



Flathead County Library
247 First Avenue East
Kalispell, MT 59901-4598
(406) 758-5820

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Kalispell, MT
 Permit
 No. 121



**FLATHEAD
 COUNTY
 LIBRARY**

News

Newsletter of the Flathead County Library Foundation

Winter/Spring 2006

Bigfork • Columbia Falls • Kalispell • Marion • Whitefish

Annual book sale raises \$7,200

The Friends of the Library's annual book sale raised \$7,200, a slight increase over the record amount from the previous year.

The money is used to benefit the library. Book donations for next fall's sale may be left at the Lions Park log cabin south of Kalispell.

The Friends voted to donate \$2,000 to the Rebuild Mississippi Libraries Fund to replace library materials destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

A \$100 donation to the Friends from the Flathead Community Foundations was gratefully accepted.

New members are always welcome. The group meets at noon the third Thursday of the month in the downstairs meeting room of the Kalispell library. For more information, call 257-3988.

New officers are Erica Wirtala, president; Linda Stevens, vice-president; Clare Hafferman, secretary, and Mary Westphal, treasurer.



Here are some of our youngest library users enjoying a craft during preschool storytime in Kalispell. Storytimes at Flathead County Libraries are at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in Bigfork, 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Columbia Falls and Kalispell and 1 p.m. Thursdays in Whitefish. For more information, call your local library.

Director's Corner

Did you know that on average, Flathead County residents check out 5.3 books each year and pay only an average of \$14.80 (through property taxes) for library services? That's a darn good deal when you think that a hardcover book costs nearly \$30 these days and the national average of money spent on public libraries is \$25.50.

Our budget is not nearly enough to cover all the technology, materials, and programs we offer to valley residents each year. We rely on volunteers at all of our branches to help with processing materials, calling holds, indexing newspapers, building furniture, and helping with programs.

Our Friends of the Library group helps to fund the Summer Reading Program. And our Foundation helps with larger, capital needs.

If you are interested in supporting the libraries, please consider a gift to the Flathead County Library Foundation. Your gift supplements public funding and ensures that we continue to offer quality materials and programs.

As we all know, the population in the Flathead continues to grow; but our \$1.2 million annual budget for the libraries cannot keep up with that growth. We need new buildings in Kalispell and Bigfork, and more space in Columbia Falls. That's why your donation—large or small—is so important.

A gift of time is another way you can help support our libraries. We have many tasks for volunteers and your time will be greatly appreciated. I hope to see each of you soon @ your Flathead County Library.

Kim Crowley
kcrowley@co.flathead.mt.us



Libraries in Kalispell and Whitefish will be showing a number of films dealing with human rights issues this winter and spring.

Human rights films playing at libraries

Six films dealing with human rights issues will be shown at Flathead County Libraries in Kalispell and Whitefish this winter, beginning in February.

The free showings are made possible by a grant to the Flathead County Library. The films are part of The Human Rights Video Project, a national library project established to increase the public's awareness of human rights issues through the media of documentary films.

The project was developed by National Video Resources in Partnership with the American Library Association. Major funding was provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

The entire series will be shown in Whitefish between Feb. 11 and April 1, and repeated in Kalispell between March 30 and May 11. Here is a description of the films and the schedule

for local showings:

Bombies, 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 in Whitefish, and at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 30 in Kalispell. During the Vietnam War, the U.S. Air Force dropped an estimated 90 million cluster bombs in neighboring Laos. The bombing took place without congressional approval and violated the Geneva Accords of 1962, which prohibited attacking Laos. *Bombies* tells the story of these attacks and their legacy.

Behind the Labels: Garment Workers on U.S. Saipan, 3 p.m. Saturday Feb. 18 in Whitefish, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 6 in Kalispell. *Behind the Labels* exposes the harsh conditions of the garment industry in Saipan, a U.S. territory in the Pacific. Although the island flies the American flag, it is not subject to U.S. immigration

Continued on Page 3



Brett Fisher was hired as Technology Training Librarian, a new position, for the Flathead County Library System.

New librarian loves kids, technology

Brett Fisher loves technology, teaching and children, so he figures his new job as Technology Training Librarian for the Flathead County Library System will be a perfect fit.

Brett, who started work in Kalispell on Jan. 3, will be teaching computer classes to the public, working on the library's web site and other technology projects, and spending 10 hours a week in the Children's Department. He'll also serve as the Library System's volunteer coordinator.

"I love technology and teaching, and you put the two of these together and it sounded like an awfully good deal to me," he said.

Beginning this spring, Brett will be teaching basic computer classes, including internet and e-mail skills. He's open to ideas for other topics as well. The classes will be free and open to the public. Check with your local library for class dates.

Brett grew up in Columbia Falls and played several sports for the Wildcats in high school. He spent two years on a mission for his church in Colombia before attending Brigham Young University-Hawaii, where he earned a degree in information systems. After graduating from college, he returned to his home town and worked for two years for Schellinger Construction before taking the job at the library.

"I'm really excited to be with the library," he said. "I'm excited to take on a new challenge."

Brett and his wife, Kati, also a Columbia Falls High School graduate, have two sons: Brock, who's almost 2, and Evan, who was born Jan. 19.

Bret can be reached via e-mail at bfisher@co.flathead.mt.us, or 758-5814. He encourages people to get in touch with him if they're interested in volunteering at the library or in taking computer classes.

Foundation names 3 new directors

Roy Beekman, Barbara Boorman and Stephanie Christensen, all of Kalispell, were elected to the Flathead County Library Foundation Board of Directors at the group's January meeting.

The foundation is a private, non-

profit group established to supplement public funding for the library system.

New officers for the year are Greg Foley, president, Dorothy Laird, vice president; Helen Hindersman, recording secretary; and Laura Long, treasurer.

Flathead County Library System

Library Foundation Board of Directors

Greg Foley, Kalispell
President

Dorothy Laird, Whitefish
Vice-President

Kim Crowley, Library Director
Corporate Secretary

Helen Hindersman, Whitefish
Recording Secretary

Laura Long, Columbia Falls
Treasurer

Roy Beekman, Kalispell

Barbara Boorman, Kalispell

Stephanie Christensen, Kalispell

Helen Hindersman, Whitefish

Robert Lopp, Kalispell

Library Board Liaison

Mary Sullivan, Bigfork

Library System

Board of Trustees

Laura Long, Columbia Falls

Chairperson

Robert Lopp, Kalispell

Vice Chairperson

Jerry Hanson, County at Large

Marge Fisher, Whitefish

Dave Hilde, Bigfork

Flathead County Commissioners

Joe Brenneman

Gary Hall

Robert W. Watne

Newsletter editor

Mary Pat Murphy

Learn a Test gives handy on-line help on many subjects

If you need to prepare for a test, the Flathead County Library's on-line Learn A Test site may give you the help you need.

Free test preparation on a wide variety of topics is available through the site. Whether you're studying for a GED, a real estate exam, the civil service, U.S. citizenship or many other subjects, on-line assistance is available.

Learn A Test is an up-to-date alternative to printed test preparation booklets, and your library card is all you need. Learn A Test can be accessed through the library's website:

www.flatheadcountylibrary.org.

Library cardholders can access the site by creating a user name and password. The user id must be the library card number.

Here are just some of the other topics available for test preparation: Advanced Placement, College Entrance Exams, Cosmetology, Elementary School Skills Improvement, EMS, Firefighter, Military, Nursing, Skills Improvement Courses, Graduate School Entrance Exams, Teaching and Writing Skills Improvement.

Learn A Test is a great on-line resource. Check it out!

Human rights film series tackles provocative issues

Continued from Page 1

laws and in 1976 was exempted from federal minimum wage laws. Chinese and Filipino women pay high recruitment fees to attain contracts to work in "America." The result is years of debt.

Promises, 3 p.m. Saturday, March 11 in Whitefish, 7 p.m. Thursday April 13 in Kalispell. Through the stories of seven children living in diverse areas of Israel/Palestine, the filmmakers interweave the complex political and geographic history of this region of the Middle East.

Long Night's Journey into Day: South Africa's Search for Truth and Reconciliation, 3 p.m. Saturday March

Beyond the Flathead series shows in Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Kalispell

Flathead County Libraries in Bigfork Columbia Falls and Kalispell are once again screening award-winning independent and foreign films this winter.

Beyond the Flathead: An Independent and Foreign Film Series, began in January and will continue through March on Thursday nights in Kalispell and Saturday afternoons in Bigfork and Columbia Falls.

Showtimes will be 3 p.m. in Bigfork and Columbia Falls and 7 p.m. in Kalispell. Six films will be shown during this winter's series, including two films in January. All are welcome and admission is free.

"We're excited to continue the Beyond the Flathead film series," said Library Director Kim Crowley. "These are all well-crafted, award-winning films that have premiered at such film festivals as Toronto, Seattle and Sundance. We call our series Beyond the Flathead because these films explore other cultures, provocative ideas, diverse relationships

18 in Whitefish, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20 in Kalispell. When apartheid collapsed in 1994, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was formed to review amnesty applications by those who had been involved in crimes relating to apartheid. The film focuses on four cases, revealing that the system that imposed racial separation was anything but clear-cut.

Going to School, 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25 in Whitefish, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27 in Kalispell. Before Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Act in 1975, millions of children received inadequate special education services and at least 1 million children were prevented

and present lovely cinematography."

The films are intended for mature audiences. They have not been rated. The films will be available for checkout after the series ends.

The film series was made possible through a generous donation from the Flathead County Library Foundation.

Here is the line-up of upcoming films in the series:

Campfire (Hebrew with English subtitles) shows Feb. 2 in Kalispell, Feb. 4 in Columbia Falls and Feb. 11 in Bigfork.

Anytown, USA (from the U.S. in English) shows Feb. 16 in Kalispell, Feb. 18 in Columbia Falls and Feb. 25 in Bigfork.

Agata and the Storm (Italian with English subtitles) shows March 2 in Kalispell, March 4 in Columbia Falls and March 11 in Bigfork.

Rage in Placid Lake (Australian in English) shows March 16 in Kalispell, March 18 in Columbia Falls and March 25 in Bigfork.

Brochures describing the films are available at your local library.

from attending public school. The film details the effort of the Los Angeles Unified School District to include students with disabilities in the curriculum and afford them the same educational opportunities as other students.

Well-Founded Fear, 3 p.m. Saturday, April 1 in Whitefish, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 11 in Kalispell. This documentary provides a rare glimpse of the U.S. asylum-granting process through the perspective of the Immigration and Naturalization officers responsible for reviewing asylum applications.

Brochures on the film series are available at local libraries.

