Dealing with planned disaster

The Institute for Disaster Mental Health (IDMH) at SUNY New Paltz is collaborating with the Center for Deployment Psychology to host a two-day training in prolonged exposure therapy this week on the SUNY New Paltz campus.

"After more than a decade at war, our nation faces an unprecedented need to address mental health issues among our service people and their families," said James Halpern, director of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health. "Fortunately there is more openness about this need than in previous conflicts; unfortunately the sheer numbers mean there is insufficient access to mental health professionals trained in treating members of this very specific culture.

The Center for Deployment Psychology specializes in training military and civilian mental-health providers to deliver deployment-related behavioral health services to military personnel and their families. The CDP offers education and training programs, as well as ongoing consultation to providers and supervision to trainees.

The upcoming training will prepare practitioners to use evidenced-based treatment with demonstrated efficacy in assisting people with multiple or prolonged exposure to trauma, including military personnel as well as disaster survivors. "We see this as a natural extension of the IDMH's primary focus on assisting those impacted by disasters, as war is sometimes described as a 'planned disaster' and many of the consequences are shared," said Halpern.

Retired Men host Al Becker

The Retired Men of the New Paltz Community invite all retired men to its monthly breakfast meeting at 8 a.m., July 1 at the New Paltz Plaza Diner. Al Becker will talk about his experiences in World War II, when he was torpedoed in the North Atlantic and spent 46 days in a lifeboat. Contact Phil Kissing 256-5472 for further information.

Two Elks events

This Friday, June 28, from 5 to 8 p.m. the New Paltz Elks Lodge will host a Family of New Paltz BBQ chicken or grilled salmon benefit dinner at the New Paltz Elks Lodge, 290 Route 32 South, New Paltz. Adults pay $15, seniors $13, or two tickets for adults and seniors for $25. Children under 12 pay $8. All proceeds to be donated to the Foundation. Reservations appreciated.

This Sunday, the New Paltz Elks will host a breakfast buffet from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Lodge. Adults pay $6, seniors and children under 10 $5. For information for both events call 255-1633.

Library makes cool move

The 57th annual Elting Memorial Library Fair is making a move from the heat of summer to the cool of fall. Traditionally, the fair has been held the second Saturday and Sunday of July. However, the extreme heat of the past two summers has led the library to consider a change of date to a cooler time of year.

The library says this was not an easy decision to make. After many discussions and wringing of hands, the conclusion was that it's time to break the tradition in exchange for more hospitable weather: the last Saturday and Sunday in September.

Everything will be the same except for the date of the same fair with thousands of books under the big tent, huge raffle, flea market, live music, hand-knit items food, plants, jewelry, crafts, toys, and children's activities.

Donations for the flea market can be made during library hours. Books will be accepted up to the end of June. So, mark your calendars and come to the annual Elting Memorial Library Fair September 28 and