



FLATHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY

News

Newsletter of the Flathead County Library Foundation

Spring/Summer 2005

Director's Corner

By the time you read this, we will have completed the remodel at the Main Library in Kalispell. A more open, friendly environment is our goal, with new shelving and additional seating for our customers. All of the new fixtures can be moved to a new library in the future—one with ample parking, natural light, a large comfortable conference room, plenty of space for studying, pleasure reading, children's programs, collections, and just plain hangin' out. With the growth we are experiencing here in the Flathead, a capital campaign to realize this dream shouldn't be too far in the future.

Thanks to school outreach by our Public Services Librarian, Katie Boyes, teens have been flocking to the Main Library over the past few months. A Teen Advisory Committee has helped to plan and decorate the new teen area on the second floor; check it out the next time you are in Kalispell.

We're very proud of the work our dedicated volunteers do for the libraries. You'll read about several exceptional volunteers in this issue, but all of our volunteers are outstanding. Calculating the cost of the work they do, we discovered that our volunteers have saved the county well over \$45,000 this past year. Wow! Library Assistant Pam Eliason has taken over the duties of volunteer coordinator and we expect our volunteer cadre to grow as a result.

With Summer Reading Program just around the corner, we expect an exciting and busy next few months. I hope that each of you visit your local branch library soon. Happy Spring!

Kim Crowley
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*Public Services Librarian Katie Boyes (standing) discusses materials for the *Get Real! Get Fit!* program with a group of teens. The Flathead County Library won a grant to pay for programs and materials to promote healthy lifestyles.*

Library promotes healthy lifestyles

The Flathead County Library system is one of 40 public libraries in 25 states selected to receive a grant for programming to promote physical fitness and healthy eating for teens.

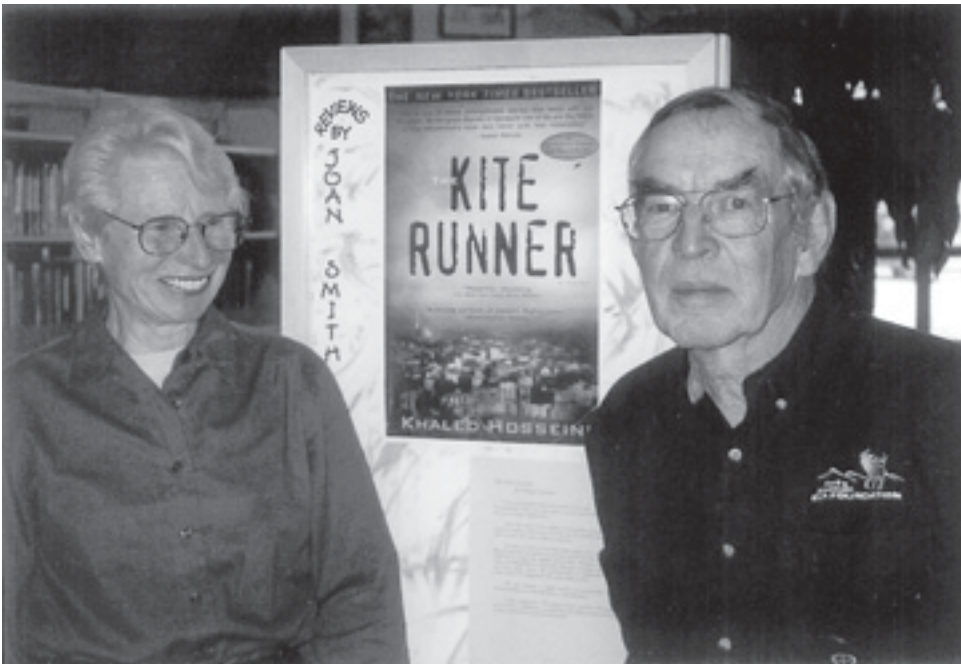
Part of the grant is being used to put on four programs for young people 12 to 14 and their families at libraries in Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Kalispell and Bigfork during the month of May. Call your branch library for more information

The programs include snacks, prizes and health and fitness information for teens in a fun, interactive format. The programs are part of a nationwide *Get Real! Get Fit!* campaign sponsored by the MetLife Foundation and Libraries for the Future.

"We were impressed by the wide array of compelling applications and the strong desire of libraries to address the need for creative programs about physical fitness and healthy eating," said Diantha D. Schull, president of Americans for Libraries Council, the parent organization of Libraries for the Future.

"*Get Real, Get Fit!* taps into a non-traditional area of library service. We're grateful to MetLife Foundation for supporting this very relevant program that not only fills a real need for additional teen and intergenerational programming in many communities but also enables libraries to attract new groups of library users."

(Continued on page 3)



Gary and Mary Sloan have been volunteering at the Whitefish Library for six years. They have built many items for the library, including the display case behind them.

Sloans are valued library volunteers

If you've looked around the Whitefish Branch Library, you've probably seen the handiwork of volunteers Gary and Mary Sloan.

From the native plant posters on the walls and the cross-section of a nearly 700-year-old tree to the storage cabinets in the meeting room, the Whitefish library has benefited greatly from the Sloans' efforts.

"Gary and Mary are two of our priceless treasures," Branch Librarian Joey Kositzky wrote in nominating the retired teachers for the United Way's Volunteer of the Year Award. "I doubt they can begin to imagine what a gift they are to our library patrons or how their generosity has enriched us all."

The couple was awarded the Lifelong Learning Award at this year's Valleywide Volunteer of the Year reception.

The Sloans got involved with the library a number of years ago, first by creating a "Plant of the Month" display using enlarged color photographs. They have featured about 70 native plants over the last few years.

They also maintain an herbarium that is enjoyed by locals and visitors and donated a cross-section of a 690-year-old tree they found near Olney, identifying the rings and matching

famous events to the history of the tree.

"We came across this tree and decided there should be a piece of it for citizens to see," Mary said.

In the winter, they do custom woodworking for the library. Among the numerous items they have built are a vertical topographical map case, a memorial book stand, a dictionary stand for the young adult area and shelving for community exchange books and periodicals.

"We're amateur builders, but we like to do it," Mary said. The results are anything but amateur, and their hand-crafted wood pieces are both beautiful and functional.

Since Gary, an English teacher, and Mary, who taught home-ec, retired in the mid-1980s after more than 20 years at Whitefish High School, they have been actively involved in their community.

"Life is full of wonderful things to volunteer to do," Mary said.

The library has been a major beneficiary of their efforts over the past six years.

"We think that this is such wonderful facility," they said. "We were so pleased and proud when Whitefish pulled together to get this built."

Flathead County Library System

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Foundation asks for donations

The Flathead County Library Foundation is seeking donations to help purchase technology items and other improvements for the libraries that aren't covered by the county tax levy.

In 2004, the Foundation donated \$35,000 in seed money to start the revolving fund for technology.

The foundation is sending out a letter to more than 3,000 individuals and businesses, asking them to consider making a contribution.

"We believe that outstanding library facilities and services are essential to a vital and enlightened community," wrote Gil Jordan, president of the Library Foundation.

The foundation is a non-profit organization that is a source of private financial support for the library system. The foundation accepts gifts of cash, property, stocks or bonds; memorial gifts honoring friends or relatives; gifts of insurance policies or dividends; bequests; and gifts from clubs or organizations. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Two named to foundation board

The newest board members of the Flathead Library Foundation are Dorothy Laird of Whitefish and Terre Hash of Kalispell.

Hash has a law degree and formerly served as chair of the City-County Planning Board. Laird retired as director of the Flathead County Library in 2004. She previously served as Flathead County Superintendent of Schools and has been involved in a variety of community activities.

Get Real! Get Fit! aims to help teens live healthier lives

(Continued from page 1)

Get Real, Get Fit! targets teens and their families in an effort to help combat the growing epidemic of obesity and physical inactivity among young people.

Libraries will use materials produced by the Centers for Disease

Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds is 2005 Summer Reading theme

"Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" is the theme of this year's summer reading program, featuring tales of adventure and special deeds of daring.

Registration starts the week of June 11. Check with your local library for times and dates.

Watch for exciting programs and special storytimes, including sword-fighting demonstrations and a midnight party for the release of the new Harry Potter book.

Another highlight will be an outdoor performance of "The Sword in the Stone" by the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. July 9 at Depot Park in Kalispell.

The backdrop for "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" is the

Middle Ages. It was a time when people really did believe in dragons, and many early myths and legends featured these fire-breathing creatures. Knights fought dragons, participated in jousts and went on quests. They also laid siege to castles and fought a lot.

Children are invited to dream of times long ago, read terrific tales of daring and adventure and enjoy library activities filled with medieval magic and merriment, dragons, castles, knights and fun.

Summer reading program activities will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturdays in Kalispell, 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays in Columbia Falls and 1 p.m. on Thursdays in Whitefish. Children may sign up to participate in the summer reading in Bigfork and Marion the week of June 11.

Last year, Flathead County kids read nearly 8,000 hours for the summer reading program.



Libraries collect 1,300 lbs. of food

More than 1,300 pounds of food was collected for local food banks during the Food for Fines week, which allowed library customers to reduce their fines on overdue materials by donating non-perishable food items.

Each food item equaled \$1 in fines on overdue materials. Food was accepted at libraries in Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Kalispell and Whitefish.

The number of pounds collected

totalled 853 in Kalispell, 209 in Columbia Falls, 175 in Whitefish and more than 100 in Bigfork.

Food for Fines was part of the library's celebration of National Library Week.

"This was a successful program," said Public Services Librarian Katie Boyes. "Our customers got to pay off their fines and help out the community at the same time."

Control (CDC) and will work closely with local health education experts, community organizations and schools to enhance the effectiveness of their programs.

A key feature of *Get Real, Get Fit!* is the incorporation of a new health-related episode on "In the Mix," the

award-winning topical TV series for teens on PBS. Libraries will use the video as a springboard for intergenerational discussion.

The \$1,500 grant to the Flathead County Library will also be used to develop the library's collection of health and fitness materials.



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Friends honored by United Way

The Friends of the Library won the United Way's Volunteers in Action award for their work on behalf of the Flathead County Library System.

Several members of the Friends were on hand to receive the award at the annual Valleywide Volunteer of the Year reception, which honored local individuals and groups for their work.

The Friends were recognized for their financial contributions to the library, their commitment to children and youth and their work with the federal Women, Infants and Children program.

The Friends of the Library is a group of about 30 volunteers who help the library in a number of ways. Their major fund raiser is an annual used book sale, which raises several thousand dollars each year.

For more information on the Friends, call Erica Wirtala at 257-3988.



Kalispell Fire Chief Randy Brodehl was one of a number of local officials who read stories to children at the Kalispell Library during National Library Week. Other readers included Police Chief Frank Garner, Mayor Pam Kennedy and Flathead County Commissioners Joe Brenneman and Gary Hall.