This month you've got a date with **OPAC**. We hope it will be love at first **SITE**.
— For Adults —

**NOVEL IDEAS**
(N) Monday, February 10, 7:00 p.m.
(N) Friday, February 14, 1:00 p.m.
This month we’ll discuss *The Cunning Man* by Robertson Davies. To join this group call Dodie Gillman at 261-6930.

**BOOK & SANDWICH (W)RAP**
(N) Tuesday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.
(N) Thursday, February 6, 1:00 p.m.
This month’s short stories are from *The Flannery O’Connor Award Selected Stories* edited by Charles East. Call Michelle Epstein at 261-6930.

**BOOK-A-TRIP**
to the Philadelphia Flower Show
Thursday, March 6, 1997
*Departure:* 7:30 a.m. from the Middleville School Parking Lot.
*Return:* 7:30 p.m.
*Cost:* $37.00 per person (checks only; payable to Northport Public Library; non-refundable)
*Itinerary:* The theme of this year’s show is “The Great Exchange: People, Places and Plants” and it will truly be a global extravaganza. Enjoy lunch on your own at the spacious Philadelphia Convention Center so you’ll have plenty of time to enjoy the show. Register in person (limit 2 on first day of ticket sale) at the Northport Library beginning Feb. 8.

**IT’S TAX TIME AGAIN!**
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
(Northport & East Northport)
February 8 - April 12
VITA volunteers will be at both library buildings to answer your questions and help fill out tax forms. VITA is sponsored by Hofstra University in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service.

**Tax-Aide Program for Seniors**
AARP counselors, trained by the IRS, will be available at the Northport library on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. beginning February 6 and continuing through April 10. If possible, bring last year’s completed tax forms.

**HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION, COUNSELING & ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
For Seniors Only
(N) Thursday, February 13, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
(N) Fridays, February 7 & 21, 9:15 a.m. -12:15 p.m.
Call 261-6930 to make an appointment in Northport.

**55/ALIVE MATURE DRIVER PROGRAM**
Wednesdays, February 26 & March 5
9:30 am - 1:30 pm
Our next session of AARP’s two-part course will be held at Northport Village Hall (224 Main Street). The course is open to anyone 50 years of age or older. Register beginning Feb. 15 at the Northport Library. There is an $8 fee, payable to AARP by check or money order only. To facilitate registration, please bring your library card. Please bring a pen with black/dark blue ink and your driver’s license to class.

— For Children —

**COMPUTER RESOURCES FOR KIDS**

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, now available in the Children’s Room, is a multimedia interpretation of Simon & Schuster’s popular children’s book.

The disc features music, sing-alongs, animation, and narration by Ray Charles. A group of child actors, the Multimedia Players, introduces the activities, encourages kids to play along, and provides help and instruction while presenting the building blocks of the English language.

All the art and lyrics from the book are included on the disc as well as several new songs. It’s chirpy, peppy, colorful, and lots of fun!

*A Valentine’s Message* ❤️
from one of our admirers ❤️

The general library service is very good. But I must single out the reference staff as “excellent”! I have used their service for a number of years and their success rate is impressive — and always a smile! Thank you.

Robert Taliman

- 2 -
"YOUR SEARCH IS OVER"

Fun, experienced, easy to love and used to sharing. Seeking people looking for a new experience. You won't be disappointed.

Our new, user-friendly online public access catalog — OPAC — is sure to win your heart. Whether you are searching for a book about heart-healthy eating, the physiological explanation of how the heart works, or the latest heartwarming novel by romance writer Catherine Cookson, the OPAC allows you to easily search for what you need.

We can’t wait to show you our OPAC!

Card catalogs have traditionally identified books and other library materials by subject, author, or title. By allowing you to perform key word searches, the online public access catalog (OPAC) provides you with many more ways to find the item you want. For example, to find the most recent heart-healthy cookbooks, type in HEART and DIET and then limit your search to publications after 1995. More examples of how easy the OPAC is to use are shown on page 5 of this newsletter.

The OPAC offers many other improvements over the card catalog. You will immediately know whether an item is in Northport, East Northport, or both buildings. Because limited space on a catalog card or in a card
drawer is no longer an issue, much more information can be entered about each library item. This provides many new ways to search for information. Filing and pulling catalog cards is also a thing of the past, so updating subject headings, titles, and other information is fast and efficient.

Initially, at the Northport Library building, we will continue to use the card catalog in conjunction with the OPAC. However, the card catalog will be "closed;" that is, no new cards will be filed so when you want to access new titles use the OPAC.

Once our building construction is completed, the new East Northport Library will open with OPACs available throughout the library. The same is true for Northport. As always, our reference librarians are ready to help you find your library materials, just ask!

**A Cooperative Venture**

The arrival of the OPAC is the culmination of work begun more than two years ago through PALS (Partnership of Automated Libraries in Suffolk), a joint effort of 28 public libraries and the Suffolk Cooperative Library System. After a thorough exploration of many online systems, followed by a request for proposal, the PALS libraries contracted with Innovative Interfaces, a vendor with 20 years experience in library computerization. The Innovative INNOPAC system, which includes full integration of data, outstanding management information, and adherence to library and computer standards, combines the online public access catalog, the circulation system, cataloging functions, and interlibrary loan access. By joining together in this cooperative venture, the Northport-East Northport Public Library will be able to provide a sophisticated and powerful system at a fraction of what it would cost each library to contract for it independently. Six neighboring libraries — Half Hollow Hills, Harborfields, Cold Spring Harbor, South Huntington, Commack, and Smithtown, are part of the PALS partnership using the Innovative system.
OPAC
The Online Public Access Catalog is User-Friendly

These searches demonstrate the flexibility of our Online Public Access Catalog. Here are a few examples of ways to find something using the OPAC. The screen tells you the location of each item—Northport (NP) or East Northport (EN).

Are you looking for a travel video featuring New York?
Search for the subject NEW YORK and then limit to words in subject TRAVEL and material type VIDEO/FILM. The result follows.
Highlight your choice, then press ENTER to get the item’s call number.

1. The Statue of Liberty NP-Media Video
2. The Statue of Liberty EN-Media Video
3. A Guide to New York City NP-Media Video

Are you looking for a compact disc with the song “Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered” sung by Ella Fitzgerald?
Simply select word search and type a few words from the song title and the name ELLA.

Fitzgerald, Ella. Best of Ella Fitzgerald NP-Media CD
[sound recording]: First Lady of Song/Ella Fitzgerald

Are you trying to locate a book by your favorite author, Hoffman, but remember only part of the title?
Try an author/title search. Type HOFFMAN and then type the word you recall from the title—MAGIC. The result follows.
You now know that the library owns copies in fiction, large print, and paperback.

1. Practical magic EN-Fiction
2. Practical magic NP-Fiction
3. Practical magic EN-Paperback
4. Practical magic NP-Paperback

Are you looking for non-fiction books about birds in the Time-Life series?
Try a word search—BIRDS—then limit your search by publisher—TIME. The screen shows two books published by Time-Life.

1. The birds EN-J Non-Fiction
2. Birds of sea, shore and stream NP-J Non-Fiction

Get acquainted with the new OPAC! Sign up at the OPAC station for one of our regularly-scheduled training sessions.
### Northport-East Northport Public Library

**Calendar of Events**

**February 1997**

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>&quot;On My Own (EN) 10 am &amp; 11 am</td>
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<td>AARP Tax-Aide Program (N) 9 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>Health Insurance Information, Counseling &amp; Assistance Program (N) 9:15 am - 12:15 pm by appointment</td>
<td>Ticket sales begin for Book-A-Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, 3/3</td>
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<td>&quot;For Fours (EN) 10 am &amp; 6:30 pm</td>
<td>&quot;Book &amp; Sandwich (W)rap (N) 7 pm</td>
<td>Library Board of Trustees Meeting (N)</td>
<td>AARP Tax-Aide Program (N) 9 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>&quot;For Fours (N) 10 am &amp; 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Registration begins for 55+ Alive Mature Driver Program, 2/26 &amp; 3/5</td>
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<td>&quot;For Fours (EN) 10 am &amp; 6:30 pm</td>
<td>&quot;For Fours (N) 10 am &amp; 6:30 pm</td>
<td>&quot;Knitters' Circle (N) 7 pm</td>
<td>&quot;Pre-registration or tickets required for this program. Occupancy of our meeting room is limited.</td>
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**Note:** Italic type indicates Children's Programs. 
N = Northport Library  
EN = East Northport Library

Enrollment in our programs is limited, with preference given to district residents. Tickets limited to 2 per patron on the first day of registration.

The Northport-East Northport Public Library encourages all residents to participate in programs and activities. Please let us know in advance if you require any special accommodations because of a disability.
Kids connect @ the Library

CONTEST

sponsored by the American Library Association and Suave*

National Grand Prize: The winning family will receive a $20,000 college scholarship and a multi-media computer system from Suave.

State Prizes: Suave will award multi-media computers to winners in each state.

*Helene Curtis line of hair/grooming products

National Donation: Suave will also contribute $125,000 to the Fund for America’s Libraries, the foundation of the American Library Association.

When: The contest will continue through April 18, 1997. We will forward completed entries to the American Library Association for judging. Pick up full contest details and entry forms at the library beginning Feb. 1.

The Northport-East Northport Public Library invites families in the community to enter the Kids Connect @ the Library Contest sponsored by the American Library Association and Suave.

To enter, just tell us in 100 words or less how the library has helped you to connect — to each other, to your community, to better grades, to family entertainment, to the Internet — and more.

February 1997

A Monthly Guide to Your Library, Its Programs & Services