

Shhhut! about libraries

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The Voice of the Fond du Lac County Libraries

8 WAYS LIBRARIES ARE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY

Libraries are here when they are needed, ready to enrich our minds and defend our right to know, just as other institutions protect our safety and property. Without sound minds, however, the American dream of safe streets and secure homes will never be fulfilled.

Libraries safeguard our freedom and keep democracy healthy. It will take all of us, in a spirit of pride and freedom, to maintain libraries as



1. Libraries inform citizens.

Democracy vests supreme power in the people. Libraries make democracy work by providing access to information so that citizens can make the decisions necessary to govern themselves. The public library is the only institution in American society whose purpose is to guard against the tyrannies of ignorance and conformity, and its existence indicates the extent to which a democratic society values knowledge, truth, justice, books, and culture.

2. Libraries make families friendlier.

The American family's best friend, the library, offers services guaranteed to hone coping skills. Homework centers, literacy training, parenting materials, after-school activities, summer reading programs—like the families they serve, libraries everywhere are adapting to meet new challenges.

3. Libraries return high dividends.

What do Gallo wines, the I Can't Believe It's Yogurt chain, and billboard-sign giant Metromedia have in common? Libraries made millionaires out of each of these companies' owners by

providing crucial start-up information when they were no more than wannabe business titans. Libraries are there to help people with more personal goals, too. The seed money expended for these and other success stories? Less than \$20 per capita per year in tax dollars.

4. Libraries build communities.

Libraries validate and unify; they save lives, literally and by preserving the record of those lives. Community-building means libraries link people with information. Librarians have become experts at helping others navigate the Internet. Before there was cyberspace, there were libraries, paving the way for the superhighway.

5. Libraries value the individual.

Library doors swing open for independent thinking. Libraries offer alternatives to the manipulations of commercialism, from the excellence of public-television productions to the freethinking of renegade publishers and the vision of poets and artists outside the mainstream business of art and literature.

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NORTH FOND DU LAC

Public librarians work with the local school media specialists in various ways. During the recent celebration of the annual Children's Book Week, library staff were invited to read to the elementary and kindergarten classes as part of the Reading Rockathon event. We are also cooperating on the school's new math literature list; we already had some of the books on the list and have ordered more of them so that students may check them out here as well as at school.

Libraries also like to keep in touch with what's going on in the media world. Besides the Harry Potter and latest Disney movie, there has been a lot of interest in The *Polar Express* movie (based on the Caldecott Award winning book). The *Shadow Book of the Polar Express*, which uses a lantern-type flashlight to project pictures on the wall in a darkened room generated enthusiasm at our storytime.

The library director was fortunate to be able to attend the Wisconsin State Library Conference at Lake Geneva this year. This is always a good chance for networking with other librarians and trustees and is also a continuing education opportunity. Library users will benefit from the information brought back from reader's advisory workshops. When someone comes in and asks, "What do you have that's a good read?" we will have more suggestions to offer.

The library extends a thank you to the generous donation recently received from The Amvets and Auxiliary Post 41 of North Fond du Lac. Their monetary gift will be used to buy some new adult books for the collection. In times of tight budgeting these contributions from area clubs and organizations are greatly appreciated.



Friendship Learning Center student Ryan McAndrew checks out the art work on display at the library. Art teacher Alice Tzakais had all her 5th grade students work on a special project titled "Opening of Our Hearts" which shows each student's picture and statement of how to make life better at home, at school, or in the community. You're invited to come to the library to view this Grand Prize winning artwork.

OAKFIELD

As the days get shorter and the weather gets cooler, we invite you to visit the Oakfield Public Library. If you have a few minutes or a few hours, check out our new arrivals—books, magazines, & DVD's, read the daily newspaper, or settle in by the fireplace for a cozy read. We feel confident that there is something in our library for EVERYONE!!!

A reminder that MERLIN, the vision enlarger donated by the Oakfield Lion's Club, is available for public use. It is an amazing machine that is very helpful to anyone with vision problems.

Fall Family Fun Night was enjoyed by all in attendance. The "spooky walk" (with lights out!!) was really not that spooky after all and the Halloween books put everyone in a "Happy Halloween" frame of mind.

Have you ever stopped to think of how fortunate the village of Oakfield is to have a public library? For over 100 years the trustees and board of our small village have realized the value of a public library and have made sure that financial support was part of the annual budget. We are very thankful to all our "backers"!!

The staff and board of the library wish you happy holidays and encourage you to visit us soon.



Library Director Dianne Biltz gets ready for Halloween fun at the Family Fun Night in October.

FOND DU LAC

In celebration of Children's Book Week in November the library partnered with the *Fond du Lac Reporter's* "Newspapers in Education (NIE)" program. The library arranged to have several celebrities photographed throughout the city reading with children; the photos were incorporated into a list of recommended reads and things to do at the library. Over 3,000 flyers were distributed to the schools in Fond du Lac and the full-color, full-page promotion was also in the newspaper. It included a form for children to list their favorite book and write why they liked it. Children who returned the form received a coupon for a Culver's cone and the kids' favorites were published in the newspaper.

As a holiday promotion, the library has created a "Wish List" of books and other materials on Amazon.com. People are encouraged to give their community the gift that keeps on giving. Donors can easily get to the list on the library's website. This is an easy way for people to support their library with just a few clicks of the computer.



Bookmobile assistant Annette Clark presents a Children's Book Week storytime to the children at the Best Buddies Learning Center. Story programs were presented at all ten of the daycares served by the bookmobile.



Winnie the Fox reads to first grader Celeste May to promote Children's Book Week. "Reading is fun, anywhere you are!"

Debra Lee Hellwig, nationally known award-winning artist from Fond du Lac, will exhibit her work in the library's Langdon Diver's Gallery during December and January.

Children are invited to share holiday stories and make ornaments to decorate the tree in the Children's Room on Sunday, December 5th from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 28th from 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. children will be entertained by Mr. Billy for a special holiday concert at the library.

RIPON

National Children's Book Week Celebration

The library, the Ripon Educational Association, and the Ripon College Student Education Association celebrated Children's Book Week on November 16. The lives and works of some "late greats" of children's literature were remembered in a variety of book presentations, author anecdotes, puzzles, and crafts.

Library Director Search

The library board is in the process of searching for a library director to replace Alan Jorgenson who will be retiring at the end of this year. It is the goal of the library board to have a new director on the job by January 1, 2005.

Wireless Plans

With technical support from the Winnefox Library System the library is adding a wireless network to enable anyone with a properly equipped laptop computer to access the Internet at the library. Guidelines for using the service will soon be available.

"Old Befana" Returns to the Library

Ken Lonquist & Friends will again present *The Legend of Old Befana* at the library as part of Ripon's "Dickens of a Christmas" celebration. This musical story for children and adults is being sponsored by the Friends of the Library, the Early Bird Kiwanis Club, Horicon State Bank, the Diedrich Agency, Bremner Foods, JM Smucker Corporation and the M&I Bank. It will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 4. There is no admission charge.



School superintendent Mr. Zimman performs and reads from Robert McCloskey's *Burt Dow Deep Water Man*.

Elementary school principal Melanie Oppor, school librarian Grace Ann Hansen (dressed as "Ambersitter") work with kids on a giant crossword puzzle with clues and answers originating from the Amber Brown series by Paula Danziger.



Children's librarian Linda DeCramer reads *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig

CAMPBELLSPORT

The Campbellsport Public Library was very busy during October. The children who attended the first Story Hour of the month had a great time helping to create scarecrows. These silly scarecrows greeted everyone who walked into the library during October. On the 14th, Jerry The Storyteller thrilled ghosts, goblins, princesses, clowns, & others with his not so scary Halloween stories at the library's Halloween Hullabaloo. On October 20th Kettle Moraine State Forest naturalist Jackie Scharfenberg delighted children with stories and crafts about Leaves of Many Colors.



The library was also busy with activities for school age children. A record crowd of girls attended the monthly American Girls Club Meeting. The girls created old-fashion apple head dolls while Youth Librarian Sylvaine Latham read *Samantha's Story*. The same day teens meet at the library for pizza, soda, candy, and a show. Everyone had a great time at the first ever Family Game Night on the 26th.

The Friends of the Library were also busy during October. Many of our volunteers helped the library staff weed the Children's selection at the library. The Friends helped discard damaged and outdated books, repair others, and even washed the shelves and wiped the books clean. The Children's shelves look great! We would have not completed such a big task without our dedicated volunteers.

BRANDON

BRANDON HOSTS AUTHOR VISIT



Harold Kurtz reading his book at Brandon Event

The Brandon Public Library hosted a reading and book signing on Nov. 9. Harold Kurtz, a former Brandon resident, has authored *Hardly a Silent Night: Christmas in a Small Town Parsonage*, a collection of delightful tales spun from imagination and his real life adventures growing up in Brandon's Lutheran parsonage in the early 1950's. This is the first book we know of set entirely in Brandon. Although he now lives in the Twin Cities, Harold considers Brandon home. He fondly remembers the Brandon Library and gives credit to Brandon librarian Maude Tank for nurturing his skills in reading and writing.

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6. Libraries level the playing field. Economists have cited a growing inequity in America, with the gap between the richest and poorest citizens becoming wider. By making all its resources equally available to all members of the community the library helps level the playing field. Once users have access to the library's materials, they have the opportunity to level the playing field outside the library by learning to read, gaining employment, or starting a business.

7. Libraries open kids' minds. Bringing children into a library can transport them from the commonplace to the extraordinary. From story hours for preschoolers to career planning for highschoolers, librarians make a difference because they care about the unique needs of every individual who comes to them for help. Children learn personal responsibility by holding a library card of their own, a card that gives them access to new worlds in books, videos, audiotapes, computers, and more.

8. Libraries preserve the past. Libraries preserve the record; a nation, a culture, a community that does not understand its own past is mired in its own mistakes. Libraries enable us to communicate through distance and time with the living and the dead. It is a miracle kept available by the meticulous sorting, storing, indexing, and preservation that still characterizes library work—work that will carry, in the electronic environment, challenges and a price tag yet unknown.

Adapted from "12 Ways Libraries Are Good for the Country," *American Libraries* (Dec. 1995): 1113-19.

Fond du Lac County Libraries

BRANDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

117 E. Main Street Brandon, WI 53919
 920-346-2350 www.brandonlibrary.net
 Monday 2-7
 Tuesday 2-7
 Wednesday 2-7
 Friday 10-5
 Saturday 9-12

CAMPBELLSPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

220 North Helena Street
 Campbellsport, WI 53010
 920-533-8534
www.campbellsportlibrary.org
 Monday 12-8
 Tuesday 12-8
 Wednesday 10-6
 Thursday 12-8
 Friday 10-5

FOND DU LAC PUBLIC LIBRARY

32 Sheboygan Street Fond du Lac, WI 54935
 920-929-7080 www.fdlpl.org
 Monday 9-8
 Tuesday 9-8
 Wednesday 9-8
 Thursday 9-8
 Friday 9-6
 Saturday 9-5 (Summer 9-1)
 Sunday 1-5 (Summer-closed)

SPILLMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

719 Wisconsin Avenue North Fond du Lac, WI 54937
 920-394-3281 www.northfonddulaclibrary.org
 Monday 12-8
 Tuesday 10-5
 Wednesday 10-5
 Thursday 12-8
 Friday 10-5
 Saturday 10-1 (Summer-closed)

OAKFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

130 North Main Street Oakfield, WI 53065
 920-583-4552 www.oakfieldlibrary.com
 Monday 1-8
 Tuesday 9-2
 Wednesday 1-8
 Thursday 1-8
 Friday 1-5

RIPON PUBLIC LIBRARY

120 Jefferson Street Ripon, WI 54971
 920-748-6160 www.riponlibrary.org
 Monday 10-8
 Tuesday 10-8
 Wednesday 10-8
 Thursday 10-8
 Friday 10-8 (Summer 10-6)
 Saturday 10-4 (Summer 10-1)
 Sunday 1-4 (Summer -closed)

Shhhout! is published bi-monthly by the Winnefox Library System to provide news for and about its member libraries in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties. Direct comments and inquiries to:

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