

William K. Sanford  
Town Library



629 Albany Shaker Rd.  
Loudonville, NY 12211

**HOURS:**

Monday - Thursday  
9 AM - 9 PM  
Friday  
9 AM - 6 PM  
Saturday  
9 AM - 5 PM  
Sunday  
Noon - 5 PM

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# At the Library

January 2011

## Noon Book Review: Tony Rivera on Sondheim's *Finishing the Hat*

With 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations for Stephen Sondheim taking place all over, we thought we'd join in, too. On Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at our Noon Book Review, Tony Rivera, Managing Director of the Cohoes Music Hall, will review Stephen Sondheim's new book *Finishing the Hat: Collected Lyrics (1954-1981) With Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Whines and Anecdotes*. About the book: "Stephen Sondheim has won seven Tonys, an Academy Award, seven Grammys, a Pulitzer Prize and the Kennedy Center Honors. His career has spanned more than half a century, his lyrics have become synonymous with musical theater and popular culture, and in *Finishing the Hat*... Sondheim has not only collected his lyrics for the first time, he is giving readers a rare personal look into his life as well as his remarkable productions. Along with the lyrics for all of his musicals from 1954 to 1981 – including *West Side Story*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music* and *Sweeney Todd* – Sondheim treats us to never-before-published songs from each show, songs that were cut or discarded before seeing the light of day. He discusses his relationship with his mentor, Oscar Hammerstein II, and his collaborations with extraordinary talents such as Leonard Bernstein, Arthur Laurents, Ethel Merman, Richard Rodgers, Angela Lansbury, Harold Prince and a panoply of others. The anecdotes – filled with history, pointed observations and intimate details – transport us back to a time when theater was a major pillar of American culture. Best of all, Sondheim appraises his work and dissects his lyrics, as well as those of others, offering unparalleled insights into songwriting that will be studied by fans and aspiring songwriters for years to come." About our reviewer: before becoming the Managing Director of Cohoes Music Hall, Tony performed and directed in regional theaters throughout the country and abroad (his credits are too long to list here). Tony gave a wonderful Noon Book Review last June and we're glad to welcome him back! The review begins at 12:15 PM; bring your lunch if you're on lunch hour.

## Local Veterinarian John Brennan Tells His Tales

Local resident and retired veterinarian John Brennan has written a book in the tradition of James Herriot titled *This Vet Has Tales*. Dr. Brennan will be here on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> for a Noon Author Talk. The book begins in 1947 as John starts at Cornell's School of Veterinarian Medicine; he eventually practiced for over 40 years at the Guilderland Animal Hospital – which he started in 1955. Dr. Brennan also was the Albany County Veterinarian for 24 years and Supervising Track Veterinarian at Saratoga Race Track for three years. From the book's Prologue: "Distance is easily spanned when one deals with human emotions and the care of animals....I often would travel through [Thatcher] Park from one farm call to another....gazing out over the valley that contains many farms as well as cities...charged my batteries to carry on the rest of the day's work....With time....our rural areas became bedroom communities....[and] our practice [changed] to almost all small animals – companion animals. I miss my daily drives into the countryside. I now look up at...Thatcher Park and I remember. Now here are my tales." In over four decades Dr. Brennan treated animals from dogs and cats, cows and horses, to elephants and exotic pets. The book contains numerous observations about humans, too! Bring your lunch; the talk begins at 12:15 PM.



## Holiday Schedule

**Happy New Year 2011**

Friday, December 31: CLOSED

Saturday, January 1: CLOSED

## More Stories & Highlights...

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## PROGRAMS

To register for programs requiring reservations  
please call the Information desk at 810-0314 (direct line).

- 3 **MONDAY- Hudson Mohawk Bird Club: Ornithological Research at the New York State Museum-** This presentation by Dr. Jeremy J. Kirchman, Curator of Birds, New York State Museum in Albany, NY, and Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at the State University of New York at Albany will be an overview of his ongoing research projects which focus on historical questions concerning the biogeography and evolution of birds. His goal is to document patterns of bird diversification and extinction over the last few million years and to understand the evolutionary processes that affect bird populations. The talk will also include a behind-the-scenes look at the labs and the research collection at the NYSM. At 7:00 PM.
- 8 **SATURDAY- People to People Student Ambassadors-** From 9:30 AM-12:30 PM.
- 8 **SATURDAY- Steamship Historical Society of America—Hudson Valley Chapter: "The Great Liners - The MATSON LINE"-** Sadly, those great ships are no more. However, now, through restoration of rare archival films, we can 'sail' again aboard those great ships. You will see the rich and famous of yesteryear on a voyage to Hawaii and all the way across the Pacific Ocean during the Golden Age of Shipping. At 1:30 PM.
- 10 **MONDAY- AARP of Colonie—Chapter 2873-** A discussion of "Safety for Seniors" will be presented by Officer Gregory Jensen of the Colonie Police Department Community Services Division. At 1:00 PM.
- 11 **TUESDAY- Family Matters with Long Term Care-** This seminar is designed to help attendees understand the common funding options to provide high-quality long-term care. It also explains how long-term care insurance can play a significant role in helping preserve their assets. Presented by Frank Marchesini, Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments. Reservations are required. At 6:00 PM.
- 12 **WEDNESDAY- Savvy Home Sellers' Staging Workshop-** Be a savvy home seller. Stage your home to bring about a quick and rewarding sale. This workshop will prepare you to look at your home through the eyes of a buyer. It will include low-cost staging tips to help you sell your house for top dollar. The panel will include a professional home stager. Reservations are required. At 6:30 PM.
- 13 **THURSDAY- Noon Book Review-** Retired veterinarian John Brennan discusses his book *This Vet Has Tales*. At 12:15 PM. (see story page one)
- 13 **THURSDAY- Franchise Ownership-Is it Right for You?-** Are you considering a franchise opportunity? If so, this seminar is designed to help you if you think of yourself as an aspiring entrepreneur, career-transitioner, corporate refugee or are semi-retired. Learn all about the pros and cons of owning a franchise, including comparisons to start-ups and existing business purchases, costs, financing options, and the research, validation, and selection process. Your questions and issues will be a focal point of our discussion. Presented by the Professionals from SCORE/Albany, Counselors to America's Small Business, and FranNet NY/NJ. Register by calling the SCORE office at 446-1118, ext 233 or by e-mail at seminars@scorealbany.org At 6:00 PM.
- 18 **TUESDAY- The Story Circle of the Capital District-** The Story Circle was established to provide members an opportunity to tell before a live audience; to hear stories told; to give the community a roster of active tellers; and to encourage beginning storytellers. Members of the group tell tales to all ages at a variety of events and locations. Members of the public interested in learning more about storytelling or listening to stories are invited to attend. Anyone desiring more information should call 786-1271. At 7:00 PM.
- 18 **TUESDAY- Colonie Tuesday Night Live Poets' Corner-** Local poets and writers of all ages are invited to present six to ten minutes of their original work at this open reading forum. The public is encouraged to stop in and listen. Hosted by William Robert Foltin. Readings begin promptly at 7:00 PM. (Training/Conference Room)
- 19 **WEDNESDAY- Secrets to Inner Resilience-** Why are some of us crushed by adversity and others come back fighting and stronger than ever? What are some tips that can help you and those you love to be more resilient? Each of us has the capacity to learn resilience. Come to this one-hour workshop and get some tips on how to weather difficulties that life sometimes throws at us. Come away with a new perspective, attitude and point of view that will give you a brighter and fresher outlook on life. Presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County. Reservations are required. At 6:30 PM.

## AARP Safe Driving

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 18 & 19, from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM  
Tuesdays, March 8 & 15, from 1:00-4:00 PM  
Call Pat Latimer at 463-5221 for reservations.

Attendance is required at both sessions. There is a \$12 AARP member/ \$14 non member materials fee payable to AARP. Class size is limited and advance registration is required.

For information on other classes please call Pat Latimer at 463-5221.

Certain services and programs are adaptable to people with disabilities, upon request.  
Please contact our Outreach Librarian at 458-9274 to discuss your accessibility needs.

- 22 **SATURDAY- People to People Student Ambassadors-** From 9:00 AM-12:30 PM.
- 22 **SATURDAY- Capital District Genealogical Society-** Civil War Records at the New York State Library and New York State Archives (Forever Free) - Christine Beauregard & Keith Swaney from the NYS Library and Archives will give an overview of materials relating to the Civil War. Items include documents on regimental units and individual soldiers, diaries, correspondence, broadsides, a Civil War Soldier database and abstracts of muster rolls. The Computer Group begins at 1:00 PM followed by social time at 2:00 PM. The speaker/program begins at 2:30 PM.
- 24 **MONDAY- Get Acquainted With Toastmasters-** Toastmasters can help you develop your public speaking and leadership skills. Find out how Toastmasters can assist you in all facets of both your professional and personal life. Enjoy an interactive method to fine tune your skills. At 6:00 PM.
- 25 **TUESDAY- Noon Book Review-** Tony Rivera, Managing Director of the Cohoes Music Hall, will review Stephen Sondheim's new book ***Finishing the Hat: Collected Lyrics (1954-1981) With Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Whines and Anecdotes.*** At 12:15 PM (see story page one)
- 25 **TUESDAY- How to Pay for College-** James P. Corcoran, Director of Operations for Education Funding Specialists, Inc. in Albany presents a valuable college planning class for parents of college-bound students. The class will focus on high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. In this class you will learn: how to help students know which college to apply to; how to increase your chances of getting into your dream college; how colleges choose each freshman class; how to position your student to get free money from the college of choice; how to focus on the issues you can control; and how focusing on college can eliminate any long term debt. This class will discuss how families with an annual income of \$80,000-\$275,000 can receive financial assistance to pay for a college education! Reservations are required. At 6:30 PM.
- 25 **TUESDAY- Fiction Book Discussion Group-** This month the group discusses *A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz at 7:00 PM in the Youth Services Activity Room.
- 30 **SUNDAY- Historical Society of the Town of Colonie: "Restoring Legitimate Government: Burgoyne's Invasion of 1777"-** This program will focus on the officers, men, and followers of LtGen John Burgoyne's army in 1777. The stereotype of this army is that they were all seasoned, experienced, professional, well trained red coat British soldiers and Hessian mercenaries. In fact...they were only some of those things...and there's a lot more that few people today ever hear about! Eric H. Schnitzer, Park Ranger/Historian, Saratoga National Historical Park will cover the disparate composition of this literally multinational coalition army which intended to capture Albany in 1777. At 2:00 PM.

## Kindles, SONY's and Nooks, Oh My!

2010 seems to be the year when e-Readers (other than the Kindle) will go from a marginal product to a common Christmas present. According to *USA Today*: "This holiday season should be especially merry for book lovers. By most accounts, e-Readers such as Amazon's Kindle, Barnes & Noble's Nook, and the Sony Reader will be among the top-selling gifts." On the other hand, a review on the PCWorld website argues that e-Readers do NOT make good presents unless you are sure the person wants one. In any case, if you are going to buy one, which one?

In terms of choice, the big three are the Amazon Kindle, the SONY Reader, and the Nook by Barnes and Noble; however, there is a large list of other choices with more appearing weekly. For a great list of e-Readers see the Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_e-book\\_readers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_e-book_readers). (Or just search for "e-Reader" there.) Wikipedia is an up-to-date source that also tells you the formats each one uses. General Internet searches can also provide information to help you decide which e-Reader to buy. For me, the Nook and the Kindle offer huge online selections of books you can download but only one can download library books: the Nook.

So, what about using your device for downloading library books? Right now, the Kindle is out as Amazon won't allow it. At the library we've downloaded books to a SONY Reader and a Nook and they both work fine. In terms of content, Barnes and Noble advertises over two million titles and their new color Nook lands at the top in some reviews. To access the local library titles for downloading, go to our website at [www.colonie.org/library](http://www.colonie.org/library) and click either download eBooks or Audio books on the right side.

Is it hard to use these devices? The answer is both "it depends" and "yes and no." It took me a half hour to figure out how to download library books and find a free copy of "Portrait of a Lady" to download from the Internet and transfer to the SONY Reader. I haven't tried to use the wireless to buy a book but that is probably pretty easy. The steps are straightforward and if you are good at either figuring out how to set your electronic watch or have someone to talk you through things, you should be able to do it.

If you think you want an e-Reader, even if you know the brand, do some research because things are changing and there are choices between models. Learn about e-ink vs. color screen advantages; decide what size is ok; whether you need 3G or just Wi-Fi connectivity or can live with just downloading to your computer and synchronizing; and, whether you want to download library books — we hope you do! (*R. Naylor*)

## Watch Your Favorite Show on Channel 17 Colonie

The Town of Colonie Government Station, available to Colonie residents via Time Warner Cable, features shows such as *Colonie Connect with Supervisor Paula Mahan*, *Focus on Health*, *Library Book Review*, *The Money Factor*, *The Senior Resources Show*, and *So Many Books, So Little Time*. Check the schedule on the web at: <http://www.colonie.org/library/Channel17>

## Computer Training Classes

All classes will meet in the Training/Conference Room.  
Prior registration is required; come to the Information Desk or call 810-0314.

### **Introduction to Computers: Gateway to the World Wide Web- Date: January 27 @ 2:00 PM**

Are you a computer novice? This hands-on computer course is designed for individuals with little or no previous experience. The course will focus on developing skills in the following areas: 1) Basic understanding of the Windows environment. 2) Ability to use the computer mouse. 3) Ability to use the computer keyboard. 4) Ability to access computer programs and files. This 2-1/2 hour class is limited to 6 participants.

**Introduction to the Internet- Date: January 20 @ 1:00 PM** This class is designed for library patrons who have little or no experience with the Internet, but who are basically competent with using a computer. Learn Internet terminology and how to access the Internet from home, work, and at the library. Emphasis will be on browsing the Internet using an Internet browser's toolbars, menus, and hypertext links. The class lasts approximately two hours and is limited to 8 participants.

**Intermediate Internet: Using Search Engines- Date: January 20 @ 10:00 AM** This class is designed for library patrons who have experience using the Internet, and are very familiar with using the computer mouse, keyboard and the Windows environment. Learn the best methods of searching the Internet. We will explore the many search engines and directories available to aid you in your informational quest. **WARNING:** This is not an Introduction to the Internet. We ask that you have already spent time online and have a modest understanding of the Internet. Each class lasts 2-1/2 hours and is limited to 8 participants.

**Basic Word Processing and File Management- Date: January 11 @ 2:00 PM** This class explores the basic features of the Microsoft Word 2007 Screen from top to bottom. The purpose of this class is to encourage students to perform basic editing functions on a prepared document, to create a folder in Windows Explorer, and to save the document to the folder. Students should have dexterity with the mouse, keyboard experience, familiarity with the Windows environment, and a sense of humor. The 2-1/2 hour class is limited to six students.

**Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2007- Date: January 26 @ 1:00 PM** This class will explore the basic features of Excel. Students will learn how to create a worksheet and perform simple calculations and manipulations with data. Students should be familiar with the Windows environment, the keyboard and be able to use a mouse. Students may take this more than once if they feel they need more practice with the basics. This class will be two hours and is limited to eight students.

## Teen Room News

### **Storytelling Project**

The library is participating in a grant, funded by the Upper Hudson library system, entitled Tell Me About It: An Intergenerational Storytelling Project. Teens will work with professional storytellers to learn how to interview and encourage seniors to share stories about their lives. Teens can choose a grandparent or other older adult to interview, or we will assign a participant to them. The interviews will be videotaped and each senior will receive a copy of the interview as well as a bound book of their resulting story.

The project will begin in January and continue through March. Participating teens will need to attend an evening workshop with the storytellers, and must conduct at least one interview. Teens interested in more information about this project should contact Maureen DeLaughter in the Teen Room at 458-9274.

### **Anime Club – January 11**

The Anime Club is a place for teens who enjoy anime and manga to come together each month to discuss titles, watch anime, and participate in anime related contests, crafts and other activities. We also sample Japanese food. The program runs from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Teen Room.

### **Writing and Poetry Group**

This group is for teens who enjoy writing and performing poetry. The group meets weekly. Please call the Teen Room for more information.

## Knitting Group Dates

The Library sponsored knitting group will meet in the Stedman Room on the following Fridays from 2:00-4:00 PM: January 14 and 28. For further information contact Gwen Gurien at 475-1470 or hgurien@nycap.rr.com

## Subscribe to "At the Library"

Subscriptions to "At the Library" are available for \$5.00 per year to cover the cost of printing, postage, and handling. You will also receive our bi-monthly children's newsletter, "Happenings...in Youth Services."

Visit our program office or send your name, address, and a check for \$5.00, payable to the William K. Sanford Town Library, to:

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Patrons can also receive the newsletters by e-mail in .pdf format. Just send your request and e-mail address to [info@colonielibrary.org](mailto:info@colonielibrary.org) and we'll add you to the list.

## *Reference Stumper:*

**January 2011**

**1) Quote of the Month:** "Fourteen thousand years ago, in what is now France, a remote Ice Age ancestor took a walk with a young child into what many of us today would think of as a dark and forbidding place. Deep in an underground cave the adult held the child's hand against a wall and blew pigment over it, leaving a shadowlike imprint of a tiny hand that remain to this very day."

**2) Brain Teaser:** What was the name of the first television program in color to be presented daily?

The winner chosen will be the first person to answer both parts of the "Stumper" correctly. Answer to "Quote of the Month" must include title AND author.

Participants may submit their responses in 3 ways: 1) E-mail to: [info@colonielibrary.org](mailto:info@colonielibrary.org) 2) Telephone the Information Desk at 810-0314 3) By stopping off at the Access Services Desk in the library.

**November Winner:** No winner.