

**December 2008-  
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Editor

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www.blackriverfallslibrary.org



# **NEWSLETTER OF THE BLACK RIVER FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## **New Library Hours**

### **Monday-Thursday**

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### **Friday**

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### **Saturday**

9 a.m.-2p.m.

## **History Room Hours**

### **Monday**

1p.m.-7 p.m.

### **Tuesday—Friday**

1 p.m.-5 p.m.

## **Address**

222 Fillmore St.  
Black River Falls,  
Wisconsin 54615

## **Telephone**

715-284-4112

## **JILL FLEMING WILL SPEAK AT LIBRARY JAN. 8, 2009**

Registered dietitian, author, and award winning speaker, Jill Fleming, will be here on January 8, 2009, to speak about promoting better health.

Jill Fleming is the author of the book *Thin People Don't Clean their Plates: simple lifestyle choices for permanent weight loss*.

The topic of the presentation is, "Smoothies, Squeezies & Stress" and will include a book talk. Jill explains, "excess stress, lack of sleep, poor nutrition choices & inactivity

are increasing your risk of obesity, chronic diseases & depression."

Learn from Jill as she shares her life-improving, simple lifestyle choices to promote optimal wellness.

Jill will be speaking Thursday evening at 6 p.m. and the presentation is free and open to the public.

Holiday Hours:

**December 24 & 25**

Library Closed

**Dec. 31** Hours: 9 am—2 p.m

**New Year's Day**

Library Closed



**Join us for Holiday cheer!**

**Monday, Dec. 22, 2008**

**Cider and cookies for all!**

**At the Library!**

# BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Friends of the Library book club's membership is growing. We now have twelve avid readers eager to share their reading adventures.

At our December 1 meeting, the topic included any book dealing with the holidays or, more specifically, Christmas. Several old favorites were discussed as well as a number of new titles.

For the Jan Karon fans familiar with the mythical town of Mitford and its many inhabitants, *Shepherd's Abiding* was suggested. A companion book, *The Mitford Snowmen*, is very short but contains tales about many of the now familiar characters met in Karon's novels. For those of you who have not yet experienced her writing and want just a pleasant, feel good book, start with *At Home in Mitford*. Once you are introduced to Father Tim and the other folks in Mitford, you'll want to read the whole series.

*Christmas in the Midwest* by Clarence Andrews is a collection of short stories. They are sure to bring back memories for those of us with some gray in our hair! Remember those presents we picked out for mom and she was gracious enough to convince us she was thrilled with the cheap bottle of perfume or gaudy pin? Maybe she was also a really good actress. Anyway, this book will bring back lots of memories.

Curtiss Ann Matlock wrote *Miracle on I-40*. A young mother with a child and a desire to return to the home she left years before, a truck driver, Christmas wishes and a puppy. Even though the plot is pretty predictable, it's a novel that will leave you feeling good.

On to the big city in the non-fiction book *Christmas on Jane* of Santa Claus are presented.

The author is Billy Rump and he recalls how he and his family would come to this street in New York City from Vermont every year to sell Christmas trees. He recalls his experiences with the people he met and the problems that developed between his teenage daughter and himself. This report was especially interesting as it was read by one of our members who had lived in New York for many years and knew the location of this particular street

Another non-fiction book told about the history of Santa. Jeff Guinn wrote *The Autobiography of Santa Claus*. Yes, Virginia, there really was a St. Nicholas! This is also a history book as events that coordinated with the evolution of Santa Claus are presented.

A number of the books discussed have been made into movies or made for television specials. Among them is *Skip-ping Christmas* by John Grisham. This is a good one when the Scrooge in you is urging you do what the title suggests!

*The House Without a Christmas Tree* by Gail Rock, *The Christmas Box*, first in a series written by Richard Paul Evans, and Richard Kincad's *The Christmas Angel* are all films as well as easy reads. We really recommend you curl up with some hot chocolate, a warm blanket, turn off the TV and read one or more of these to put you into the Christmas spirit.

If you need a good laugh, Jean Sheppard's *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Elizabeth Robinson are two suggestions. Both have been made into films, but even if you've seen them they don't do justice to these books.

A final suggestion is a mystery. Every year Mary Higgins Clark and her daughter write a mystery and the latest one is *Dashing Through the Snow*.

The next meeting will be held on January 5. Members will read either a biography or an autobiography of their choice. Please feel free to join us!

Submitted by Pat Windsor



**LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT...**

The History Room has a wonderful selection of books for sale that would make wonderful Christmas gifts. The selection includes, but not limited to: *Alma Center Memories, Historic Hatfield, Northfield Township Celebrates Its Heritage, Jackson County Reader Volume 1, Village of Merrilan, and Gather at the River.* *The 125-Year History of Pine View Care Center* is also on sale with the price reduced to \$20.

A selection of Black River Falls High School annuals is also available for sale. Proceeds from the sale of the books go to the respected groups' responsible for the publication of the books.

Proceeds from the yearbooks go to support the cost of Ancestry.com, available at the library. Stop in at the History Room or contact Historian Mary I. Woods for more information.

Staff Pick!

**THE SEAMSTRESS BY SARA TUVEL  
BERNSTEIN WITH LOUISE LOOTS  
THORNTON  
BOOK REVIEW BY CATHY LAMBRECHT**

They say you can't judge a book by it's cover, but I did just that. Being a seamstress myself, I was drawn to the title and the picture of a lovely young girl on the cover. I was reluctant to read another book about the holocaust but after scanning the introduction, I knew I had to read the entire book. The story of a young Romanian girl and how she survives the holocaust elicited the same feelings that I had when I read other such memoirs—a deep appreciation for all of the comforts in my life. A loving family, a nice home, warm clothes, good food.

Beyond that, however, is the powerful impact the story had on my awareness of the human condition. It forced me to examine more closely the qualities Sara Tuvel had that allowed her to survive horror and tragedy—courage, honor, dignity, respect, loyalty, independence—and emerge able to live a meaningful life without bitterness and hatred.

My favorite books are ones that challenge me to change and look at the world in new and different ways. This book did just that. An extraordinary read.  
Reviewed by Cathy Lambrecht, BRF Public Library Aide



**BOOK DONATIONS FOR  
THE LIBRARY**

*We are happy to accept book donations to the library but please keep in mind the following information for donations as outlined in our Library Policies:*

*Donations and gifts are selected and evaluated using the following criteria: librarian's knowledge, expertise, and community awareness to evaluate materials.*

*Other criteria are popularity, space available for the item, whether we already have a copy of a particular item, and relevance to community needs and desires.*

*We accept donations anytime but prefer to receive them in May just before our annual book sale.*

**PROJECT  
CHRISTMAS BOOKS  
FOR SALE!**

There still are a number of Project Christmas books for sale. *Old Bear* is a delightful story about a bear in hibernation. Books are \$10.00 and after buying a book for Project Christmas, patrons may buy one to keep. Please give to share the gift of reading for children in Jackson County!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! ... PLEASE  
ANSWER SURVEY FOR US!**

We need to find out what hours you, our patron, are using the library the most! Please fill out the survey at the circulation desk and let us know when you tend to use the library. We will have a drawing every week for the next month for those who sign their form. Popular best sellers are the prize! Thank you for participating!

**FREE CLASSES TO BE  
OFFERED AT THE LIBRARY!**

Knitting for beginners start Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. All ages 8 years and up are invited to attend but must be a beginner. Class size is limited to 10. Sign up at the circulation desk by Jan. 10 and receive your supply list. Ann Robertson will be your teacher!

Computer classes for beginners will continue in January. Please sign up at the circulation desk. Topics covered are: computer terminology, understanding the tool bar, setting up an email account, and conducting searches on the Internet.

*Happy Holidays!*  
*See you @ the Library!*

