



Check It Out

The monthly newsletter of the Des Plaines Valley Public Library District

Crest Hill Library 1298 Theodore Street Crest Hill, IL 60403 815-725-0234
Lockport Library 121 East 8th Street Lockport, IL 60441 815-838-0755
<http://www.dpvlib.org>

MARCH 2007

Happy Spring!

Library Hours

Mon-Thu: 9am—9pm
Fri & Sat: 9am—5pm
Sun: 1—5pm

Board Meeting

At Lockport:
Community Room
Tuesday, March 20
@ 7:00 p.m.

Book Discussion Groups

Lockport
2nd Tues. @ 10:30 a.m.
2nd Thurs. @ 6:30 p.m.

Crest Hill
3rd Tues. @ 11 a.m.
4th Tues. @ 7 p.m.
See p. 3 for details.

A Wee Bit of the Collection

With St. Patrick's Day taking center stage during the month of March, it's a good time to bask in the rich heritage of Irish stories and authors.

The following books can be found in the Des Plaines Valley Public Library's collection. All of the titles contain either an Irish setting or character. Why not check out one of these books this month or any month you're feeling a little Irish. And remember, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day!

Irish Linen, by Andrew Greeley. 2007. The latest Nuala Anne McGrail detective story, number 10 in the series. Chicago setting, a love story within a cozy mystery. Copies at Crest Hill and Lockport.

Oh Danny Boy, by Rhys Bowen. 2006. The most recent Molly Murphy PI story. Set in early 1900s New York. Copies at Crest Hill and Lockport.

Sandcastles, by Luann Rice. 2006. Set in Connecticut and the County Cork shore, this is a story of an Irish-American family that has suffered a terrible loss. Copies at Crest Hill and Lockport.

Non-Fiction

Teacher Man, by Frank McCourt. 2005. The memoir of the Pulitzer Prize winner's 30-year teaching career and how he wrote *Angela's Ashes* — the story of his early life in the slums of Limerick. Print and Audio at Crest Hill and Lockport. In Biography: B MCC.

The Little Big Book of Ireland. A beautiful book to page through. Includes the literature, poetry, myths, folk tales, history, facts, and recipes of the Emerald Isle. 2007. 941.5 Lit. Copies at Crest Hill and Lockport.

The Irish in America, edited by Michael Coffey. 1997. Contains more than two dozen essays by famous Irish-American authors including Mary Higgins Clark, Peggy Noonan, Pete Hamill, Denis Leary, Thomas Flanagan, Frank McCourt, and Terry George. Beautiful photographs and illustrations. At Crest Hill.

Tax Forms @ The Library

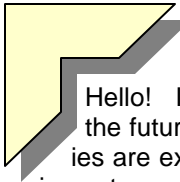
The Library provides a supply of the most requested forms from both the Internal Revenue Service (Federal) and the Illinois State Department of Revenue. Due to the large number of individual forms, it is not possible to keep every form on hand. If we don't have what you are looking for in stock, the reference librarians can help you find the forms you need on the IRS or Illinois Department of Revenue websites at a cost of 10 cents per printed page. Certain specially printed Federal forms can only be obtained by calling the IRS at: 1-800-TAX-FORM.

You can also access and print tax forms from your home computer or from a library public access computer from the following sites: <http://www.irs.gov> (IRS) and <http://www.revenue.state.il.us> (Illinois). Many of these e-forms may also be filled out right on your computer and then printed out.

Please note that the library does not provide any tax preparation software, nor can the staff advise patrons on tax related issues or questions.

We do, however, have manuals available for check-out:

- *The 2007 Turbo Tax Income Tax Handbook: The Complete Guide to Tax Breaks*. Call No. 343.7305Tur at Crest Hill and Lockport.
- *Lower Your Taxes — Bigtime*, by Sanford C. Botkin. Call No. 343.7305Bot at Lockport.



The Director's Corner

Hello! I would like to tell you all about an opportunity to help the future of libraries. On both a national and local level, libraries are experiencing a funding crisis. Nationwide, library funding cuts announced in the media have totaled \$188 million in the last 4 years alone. There are many reasons for this, but the trend is still disturbing. Locally, our library district and many of those around us are suffering from a State imposed tax cap. While we all agree with the sentiment behind the tax caps, in high growth areas such as ours, they cause library funding to erode while more and more people move into the area demanding service. Less money and more need. There is a bill being considered in our State government that would in a small way help to address this issue by putting a limit on how far a library district's tax rate can be reduced. If you are interested in helping libraries stop their loss of funding, write or call your State Representative and ask them to be a co-sponsor of House Bill 866.

This month's quote is short and sweet and comes from Derek Bok: **"If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."**
Scott Pointon

Coloring and Bookmark Contest

Des Plaines Valley Public Library-Crest Hill and Liberty Tax Service are co-sponsoring a Coloring Contest for children ages 3 to Kindergarten and a bookmark contest for children in grades 1 to 8. The top three entries in each category will receive an award certificate and gift cards from Barnes and Noble.

In addition, the winning bookmarks will be reproduced and distributed. The theme of the bookmark contest is "What does Liberty Mean to Me!"

Bookmark and coloring sheets will be available to download off the Library webpage at www.dpvlib.org and may be picked up and dropped off at the following Locations:

Des Plaines Valley Public Library District
Crest Hill Library
1298 Theodore St., Crest Hill,
Liberty Tax Service
224 S. Larkin Ave., Joliet;
2400 Caton Farm Rd, Crest Hill;
201 Ruby St., Joliet;
567 Collins St., Joliet.

Winter Reading Club Wrap-Up

The children's winter reading clubs were well-attended this year. At Lockport, 243 children participated with 167 of those completing the required reading. At Crest Hill, 151 children participated with 111 or 75% of them reaching their reading goals. Congratulations to all! And, many thanks to the Des Plaines Valley Friends of the Library for sponsoring the prizes.

A Way With Words

The other day I was forced to acknowledge I had made a mistake. I had to do what my Mother would have referred to as “time to eat some crow”.. I suppose we’ve all heard that expression at one time or another and generally know it means to humbly recognize one has made a pretty serious error. How bad can it be to eat a crow anyway....The best-known traditional expression of “to eat crow” comes from the United States. The meat of the crow, not the most discriminating of carnivorous eaters itself, is presumably rank and extremely distasteful. The experience of eating a crow would equate to the mental anguish of being forced to admit a mistake. Personally, I have never eaten a crow, but being a country girl, I’m fairly sure certain family members have feasted on the occasional tasty squirrel or odd possum. To really find out how bad a crow would taste, we would have to talk to someone like the eccentric Victorian surgeon Frank Buckland, founder of the London Acclimatisation Society—dedicated to introducing useful new plants and animals into countries where they were unknown. Dr. Buckland had the unique hobby of eating his way through the animal kingdom, trying out delicacies such as roast giraffe and elephant trunk soup. Dr. Buckland is on record as saying that “the very worst thing he ever ate was a mole”. No mention is made of his opinions on the palatability of crows. Maybe the expression should be “time to eat some mole” ?

B. Krakovec

Lockport Area Genealogical and Historical Society

On Saturday, March 24, the Lockport Area Genealogical and Historical Society will hold its monthly membership meeting at the Lockport Library, 121 E. 8th St, Lockport, IL. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. in the library’s Bengston Room. Our guest speaker will be Craig Pfannkuche and the presentation will describe “Grandma’s Privy”. The program is free and the public is invited. Anyone having questions can contact Gary Ward (815) 838-2327.

Up and Coming Book Discussions...

Our book discussion groups meet monthly at the Lockport and Crest Hill libraries. New members are always welcome. Books are available for pick-up one month before the discussion dates from the respective libraries. For more information, please call Head of Reference Shannon Pohrte @ 815-838-0755.

Lockport Mornings, 10:30am, 2nd Tuesdays

- March 13: *The White Rock*, by Hugh Thomson...The intriguing narrative of the author’s search for the “lost city of the Incas.”
- April 10: *The Cat Who Brought Down the House*, by Lilian Jackson Braun...No. 25 in the bestselling series featuring reporter Jim Qwilleran and his intuitive cats..

Ravenous Readers, 6:30pm, 2nd Thursdays @ Lockport

- March 8: *The Red Tent*, by Anita Diamant...The Biblical Dinah, daughter of Jacob, relates her story and the intimate stories of the women who raised her.
- April 12: *The Poet*, by Michael Connelly...Denver crime reporter Jack McEvoy investigates the suspicious death of his twin brother.

Crest Hill Evenings, 4th Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.

- March 27: *Running With Scissors*, by Augusten Burroughs...A memoir of Burroughs’ extraordinarily complex life between the ages of 13 and 16. Now a motion picture on DVD.

Crest Hill Daytime, 3rd Tuesdays @ 11 a.m.

- March 20: *The True Story of Hansel and Gretel*, by Louise Murphy. Set in 1943 Poland, two Jewish children are abandoned in the forest to keep them safe.
- April 17: *Standing in the Rainbow*, by Fannie Flagg...Set in small-town Elmwood Springs, Missouri, Flagg gives us richly written characters in a mini-saga taking place between 1946 and the present.

For Children @ The Crest Hill Library

Cat In The Hat Birthday Party: Saturday, March 3 @ 1 p.m. (Note the time as it has changed!) Join us as we celebrate the Cat's 50th birthday with celebrity readers Senator A. J. Wilhelmi and Mayor Nick Churnovic, stickers, bookmarks, a raffle, and birthday cake. Everyone invited.

Read to the *Touch of Healing Therapy Dogs*, On Sundays, March 11th, 18th and 25th from 2-4 p.m. Sign-up for a 15 minute time slot beginning March 1, 2007. Limit 36 children 1st-5th grade per Sunday.

Lil' Lovables Spring Fling with Noah's Ark Stuff N' Fluff. Join us on Saturday, March 24 at 1:00 p.m. to Stuff N' Fluff a Lil' pal of your choice, either a duck or lamb. Bring your camera and take a picture with the Easter Bunny. Cost of \$5.00 per child covers price of animal. This event is limited to 75 children. All fees are to be paid in cash and are non-refundable upon sign-up. Sign-up and payment begins March 1st.

- **Story-Time:** Story-Time is a literacy-based program featuring weekly themes with books, games, and crafts! Children ages 3 to 6 are welcome to participate. Choose from one of the following 45-minute sessions: Mondays at 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Meets through May 7/8. Fee: \$10/residents; \$15/nonresidents. Registration is still open!
- **Bookin' With Baby:** A free, weekly, lap-sit program designed for children ages 3 months to 2 years-old with a parent or guardian. Choose from one of two 30-minute sessions: Tues. @ 10:30 a.m. or Wed. at 10:30 a.m. Meets through May 8/9. Register now!

For more information contact **Patty Kulesza**, Crest Hill Library's Children's Librarian, 815-725-0234.

For Children @ The Lockport Library

Cat In The Hat Birthday Party: Saturday, March 3 @ 2 p.m. (Note the time as it has changed!) Everyone is invited to join us celebrate the Cat's 50th birthday with celebrity readers, stickers, bookmarks, a raffle, and a cake. Mayor Tim Murphy of Lockport and Illinois State Senator A.J. Wilhelmi will read.

- **After School Craft Days:** An after school craft program for children in grades one to five from 4 to 5 p.m. Coming up...March 21 — spring theme. Registration required. Free.
- **Terrific Twos: Mondays, through May 7** — This 30-minute program is for children ages 24 to 36 months and parents/caregivers. Available session: Monday: 11:00 am. Registration required. Free.
- **Toddler Time: through May 11;** — For children ages 3 months to 3 yrs with parents/caregivers. Available sessions: Thursday @ 6:00 pm; Fridays at 9:30 or 10:30am. Registration required. Free.
- **Story Time: Through May 9.** This class is for children ages 3- to 6-yrs. Available sessions: Tuesday from 10:00 to 10:45 am or 1:00 to 1:45 pm; Wednesday from 10:00 to 10:45 am or 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm. Registration required, Craft fee \$10.00 per child, Non residents \$15.00 (craft fee \$10.00 plus \$5.00 non resident fee). Limited to 20 per time.

For more information contact **Jane Gardner**, Lockport Library's Children's Librarian, 815-838-0755.

The Des Plaines Valley Public Library District is subject to the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals who require certain accommodations in order to observe and/or participate in the library's activities, or who have questions regarding the facilities are requested to contact Scott Pointon, Director, at 815-838-0755 or 815-725-0234, promptly to allow the Des Plaines Valley Public Library District to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.