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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."

Winter 2010-2011

Director's Spotlight— by Colleen McCarty Well Done Good and Faithful Servant

Unlike many long-time members of our little community, as a relative newcomer to Culver I knew Rita Lawson for just over two years. I met her in her capacity as Library Board Treasurer (although I am quite certain that I purchased some household items from Rita at the Church thrift shop prior to coming to work at the Library -- I also needed some hangers at the time and she managed to find a nice supply of them for me). My first impression of her was that here was a soft-spoken woman who was very thoughtful and kind, and I very soon noted that she truly "knew her stuff" when it came to finances and accounting. As I ponder her outstanding contribution to the Library, I ask myself how can I describe this very classy lady? How can I capture her unique personality and gifts? Words like gentle, honest, diligent, generous, intelligent, attentive to detail, easy-going yet hard-working, curious and analytical come to mind.

Rita was a fine judge of

people. She was a friend to many families in town who knew Rita from her years of teaching and service to Church and community. But Rita had an adventurous nature too, and often spoke about her trips with Latham to other countries and several states in the Union. We talked about New England and her perceptive impressions of that part of the country. Finally, I know how Rita shared her love of science fiction and fantasy stories with her students over the years (weren't many of you introduced to fantasy when you read [A Wrinkle in Time](#) in her class?) Certainly Rita's love of science fiction and fantasy novels was legend here at the Library: she wanted to share that enjoyment so she often recommended titles and authors for purchase.

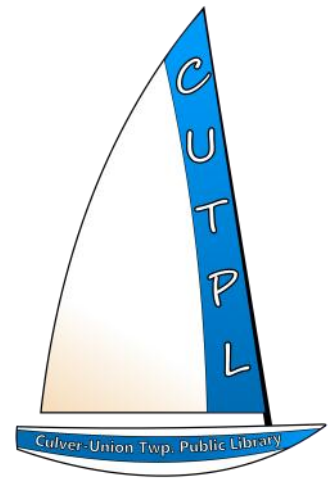
Thanks to Rita's interest and suggestions Polly Thompson Wolf, who selects our books, has put together a rather enviable collection of science fiction and fantasy here at your Library. And now I am delighted to tell you that

Rita's devoted family has requested that the financial donations which were made to the Library in her name be used to purchase more fantasy and science fiction books for our collection.

I speak for the entire staff when I say that we are going to miss Rita Jane Lawson very much indeed. She has left a legacy for the community through her work for the Library, particularly as our Treasurer. Her influence will always be recognized here and certainly in our soon-to-be even more outstanding science fiction and fantasy collection. On behalf of the Culver-Union Township Public Library I want to say thank you to Latham, Kelly and Abby, and to the donors who have made possible this memorial to Rita.



Rita Lawson 1937-2010



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Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9-8,

Friday 9-6

Saturday 9-4

Closed Sunday

What is more
important in a
library than
anything else - than
everything else - is
the fact that it
exists.

~Archibald
MacLeish

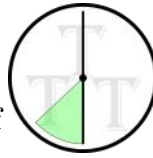
Computer Lab Improvements, New Computer Classes—

by Andrew Baker, computer technology manager and webmaster

We have made some great changes to our computer lab since the beginning of this year. All lab computers are now running Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2010. This offers patrons access to the latest software with improved functionality, plus greater security for public access computers. Additionally, we have the latest versions of Adobe Reader and Google Earth installed. The library is open to suggestions for additional software to be installed on the lab

computers.

We have also started a new session of computer classes, which cover basic computer usage in two sessions, Internet and Email. After these classes are complete, we will continue with Microsoft Office 2010. Office classes will include two sessions covering common features, and one session each for *Word*, *Excel*, *PowerPoint* and *Publisher*. In April, we will be cooperating with People's University to



make our classes available to a wider audience.

For anyone interested in discussion groups and technology, we have our Thursday Tech Time discussion group. The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month; topics include but are not limited to upcoming technology and computer security. For a complete schedule of events, pick up a program guide from the circulation desk or computer lab.

Write a book review of your favorite library Read/View/Listen!

Follow us Online!- Facebook, MySpace and Twitter

Click on Links on our website: www.culver.lib.in.us

CUTPL to Go Live with Overdrive— by Jonathan Gaskill

The new audiobook and eBook download service Overdrive has begun operation at several libraries in the state of Indiana, including Plymouth Public Library. And now Overdrive will go live at Culver-Union Township Public Library on February 28!

I, for one, was so eager to try the new technology I went to the PPL and got a guest card. I immediately tried to download audiobooks and e-books from their collection and found great success! This service was very easy to use, with just my library card number I was able to download digital books without a hitch.

The books typically have a lim-

ited number of copies available, but that is O.K. because the borrowing time is limited to 7-14 days. I borrowed an audiobook on conversational Dutch and started listening immediately on my smart phone. Next, I downloaded a couple of e-books for my step-daughter to read on our family e-reader. The books automatically expire on the due date – no late fees.

Culver will belong to a consortium called the “eIndiana Digital Consortium” in addition to Evergreen. Eventually all titles for other Evergreen libraries in this system will be available for our download. Three titles will be allowed in your “possession”

at a time, and can be downloaded to one's computer or handheld device/smartphone through Overdrive Media Console v.2.

There are hundreds of compatible devices that you can use including PC and Mac computers, iPad, iPhone, iPod, Barnes & Noble's Nook, Sony & Kobo e-readers, Android compatible smartphones, and BlackBerry phones. Information on “eIndiana Digital Consortium” is available at <http://cidc.lib.overdrive.com> and info about compatible devices and the Overdrive service is available at <http://Overdrive.com>.

Meet the Staff- Polly Thompson Wolf

Although you may have seen her around the library or helping patrons at the Circulation Desk, Polly Thompson Wolf is rarely seen at the library; rather, she works behind the scenes as she heads up Technical Services. Almost every new and donated book that ends up on the shelves at CUTPL has been processed by Polly.

Polly just celebrated her 10th anniversary of employment at the Culver-Union Township Public Library, but she rarely boasts unless she's talking about her garden. Polly formerly worked at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center for 14 years starting in the radiology department and was later promoted to be manager of secretarial services for nursing and administration. "All that time I was putting myself through college at Indiana University South Bend," says Thompson Wolf. She recently completed the requirements for a bachelor's degree. "I shouldn't have put off a speech class for thirty years," she says of her final course which she received an "A."

As mentioned before, Polly is head of Technical Services and Collection Development. She processes new and donated books and works with staff at weeding the collection pulling old, "dingy" books and replacing them with updated copies or getting rid of them altogether. She is doing what she loves, in her own words: "This is my second career, but it should have been

my first. At a smaller library, you get to do so many more things." She formerly worked in adult programming and started a book club called "Hooked on Books." Polly was instrumental in CUTPL receiving a Big Read grant in 2009 highlighting



Thornton Wilder, "which was an incredible opportunity for such a small town" she recalls. The Big Read included a photography contest, reader's Theater, *Our Town* the play, a composition contest, and Academic speakers Dr. Lincoln Konkle, Dr. Christopher Wheatley, and Dr. Charles Bayless.

Polly reflects about her experience at Culver-Union Township Public Library, "the best thing is when you are able to meet the need of the person on the other side of the desk...We have made the library a place to be with a change in the way we do busi-

ness. We try to merchandise the collection as something to be used by the patrons— that's the way we promote materials to the public, we want them to put their hands on something that's good and say, 'Oh, Wow' and take it home with them. This is their library, their property and their tax money." She is also working on building the music collection (other than CDs) by adding sheet music compilations and music instruction books.

In her spare time, when she is not having a great time at the library, Polly enjoys taking care of her farm "pets"-- around 30 chickens and a red turken rooster named "Turk" who takes fervent care of the flock. Polly and her husband, Jim also manage a sizeable "lasagna" garden growing squash, and tomatoes, although she says her biggest crop is always weeds.

Polly enjoys reading in her spare time, "Hard Science Fiction" based on scientific facts and principles. Her favorite book and series is *Dune* by Frank Herbert. Her music picks are Boz Scaggs, Aaron Neville and The Surreal McCoys. Polly and her husband Jim, former high school classmates, were married 16 years ago after running into each other at the 25 year high school reunion. They had a short e-mail correspondence romance, he in Portland, OR and she in South Bend and were soon married. They live in Union Township just outside of Culver.

Children's Room Storytime Changes with the Times — By Fran Kent, Staff

The Children's Room at Culver-Union Township Public Library will begin a new story time schedule soon. Beginning on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, continuing every Tuesday for 8 weeks at 10:30 a.m., there will

be a Toddler Storytime for those children eighteen months through 3 years of age. In-House Preschool Storytime begins on February 3, 2011 and continues every Thursday for 8 weeks at 11:15 a.m. for children three to

five years old.

Registration is required for these storytimes. Please register on the sign up sheet in the Children's Room at the library by January 25.

Large Print Collection Steadily Grows Larger — by Barb Maves

In 2011, when you are perusing the selections at the library, remember our Large Print section. Large Print has a lot to offer: Romance, Historical Fiction, Biography, Christian Fiction, Thrillers, Westerns, and more!

Large print is usually released

well after its regular print version; however, we are beginning to see the simultaneous release of both editions.

Large Print books contain the same content as regular print so you won't miss a word of the original text. Needless to say,

large print is easy on the eyes.

So, what are you waiting for? Try a Large Print book on for size! Remember, if we don't have a particular title, we'll do our best to get it for you – just let us know what titles you like!

Youth Services Fall 2010 — by Ali Gaskill

Join us this spring for new and exciting programs in the Youth Services Department! Are you ready to get fancy? On Saturday, March 12th at 10:30 am we will host our 3rd annual "Fancy Nancy Tea Party." Attendees are encouraged to wear their "fanciest" attire and join us for tea, snacks, a "fancy" craft and Fancy Nancy stories. Children are required to be accompanied by a "fancy" adult for this event!

Be sure to check out all of the great new titles in the Children's Department as well as in the Young Adult Department! The Young Hoosier Book Award Nominees for 2011-2012 have arrived along with the Newberry and Caldecott winners for this year. The Caldecott winner "A Sick Day for Amos McGee" is sure to become a classic!

The Youth Services Department's new Teen Bookclub

meets every Wednesday at Culver Community High School. There are currently 30 students participating and our selected title for this month is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. The Friends of the Library generously offered to help purchase the first 2 titles which allows the students to receive and keep a copy of each of the titles that they will be reading.

Cult Literature Book Club Comes of Age — by Jonathan Gaskill

What started as a book club for travel enthusiasts and lovers of the road, those bitten by the bug of wanderlust has turned into an opportunity for lovers of literature to get together and talk about books that have come to be known as "Cult Classics" and books which do not fit in the mainstream. The selections for this book club include but are not limited to books by Tom Robbins, *Trainspotting* by Irvine

Welsh, *Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller, *Slaughterhouse 5* by Kurt Vonnegut, *The Stranger* by Albert Camus and *A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess.

From the Preface to the book *Classic Cult Fiction: A Companion to Popular Cult Literature*, Thomas R. Whissen opines, "The word "cult" is used quite freely these days to identify anything that is offbeat and kind of quirky, usually something that

is not commercially successful but has a devoted following." Either way you look at it, cult literature, like cult film and music, has a fond place in the hearts of readers around the world as almost everyone has read a book which people say one should not read, but it hits home and strikes a chord with the reader in one way or another, like *Catcher in the Rye* has for so many young readers. Give this book club a try.

Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library— What are Friends For

Some of you may be wondering what the Friends of the Library are and what do they do at the Culver-Union Township Public Library. Budgets are dwindling every year for libraries across the nation, and due to less money from property taxes and County Adjusted Gross Income Taxes, the library can use as much help as it can get. A special group of people support a library they have come to rely upon, trust and love to be there for the community. The Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library were formed in 2005 by Sandy Wakefield and have had an illustrious existence ever since. “The Friends,” as they have become affectionately referred to, raise money through donations, membership dues and book sales to be used to better your Culver Union Township Public Library.

They have funded purchases such as label printers for spine labels on books, CDs and DVDs, \$500 toward book cases (you may have seen them- “new releases bookshelves” next to the circulation desk), shelving units for storage and display boards for artwork. The Friends have also purchased several copies of *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho for a new Teen Book Club taking place as Library/School collabo-

ration with the High School and Ali Gaskill, Children’s/YA librarian.

The Friends are a 501c-3 not-for-profit organization and they do take donations. Recently a collection of counted cross stitch was donated by a library patron and will be a part of a silent auc-



tion to raise funds for the library. The friends are also in the process of purchasing a book for the new Science Fiction/Fantasy collection in memory of former library Friend and CUTPL Board member Rita Lawson.

The Friends group also sponsor two programs which are open to the public- book reviewer for the South Bend Tribune Howard Dukes will be at the library on May 4th at 7p.m. and Glory-June

Greiff, Indiana author and historian will speak about State parks on June 15th at 7p.m.

Their main source of income is the quarterly Book Sale, one of which is coming up on April 29-30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the large meeting room downstairs in the library. The future book sales will take place June 18th, September 23-24 and a \$1 a bag book clearance sale on October 22nd. Book prices range from 25 cents to \$1 each- quite a deal.

The Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library meet the first Monday of every month, with upcoming meetings on March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, August 1, September 6, October 3, November 7 and December 5. Officers of the Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library are: President- Charlotte Hahn, Vice-president- Rita Mason, Treasurer Connie VanHorn and Publicity Head-Ginger Budzius. Feel free to check out the CUTPL website for information on the Friends right from the front page, and the Friends are always accepting donations and recruiting new members, so feel free to ask about “the Friends” at the Circulation Desk!

Audiobook Review- A Library Patron

I recently listened to my first audiobook, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. I have read the book several times, it being one of my favorite books of all time, and I thought it only fitting that I listen to it as it was intended to be heard, read by a British person

(replete with British accent, no doubt) and I was pleasantly surprised. I saw the new version of the film when it first came out in theaters and enjoyed it, but a lot was missing from the story. The audiobook was unabridged and followed the text exactly. It was fun to read along, and even

more fun to be able to cook dinner, fold laundry, and do all the other things I normally veg-out and watch tv or movies during chores. The book itself was a great listen, and I recommend audiobooks to anyone willing to try something new!

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

Fiction:

The Metropolis Case: A Novel by Matthew Gallaway
Warlord by Ted Bell
Secrets to the Grave by Tami Hoag
Damage by John T. Lescroart
The Burning Land: A Novel by Bernard Cornwell
Stranger in a Strange Land by Robert Heinlein
Appaloosa by Robert Parker
Cross Fire by James Patterson
Moonlight Mile by Dennis Lehane
The Judas Gate by Jack Higgins

Large Print:

Happy Ever After by Nora Roberts
The Lion of Cairo by Scott Oden
The Athena Project: A Thriller by Brad Thor
The Writing on My Forehead by Nafisa Haji
Crescent Dawn by Clive Cussler
The Outlaws by W.E.B. Griffin
Embers of Love by Tracie Peterson
Edge by Jeffery Deaver

Nonfiction:

J.D. Salinger: A Life by Kenneth Slawenski
How to Unspoil Your Child Fast: a Speedy, Complete Guide to Contented Children and Happy Parents by Richard Bromfield
Basic Economics: a Common Sense Guide to the Economy by Thomas Sowell
The 7 Wonders that will Change Your Life by Glenn Beck

Online Public Records by Michael Sankey
101 Internet Businesses You Can Start From Home... by Susan Sweeny
Socialism: A Brief Insight by Michael Newman
Digital Moviemaking by Tyler Cullum
Decision Points by G.W. Bush
The Backyard Beekeeper by Kim Flottum
Turtle Island by Gary Snyder

DVD:

21
Dahmer
The Girl Who Played With Fire
Meatballs
Knight and Day
An Eye for an Eye
Hellboy 2: Golden Army
Eat, Pray, Love
Doctor Who
Salt
The Expendables
Inception
Egypt: Pyramids & Mummies
Ancient Greece: Gods & Battles
Easy Songs for Banjo
Effortless Guitar: Smooth Jazz Techniques

CD:

Brothers— The Black Keys
I Get Around— K'Jon
Common Ground— Walter Trout
The Very Best of Dolly Parton
Bad Reputation— Pierre de Gal-
lande sings Georges Brassens
The Complex— Blue Man Group
Brothers— The Black Keys
Mission Bell— Amos Lee
My Kinda Party— Jason Aldean

Black Swan— Motion Picture Soundtrack
In Session— Albert King with Stevie Ray Vaughn

Graphic Novels:

Earth One by Michael Straczynski
Luthor by Brian Azzarello
Dr. Horrible and Other Horrible Stories by Zach Whedon, et. al.
Casper the Friendly Ghost and Friends by Larz Bourne
Harvey Comics by Larz Bourne

Childrens/Juvenile

Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel
Most Wanted by Kate Thompson
Inuasha: Three in One 1 by Rumiko Takahashi
A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C. Stead
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Of Thee I Sing by Barack Obama
Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool
Silverlicious by Victoria Kann
Lego Star Wars by Simon Beecroft
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia
Turtle in Paradise by Jennifer Holm



Dear Patrons & Friends of the Culver-Union Township Public Library,

Would you like to see your work in print? Please, submit any article, photograph, poem, book review, or a story about "What You Love About Your Library" to Jonathan Gaskill or Colleen McCarty, or leave the piece with the staff member at the circulation desk/children's department desk and, upon review, it will be published in the Winter Newsletter. Thanks for your involvement and support. That is what makes this town and this library GREAT! The People...