A Note from Your Legislator Regarding Broadband Access and Availability

Since we began the push for the first high-speed internet service over a decade ago, we have made excellent progress in our community and the surrounding areas. Availability has greatly increased, but make no mistake, we are not done. Not everyone has access to high-speed internet. Until we all do, the work must continue.

As the past year has shown us, reliable access to broadband internet is no longer a luxury. Covid-19 forced many aspects of our day-to-day lives online; virtual learning, remote work, online shopping, telemedicine, and simply staying connected with those we care about. It also laid bare how prevalent the digital divide is in our community.

To address this issue, Cayuga County has partnered with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) to complete a study that will identify areas in our County that lack access to reliable broadband internet. The County will then complete a detailed plan to address the problem areas.

ECC Technologies has created a website and survey material to collect the necessary data. The survey is confidential and will be used only to identify areas in the County most in need of improved service. Please take five minutes to complete the online survey at https://www.cnyinternet.com. In addition, I encourage you to forward this link to your family, friends, and neighbors. Hard copies of the survey may be obtained by calling 315-412-5966. The more responses we receive, the better positioned Cayuga County will be to address this critical community issue in the months ahead.

Thanks for your support,

Keith Batman
Cayuga County District 7
Announcements from the Aurora Free Library

The library has expanded hours starting in June!

Monday 3-7 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Friday 3-7 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

We are still requiring masks and social distancing at this time. Thank you for understanding.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Travel Series. We will be reconvening in the fall. Let us know if you have traveled somewhere and would like to share your photos with our community. Past presentations are on our website.

Stay tuned for information on our summer activities including Take and Make bags and more. If you would like to help this summer please email aurorafreelibrarycny@gmail.com.

Reminder that we have NYS Park Passes, games and puzzles for loan and are collecting non-perishables for the King Ferry Food Pantry.

We are so excited that two of our much beloved events will take place again this year. Save the date for our Book Sale during the Route 90 Garage Sale and also the Book Lovers’ Ball which will take place on Friday, September 17.

Lastly, please be sure to wish Ed Easter the best as he will be relocating in late July. We will miss him and will need to find someone to fill his big shoes!

Check aurorafreelibrary.org and our Facebook page for the latest information and contact us at staff@aurorafreelibrary.org with any questions you may have.

Aurora Free Library is holding a book discussion group to celebrate Sci-Fi as a genre, and why it may be more than it at first appears. We will read Phillip K. Dick’s Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep starting in June, and then meet in July to discuss the book and watch Blade Runner, the movie loosely based on the book. We will not only discuss the implications of both pieces, but what makes them work.

Science fiction is a great tool for learning empathy and examining. In every case, there is a basic premise that we must willingly suspend our disbelief to accept. As we look past the “rules” of the created world, we begin to see what makes sense in our own reality, or what does not. Star Wars let us examine the overly militaristic societies and totalitarianism, without the loaded history of our own pasts. Stan Lee’s mutant heroes explored questions of racism and discrimination. Star Trek each week examined the “what if... ?”

If you would like to join in the discussion, or just have questions, email staff@aurorafreelibrary.org. We have a limited number of the books available at the library. You can come by, sign up and check one out at any time.

“Empathy, he once had decided, must be limited to herbivores or anyhow omnivores who could depart from a meat diet. Because, ultimately, the empathic gift blurred the boundaries between hunter and victim, between the successful and the defeated.”— Philip K. Dick, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
New Adult Fiction

The Clover Girls by Viola Shipman
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
The Girls in the Stilt House by Kelly Mustian
The Girl Who Died by Ragnar Jonasson
The Last Green Valley by Mark Sullivan
Legacy by Nora Roberts
Local Woman Missing by Mary Kubica
Malibu Rising by Taylor Jenkins Reid
The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba by Chanel Cleeton
Of Women and Salt by Gabriela Garcia
Robert B. Parker’s Payback by Mike Lupica
The Saboteurs by Clive Cussler
The Woman with the Blue Star by Pam Jenoff

New Adult Non-Fiction

Dr. Disaster’s Guide to Surviving Everything: Essential Advice for Any Situation Life Throws Your Way by John Torres
Eat Better, Feel Better: My Recipes for Wellness and Healing, Inside and Out by Giada de Laurentiis

New Books-on-CD

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
New York, Cayuga County, and Aurora Updates

Check the Village of Aurora website for updates on Cayuga County vaccine clinics, utility assistance, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and other programs and guidance related to the pandemic as well as updated information on village office operations and meetings.

Aurora Farmers’ Market
Wells College Boathouse Lawn
170 Main Street (State Route 90)
Open Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., June 2021

- Ward’s Food Truck will make its first appearance at the market on Saturday, June 5, with familiar favorites and new offerings.
- Crops of fresh vegetables and fruits will start coming in regularly
- Our talented crafters have a large variety of products for graduation gifts, wedding gifts, and more.
- Bakers have a variety of delicious breads and sweets.

Always be sure to check the Aurora Farmers’ Market Facebook Page during the week to see what will be coming up on Saturday!

Come By, Come Buy!

Health Care Navigator @ Hazard Library

- Do you need health insurance?
- Do you need help using the NY State of Health Marketplace?
- Do you have questions about your health insurance?

You can call 315-255-1703 if you would like to speak to a Health Care Navigator to assist you with your health insurance.
Volunteers Needed!

Become a HABs Harrier

*Harrier: [har-ee-er] noun, from the verb harry, to harass or attack repeatedly. Example: A Harrier Hawk attacks small game.

Help monitor the shoreline of Cayuga Lake this summer for harmful algal blooms (HABs)!

Who can volunteer?
Anyone! Lakeshore homeowners and avid boaters and anglers are especially encouraged to participate!

What does being a HABs Harrier entail?
- Attend a two-hour HABs identification and sampling workshop in June.
- Survey a length of shoreline once a week, mid-July through September.
- Collect HABs samples and transport them to CSI lab for further analysis.
- Be available to respond to HABs sightings reported by members of the public.

What can I do if I can’t volunteer but still want to be involved?
- Learn about HABs and how to recognize blooms. Visit www.communityscience.org
- Report suspicious algal blooms.
- Ask the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network how to take the Lake Friendly Living pledge to help protect the health of the lake.

Sign Up Today! To volunteer, please email the Community Science Institute or the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network:

Community Science Institute
info@communityscience.org
607-257-6606

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
programs@cayugalake.org
607-319-0475

THE HUB 5
EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

WHAT IS IT?
The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

The benefit provides:
• Up to $50/month discount for broadband services;
• Up to $75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
• A one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
A household is eligible if one member of the household:
• Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guide lines or participates in certain government assistance programs;
• Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
• Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
• Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020; or
• Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider’s existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

THREE WAYS TO APPLY

1
Contact your preferred participating provider directly to learn about their application process.

2
Go to GetEmergencyBroadband.org to submit an application and to find participating providers near you.

3
Complete a mail in application and send it along with proof of eligibility to:
Emergency Broadband Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

LEARN MORE
• Call 833-511-0311, or
• Visit fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit
KING FERRY FOOD PANTRY
Personal Care Drive

Help our neighbors in need to have some essentials to be healthy by donating any of these 10 items during the month of June:

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Hand Soap (Bars)
- Disposable Shavers
- Shaving Cream
- Body Wash
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Product

Your donation may be dropped off at the food pantry on Thursday, July 1 between 3:00-5:30 p.m. at
Southern Cayuga High School Ag Wing (next to the greenhouse)
2384 State Route 34B, Aurora, NY 13026

For more information, call Debbie at (315) 497-2049

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!
The Aurora Mobile Farmers’ Market, a designated essential service over the past year, will be moving from once a month back to every week starting Tuesday, June 1. The market is at Patrick Tavern, 302 Main St. (at the corner of Dublin Hill Rd), 4:00-5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Vendors appreciate pre-orders, although most weeks there is enough of some items on hand to make it worthwhile to drop in. If you’d like early word on what’s ready, how to order, and more, email lschwab@wells.edu.

Now that State guidance is open to small gatherings, are you looking for a cozy, rustic space for your club, family, or other event? Patrick Tavern is ready. Three grants and many private contributions were all geared to rehabilitation as a three-season community space; think something like a park pavilion, but free to local residents. The Village Office has the agreement form for groups and individuals who would like to schedule use; make an appointment to pick one up by calling 315-364-7293.

“Museum Showcase: Treasures and Curiosities from Five Area Collections” will be opening Saturday, May 29 at the the Aurora Historical Society, 371 Main St. The AHS is teaming up with the Aurora Masonic Center, The Press of Robert LoMascolo, Historic Howland House and 19th Century Farm Museum, and the Seneca Falls Historical Society to give you a glimpse into the hidden side of museum work: collections behind the scenes and the mysteries they may contain. Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., additional hours TBA (watch for posters) as well as by the docent-on-call system at 315-246-1130. The show will run just through June 26 and will be the final one for the foreseeable future, so don’t miss it.

In her address, alumna Katie Fong ’06 advised graduates to learn as much from their “second Wells education” — the one starting today with their diploma in hand — as they head out into the world.

AURORA, N.Y. (May 22, 2021)—During Wells College’s 153rd Commencement ceremony today, President Jonathan Gibralter conferred undergraduate degrees upon 73 graduating students. In addition, a longtime professor who is retiring this year was granted the honorary title of professor emeritus, and several students were honored with academic and leadership awards (see list below).

The day’s events began at 10 a.m. in front of Macmillan Hall, with the traditional procession of students, faculty and featured guests through the building’s front doors. After the Rev. Barb Blom ’82 shared a spirited invocation, Marie Chapman Carroll ’75, chair of the College’s Board of Trustees, congratulated the seniors on their extraordinary achievement: “Today, we celebrate your rebirth as global citizens, prepared to thrive in a post-pandemic world, striving to make that world a better place. The best part is that you are embarking upon this ambitious journey supported by a network of over 7,000 alumnae and alumni who warmly welcome you to their community.”

In his remarks, President Gibralter praised the graduates for their perseverance during a very difficult year. “We are here today to honor you as graduating seniors, but we are also here today because of you — each and every one of you who upheld our Community Care Pledge and took the personal responsibility to keep each other safe. That says a lot about you as people who live out our mission statement: to think critically, reason wisely and act humanely,” said President Gibralter. “You thought about the potential risk to your fellow classmates and our community, you made the right decisions and, in doing so, you demonstrated your humanity and care for others,” he added.
Student Commencement speaker Kaylen Furr ’21 — who graduated *summa cum laude* with distinction in both of their majors, psychology and women’s & gender studies — built upon a quote about ivy by film director Miranda July: “We always found our roots here; in simpler times, in the times we thought we wouldn’t get through, we are rooted here now — and no matter the paths we take next, we are rooted here. Like ivy, we grow where there is room for us. The roots that we have grounded ourselves in here will live on, but we have so many more walls to climb.” Furr went on to note that, despite the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on their college experience, the class of 2021 never lost their sense of community. “I would even argue that our community grew stronger and closer,” Furr noted.

In her keynote address, Katie Fong ’06 explained how the class of 2021 would begin their “second Wells education” the moment they received their degrees this morning. “My second Wells education was about doing for others what my Wells experience did for me . . . I hope that, when the time comes for you to lead others in learning — when you first become a manager or a mentor, or maybe when you first stand at the front of a classroom yourself — I hope that you will remember the way that your Wells professors made you feel. I hope that you will remember how they made you feel seen, how they ensured that your voice was heard, how they gave you the opportunity to learn about something you cared about, and how they broke down barriers for you to become who you are becoming. Your charge as a Wellsian is to have and to share. I hope you pass that on,” Fong said. She then exhorted the graduates to raise their voices against injustice, to adapt to constantly changing circumstances, to build community, and to pursue knowledge that will improve the world around them.

President Gibralter presented several academic and leadership awards to deserving students. He also granted *emeritus* status to Kent Klitgaard, who this month concluded a three-decade career as professor of economics and sustainability at Wells.

Upon completion of the degree conferment ceremony, graduates were invited to move the tassels on their caps from right to left, signifying the final step in their Wells College journey.

**Award Recipients**

**Frances Tarlton Farenthold Leadership Award:** Rebekah Edwards ’21

**Presidential Leadership Award:** Mollie Walts ’21

**Gertrude H. Freiert Prize in Fine Arts:** Keelan McGreevy ’21

**Koch Prize for Best Senior Research Paper:** Joy Grobelny ’21

**Class of 2021: Facts and Figures**

73 — number of graduating students  
29 — number of graduates who earned distinction in their major field(s) of study  
30 — number of graduates earning Latin honors (6 with *summa cum laude*, honors, 9 with *magna cum laude*, and 15 with *cum laude*)  
8 — number of Phi Beta Kappa inductees  
**zero** — number of raindrops felt throughout the beautiful day!
Sights of Southern Cayuga

Submitted by Linda Dugan
Virtual Southern Cayuga Book Club

Wednesday, June 2
7:15 p.m.

The Southern Cayuga Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month on Zoom. New members are always welcome. Contact aurorafreelibrarycny@gmail.com or librarian@hazardlibrary.org for the link and to be put on the email list. For a full list of titles to be read this year check here: https://aurorafreelibrary.org/southern-cayuga-book-club.

This month’s book is *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende. Next month’s book will be *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles on July 7.
**UMA Coffee Talk: “Bad Girls of the Bible”**

**Tuesday, June 8**
**10:00 a.m.**
**UMA Social Room**

Join Reverend Barb Blom for a Coffee Talk on the Bad Girls of the Bible! The Bible is a compilation of sacred stories, originally oral stories, that were later written and rewritten in an increasingly patriarchal society. According to many scholars, it is remarkable that there are any women in the Bible at all! But in fact, there are many women and their stories are fascinating. According to Harvard Divinity School professor and leader in feminist theology Elizabeth Schussler Fiorenza, this must be an indication that they were far too important to be completely written out of the Bible.

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**Howland Stone Store Museum Presents “Reconstruction After the Civil War”**

**Wednesday, June 16**
**7:00 p.m.**
**In person at Opendore in Sherwood and Remotely on Zoom**

Michael Groth, Professor of History at Wells College, will examine the critical, but largely unknown period of Reconstruction after the Civil War, when Americans were forced to confront the most fundamental questions at the core of the American experiment: the very meanings of democracy and freedom. This time period coincides with Emily Howland’s founding of Arcadia (pictured left), a community for freed people in Northumberland County, Virginia. Citizenship, voting rights, the struggle for social & economic justice, and national reconciliation are as important today as they were a century and a half ago.


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**Aurora Free Library Board Meeting**

**Thursday, June 17**
**5:30 p.m.**

Please email aurorafreelibrarycny@gmail.com for the link to the Zoom meeting. All are welcome to attend remotely.
Bright Leaf Vineyard Wednesday Concert Series: Sydney Irving

Wednesday, June 23
6:00-8:30 p.m.
1250 Clearview Road

Music by Sydney Irving, food by Fittnell Farms.

An Evening of Music Featuring Shazbot

Friday, June 25
6:00-9:30 p.m.
Frontenac Park

Sponsored by The Village of Union Springs weather permitting. Food and non-alcoholic beverages provided.

Bright Leaf Vineyard Wednesday Concert Series: The Ampersand Project

Wednesday, June 30
6:00-8:30 p.m.
1250 Clearview Road

Music by the Ampersand Project, food by Fittnell Farms.

Save the Date
"Centennial + 1" and Opendore Dedication
Saturday and Sunday
August 21 & 22, 2021
1–5 PM
2978 Rt. 34B, Sherwood, NY

Celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment
Howland Stone Store Museum
howlandstonestore.org
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