

A Great Year at Your Library!

Wow! 2008 was a busy year at your library. Were you a part of it? Did you visit and check out – for free – books, magazines, DVD's, cd's, magazines and more? If not please stop by in 2009 and use your library card, or apply for a card if you need to.

2008 saw super attendance at the Distinguished Speaker's Series presented by the Bartholomew County Library Associates. We heard Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor tell us how to get our brains to work the way we want them to. Time magazine selected Taylor as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World—and she was here in Columbus at your library—that's pretty neat. Scott Russell Sanders entertained us with tales from his books and Tim Grimm sang to us with lyrics based on Sanders works. Daniel Orr talked of his FARMBloomington and Jeanne White told us of her late son Ryan. Oh, and Mark Twain visited with us also.

Speakers for 2009 include IU Professor James Madison on the topic Lincoln was a Hoosier! Larry Battson will talk about Big Foot and knitter Althea Crome. Crome can knit sweaters so small that six could fit on your index finger! Anne Ryder was the first presenter in June 2004 when the Library Associates began the Distinguished Speakers Series. As a special fifth year anniversary treat Ms Ryder will be back at the library on June 18, 2009.

November 2008 saw the inauguration of our Local Speakers Series when the delightful Paula Lindemann told us of her life during WWII in Europe which included fleeing from refugee camps and escaping death on several occasions. Presenters for our 2009 Local Speakers Series include Harry McCawley on immigration patterns to Bartholomew County on January 19; CRH neuropsychologist Dr. David Salisbury speaking on the brain on February 17 and on March 10 Kris Medic will help you get a jump on spring with low-maintenance tips adapted from her book *The New American Backyard*.

2008 saw the beginning of three new programs in our Children's Department: Webkinz Critters for ages 3 to 12 (sponsored by Petals and Vines), an American Girl Club and Monday night Milk and Cookies Storytimes. These programs in addition to the other fabulous programming for children keep the children's room staff very busy indeed!

2008 saw us step out of the confines of the library building to meet you where you are. Of course our bookmobile has been on the road since 1959 visiting rural communities, apartment complexes and locations in-between. But we are also out of the building displaying at health fairs, children's events and more. Some staff sit on various boards and one staff member is involved in various Chamber and business events/activities.

2008 saw the continuation of our free computer classes for all ages and our reading clubs for all ages. Rocket into Reading, our 2009 Winter Reading Club, begins January 5. All are invited to sign up and launch into a wonderful world of reading where you can let your imagination soar, learn of distant planets and places and win prizes!

In addition to our programming for children 2008 saw some great classes for adults including Travel Tips; Uses of Herbs: Scots and other Celtic Peoples; Who's Driving Your Bus? Sleep Better Tonight and a program about HPV. We also hosted a bus visit from a history center in Minnesota entitled Behind Barbed Wire: Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany. The day the bus came over 150 people sat riveted to their seats in the Red Room while former POW Wilbur Horn shared his experiences.

In 2009 look forward to more adult programming including a People's Law Series presented by the law firm of Cline, King & King, P.C.

Another 2008 landmark was the unveiling of our new library logo designed by former Ivy Tech graphic arts student Perla Mateo-Lujan. To take a peek at our logo go to our homepage at www.barth.lib.in.us .

Remember to visit your library in 2009! We are waiting for you and for you to experience the excitement! As another staff member pointed out in a recent Republic column the library, "could be the best thing you are already paying for, and you need to be taking advantage of that investment."

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