

# off the shelves

spring 2014 volume 29 number 1



## Looking for a Big Read?

By Laurie Whitman,  
Library Trustee



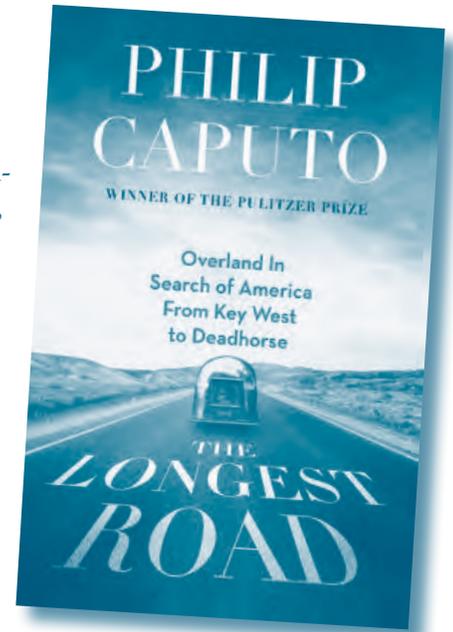
There's still time to read this year's The Big Read book: *The Longest Road*, by Philip Caputo. It offers true life adventures on a 16,000 mile trip, from Key West, Florida, to Deadhorse, Alaska, made by Caputo, his wife, and their two English setters.

The Big Read is a collaborative effort among nine area libraries: Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Indian Prairie (Darien), La Grange, La Grange Park, Lisle, Thomas Ford (Western Springs), and Woodridge. Each year, staff from the different libraries pick one book for their communities to read and plan a wide variety of programs centered on that title.

At the La Grange Park Library, the event kicks off on Monday, March 10 at 7 pm with an RV tour of Alaska presented by Barbara Sugden and Ron Vargason. You'll discover the plants, animals, and other scenic treasures of our northernmost state.

Get information about all of The Big Read programs in a brochure available at the Library and at [thebigread.org](http://thebigread.org). Registration for programs begins March 1.

This story will transport you to locations far and wide and show you the diversity of the United States. See what discoveries the Caputos made about the state of our great country.



## spotlight



## Kids Read

Dan Yaccarino's *Go Go America: 50 States of Fun* has been selected as the title for the fourth annual Kids Read community reading program. Ten area libraries are collaborating to offer book discussions and programs based on this wacky book that takes us to all 50 states. Discover far-out festivals, kooky contests, ludicrous laws, and peculiar people all across America. Programs will take place in March at all of the participating libraries, and La Grange Park kids are welcome to attend. See the entire schedule online at [thebigread.org/kids-read-too](http://thebigread.org/kids-read-too), or pick up a flyer in the Children's Department.

## in this issue...

- 2 Children's Programs
- 3 Teen Programs
- 4 Adult Programs
- 5 Genealogy Corner  
Computer/Tech Classes
- 6 Friends of the Library News
- 7 Meet a Library Patron  
Film Group
- 8 National Library Week

# children's programs

Register in person, by phone, or online at [lplibrary.org](http://lplibrary.org).

## After-School Adventures

For big kids at 4 pm

## Talk It Up! Book Discussion Group

Every 2nd Wednesday:  
March 12, April 9, and  
May 14

Select a different book each month, read, and discuss while you eat yummy snacks and make new friends.

## Duct Tape Unlimited

Every 4th Wednesday:  
March 26, April 23, and  
May 28

This craft program for kids and teens might be a little risky. We'll start with duct tape, but end up who knows where! Grades 4-8. Registration requested.

## Volunteer for Summer Reading!

Kids in 6th grade and above are invited to apply to the Children's Department to volunteer during our Summer Reading Program. Be a Book Buddy, help out with programs, take reports at the desk, or work behind the scenes. Earn service hours and have a great time! Applications will be available at the Children's Desk beginning May 1.

# Kids Read

## Super Saturday

March 8, 10:30 am

Make a Souvenir Suitcase! Rachel Weaver Rivera of Imagine Art Studio will help you transform a simple brown box into a magical little suitcase holding the treasures of your travels. Ages 5-10. Registration required.

## Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Friday-Saturday, March 21-22

Drop off your stuffed animal in the Children's Department between 3:30 and 4:30 pm on Friday, March 22. Your animals will travel all over the United States in a single night! Pick them up at 10:30 am on Saturday, stay for a picnic brunch, and watch a slide show of their travels. Limited to 25 children, ages 3-12 (one stuffed animal per child). Registration required.

## Monday at the Movies: Disney's Planes

March 31, 4 pm

A crop-dusting plane with a fear of heights lives his dream of competing in a famous around-the-world aerial race. Registration required. Rated PG. Running time: 92 minutes.

## Toddler Dance Party!

Wednesday, April 16,  
10:15 am

Celebrate spring at our second-ever dance party! Kids are invited to come dance their sillies out with music, bells, shakers, and bubbles! Snacks will be served. Ages 2 - Kindergarten. Registration required.

## Paws to Read

We are wagging our tails in anticipation of our upcoming Summer Reading Program, Paws to Read! Registration starts on June 1, and story times and activities begin the week of June 15. As always, babies through 6th graders can win great prizes just for reporting their books each week. Details will be available in May.



## Monday Kids Club

There is always something fun going on at the Library on Mondays at 4 pm for kids in grades K-3. In March, travel cross-country in our Monday Kids Club programs inspired by Go Go America! Sign up for each of these great weekly activities.



## Crafty Kids

March 3, April 7, and May 5  
Enjoy working with your hands? We offer an easy, make-and-take craft on a seasonal theme.

## Books and Brownies

March 10, April 14, and  
May 12

Miss Margaret has lots of great recipes, and she's eager to try them out! Mix up something yummy, then read and discuss an easy chapter book from our collection while your creation bakes. Feed your mind AND your stomach.

## Mad Science Mondays

March 17, April 21, and  
May 19

Freaky science experiments and natural phenomena. Don't blow up the building!

## Brick Builders

March 24 and April 28

Our monthly Lego® club is a favorite! Use our Lego® Building Blocks to build whatever you can think of! At the end of the hour we will collect your creations for display until next month, when we'll do it all over again.

## teen programs

### YA Fiction Collection

If you browsed the YA Fiction collection lately, you probably saw that we were short on space. To create more room, we merged all the genres together, with the books arranged by authors' last names. We hope this makes it easier to find what you are looking for, but please feel free to ask for assistance at any time.

P.S. Sam loves talking about books!

### Pixel Club

*Fridays, March 7 and 21; April 4 and 18; and  
May 2, 16, and 30, 4:45-6 pm*

With 2 laptops, XBOX 360, Wii U, PS3, 3DS, and iPad 2, there's always something for everyone. Since this club meets after the Library closes, *you must bring a signed permission slip to attend (one time only)*. Pick one up at the Reference Desk in advance of the program.



### Chess Club

*Mondays, March 10, April 14, and May 12, 4-5:30 pm*

Chess club will be an informal meeting of the minds (plus snacks!). **Registration suggested.**

### Read, Eat, Swap!

*Wednesdays, March 5, April 2, and May 7, 6 pm*

Let's discuss what we've been reading while eating pizza. After we're all talked out, we'll have a book swap (and a book giveaway, too!). **Registration required.**

### Marble Magnets and Pins

*Tuesday, March 25, 3 pm*

Create magnets for your locker or to wear as pins using nothing but magazines and marbles (fine, we'll also be using glue, scissors, paper, etc.)! **Registration suggested.**

### Duct Tape Unlimited

*Wednesdays, March 26,  
April 23, and May 28, 4 pm*

This craft program for kids and teens will start with duct tape, but end up who knows where! **Grades 4-8. Registration suggested.**

### Places you can find the YA Department online:

1. Library website – [lplibrary.org/teens](http://lplibrary.org/teens)
2. Facebook – Search for “La Grange Park Public Library Teen Department”

**All programs are for grades 7-12. Please sign up online or at the Reference Desk.**

### Omotenashi Night

*Thursday, March 27, 7 pm*  
Join us for an evening of anime and Japanese snacks. Submit your vote for your choice of anime in the YA Department suggestion box by Wednesday, March 19. **Registration suggested.**



### Doctor Who 50th Anniversary Special in 3D

*Friday, March 28, 2 pm*  
Doctor Who in 3D?? That will certainly be “wibbly-wobbly timey-wimey!” **Limit 12. Registration required.**

### Basic Bookbinding

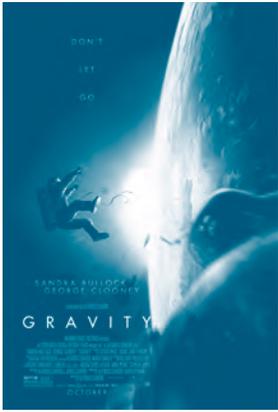
*Sunday, April 13, 1:30 pm*  
To kick off National Library Week, Reg in from North Branch Projects will show us basic bookbinding techniques. For ages 12 to adult. **Registration required.**

### Gimme a Break – a Study Break

*Wednesday, May 28,  
5-8:30 pm*

Need a break from studying for finals? Stop by the Community Room for snacks and games. For grades 9-12.

## adult programs



### 3D Movie: Gravity

Saturday, March 8, 3 pm

The 3D effects are astonishing, the surround sound is cranked up, and the popcorn is fresh when we show 3D movies. The incredibly exciting space action of this film must be experienced in 3D on a big screen! Please register to reserve your 3D glasses. Limit 12.

### Medicare Seminar

Presented by William Scanlon

Wednesday, March 19, 7 pm

In this seminar you'll learn about Medicare changes, how to select the least expensive Medicare plan and best Medicare supplement and Part D drug plans, and how to avoid making mistakes in selecting a plan. This is a critical presentation for those approaching age 65 and up.

Please register for programs in person, at [plibrary.org](http://plibrary.org), or by calling 708-352-0100.

## Big Read Programs

Registration Begins March 1

### Alaskan Road Trip

Presented by Barbara Sugden and Ron Vargason

Monday, March 10, 7 pm

Travel by RV to and through Alaska. See the sights along the Alaska Highway and the other scenic roads of our 49th state. Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library.

### Books Alive! Book Discussion

Tuesday, March 18, 2 pm

Join us for a discussion of *The Longest Road: Overland in Search of America, from Key West to the Arctic Ocean*, by Philip Caputo.

### Echoes of Earth: Finding Ourselves in the Origins of the Planet

Presented by L. Sue Baugh

Saturday, April 19, 2 pm

Join writer-photographer L. Sue Baugh as she explores the breathtaking beauty and power of the world's oldest rock and mineral sites, including the Grand Canyon and locations in Australia, Greenland, and Northwest Canada. Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library.



### The 'L' – Chicago's Biggest Mover and Shaker

Presented by Greg Borzo

Monday, March 24, 7 pm

Discover the world-famous 'L' in all its grit and glory. This presentation reveals the development of one of Chicagoland's most enduring icons, which has been running 24/7 for 121 years. Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library.

### The Essential Great Chicago Fire

Presented by William Pack

Monday, May 19, 7 pm

In this multimedia event, storyteller William Pack brings alive all the excitement and terror of the 1871 conflagration by weaving together technical details with vivid firsthand accounts. Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library.

## Cookbook Club Ottolenghi by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi

Thursday, April 24, 6 pm

When we explore a cookbook, it's potluck meets book discussion! Sign up at the Reference Desk, pick a tasty recipe from our enticing selection (we'll keep track to avoid duplicates), and prepare it for the program. We'll sample lots of good food, talk about what worked and what didn't, and select future cookbooks. This spring's selection, from the authors of Cookbook Club favorite *Jerusalem*, features herby salads and grains, fresh meat and seafood dishes, and oodles of sweet and savory baked items. Register in person by April 17.

## The 10 "Secrets" To Getting Your Book Successfully Published

Presented by Bret Nicholaus and Joseph Durepos

Monday, May 5, 6:30 pm

La Grange Park resident and author Bret Nicholaus, along with literary agent Joseph Durepos, will help would-be authors understand what works and what doesn't in the book industry. You'll learn the three non-negotiable rules for writing a query letter, the advantages and disadvantages of traditional and self-publishing, the 10/10/10 publishing principle, and more. Sponsored by the La Grange Park Friends of the Library.

Our spring selections are set in the U.S. and Europe. Books are available one month before the meetings. All are welcome to attend.

**March 18** *The Longest Road: Overland in Search of America, from Key West to the Arctic Ocean* by Philip Caputo  
**The 2014 Big Read Selection.** The author, a Westchester, IL, native and respected journalist, takes a 16,000 mile road trip with his wife in an Airstream trailer, in search of the answer to “What holds us together as Americans?”

**April 15** *Alex* by Pierre Lemaitre  
This book, about the brutal kidnapping of a young woman and the desperate police search to find her, won the prestigious Crime Writers Association International Dagger award in 2013.

**May 20** *Where'd You Go, Bernadette: A Novel* by Maria Semple  
On the eve of a family trip to Antarctica, Bernadette Fox abruptly disappears. This novel offers a satiric, comic trip through the lives of upper class Americans.

### What's New

Stop by and ask one of our friendly staff about additional new titles that may be of interest to you. Call or check the online catalog on our website ([lplibrary.org](http://lplibrary.org)) for availability or to reserve a copy for pickup.

#### Fiction:

*Andrew's Brain* by E.L. Doctorow

*Crooked Numbers* by Tim O'Mara

*Fallen Women* by Sandra Dallas

*The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

*Mr. Monk Helps Himself* by Hy Conrad

*Radiance of Tomorrow* by Ishmael Beah

*What I Had Before I Had You* by Sarah Cornwell

#### Large Print:

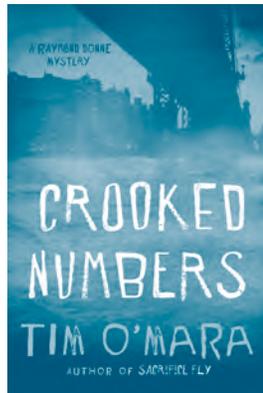
*Cold Snap* by Allison Brennan

*Dexter's Final Cut* by Jeff Lindsay

*Hostage* by Kay Hooper

### Nonfiction Books

When you visit the second floor you may notice sections of empty shelves. We are in the process of rearranging the collection. We created a genealogy section on the Reference shelves and have more room to spread out the nonfiction. Slowly but surely, these shelves will be refilled and over-stuffed areas will be made more accessible.



## Computer and Technology Classes

### Tech Tutors

Tablet trouble? Wiggled out by Windows 8? Flummoxed by Facebook? We can help! Sign up for a 30-minute session with one of our tech experts! We've found that this is an excellent way to solve your electronic woes! **Advance registration required at the Reference Desk or by calling 708-352-0100.**

### Computer Classes

Five spaces are available for each of the following classes. **Registration required at the Reference Desk or by calling 708-352-0100.** Everyone is welcome, but priority will be given to La Grange Park residents who have not previously taken our computer classes.

### Introduction to Windows 8

Thursday, March 13, 6 pm

Tuesday, March 18, 11 am

If you aren't able to wrap your brain around Windows 8 despite being comfortable with previous versions, this class will help set you straight. Learn how to use the new Start screen, mouse gestures, hot corners, and charms to get the most out of this operating system.

### Internet Fundamentals

Tuesday, April 8, 11 am

Thursday, April 10, 6 pm

Whether you want to use the internet to find travel bargains, watch cute cat videos, or do some serious research, this hands-on class will help you. We'll teach you how to use modern "tabbed" browsers, search effectively, and stay safe.

### Email Essentials

Thursdays, May 8 and 15, 6 pm

Tuesdays, May 20 and 27, 11 am

Learn how to use email more effectively. We'll teach you how to send and organize mail, attach pictures, and manage your contacts. Each class includes two 90-minute sessions.

### Genealogy Corner

Have you seen our new Genealogy Corner? All our genealogy materials are now on the shelves near the Conference Room. This area gives us more room to grow. Watch for more materials soon.

Don't forget that the Library is now a FamilySearch Affiliate. You can order microfilm of records from [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) and view, print, and save them using our new scanner.



## Tax Season Services

April 15 will be here before you know it! The Library is pleased to offer services to make tax season slightly less painful.

### AARP Tax Aide

*Tuesdays, through April 8, 10 am-2 pm*

The AARP is once again offering free tax assistance at the Library for seniors and low-to-moderate income taxpayers. Trained volunteers will help you prepare your tax return and file it electronically. **Appointments are required; please call the Library at 708-352-0100.**

### Tax Forms

Many state and federal tax forms and instructions are available on the second floor of the Library. Our friendly Reference staff will be happy to print out any form that we don't carry.

## Library Volunteers

During 2013, our dedicated volunteers logged almost 4,500 hours of service. These volunteers helped to prepare new materials for circulation, staffed the Friends of the Library Bookshop, and even delivered items right to the doors of homebound patrons through the hot summer and long, cold winter. We are grateful to have such an enthusiastic group of men and women helping the Library. They will be honored for their service this spring.

Please consider joining our group of volunteers. Volunteering is good for everyone! If you are interested in sharing a couple of hours a week with us please contact Sharon at 708-352-0100 or [sharon@lplibrary.org](mailto:sharon@lplibrary.org), or fill out our volunteer application available at [lplibrary.org/support](http://lplibrary.org/support).

## Friends of the Library News

In 2013, the Friends donated \$16,500 of Bookshop proceeds to the Library. These funds helped the Library pay for over a dozen Adult and Teen programs, including International Games Day. The Friends also assisted the Library with subscriptions to *Tutor.com* and *Bookpage* magazine, as well as with filtered water and coffee services. Equipment purchased with Friends earnings included a microfilm scanner for the Genealogy Corner, a printer for the Reference Desk, and new tables for the Conference Room. The cost of the beautiful tree art in the Children's Activity Room was partially defrayed by the Friends.

You never know what you'll find in the Friends of the Library Bookshop. Gently used books, from classic to best-seller, are bargain priced from \$0.10 to \$3. You'll also find magazines, DVDs, and more.

The Bookshop is generally open the same hours as the Library. Knowledgeable volunteers are always ready to help. Donations are accepted and arrangements can be made for pickup by calling 708-352-0100 or emailing [friends@lplibrary.org](mailto:friends@lplibrary.org).

## Library Knitters Seeking Yarn and Knitters

*Thursdays, March 13, April 10, and May 8, 10:30 am*

If you find any spare yarn while doing your spring cleaning, consider donating it to the Library's knitting group. Even though warmer weather is upon us, the knitters are working to make items to donate come fall and winter. If you'd like to help knit, join our friendly group on the second floor.

## visit the friends' bookshop in the library

Donated books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, and tapes are for sale at low prices!  
Proceeds support library programs and special services.

### Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 9 pm  
Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday 1 - 5 pm

Located on the first floor (directly behind the elevator)

**For more information: 708-352-0100**

*Please donate your gently used books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs. If needed, arrangements can be made for pickup by calling 708-352-0100 or contacting Joan Marino, President of the Friends, at [friends@lplibrary.org](mailto:friends@lplibrary.org).*

Friends of the  
library

## Martin Kalas

The Library staff meets many interesting people every day. We thought you'd like to meet them, too!

*How long have you been visiting La Grange Park Public Library?*

We've lived in La Grange Park for 12 years. More so now that we have three children: a son, 8 years old, and two daughters, 6 and 3 years old.

*What do you like best about the Library?*

I feel like I can get pretty much anything I need within a week, so I appreciate that. We enjoy the children's area downstairs, particularly in the winter when we like to come and mess around. The kids have also attended story time.

*What services do you use?*

I like to be able to check online when things are due, even though I don't always follow up. We check out a whole variety of things, such as games for the kids, movies, and even an iPad.

*Do you prefer a physical book or an eReader?*

I generally prefer a physical book. I've tried an eReader. I downloaded the Overdrive app and used it while traveling.

*Do you have any book recommendations?*

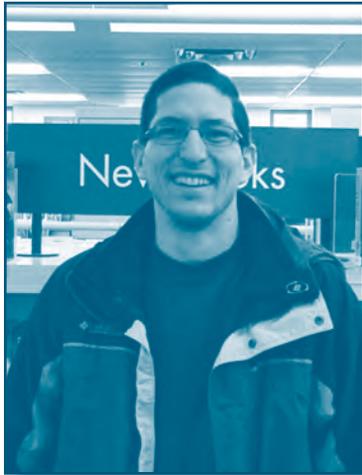
I read a great short story collection called *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned* by Wells Tower. I thought I would give it a shot even though I don't read a lot of short stories. I bought a copy for my brother. The funniest thing I've ever read is a story in that book about brothers with kind of a contemptuous relationship (not that my brother and I do!).

*What is a new book that you're looking forward to reading?*

There's a new book about the 1985 Bears called *Monsters: The 1985 Chicago Bears and The Wild Heart of Football* by Rich Cohen. I'm a hopeless Bears fan. I was 10 in 1985 so they're a cornerstone of my existence.

*What is your favorite thing about reading?*

I generally tend to read right before bed. I just appreciate the quiet alone time, even if I'm not alone physically.



## neighbor news

### La Grange Public Library Treasures in Your Attic

Monday, April 14, 6:30 pm

John Leonard, of Leonard Auction, Inc., will present a program about antiques, followed by an appraisal of patrons' own items. Patrons may bring any item (except weaponry) for appraisal, and are encouraged to bring a photo if an item is too large. Please register by calling the La Grange Library at 708-215-3200. (5 min/ 50 max)

For additional programming at local libraries, visit [lagrangelibrary.org](http://lagrangelibrary.org) and [fordlibrary.org](http://fordlibrary.org).



### Film Discussion Group

Fridays, 7 pm

Do you enjoy talking about movies after the credits roll? Join us for free screenings of great independent, foreign, and documentary films on our HUGE screen, followed by brief discussions.

March 7 *Something in the Air* (2012, dir. Olivier Assayas; 122 min.) In this autobiographical coming-of-age film from the director of Film Discussion Group favorite *Carlos*, youths in post-1968 Paris struggle with the decline of rebellious spirit.

March 21 *Drug War* (2012, dir. Johnnie To; 107 min.) Police in mainland China investigate a drug cartel in this exciting film from one of the best working action directors.

April 4 *A Touch of Sin* (2013, dir Zhangke Jia; 133 min.) Four stories of corruption in modern China, and the violence it engenders, are told in this brutal drama.

April 18 *Leviathan* (2012, dir. Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Verena Paravel; 87 min.) This amazing experiential (and experimental) documentary, which depicts life and death aboard a commercial fishing vessel, is pure cinema.

May 2 *Wadjda* (2012, dir. Haifaa Al-Mansour; 98 min.) In this charming, groundbreaking drama, directed by a woman in Saudi Arabia, a young girl quests to buy a bike.

May 16 *Blue Caprice* (2013, dir. Alexandre Moors; 93 min.) The run-up to the Beltway sniper attacks of 2002 is explored in this haunting drama.

May 30 *From Up on Poppy Hill* (2011, dir. Goro Miyazaki; 91 min.) In this nostalgic animated film, co-written by Hayo Miyazaki, a group of youths try to save their school's clubhouse.

---

**"A good library is a place, a palace where the lofty spirits of all nations and generations meet."  
— samuel niger (1883-1956)**

La Grange Park Friends of the Library  
555 N. La Grange Road  
La Grange Park, IL 60526-5644

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 612  
La Grange, IL 60525

## Postal Customer La Grange Park, IL 60526



### **Off the Shelves**

is a quarterly publication of the  
La Grange Park Public Library District  
555 North La Grange Road  
La Grange Park, IL 60526-5644

#### Library Hours

Monday through Thursday 10 am - 9 pm  
Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm  
Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

Phone 708-352-0100 • Fax 708-352-1606

Email: [info@lplibrary.org](mailto:info@lplibrary.org) • [www.lplibrary.org](http://www.lplibrary.org)

Library Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month  
at 7 pm. Visitors are welcome.

**Board of Library Trustees:** Cathy Foster, President; Ann Lee, Vice  
President; Laurie Whitman, Secretary; Sheryl Cox, Treasurer; Mary Lou  
Hurley, Danielle Johnson and Rachel Weaver Rivera, Members.

Dixie Conkis, Executive Director  
Joan Marino, President, La Grange Park Friends of the Library  
Gabe Oppenheim, Newsletter Editor  
Andrea Barnish, Red Street Studio, Newsletter design

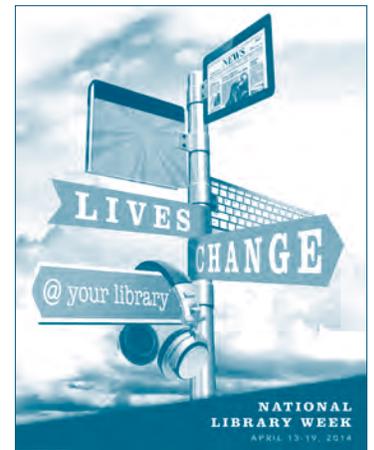
**Bequests:** Those who wish to help assure the continuation and growth  
of our programs, collections and services by means and mention in your  
will should contact the Executive Director for more information.

**Disability Accommodation:** If you or your child needs an  
accommodation for a disability to attend any program, please phone the  
Library at least five working days prior to the scheduled program.

## Celebrate National Library Week

April 13-19

Lives Change @ Your Library is the theme for National  
Library Week 2014. Libraries nationwide will highlight  
the unique role they play in  
changing peoples' lives. Li-  
braries can help you and your  
family discover a new and  
exciting world through books,  
online resources, programs,  
and more.



This year, the Library is going  
to focus on the ways in which  
we offer service to the com-  
munity. As part of our cel-  
ebration, we will perplex you  
with a scavenger hunt, play games for prizes, and more. It's a  
great time to stop in to see what's new!

## Library Closings

Friday, April 11 – Staff in-service  
Sunday, April 20 – Easter  
Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day

