

Most people have known for a long time that public libraries offer a lot more to their customers than the chance to read books for free, but sometimes the same people are hard-pressed to remember of what that “lot more” consists. Audio and video material, of course. Access to the Internet and online databases, sure.

But what gets overlooked too often is the multitude of programs and events your Metropolitan Library System serves up week after week, year after year. And you know what? There’s a banquet of library sponsored programs on the menu that have become so traditional, they’ve become easy to take for granted.

Think about that massive Summer at the Library reading program that takes place every June and July, or the literally hundreds of story hours we present 12 months out of the year.

Both of these activities have been so popular so long, many for-profit businesses have set up clones



of their own. A story hour at a book store may be terrific, but when it’s over you can’t take the books home for free and keep them for two weeks. For that service, you need us.

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And one of our great successes is coming up in November—the annual Our World musical presentation.

Our World has taken you to Ireland, India, Brazil, and the November 2008 edition is the most globe-trotting one yet. This year, we’re presenting Huun-Huur-Tu, throat singers from the Republic of Tuva, a sparsely inhabited land of grasslands, forests, and

mountain ridges that is 2,500 miles east of Moscow and north of Mongolia in the geographical center of Asia.

In throat singing, or “xoomei,” a single vocalist simultaneously produces two distinct pitches: a fundamental note and a series of harmonics that make up a melody. The sound is striking and exotic, and Huun-Huur-Tu quadruples the effect as the group is made up of four vocalists.

Our World Presents Huun-Huur-Tu is our most unusual library sponsored event in November, but it isn’t our only one. Browse through the Calendar of Events section of this issue of info and you’ll find more programs sponsored by your Metropolitan Library System than any one person could take advantage of—and it’s that way every month. You have to pick and choose.

But our programs are worth it.

