of the library. This was truly one for the record books and fortunately nobody was injured. The library, however, did have some bumps and bruises and repairs had to be made.



The tree, that was located on the north side of the library and adjacent to the front porch, broke off from the trunk after being hit and lofted the car to land on the porch. The severed branches ripped portions of the porch and damaged the overhead lights. Other damage included a wooden and cast iron bench, broken porch railings, ripped front siding, a cracked interior bathroom wall and porch foundation.

The metal porch railings have been replaced with vinyl, eliminating the need for future sanding and painting. The porch lights were replaced and adequate lighting was restored. The aluminum siding could not be matched because of seventeen years of weather exposure, so the Board of Trustees chose a dark brown faux brick siding for the replacement.

While waiting for the initial estimates and insurance procedures, the Board discussed a suggestion to have cement

steps added at the north end of the front porch where the major damage had occurred. Since a new foundation had to be added, this seemed like an ideal time to make the change. The Board agreed to use library funds to make the change. The steps were installed with a future goal of adding a cement walkway to allow convenient access to the back parking lot and the downstairs community room. The improvements will be coordinated within the parameters of available library funds.

In addition to the unexpected improvements to the outside of the library, a large interior change was made as well. A decision was made to replace carpeting. After seventeen years, despite yearly cleaning, the carpeting had become very worn in the high traffic areas. The new blue carpet was a large undertaking as every shelving unit had to be moved as well as all other furniture for the carpet installation. Upkeep of the library, inside and out, is a major part of the budget, but a very necessary expense to maintain the appearance and safety of the building and grounds currently and for years to come. Please come and enjoy, appreciate, and value this tremendous asset with all of the improvements that our community members have supported.



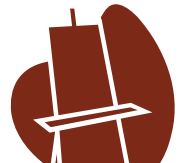
Wolcott Library's refurbished front porch with added improvements.

Lyons Public Library Unveils Permanent Local Art Collection

submitted by Theresa Streb, Director

On Saturday, March 6 from 2–4 p.m. the Lyons Public Library held an open house to showcase its permanent art collection. This project was made possible by a donation from Annette and the late John Harris. An art committee was formed and started meeting in January 2009. Local artists with a Lyons connection were identified, and then asked to either donate a piece of art or sell it to the library at a discount. Much of the artwork in the collection was donated with the library covering the cost of framing and supplies. A few pieces were purchased. More than 25 artists will have their artwork on permanent display and high school art classes will have a revolving display at the library.

Over sixty people showed up for the open house including many of the artists. Punch and cookies were enjoyed by everyone and those attending were amazed at the wealth of talent on display. The collection includes various types of paintings, pen and ink sketches, hooked wall hangings, a quilt, stained glass, woodturning, photography, sculpture, as well as wooden cutouts of butterflies, dragonflies, and flowers decorated by several children at a February craft class. An artists' guidebook is on display at the circulation desk for those wishing to know more about the art and the artists.



Palmyra Hosts a "Fancy Nancy" Tea Party

submitted by Patricia Baynes, Director

Almost every day an event is scheduled at the Palmyra Community Library. Regular library activities include book review luncheons, after-school art classes, a monthly LEGO club, stories for babies, pre-schoolers and families, and gaming for teens. Special programs are also offered throughout the year. One such program was a recent "Fancy Nancy" tea party, inspired by author Jane O'Connor's popular children's books. About 60 participants enjoyed tea and made fancy crafts in the library's beautifully decorated tearoom (aka the children's room).



Olivia Leo and her Fancy Nancy doll are dressed for the occasion at the Palmyra Community Library's recent "Fancy Nancy" tea party.

Fun Filled Programs in Dansville

submitted by Marcia Miller, Clerk
The Dansville Public Library held its fourth annual "Children's Tea Party" on Saturday, February 27th sponsored by the Friends of the Dansville Public Library. Each girl brought a guest and enjoyed a sandwich menu of chicken salad, bologna, or peanut butter & jelly, as well as a wide variety of cookies, punch, and hot tea. Tickets were required and names were placed in a special drawing for 4 miniature Tea Sets. The winners of the Tea Sets were Danielle Geyer, Morganna Coddington, Janice Moss, and Leah Wagner. A total of 24 children and adults were in attendance.

The Dansville Public Library in conjunction with Dansville's Ellis B. Hyde Elementary School held a program for the 3rd grade classes to honor Presidents' Day during the week of February 8-12. Over 100 students participated in a Presidents' Day project where they chose one of three Presidents to write about. The choices were Abraham Lincoln, Barack Obama, and George Washington. The students researched the president of their choice and documented factual information about the president onto construction paper. Their work was made into a red, white, and blue paper quilt that is on display at a local business in Dansville. The project showcased the *We the People* "Picturing America" books the Library received from the National Endowment for the Humanities back in May.

The *We the People* "Picturing America" books were on display for the students to look at and use at the school library, plus each class received *We the People* bookmarks. A special thank you to the staff at Dansville Ellis B. Hyde Elementary School who helped make this program a success.



Pictured are the winners of the tea sets: Janice Moss with her granddaughter Emma Olsheski, Leah Wagner, Danielle Geyer, and Morganna Coddington.

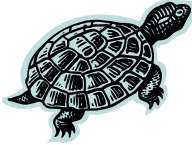


Two students search online resources to learn more about our nation's Presidents as part of the Presidents' Day project at the Dansville Public Library.

Children's Fun Abounds at the Wadsworth Library

submitted by Sarah Matthews, Children's Librarian

"Beat the Winter Blues at the Wadsworth Library" was our children's theme this past February. In addition to our regularly scheduled story hours we offered several programs designed to showcase winter fun. We kicked off the winter school break with entertainers Just Clowning Around and their "Let It Snow" Magic Show. Children watched with wonder as "snow" was created right before their eyes at the library. Next, CroZoo Zoological Education Services, thrilled visitors with their collection of live reptiles. Children were introduced to several tortoises, a blue-tongued skink, and a scary six



foot Python! The animals were a huge hit and several families found themselves leaving with books on caring for pet reptiles. Then to wrap up the end of break week we invited children and their families to the library to relax and enjoy the movie Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs.

"A Seuss Celebration!" was held in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday with special guest The Cat in the Hat. Party attendees shared Seuss stories, played games, and made their own "Cat in the Hat" hats. A Seuss themed snack was provided. The Cat in the Hat even posed for pictures.



Wadsworth Library

Come Celebrate the New Scutt Community Room at the Lima Public Library

submitted by Catharine Allen, Director

The grand opening celebration for the Scutt Community Room addition to the Lima Public Library is scheduled for Friday, May 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Lima Public Library. Please come join us for a plaque dedication to Kenneth and Judith Scutt, and see the embroidered names on our Community Room Bookshelf Quilt by Sandi Shusda along with the quilt case by John Bailey of Lima. Also view the making of our new sign by Tom Scott and Smidgens, Inc. of Lima. Sign up for our landscaping event for our new patio, and listen to music by the BCW Trio Band of Lima. Refreshments will be served and the Lima Public Library staff and trustees look forward to everyone joining them for this memorable event!



Lima Public Library's original brick facade and signature windows were duplicated on the library's addition for a careful blending of old and new.



A pergola frames the library's addition and will provide shaded space for programs, reading, and enjoying the outdoors in nice weather.

The Doors of the Warsaw Public Library Lead the Way to New Collections and Programs

submitted by Angela Gonzalez, Director

The Warsaw Public Library received a special legislative grant from the office of State Assemblyman Dan Burling. The funds have been used to purchase self improvement books for children, teens, and adults. Books about such subjects as employment information, computer use, diet, farming, biography, and gardening have been added to the collection. Patrons will find special plates that were placed in the books purchased with funding from this grant.

Many have asked over the past month, "Where are the front doors?" The doors have been missing from the library from July through December 2009 while they were being refurbished. Staff are happy to report the doors have returned sporting a new deep green color. Next up new lighting will increase visibility for the entrance.

In addition to collections and refurbishment the library has also been the host of several successful book discussions. Warsaw Public Library Book Discussion Group read the 2010 "If All of Rochester Read the Same Book..." selection *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett in February. The group had a lively talk about the title led by Wendy Low from Writers and Books. In March, the group met to discuss *The Tale for Three Counties* book selection *The Art Of Racing In The Rain* by Garth Stein.

"Wyoming Connects for Literacy" Grant Receives Funding from New York State Library

by Kim Iraci, Communications, Advocacy and Outreach Librarian

Pioneer Library System's Wyoming Connects for Literacy is one of 11 projects in New York State to receive funding from the New York State Library to build upon library partnerships and collaboration to increase adult literacy. Pioneer Library System will partner with the Arcade Free Library, Warsaw Public Library and Literacy West to provide adult learners and tutors throughout Wyoming County with access to a mobile laptop computer training lab with self-paced learning software. Warsaw Public Library and the Arcade Free Library, in conjunction with Literacy West, will each host ten basic computer literacy courses per year with an instructor. Classes will also focus on the NOVEL NY full text databases for health, consumer, and educational information available within the library and 24/7 from home via your library card. At other

times, the laptops will be available for use within the library or for small group instruction at Wyoming County libraries on an as needed basis.

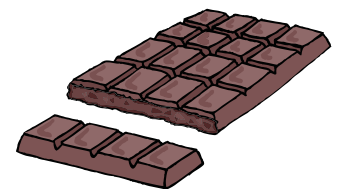
The two year grant totaling \$26,911 will enable the grant partners to purchase a laptop computer lab, software and materials to assist in increasing adult literacy and basic computer literacy skills. It is often taken for granted that users have the basic computer literacy skills needed to locate and access forms, complete employment applications and download information via the web for use in daily life. The Wyoming Connects grant will assist Wyoming County libraries and Literacy West in building these basic skills and increasing comfort level in finding and identifying reliable and accurate information online.

Chocolate in the Stacks & Chinese Auction

submitted by Erin Robinson, Director

The Cordelia A. Greene Library held its 10th annual Chocolate in the Stacks & Chinese Auction fundraiser on February 14th, 2010. It was a huge success with 125 people in attendance to eat chocolate, bid on 68 baskets and view stunning quilts. The vast array of chocolate goodies was contributed by several Cordelia Library patrons including delicious desserts for gluten-free eaters and diabetics. The baskets were created by

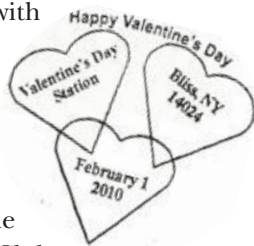
donations from patrons, community members and over 50 local businesses. An added bonus for all event attendees was the quilt show that Letchworth students, who take Fiber to Fabrics, created and displayed with pride. This event was made possible by the hard work of Bev Edwards who helped raise over \$1,500.00 for the library! We look forward to seeing you next year in the stacks.



Special Programs are *Bliss* at the Eagle Free Library

submitted by Sandra Kushner, Trustee

A “Special Postal Pictorial Valentine’s Cancellation” celebration was enjoyed by the community on February 19. For many years a contest has been held in Bliss, coordinated by the Post Office and the local Girl Scout Troop #3030, to design a special postal cancellation. Entries are drawn and submitted by troop members. The finalists are chosen by area postmasters, and voted on during the summer at the Post Office. The special cancellation is available during the month of February. The secret winner is presented with a special certificate from the U.S. Postal Service at a special community celebration event. This year the library held the event for the Girl Scout Troop. It included a fun family program with Pat Donahue, as Mr. Beau the Clown. His performance drew in the crowd for lots of fun and jokes. The Bliss Post Master, Rosemary Phillipii presented the certificate to artist/winner Tracy Cartwright. The evening’s festivities were rounded out with heart shaped cookies and balloon animals for all in attendance. Also sponsoring the event were the Eagle Valley Community Club and the Eagle Memorial Legion 1720. The Post Master has had cards and letters mailed to Bliss for the special



cancellation from not only around the United States, but from many foreign countries as well. It is a very popular cancellation every year.

Many patrons, as well as visitors from nearby towns, visited the library for our annual March Into the Eagle Free Programs to beat the winter doldrums on Saturday mornings. On March 6th Mike Randall, weatherman from Channel 7, presented “Be Creative with Mike Randall and Friends” in an interactive storytelling program. Beaver Meadow Audubon Center presented “Native American Life and Lore” on March 13th. On March 20th Liz Thompson returned to present “The Secret World of Spiders” as a follow up to her successful program about bats last year. The final program on March 27th, a family concert “Just for Fun,” was enjoyed with Dave Ruch.

The March Into the Eagle Free Library programs were made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts’ Decentralization program, a re-grant program administered in Wyoming County by the Arts Council for Wyoming County. Grant funds from the Wyoming Foundation provided for Beaver Meadows, “The Secret World of Spiders”, and part of the Mike Randall storytelling program.

Upcoming Programs at Eagle Free Library:

- “All About Bluebirds and More” with John Rogers – April 24th. A special program for adults and families with children ages 7 and above. John will share information regarding the life history of our beautiful state bird and how to manage bluebird boxes. An optional build-your-own-bluebird-box workshop will follow the presentation.
- “Come Join Us for Tea” is the theme of the annual children’s tea party this May. The children invite a special adult to join them for tea, treats, story time, and a Mother’s Day craft. Everyone enjoys dressing up for the occasion, sampling the delicious goodies served on our best china, and leaving with something for mom, grandma, or a special friend.
- We are gearing up to *Make A Splash @ Our Library* in July with a summer reading program for preschoolers through 4th grade, our Summer Arts Programs for Children and Adults, and a special series of events just for the Teens and Tweens.



Perry Public Library’s Toddler Time story hour kids and their parents enjoy the new train table and train set donated to the library’s children’s room by Trustee Betty Rice.





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The Pathfinder is available online at the PLS website. While you're there, be sure to check out the Calendar of Events and other library related links and resources.

Copies of this newsletter are available on tape or in large print for blind or visually-impaired readers. Contact our Outreach Department for further information.

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Look for the owl for all your reading and information needs. Search OWWL Access, Pioneer's state-of-the-art online catalog and full-service circulation system. Named for the four counties it serves (Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming and Livingston) OWWL provides 21st century information services for the Pioneer Library System service area.
<http://owwl.org>

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