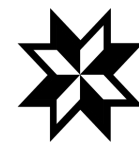


Off the Shelf



March 2010

**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.

The Big Read Opportunity

The Big Read is a nation-wide initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts to inspire people to read a good book and participate in programs related to the book with other readers in their communities. The 2010 Big Read for our area will kick off at noon on **Saturday, March 6** at the Sandburg Mall in conjunction with the annual Galesburg Home Show. Guitarist Barry Cloyd will be performing. The book for this year's Big Read is *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. The book is written from the point of view of the narrator, Jim Burden, telling of his boyhood memories in late 19th century Nebraska and of his friend, Antonia Shimerda, an immigrant from Bohemia. It is a beautifully written story in which the land is as much a character as the people. The story sensitively portrays times of innocent enjoyment, hardships and tragedy. Having grown up in Nebraska herself, Willa Cather shared, through this story, some of what she observed and experienced. The story is so compellingly real that when the editor of the book first read the manuscript, he said he received "the most thrilling shock of recognition of the real thing." Many of the themes of the story resonate even today. Included in this month's newsletter is a calendar of Big Read events.



Go Green Workshops

On **Thursday, March 18** there will be two special workshops at the Galesburg Public Library. **The first workshop will be at 2 p.m.** It will be presented by Kari Houle from the University of Illinois Knox County Extension Office. She will be talking about the Local Foods Movement. It is beyond farmers' markets. It includes growing food in your backyard, helping out in a community garden or looking for new business opportunities. The speaker will talk about all these various aspects, provide information resources about local food and answer questions about the Local Foods Movement. The program is free, and there is no need for advance reservations.

The second program on March 18 will be at 6 p.m. Speaker Amy Brucker will be presenting a program on "Gardening from Scratch." The program is designed to help people find greater success in their vegetable gardening efforts. Come learn how to design a food-producing garden that's tailored to meet your schedule, your yard's sunlight resource, your soil's capabilities and your palate. At the workshop you will have the opportunity to plan a summer garden and start seeds to take home. Amy Brucker is a Knox County sustainable grower and a graduate of the Central Illinois Farm Beginnings program. Come learn how to be a "new pioneer" by growing your own foods and learning to live more sustainably. **Cost for the workshop is \$1. Please sign up and pay at the Circulation Desk. Deadline for reservations is March 16.**

Human Search Engine by Faith Burdick

I know that the cross existed as a symbol before Christianity. Can you tell me anything about that?

Yes, the cross is a very old symbol that has occurred in many ancient cultures. In most, it usually stands for the universe as a whole reduced to some element in its simplest form. For example, it can stand for the four directions (north, south, east, west, that is, everywhere). In the pre-Columbian Americas, it stood for the four rain-bearing winds, a kind of variation on this idea. Probably because of the rain connection, it was also a symbol of fertility. Early Christian missionaries arriving in Central America and Mexico were puzzled by the fact that locals already used a symbol of the cross.

One can see some similarities in the meanings used by other cultures. In Babylonia, it stood for the four phases of the moon; in Syria, the four great gods of the elements (air, water, fire, earth).

There were Hindu and Buddhist connections as well. The vertical bar represented an ascending, or higher, state of being, the horizontal bar, the lower. Thus it represented duality, showing the two extremes of something while embracing all the variations between.

Another of its references was to the Tree of Life, also a common, and related, symbol in many cultures. This idea became an essential part of the Christian meaning of the cross.

Crosses also occurred in Africa, Ireland and Scandinavia, as well as in Jewish, Roman and Persian iconography. These latter two cultures used it practically, as well, as a form of execution. This is what led to Christians adopting it as the major symbol of their faith. However, early in the history of Christianity, it was not used as commonly as some other symbols, due to its negative connotations.

Finally, it is interesting to note that there are many sub-types of crosses within the Christian faith, each having its own connection to something specific.

Teen News by Kari Smith, Young Adult Librarian

Tuesday, March 2, 7 -7:30 p.m. - Teen Advisory Board

Calling all teens! Join the GPL Teen Advisory Board. We'll meet at Kaldi's, 124 E. Simmons St., from 7-7:30 p.m. on March 2 to plan programs and more. Hope to see you there!

Thursday, March 25, 6:30 -7:30 p.m. - Big Read Book Discussion for Teens

Join in a 'Big Read' book discussion of Willa Cather's *My Antonia*. Pick up your free copy of the book at GPL starting March 6, then attend the book discussion just for teens at Kaldi's Coffeehouse on Thursday, March 25 from 6:30-7:30. Win a prize with your knowledge of *My Antonia* trivia. No sign up, just show up.

Wednesday, March 31, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Animanga Mania

Teens, join us for Animanga Mania afternoons at Galesburg Public Library. On March 31 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. we'll be watching an anime series and drawing manga-style. No registration is required. Just show up to watch and draw.

Children's Room



Dine with the Cat in the Hat on Tuesday, March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday. Get your \$1 tickets in the Children's Room for either the 5 p.m. or the 6:30 p.m. session. Tickets are limited to 100 for each session.



Fun and Kooky Chemistry in the Kitchen with Carol on March 26 from 10 - 11 a.m. Come and learn interesting recipes for you and your child to create in your kitchen. \$1 registration fee is due by March 19 in the Children's Room.

Local History by Patty Mosher, Library Archives



At one time Galesburg could boast of several cigar makers in town, but, according to the Oct. 7, 1899 edition of the *Republican Register* newspaper, the best and most well known cigar was The Burg.

The manufacture of this famous cigar was begun by E. D. and L. L. Clark who came north from the state of Virginia to work in a large cigar factory in Monmouth. Both men believed that they could make a successful business from their own experience and moved to Galesburg. They set up shop at 277 Allens Avenue, calling their new business Clark & Co. L.L. rolled the cigars and E.D. ran the shop, selling a "delicious 5 cent cigar." As the popularity of The Burg rose, they hired a third man to help hand roll the cigars. Soon their small shop and factory was too cramped. They moved to 977 E. Main St. and hired six more men to manufacture the cigars. The factory was on the second floor and the storefront shop below. Always hand-rolled, never touched by machinery, they were made from the finest Havana and Sumatran tobacco with a quantity of domestic leaf. The Clarks combined the tobacco in proportions known only by them, which "affords the smoker the acme of enjoyment." Clark & Co. also made a few special brands including the higher grade 10-cent "Royal Burner," which they promised was as "near to cigar perfection as possible."

Clark & Co., working at capacity, could put out 1,500 cigars per day. Due to popular demand, most stores in Galesburg and the surrounding towns offered The Burg in their cases. Outside of Galesburg, the wholesaling of the product was handled exclusively by W. A. Jordan. Hundreds were sent to Chicago, and even customers in foreign countries enjoyed the famous Galesburg cigar. The company aimed to keep a large reserve stock on hand at all times. The sales of their premium product was so large that by the time of the printing of the cited newspaper article they were down to a reserve supply of just 10,000. Manufacturing an honest, high grade product and pleasing the public were their constant aims.

It is not known when the Burg ceased production, but samples of the cigar bands and cigar box papers are stored in the library's archives.

Changes and Additions at the Library

As a result of a recent survey of library patrons, the library will no longer be offering rental books. Funds formerly used for these books will be used to purchase additional copies of new best sellers to be available for circulation without charge.

Another change worth noting is the introduction of subject signs on the ends of the shelving units in the adult non-fiction section of the library. In addition to the Dewey Decimal numbers for each shelf, there is now a general listing of what may be found down each aisle. We hope that this will be helpful.

Odds & Ends

Big Write

Don't forget! The submission deadline for the library's annual creative writing contest is Monday, March 1. 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. For more details, pick up a flyer at the Reference Desk.

Radio Personalities

Listen to library staff members talk about upcoming library programs and events on **WGIL-1400 AM on Tuesday, March 2 at 9:15 a.m.** and on **WAIK-1590 AM on Monday, March 22 at 8:45 a.m.**

Music Morning

On **Saturday morning, March 27, at 10 a.m.**, Knox-Galesburg Symphony soloist Huei Chiang will present a program about the violin. All are welcome to come enjoy this program.

Did You Know ?

According to the January/February 2010 issue of the magazine *American Libraries*, "Libraries consistently return to their communities between \$4 and \$8 for every tax dollar received...."



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40 E. Simmons St.
Galesburg, IL 61401

Non-profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 25
Galesburg, IL 61401

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Book Clubs

On **Tuesday, March 9, at 1:00 p.m.**, the **Tuesday Book Club** will discuss *The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Our Town* by Mary Pipher. *The Middle of Everywhere* is a companion book to this year's Big Read title, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, which will be discussed at the April meetings of the book clubs. The **Thursday Book Club** will discuss *The Middle of Everywhere* on **Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Kaldi's Coffeehouse**.

The library book clubs are open to all. New members welcome! Copies of the books are available at the Check-Out Desk about one month before discussion.

The book discussion on March 9 will be followed at 2:00 p.m. by *Dying to Get In: A film by Brett Tolley* (©Mooncusser Films). This 40-minute documentary explores the first-hand experiences of immigrants trying to make their way into America from Mexico and struggle toward the American dream. You are welcome to come watch the movie even if you do not attend the book discussion. If you arrive early, please take a seat and wait for the discussion to conclude.

Movie Club

The Movie of the Book Club will meet the evening of **Tuesday, March 16**, for a pay-your-own-way evening viewing of a new movie (with literary ties, if one is playing) at Showplace 8. Most likely we'll see the new *Alice in Wonderland*, but the exact title and time will be announced the week before. Whatever movie we see, we'll have a fun time discussing it at Perkins Restaurant afterwards. **Newcomers are always welcome.** Send an email to reference@galesburglibrary.org to be added to the Movie Club's email distribution list.

Census Assistance

The U.S. Census Bureau is offering a Questionnaire Assistance Center at the library March 1 through April 19. The Census representative will help those persons who request assistance in completing their 2010 Census questionnaire. We do not know the representative's schedule at this time. Call the library at 343-6118 between March 1 and April 19 to ask about more details.

Correction note from the editor:

Last month's newsletter had some mistakes in the article regarding tax preparation assistance. The income level should have read "less than \$50,000" and the dates for assistance at Galesburg Public Library should have read "February 6 and 20; March 20; and April 10." The editor sincerely apologizes for the errors and any inconvenience they may have caused.