



PRAIRIE TALES



PRAIRIE SKIES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

June 2021



Volume 7 Issue 3

June 20: Father's Day
Summer begins

A message from our director...

June has arrived full of promises and new beginnings. Over the last year the library district, along with all of you, has been dealing with the impact of COVID-19. We placed restrictions we never thought to have and closed our buildings to the public for a time. Libraries strive to be welcoming, open spaces for all, encouraging our patrons to browse, linger, and enjoy. But we found ourselves closing our shelves and discouraging patrons from staying too long. This has been a hard year for staff and patrons. Over the pandemic we learned other ways to help—by phone, electronically, offering curbside services and contactless delivery. We found out virtual programs, while necessary and useful, are not our favorite way to connect with our communities, but they do offer greater access. June this year holds much more than the promise of warm weather and relaxing days, but the promise of being able to return to a more open and welcoming space. Our Summer Reading Program is starting this month and promises to be one full of colorful fun and good reading.

June is also an end for most libraries: it is the last month of our fiscal year. On July 1 we begin with a new budget with new plans and goals for the year. It is sadly another end, for myself—I will be retiring officially at the end of June. I will continue to do some tasks for the library until a new Director is hired and in place. Working for the Prairie Skies Public Library District has been a wonderful experience. I have had a great staff, supportive board, and interesting, friendly patrons to work with over the past years. I may be at the end of my professional career, but the library's future is just beginning. I believe libraries are necessary and a benefit to the communities they serve. With collections of books, movies, magazines and more, they offer patrons a chance to enjoy a good story, learn about a new country, travel to outer space or alternate worlds, visit with historical leaders, learn a new skill or just relax and unwind from a trying day. I have loved working in libraries and at PSPLD.

I will miss all of you. Take care and continue reading.

Kathy Roegge



READING
COLORS
Your
WORLD.

Summer Reading Program 2021

Starts Monday, June 7th
OPEN TO ALL!

For readers infant through 6th grade:

Participants will receive a reading log to keep track of minutes read. After completing each goal, readers will be eligible for incentive prizes, which can be redeemed any time during the summer reading program.

For readers 7th grade through High School:

Much like our Adult Reading Tournament, participants' names will be entered in a drawing based on the number of books they have read. *Books read to younger readers, as well as audiobooks and E-books, will also be counted.*

**Visit either location
to register!**

**Look inside this issue for more info
on weekly themes and programs!**



Summer Reading Program

June 7-12: Registration Week Visit either location to register for a summer of reading and fun! We will also have reading stations available to help you get started filling your reading log.

June 14: Nature Week This week we'll be talking all about nature. Come to the library to see a **Magic Show with Richard Landry!** 10 am @ Ashland, 1 pm @ Pleasant Plains

June 21: Animals Week Stuffed Animal Lock-In Bring your stuffed animal to either location on Monday and pick them up Tuesday for an unsupervised night at the library. Our secret cameras might catch what happens when all the humans are away...

June 28: Outdoor Fun Week Decorate Your Ride! Decorate your bike, trike, scooter, or even a baby stroller and bring it to either location, or take a picture to send to the library.

Visit either location to pick up fun take-home crafts and activities!

PSPLD's monthly board meeting will be

Tuesday, June 8 @ 6 pm in Ashland

PSPLD will be **CLOSED** Thursday, June 10, 9 am—12 pm for our monthly staff meeting.

Ashland will be open 12pm-5pm | Plains will be open 12pm-7pm

Any patrons wishing to may still request curbside pickup or contactless home delivery.

Books checked out from either location may be returned to book drops located at both Ashland & Pleasant Plains locations, as well as Farmingdale School, and Gardner Township Hall.

Staff Picks

Check out these titles available at PSPLD (recommended by your friendly librarians)!

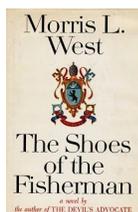
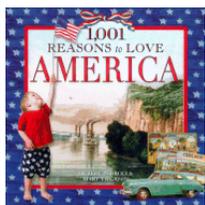
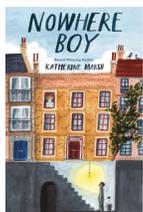
Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

1,001 Reasons to Love America by Hubert Pedroli & Mary Tiegreen

The Shoes of the Fisherman by Morris L. West

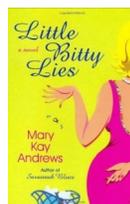
Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard

Stop by either location to make a request!



The **Bookies Book Club** will meet **Thursday, June 24 @ 7 pm in Pleasant Plains.** This month the group will discuss **The Forgotten Road by Richard Paul Evans.**

New members welcome!



The **Ashland Book Club** will meet **Tuesday, June 29 @ 6 pm in Ashland.**

This month the group will discuss **Little Bitty Lies by Mary Kay Andrews.**

New members welcome!

LIBRARY OUTREACH Are you or someone you know "stuck inside," recuperating or otherwise homebound for any reason? Your library is glad to help. Give us a call in Ashland (217-476-3417) or Pleasant Plains (217-626-1553) and let us know how we can help. Library staff will gladly bring materials to your home. You may request a book, audiobook, CD or DVD title, or we can bring an assortment from our "free" cart.

PSPLD is on YouTube! Visit the app for programs, informational materials, library instructional videos, and more! TED Talks, Newberry Library, local musician Bill Grant, story & craft videos, and online tutorials. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvaG33SZia6rWgvsutQa59g>

Librarian’s Corner “Looking back, I started out feeling reading was an *escape*, then a *chore*, then a *habit*, then a *luxury*. Only now I’ve realized what a necessity it is, and how easily it’s taken for granted.” - Phoebe Waller-Bridge (emphasis added)

Escape: The time in your youth where you want to live in imaginary worlds because they’re just so much more exciting than the one you’re living in—plus, you’re learning to read and it’s a spectacular feeling to know what those funny shapes on the page mean.

Chore: The time when you’re in school and the teacher tells you to read a specific book, which you will then need to write a report about—the worst part is it’s so boring you don’t think you’ll ever get anything out of it.

Habit: You find yourself reading all the time, and not just fiction—not just books, either. You’re reading everything, from the person who passed by you on the street to the toothpaste box in the bathroom cabinet.

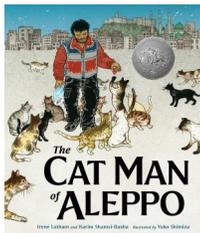
Luxury: You find out that your ability to read, to understand what those funny shapes on the page mean, isn’t something that everyone has. Many children across the globe grow up illiterate, and many unwillingly.

Reading is essential. Reading takes us new places, expands our minds—it allows us to see possibilities.

GERTRUDE READING

Book Review

If you’d like to submit a book review (200 words or less), you can send an email (pskiesld@gmail.com) or bring in a copy to either location.



The Cat Man of Aleppo
by Irene Latham and Karim Shamsi-Basha, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu

This children’s book first caught my attention because it’s about cats. But it is much more than that—it’s a story about a courageous man who stayed in war-torn Aleppo, Syria, when others fled to safety. Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel was an ambulance driver in Aleppo caring for the injured when he noticed all the stray cats left behind by their owners. The confused, lonely faces of the cats reminded him of the people that had left. He started feeding the cats, with more showing up all the time. Word of his efforts spread, donations poured in, and the results were amazing. I would recommend this book to any parent who wants their child to learn about caring for others in difficult times.

Bonnie the Cat’s Mom

Summer Word Scramble

- 01) EBAHC _____
- 02) RIE CCEMA _____
- 03) DANELOME _____
- 04) PICPSLOE _____
- 05) RTEAVL _____
- 06) BBRCAEEU _____
- 07) NTAVIOCA _____
- 08) URSMEM _____
- 09) ASNDLAS _____
- 10) OLOP _____

ASK US ABOUT OUR BUNDLES!

Don’t know what to read or watch? Looking for a specific genre? Or are you just wanting to be surprised with your next check-out? PSPLD staff have rounded up books and DVDs of a variety of genres, topics, age levels, etc.

Stop by or call either location to learn more about our book and binge bundles!



Answers on next page →

Community



A-C Central CUSD #262

Central Office: PO Box 260, 501 W. Buchanan,
Phone: 217-476-8112 | Ashland IL 62612
www.a-central.com



Pleasant Plains CUSD #8

Unit Office: PO Box 20, 315 W. Church,
Phone: 217-626-1041 | Pleasant Plains IL 62677
www.ppcusd8.org

Helping Hands Food Pantry
100 W. Main St.
Pleasant Plains, IL
(former "America's Cup" building)
The food pantry is open every
Saturday 8 am—10 am.



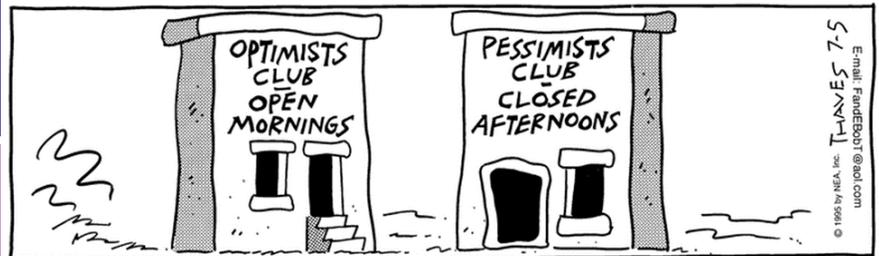
Memories of Ashland

Are you interested in Ashland history? Check out the new *Memories of Ashland* blog. You'll find stories of the people businesses of Ashland's past. Our sleepy little town wasn't always sleepy.

memoriesofashland.wordpress.com

Ashland Community Food Pantry

300 W. Editor St. | Ashland, IL
(United Methodist Church)
The pantry does not have set hours.
Anyone in need of assistance or wishing to make a donation can call Johanna Betters (217-899-6063).



Frank & Ernest by Thaves

Little Blessings Box

201 E. Buchanan St.
Ashland, IL
(New Beginnings Church)
Feel free to donate or pick up non-food items, such as toiletries.



alzheimer's association

Summer Word Scramble Answers

- BEACH
- ICE CREAM
- LEMONADE
- POPSICLE
- TRAVEL
- BARBECUE
- VACATION
- SUMMER
- SANDALS
- POOL

“Summer afternoon—
summer afternoon; to me
those have always been the
two most beautiful words
in the English language.”

- Henry James

Ashland Woman's Club

The decision has been made to postpone all meetings and activities of the Ashland Woman's Club until further notice. It is hoped that a planning meeting can be held this summer to plan for a resumption of the club in the fall.

This Publication is printed for the purpose of announcing library programs and information as well as community events. If you have an upcoming program or event that you would like announced, **please turn information in by the 20th of each month** for publication in the following newsletter. Thank you!