

# The Maxinkuckee Reed

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Culver-Union Township Public Library

*"The mission of the Culver-Union Twp. Public Library is to serve the diverse needs of our communities through the sharing of library resources and services in a welcoming atmosphere."*

Fall 2011

## Where Would CUTPL Be Without Our Friends?— by Colleen McCarty

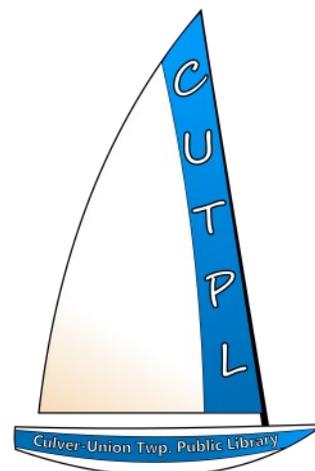
As we go to press with this edition of CUTPL's quarterly newsletter, we note that autumn is descending upon us with nature's seasonal changes: the leaves are turning various colors and the air has a chill in it. School is in session and there is much activity here at your Library. We have many noteworthy items in this fall newsletter, but we would especially call your attention to the fact that National Friends of the Library Week is celebrated the third week of October and this year the dates fall on October 16 to 22. This time set aside to honor Friends Group affords us the ideal opportunity to talk about our own very special Friends and to thank them for all that they continue to contribute to CUTPL.

Our Friends, founded by Friend Sandy Wakefield in 2005, are celebrating 6 years of contributions to CUTPL. Their members have chosen to give back to the community by supporting the Library and its mission to "serve the diverse needs of our communities through the sharing of library resources and services in a welcoming atmosphere." Friends believe that libraries are important and assist CUTPL financially, with direct service and as advocates. They are always seeking new members and invite you to join their group.

During the past year, the list of accomplishments of our Friends is lengthy and diverse! I mention but a sampling here: our Friends have donated funds toward the beautiful Medal-

lion (locally produced) bookcase to display our new books. They purchased four shelving units for our storage closets and purchased copies of the books which members of our new High School Book Club read. Our Friends offered several successful book sales. They supported our Children's and Adults' summer reading programs and raffled an exquisite dollhouse into which they had put many hours of work. Friends help keep the Library looking beautiful and contribute to the cultural richness of our community: members Rita Mason and Sandy Wakefield presented their artwork and JoAnn Walsh displayed her tea cup collection. They supplied and maintained flowers and decorations for the Library courtyard, and decorated (and undecorated) our Christmas tree and library. They sponsored two author visits and local surgeon Dr. Joseph Faulkner spoke on health issues. Our Friends also provided Staff Appreciation awards and held the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Whew!

The Friends have recently elected officers and we congratulate them: Charlotte Hahn, President; Angie Nelligan, Vice-President; Charlotte Rakich, Secretary; and Cathy Emmons, Treasurer. Friends, please accept a sincere thank-you from our entire staff: we all look forward to another rewarding and successful year with our Friends!



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Editor- Jonathan Gaskill

### Culver-Union Township Public Library

107 North Main Street  
Culver, IN 46511  
Phone: 574-842-2941  
Fax: 574-842-3441

Email:  
staff@culver.lib.in.us  
www.culver.lib.in.us

Hours:  
Monday-Thursday 9-8,  
Friday 9-6  
Saturday 9-4  
Closed Sunday

"There are many ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."

**-Jacqueline Kennedy  
Onassis**

Former First Lady of the  
United States



## What's New in Tech — Andrew Baker, computer technology manager and webmaster

Over the past three months, the library has experienced a massive amount of growth in the usage of our wireless internet access. A total of 528 people used our wireless Internet access in the month of July, but for August the number went up to 795. That's an increase of about 65%!

In response to the increased demand on our wireless infrastructure, CUTPL has upgraded all wireless access points throughout the library. The new units support the 802.11n wireless standard, enabling faster connection speeds and greater range for compatible devices — they will still work with older 802.11g and 802.11b devices as well.

Wireless access points are located at the circulation desk and children's room desk upstairs, plus the computer lab downstairs. Later this year, information technology staff will perform a site survey of wireless signal strength to determine the best location for

a fourth wireless access point.

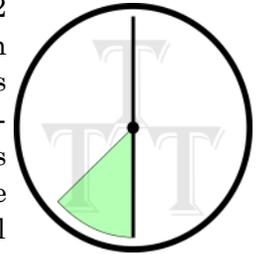
Computer classes are continue this fall, with our set of Microsoft Office 2010 classes in October. Microsoft Word is scheduled for Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Microsoft Excel is scheduled for Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM. Microsoft PowerPoint is scheduled for Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Finally, Microsoft Publisher is scheduled for Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM and Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Events are subject to change.

Thursday Tech Time, our technology discussion group, will continue into 2012. Ideas for new presentations are welcome, in addition to anyone who would like to give a presentation on a topic — anything to do with technology. Topics for the rest of 2011 are: Antivirus Software Comparison on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM — see

features and compare performance of the latest antivirus software.

Web Browser Comparison on November 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM — A thorough comparison of web browser features and performance. Buying vs. Building a PC on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM — Learn how to build a computer from parts and the pros and cons of doing so. Events are subject to change.

Brochures with information about the 2012 Thursday Tech Time events will be available later this year — and the group will stick to its schedule of meeting at the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM. Ideas for new programs are always welcome!



### Did You Know?— by Jonathan Gaskill



There are many relatively unknown places on the internet where people can find valuable information for free. Census information is only calculated every ten years, and the 2010 U.S. Census data is slowly being released by the US Census Bureau.

The websites where this information can be found include <http://census.gov> and

<http://factfinder2.census.gov>. Both sites are free and available to anyone with internet access.

Another great place to find information on places is USA.gov, a nice starting place to find information about the nation, states, counties, townships and towns, in addition to other countries' statistics. Check out the reference desk, or ask a librarian for more info!

### CUTPL Display Boards-

#### Friends of the CUTPL Display Boards-

August- Vickie Conley's Antique Spoon Jewelry & Bouquets

September- Esme & Brian Rodgers Chinese Peasant Paintings and Sports Illustrated Baseball Covers

#### Display Case-

Hammered Aluminum Items from WWII Airplanes

Needlework by Charlotte Hahn

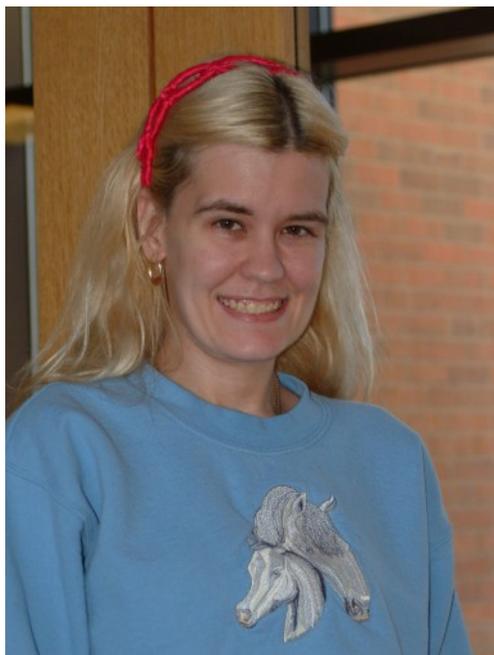
Handmade Wooden Duck Decoys by Mr. Strang

## Meet the Staff- Brita Krzanowski

Some of you may not know much about this staff person of the quarter, as she usually only works one day a week, but her services are invaluable. Brita has been a page at Culver-Union Township Public Library since 2006 and she takes care of some pretty important things many people rarely notice.

Brita does much of the dusting and watering of plants, keeps the staff supplied with sharp pencils and keeps the entryways and doors clean, and especially interior windows, cleans DVD cases and generally keeps the building looking nice.

In her free time, Brita enjoys horseback riding, baking, read-



ing Nancy Drew books, and singing the Carpenters. She is a long-time Culver resident and attends Wesley United Methodist Church as well as volunteers at the Thrift Store. When asked about the CUTPL, Brita suggested she “liked the staff here and being a good worker, and I like taking care of it (the library)”.

Next time you come into the library and see a woman feverishly dusting and showing the library TLC, say hi and give a little thanks to Brita! She is appreciated and an invaluable member of the Culver-Union Township Public Library staff!

**CUTPL factoid- There are over 40,000 items in the library collection!**

## Patron Book Review- by Barb Winters

*The Night of Four Hundred Rabbits* by Elizabeth Peters is a delightful little read with the good guys taking down the bad guys. It is just the kind of read that provides entertainment while challenging the reader to predict just who the good guys are.

Elizabeth Peters is always a pleasant read and this is one of her earlier books, written in 1971. Set in Mexico City, the action is centered in and around the pyramids of Teotihuacan. The story is a romp that deals with drug trafficking, specifically the drugs that were receiving a great deal of attention in 1971 – hallucinogens.

Written in the first person, Carol tells us of her quest to find her father who had left her and her mother when she was about 12 years old. Mysterious newspaper clippings are sent to her showing her father in Mexico City. Then, an equally mysterious inheritance appears providing the money necessary for Carol and her boyfriend Danny to make the trip during Spring Break to hunt for her father.

Little did she know that this was simply a ploy to take her hostage in order to force her father to keep quiet about a big drug sale and a sophisticated smuggling operation. In spite of her stumbling and bumbling,

Carol manages to thwart the drug traffickers and help put an end to the drug smuggling, aiding her father who had alerted the American and Mexican police. Carol is reunited with her father, and becomes aware that boyfriend Danny is already a drug addict, and starts a possible romance with one of the undercover police agents.

An interesting discussion could be held comparing the drug trafficking in 1971 with the current drug wars raging in Mexico. *The Night of Four Hundred Rabbits* was written forty years ago, but the drug trafficking and smuggling continues unabated.

## Summer Reading a Success by Jonathan Gaskill

The summer reading program “Novel Destinations” was a big success this year, with over 30 participants, the competition was fierce. There were well over 70 book and movie reviews turned in this year, a few of which you will see published in this and upcoming newsletters. The reviews are ultimately what made the difference to the winners. The difference between first and second place was only 25 points, and only 75 points difference from 1st to 5th place, respectively.

This year’s winner was John Sherck with 315 points. Sherck submitted 9 book reviews in total, worth 135 points. The reviews compensated for the game players who realized that it wasn’t so much about how many books you read, but rather how

many books, movies and reviews that were submitted.

Second place went to Patricia Larson with 290 points, third to Jessica Saunders with 245 and a close fourth place went to Jennifer Nowalk with 242 points. Becky Strati completed the list with 5th place, another close call with 240 points.

The theme this year was “Novel Destinations” with more points awarded for “destination themed” books, or books about places. Participants could read books, audiobooks, watch movies and attend programs for points in the competition. The point structure was as follows— 2 points for movies, 5 points for a book, 10 points for a destination themed book, 5 points for attending a library sponsored movie, 15 points for classes and

programs, and 10 points per review of any book, audiobook or movie.

In the end, the program was well attended and pretty popular, with people coming in on the last day to fill out reviews and submit their final reads/views/listens for points. A special thanks goes out to the CUTPL staff, all the participants and particularly the local businesses who furnished prizes: Fisher’s Clothiers, Civvies, Diva, Studio Hair Designs, Michelle’s Headquarters, Edgewater Grille, the Culver Coffee Company and Gail’s Town & Country Baskets.

Keep your eyes peeled for notice of the Winter Reading Program @ CUTPL (Cabin Fever Reading Program) to be announced soon!

***Write a review of your favorite picks from CUTPL— submit it and see it in print!***

### Patron Book Review- by Jennifer Nowalk

*The Sandalwood Tree* by Elle Newmark is a magical, mysterious story of India. It is also a book of heartache, longing, loss and finally reconciliation. Blending two stories, one that takes place in the late 1940s and one

that takes place in the late 1850s the author gives us a glimpse into the history of India; the pace of life, the smells and sounds and unchanging nature. The author also gives us the opportunity to experience the

depth of authentic relationships. It is the author’s unveiling of the complexities of these relationships which carries the stories. I loved this book and highly recommend it!

**Staff makes all the difference!  
CUTPL welcomes new employees  
Margaret Carter, Kelly Cox,  
Angelica Duffy and Rachel Meade!**

## Patron Book Review- by John Sherck

Fairly soon after it came out, I read John Green's debut *Looking for Alaska*, drawn to it in more or less equal parts because John Green and I sat on opposite sides of a girl in our college American Lit class, and because our school library had a copy that I could read for free. I absolutely loved it and regretted 1. not knowing John better in school, and 2. not actually buying a copy of the book and thereby supporting his writing career (that said, the school library did buy the book at my recommendation in the first place).

For some reason, I didn't write a review of *Looking for Alaska* and I didn't pick up any of his subsequent books...until now. This summer I read both *An Abundance of Katherines* and *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* and very much enjoyed each. Besides having been a teenager once upon

a time, I've also made my career around them, and Green writes his adolescent character with fantastic insight, warmth, and humor. His writing frequently made me laugh, and they were never cheap laughs. His writing sometimes brought tears to my eyes with its poignancy, and there was nothing cheap about that either.

The basic premise is this: two adolescent boys with the name Will Grayson find their lives intersecting in a Chicago porn store. Each has his own problems, his own strengths and limitations, but as we know they will, they come out better off on the other end as a result of this chance encounter.

Although this was the first of the two books that I read this summer, and although it had been several years since I'd read LFA, I recognized which chapters were Green's right away—they

just sound different than the ones written by David Levithan, whose teenaged world just feels darker. To my mind, Green has all the best characters over on his side (they alternated chapters and POV Will Graysons), yet there are things that emerge from stirring it all together that wouldn't have been there otherwise. I don't want to give too much away, but I'll just say that I'm reminded again of the power literature has to give us (and, sometimes, the characters as well) an understanding of themselves and each other that our real, daily lives seldom offer, and perhaps for that reason they can be very powerfully touching because they give us an understanding that we wish for and rarely find. Also, I think that the musical that is created within the story should be made, as it would, likewise, be beautiful. And musical.

***Have an idea you would like to see at the CUTPL? Let us know!***

## Patron Review- by Patricia Larson

*Flywheel* is produced by the Kendrick Brothers who produced *Fireproof* and *Saving the Giants*. This is a family movie about a workaholic father who becomes greedy and neglects his family. God plans an "awakening" for him that effects his family deeply— it is a movie about honesty, integrity and how God honors that!

*A Shine of Rainbows* took place in Ireland. It was a drama

which took place many years ago about an 8 year old lad who lost his grandmother and lived in an orphanage. Being timid and facing ridicule in the orphanage was a challenge; however, more problems arose when he was taken to Corrie Island—a refuge and yet a place of trying times.

*Choosing to See* by Mary Beth Chapman is a true story about the Dove Award winning

music artist Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife, Mary Beth. After the tragic accidental death of their little girl. This is a book written from deep grief and an openness we seldom hear about in Christianity. It is a tender story that will grip your heart and yet bring hope to you in whatever your life is like.

***Write and submit a review of your favorite library Read/View/Listen!***



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Just check us out— follow, like or friend us— you will be glad you did!



## People Get Ready - by Jonathan Gaskill

Culver-Union Township Public Library is gearing up for a novel idea, a winter reading program for our library users. Summer reading was a smashing success with around 30 participants and well over 70 book reviews written, and thus, from requests from participants CUTPL hopes to offer a winter reading program starting on or around Winter Solstice and running eight weeks until a month before Spring Equinox. Stay tuned for more information on this program which should be a sure bet to beat the winter doldrums.

In other news, the CUTPL is excited to offer its Overdrive eBook lending service to owners of Amazon Kindle starting September 21, 2011! Now, when a library user wants to check out an OverDrive eBook, there is an option offering Kindle version in

addition to ePub and PDF eBooks. Audiobooks can be downloaded as before, without the option of early return so far as the lending policy goes, it remains the same as well— just 7 or 14 days. So, that too is exciting news— no hoops through which to jump.

It has been a rainy start to fall for sure, and with all those rainy days the CUTPL is there with over 40,000 items in house and free internet access for its over 3,133 patrons. There is much excitement in the library field with respect to eBooks,

and Web 2.0 (social media) - which has created a sort of Library 2.0 to serve the people.

In no way am I suggesting anyone *has* to adopt technology or forms of communication, but humor me for a moment and consider that this foreign way of interaction is not necessarily a bad thing, but can certainly be an ethos. Americans have long believed the customer is always right and should get what they pay for the way they want it— call it instant gratification or customer loyalty— it is up to libraries to serve the patrons— to give them not only what they want, but also what they need.

Just a reminder, the library steadily offers many different classes and programs on computers, technology and Web 2.0 (Social Networking). Check it out!



### *Library Book Discussion Groups*

- **A Novel Approach - Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00 PM.**
- **Hooked on Books - Meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 3:30 PM.**
- **Cult Literature Book Club - Meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM.**

**New Books Every Month— pick up a flyer from the CUTPL! Anyone can join the book clubs. Programs are Free and Open to the Public.**



## Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library by Charlotte Hahn

The Friends end of the year Clearance Book Sale will be held Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In celebration of National Friends of the Library Week, the price of books is only \$1.00 per bag, any size bag! Come help us clear our shelves to make room for “new” used book selections at our April 2012 sale. We always accept donations of your used books.

Drawing for our fully furnished Doll House was held in September. The winner was Cindy Clousing from Culver and

Wheaton. Her granddaughters were very excited to have such a beautiful house with which to play. Thank you to everyone for supporting our Doll House fundraiser: donations exceeded \$600.00.



The Friends will again be purchasing books for the Teen Book Club held at Culver High School under the directions of Ali Gaskill.

This year the books will be downloaded on the student's iPads.

Officers for 2011-2012 were elected at the September annual meeting: President, Charlotte Hahn (842-3267); Vice-President, Angie Nelligan; Secretary, Charlotte Rakich; Treasurer, Cathy Emmons. If you have any questions about the Friends mission, book sales, meeting dates, etc., do not hesitate to contact any of the officers. New members are always welcome.

## Youth Services Fall 2011- by Rachel Meade

As the days grow colder and the trees lose their leaves, it becomes clear that once again, summer is over. Many residents will retreat into their homes, hibernating for the long Culver winter. However, if you're not quite ready to hunker down for winter, consider making some time for the Youth Services Department. We'll be offering a wide variety of fall and holiday-themed events and activities for families, teens, and children.

In addition to our usual toddler and preschool storytimes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the Youth Services department will be adding a third family storytime starting in November. Family storytimes will take place on Saturday mornings and will run slightly longer than the typical 1 hour programs. Parents may attend along with of all ages and will be encouraged to join in the reading and crafting sessions, as well as games and friendly competitions for the entire family.

Looking for a place to celebrate Halloween with the little ones? Join us for a kids' Halloween party! Come for costume-making, and come in costume for

spooky games and crafts, as well as a children's book sale. The event will take place on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 and will be open to kids ages 0-11.

As well as all our children's services, we'll be offering a number of teen programs this fall. The Teen Book Club begins again this October. As always, participants will be allowed to keep the books we read, and this year, for the first time in the Teen Book Club's history, they will be distributed on the iPad through iBooks. The first book is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and is sponsored by the Friends of the CUTPL. It is a coming of age story set in 1930's and 40's Germany. Interested teens may sign up with their literature teachers.

Teens are invited to a special art workshop based on modern pop-artist Michael Albert's collage techniques. New York based artist Albert has made a name for himself by collaging everything from maps to the Declaration of Independence using only advertisements, especially sugary snack packaging and cereal boxes. Albert generously donated a collection of his collages along with a

copy of his book while on tour to libraries and schools around the country. Examples of Albert's art are available at his website. Teens will get a chance to try their hand at their own pop-culture collage on October 24 at 4pm. Come with your boxes and ads to use in your art! (Michael Albert's website: [www.cerealism.com](http://www.cerealism.com))

Looking forward to the holiday season, stay tuned for an entire week of holiday craft activities in December!

Parents, teens, and children will soon have even more ways to stay up to date with youth services and events. In addition to our recently unveiled teen facebook page, we'll soon be adding a Parent & Children page. And stay tuned for a new teen and children's book blogs, which will feature book reviews and recommendations written by our newest staff member, Rachel Meade. Rachel will be in the room some evenings and Saturdays, so make sure to stop by and say "hello!"

Looking forward to seeing many new and familiar faces this fall!

# What's New at the Culver Public Library!- Items of popular interest

## **Biography:**

*A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mother* by Janny Scott

*My Lucky Life In and Out of Show Business* by Dick Van Dyke

*The Big Fight: My Life In and Out of the Ring* by Sugar Ray Leonard

*Through My Eyes* by Tim Tebow

## **Christian Fiction:**

*Learning* by Karen Kingsbury

*On Hummingbird Wings* by Lauraine Snelling

*The Doctor's Lady* by Jody Hedlund

*To Have and To Hold* by Tracie Peterson

## **Fast Reads:**

*Barrio Kings* by William Kowalski

*Love you to Death* by Gail Bowen

*One Fine Day You're Gonna Die* by Gail Bowen

*The Middle Ground* by Zoe Whittall

*The Spider Bites* by Medora Sale

*The Way it Works* by William Kowalski

## **Fiction:**

*Billy Budd* by Herman Melville

*In Zanesville* by Jo Ann Beard

*Long Drive Home* by Will Allison

*Maine- A Novel* by J. Courtney Sullivan

*Portrait of a Spy* by Daniel Silva

*The Beach Trees* by Karen White

*The Ideal Man* by Julie Garwood

*Touch Me Not* by Jos Rizal

*Unsaid: A Novel* by Neil Abramson

## **Mystery:**

*A Death In Summer* by Benjamin Black

*Carte Blanche 007: the New James Bond* by Jeffrey Deaver

*Cold Vengeance* by Douglas Preston

*Flash & Bones* by Kathy Reichs

*Long Gone* by Alafair Burke

*Love You More* by Lisa Gardner

*Split Second* by Catherine Coulter

## **Science Fiction:**

*The Measure of the Magic* by Terry Brooks

*The Omen Machine* by Terry Goodkind

## **Nonfiction:**

*1,296 ACT Practice Questions*

*33 Men Inside the Miraculous Survival and Dramatic Rescue of the Chilean Miners* by Jonathan Franklin

*A Stolen Life: A Memoir* by Jaycee Lee Dugard

*Building Your Own Website* by Gavin Hoole

*Ballet & Modern Dance* by Jack Anderson

*God, No! Signs You May Already Be an Athiest* by Penn Jillette

*Married to Distraction* by Edward M. Hallowell

*The Miracle of Freedom* Chris Stewart

*Wind Turbine Syndrome: A Report on a Natural Experiment* by Nina Pierpont

## **DVD:**

*All Creatures Great and Small*

*Amy Winehouse- I told You I Was Trouble*

*Brothers and Sisters- 5th Season*

*Ghostbusters & Ghostbusters II*

*Flywheel*

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I*

*Jane Eyre*

*Jesse Stone: Innocents Lost*

*Justified- 1st Season*

*Never Let Me Go*

*Real Ghostbusters (TV)*

*Something Borrowed*

*Star Wars- The Complete Saga (Blu-Ray)*

*The Count of Monte Cristo*

*The Walking Dead- 1st Season*

*Yo Gabba Gabba! Birthday Boogie, Clubhouse, Dancey Dance Bunch*

## **CD:**

*The Light of the Sun* by Jill Scott

*Chief* by Eric Church

*Re-Creation* by Steven Curtis Chapman

*Watch the Throne* by Kanye West/Jay Z

*Other Roads* by Boz Scaggs

*The Complete Greatest Hits* by America

*The Definitive Collection/Bachman Turner Overdrive*

*Beyoncé 4*

## **Children/Juvenile/YA/Parenting**

*Otis and the Tornado* by Loren Long

*Rrrrralph* by Lois Ehlert

*Bumble Ardy* by Maurice Sendak

*Perfect Square* by Michael Hall

*Charlotte Battles Bedtime* by Myra Wolfe

*Counting in the Garden* by Emily Hruby

*Mister Doodle C is for City* by Orli Zuravicky

*Clementine Series* by Marla Frazee

*Paintings from the Cave* by Gary Paulsen

*Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick

*Ravenwood* by Andrew Peters

*Those That Wake* by Jesse Karp

*Stay* by Deb Caletti

*Passion* by Lauren Kate

*This Dark Endeavor* by Kenneth Oppel

*Okay For Now* by Gary D. Schmidt

*Heroes of the Valley* by Jonathan Stroud



## **Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library Book Sale**

- **October 22- \$1 a Bag Sale!**
- **Join the Friends today! Applications at the Circulation Desk.**