

Between Friends

Newsletter of the Friends of the Library

Winter 2008



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From the Director

Sara Laughlin, *MCPL Director*

It's been a busy few months at the Library. Our patrons are reading, viewing, and listening more than ever before. We've had record circulation every month in 2008. While we'd like to claim all the credit, we suspect that the economy has something to do with it, as many other public libraries are also reporting heavy use. We're proud of the hard-working staff and dedicated volunteers who respond to every challenge with aplomb.

Catch the Reading Bug. The 2008 Summer Reading program was one of our best ever. More than 3,000 children registered at the Main Library, Ellettsville, or on the Bookmobile. Thanks to Friends support, they watched praying mantises and other bugs hatch in the Children's Department as they checked out books, played games, answered computer questions, and attended dozens of fun and interesting programs.

Free Family Fun. Show your library card and ride the Bloomington Transit bus for free the first Saturday of every month. We hope to encourage families to take the bus, visit the library, and have a free family adventure, without parking downtown. Spread the word!

Ahead: Money, Plans, and Facility Improvements. We've nearly completed the 2009 budget approval process. The Library Board approved the \$10 million budget in September, and the Monroe County Council added its non-binding recommendation in November, under a new requirement mandated by the 2008 General Assembly. The final step in the process is review by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, expected in early 2009.

The Library's 2009-2011 strategic planning process is nearing completion. The Library is awaiting bids for the new children's addition at the Ellettsville Branch. At the Main Library, we'll be hiring an architect soon to help with renovation, including improvements for the Friends Bookstore.

And, as Always, a Big Thank You. Every day, as I walk through the Library and see patrons using Friends bookbags to carry out loads of books/movies/music, or filling our patron requests for purchase, or sharing a story with a child in the Preschool Education Center, I am grateful for your support. You are the icing on our cake! ■

In Memoriam: Cathy Rogers

October 29, 1925—October 24, 2008

Catherine "Cathy" Viola Rogers, 82, the former director of Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners (VITAL) at Monroe County Library, died October 24th at her home in Orange, N.J. Cathy was well regarded in the community as an educator and as an advocate for adult literacy both in Monroe County and in surrounding communities. Under her direction from 1986 until her retirement in 2006, VITAL grew from serving 20 learners per year to over 200 learners per year. Her legacy of the importance of adult literacy and empathy for the learner lives on in the VITAL program and in the library today.



Cathy was recognized with many awards for her work in literacy, including the 1989 and the 1992 Distinguished Service Award from the Indiana Adult Literacy Coalition and the 1994 Literacy Award from the Governor's Voluntary Action Program. She also served as an educational ambassador for the U.S. State Department in West Africa during the early 1980s.

She was preceded in death by her husband, the Rev. Charles H. Rogers Sr., and her son, Charles Jr. She is survived by four children, Elois Rogers-Phillips, Patricia Fowler, Kenneth Rogers and Michael Sorenson, and by her six grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the United Negro College Fund. ■

MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARY

303 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47408
(812) 349-3050
www.mcpl.info

2009 Author Event The Power of Words

Sara Laughlin, MCPL Director

One of the hidden pleasures of planning for the Friends 2009 **The Power of Words** author visit is choosing the author. To do that, the committee (Karen Franks, Becky Hrisomalos, Wendy Rubin, Sue Sater, Charlotte Zietlow and me) first met in August. We shared our favorite recent reads, scanned lists of award winners, and considered others suggested by literary agents. We decided the perfect author would have these qualities:

- Appeal to a wide audience
- Weighty, relevant topic
- Stunning writing
- Great presentation skills
- A point of connection with the Bloomington community

In addition, we were looking for books available in paperback, large print, and audiobook format, and, of course, a price within our means.

We ended up with a dozen authors and we started reading. We read mystery and biography, travelogue and historical fiction. We read at lunch, before breakfast, in the backyard, and at the airport. We had to be reminded to cook dinner, do laundry, and turn off the light at night.

At the second meeting, we knew we had chosen a great group of potential authors when the meeting turned into a thought-provoking discussion. We talked about the authors, the writing, and their body of work. We talked about how the books moved us. And we compared these books to others we had read. We narrowed the list to four top prospects and two alternates. We could hardly wait to get home to those we hadn't yet finished.

At our late October meeting, we unanimously chose **Rick Bragg** and confirmed the date: **Saturday, November 14, 2009.**

Bragg is a Pulitzer Prize winner for journalism and author of *All Over but the Shoutin'*, *Ava's Man*, and the *Prince of Frogtown*, as well as *Somebody*

Told Me, a critically acclaimed collection of his *New York Times* stories. He is currently teaching at the University of Alabama. Stay tuned for some very good reading and an opportunity to meet a very interesting author, who has been described as "the last in a long line of southern storytellers."

The Library is ordering more copies of his books and the Friends are starting on the next steps: seeking donors to support the event, designing publicity, arranging book discussions, and planning a reception. Stay tuned for another wonderful celebration of **The Power of Words.** ■

Farewell Luncheon for Roberta Mueller

Longtime Friend, Roberta Mueller, is heading east to be with her family in Rhode Island. The Friends hosted a special pitch-in luncheon for library staff and Friends to give her a grand farewell. Roberta was the driving force behind the beloved Friends weekly book sale in the library atrium. She was also a dedicated employee of Monroe County Public Library for over twenty years, with most of her service in the Reference Department. Many current and former staff came to wish her well. Friends' President, Helena Walsh, presented Roberta with a Friends cap, canvas bag, and a special framed photo. ■



Roberta Mueller and Friends Board member, Amal Altoma

Holiday Closings

Please remember, Monroe County Public Library will be closed on:

Wednesday, December 24th
Thursday, December 25th
Wednesday, December 31st
Thursday, January 1, 2009
Sunday, April 12th

Ride the Bus to the Library!

MCPL is teaming with Bloomington Transit to offer a

special promotion for library cardholders. Save gas and get dropped off right in front



of the library when you ride the bus for **free** on the first Saturday of each month. Show your library card when you board the bus and you ride for free! The next First Saturday is December 6th. Try it out, and take the bus downtown to the library. ■

Our Mission: The Monroe County Library Foundation supports and advocates for the patrons and staff of the Library by enhancing Library collections and facilities, and by contributing to Library programming and professional staff development.



Welcome New Friends!

The Board of Directors extends their heartfelt thanks to all of our current Friends of the Library members who give so generously in support of our mission to make the library a vital part of our community. The board welcomes our newest Friends, who are first time members since July, 2008:

Cynthia Bannon
Holly Barton
Chris Carl Bolton
Jodie Carlberg
Keith Carter
Rachel Clausman
Becky Daniel
Morgan Dunbar
Phil Eskew
Holly Faulk
Patricia Firenze
Susan Fletcher
Joanne Gumo
Preston Gwinn
Bryan and Jessika Hane
Julie Hardesty
Frank and Lydia Hoffman
Jessamyn Hutchens
Chris Jackson

Samarrah Jackson
Jane Kennedy
Julie Kinser
Mark, Robin, and Max Lemieux
Nita Levison
Joan Lyndon
Sarah Morrison
Sue Murphy
Michele Needham
Bobby Overman
Margaret A. Page
Carlene and James Quinn
Carole Richardson
Carolyn S. Robertson
Bob and Sharon Rout
Susan Siena
Kristi Schulte
Adam and Beth Stillwell
Brian Sullivan

Heidi Tebbe
Kyle Wickemeyer-Hardy
Lupe Wilson
The Wiser Family
Ugur Yalcintas
Peggy Zonkle

Tribute Gifts to the Friends of the Library

Contributions have been made to the Friends in memory of the following individuals:

In Memory of:

Jane B. Butcher
Robert Kelly

Thank you for your support! If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, please use the form on the back of this newsletter.

We strive for accuracy in our records. Kindly contact us via e-mail <friends@mcpl.info> or by phone 812-349-3050, ext. 1080 regarding incorrect listings.

PLANNED GIVING: A Legacy of Enduring Support

Public libraries are unique American institutions that promote the ideals of democracy and opportunity.

Estate gifts have funded major projects, such as the Children's Room in the 1970 library building project, as well as specific resources such as Indiana Room materials. Please let us know if you are interested in discussing options for including the library in your investment or estate plans. ■



Ellettsville staff show their support of the Friends of the Library at MCPL's annual Staff Day in October. Twenty-seven MCPL staff joined or renewed their membership on Staff Day! The Friends provide lunch and more on this day set aside for library staff to attend sessions for professional development.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

VITAL Volunteers Advance Literacy

Sue Murphy and Jackie Lovings, VITAL

The purpose of Monroe County Public Library's VITAL (Volunteers in Tutoring Adult Learners) Department is to assist adult members of our community in achieving their personal literacy goals. VITAL has been meeting this goal for thirty years! The mission is accomplished by coordinating the use of volunteers. The real force behind VITAL are not those on the payroll, but the volunteers who generously give their time and energy to help others. Our volunteers mainly serve as one-on-one tutors and small group facilitators, but they also help as clerical assistants, Quiz Bowl volunteers, and as representatives in community relations activities.



VITAL's program structure is based on the premise that anyone who is literate, and has the patience and desire to help can be an effective literacy tutor, with tutor training. We assure prospective volunteers that they do not have to be a reading teacher or a trained educator to be an effective tutor. It is a big part of our job to make sure the volunteers get the training and support they need in order to find fulfillment in their VITAL activities. Support from the Friends of the Library is an enormous help to VITAL in doing just that. Refreshments and gifts make tutor training more relaxing and help our volunteers feel appreciated. Learners' goals and needs vary, as do their abilities. It is also important that diverse materials are available to

help tutors become effective teachers. The Friends' assistance makes supplies, equipment, and resources available to serve a varied population. VITAL programming also depends on the annual Quiz Bowl fundraiser for support. 2008 marked the 25th anniversary of this Bloomington favorite! Thanks to the Friends, we now have updated scoreboards and buzzer systems, which were greatly appreciated by participants, volunteers, and the audience.

Your support helps VITAL accomplish its mission. The work of the Friends and the resulting grants have helped VITAL with every aspect of our programming and fundraising. VITAL is thankful to be part of a community that values literacy and is thankful to all the tutors, learners, volunteers, and supporters of VITAL. ■

Anabel P. Newman VITAL Awards

The Anabel P. Newman awards are endowed through the Friends of the Library to recognize outstanding volunteer service as tutors in the VITAL program. Several individuals were honored with the award during the MCPL Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held on September 17th. Dr. Newman presented the awards. Congratulations to Valerie Sommer, Nancy Schmidt, Randy Paul, and Sara Frommer. Thank you for your excellent service to the VITAL program and for your role in advancing adult literacy in our community. Friends president Helena Walsh thanked the bookstore volunteers. The library has 170 volunteers at all branches. All were recognized that day and given a small gift from the Friends for their faithful service. ■

MCPL Staff Recognition

Library staff were recognized with service pins and other gifts provided by the Friends at the annual MCPL Staff Development Day. Congratulations to Keith Carter for 30 years of service, Pam White for 25 years, Arthur Leach and Mary Frasier for 20 years, and Kimberly Hill and Doris Lynch for 15 years of service. Stephanie Abbott, Pam Wasmer, Susan Fletcher, Mildred Lasota, and

Our Heroes Tree



Staff Sergeant Curt Gummer lead the audience in a moment of silence to remember those who are serving, those who have served, and those whose lives have been lost in service during the dedication of Our Heroes Tree on November 6th. Over fifty ornaments were created by local military families for the tree. These ornaments have been photographed and will be part of Indiana's virtual *Heroes Tree* < <http://www.mfri.purdue.edu/>>. ■

John Mosora received 10 year pins. Lori Lawson, William Weaver, Elizabeth Gray, Mary Loro, Margaret Harter, Adam Jessup, and Julie Martin were recognized with 5 year pins. We thank all staff for their service and dedication to our Library. ■

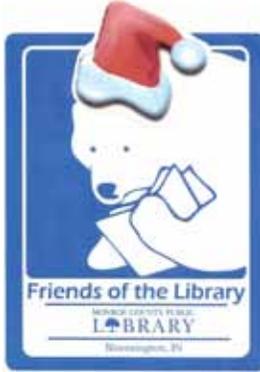
Friends Support Cardinal Reads

The Friends of the Library proudly supports the Cardinal Stage Company's Cardinal Reads program. In the weeks leading up to the performance of *Treasure Island*, students in grades two through eight can have their own swashbuckling adventure when they read their way to new lands while they help raise money to fight hunger in our community. Students can win free tickets to see *Treasure Island*. Bloomingsfoods will donate money in the student's name to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. In 2007, students read over 4,885 hours raising \$5,500 to fight hunger. You can catch a preview performance of *Treasure Island* in the Library Auditorium on **Saturday, December 6th from 3-3:45 p.m.** Please register in advance. Start your holiday season off with an exciting adventure in reading and theater! ■



Holiday Sale at the Bookstore!

The Friends' Bookstore is making your holiday shopping easy. All Friends' merchandise has been reduced in price just for the holidays.



Grab a Friends' backpack and some great books, music, or videos for the children and teens on your list. Teachers and grandparents will love the Book Lover's Calendar. Go green, and get a sturdy canvas tote to carry all your books from the library. Show your support of the Friends of the Library with a T-shirt or baseball cap. While you're shopping, don't forget to pick up some great winter reading for yourself. Save even more when you use the coupon below just for Friends members! ■

Friends Gift Items



Baseball Cap.....\$8.....SAVE \$2



Adult Blue T-shirt.....\$8.....SAVE \$2

Adult White T-shirt.....\$6.....SAVE \$4



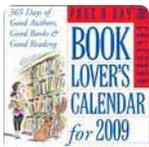
Child's Blue T-shirt.....\$6.....SAVE \$2

Child's White T-shirt.....\$4.....SAVE \$4



Nylon Backpack\$6SAVE \$2

Canvas Totebag\$15.....SAVE \$5



Calendar\$8.....SAVE \$4

Clearance Sale!

The next Bookstore Clearance Sale will be February 27-March 2, 2009. Don't miss the great bargains!

Forty volunteers helped us raise \$2,700 at the September sale. If you are interested in helping to set up or working at the sale, please contact Barbara Wilcox at wilcoxb@indiana.edu ■

Extended Bookstore Hours First Thursdays

There will be more time to browse the Friends of the Library Bookstore on "First Thursdays" of the month. We are continuing our extended hours. On December 4th, the Bookstore will be open from noon to 9 p.m. Please let us know whether these extended hours are more convenient for you. ■

Bookstore Hours

Tuesdays.....9 am-7 pm

Thursdays.....Noon-7 pm

Saturdays.....Noon-5 pm

The Friends Bookstore is located on the first floor of Monroe County Public Library, at the back of the Audio-Visual Room. ■

\$1 Off

Friends of the Library Bookstore Coupon

\$1 Off



\$1 off any Friends merchandise in the Friends of the Library Bookstore.

Expires December 30, 2008



Friends of the Library

2009 Membership Form

Name _____
(Please print name as it should appear in our publications)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Email _____
(to receive special advocacy and event notices) w08nl

- We would like to list Friends' members, on an annual basis, in our newsletter. Please check the box if you **DO NOT** wish to be listed.

Please tell us about yourself (Check all that apply)

- New Member Renewing Member
 I am MCPL staff I am an MCPL volunteer
 Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Please check all of the library's services that you use: Main Library

- Ellettsville Library Bookmobile Banneker Collection Library Website
 Homebound Delivery Outreach Van Service VITAL CATS TV

Membership Type

Please check one:

- Benefactor* \$500
 Patron \$250
 Supporting \$100
 Business \$100
 Sustaining \$50
 Family \$25
 Individual \$10
 Other \$_____

* A one-time gift to the endowment providing lifetime membership.

Donation

- I would like to make a donation to the Friends. \$_____

Please make your check payable to

Friends of the Library

and mail to:

303 E Kirkwood Ave
Bloomington IN 47408

Thank you!

The Friends of the Library is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Holiday Gift Ideas!

- Make a donation to the Friends in honor of someone special.
- Give a gift membership
- Get a free canvas Friends bag with each new membership
- Shop at the Friends Bookstore