IT Academy, from front page century workplace.”

The IT Academy provides access to e-learning, certification preparation, and official Microsoft course materials, which will help users to qualify for and acquire industry-recognized Microsoft Office Specialist, Microsoft Technology Associate or Microsoft Certified Professional certifications. Funding for the Microsoft IT Academy is provided by the Federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The IT Academy is available to Hawaii’s library users via any device that can access the internet using Internet Explorer. In Hawaii, hundreds of thousands of library cardholders will have free, unlimited access to these Microsoft courses, which range from basic computer skills to advanced system architecture and design.

“It certifications are increasingly recognized as valuable credentials that give young people expanded career opportunities,” said Donald Horner, Chairman of the Hawaii State Board of Education. “The IT Academy ensures patrons equal access to IT training and certification through all libraries across the state regardless of location or economic status.”

The Microsoft IT Academy will expand educational workforce development and lifelong learning opportunities for all the people of Hawaii. The program will also help students become college and career ready upon graduation from high school, and will improve their abilities to compete in the rapidly evolving modern workplace.

“With the unveiling of the Microsoft IT Academy, we are excited that all our patrons - from keiki to kupuna - will be able to access technology training that has the potential to affect transformational change in Hawaii’s education and workforce landscape, and is closely aligned with Governor Abercrombie’s New Day Plan, Broadband Initiatives and his emphasis on science, technology, engineering and math education,” said Hawaii State Librarian Richard Burns. “We enthusiastically encourage all our patrons to take full advantage of the Microsoft IT Academy - it will truly benefit everyone who participates.”

Access to the Microsoft IT Academy is available through the HSPLS website: www.librarieshawaii.org. Library patrons with valid library cards can access the courses of their choice by following simple instructions. The courses are accessible at any time in all public libraries, remotely and via mobile devices with authentication. They are self-paced, several sessions in length, and patrons can stop and resume their coursework at their convenience.

Patrons who decide to pursue Microsoft Office Specialist, Microsoft Technology Associate or Microsoft Certified Professional Certifications will have the opportunity to take an exam at an official Microsoft certification site. To access the Microsoft IT Academy, a list of the certification sites, and course curriculum, please visit the library system’s website at www.librarieshawaii.org.

HSPLS will Consolidate its Patron Database

The Hawaii State Public Library System’s patron database will undergo a purge of inactive accounts on December 20. Removing these accounts will provide an updated, more accurate database for our business and management uses. Inactive accounts are accounts with expired library cards and:

- No outstanding items, charges or fees; and
- Whose card holders are former residents who have relocated from Hawaii.

The record of a patron who has not borrowed library material in the past three years or more may be purged. Patrons who visit their local library, present their library card, and discover that their record has been purged can reactivate their card, free-of-charge, by completing a new library card application form and presenting it with their card and valid identification. The database clean-up procedure will not affect currently active library patrons.

Internet computer users who do not borrow materials and only use their library card to access the library system’s Internet stations or subscription databases remotely, may notice that their accounts have been purged. These patrons can reactivate their accounts, free-of-charge, by completing a new application form and presenting it with their card and valid identification at any HSPLS library.

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Recommended Children’s Books

By Vicki Deoroon & Donna Tolomarno, Children’s Librarians, Hawaii State Library-Edna Allyn Room for Children

Anna Dewdney

LAMA LILLAMA HOLIDAY DRAMA

(Ates 2-5) Overwhelmed by holiday excitement and expectations, Llama Llama has a “Holidrama” meltdown. It’s a good thing Mama Llama knows that sometimes we need to take a rest with hugs and kisses and a little quiet time.

Susan Jeffers

THE NUTCRACKER

(Ates 3-8) A good choice for reading to young children prior to attending a holiday performance as it closely resembles what children might see on stage. The story of Balanchine’s ballet is told with English handwriting and chimes as a performance as it closely resembles what children might see on stage. The story of Balanchine’s ballet is told with English handwriting and chimes as a

Feedback Needed from Online Database Users

As a professional cartoonist, Kaneshiro’s cartoons have appeared in publications such as the “Saturday Evening Post,” “New Woman,” “Tennis,” and some computer magazines. In addition, Kaneshiro has drawn caricatures of people.

Kaneshiro began drawing at the age of 5 and got interested in cartooning by reading numerous comic books including Batman, Spiderman, and Superman. Normally it takes him about two months to visualize an idea but only 10-15 minutes to draw the cartoon itself. “Coming up with an idea is the most challenging part about cartooning,” said Kaneshiro. “I see things differently, take various pieces of the cartoon from here and there, and then put it all together. The process surprises me sometimes!” he laughed.

Cartoonist Wayne Kaneshiro Retires

Wayne Kaneshiro, a professional cartoonist at the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (LBPH), is one of several outstanding HSLPS employees who are retiring this year. They have provided HSLPS and the Hawaii State Government with many years of loyal and dedicated service. Wayne closed the book at work for the last time on November 30 after a 25-year career with the Hawaii State Public Library System, including the past four years as the Holo I Mua Cartoonist.

Kaneshiro, who also is a professional cartoonist, worked about 20 years for LBPH, and served in various Library Assistant and Library Technician positions at the Hawaii State Library, Hawaii Kai Public Library, Kaimuki Public Library, and Lihiha Public Library.

In 1975, Kaneshiro received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. After graduation, he joined the “House of Cartoons,” a cartoon club at UH-Manoa started by Art Instructor Dave Thorne where a dozen cartoonists shared cartooning tips.

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Feedback Needed from Online Database Users

State Librarian Richard Burns would like to know what patrons think about the Hawaii State Public Library System’s online resources. Please fill out a brief customer satisfaction survey at your local library. Survey results will be used to complete a report about the Federal grant which funds these online resource subscriptions and internet access. It should be fairly easy to complete and take just a few minutes of your time. Mahalo for your kokua!

Programs and Events, from front page

The Honolulu Handbell Ensemble will present a Christmas Concert directed by Anne Craig Lum and comprised of handbell choir directors and advanced ringers from Oahu churches. They will perform music of the Holiday Season using English handbells and chimes:

December 17, noon - Hawaii State Library (586-3520).

• “Paka’ana Lanakila!” The Spring Wind Quintet will perform this special commissioned work narrated by composer Jon Magnusson as well as classical and Holiday Season music: December 10, noon - Hawaii State Library (586-3520).

• “Christmas Ideas Demonstration.” Volunteers from Oahu Association FCE Clubs will demonstrate how to make simple and economical gifts, decorations, and provide food ideas for Christmas. Food samples for tasting will be offered. The University of Hawaii at Manoa’s Cooperative Extension Service and Oahu Association for Family and Community Education (FCE) are sponsoring this program suitable for ages 12 and older: December 8, 5:30 p.m. - Salt Lake-Moanalua Public Library (831-6831).

• “Seventh Annual Holiday Music Festival,” December 6, 6 p.m. at Kahuiku Public & School Library (293-8935): festival will feature Vocal Motion, the award-winning show choir from Kahuiku High School; a Brigham Young University-Hawaii String Ensemble, a Keiki Chorus and an Adult Women’s Choir. This program is suitable for all ages; refreshments will be served.

• “Make a Holiday Season Potpourri Angel Ornament,” December 7, 7 p.m. at Kahuku Public (323-7585): Using basic sewing skills you can create an angel ornament with flannel fabric, cinnamon sticks, potpourri, felt, and tulle. Visit the show choir and see two samples on display and for more details. This craft program is suitable for ages 5 and older.

• “Sugar Plum Fairies & Teddy Bear-ies.” Uncle Hoop and Auntie Melinda Wing will present an interactive family Holiday story and music program at eight Maui, Molokai, and Lanai public libraries. The husband-and-wife duo of storytellers and musicians will share stories, songs, and skits about this magical time of the year. Children are encouraged to dress in costume and bring their favorite Fairy or Teddy Bear. The Maui Friends of the Library is sponsoring these programs; suitable for ages 3 and older: Dec. 7, 3 p.m. - Molokai Public Library (553-1765); Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. - Kahului Public Library (873-3097); Dec. 10, 11 a.m. - Lahaina Public Library (662-3950); Dec. 15, 2:15 p.m. - Lanai Public & School Library (365-7920); Dec. 16, 10:30 a.m. - Kihei Public Library (875-6833); Dec. 20, 11 a.m. - Hana Public & School Library (248-4848); Dec. 21, 10 a.m. - Wailuku Public Library (243-7566); Dec. 22, 10 a.m. - Makawao Public Library (573-8785).

• Special Holiday-Themed Storytime, December 8 and 15, 10:30 a.m. at Hawaii Kai Public Library (397-5833): stories, songs, rhymes and simple make-and-take craft. Suitable for ages 2 1/2 to 5.

• Japanese Shakuhachi Bamboo Flute Performance and Demonstration by Christopher Yohmei Blandell, December 9, 3:30 p.m. at Molokai Public Library (553-1765). The East-West Center at University of Hawaii-Manoa and Molokai Public Library are co-sponsoring this program.

• “A Magical Christmas” featuring The Amazing Alan Areta, December 10, 10:30 a.m. at Hawaii Kai Public Library (397-5833): Magician Alan Areta will perform a Christmas Magic Show. A Christmas craft activity for the whole family will follow the magic show, and light refreshments will be served. The Friends of Hawaii Kai Public Library is sponsoring this program which is suitable for ages 3 and older.

• “Holiday Season Puppet Time” featuring Puppeteer Christy Lipps, December 11, 3 p.m. at Kaneohe Public Library (233-5676): Lipps will present her favorite children’s Holiday Season stories in lively puppet show featuring beautifully hand-crafted puppets, finger plays, and songs. The Friends of Kaneohe Public Library is sponsoring this program which is suitable for all ages.

• “A Visit with Santa Claus,” December 14, 9:30 a.m. at Pearl City Public Library (453-6566): Keiki who tell Santa their Christmas wishes will receive a goody bag. Parents are encouraged to bring a camera for a photo with Santa. Registration is requested; please contact the Library.

• “Holiday Family Storytime,” December 14, 6 p.m. at Millilani Public Library (627-7470): stories and songs for the whole family. The Friends of Millilani Public Library is sponsoring this program which is suitable for preschoolers through children age 12.

• “Spring Wind Quintet Christmas Concert,” December 17, 1 p.m. - Kapolei Public Library (693-7050): the quintet will perform Christmas music and provide a brief overview of the instruments. Learn how the musicians produce sounds from the instruments and how they perform together as a group.

• “Mele in the Light of the Ancestors” featuring Lono Music, December 19, 11 a.m. at Wahiawa Public Library (872-6345): this heart-warming, motion capture, computer-animated musical follows a child’s book by Chris Van Allsburg, and featuring the voice of Tom Hanks. Other public libraries are scheduled to host the show in a Christmas Time Programs-Events. Please call your local library for more information.

Stephanie Spinner

IT’S A MIRACLE! A HANUKKAH STORYBOOK

(Ages 5-8) As young Owen celebrates the first year he is allowed to light the Hanukkah candles himself, his grandfather tells him a bedtime story each night. He recognizes that many of the stories are about family members - but what about the alien who saw a menorah in a window?

Angela Shell Medearis

SEVEN SPOOLS OF THREAD: A KWANZAA STORY

(Ages 6-10) In a village in Ghana, a father’s last wish is that his seven quarelling sons learn to create gold from thread without argument “by the time the moon rises” or they will forfeit their inheritance.