

ASTRONOMY SERIES STARTS THIS MONTH

Beginning this month members of the Yellowstone Valley Amateur Astronomers will begin a series of three programs of interest to all star gazers.

The following programs will be presented over the next three months:

Lunar Observing with Rich McClellan will be the program on Thursday, March 25th.

Discovering Pluto, the Search for Planet X at the Lowell Observatory will be presented on Thursday, April 29th.

Introduction to Backyard Astronomy with Pat Cormier, will be presented on Thursday, May 27th.

Each of these programs begins at 7:00 p. m. and will be held on the third floor of the Library.

MANSFIELD BIOGRAPHER TO APPEAR AT LIBRARY

Don Oberdorfer, the author of **Senator Mansfield: the Extraordinary Life of a Great American**, will be at the Library on Tuesday, March 16th from 2:00 – 3:00 in the Montana Room on the second floor.

Mr. Oberdorfer will meet the public, spend time discussing his book and autograph copies of the book. The book will also be available to purchase from the publisher.

For more information, call the Library at 657-8258.

ROSSITER RETURNS TO THE LIBRARY

Singer, musician and storyteller Bill Rossiter of Kalispell will return to the Library on Wednesday, March 31st for a program he calls **Stories**, **Songs & Sodbusters: the Little Old Sod Shanty on the Plains.**

With his banjo & autoharp, Bill will tell stories and sing songs about life during the homesteading era. This program will be funded by the Friends of the Library, who will also furnish refreshments for this program which starts at 7:00 p.m. on the third floor meeting room.



LEARN ABOUT TAI CHI THIS MONTH

The Oriental exercise of Tai Chi will be the subject of a free public program titled *Introduction to Tai Chi* on Thursday, March 18th at 7:00 p. m. on the third floor.

Malcolm Goodrich, from the Yoga Center, will talk about the origins and benefits of Tai Chi, then demonstrate some of the most important movements in this popular form of exercise.

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CALEDONIAN SOCIETY TO PERFORM THIS MONTH

A concert of Scottish music and dances will be on tap when members of the Billings Caledonian Society perform **Scotland Through Its Dances & Music** on Saturday, morning, March 6th at 11:00 a.m. on the third floor.

Come and see members of the Society as they perform traditional music and dances of Scotland at the festive program.

Parmly Billings Library Board of Trustees

Dave Ward, Chair

Julie Brown Virginia Court Linda Grosskopf Wm D. Lamdin III

Bill Cochran, Director

LIBRARY TO HOST NEW BOOK GROUP

LitCentric, a new book discussion group, will meet every six weeks at Parmly Billings Library beginning Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. on the third floor.

The first book to be read is **Red As Blood**, or **Tales from the Sisters Grimmer** by Tanith Lee. Copies of this book, and others that will be read, will be provided to participants by the Library.

To register for this book group, contact the Library at 657-8258.

GENEALOGY PROGRAM ON TAP FOR THIS MONTH

Members of the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum will answer the question *Your Ancestor Was Who?* when they present a basic introduction to genealogy class on Wednesday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Genealogy has become one of the 2 or 3 most popular hobbies in the last 30 years, but learning how to get started, who to talk to, and what sources to find can be a challenge. The presenters for this program will answer questions that will help you get started.

NEWBERY AND CALDECOTT AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The 2004 Newbery and Caldecott medal winners were announced at the American Library Association mid-winter meeting on January 12th. The Newbery Medal, named in honor of John Newbery, has been awarded annually since 1922. The medal is awarded to the author of the most distinguished contribution to literature for children published in the U.S. in the preceding year. The 2004 medal was awarded to Kate DiCamillo for her book "The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread". Two titles were chosen as Newbery Honor books for 2004. They are "Olive's Ocean" by Kevin Henkes" and "An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793" by Jim Murphy.

The Caldecott Medal, named in honor of 19th century illustrator Randolph Caldecott, has been awarded annually since 1938. The medal is awarded to the illustrator of the most distinguished picture book for children published in the U.S. during the preceding year. The 2004 medal was awarded to author/ illustrator Mordicai Gerstein for his book "The Man Who Walked Between the Towers". Caldecott Honor books included "Ella Sarah Gets Dressed" illustrated and written by Margaret Chodos-Irvine, "What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?" illustrated and written by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page and "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" illustrated and written by Mo Willems.







Foundation

The Library Foundation Board is planning for the future!

Last month, our Library Foundation Board met in a special "retreat" to discuss priorities for the coming year. The Board identified four key areas on which to focus our efforts this coming year. To summarize, efficiency with our finances, effectiveness as an organization, collaboration with other community organizations and strong relationship with our benefactors will be the keys to successful year. Small groups have been formed to begin work on these important actions. If you have an interest in assisting with this process, please let us know.

The Library Foundation would like to extend a special thanks to Greg and Eileen McDonald and George Sheckleton for their substantial contributions to the Parmly Billings Library through the Foundation. We hold these contributions in trust, and appreciate the willingness to invest in our community library. Thank you, Greg, Eileen and George.

Please remember the Library Foundation in your giving. Funds raised this year are helping the Library with all of its collections-books, CDs, audio-visual materials. Be part of the Library's story! Mail contributions to Parmly Billings Library Foundation, 510 North Broadway, Billings, Montana 59101.

We're in Cyberspace, too! Check out the PBLF website at Parmly Billings Library Foundation information -- www.billings.lib. mt.us/found2.html or send us an email at libfound@billings.lib.mt.us

For Library Foundation Board information, please contact:

Bill Cochran, Library Director (406) 657-8292 or Ann Miller **Foundation President**



MARY **SCHMIEDESKAMP MEMORIAL**

Parmly Billings Library has recently acquired two framed prints for the children's area as a memorial for former Children's Librarian Mary Schmiedeskamp. Mary, who served the Library in Children's Services from 1958 to 1982, passed away on January 7, 2003 in Las Vegas. During her 25 years at the Library, she inspired a love of books in many young readers. Memorial tributes made to the Library in Mary's name were used to purchase the prints. Engraved plaques in her memory have been added to the prints. Please stop by and take a look at these memorials to a great children's librarian.



Friends News

The Friends held a very successful Book Give Away Day on Sunday, February 15th. The purpose was to provide free access to thousands of children's & adult books that were not sold at last October's book sale. The Friends receive so many donations, that they can not possibly sell all of them, & they have found that a periodic book giveaway is a good was to handle the overflow of materials that they receive.

The Friends recently made a significant gift to the Library when they purchased a new

system that will inspect, clean & polish CD's and DVD's. Because of the quantity of musical CD's and DVD's the Library has collected, and because it is difficult to maintain these, the Library welcomes this new equipment that staff can use to clean and maintain these discs.

The next Friends-sponsored event will be a program on March 31st featuring historian, singer & musician Bill Rossiter from Kalispell. The Friends will sponsor Mr. Rossiter's performance and will furnish refreshments.

The next Friends Board meeting will be Wednesday, March 3rd at 11:00 a.m. on the third floor of the Library. Any Friends member is welcome to attend.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION				
Check one ☐ Regular Member	\$10.00	MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY 510 NORTH BROADWAY		
Family Member	\$25.00	BILLINGS, MONTANA		
Name:Address:City:Phone:	State:	Zip:		
Interested in Volunteer Work:	☐ Sort Books ☐ Price Books	☐ Book Sale ☐ Book Sale Committee		
Please clip and mail application back with your payment				



Library Hours LABOR DAY - MEMORIAL DAY

10 am - 9
10 am - 9
10 am - 9
10 am - 9
10 am -6 pm
10 am -5 pm
1 pm - 5 pm

MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY
All above, except Library is closed on Sundays.

MARCH STORY TIME

Teddy Bear Cubs Tuesdays 10:30-11:00 a.m. 3-6 yr. olds

March	2	Dr. Seuss
March	9	Lions and Lambs
March	16	Leprechauns'
		Never Lie
March	23	Let's Fly a Kite
March:	30	Going Quackers

Honeycomb Kids Wednesdays 10:30-11:00 a.m. 2-3 yr. olds

March	3	Dr. Seuss
March	10	Lions and Lambs
March	17	Leprechauns'
		Never Lie
March	24	Let's Fly a Kite
March 3	31	Going Quackers

The Story Bears 3-6 yr. olds Thursdays 10:30-11:00 a.m.

March	4	Dr. Seuss
March	11	Leprechauns' Never Lie
March	18	Lions and Lambs
March	25	Let's Fly a Kite

Bears at the Movies Fridays 10:30-11:00 a.m.

March	5	Come and see
March	12	fun videos with
March	19	your family and
March	26	friends!

510 North Broadway Billings, MT 59101 (406)657-8257

www.billings.lib.mt.us

