

## The Voice of the Green Lake County Libraries

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### 6 WAYS READING MAKES YOU BETTER AT LIFE

No matter what you read, the act of reading every day can help you in nearly every aspect of your life. It engages your mind in ways that no other activity does. Here are a few ways that reading can improve your quality of life.

#### 1. Enhanced Smarts

This may be obvious, but reading helps in almost every area of smarts. People who read have higher GPA's, higher intelligence, and more general knowledge than those that don't. In Anne E. Cunningham's paper *What reading does for the mind* (found at <http://tinyurl.com/r7udqs>) she reports that in general, reading makes you smarter and keeps you sharp as you age.

#### 2. Reduced Stress

When you read your mind shifts gears. If you've had a stressful day, a book can distract you from your worries and give your mind a rest.

#### 3. Improved Analytical Thinking

Cunningham's studies have found that reading boosts analytical thinking. Readers improve their general knowledge and more importantly are able to spot patterns quicker. If you can spot patterns quicker, your analytical skills receive a boost.

#### 4. Increased Vocabulary

It's no secret that reading increases your vocabulary and improves your spelling, but did you know that reading increases your vocabulary more than talking or direct teaching? Reading forces us to look at words that we might not have seen or heard recently. In fact, language in children's books is likely to be more sophisticated than your average conversation.

#### 5. Improved Communication Skills

This isn't much of a stretch, considering that reading improves vocabulary and critical thinking. If you surround yourself with works from people who are better than you you'll write and speak better. That's why English classes in High School make you read "the classics". That's why art students learn to copy masterpieces, so they know what creating something incredible should feel like.



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## BERLIN

The Berlin Library has been a busy place during July. We had 12,461 patrons come through the door to make use of the many things available to the young and old. The children's programs were very successful and many adults took part in the adult reading program. The adult program will continue until August 17<sup>th</sup>. We have been encouraging patrons to go upstairs and take advantage of all the wonderful fiction on the mezzanine. Select some books to read from upstairs and enter our drawing for business dollars. Some books from upstairs that have been enjoyed are Stephen Cannell's *The Plan*, Susan Phillips *This Heart of Mine*, Terry Pratchett's *Making Money*, James Rollin's *Deep Fathom*, and Tess Gerritsen's *The Surgeon*.

Our next program, "Using perennials, trees and shrubs for fall/winter interest", will be held Sept 26 at 10am. Marie Murphy assistant horticulturist from Bloch's Farm in Green Lake will be our presenter. October 22 at 6:30 Erika Jarik will present Odd Wisconsin. Strange but true stories of Wisconsin's past with a slide program and talk. November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 Karen Schmidt of the Ladybug with helps you decorate for the holidays.

Berlin Public Library book discussions are held every month at 1 pm.

We have started a Teen movie night and Adult movies. Look for times and movie listings when you visit the library. The Craft and knitting group meets the third Wednesday at 1 pm. Newcomers are always welcome. Storytime for young children will begin October 7 at 10 a.m. and October 8 at 6:30 p.m.

August will start with new displays. We have the paintings of Rachel Pavlic on display and in our display cases will be art pieces of fused glass, stained glass, cement casing and gourd crafts created by Barbara Bellmer. September Jody Ziemann will be displaying items from Spain on the bulletin board and needlework & beads in the display case. October the Loyal and Sunrisers 4H clubs will be displaying some of their projects.

New programs are added frequently so look for posters at the library, or the Berlin Journal. You can call us at 920-361-5420 or visit the library at 121 West Park Avenue, or our website at [www.berlinlibrary.org](http://www.berlinlibrary.org).



## MARKESAN

Markesan Public Library will be celebrating 10 years in the new addition during the month of September with some extra events. There will be two Teacher's Discovery Traveling Exhibits. M.C. Escher will be the week of September 6<sup>th</sup> and the Rainforest will be the topic for the week of September 20. Each week will have special programs and refreshments. Art note cards and canvas library bags are still available. New for September will be "Spy Bags." Each bag is filled with 50 small items to search.

## GREEN LAKE

The Friends of the Caestecker Library August book sale was a resounding success, with over \$2900 in sales. Thank you to everyone who stopped in, wished us well, and make these used book sales so worthwhile for the Friends.

So what will the Friends do with the money raised? Well, every year they pay for the library's magazine and newspaper subscriptions. The Friends also pay for the prizes we give out during the summer reading program and for most of the cost of the entertainment/programs we provide throughout the year. They are constantly looking for ways to support the library, and we are eternally grateful to them.

This fall, the Friends are taking on a huge project that will help keep the library in good shape for decades to come. As some of you already know, the library has had some problems with roof leaks over the years, and anyone who has visited during the winter months can vouch for the need to do something about the massive icicles that routinely form along the building's gutters. We will be doing some repairs to get us by this winter (and maybe longer), but the Library Board has decided the best long term solution for the building is to put on a durable, energy-saving metal roof. The Friends have stepped forward to head a fundraising campaign to "Raise the Roof" for the library.

The campaign will officially kick off at the Golden Days Harvest Festival in September. (Look for a Friends food booth on Saturday, September 26.) Meanwhile, we will be busy setting up a special "roof fund" savings account and planning ways to publicize the campaign. We're even in the process of setting up a PayPal account for online donations! The first \$120 raised on Sunday, August 16, will need a whole lot of company before we're through. That said, we were delighted with the response from the folks who stopped in and grateful for the generosity shown the library by so many people.

## PRINCETON

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month! Now more than ever, a library card is a wonderful thing to have. It's your key to a world of books, movies, music, digital databases, magazines, and more. If you don't already have a card, we invite you to add this very valuable piece of plastic (no annual fees!) to your wallet!

Do you enjoy reading books and sharing conversation about them? The Princeton Library sponsors several book discussion groups. Mystery lovers are invited to meet on the first Wednesday each month at 9 a.m. to enjoy a continental breakfast and a whodunit. The Wednesday, September 2 title is David Ebershoff's *The 19th Wife*, a tapestry of two tales: a murder mystery set in a contemporary polygamous community in Utah; the other outlining the history of Brigham Young and the expulsion of one of his wives from the Mormon Church.

Mystery lovers enjoy a special bonus in the fall: a four-part mystery discussion series. Beginning in September and continuing on alternate Monday evenings through October, mystery readers are invited to share opinions and insights on books that share a theme. This year's theme is "Inspired (by Holmes), My Dear Reader," featuring novels that are spin-offs from classic or earlier detectives. Please call for more information and to register. Copies of selected reads are available for participants.

On the second Tuesday of each month, readers gather at 5:30 to talk books and share a potluck supper. The Tuesday, September 8 discussion will celebrate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. The library received a National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People Initiative" grant, providing the library with multiple copies of collections of essays about Lincoln from *The Lincoln Anthology: Great Writers on His Life and Legacy from 1860 to Now* (2009). Copies of all are available for

participants. Please stop by or call the library for October and November updates.

Finally, the library will host a discussion Thursday, October 15, 6:30 p.m. on William P. Young's *The Shack*, a bestseller released a year ago last summer. Barbara Highbargin will lead and facilitate a look at this "guy meets God novel," (as dubbed by a literary critic) about one man's journey from the sadness of great personal tragedy. Copies of this book will be available for participants and registration is suggested.

A favorite fall tradition at the Princeton Library is an evening of pumpkin carving. This year, preschoolers, school age children, and their families are invited to share an evening of fun creating their very own jack or jill-o-lantern Tuesday, October 27, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Pumpkins and carving supplies are provided and sign-up (to help us plan) is requested. Trick or treat!

If it's pumpkin carving time, it can only mean that Thanksgiving is (gasp!) just around the corner. Christmas in Princeton is an annual event scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend. The library will offer extended hours on Friday, November 27, as a warming house and comfort station until after the parade and tree lighting ceremony in the parking lot across the street from us. Friday will also be the kick-off for the Library Friends annual holiday auction.

Please stop by, give us a call, or visit our website for information about other library services and programs, including a weekly story time for preschoolers, computer how-to mini-sessions (how to download podcasts, set up a picasa website or an e-mail account, and more), a how-to on making and baking in clay ovens, holiday decorating with Scott Seltzner from Embellished, and more.



*The Fox River Patriots 4-H Club helped end the Princeton Library's summer reading program on a very delicious note with a create your own ice cream sundae event after the concert by Mr. Billy. More than forty children plus parents enjoyed music and dessert. The Fox River Patriots 4-H members also created an award-winning window for the library during June Dairy Days. Thank you 4-H'ers!*



*The Princeton Library received a grant from Wisconsin Public Television to present a program titled "Critical Condition," focusing on what happens when someone without health insurance needs health care. State Representative Joan Ballweg (on left) fielded questions and later offered these links "to a couple of the items that might be of interest: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/06/18/us/politics/061809-health-care-proposals.html> (for a comparison on current proposals and the Wisconsin ranking on Health care) <http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov/snaps08/index.jsp> <http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov/snaps08/dashboard.jsp?menuId=4&state=WI&level=0> <http://www.wicheckpoint.org/index.aspx> <http://www.wipricepoint.org/> Other presenters were Danelle Phillips, Outreach Coordinator for Ripon Medical Center (next to Ballweg) and Shannon Stiller, adult services librarian at Ripon Public Library. Also in photo: library patron Pat OHara.*

Knowing what other people are saying, and using the perfect words to convey your feelings is a critical part of being a better human. Better listeners are more successful in life.

## 6. Goal Achievement

Information is the key to success. No matter what you want to do or become, you can't do it without information. And you need to know more than just your core subject; if you want to open a business you need more than a thorough knowledge of what your business is about. You also need to know things like good business practice and basic bookkeeping. Reading is an excellent way to get where you want to go.

### No time? No money?

If you think that you don't have enough time to start reading, you're wrong. We make time for the things that are important to us. How much TV do you watch? How much time do you spend trawling the web? You could easily replace reading with those activities.

If you're worried about the cost of books, check 'em out at your local library. Our libraries have access to the interlibrary loan system, so you can check out nearly any book on the planet.

There's really no excuse not to start reading on a regular basis. The benefits far outweigh the costs, and more knowledge never hurt anybody.

*This article was adapted from a blog posting by Glen Stansberry at <http://lifedev.net/2009/06/reading-makes-you-better/>*

Shhhout! is published quarterly 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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## Green Lake County Libraries

### BERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

121 West Park Avenue Berlin, WI 54923  
920-361-5420  
[www.berlinlibrary.org](http://www.berlinlibrary.org)  
Monday 9-8  
Tuesday 9-8  
Wednesday 9-8  
Thursday 9-8  
Friday 9-6  
Saturday 9-5 (Summer 9-1)

### CAESTECKER PUBLIC LIBRARY

518 Hill Street Green Lake, WI 54941  
920-294-3572  
[www.greenlakelibrary.org](http://www.greenlakelibrary.org)  
Monday 9:30-6:00  
Tuesday 9:30-7:00  
Wednesday 9:30-6:00  
Thursday 9:30-7:00  
Friday 9:30-6:00  
Saturday 9:30-12:30  
Sunday 1:00-4:00

### MARKESAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

75 North Bridge Street Markesan, WI 53946  
920-398-3434  
[www.markesanlibrary.org](http://www.markesanlibrary.org)  
Monday 10-7  
Tuesday 10-6  
Wednesday 10-6  
Thursday 10-7  
Friday 10-6  
Saturday 9-12:00

### MILL POND PUBLIC LIBRARY

140 N. South Street Kingston, WI 53939  
920-394-3281  
[www.millpondlibrary.org](http://www.millpondlibrary.org)  
Monday 1-6  
Tuesday 1-6  
Wednesday 9-11 & 1-6  
Thursday 1-6  
Saturday 9-11

### PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

424 West Water Street Princeton, WI 54968  
920-295-6777  
[www.princetonpublib.org](http://www.princetonpublib.org)  
Monday 9-6  
Tuesday 10-8  
Wednesday 10-8  
Thursday 10-8  
Friday 9-5  
Saturday 9-1