

The Lamplighter



IN THE SYSTEM

Withee Library and Free Comic Book Day

For the last seven years, the first Saturday in May has been celebrated as Free Comic Book Day, a single day when participating comic book shops across North America and around the world give away comic books absolutely free. This year on May 2nd 2009, comic book shops worldwide gave away more than 2 million comic books to readers of all ages. A record number of public and school libraries participated this year, attracting patrons and promoting the pleasure of reading.

The Withee Public Library was a participant of FCBD for the first time this year. Because there isn't a comic shop located in this rural area, the library was accepted as a distributor of this year's free comics. In other places public and school libraries collaborate with comic book stores to celebrate this event.

When readers in search of free comics came to the Withee Public Library they did find the expected comics - plus refreshments, a showing of anime, a creative corner with opportunities for artists and writers, and a quick survey. Those that filled out the survey were eligible to win a door prize.

Contents

Withee Library	1
Wisconsin Oral History	2
WVLS Receives Six	3
Join the SummerSlam™	4
Amazon Launches	5
“What to Say ...”	6
Library Cards	6
What is a Group	7
Bridge to Job Hunting	8
Websites of Interest	9
Calendar of Events	9
Quote of the Month	10

The Withee Public Library's graphic novel collection includes both American comic books and Japanese-style manga. Subjects range from retold classics to nonfiction to the genres of fantasy, romance and comedy. You can check out an adaptation of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* or collections of vintage superhero comics like *Iron Man* or learn about guerrilla warfare in the Pacific during World War II with *The Battle of Iwo Jima*. Browse through titles in popular series such as Star Wars, Avatar, The Legend of Drizzt, Shaman King, Nancy Drew, Bone and Naruto. For younger readers there's *Baby Mouse*, *The Time Warp Trio*, *Mail Order Ninja*, and *Lions, Tigers and Bears*. Newly independent readers will enjoy titles such as *Otto's Orange Day* and Geisel honor book *Stinky*. Aspiring artists can find books on drawing in the comic book and manga styles.

Find out more about Free Comic Book Day at www.freecomicbookday.com.

(Loralee Peterson, Director, Withee Public Library)

Wisconsin Oral History Day

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire was the location of the April 27th's Wisconsin Oral History Day. A number of historians, librarians, students and teachers attended this workshop. I tagged along with my brother who is an archivist for the state of Michigan and who has recently recorded oral histories of a couple of Owen-Withee residents.

I fully expected this workshop to be dry and methodical, but I was pleasantly surprised. A number of participants had the opportunity to show oral history projects that they'd completed. They convinced me that oral history is not all about a CD and a transcript. College students used power point presentations to add visual images to their subject's story. Jenny Morgan, 8th grade American History teacher, used a collection of family papers to add depth to her presentation. Two other speakers talked about using oral histories as part of museum displays. Julie Davis, Assistant Professor, Department of History, College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, used interviews in the research process. Ruth Olson, UW-Madison Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures incorporated the recording of the interview into the display itself.



Troy Reeves, head of UW-Madison's Oral History Program and convener of WOHD, stated "I designed oral history day to bring together interested folks to a single location to learn the steps to conduct quality oral histories, to discuss projects, to network regarding future collaboration, and to strengthen the guild of current and future oral historians."

Next year's Wisconsin Oral History Day is tentatively planned to take place at the same time of year in the southern part of the state.

(Loralee Peterson, Director, Withee Public Library)

WVLS Receives Six LSTA Grants for 2009

2009 LSTA Literacy Category (competitive) - Project Inclusion: Transitions for Teens with Disabilities (\$21,500)

The transition years from childhood to adolescence and from adolescence to adulthood present a variety of challenges. For youth with autism spectrum disorders and learning disabilities, facing the social interactions of adolescence as well as the hormonal/physical changes within their bodies often means an emotional roller coaster ride. During 2009, WVLS and 13 member public libraries are joining community networks which support the literacy needs of youth ages 10-19 with disabilities in Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, and Oneida counties. Project Inclusion builds on a 2008 grant which focused more on the needs of families of younger children with disabilities.

May's Adolescent Literacy Initiative workshop complemented the staff training goals of Project Inclusion by providing an understanding of the latest teen brain research and adolescent literacy issues, as well as improving staff communication skills and abilities to deal with behavior issues. An online wiki and other tools will link library staff to professional "best practices".

By providing resources to help teens/tweens with schoolwork and pleasure reading, and opportunities for involvement in library programming, WVLS libraries are working to foster developmental assets such as a commitment to learning, social competencies, and positive values and identity. Grant funds will enable the purchase of developmentally appropriate library materials in a variety of formats and reading levels from Playaways to manga, as well as parenting materials which address difficult transition issues like social skills training, independent living skills, sexuality, college exploration, and workplace competencies. To connect with this underserved population, libraries will offer programs and gaming tournaments to encourage positive social interactions and ways of learning cooperation and/or competition in a supportive environment.

2009 LSTA System Accessibility (noncompetitive) (\$2,800)

WVLS will assist its member public libraries by purchasing adaptive equipment/technology needed to increase library accessibility for people of all ages who have mobility, vision, and/or hearing disabilities. Libraries were surveyed regarding accessibility issues and responded with a "wish list" of items such as wheeled-walker carts, trackballs, large print keyboards, reachers, hand magnifiers, and computer screen magnifiers.

2009 LSTA Training Category (competitive) (\$1,500) - Face2Face Enhanced Customer Service

In this ever changing technologically driven world, improved customer service is the key to providing excellent library service and pivotal to the future of our libraries. This grant is a collaborative effort with the South Central Library System, the Indianhead Federated Library System, and the Outagamie-Waupaca Library System to bring the WVLS library staff an opportunity to enhance their customer service skills utilizing the training expertise of Gail Johnson and Pam Parr of Face2Face Communications at a workshop on Wednesday, October 7, 2009.

2009 LSTA Jobs Category (noncompetitive) (\$10,435) - Bridge to Job Hunting Success

WVLS is responding quickly to the current economic downturn and wants to serve the people who are unemployed or underemployed, and/or seeking to improve their job skills by working closely with the WVLS public libraries and the local, regional, and state agencies. WVLS will work collaboratively with the Indianhead Federated Library System to create and provide online webinars for library staff and to develop a website for job seekers. WVLS will also be purchasing the Learning Express online product that includes over 700 practice tests and interactive skill-building tutorials, as well as over 130 e-book titles developed by expert academic and industry professionals on improving resume writing skills, achieving higher scores on a variety of licensing tests, and improving proficiency levels in reading, writing, and math for the adult learner.

WVLS will also provide two workshops, one in the eastern portion of the WVLS area (see the flyer in this issue) and one in the western part, on local area job center services, how to use the Learning Express database product, and the job website, and how to help a patron deal with the emotional impact of losing their job.

2009 LSTA Technology (noncompetitive):

- a. **WVLS Wireless Implementation, 2009 (\$2,500)** - Grant funds will be used to expand and improve wireless access in the WVLS area libraries.
- b. **V-Cat Migration and the Network 2009 (\$27,500)** – Grant funds will be allocated for the V-Cat migration project and a portion will be used to support the wide area network.

It looks like it will be a busy year for WVLS working with all of these grant projects, and we hope that the WVLS public libraries will take advantage of all these programs and opportunities.

(Marla Sepnafski, Beth Sillars, & Inese Christman, WVLS)

YOUTH MATTERS

Join the SummerSlam[®] Reading Jam

YALSA, the Young Adult Library Services Association and World Wrestling Entertainment[®] have joined forces for the “SummerSlam[®] Reading Jam”, a pilot project with two great prizes: your library could win \$1,000 for teen and tween materials for your library's collection and two of your tween and teen library patrons can win a free trip for two to WWE's SummerSlam[®] pay-per-view event in Los Angeles.

Here's how it works:

- **Sign up online!** The first 500 libraries to register for the pilot project at:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=oMf7rqwQoEKZjLEsS44ukQ_3d_3d
will receive mini-posters courtesy of the WWE. The deadline to sign up for the SummerSlam[®] Reading Jam is **June 8** (although registration will close once 500 libraries have signed up for the pilot project).

- **Check 'em out!** Each librarian who signs up will receive 25 WWE mini-posters, which should be distributed to any library patrons between the ages of 10 and 18 who take out two books between June 24 and July 16. The posters are all numbered. Distribute all your posters by July 16.
- **Win prizes!** Two lucky poster holders each will receive a Grand Prize of a free trip for two to WWE's SummerSlam[®] pay-per-view event in Los Angeles, Calif., on August 23, 2009. In addition, they will receive \$200 in spending money. WWE will also be giving away 10 copies of the *WWE Encyclopedia*, which recently made the New York Times Bestseller list. The libraries that distributed the winning posters for the two Grand Prizes will each receive a stipend of \$1,000 from WWE for teen and tween materials for their library's collection.

The winning numbers will be posted on <http://www.wwekids.com/> on Tuesday, July 17, 2009, at 4 p.m. Winners will need to verify they have the winning numbered mini-poster at the participating libraries. The library should then contact WWE at (206) 353-5066 to notify them of the winning patrons' names.

WWE and YALSA have also created a downloadable flyer at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/summerslam09.pdf>. After you sign up, download the flyer and distribute it to teens and tweens in your library to get the word out.

And don't forget to sign up for the WrestleMania[®] Reading Challenge, which launches during Teen Read Week in October. Registration is available through Teen Read Week registration found at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2009/registration.cfm> through July 31.

Please read and abide by the official SummerSlam[®] Reading Jam Rules found at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/summerslamrules.pdf>. Contest open only to libraries in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

(American Libraries Direct, May 20, 2009)

FROM HITHER & YON

Amazon Launches Kindle DX

- Kindle DX features larger display for more electronic book formats
- University students will pilot textbook use
- \$489, pre-order available now, shipping this summer

Amazon introduced the third edition of its Kindle this morning, a version that, in addition to offering trade books, will now display textbooks, computer books and cookbooks on a 9.7 inch electronic display screen that includes 16 shades of gray. Magazines and newspapers, already available on the Kindle, will increase their



presence on the new device. Price for Kindle DX is \$489 and Amazon will start shipping the device in the summer.

Amazon hopes the larger screen and improved display will entice students to use Kindle DX and Cengage, Pearson, and John Wiley have agreed to make textbooks available through Kindle DX. Arizona State, Case Western Reserve, Princeton, Reed College and Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia will launch trial programs this fall in which they will distribute Kindle DX to students across a range of subjects. "We look forward to seeing how the device affects the participation of both students and faculty in the educational experience," said Barbara Snyder, president of Case Western.

To induce newspaper readers to use Kindle DX, Amazon is teaming with the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* in a program that will let would-be subscribers who live in areas where there is no home delivery to buy the Kindle DX at a reduced price if they agree to subscribe to a long-term subscription to the paper via the Kindle DX.

(Library Journal Mobile, May 6, 2009)

INFO TO GO

“What To Say to a Porcupine”

This book’s subtitle really explains what this book is all about – “20 Humorous Tales That Get to the Heart of Great Customer Service.” In the age-old tradition of illustrating foibles through fables, Richard Gallagher reveals the essence of great customer service through twenty short, entertaining tales.

These tales cover a wide range of customer service aspects, such as, listening and making a good impression, how to excel when your best laid plans go south, and how to motivate your staff to go that extra mile to assist someone. These tales would be a great starting point for group discussion to get staff involved and talking about how to improve customer service at your library.

“What to Say to a Porcupine: 20 Humorous Tales That Get to the Heart of Great Customer Service” is available for check-out by contacting Inese Christman at the WVLS office (715-261-7256).

(Inese Christman, WVLS-PR & CE Coordinator)

Library Cards—A Great Promotional Tool

Librarians can use the value of a library card to promote their libraries. During Library Card Sign-up Month (September), the American Library Association and libraries across the country highlight the library card as the “smartest card” in every American’s wallet.

Library cards offer users a wide variety of free resources: access to computers and the Internet; financial literacy skills; assistance with job searches; resources to help small businesses; DVD rentals; storytime sessions; and, of course, books.

But library cards have value for librarians as well, whether they are promoting public awareness

about their library's green efforts or programming for children.

The Public Library of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, N.C., used the Association for Library Service to Children's "Kids! @ your library" slogan "So much to see. So much to do@your library" to engage its community and encourage children in grades K-5 to register for a library card. The library has since reported that 20,000 students have signed-up for library cards.



The Clermont County Public Library of Clermont County, Ohio recently redesigned its library cards and now offers library users the choice of seven library cards, including one that supports the library's green initiative, which reads "Go green @ your library."

"It fit in perfectly with the 'green' overhaul we've been working on," said Amy Prewitt, the library's media relations manager. "Besides, the library is the ultimate recycling center — we use and reuse the same materials over and over again."

Prior to the card's redesign, the library used the "Smartest Card" to promote its services. Berkeley County Public Library of Berkeley County, S.C., uses its card to remind visitors that there is "Something for everyone @ your library." The library card is also available as a key fob.

Library Card Sign-up Month, which is held in September, was launched in 1987. Since then, thousands of public and school libraries join each fall in a national effort to remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all.

The Campaign for America's Libraries is the ALA's public awareness campaign that promotes the value of libraries and librarians. Thousands of libraries of all types – across the country and around the globe - use the Campaign's @ your library® brand. The Campaign is made possible in part by ALA's Library Champions.

The "Smartest Card" was created by the Public Library Association (PLA), a division of ALA. (*American Libraries Direct, May 20, 2009*)

What is a Group of Librarians?

Stephen Abrams, Vice President of Innovation at SirsiDynix, asked this question on his Facebook wall and searched for an answer. Here are some of the comments he received:

A gaggle of librarians.	A Google of librarians.	A catalog of librarians.
A shush of librarians.	A stack of librarians.	A shelf of librarians.
An answer of librarians.	A network of librarians.	A HUSH of librarians.

So, what do you call a group of librarians? It doesn't matter. Just call us. Ask. Just call us smart and valuable and we'll smile.

(*Stephen's Lighthouse, May 18, 2009*)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Rhinelander District Library and WVLS Presents . . .

Bridge to Job Hunting Success

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Rhinelander District Library
106 North Stevens Street
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Please join us for a day of learning how you can help your patrons find a job and deal with the stress of losing a job or becoming underemployed. You will also discover the services and resources available to you in your daily work when helping your patrons apply for a job, write a resume, or become licensed for a particular career.

Agenda:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | Coffee and conversation. |
| 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. | Join Tom Younger of the Marathon County Job Service office to learn about the services available for northern Wisconsin job seekers. |
| 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. | Break. |
| 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | How to help someone deal with the emotional side of losing their job. |
| 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Lunch on your own. |
| 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. | Everything you need to know when using the Learning Express database. |
| 1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | Break. |
| 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. | What's on the new WVLS Jobs website. |
| 2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Panel of area librarians discussing what works and what changes I would make the next time I put together a workshop for my library patrons on how to find a job. |

To register: send this completed form to Inese Christman, Wisconsin Valley Library Service, 300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI 54403 or e-mail ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

NAME: _____ LIBRARY: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Registration Deadline: Thursday, August 20, 2009

Workshop sponsored by the Wisconsin Valley Library Service and thanks to 2009 LSTA Job Grant funds.
Continuing Education contact hours = 5 hours.

If you have questions or need special accommodations, contact: Inese Christman at 715-261-7255 or ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us

WVLS Bridge to Job Hunting Success

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

The Sharpened Glossary - <http://www.sharpened.net/glossary>

A glossary of computer terms with easy-to-understand definitions.

Libraries and Autism - <http://www.thejointlibrary.org/autism/>

This site provides "a customer service training video primarily for library staff to help them serve individuals with autism and their families more effectively. The video focuses on what you need to know about autism and will empower you with specific techniques to offer more inclusive service to this growing and underserved population." Also includes print resources and links. From the Scotch Plains Public Library and the Fanwood Memorial Library in New Jersey.

(LII Item: <http://lii.org/cs/lii/view/item/28210> - LII New This Week, May 14, 2009)

Awful Library Books Blog - <http://awfullibrarybooks.wordpress.com/>

Two public librarians from Michigan, Mary Kelly and Holly Hibner, have created a blog that features a collection of the worst – “old, obsolete, awful, or stupid” public library holdings. They welcome your comments and titles that you would like to add to this collection.

(American Libraries Direct, May 20, 2009)

USA Today's Summer Book Calendar - <http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/news/2009-summer-books-calendar.htm>

Ready, set, escape; cue the beach bag; enough with the economy, already. Find the best action novels, family dramas, etc. for your summer reading pleasure.

(USA Today blog, May 7, 2009)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

June is: National Dairy Month. For more details, go to:

<http://www.nationaldairyCouncil.org/nationaldairyCouncil>

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Jun 3 | WVLS Network Committee Meeting , 2:00 p.m. via GoTo Meeting. |
| Jun 4 | WVLS V-Cat Council Meeting , Minocqua, 9:30 a.m. |
| Jun 4 | WVLS Migration Committee Meeting , after V-Cat Meeting, Minocqua. |
| Jun 9 | WVLS Migration Committee visits Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System/Ft. Atkinson Library to explore the Sirsi/Dynix Symphony product. |
| Jun 10 | WVLS Migration Committee visits Eastern Shore Library System/Mead Public Library to view Polaris. |
| Jun 14 | Flag Day. |
| Jun 17 | WVLS Migration Committee visits Appleton Public Library to view Innovative. |
| Jun 21 | Father's Day. |
| Jun 21 | First Day of Summer. |

JULY

July is: National Ice Cream Month. For more details, go to:

<http://www.idfa.org/facts/icmonth/page1.cfm>

Jul 4 Independence Day, **WVLS Office Closed on July 3, 2009.**

Jul 9 - 15 ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. For details, go to:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/index.cfm>

Jul 20 **WVLS Collection Development Committee Meeting**, WVLS Office, 9:30 a.m.

AUGUST

August is: American Adventures Month For more details, go to:

<http://www.americanadventures.info/>

Aug 6 **WVLS V-Cat Council Meeting**, Crandon, 9:30 a.m.

Aug 15 **WVLS Board of Trustees Meeting - Marathon County Public Library**, 9:30 a.m. (Budget - Draft).

Aug 20 **WVLS Library Advisory Council Meeting**, at the Marathon County Public Library, 9:30 a.m.

Aug 25 **WVLS/Rhineland District Library Workshop** – “Bridge to Job Hunting Success” – see flyer in this issue for more details.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once.

--Albert Einstein



The **LAMPLIGHTER** is a monthly newsletter of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service. 300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI 54403. Back issues are available at:

<http://wvls.lib.wi.us/Newsletter/newsindex.htm>

(Note: Web links in past issues are not checked for currency and may no longer work.)

EDITOR: Inese Christman
ichristman@wvls.lib.wi.us
Phone: 715/261-7256
FAX: 715/261-7259

Contributions are welcome! News items should be submitted by the fifteenth of the month. WVLS serves Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties. When the most recent issue becomes available, readers are alerted by a notice posted to WISPUBLIB, or sent an email. To subscribe to WISPUBLIB, send an email message to wispublib@badger.state.wi.us In the body of the message (subject line is ignored) type: subscribe WISPUBLIB. Then send your email. To have The Lamplighter emailed to you without subscribing to WISPUBLIB, contact Barbara Freimund at 715-261-7250, or email freimund@wvls.lib.wi.us You may copy, reprint or forward all or part of this newsletter to friends, colleagues or customers, so long as the use is not for resale or profit and the information/article is attributed to this issue of the WVLS newsletter, *The Lamplighter*.