

Festschrift

Sponsored by
Friends of the Library

a miscellaneous volume of writings from several hands for a celebration

February/March 2011

INSIDE

2
From the Director

3
Youth Programs

4
Teen Scene

The Underground Railroad in Tazewell County

Historian Dale Koontz will present a program on the Underground Railroad in Tazewell County on Thursday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the library's Community Room. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, or to register, please call the Adult Services Desk at 347-7111, ext. 2.

From Anansi to Brer Rabbit - Trickster Tales from Africa and the Americas

To celebrate Black History Month, the Pekin Public Library will present the program, "From Anansi to Brer Rabbit - Trickster Tales from Africa and the Americas," presented by Shanta Nurullah, on Thursday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the library's Community Room.

In traditional African societies, the storyteller was often the historian, as well as the culture-bearer. West Africa's most vivid, intriguing, and enduring character is the trickster, named 'Anansi.' In this program, the audience will follow the travels of Anansi from Africa to the West, where Anansi's antics and themes are found in Brer Rabbit tales, often told on southern plantations. These stories of small spiders and crafty rabbits served to entertain and empower those who were using all of their spiritual and mental resources to survive their oppressive conditions. The presenter, Shanta, invites audiences to

listen, laugh, and ponder the role of the trickster in folkloric traditions.

Shanta Nurullah has been performing as a musician, storyteller, and actor since 1972, presenting concerts and workshops in educational and cultural institutions across the country and abroad. She has released several recordings and won numerous awards, including the coveted Artist Fellowship from the Illinois Arts Council (2001). She has appeared at the National Storytelling Festival, the



National Festival of Black Storytelling, National Geographic, Columbia University, the Chicago Jazz Festival, and the Chicago Humanities Festival.

This program is free and open to the public and is made possible in part by an award from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly. For more information, please call the library at 347-7111.

Free Tax Help at the Library

The Pekin Public Library will host AARP volunteers to offer free help with income tax returns on Thursdays, Feb. 3 through April 14, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the library's Marigold Room.

Appointments are required and can be made at the library's Adult Services Desk. Appointments will be every 40 minutes. Participants should bring to their appointment last year's return

(2009) plus all tax documents such as: W-2, 1099, 1098, Social Security statements, picture ID, and property tax bill. Assistance can not be given to military, foreign income, business returns, or circuit breaker forms.

For more information or to make an appointment, please call the library at 347-7111 ext. 2.



From the Director. . . Jeff Brooks

Did you know that the Friends originally formed in reaction to the 1974 auctioning off of our two old clocks from the old Carnegie library? The Friends first project was to raise money to buy back the clocks so that they would stand forever in this new building.

The Friends of the Pekin Public Library sent out their membership renewal letters earlier this month, and I received mine, too. I've been a big fan of this library since I was a kid, riding back and forth across town, and parking my bike in places I later found out I shouldn't have.

Today I had a moment to review some minutes taken in the early 1980's through the 1990's of their executive board meetings, and it was like visiting with old friends. For sure, some of them I never had the honor of meeting, but their names are nevertheless legendary to me, such as Dorothy Heisel. Others, like Harlan Jenks and Howard Conway were my friends and I miss them. These folks and the many other library lovers who met around the table over the years delighted in discussing the upcoming entertainment for their next meeting, planning the next book sale, and deciding how to use the funds to most benefit the library.

For 35 years, the Friends of the Library, through its many thousands of dollars in donations of book sale revenue, has supported the Summer Reading program, hosted fabulous entertainers, and purchased equipment, furniture, and technology which the library otherwise would not have been able to afford. Just last year alone, the Friends contributed over \$7000 for equipment and furniture for Youth Services and the lobby renovation.

The way I see it, tax revenue gives us the means to operate the library and provide many of the excellent services that we offer, and if we called that the "cake", then the Friends group puts the "icing" on top that enhances everyone's library experience.

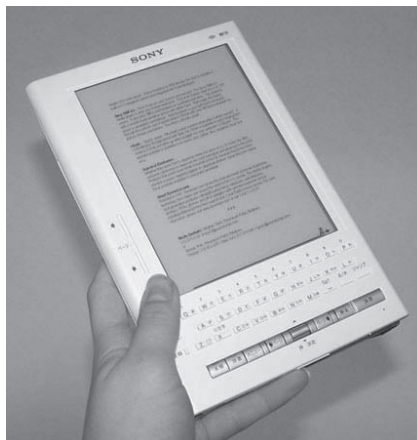
It's a great organization to be a part of and the members are wonderful to get to know. I encourage all members to renew their membership. To those who are not members yet, please ask at the checkout desk how you, your family, and even your business or organization can join in supporting Pekin Public Library services through a Friends membership.

Did You Get a New E-Reader?

Pekin Public Library has expanded their services with the addition of 15,000 downloadable audiobooks and eBooks with Project Gutenberg. Library card holders can check out, download, and enjoy digital audiobooks and eBooks anytime, anywhere, and at no cost by visiting www.pekinpubliclibrary.org.

"With the increase in usage of mobile devices and mp3 players, the library has made it a priority to provide materials in formats meeting the busy lifestyles of our customers. Customers can browse and download titles 24 hours per day, every day of the week, from any computer with an Internet connection. You can take digital titles in the car, on the bus, in a waiting room, anywhere," said Alissa Williams, Assistant Director.

By visiting www.pekinpubliclibrary.org, customers may browse the growing collection of best-selling and classic titles. To check out, users will need a



valid library card, personal computer, Internet connection, and the Overdrive Media Console, free software available on the site. Once downloaded, digital titles can be enjoyed on the computer or transferred to a supported device, like an iPod, Sony E-Reader or Nook. Many audio titles can also be burned to CD to enjoy in the car, at home, or on the go with portable CD players. The Project Gutenberg eBooks offer unlimited simultaneous downloads, but the downloads do not expire, and check outs from the collection do not count against the user's regular check out/lending options. To access Project Gutenberg, users must click on the icon 'Enjoy free eBooks today' on the bottom left hand side of the screen on the 'Alliance Digital Media Library' page (the link is available on the library's home page).

For more information, please call the library's Adult Services Desk at 347-7111 ext. 2.

Beat the Winter Blues with these Youth Programs!

Beat the winter blues and come to the library to take advantage of the many programs for kids of all ages. The library offers Preschool Storytime every Monday at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., with a different theme each week. Toddler Time, for children ages 18 months - 3 years (and their caregiver), is held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. And don't forget our new Kidz Klub, for kids ages 6-8, held every Monday at 6:30 p.m. In addition, check out our special programs coming up:

Yoga for Kids

Thursday, February 3 at 3:30 p.m.

A special introduction to yoga for kids, yoga is a noncompetitive practice in life experience that can promote and empower healthy growing! Kids will learn how to improve their focus, release stress, and learn to stretch the mind and body with ease!

Sweet Stuff for Tweens

Friday, February 11 at 4:00 p.m.

For boys and girls ages 9-12. Make a variety of Valentine's Day crafts and enjoy some sweet treats! This program is free, but please register in the Youth Services Department.

Family Activity Hour: My 1st Little House on the Prairie

Saturday, February 12 at 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy fun stories, activities, and snacks for the whole family! Let's celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder's birthday! Listen to the book, 'My First Little House Book, Winter in the Big Woods.' We will make butter and cornbread and a craft just like Laura did. This program is free, but please register in the Youth Services Department.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss

Tuesday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Help us celebrate all things Dr. Seuss with stories, crafts, activities, snacks and a special performance by the PCHS Key

Club! The first 50 children who register will receive a treat bag! The Cat in the Hat will be there, too, so bring your cameras! This program is free, but please register in the Youth Services Department.

After School Art

Every Thursday in March, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Celebrate Youth Art Month each Thursday after school in March! Students ages 6-12 are invited to create a different masterpiece each week. Younger students will receive guided instruction, while older students will be encouraged to work independently on a designated project. You may choose to come just once or all four weeks! Parents are welcome, but not required, to accompany children. This program is free, but please register in the Youth Services Department.

Family Activity Hour: Outer Space

Saturday, March 26 at 3:00 p.m.

Enjoy fun stories, activities, and snacks for the whole family! Listen to the book 'Jimmy Zangwow's Out-Of- This-World Moon Pie Adventure' by Tony DiTerlizzi and other space stories. We will paint a shooting star using a ping pong ball! This program is free, but please register at the Youth Services Department.

Who's Who at the Zoo

Wednesday, March 30 at 2:00 p.m.

The Peoria Zoo will bring their zoomobile to the library for this special Spring Break program on who's who at the zoo! This program is free, but please register in the Youth Services Department.

Spring Break Family Movies

Thursday, March 31 and Friday, April 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for complimentary popcorn and drinks while watching a movie on the library's big screen! Registration not required.

Storytime Anytime with our Online Stories!

As part of 'Pekin Programs on Demand,' the Pekin Public Library is posting storytimes on its website and through a new YouTube channel. Parents and children can view the storytimes online, but the stories can also be downloaded to an iPod, for children to watch on the go!



The storytimes can be viewed at www.pekinpubliclibrary.org or at www.youtube.com/user/PekinLibrary. Especially during times of inclement weather, children can still enjoy Storytime with the library's Story Lady, Miss Nona.

This service is free. For more information, please call the library at 347-7111.

Sensational Salads with The Secret Chef

The Pekin Public Library will present 'Sensational Salads,' presented by Chef Bill More, on Saturday, March 5 at 2:00 p.m. in the library's Community Room.

Mr. More, owner of "Your Secret Chef," returns to the library to kick off the spring season with a special program on salads and recipes. He will demonstrate some recipes and have samples for tasting. Bill has been his family's home entertainment chef for 35 years. His passion for creative and innovative cooking has been finely tuned and honed over nearly 45 years of learning. Bill has taken dozens of cooking classes all across the United States and during his travels overseas as well.

Please register for this free program at the library's Adult Services Desk, or call 347-7111 ext. 2.



Pekin Public Library

Festschrift

a miscellaneous volume of writings from several hands for a celebration
301 South Fourth Street, Pekin, Illinois 61554
www.pekin.net/library

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 78
Pekin, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Teen Scene!

Anti-Valentine's Day Party

Tuesday, February 8, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room
Open to teens in grades 7-12. Let's (not) celebrate Valentine's Day! Wear your black t-shirts and nail polish. We will be decorating Anti-Conversation Heart cookies and have a break up poem contest.

February Teen Book Club

Tuesday, February 15, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room
Please register and pick up books at the Reference Desk.

Minute to Win It

Saturday, February 19, 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room
Open to teens in grades 7-12. Teens will be competing in Minute to Win It challenges.

Duct Tape Book Covers

Tuesday, March 8, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room
Open to teens in grades 7-12. Bring in a book and we'll make a duct tape book cover for it.

March Teen Book Club

Tuesday, March 15, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room
Please register and pick up books at the Reference Desk.

