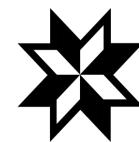


Off the Shelf



March 2012

**Galesburg
Public Library**
40 E. Simmons St.
Galesburg, IL 61401
(309) 343-6118
www.galesburglibrary.org

Hours of Operation
Monday - Thursday:
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday:
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: Closed



Galesburg Public Library Mission Statement

To serve the community as a general center of information, and to provide opportunity and encouragement for people to use its services and materials to meet their educational, personal, professional, recreational and cultural needs.



One Read: Carl Sandburg

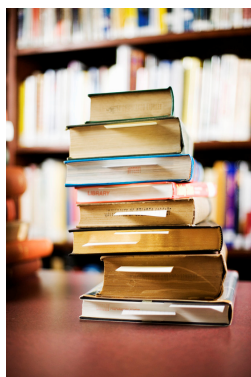


One Read is a community-wide read designed to give Galesburg and surrounding communities the opportunity to come together to read, discuss, and celebrate a good book. Thanks to a generous donation from the Galesburg Community Foundation, Galesburg Public Library will host a series of discussions and events related to Carl Sandburg and our selected One Read title, *Always the Young Strangers*, from March 29 through April 28, 2012. *Always the Young Strangers* is the story of Sandburg's early life in Galesburg. Often referred to as the best of Americana, *Always the Young Strangers* gives readers a glimpse into small-town Midwestern life in the late 1800s.

One Read kicks off on Thursday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m. with the Galesburg Trivia Night. Contestants will have the opportunity to test their knowledge on a variety of subjects, including Galesburg trivia. The trivia contest should last about an hour with prizes awarded to the top three teams. Register your team today! Call the Reference Desk at 343-6118 or email karly.steele@galesburglibrary.org.

Participants in One Read can check out a copy of the book from Galesburg Public Library in March and are invited to participate in various community events related to Carl Sandburg. Check out the list of events at www.galesburglibrary.org/oneread2012.html.

Friends of the Library



Who is a library advocate? A library advocate believes in the value of the library, supports equitable access to information in a democratic society, works with others to get the message out on the importance of libraries and loves the library for the many services it provides. Friends of the Galesburg Public Library value the mission of our library to serve everyone who lives, visits or works in our community. Be a Friend... support, advocate, volunteer and encourage library use. Visit www.galesburglibrary.org or pick up a brochure at the library to learn how you can be a Friend of the Galesburg Public Library. Membership donations are gratefully accepted at any time.

The spring book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Library is May 12 & 14. Donations of books, DVDs, videos, sheet music and records are being accepted for the sale. Your donation helps to financially support library services and programs. Think of the library book sale when you tackle your spring cleaning!

Human Search Engine by Faith Burdick

Who did Longfellow lose that prompted him to write “A Village Blacksmith?”

The poem inspired by the loss of someone dear to him was not “Blacksmith” but a poem written near the end of his life. Longfellow’s beloved second wife, with whom he had been extremely happy, died of burns sustained when her light summer dress accidentally caught fire in July of 1861. The tragedy was made even more difficult to bear by the fact that Longfellow was the person who attempted to put the fire out. He desperately wrapped her in a rug and doused her with the small amount of water in a dining-room pitcher.

How the fire started is a little unclear. There are two different versions of the story, but both had to do with the fire igniting from matches used to melt wax. Frances had cut her daughter’s hair and was planning to wrap the curls carefully in paper and seal the paper with wax for safekeeping as a memento, a practice that was common at the time. Longfellow was himself badly burned in his attempt to save her; he was heavily sedated on the day of her funeral and was unable to attend. Sadly, she was actually buried on their 18th anniversary.

Longfellow never totally recovered from her death. Eighteen years later, he wrote “The Cross of Snow” in her memory. Many critics consider this brief poem his finest. An excellent biography of Longfellow is *Longfellow: A Rediscovered Life* by Charles C. Calhoun, found in the library’s biography section.

Teen News by Melinda Jones-Rhoades

Thursday, March 1, 7:00-7:45 p.m. Teen Advisory Board. Calling all teens! Join the Galesburg Public Library Teen Advisory Board. We’ll meet upstairs at the library. Come and make your mark on the library by helping us plan upcoming programs for teens. New members always welcome!

Thursday, March 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Hunger Games Party. You’ve read the books, and the movie comes out at the end of March! Before you hit the theater, come discover your inner Katniss at our teen Hunger Games party. On March 22 from 6:00-7:30 PM, tributes (that’s you!) will take part in training exercises, compete in games, and enjoy snacks fit for the Capitol. Limited to 25 teens aged 12 and up. Registration is required; teens wishing to attend can register starting March 1st by calling 343-6118 or stopping by the Reference Desk. May the odds be ever in your favor!

Tuesday, March 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Chapter Chompers Teen Book Club. Young adults aged 12 and up are invited to join us for Chapter Chompers, a book club designed just for you! We’ll talk about books you love to read, do book-related activities, and pig out on snacks. On March 27, we’ll be discussing *13 Reasons Why* by Jay Asher. Copies of the book will be available at the Check-Out Desk about a month in advance. No need to register in advance; just show up to chat and chomp!

Wednesday, March 28, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Animanga Mania. Teens, join us for Animanga Mania Afternoons! We’ll be watching an anime series and hosting an open-draw session upstairs in the Sanderson Room. You can even Cosplay if you want! No registration required.

Children’s Room



Tuesday, March 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Lego Mania. Come to the Hiler Room and build, build, build! All ages welcome.

Tuesday, March 13, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Cook-A-Book. We will be reading *Little Mouse’s Big Secret*, *Pete’s a Pizza*, *Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake*, *The Butter Man*, *Lucky Pennies* and *Hot Chocolate*, and preparing food corresponding to each book. Registration fee of \$1 is due in the Children’s Room by March 6.

Tuesday, March 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Book Bites. Children aged 8-11 will have an opportunity to share a book they have read based on a monthly theme. In March the theme is “green.” Visit the Children’s Room if you need reading suggestions!

Local History by Patty Mosher, Library Archives



Women's History Month--McKnight Industrial Home

In the early 1900s and before, when children were orphaned by death or desertion, they were often at the mercy of their nearest kin. Sometimes they were received into good and kind homes, but oftentimes the extended family used them as servants or abused them. So with this in mind, Mrs. Mary Davis McKnight, who helped to raise several younger siblings after the death of a parent, left an endowment of \$150,000 in her will (about \$33 million in today's money) for a home to be built for orphaned, mistreated and helpless girls.

The McKnight Industrial Home was located near where Steele School now stands at 1510 W. Main Street. The home was not an institution but was a large house "built back from the street amidst a garden, a large lawn and trees." The girls' rooms were described as "cheerful with pretty furnishings and wardrobes full of nice things girls like to wear." The Home had a board of trustees, one being Mrs. McKnight's cousin, Ellen Davis, who wanted people to know that the girls were raised by a "mother," Mrs. Anna Hopkins. It was said that she was loved by the girls in her care, and that she was devoted to each of them. All of the girls received more than just food, shelter and clothing. For instance, if a girl showed an aptitude for music, Mrs. Hopkins made sure she could take lessons on the instrument of her choice. Or if one of her charges was ill, she saw to her needs and made sure the girl received medical attention if needed.

There were no particular age restrictions at the home, with some girls being as young as three years old. Some in high school. By 1950 it had housed and seen 61 girls graduate from high school, one at the top of her class, and some received college degrees. A typical letter from a McKnight graduate who went on to Knox College and later became a registered nurse stated in part "...my life is and will continue to be richer, fuller and more interesting because of your making it possible for me to obtain an education at a higher level than I had ever dreamed.... So I join, with all the other girls in thanking you for years of assistance." In one newspaper article there was a photo of eight girls who lived at the home, all looking happy and healthy, each in pretty clothing and hair neatly arranged, who were "delighted" to tell others about the McKnight home and that each was proud to be a member of the McKnight family.

By 1956 the trustees asked the courts to allow the home to close. At that time there were only five girls living in the home, and two were leaving soon. The trustees wanted to use the fund as a scholarship program for orphans attending Knox College. Descendants of Mrs. McKnight disagreed. Two years and two court cases later a decision was rendered. Social factors, such as better medical care (leading to lower death rates among parents), the development of Social Security payments for dependent children and foster homes were greatly decreasing the need for orphanages. The judge ordered the trustees to dispose of the home and 20 surrounding acres, giving them broad discretion in using the funds, with three restrictions: that the beneficiaries were orphans, in financial need and lived in Galesburg or Knox County. The home apparently no longer stands, since the address is not listed in the 2011 Galesburg City Directory.

What Is Your Big Idea?

The Entrepreneurship Center of West Central Illinois will be holding a workshop for anyone considering starting a business. "Getting It on Paper: Writing a Business Plan" will be held at the Galesburg Public Library on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. For information about workshop opportunities or to RSVP, call the Entrepreneurship Center of West Central Illinois at 371-0473.

Odds & Ends

Radio Personalities. Listen to library staff members talk about upcoming library programs and events on **WGIL-1400 AM on Tuesday, March 6 at 8:30 a.m.** and on **WAIK-1590 AM on Monday, March 26 at 8:45 a.m.**

Music Morning. On **Saturday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m.**, Eva Leon, KGS soloist, will present "Dancing with the Violin" upstairs at the library. Free!

Fiction and Non-Fiction Displays. Looking for your next good read? Then don't miss the "Shy Selections" fiction display in March. The non-fiction display will feature books on starting your own business.



Galesburg Public Library
40 E. Simmons St.
Galesburg, IL 61401

Non-profit
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Galesburg, IL 61401

Return Service Requested

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Book Clubs

On the afternoon of August 20, 1910, a battering ram of wind moved through the drought-stricken national forests of Washington, Idaho, and Montana, whipping the hundreds of small blazes burning across the forest floor into a roaring inferno that destroyed towns and timber in the blink of an eye. No living person had seen anything like those flames, and forest rangers did not know how to subdue them. In *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire That Saved America*, Timothy Egan recreates the struggles of the overmatched rangers against the implacable fire while also telling the story of outsized president Teddy Roosevelt and chief forester Gifford Pinchot. Pioneering the notion of conservation, Roosevelt and Pinchot created the idea of public land as our national treasure, owned by every citizen. The Thursday Book Club will discuss *The Big Burn* on Thursday, March 8, at 6:30 pm at the Beanhive Coffeehouse. The Tuesday Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 1:00 pm.

The Tuesday discussion will be followed by the hour-long documentary *Ordeal by Fire* (©Gale Force Films), which brings the time of the 1910 wildfires to life. You are welcome to watch the program even if you do not participate in the discussion; if you arrive early, please take a seat and wait for the discussion to conclude.

The Tome Raiders book group will meet on Friday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m. at Alternate Realities (238 E. Main) to discuss *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. This is a new books club that will focus on science fiction and fantasy. Teens and adults are welcome.

The library book clubs are open to all. Newcomers are welcome! Copies of the books are available at the Check-Out Desk about one month in advance.

Book Club Kits: Attention book clubs! The library has three new Book Club Kits available for checkout: *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer, *The Vow* by Kim and Krickett Carpenter, and *Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*. Book Club Kits check out for a period of six weeks.

Movie Club: The Movie Club will meet the evening of Tuesday, March 20, for a pay-your-own-way viewing of a new movie at the AMC Showplace or a viewing of a new DVD at the library. The exact title and time will be announced the week before. We'll head to Perkins Restaurant afterwards for discussion.

Never been to Movie Club? Whether you only see one or two movies a year or you go to the movies every week, you are welcome to join us. Send an email to reference@galesburglibrary.org to be added to the Movie Club's email distribution list.

Big Write deadline: Thursday, March 1 is the deadline to enter the library's annual creative writing contest. Short stories and poems/song lyrics are being accepted from adults and those in high school, middle school, and 3rd through 5th grade. Prizes will be awarded to up to three winners in each age group and category.

Materials may be emailed to bigwrite@galesburglibrary.org, dropped off in person at the library, or mailed to Writing Contest, Galesburg Public Library, 40 E Simmons St., Galesburg, IL 61401. Electronic submissions are preferred. Contest winners only will be notified in April, and a list of winners will be available at the library. Complete submission guidelines can be found at galesburglibrary.org/BigWrite2012.html or the Galesburg Public Library's Reference Desk.