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
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