



Godfrey Library honors volunteers

The Godfrey Memorial Library, a library of genealogy and history, closed early on Nov. 10 to honor its dedicated volunteers. Being a non-profit organization, and receiving no city or state funding, the library relies heavily on its volunteers. They do complicated jobs like analytic cataloging, working on new databases for the library's Website and filling research requests. They also do simpler, yet equally vital, tasks like labeling materials, inventory collections and even basic housekeeping chores.

A committee from the board of directors, led by Barbara Prymas and Joanne Lukasik, treated the volunteers to desserts and coffee. Afterward, award certificates were given out along with a small gift.

So far this year the volunteers have logged more than 4,300 hours of service. (This does not include the unlogged time put in by those doing things outside of the library.) Analytic catalogers have entered over 12,747 new records for the on-line catalog. Researchers handle nearly 50 requests a week (about 2,600 a year). Docents help visitors from all over Connecticut and, according to the guest book, at least 31 other states and two countries. Database volunteers have worked on Bible records, cemetery records and other vital records projects.

The library does not receive funds from any local, state or federal



Photo courtesy of Sharon Dahlmeyer-Giovannitti

agency. Its operating funds primarily come from the sale of memberships to the online Godfrey Scholar Program and through patron donations. Although it is a privately owned library, it is free and open to the public six days a week.

The Godfrey Memorial Library promotes the study of family history by inspiring individuals in all sectors of society to study their heritage and their own place in history; supporting educational activities that create enthusiasm for family research; and making genealogical and historical resources available to all on an international level by continuing the expansion, modernization, and distribution of the collection as technology develops. Its Website, www.godfrey.org, offers subscribers a wide variety of genealogical databases they access through their login information.

ZAMBLINGS

Random thoughts and ramblings by Bill Zam

AIRING MY GRIEVANCES (PART ONE)

As I finally board delayed Flight 2112, contemplating increasing fees and decreasing comfort, I can't help but get on board the *didja-ever-notice-airline-travel-stinks?* discussion (with less than a 3.4-ounce bottle of liquid or gel, of course).

Highbrow Comedy

It's well-covered brick wall shtick, but I can guarantee you, with airline timetable accuracy, that my brand of stand-up will stand out above the rest; specifically, at an altitude of six-foot-four. I may not be any funnier than the rest, but I am taller. Let's start at the top—of the fuselage, that is, which is now coated with my hair gel from cockpit to seat 15C.

Being this tall has its benefits: you can see over anybody at a concert, you rarely have to worry about being shorter than your date and you can dunk. Just kidding! I'm white. But you'd be surprised how often people make that assumption.

Sometimes height is a disadvantage. For instance, when an average

Getting Squeezed

I realize that's harsh, but I'm agitated before we even take off, confined here in my window seatlet with my left leg wedged under the businessman's case and my right leg raised up so far on the curved wall of the hull, I could shine the lateral of my shoe without removing it.

Of course, I wouldn't remove it based on personal legislation titled "Only Babies and Hot Girls May Remove Their Shoes on Airplanes." I try to reserve an exit row whenever I travel, but I have to book my flight eight months in advance if I expect one to be free.

"Free" is the wrong word, since some airlines now squeeze \$20 from you for the luxury of six extra inches of foot freedom. I'll admit it's a fee I would have gladly paid.

A Virgin Airlines commercial a few years ago featured a man reclining so far back in his seat that he couldn't have been stretched further on a medieval torture rack.

That's exactly what I had in mind for the purveyors of that false advertising, since the "average" guy in the commercial was clearly the