



Off the Shelf



Volume X Issue 11

November 2009

**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: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.



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.

Library Closings

**Early Closing
Wednesday,
November 25 at 5 p.m.**

**Closed All Day
Thanksgiving Day
November 26**

Libraries Core of Communities

The following are excerpts taken from the article “Libraries at the Heart of Our Communities” by Wayne Senville, editor, found in the *Planning Commissioner’s Journal*, number 75, Summer 2009.

Is there a place in your community:

- where residents of all ages and incomes visit and enjoy spending their time?
- where people go to hear interesting speakers discuss new ideas, books, travel, and a broad range of topics?
- where comprehensive databases are available free of charge?
- where you can get help when applying for a job?
- where you can stop by and take home a book, CD or DVD at no cost?

That’s also a place:

- that’s “owned” by everyone in the community?
- and can be counted on, day after day, to draw people downtown or to Main Street?

There’s one answer to all these questions: the public library.

Libraries are far from dead in today’s Internet age—in fact, they’re making a comeback as key anchors in our downtowns. The library is often the hub of the community, providing a place for residents to meet, as well as to learn.

Libraries, like city halls and post offices, are key to strong communities. Public buildings and spaces create identity and a sense of place. They give communities something to remember and admire.

“Libraries are gaining recognition for other qualities—their ability to attract tremendous foot traffic*, provide long-term tenancy, and complement neighboring retail and cultural destinations.” That’s from a recent report, *Making Cities Stronger; Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development*, prepared by the Urban Library Council.

The 21st century library has arrived. Its mission goes far beyond loaning out books and providing reference materials. This is happening because libraries are providing programs, meeting space, computer access, and resources that are responding to a broader array of community needs.

Libraries and community. They’re really inseparable.

*Galesburg Public Library has had over 207,000 people come through the library this year.

Human Search Engine by Faith Burdick

Why do people fear Friday the 13th? We have one coming up.

Yes, we do. Friday the 13th has been considered an unlucky day for hundreds of years. The modern superstition seems to date back to the crucifixion of Christ, which, by tradition, was on a Friday, and the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples was attended by thirteen people, one of whom was the betrayer Judas. But both unlucky associations go back even further, all the way to ancient Norse mythology. When the beloved god of light, Balder, is killed by Loki, trickster and source of evil, one version of the story claims that Loki is the uninvited 13th guest at a banquet where the gods are amusing themselves by proving how impossible Balder is to kill. Loki comes in disguise and tricks the truth about Balder's one vulnerability out of the goddess Freya. Friday, of course, is the day of the week named after Freya.

People have gone to some effort to disprove 13's bad effects. Here is part of a story printed in an early 20th century London newspaper:

Superstition was flouted...by all manner of taunts leveled against the fearsome number 13 at a banquet given in New York last night by members of the Thirteen Club. Diners sat at tables thirteen to each. Before each plate a red candle burned in a death's head holder, and the member whose candle went out first was supposed to receive it as a sign. As soon as the company was seated a new mirror was broken. The ices were served in the form of a skull reposing in a coffin. The toast-master used a forearm bone to rap for order. At intervals the diners counted up to thirteen as a chant, the number...being hailed with cheers. At the close of the banquet the waiters filed into the room to the music of a funeral march, each bearing aloft a chocolate cake with thirteen candles burning on it and a white skull and crossbones in the center.

Insulted fate had revenge on the diners at one of the tables. At the head of each table an open umbrella was placed to flaunt the rain superstition. A waiter bearing a well-filled soup tureen caught the tail of his coat in one of the umbrellas, and there was a shower of hot soup over some of the jesters.

Teen News by Kari Smith, Young Adult Librarian

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Blankets for Wounded Vets Crafts

Teens & adults, make no-sew Blankets of Hope for wounded veterans. Once completed, the blankets will be distributed through the Soldiers' Angels program. These soldiers have sacrificed for their country. Let's help them in their hour of need. Blanket-making will be held upstairs in GPL's Sanderson Room. To ensure enough supplies, please call 343-6118 or stop by the Reference Desk to register. Come to help a wounded veteran on Tuesday, November 10! (See "Odds & Ends" section on page 3 for other teen events.)

Children's Room

Magician Eldon Roark - Wednesday, November 11 at 10 a.m. Fun for all ages. No registration necessary. Just come enjoy the fun.

Make Your own Holiday Cards - Saturday, November 28 from 11 a.m. to noon. Stamp your own cards. Materials will be provided. The program is recommended for children in 1st - 5th grades. **A \$1 registration fee is due by Saturday, November 21.**

Music Morning - Saturday, November 14 at 10 a.m. Soloist Nancy Gillett will be presenting a program about the oboe.

Gingerbread Houses - Thursday, December 10 from 3 - 7 p.m. Come decorate your own gingerbread house. Houses and supplies are provided. There will only be 100 houses to decorate. Reserve your house early with the \$5 registration fee.

Local History by Patty Mosher, Library Archives



In 1946 there was a very extraordinary non-paying resident of Knox College. He was given this special status by the president, the dean and the manager of the college. As a veteran of World War II, and due to his bravery and special ability to detect buzz bombs five minutes before they arrived, Knox officials decided in a special meeting that he could live at Knox free of charge for his four years at the college.

His name was Jeff, and he was a terrier-mix dog that had been adopted as a puppy by an Army Air Corps unit stationed in England. Jeff followed the unit when they moved into Normandy and Germany and won the hearts of all of the soldiers. But his favorite was a "GI" named George Craig. Being born into the din of war, Jeff paid no attention to the sounds of gunfire and grenades until one day. Happily playing, Jeff ignored a growing roar until a buzz bomb exploded near the unit. He then ran to the shelter the soldiers had been pleading for him to enter. After that, Jeff was better than any radar device at alerting the soldiers that a German rocket-powered bomb was on the way long before it arrived, possibly saving many lives.

When George received his papers to come home, he asked to bring Jeff to the U.S. with him, but it was strictly forbidden. So George smuggled Jeff on board the ship after receiving a sleeping potion from a sympathetic medic. Jeff spent the nine-day journey sleeping in the hold of the ship. Due to his loss of weight he was not noticed as George carried him ashore in his duffel bag.

Everyone at Knox loved Jeff, and he thrived on the attention. Only the janitors were unhappy. They reacted to the muddy footprints in the dormitory with disdain. But due to his special status as hero, he was allowed to live in the men's dormitory with George and patiently waited outside of each classroom building for him. Jeff had earned his own G.I. Bill of Rights, to live, play and chase squirrels at the college.

Book Signing

Dr. LeRoy Maleck, retired Galesburg optometrist and former Admiral engineer, will sign copies of his recently published book at the Galesburg Public Library on Saturday, November 7, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. The book is titled *What Am I Doing Here? True Adventures While Surviving 1172 Days in the U.S. Army During WW II*.

Dr. Maleck was a 22-year old army combat infantry medic. He was present for some of the most brutal battles of World War II, including the Northern France Campaign, Battle of the Bulge and D-Day. The book chronicles Dr. Maleck's entry into the U.S. Army as a new recruit and provides a true account of basic training, combat and medic training. The author's first-person style and account clearly comes from being there.

For his service in Europe, Dr. Maleck was awarded a Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the French Legion of Honor medal during a ceremony at Omaha Beach, France, in 2004.

Odds & Ends

Radio Personalities

Listen to library staff members talk about upcoming library programs and events on **WGIL-1400 AM on Tuesday, November 3 at 9:15 a.m.** and on **WAIK-1590 AM on Monday, November 23 at 8:45 a.m.**

Teen Advisory Board

Calling all teens! Join the GPL Teen Advisory Board. We'll meet **Tuesday, November 3, from 7 - 7:30 p.m.** at Kaldi's, 124 E. Simmons Street to plan programs and more. Hope to see you there!

Animanga Mania

Teens, join us for Animanga Mania Afternoons! On **November 18 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.**, we'll be watching an anime series, *Love Hina*, and drawing manga-style. No registration required. Just show up to watch & draw!

Text Us

If you wish to text a message or question to the Reference Department at the library send your text message to:

reference@galesburglibrary.org.

Remember that your usual texting charges apply.



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Permit 25
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Book Clubs

Tuesday Book Club: On a Saturday morning in November 1909, 480 men in Cherry, Illinois went down into the mines as they had countless times before. But a fire erupted in the mineshaft and soon burned out of control. By nightfall, more than half the men would be dead or trapped. The Cherry Mine disaster went down in history as the worst coal mine fire in U.S. history. Come discuss *Trapped* by Karen Tintori with the **Tuesday Book Club on Tuesday, November 10, at 1:00 p.m.** at the library. The author will join the discussion by phone. The hour-long *History Channel* program *Fire in the Hole: Mining Disasters* will be shown after discussion at 2:00 p.m. You are welcome to come watch the program even if you do not attend book club.

Thursday Book Club: People feel at home in Belle Haven. In many ways it is like any other small town, with a café where regulars come to eat the fresh cinnamon rolls and to talk about the weather. But what sets Belle Haven apart is its strong sense of community, which is both strengthened and tested by the uncontrollable mine fire that burns below the town. In her wonderful debut novel, Lauren Wolk has created a town that feels real and populated it with characters who are lively and endearing. Come discuss *Those Who Favor Fire* by Lauren Wolk with the **Thursday Book Club on Thursday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m.** We meet at Kaldi's Coffeehouse.

Copies of the books are available at the Circulation Desk. Newcomers are welcome.

Special *Twilight* Book Discussion

Before you see the movie version of *New Moon* on Friday, November 20, come discuss the *Twilight* series at the library at 6:30 p.m. on **Thursday, November 19**. Enjoy popcorn and new Moon Skybars, chat about your love for the series and have your picture taken with our six-foot cardboard standee of Edward. We will also discuss other book series to read if you enjoyed this one. All ages of *Twilight* fans are welcome.

Movie Club

The **Movie of the Book Club** will meet the evening of **Tuesday, November 17**, for a pay-your-own-way evening viewing of a new movie (with literary ties, if one is playing) at Showplace 8. The title and time will be announced about a week before. Whatever movie we see, we'll have a fun time discussing it at Perkins Restaurant afterwards. Call the Reference Department at the library the week before for the exact title and time, or send an email to reference@galesburglibrary.org to be added to the movie club's email distribution list. **Newcomers are always welcome.** If you are new, look for our sign at the restaurant, or ask restaurant wait staff to help you find us.