

What Can Readers Advisory Do for You?

You loved Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* but can't find anything like it. What do you do? Ask us! Give us a call, stop by our desk, or shoot us an e-mail, and we'll suggest similar titles. That's what we do! Think of us as a matchmaking service for you and your next read.

Readers Advisory is a specialty of Fiction/AV/Teen Services. We love to talk about all kinds of books, movies, and music, and to answer whatever questions you might have. Looking for something a little different? Want to find a great movie you've somehow missed? We make suggestions based on what you like and what you don't.

Speaking of what you like, one of our most popular resources is our collection of "If You Like..." lists.

Available online or as bookmarks to take home, these suggestions make it easy for you to connect with books and movies that are similar to those you've already enjoyed. From the gentle stories of Jan Karon's *Mitford* series to the gritty tales of film noir, we have a list ready for the taking.

On the other hand, if you are curious about what we like, visit our "We Recommend" feature on the "Books, Movies, and Music" page of our Web site



(www.mppl.org/books). Every week a new personal recommendation is posted, and you have the opportunity to talk back to us by adding your comment. Also on that page is the "Check It Out" column, in which we highlight new additions to our collection as well as old favorites. Find featured staff reviews, lists of award winners, and exciting suggestions of what to check out next. Each entry includes direct links to our Library catalog and an invitation to tell us what you think.

Of course, what everyone really wants to know is how to grab the latest bestsellers. If you're one who loves to read the newest releases, the **Bestsellers Club** is for you. Choose up to 25 bestselling authors, and we'll place you on the list for upcoming books before they've even been published! Available in both regular print and large type, this service is reserved exclusively for Mount Prospect residents, so be sure to take advantage and join the Club.

More than anything, we want to connect you to the best the Library has to offer. Stop by and see just how much we can do for you.

Advice From Youth Services: Preparing for Success in School by Raising a Reader

The secret to raising a reader is simple: make reading a regular part of your child's world. Studies show that children who possess strong language and literacy



skills are better prepared to learn in kindergarten than those who don't. No one expects babies or toddlers (or even preschoolers) to be able to read, but early literacy is about what children know about reading and writing before they can actually read and write.

There are six early literacy skills that you can practice to help prepare your child. We use them in our storytimes and they are easy to incorporate into your daily routine.

The first is **print motivation**. The key is to make reading fun! Keep it short. Stop when your child loses interest. Let your child pick the books you read. Even if your child picks the same book every night! Repetition and following your child's lead are both part of getting kids excited about books.

Then, there is **letter knowledge**. This skill is learning see "Raising a Reader" on page 3

Introducing Your Guide

Your Guide is a new section that will appear twice a year in this newsletter. It includes information about the various resources available at the Library as well as suggestions and handy tips. The main section of *Preview* will continue to provide timely information about programs and events taking place at the Library. *Your Guide* is designed to be a pull-out section that can easily be saved for future reference. If there are specific topics you would like to see covered in this new section, please feel free to contact the Community Services staff of the Library.

Now, E-mail Notices @ MPPL

What does e-mail notification mean to you?

You will:

- Receive an e-mail message that an item you requested is ready to be picked up.
- Get a heads up when materials are coming due—with a link so you can renew the item.
- Save money—advanced warning helps you avoid overdue fines.
- Save the Library money—less spent on mailing notices means more money for Library materials.
- Save a tree—reduce paper notices.
- Save time—e-mail beats the post office and phone calls.

How do you sign up?

- Go to "My Account" on our home page or from the catalog.
- Log in.
- Add your e-mail address to your Profile page.
- Or, ask a staff person for help.



Your Guide to...Community Information

Remember that old slogan “Let your fingers do the walking?” Well, if you’ve found those huge, consolidated phone books to be harder to navigate and less than useful in finding local info, your fingers can still take you to updated, accurate community information.

For a wealth of Community Information right at your fingertips—just go to our Web site at www.mppl.org and click on the “Research & Reference” tab. On the right hand side of the page is the “MP-Mount Prospect Community Information” link. Click on it and you’ll find organized, updated information about Mount Prospect.

At a glance, you’ll see some of the most frequently sought local phone numbers—the nonemergency Fire and Police numbers as well as information for the Mount Prospect Post Office and the nearby Social Security office.

Under “Explore Mount Prospect,” links provide access to a wide variety of community information. Find your elected officials and their phone numbers and contact information. There’s factual and demographic information for Mount Prospect as well as listings of local schools and churches.

“Social Services, Business, and New Resident Info” will give you starting points for access to community services. Links for local employment opportunities can be found under the Employment/Jobs heading.

For sports of all sorts, check out the “Sports & Recreation” link and there you’ll find sled hills, skate parks, golf courses, and a slew of other activities. If you are into the “Arts,” you’ll find pottery and art studios, bands, theater groups, and continuing education classes for all ages. All right here in Mount Prospect!

If you’re looking for like-minded individuals with whom to share your talents, look no farther than the Community Organizations database maintained by the Library. Whether your passion is gardening, grandchildren, community service, quilting, or collecting, chances are there’s a nearby club that would love to meet you! This database lists those clubs primarily in or serving Mount Prospect. If you don’t see the type of organization you’re looking for, please call the Information Services Desk as there are many other clubs and organizations in nearby suburbs. We’ll be happy to assist you in locating one.

And if you’re looking for something to do in and around Mount Prospect this weekend, take a look at the *Village Vibe*. It’s a weekly blog compiling events in Mount Prospect from a variety of sources. Catch a play, attend a concert, volunteer for a cause, or just check out the “News You Can’t Use” trivia. The information is updated weekly, and, if your group would like to be included, there’s an online submittal form.

Of course, the Information Services Desk is always just a phone call away and will happily provide you with this and any other local information you may need.

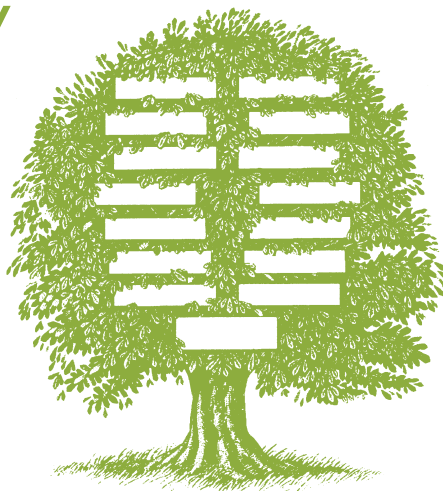
Our Genealogy Collection: A Journey Through Your Family History

One of our noteworthy, special collections is the Genealogy collection. Learning about your ancestors is a process that depends on quality resources to produce a cohesive family history. Our unique collection offers a wide variety of resources to assist you in your quest. Located in the center of the second floor of the Library, the Harold Weary Genealogy and Local History Room is furnished with study tables and computers and is an ideal spot to begin your family history research project. First developed as a separate collection in the 1970s by Harold Weary and other members of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists, this collection continues to be enhanced through the work of several dedicated librarians and volunteers.

Whether you are just beginning to put together your ancestral story or are in the midst of the process, the Library can help. Our experts can point you in the right direction with helpful tips for successful searching. Our collection focuses primarily on the Village of Mount Prospect and the immediate northwest suburban area of Chicago, but other parts of Illinois and the United States are also represented. The collection, most of which is listed in the Library’s catalog and identified by a “GS” in front of the call number, includes microfilm, microfiche, pamphlets, videos, periodicals, subscription databases, and reference books, plus we offer circulating books,

a rare option offered by only a few libraries. The microfilm collection includes Chicago City directories, *Daily Herald*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Mount Prospect Journal*, *Mount Prospect Times*, and census films. The census films cover the years 1850 to 1930, primarily for the areas within Cook County but outside of Chicago city limits. Films for the later years do include data for the city of Chicago. The microfiche collection also includes the *Family History catalog*, *Illinois Marriage Index*, back issues of some periodicals, and fiche on miscellaneous topics. A variety of genealogy periodicals is available and arranged using a special numbering system. The librarians at the Reference Desk can help you get acquainted with this system.

The advent of the Internet and the availability of online resources have transformed genealogical research, bringing information that goes beyond local see “Genealogy” on page 4



F2F With Rose Allen, Teen Librarian



The Teen Zone is your space—check it out. It is a place to chill with friends, surf the Internet, get homework help, and recharge your battery (figuratively and literally). Get away from the stresses of life and dive into a magazine. Bring your laptop and hop on to our free WiFi network. No laptop? Use one of our computers to log on to the Internet or write a paper. Ask one of our Librarians to help you find the research you need to finish your paper. You can even pick up a flash drive and start your draft while you are here. If money is tight and hanging out at the mall just doesn’t do it for you, then meet your friends at the Library. Try one of our gaming tournaments, creative projects, or activities. It’s better than listening to your parents nag you about watching too much television. Imagine how they would react if you told them you were going to the Library? Thought so! Stop by and say hello, I’d love to meet you. Believe it or not, I read all the latest teen books, and I might surprise you with what I know.



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Making the Best Use of the Library

Looking for an evening’s entertainment?

Interested in a computer class?

Need a program for your children?

The “Events Calendar” on www.mppl.org has up-to-the-minute information on all of the programs and activities being held at the Library. Choose Events on the home page and View Calendar to see everything being offered for the next two months. With nearly 750 programs a year, chances are you’ll find something of interest.



Mosaic of Giving Opportunities Enriches the Library

In the highly acclaimed children's book *The Giving Tree* author Shel Silverstein poignantly tells his readers that there are many ways of giving and each, in its own time and place,

makes a difference. Nowhere does this theme ring truer than at the Mount Prospect Public Library.

By providing a mosaic of giving opportunities, the Library benefits from the multifaceted generosity of the community. In return, the community profits as private giving translates into special projects and programming that otherwise might not be available through public funding.

"It's all about enhancement," says Marilyn Genther, executive director of MPPL. "There is always a need, and we are always looking at what are the best ways to direct funds that are donated. If someone makes a monetary donation, we promise the funds will be put to good use, and we are always most appreciative."

The Friends of the Library

One of the easiest and most immediate ways to give to MPPL is to join our 300-plus-members, volunteer organization, The Friends of the Library. For as little as \$5 a year for individuals or \$10 a year for a family, you can become a member of The Friends. As a member, you help to support the Library's day-to-day mission and receive the ongoing satisfaction of seeing your donation take root in a multitude of special projects ranging from the Summer Reading Programs to the purchase of equipment such as the electronic sign in front of the Library or art work like the Duck Bench in Youth Services.

"Each year the Friends donate between thirty and forty thousand dollars to the Library," explains Barbara Burns, treasurer of The Friends. "The funds we provide pay for things that would otherwise not be possible. The Friends sponsor programs such as the Babysitting Clinics. We purchased the flat-screen television in the lobby. We even provide for the care and upkeep of the plants around the Library. It's that varied," adds Burns.

To raise the bulk of its funds, volunteers from The Friends organize four book sales a year for the general public. In turn, members receive the special perk of being granted early access to the book sales at Friends-only preview events.

"We have many members who come to that first night of the sale and buy armloads of books," says George Luteri, president of The Friends. "If you want that early access, you should become a member of The Friends and can even join at the door."

The Foundation

Another avenue of giving to MPPL is through its Foundation. Established in 1997, the Foundation's mission is to build an endowment fund. At that time, a goal of \$200,000 was set for this permanent fund. Currently, the endowment fund has grown to more than \$177,000.

"In terms of describing the Foundation it's like a savings account," explains Genther. "A donation to the Foundation means your money will always be there growing."

The Foundation raises money and awareness for the Library through a variety of efforts including letter-writing campaigns, themed raffles, and the sale of library-related gift items.

Occasionally, the Foundation raises funds through program admission fees by presenting unique programming, such as the well-known storyteller Barbara Rinella. No matter the amount, the donations all add up.

"It's reaffirming when the Foundation receives donations and checks for ten dollars or twenty-five dollars," says Genther. "It shows that people believe in what we are doing and want to support our long-range goals and efforts."

The Foundation also earmarks a portion of the donations it receives each year for special programming. The Foundation sponsors a free performance series which features top-quality music

concerts at the Library throughout the year.

Special Gift Fund

For those interested in enhancing the aesthetics of the Library, the Special Gift Fund provides that opportunity. A donation to this fund makes possible beautification projects at the Library, including commissioned art work enhancements to the grounds.

The TetraFoil sculpture, located on the second floor was purchased as a result of collective donations to the Special Gift Fund.

General Gift Fund

The General Gift Fund is an ideal way to honor the book lovers in your life or to recognize the overall importance of libraries in our communities.

"People often give us money to purchase a book in someone's name or memory," explains Genther. "All we ask is that you tell us the subject and we'll research and select an appropriate book for the collection."

see "Mosaic of Giving" on page 4

Raising a Reader

continued from page 1

that letters are different from each other, that they come in capital and lower case versions, and that they make different sounds. Teaching the shapes can be fun with the use of *I Spy* books, alphabet books, and playing with the letters in your child's name.

Next is **print awareness**. This is learning about books and print. Print is all around us, not only in books but on buildings, street signs, TV shows, and commercials. Words are everywhere! Help your child by pointing to the words and reading aloud. Print awareness is also knowing how to hold a book, turn the pages, and learning that it is full of words. For babies and toddlers, the Library has hundreds of board books that can hold up to rough handling, so don't be afraid to let even your littlest ones get ahold of them.

Phonological awareness is learning that words are made of sounds. Reading books that rhyme is a fun way to show that words are made up of smaller parts, and it will help children later when they try to sound out words to read. And why not try singing?

Not only do a lot of songs rhyme, but your child can also hear the different parts of words because each has a different note. Even if you sing off key, raise your voice because children's songs are often silly and might make your whole family laugh. For some fun tunes, try Jim Gill, Laurie Berkner, or Raffi...or just ask us for a recommendation—we have thousands of children's CDs.

Narrative skill is telling a story, talking about events, and describing things. Rereading the same book "night after night" is a good way to teach this skill, but make the repeated readings interactive. Ask your child questions like, "What will happen next?" At some point your child may be able to tell you the story word-for-word just from the picture cues.

The last of the skills is **vocabulary**. It's knowing the names of things! Books contain more rare words than you use in everyday speech. It's natural to want to swap out harder words for easier ones when you read stories, but kids pick up new words easily. So go ahead and use the hard words—just explain them.

Now you know the latest thinking in early literacy! Using these techniques can be fun and will help you raise a reader.

Need hands-on literacy activities? Need information about toilet training, bullying, or fun activities to do with your child?

Check out the PARENT-TEACHER collection.



Volunteers Help the Homebound

We were very proud to announce that 2008 was a record-breaking year for the Library. Circulation increased, more new Library cards were issued, and we introduced innovative services and collections to enhance your interests and busy lifestyle.

But there's one sector of the Library, regardless of the calendar year, of which we are consistently proud: our volunteers. While many organizations have to encourage people to "give back" or "pay it forward," the Library is not among them.

"People want to work at the Library," says Janet Keena, volunteer coordinator. "We try to match applicants with positions they will find personally rewarding."

And those who apply and interview, not only discover opportunities that suit their interests but also some welcome surprises.

Our volunteers make an impact, albeit quietly, in areas that one might take for granted. Looking for a favorite cookbook or automotive repair guide? Chances are an Adopt-A-Shelf volunteer has made sure you'll find it. Want to sharpen your computer skills? Computer Partners provide individual tutoring. Need assistance with your family history project? One of our genealogy volunteers can help you check it off your list. Volunteers help staff grease the wheels that keep the Library running smoothly and efficiently.

One of the most critical services provided by volunteers is the delivery of Library books and other materials to people who are homebound. Nan Meier, who began delivering to this group of our Library community nearly 20 years ago, is one of these very special volunteers who make the Homebound program possible.

"I enjoy reading and this was something I could do on

my own while I was raising my family," she says. Over the years, her gift of time has had a reciprocal effect.

"The most satisfying part is the friendships you develop," she continues. "I deliver books and sometimes we have lunch together. They recommend books to me and we discuss them."

When Jan Vleck became a homebound volunteer five years ago, she, too, found the experience fulfilling.

"You care about the people you are helping," she says. "Nothing is better than a good book. If people knew about the homebound program, they could take advantage of it. I feel good about helping someone who enjoys reading."

"Currently there are nine homebound volunteers," says Keena. "Seven are active. The other two are



waiting for the same opportunity."

"It is the volunteers who make this service possible to those who would otherwise not be able to use the Library," says Cathleen Blair, homebound coordinator. "Our volunteers offer interaction and friendship along with Library materials they deliver."

So, if you are not physically able to come browse our shelves because a permanent or temporary disability or illness keeps you homebound, Blair encourages you to take advantage of the Library through our homebound service.

Here's how it works: you register for the free service through our Web page at www.mppl.org or by contacting the homebound coordinator at 847/253-5675. Once we receive your registration and confirm that you are a Mount Prospect resident and have a Mount Prospect Public Library card, you will be assigned a staff member who will contact you to discuss your preferences. Choose from fiction, nonfiction, and audiobooks. You are then matched up with a volunteer who delivers them once a month.

Genealogy

continued from page 2

records right to your fingertips. On behalf of our residents, the Library has purchased subscriptions to two online resources, *Heritage Quest* and *Ancestry Library Edition*, which are accessible from any of our public Internet computers. While *Ancestry Library Edition* is only available from the Library's computers, *Heritage Quest* can be accessed from home. For our genealogy researchers, we have two designated computers available for use in the Genealogy Room; just stop by the Reference Desk to reserve one. Our Web site offers links to quality local, national, and ethnic sites.

The Library is very fortunate to have knowledgeable volunteers who shelve, process the periodicals, assist patrons with their genealogical research, and help prepare indexes. These volunteers are available on Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. You are also welcome to ask for assistance at the Reference Desk. Our genealogy librarian, Anne Shaughnessy, will be happy to make an appointment to help you with your research.

The hunt for one's ancestors is a very time-consuming but fulfilling one. The Genealogy Collection of the Library offers the resources to help researchers on their special journeys.

Lost & Found

Among the many collections of books, magazines, and DVDs that the Library offers, there is one collection that often gets overlooked, Lost & Found. You would be astonished by what people leave behind at the Library. Missing a stroller? A shoe (yes, just one shoe)? A flash drive? A skateboard? School books? A pool cue?

Our staff and your fellow Library users find a wide range of items that have been left on tables, in aisles, and even in the copiers. So if you are missing something, please stop by Registration to see if it has been turned in to our Lost & Found.



Mosaic of Giving

continued from page 3

Once purchased by Library staff, a bookplate is placed on the inside cover of the book making it a lasting tribute to the inscribed.

Benefactor to the Library

The largest individual donation ever made to MPPL was given by longtime Mount Prospect resident, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Clough, who in the early 1990s willed \$250,000 to the Library. A permanent fund was established in her name, the Elizabeth J. Clough Fund, which continues to sponsor many special programs, including the annual Cultural Heritage Month.

Additionally, the 12-foot bronze and stainless steel sculpture entitled "Peace" on the corner of Emerson Street and Central Road is in recognition of Mrs. Clough's generosity and was purchased using a portion of her donation.

"We were totally surprised when we received this money from Mrs. Clough's estate, and we wanted to do something to recognize her generosity," says Genter. "A donation of this size truly becomes a lasting legacy."

To discuss how to remember the Library in a will or trust, it is best to consult a financial advisor or personal attorney.

Donor Wall

Located in the lobby of the Library, the Donor Wall acknowledges gifts of \$100 or more and reflects donations to the Library's many funds. The colorful, aluminum sculpture reminiscent of books on a shelf is a tangible and meaningful visualization of the generosity of the community and an endorsement of the Library. Perhaps the power of giving is best summed up in the words of Winston Churchill, which are inscribed above the donor wall:

"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."