Fulton Memoirs

Betty Maute, Director
Fulton Public Library
March 20, 2015
City of Fulton

- Population 11,000
- NYS municipality facing fiscal distress
- “City the Great Depression Missed”
The Beginning 2012

- Jim Farfaglia, local poet / author
- “Country Boy” collection of poems
- Invited local muck farmers & public
Spring

- Poets & Writers, Inc., with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts

- Jim wanted to help people write

- We both wanted to bring a sense of pride back to the Fulton community

- Applied for and was awarded $1500 to author
April Outreach

- Women’s Club
- Friends of Fulton History – Pratt House
- Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions
- Senior Apartments
Summer

• One group per month met for 4 writing classes in the library
• Each senior apartments had their own class
• Recruited volunteers to work one on one or type hand written memoirs
• 41 memoirs completed, new friends were made and everyone learned something
• Ages 50-100
August

• Stories were edited and approved by authors
• Release forms to signed

Free

1-Week Winter Break Writing Camp for ages 8-13:
Snowy Day Word Play!

When: February 17th – February 21st, 2014 • Monday - Friday 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Where: Fulton Public Library
        160 S. 1st Street, Fulton, NY
Instructors: Jim Farfaglia and Karen Burke

Join us as we explore our winter world through writing with a week’s worth of fun, adventurous and delicious activities!

Writings may be published in a collection or the local paper with your permission.

Seating is limited.
All those interested should call 315-592-5159 to register.
September

- Public reading
- City of Fulton Community Center
- 90 attendees

John and Idamae
November

- Book published using Amazon’s CreateSpace
- Contributing authors invited to pick up a free copy at the library – Mayor provided opening words
- Authors met, mingled and signed each other’s books
What we learned

• The project MUST continue
• Annual themes would be helpful
• Recruit younger writers for diversity
• Better location needed for public reading

• Marketing would make a difference

• Need more money
2014

• Shineman Foundation grant awarded
• Education and Business Theme
• Encouraged teens to contribute
• Presentation moved to Cayuga Community College – Fulton Campus
  Provided transport to senior housing
  Serve only water
  Slide show to accompany readings
FULTON: THE BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS THAT BUILT OUR COMMUNITY

September 25th, 2014
The Fulton Memoir Project
Fulton’s Ice Men

1946
2015

• Library as Publisher Innovator Grant from NY 3Rs Association will help with marketing

• Theme: Community service providers

• March - initiated weekly ‘memory circles’
Results

• New friends
• People who never thought they could write, continue to write on their own
• Learn something about your community that you did not know
• New connections for the library
• Donations to the library
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