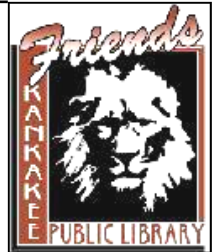


Friends of the Kankakee Public Library



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Every four years, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November Americans go to the polls and participate in one of our most cherished, greatest freedoms: we vote for president.

Voters will also decide state and county races as well.

Make sure you are registered to vote or have made any name or address changes with the County Clerk's office at least 30 days before the election. And then, do it, **VOTE!**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ! **Friends fall programs** will enlighten and enrich your days. See pages two and three for program information.
- ! **Friends Book Sale**
Sunday, October 5
Community Arts Council
Fall Art Stroll
12:00-4:00 pm
Downtown Kankakee
Community Arts Centre

from the president's pen. . .

-Ezio Torchia

On this hot, humid August day with locusts buzzing their songs of summer, it is hard to believe that the time is here already to prepare the Fall newsletter. At this point, a cool, crisp autumn day sounds heavenly. Did the summer bring you lazy days of reading either on the beach or on a porch swing?

Perhaps you had a chance to stop by at one of our two recent book sales for some summer reading. Our sales were not stellar this year because of circumstances beyond our control. Hal Berg, our treasurer, reports that the Strawberry Festival sale brought in \$563 which he says is about average from years past except for 2007 which was a very good year. The sale on Farmers' Market day brought in \$94 about 1/3 of what we usually get this event. The down-pour early in the morning forced the sale indoors at the library away from the Market.

Thanking all the volunteers who set-up, sold, and cleaned up at both sales is definitely in

order. Special thanks to Burma Mathews and Sharon Schiller who took charge at the rainy Farmers' Market sale. We hope to have another sale at the Community Arts Fall Stroll in October.

Another round of thanks belongs to Steve Bertrand at the library. He has made the Friends' by-laws available to our membership online. Rather than mailing them out to each member, we voted to have them accessible online. The website is: www.lions-online.org/friends.html.

The program line-up for the Fall/Winter 2008/2009 season promises to be varied and absorbing. Descriptive details are in this newsletter on pages 2 and 3. We thank Director Cindy Fuerst and Allison Beasley, head of Adult Services, for their organizing.

As we leave this hot, humid summer behind, we'll be eager to see you on a crisp Fall evening at our upcoming programs on the new fourth floor. We need and appreciate your support.

**Friends honor veterans with panel program:
'City at War: Soldiers of Kankakee'**



“*The war wasn't the worst thing...The worst thing is this sense of having lost our way in the universe. The worst thing is that the war has made peace seem so futile. It is just as if the bot-tom had dropped out of idealism.***”**

-Ellen Glasgow
(1874-1945)
American novelist

**Kankakee Veterans Panel
Wednesday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.
@the library**

Library staffer Mitchell Haug, with contributions by other library staff, has produced a historical record of the stories of the men and women from Kankakee who served in the Second World War called

“City at War: Soldiers of Kankakee.”

There will be a panel discussion where some veterans will talk about their memories. A five-minute preview, “Joining Up”, provides the flavor of the film.

Go to lions-online.org/podcasts/cw-trailer.html

BURMA'S QUOTE

“Time, time, what is time?
Swiss manufacture it, French hoard
it, and Italians squander it.
Americans say it is money, Hindus
say it does not exist.
You know what I say? I say, time is
a crook.”

-from *Beat the Devil*, script by
Truman Capote and John Huston

BOOK LOVERS QUOTATIONS -

“One of the delights of being older is being able to control ideas. I have suffered all my life from disease called Brains in the Head... In youth you keep bubbling with ideas. They may be foolish but you can't stop them. I've now learnt not to suffer too much from the Brains... As you get older your judgement develops. One of my joys is having my mind stirred by a good book, and not feeling I've got to go to the typewriter afterwards. There is nothing nicer than nodding off while reading. Going fast asleep then being woken up by the crash of the book on the floor, then saying to yourself, well it doesn't matter much. An admirable feeling.”

-A. J. P. Taylor (British Historian)

Friends of the Kankakee Public Library

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President. Evie Torchia
- Vice President. Burma Mathews
- Secretary. Carol Bowman
- Treasurer Harold Berg.
- Membership. Vickie Romein
- Members-at-Large. Sharon Schiller,
Toby Olszewski, and Connie Walker
- Past President Linda Bishop
- Mary Costanza. BOOKMARKS Editor

Looking ahead to Friends fall author programs @the library

Friends fall line up of programs is stunning!
The first program is **Christopher Benson**,
September 25, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Death of Innocence: The Story of the Hate Crime That Changed America

Christopher Benson, who with Maime Till Mobley, tells the story of Mrs. Mobley's son, Emmett Till, and the history-making changes that followed.

"There are many heroes of the civil rights movement—men and women we can look to for inspiration. Each has a unique story, a path that led to a role as leader or activist. *Death of Innocence* is the heartbreaking and ultimately inspiring story of one such hero: Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till—an innocent fourteen-year-old African-American boy who was in the wrong place at the wrong time, and who paid for it with his life. His outraged mother's actions galvanized the civil rights movement, leaving an indelible mark on American racial consciousness.

"In August 1955, Emmett was visiting family in Mississippi when he was kidnapped from his bed in the middle of the night by two white men and brutally murdered. His crime: allegedly whistling at a white woman in a convenience store. His mother began her career of activism when she insisted on an open-casket viewing of her son's gruesomely disfigured body. More than a hundred thousand people attended the service. The trial of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, accused of kidnapping and murdering Emmett (the two were eventually acquitted of the crime), was considered the first full-scale media event of the civil rights movement

"What followed altered the course of this country's history, and it was all set in motion by the sheer will, determination, and courage of Mamie Till-Mobley—a woman who would pull herself back from the brink of suicide to become a teacher and inspire hundreds of black children throughout the country." Taken from the author's website as quoted on booknotes.org.



Christopher Benson is an Associate Professor of African American Studies, and Journalism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At the U of I, Mr. Benson teaches African American Studies courses on hate crimes and on race. He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in journalism at the University of Illinois and his J.D. at Georgetown University. He was a recipient of the 2005 *Peter Lisagor Award* for exemplary journalism (documentary) by the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. *Death of Innocence* is the winner of the 2004 *BlackBoard Nonfiction Book of the Year Award* and the 2003 *Robert F. Kennedy Book Award Special Recognition*.



Ana Castillo

October 8, Wednesday, 700 p.m. @the library
The Guardians

Ana Castillo is a celebrated poet, novelist, essayist, and short story writer and a self-described Chicana feminist. Long considered one of the leading voices to emerge from the Chicana experience Castillo is a prolific writer whose work has been critically acclaimed and widely anthologized in the United States and abroad.



Castillo was born on June 15, 1953 and was raised in Chicago where Spanish was the spoken language in her home. She graduated from high school in Chicago, then attended Chicago City College and Northeastern Illinois University, where she received a B.A., majoring in Art with a minor in Secondary Education. She became a Graduate Fellow in 1979, earning a M.A. degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Chicago.

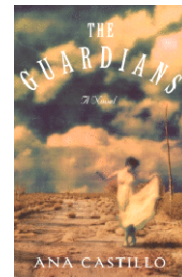
Ana Castillo is the author of *Peel My Love Like an Onion*, *So Far from God* (a *New York Times* Notable Book), *Sapogonia*, and *The Mixquiahuala Letters* (winner of the American Book Award), as well as the short-story collection *Loverboys*. Her books of poetry include *My Father Was a Toltec*, *I Ask the Impossible*, and *Watercolor Women Opaque Men* (a novel in verse). She is the recipient of a Carl Sandburg Prize and a Southwestern Booksellers Award for her novel *So Far from God* (1993), as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts in fiction and poetry. She lives in New Mexico.

-Bio from the Ana Castillo archives at the U of C, Santa Barbara

Castillo's most recent work is *The Guardians: A Novel* which tells the story of Regina, a teacher's aide in a public school, who is raising her nephew, Cabo. While crossing seven years before his mother was mutilated by the traffickers for her salable organs, and while they wait for Cabo's dad, her brother, Rafa, they know something must be wrong with his crossing; Rafa is due to arrive but seemingly has vanished.

"Castillo writes fiction and poetry of earthy sensuality, wry social commentary, and lyrical spiritualism that confront the cruel injustices accorded women and Mexicans in America, legal and otherwise." Starred review from Booklist as quoted on Amazon.

The *Chicago Tribune* named it one of the best books of 2007.





OUR READERS WRITE

The Glass Castle

by Jeannette Walls

While reading this compelling memoir I kept saying that it reads like a novel, and it did. Perhaps that is why the biographies of writer's lives often take the form of a memoir, where dialogue among characters livens up the story.

And make no mistake, there are characters in Jeannette Walls' life story: the brilliant alcoholic father, the dreamy artist mother and their four children. The story is told from the perspective of the second daughter, Jeannette, whose older sister, Lori, and she stand apart for their intelligence, her younger brother, Brian, who acts like a sounding board and advisor to his older sisters, and the youngest daughter, Maureen, who is not as central to the story.

In the early years of this family, they lived in cars (each had a name) like nomads in the desert or along a Pacific beach. Dad, Rex S. Walls, had been an Air Force pilot, and Mom, Rose Mary, had a degree in education. The family would always seem to be one step ahead of the bill collectors or law enforcement, often having to dump their cars.

They settled for a time in a mining community in northern Nevada where they were enrolled in school for the first time. But Rex was always teaching his kids astronomy, geology, and hands-on life skills, and was responsible for the kids' math. Rose Mary would teach them to read using picture books, to draw and to learn home keeping chores.

The family lived in Battle Mountain in a dilapidated former railroad depot that the mine kept for its employees, but when Rex lost his job, and their home, they all headed east back to West Virginia and lived briefly with Rex's mother. She was a bitter, angry woman who barely tolerated the kids. When Rex found them a house to rent way up the mountain side, a house that would lose its grip on the land and slip down, losing the porch and front door so entry was gained through a window, the kids went to school. Rex continued to "drink" his earnings. Rose Mary began teaching, but then grew resentful that she should have to sacrifice her art time while her husband lolled about doing nothing. Any budget Lori and Jeannette tried to impose was doomed because Dad was always wheeling money out of them, especially Jeannette. Meanwhile, Mom had bedded down in her bed which was right smack in the living/dining/bedroom.

There was an unspoken rule in the family that they would all pretend that life was one long and incredibly

fun adventure. The kids didn't much complain. It was as though Ms. Walls' tale envelopes this family in a veneer of hardscrabble happiness. Yet, there was abject poverty and hunger and justifiable anger.

We know at the beginning that Jeannette is successful in New York, but the lives of all the kids were affected in one way or another and to varying degrees. But remarkably somewhere along the line they learned to persevere. This story stays with you, even haunts you, for a long time. It really was some adventure.

Recommended reading.

-Mary Costanza

A POET FRIEND

After Apple-Picking

My long two-pointed ladder's sticking through a tree
Toward heaven still,
And there's a barrel that I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.
But I am done with apple-picking now.
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,
The scent of apples: I am drowsing off.
I cannot rub the strangeness from my sight
I got from looking through a pane of glass
And held against the world of hoary grass.
But I was well
Upon my way to sleep before it fell,
And I could tell
What form my dreaming was about to take.
Magnified apples appear and disappear,
Stem end and blossom end,
And every fleck of russet showing clear.
My instep arch not only keeps the ache,
It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.
I feel the ladder sway as the boughs bend.
And I keep hearing from the cellar bin
The rumbling sound
Of load on load of apples coming in.
For I have had too much
Of apple-picking: I am overtired
Of the great harvest I desired.
There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch,
Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall.
For all
That struck the earth,
No matter if not bruised or spiked with stubble,
Went surely to the cider apple heap
As of no worth.
One can see what will trouble
This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.
Were he not gone,
The woodchuck could say whether it's like his
Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,
Or just some human sleep.

-Robert Frost
(1874-1963)



Director's comments

Joe who?, Wyoming where?... @the library, of course

This summer I was introduced to Joe Pickett, a Wyoming Game Warden, who I met in the stacks of the Kankakee Public Library. I spent weeks with him, learning about his family, his interesting work assignments, and the beauty of Wyoming. I was talking so much about Joe that my seven-year-old son actually became a little concerned. The truth is that there are several of us at the Library who are enamored by Joe. You may be wondering what a Game Warden from Wyoming was doing here at the Library. Frequent library visitors know that we have all sorts of interesting characters here. Some of the most interesting ones, like Joe, are found in the pages of the books that line our shelves. The "Joe Pickett" series is written by C.J. Box. The first book in the series is Open Season. His stand-alone novel, Blue Heaven, is also a great read.

Traditionally libraries have been really good about keeping the books neatly in alphabetical order by the author's last name in row, after row, after row, after row of shelves; a great system if you know which book you're looking for, but not the best for browsing. So how does a librarian find a

good book? *Novelist* is an online database that I frequently use - it is available through the library's website (www.lions-online.org) and is free to Kankakee Public Library card-holders. I often read "award winners," lists of winners that can be found in a variety of places. But to be honest I sometimes wonder why the book won the award. My most successful way to find a good book is through the recommendation of a friend. I was introduced to the Joe Pickett series by library staffer, Betty Schatz. I rely heavily on the annual "Little Gems" bibliography produced by Friends. The current and past issues are available on the library's website. At the main page click "newsletters" and scroll to the bottom of the page (<http://www.lions-online.org/newsletter.html>), or stop by the Library's circulation desk to pick up a copy. I always enjoy being introduced to new characters. If you have any you think I should meet, let me know.

See you in the stacks,
Cindy

Let's talk books...

It is a fact of my life that I own too many books—I have too many book cases and instead of weeding my personal collection, I buy more book cases. Now, this is a problem primarily because of space, but also because it shows a lack of discipline on my part. In short, I believe (read: know) I have an addiction to books. I am a bibliophile freak.

Not that I am alone in this. I do know of others, although I personally realize I am not so happy about this anymore because things are out of control. And so, I have begun to "sift" through the books: I empty a shelf, lay out the colorful volumes and pick up only those that I know I must keep, even the ones that look nice. Perhaps the good news is that books that I once could never consider getting rid of have now lost their "glow." That is until I come across the pile of discards or recyclables and feel that tug once again. I tell myself that I must be strong, that I will demonstrate a rational approach to this...

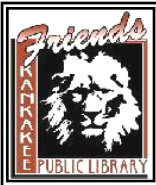
Some progress has been made on reducing my

shelves of books. Many are now in boxes and bags in the garage. But these books must be taken somewhere else—I still see them and they call my name-again-that siren song.

I am trying to understand what it is that so overcomes me that I cannot pass on certain books. Sometimes I recognize a favorite author or even a noted author that I have read about and wish to know more. Or the story described on the jacket speaks to my feelings at that moment. A nonfiction tome may serve to fill in a blank or enhance my general knowledge of the world. I simply feel powerless to let it go. These titles appear like valuable pieces to complete my life's mosaic. And there is the comfort of full shelves to bolster my sense of self.

Now I have gone too far, I have revealed too much of myself: that I am only as good as the titles on my shelves. And then there is the pain when I have managed to donate a book to a sale only to see it bought by someone else. What had I done? Lost a piece of me?

-the editor



BOOKMARKS

NEWSLETTER
OF THE FRIENDS

FRIENDS OF THE KANKAKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

c/o Kankakee Public Library
201 East Merchant Street
Kankakee, IL 60901

Phone: 815 939-4564
FAX 815/939-9057
website:www.lions-online.org

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For printing this newsletter as a
gift to Friends



FRIENDS EVENTS FALL 2008

SEPTEMBER

◦ ! -17, Wednesday,
Friends Board Meeting
Small Conference Room
5:00p.m. 1st floor
@the library

◦ ! -25, Thursday,
Friends Author Pro-
gram: **Christopher
Benson**, *Death of In-
nocence: The Story
of the Hate Crime
That Changed
America*
7:00 p.m.@the library

OCTOBER

◦ ! -5, Sunday, Friends
Book Sale, Downtown
Arts Centre @The Com-
munity Arts Council
Fall Art Stroll, 12-4 pm

◦ ! -8, Wednesday,
Friends Author Pro-
gram: **Ana Castillo**,
*The Guardians, 7:00
p.m. @the library*
**Do not miss this world
renowned author!**

◦ ! -15, Wednesday,
Friends Board Meet-
ing, Small Confer-
ence Room 5:00p.m.

NOVEMBER

◦ ! -5, Wednesday,
Friends Program,
**Kankakee Veterans
Panel-"City at War:
Soldiers of
Kankakee"**
7:00 p.m.
@the library

◦ ! -Friends Board
Meeting TBA



**HAPPY
THANKS-
GIVING!**