

# SENYLRC Matters

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## SENYLRC Receives the Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award 2006

By Tessa Killian

SENYLRC was selected as the recipient of the Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award 2006 for the council's Hudson River Valley Heritage (HRVH) service. The purpose of this award is to recognize the efforts of individual libraries or library systems that have initiated innovative and/or exemplary programs aimed towards enhancing library services for their constituents. This competitive award is sponsored by the New York State Regents Advisory Council on Libraries and EBSCO Information Services. The award is named after the former New York State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries from 1977-1997.

Dr. Karen Patricia Smith, Chair of the 2006 Award Committee, will present the \$1,000 award, from EBSCO, to SENYLRC representatives on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Digital Advisory Committee meeting.

John Shaloiko, Executive Director of SENYLRC, said the following about the award, "Congratulations to all who have made this possible – my staff, members of the Digital Advisory Committee, chairs Ron Patkus and Helen McLallen, the HRVH contributing organizations and the SENYLRC Board of Trustees for their support for this ever-growing new service."

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## PubMed.® Celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

PubMed® has become THE essential biomedical resource throughout the world. Do you remember when... MEDLINE searching required a licensed subscription and extensive training?

First released in 1996 as an experimental database, the free version of MEDLINE has grown in size to more than 16 million citations and PubMed® now receives as many as **three million searches per day!** If you have not looked at it recently, you may be surprised by the content and enhancements. For more history and a review of its content and expanded features, see

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/so06/so06\\_pm\\_10.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/techbull/so06/so06_pm_10.html)

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## SENYLRC Holiday Schedule

Southeastern will be closed: Friday, December 15 from 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm; Friday, December 22 from 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm; Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.

We wish everyone Happy Holidays and hope you have a Successful and Healthy New Year! We all look forward to working with you again in 2007!



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## SUNY Albany Class Held Locally

From: MHLS Bulletin

For the spring 2007 semester, Josh Cohen (Director of Mid-Hudson Library System & Adjunct Professor for SUNY Albany, College of Computing & Information – Department of Information Studies) is teaching Research Methods. This class (IIST608) will meet in the MHLS Auditorium in Poughkeepsie on Tuesdays from 4:30-7:20pm. Course Description: Basic research methods and statistics for students entering the information science professions. The class covers descriptive and inferential statistics through correlation and regression; basic research process methods, quantitative and qualitative, and the creation of grant or research proposals. For more information: <http://www.albany.edu/dis/>

Directions to the MHLS Auditorium at <http://midhudson.org/help/directions.htm>

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## Larry Berk's Legacies Continue

By Patricia Carroll-Mathes



A New Orleans style jazz band accompanied the many assembled mourners to Larry Berk's gravesite at the Woodstock Artist's Cemetery on November 11 following a poetic, musical and moving memorial at the Colony Cafe. Larry, who served for ten years on the SENYLRC Board of Trustees (1993-2003), was a larger than life presence in the Hudson Valley both in the library world and in the arts communities. Larry was Director of the Library at Ulster County Community College (1992- 1997) and then Director

of Library and Information Services from 1997 to March 2006. His many professional accomplishments included the transformation of the library and the integration of information services, required credit bearing information literacy courses administered by the library but taught by faculty from all academic departments and the creation of a SUNY wide information literacy model. Larry was also a champion for the arts starting the college's impressive and unique Artist-in-Residence program, the annual Poetry Forum and Library Writers programs.

The Poetry Forum, held each spring since 1994 under his leadership, brought poets of stature for intimate question and answer sessions as well as evening readings: Robert Bly, Billy Collins, Donald Hall, Galway Kinnell, Sharon Olds, and Marge Piercy among others. The Library Writer's Series will bring one of Larry's favorite writers – poet, translator and human rights advocate Carolyn Forché back to SUNY Ulster for a reading and discussion on November 30 and December 1. [http://www.sunyulster.edu/events\\_news/events\\_details.jsp?eventID=195](http://www.sunyulster.edu/events_news/events_details.jsp?eventID=195). This series, begun in 1998, has also featured Gioia Timpanelli, Gerald Stern, Gail Godwin and Joyce Carol Oates.

Larry's valiant five year battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, usually called "Lou Gehrig's Disease" inspired family, friends and colleagues and brought many new friends and volunteers to his side. Larry leaves his wife Sarah and their sons Jonah 14, Adam 12 and Isaac 10, as well as Philip and Erin, son and daughter from his first marriage and their families. Larry's wish and that of the family is that donations in his memory be made to the Ulster County Community College Foundation in support of the semester long Artist-in-Residence Program which Larry established in 1999 to celebrate the rich arts culture in the community.

### **These are but a few thoughts about his legacies:**

"In the face of death he turned to writing poetry... The first was about his life with ALS. The second was about an imaginary character, Charley, an expatriate living in Paris. An imaginary Paris, as Larry had never been there." The *Charley Poems* were published this year by Golden Notebook Press. **Woodstock Times, obituary**

"How terribly sad to learn of the loss of such a terribly smart, wickedly funny man. Of course, he was a librarian. Naturally, he had unique and wonderful qualities. Comes with the territory. I've often wondered if librarians seek the field because

of their offbeat charm, or if librarianship brings a certain, special view of the world to its practitioners...Among those many librarians whom I've known and admired, Larry's point of view was one of the most thought-provoking, intelligent, and most of all, concerned with what was best for the libraries he was responsible for -- not with what would be most popular"... **Liz Bushy, freelance writer and former community-at-large SENYLRC Board member**

"I hadn't known Larry prior to our joining the (SENYLRC) Board in 1993, but had heard a lot about his energy and passion from others. It turned out that the comments I had heard were true: he was energetic, passionate, and was one of those people who was always thinking about different aspects of the profession.

After just a couple of meetings we became friends. Over the years we agreed about many issues that came before the Board; disagreed about some; but never let any of that impact our friendship. We often met for breakfast before the Board meetings to talk about the important things in our lives - families, homes, and other activities. In other words, the non-library portions of our lives.

One of the things I will always remember about him was a comment that he made one time stating that he liked to take a "Ready, Fire, Aim" approach to some things. His point was that it got you to an action step a lot quicker, and that was the important thing to do. The side stuff could be sorted out as you went along. I have to say, I've done that at times since - and it turns out that he was right.

He will truly be missed by everyone who knew him."

### **Kevin Gallagher, Director, Middletown Thrall Library**

"Larry Berk had the gift of making the ordinary extraordinary. He has an old-fashioned and honorable idealism. He felt that community college students were as special as Ivy League students, entitled to arts and culture just as if they were at an Ivy League school... One of his awards is particularly worth mentioning: He was *Teacher of the Year* at Eastern Correctional Facility in 1995".

### **Larry Beinhart, writer and author of the Librarian**

"Passionate and determined, with a clear vision of opportunities and the ability to use his leadership, energy, and focus to create change, he was an inspiration, a mentor, a colleague, and a friend." **Patricia Carroll-Mathes, colleague and former head of information literacy, UCCC**