

Acorn Public Library

From Small Beginnings, Great Happenings.

(708)687-3700 (708)687-3712 Fax

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January 2014



Branching Out

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From the Director's Desk...

A new year is here, and the beginning of 2014 offers us an excellent opportunity both to look back on 2013 and to look forward to the future. This past year was certainly a very busy one at the Acorn, and I'm overjoyed at the way we continued to thrive and to find new ways to serve the community. Some highlights of what we accomplished in 2013:

- The introduction of downloadable magazines with Zinio
- The introduction of the Hot Copy collection of non-holdable, popular titles
- Youth and Adult summer reading programs that broke our previous records for participation
- The development of the Strategic Plan 2014-2016 for the library
- The installation of a new energy-efficient boiler, partly paid for with incentives from the Illinois Department of Commerce
- The adoption of our fabulous new squirrel mascot, Rascal



We do not expect the pace of change to abate in 2014, as we are committed to continue evolving in order to meet the needs of our patrons. Perhaps the most exciting thing we can look forward to is the introduction of a fantastic new website sometime soon!

In other news, February will mark five years since I started at the Acorn. This time has been about evenly split as Reference Librarian and Director, but it has all been tremendously exciting. I'd like to thank all of the Library's staff and trustees for all of their support, and I look forward to continuing to work to make the Acorn the best library it can be!

Finally, I'd like to announce a couple of minor policy changes that we've recently adopted. The first is that new feature films will now be holdable by Acorn cardholders. This means that you can reserve a copy of new, blockbuster DVD releases and they should be waiting for you at the Library sometime soon. Second, you will now be able to renew most items three times instead of just two. This will give you a total of eight weeks for most books (unless someone else has a hold on them), just in case you are a slow reader (like me).

-Eric Werthmann

Welcome Zachary Musil, Reference Librarian!

Zach Musil, Acorn Public Library District's new Reference Librarian and Programming Coordinator, is an avid and eclectic reader with a Master of Library and Information Science degree from Dominican University and a Master of Arts degree in English from Loyola University of Chicago. As an undergraduate, he attended Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, where he double majored in English and Religious Studies and minored in Philosophy. Before coming to Acorn, Zach previously worked as a Readers' Advisory Assistant at Fountaindale Public Library District in Bolingbrook and as a Grant Writer for a Chicago nonprofit organization. He is very happy to join Acorn Library's staff and looks forward to serving its patrons and community.

Ready, Set, Goal!
Thursday, January 23
7 PM

Start the new year off right by setting some goals! Felicity Quiroz-Strom from Family Dynamic Coaching will be here to guide you in achieving your goals for 2014, as well as overcoming barriers that prevent you from reaching your goals.

Monday Movie Matinees

Enjoy a featured film each month at the Library. For a list of times and titles, stop in the Library at the Reference Desk.

Fiction in a Nutshell

Looking to spice up your fiction reading with a little variety and conversation? Join Acorn Public Library's new book discussion group! The group will be reading both contemporary and classic fiction in an assortment of genres. Fiction in a Nutshell will meet quarterly on a Saturday in February, May, August, and November. The inaugural meeting will be on Saturday, February 22 at 2:30 PM. For more details and to reserve a book, contact the Reference Department.

Own Your Own Business without Starting it: Saturday, January 25 at 2 PM - Come join Novant Capital Group's Sam Oubaid to learn about attaining the American dream through business ownership.

Paying for College Survival Workshop: Thursday, January 30 at 7 PM - Presented by Ronald Rago of College Funding Strategies, this workshop will give you resources, information, and tips to help you afford a quality college.

Emancipation to Innauguration: Thursday, February 27 at 7 PM - Join musician/historian Clarence Goodman as he takes us on a virtual tour of Chicago and its pivotal role in black history.

Can You Afford to Retire? Thursday, March 13 at 7 PM - Greg Kurinec from Bentron Financial Group, Inc. will be here to help you evaluate your personal ability to retire. Greg will provide you with a self-assessment, checklists, and will guide you through the ten critical questions any retiree needs to answer with confidence.

Irish Music & Storytelling with the Irish Music School of Chicago: Saturday, March 29 at 2 PM - Acorn Library is proud to present Sean Cleland—the award-winning Irish fiddle player, will fill the afternoon playing the Irish fiddle, sharing his knowledge on Irish music history, and telling stories.

Computer Classes:

Acorn Library offers computer classes each month. There is a five dollar non-refundable fee for the class, and sign up is required in advance. Coming soon:

Introduction to the Internet
Thursday, January 9 - 3:00 PM

Introduction to Microsoft Excel
Saturday, January 18, 10:30 AM

Introduction to Computers
Wednesday January 22, 6:00 PM

Introduction to Microsoft Word
Thursday, January 30, 4:30 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP FOR A PROGRAM, CONTACT CIRCULATION THE DESK AT(708)687-3700.

OTHER LIBRARY SPONSORED PROGRAMS

MUSE - Meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7 PM. Interested in writing a book? This is your group.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - Our "Tuesday Night Bookies" meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM. For more details and to reserve a book for this group, contact the Circulation Desk.

QUILT GROUP- Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. Bring your project and swap great ideas for quilting.

MORAIN VALLEY ADULTS TEACHING ADULTS - Meets every Wednesday at 6 PM. For more information, stop by the Library on Wednesday nights.

NONFICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - The "Barcodes" meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at Oliver's Bar & Grill. January meeting will be on the 9th, not the 2nd. For more details and to reserve a book, contact the Reference Dept.

AMATUER ARTIST GROUP - Gather with some fellow artists to educate and encourage one another by sharing your personal experiences. Meets on the second monday of each month at 7 PM.

THE LYCEUM: CONVERSATION GROUP - The next meeting for this group will be March 8 at 2:30 PM.

STORY TIMES - Winter Session:

Thursdays, January 23 - February 27, 2014
 Lapsit (Infants - 2 years): 9:30-9:50 AM
 OR 10-10:20 AM
 3-5 year-old Story Time: 11- 11:30 AM

Registration is required, beginning January 9, continuing until full. You must choose either the 9:30 AM or the 10 AM session of Lapsit. All registrants should plan on regular attendance of all meetings in order to register.

MORE STORYTIME PROGRAMS...

Story Time at Panera Bread - Wednesdays, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, Apr. 2 -10 AM. Stories, songs and cookies! No Registration.

Bedtime Story Time - Wednesdays, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9 - 7:00 PM Up to Age 7
 Wear your PJ's for a fun night of stories, songs and a craft!

Story Time Fun - Tuesdays, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15 - 6:30 PM Up to age 7
 Join us for a night of stories, songs and a craft.

Registration for all Programs starts two weeks prior to program and ends when full.

Check it Out!

SATURDAY CRAFT CLUB - Saturdays, January 11, March 8, and April 5 at 11 AM Ages 6 and Up
 January's craft: RAINBOW LOOMS! Bring your rainbow looms and we'll provide the rubber bands! Each session will have a different craft and will begin with a book exchange - you bring a book, you will get to pick a book.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS...

Blocks, Bean Bags and Balls: Saturdays, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 26 at 10 AM 3 and Under w/ a Caregiver.
 Start your weekend off right with our open play group for babies and toddlers!

After School Crafts: Tuesdays, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 15 at 4 PM Ages 6 and Up
 Come to the library to make a fun craft after school!

LEGO Club: Saturdays, Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 22, and Apr. 19 at 10:30 AM Ages 6-12
 Each meeting we will create around a different theme.

Family Bingo: Saturdays, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 12 2:30 PM - All Ages Try your luck at our Family Bingo!

Young Adult Book Discussion Group: Fridays, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, and April 4 at 3:30 PM, Ages 11 and Up.
 Join our book discussion group. Members pick what we'll read. Snacks served, copies of the book are at the YS Desk.

Teen Advisory Group- TAG: Thursdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17 at 7 PM. Grades 6 and Up.
 TAG is a group of teens who are interested in volunteering, organizing activities for teens at the library, and having fun!

Doodle Drawing Club: Wednesdays, Jan. 15, Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 16 at 4 PM, Ages 11 and Up.
 Create original works of art!

Science Club: Saturdays, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 12 at 10:30 AM Grades 2 - 5
 Each month kids will discover the wonders of science.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS...

Read to Succeed with the Chicago Wolves Reading Program: January - February All Ages
 Register for the reading program and set your own goals. When you reach your goal you will be entered in a raffle for Wolves prizes!

Amelia Bedelia Party: Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2:30 PM Grades 1-3
 Hear crazy Amelia Bedelia stories, play games, have fun!

Valentine's Day Party: Saturday, Feb. 8 at 11 AM Ages 3 - 7 with parent. Games, crafts and fun!

Stink Moody Party: Saturday, Feb. 22 at 2:30 PM Grades 1 - 3
 Stink is Judy Moody's younger brother! Come play games and learn about some of the things that Stink likes to do!

Dr. Suess' Birthday Party: Friday, Mar. 28 at 2:30 PM Grades K - 3
 Spend an hour of your spring break having a belated birthday party for Dr. Suess. Games and fun activities!

Fancy Nancy Party: Saturday, Apr. 19 at 2:30 PM Grades K - 3
 What new fancy words can we learn from Fancy Nancy? Come listen to books, play games and do fun activities!

Author Visit with Julie Halpren: Tuesday, Apr. 22 at 5 PM Teens, Ages 11-17 (+ parents if accompanied with teen)
 Julie Halpern, author of books like *Don't Stop Now* and *Have a Nice Day* talks about writing young adult novels, getting published, drawing on personal experiences, and finding inspiration. Perfect for budding writers and lovers of YA literature. Registration begins April 8.

 **Acorn**
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Friends of the Library:



A HUGE 'THANK YOU'!

The Friends of the Library would like to thank the patrons of our library who have donated and purchased so many books over the years. Through your generosity, the Friends have been able to fund various programs, activities and materials for the Library.

Be sure to stop by our "Friends of the Library" reading room, which was fully furnished from Friends of the Library funds.

If you have creative ideas and a little time to offer, please consider volunteering to help out Acorn Library through the Friends! The next meeting is Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 11:00 AM. Membership is open to everyone.