Selected public libraries statewide are currently hosting a 10-performance tour of “Rap’s Hawaii,” a Honolulu Theatre for Youth stage production arranged by Lee Cataluna, through March 2. Admission is free.

Rap Reiplinger was widely regarded as a comic genius, and this collection of family-appropriate sketches pays tribute to the insightful humor of a man obsessed with capturing and celebrating the diversity of Hawaii and its colorful people. This 45-minute program is suitable for ages 10 and above.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, this library tour has already made stops last month at Kapolei, Hilo and Thelma Parker Libraries, and is scheduled for the following libraries: Feb. 1, 3 p.m. at Kailua-Kona Public Library (327-4327); Feb. 4, 3 p.m. at Wailuku Public Library (243-5766); Feb. 7, 2:30 p.m. at Molokai Public Library (553-1765); Feb. 9, noon at Hawaii State Library (586-3490); Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m. at Lihue Public Library (241-3222); Feb. 23, 3 p.m. at Aiea Public Library (483-7333); and Mar. 2, 2:30 p.m. at Pearl City Public Library (453-6566).

Call the hosting library as soon as possible if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is needed. This program schedule is subject to change. For more information and to confirm a performance, contact the hosting library.

Love Public Libraries?
Donate Your Tax Refund

By Paul H. Mark

If you truly love your public libraries, why not demonstrate your affection by donating a portion of your 2007 State tax refund to the Hawaii State Public Library System Special Fund this coming tax season?

You will be joining thousands of Hawaii taxpayers throughout our state who have demonstrated their love and support for our 51 public libraries.

In 2004, Act 193 provided for a check-off box on State Individual Income Tax Returns that allows taxpayers to make a token donation to support the Hawaii State Public Library System: just $2 for an individual or $4 for a joint return.

In the first half of 2007, $85,232 was collected through this tax donation program, which enabled Hawaii’s public libraries to purchase a variety of books published about Hawaii, as well as additional copies of children’s books, which benefited library customers of all ages statewide. Since its inception, a total of $237,178 has been collected to benefit Hawaii’s public libraries.

All you have to do is mark the appropriate check-off box on your 2007 State Individual Income Tax Return Form: Form N-11, line 42b or Form N-13, line 24b. Mahalo nui loa for your support!

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 16-18 – Presidents Day Holiday; Call your local library for public service hours or visit www.librarieshawaii.org.

Need Tax Forms?

For the 2007 tax season, public libraries statewide will serve as distribution outlets for Hawaii State tax forms, courtesy of a continuing partnership between the Hawaii State Public Library System and the State Dept. of Taxation.

Library staff will supply the forms, but are not trained to assist with tax questions. For assistance, call the Dept. of Taxation’s Tax Information Line: on Oahu, 587-4242; from Neighbor Islands, call toll-free at 1-800-222-3229; for the hearing impaired: on Oahu, call 587-1418; from Neighbor Islands, call toll-free at 1-800-887-8974. For more information, visit the State Dept. of Taxation website: www.state.hi.us/tax.

Need state tax forms from other states? Visit www.librarieshawaii.org, under “e-RESOURCES” click on “Other Databases,” scroll down and select “LegalForms,” an online database from Thomson Gale. Click on the appropriate link to individual state tax offices; get Federal tax forms from this database, too.

Speaking of Federal tax forms, many public libraries will serve as distribution outlets. Call your local library to find out if they will be distributing Federal tax forms or visit www.irs.ustreas.gov/formspubs/index.html to print or download forms.
Recommended Children’s Books

By Blanche Kawagoe, Children’s Librarian, Aiea Public Library

Sandy Takayama
THE MUSUBI BABY
(K-Gr. 2)
The musubi man and the musubi lady may be the fastest musubis in the islands, but when the musubi baby comes along, they learn that in order to enjoy life, sometimes they need to slow down their pace.

Daniel Kirk
LIBRARY MOUSE
(Preschool-Gr. 2)
Sam, a library mouse, lives in a little hole in the wall behind the children’s reference books at the library, and writes and illustrates books during his free time. Sam’s books are a hit, but when the library staff and patrons want to meet the mysterious author, Sam, a shy creature, must think of a way to create a “Meet the Author Day” event that will satisfy everyone.

Tim Green
FOOTBALL GENIUS
(Gr. 5 - 8)
When Troy White’s mother gets hired as a Public Relations Assistant for his favorite team, the Atlanta Falcons, he is very excited, especially since he has a special gift of being able to predict football plays before they occur. But, can he convince the Falcons’ star linebacker, Seth Halloway, to give him a chance to help the team, or will the Falcons continue on their losing streak?

Hawaii’s Energy Future

What’s in store for “Hawaii’s Energy Future?” See a 45-minute power point presentation by Peter Rosegg, Communications Specialist for Hawaiian Electric Co., on Saturday, Mar. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Hawaii State Library -Hawaii & Pacific Reading Room. A Q & A session will follow. Call the library two weeks in advance if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is needed. For more information, call the Hawaii State Library-Art, Music, Recreation Section at 586-3470.

Herb Shoveller
RYAN AND JIMMY: AND THE WELL IN AFRICA THAT BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER
(Gr. 3-6)
In 1998, when he was 6 years old, Ryan Hreljac learned that many of the villages in Africa did not have wells to bring them fresh water. Ryan decided that he wanted to help build a well in Africa, but he did not realize the challenges that he would face.

The Friends of the Library of Hawaii honored new State Librarian Richard Burns at a reception last month at the Hawaii State Library. In his opening remarks, Burns said, “I look forward to working with the Board of Education, our legislators, the more than 500 HSPLS staff members and our Friends, neighbors and patrons across the state. I am confident that by working together we can reinforce our libraries’ position as integral components of our communities and ensure that the best days for the Hawaii State Public Library System are definitely ahead of us!”

It’s the Bookmobile!

LIBRARY TOONS!
By Wayne Kaneshiro, LBPH

By Blanche Kawagoe, Children’s Librarian, Aiea Public Library

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