

**THOMAS FORD
MEMORIAL LIBRARY**
800 Chestnut Street
Western Springs IL 60558
708-246-0520
www.fordlibrary.org

Library Hours
Monday - Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

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FOUNDATION NEWS

Dear Library Lovers,

We are grateful for the generous response to our all-village mailing of the Annual Appeal at the end of last year. The next issue of *The Ford Connection* will include the names of those who have contributed to the Thomas Ford Library Foundation. We will also include recognition of the Charter Members of the Oak Leaf Society.

Please mark your calendars now for a family event scheduled on November 5, 2011. Our Library will be turned into a miniature golf course! Sponsors and volunteers are needed. The Library Mini-Golf party promises fun for all ages.

We continue to build the Oak Leaf Society to recognize those who are committed to planned giving to the Foundation. Either cumulative lifetime donations equal to or greater than \$2,500 or a minimum bequest of \$10,000 qualifies one for membership. Please contact any board member for additional information or e-mail foundation@fordlibrary.org. We plan to honor those members of the Oak Leaf Society at a special event later in the year.

Thank you for your interest in our wonderful Library. Contributions to the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity, are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and are accepted at any time.

We herald the promise of Spring and an improvement over the winter weather!

Thank you,

Liz Burns
Foundation Chair

NOTE FROM THE FRIENDS

We are getting ready for our semi-annual book sale. The three day event is April 29th thru May 1st, each day offering different options for shopping:

Friday night – 6-8 p.m.

This preview event is for members only. If you're not a member, consider joining so you can shop when the shelves are stocked to the max. Membership cards are available at the Library Circulation Desk or on the Library's website or at the door.

Saturday – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The sale is open to the general public.

Sunday – 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A bag sale and half-price sale. You will find a wide selection of books, sorted by category at great prices.

We hope you will come out and shop and help support this fundraising event for the Library.

The Ford Connection

THE THOMAS FORD
MEMORIAL LIBRARY



*SPRING
2011*



www.fordlibrary.org



THOMAS FORD LIBRARY'S NEW WEBSITE!

We are excited to unveil the Library's brand new website! Our new site is easier to navigate and has enhanced resources for finding good books! Also featured are our new reading blogs, which are maintained by library staff and range from **Thommy Ford Kids** for children's reviews, to **Thommy Ford Reads** for adult staff reviews, **Western Springs Reads** for community member reviews, and **Teen Reviews**. We invite you to explore and let us know what you think!

THE BIG READ 2011: Zeitoun

The Big Read, a celebration of community reading, returns for its 7th year this spring. The title selected, *Zeitoun* written by Chicago-area native Dave Eggers, is the true-life story of heroism and racism colliding in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans. The main character Zeitoun, a Syrian-American businessman and father of four, lives in New Orleans and decides to stay behind to protect his property when the city evacuates. He's convinced the storm will die out before it reaches New Orleans—but he is wrong.

Book discussions and programs are scheduled at ten area libraries. Brochures providing complete details may be found on our display table at the library or at www.thebigread.org.

KNITTING GROUP

Join our Knitting Circle for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments on Thursdays from 1-3 pm. No registration is necessary.

March 17th and 31st
 April 14th and 28th
 May 12th and 26th

DOWNLOADABLE eBooks AND AUDIOBOOKS AT THOMAS FORD

Thomas Ford Memorial Library introduces Media on Demand, its downloadable digital book and audiobook service from Overdrive, Inc. Through a link on the Library's website, card holders can load eBooks (electronic books) to their Nook, Sony, iPad, or other open format eBook reader (not compatible with Kindles); they will also be able to load digital audiobooks to their MP3 or iPod players. From home or at the Library, you may select from a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction titles that will check out for three weeks, just like other library materials. You may also reserve items already on loan. With new titles added monthly, nearly every eBook and audiobook fan will find something to read.

Visit or call the Reference Desk to request a tutorial or come to one of our demonstrations to see how the service works. Our first demonstration will be **Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m.** and a repeat session will be held **Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.** Please register by calling 708-246-0520. Or you can sign up using our new online events calendar.

INVESTMENT DISCUSSION GROUP

Thomas Ford investment discussion group discusses market conditions, trends and sources of reliable information. All are welcome, No registration is necessary.

Tuesday, March 8th, 7:15 p.m.
 Tuesday, April 12th, 7:15 p.m.
 Tuesday, May 10th, 7:15 p.m.

WESTERN SPRINGS: A LIBRARY-USING TOWN!!

The Library's 2009 circulation statistics have been bested! 2010 is now officially our busiest year ever with an 8.1% increase over 2009. A total of 264,922 items were checked out vs. 244,963 items in 2009. Nationally, the average number of checkouts per person at a public library is 7 items per year. Adjusting Thomas Ford's total annual circulation by subtracting checkouts to borrowers who do not live in Western Springs, then dividing that number (251,452) by 12,500 (the population of the Village), means our per capita circulation for the year 2010 was 20.1 items per capita. This reflects so positively on both Western Springs and the Library. We encourage you to continue to rely on us for information, recreational reading, and school assignments. Why not try something new this year? Download an audiobook from the Library's website, sign out an iPad and test drive it in-house, borrow a Kindle, attend a program, search one of our databases from your home computer, or book a session with a librarian for help with your special project or computer questions. We are here to serve you and delight in helping find answers to your requests. P.S. Don't forget, we also have books!!!!

YOUTH



AFTERNOON @ THE MOVIES: DISNEY'S THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

All Ages
Friday, April 1, 1:30-3:15 p.m.
 Drop in for this family friendly big screen showing of Disney's retelling of this classic princess tale set in New Orleans. Fresh popcorn will be served. Rated G. This program is part of The Kids Read, Too.



LEGO PLAY

All Ages
Wednesday, March 30, 11:00a.m-12p.m.
 Do you enjoy building with Legos and Duplos? Come to the library! We'll provide the materials; you provide the ideas. Your creations will be displayed for your friends and family to see!



GRANDPARENTS' TEA PARTY *
 K-2nd grade w/adult
Saturday, April 16, 2-3 p.m.

Would you like to attend a special tea party to honor your grandparent? Bring your grandparent to this tea party and share unique memories of your time spent with them. We will read books, do a craft and partake in tea festivities to mark this special occasion.



RICKY RECYCLE SHOW *
 K-6th grades

Thursday, April 21, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
 We are celebrating Earth Day with Ricky Recycle. In his interactive and zany production, he teaches children what a conscience is, where materials come from and the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources. He will also explore the Many R's of Recycling: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Refuse, Restore and Re-buy. You will gain an understanding of your responsibility to connect with and protect our planet.



RAILWAY READERS AND READING PATCH CLUB

We like to keep readers motivated throughout the school year. Pick up a Railway Readers sheet to earn small prizes for non-readers (someone reads to the child) or a Reading Patch Club book log to earn quality sewn patches (independent readers). Your child can have fun and develop reading skills while earning rewards.



TEEN SUMMER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

For information about volunteering to help with the Summer Reading Club, please see the Teen section on page 3.

YOUTH SERVICES SPRING STORYTIMES

Spring Storytimes will run for a six-week session starting March 21 and ending April 29.

READ 'N' RHYME ROMP *
3-23 months w/adult
(choose one day/time)
Mondays, 10-10:30 a.m. OR
Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m.

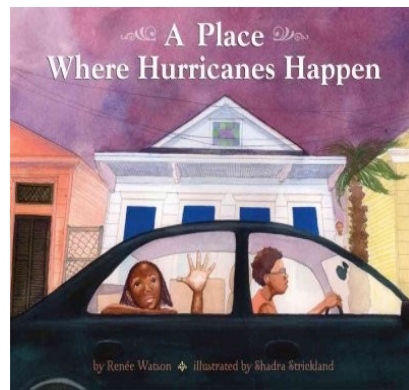
Help your baby grow up to love books and reading! Share stories, songs and rhymes with your little one in this lapsit program and introduce him or her to a lifetime of reading fun and language enjoyment. This program works best if there is one adult with one baby. Adults are encouraged to follow along and do the activities with their baby.

STORYTIME PALS *
3-5 years
Mondays, 1:30-2 p.m.

Hear stories, sing songs and have fun with your friends. Storytimes will highlight early literacy skills that children need to learn before they can read. Participants will leave with a handout featuring that day's literacy skill and additional activities to do at home.

TODDLER TIME *
2-3 years w/adult (choose one day/time)
Tuesdays, 10-10:30 a.m. OR
Thursdays, 10-10:30 a.m.

Introduce your toddler to early literacy storytimes. Early literacy skills help in building the foundation of reading for your child. This program works best if there is one adult with one toddler. Adults are encouraged to participate along with their toddlers and expand their learning by repeating the activities listed on the handout at home.



THE KIDS READ, TOO!

Please join us for The Kids Read, Too!, a community-wide literary event for young people! Just as the adults will read *Zeitoun*, all children are invited to read *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen* by Renee Watson. To help bring this book to life, local libraries will be offering a fantastic assortment of fun and enriching events open to everyone. Ask us for The Kids Read, Too! brochure where you'll find detailed information on events at Thomas Ford and other area libraries!

***A Place Where Hurricanes Happen* by Renee Watson**

Written in free verse, this beautifully illustrated picture book tells how four friends from the same neighborhood in New Orleans are affected by Hurricane Katrina.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrate the music, traditions and stories of New Orleans with the Kidworks Touring Theatre Co.

Learn about hurricanes and other types of weather in a Mad Science Workshop!

Attend an *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen* Book Party and explore the story with fun games and activities.

Create a traditional Mardi Gras mask with Master Mask Maker Jeff Semmerling.

You may sign up for and attend any of the programs being offered at participating libraries. See The Kids Read, Too! brochure for detailed information, including times and locations for all events.

KIDWORKS THEATRE PRESENTS "THE MUSIC, TRADITIONS AND STORIES OF NEW ORLEANS" *

K and up
Monday, March 14 7-8 p.m.
Location: The Community House, 229 Symonds Drive, Hinsdale
Come bring the music, traditions and stories of New Orleans alive in a new "hands-on" program introducing children to the people, culture and historic events of Louisiana. Come and beat the Djembe drum, dance at Congo Square, eat Cajun food and survive a hurricane! Children in the audience will use costumes and theatrics to play an active role in re-creating the story *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen*. This program is part of The Kids Read, Too! and is being jointly hosted by Hinsdale Public Library and Thomas Ford Memorial Library.

MASK MAKING WORKSHOP *

1st grade and up
Wednesday, March 23 4-5 p.m.
Make a Mardi Gras inspired mask with Master Mask Maker Jeff Semmerlings. Fanciful, elaborate masks are an important component of Mardi Gras celebrations. Tragically, since Hurricane Katrina much of New Orleans' original mask art has been lost and many mask makers are no longer working. Jeff has been working to revive this almost-lost art. We'll work with colorful cardstock to make elaborate bird masks, each unique to its creator. This program is part of The Kids Read, Too!



TEEN LAB RETURNS

After a winter hiatus, the Teen Library Advisory Board once again is asking you -- yes, you! -- to share your opinions, ideas, and energy. We'll be planning the Teen Summer Reading Club and any additional summer activities you want to see happen here at the library. New members are always welcome. Note our new meeting times!

Upcoming meetings:
Thursday, March 10, 4-5 p.m.
Thursday, April 14, 4-5 p.m.
Thursday, May 12, 4-5 p.m.



CADDY CLASS

Grades: 6-12
March 16 and March 23 6:30-9 p.m.
Long time caddy Larry Regan will instruct prospective caddies on golf course rules, etiquette, and how to get a leg up in the competitive caddying job market. *Please note this class meets two times; registration required.*

EXAM CRAM

May 31 and June 1 6:00-10:00 p.m.
The end is in sight! Make our place your study space. Snacks provided after 6 p.m. The library will be open until 10 p.m. for High School students with valid ID. (Dates contingent on snow days.)



RECORD BREAKERS / RECORD MAKERS

Grades: 6-12
April 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Anyone can be the best at something -- what are you the best at? Let's make some new world records or break some existing ones. Find out more at www.urdb.org, then come with your world record holder attitude (and any necessary props) or use our materials. We'll be documenting our record making and breaking attempts to submit to the Universal Records Database. Spectators welcome!
Minimum 5, Maximum 30; Registration required.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help us make summer reading a fun and memorable experience for local children! Teens who will be entering 7th grade or higher this fall are invited to volunteer at the library during our Summer Reading Club. Volunteers help register children for the Summer Reading Club, hand out prizes, and assist staff members with programs and projects. Applications will be available May 1; attendance at one orientation session is required. The deadline to apply is May 31. Mark your calendars for one of the following mandatory training sessions:

Saturday May 21, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 31, 4:00 p.m.

MEET ALAINA KAFKES, TEEN LIAISON TO THE LIBRARY BOARD



The Thomas Ford Library Board thought that it would be of great benefit to have a Teen Liaison who would provide it with a viewpoint on Library issues under discussion, from a teen perspective. Selected by the Board, the Teen Liaison serves a one year, renewable term and is a non-voting, advisory member. We are most pleased to introduce Alaina Kafkes, our first Teen Liaison, who is a sophomore at LT, active in cross country, lacrosse, chorus, and theater. She is also a member of the French National Honor Society.

Welcome, Alaina!

Please visit our website to read an interview with Alaina. The interview can be found at www.fordlibrary.org

Contact heather@fordlibrary.org for more information on the Teen Liaison position.

FILM DISCUSSION GROUPS

Don't miss the great features and documentaries offered by our film discussion group this spring! All films are shown on Fridays at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:45. Lively discussions follow each screening.

March 4: *Get Low*

A movie spun out of equal parts folk tale, fable and real-life legend about the mysterious, 1930s Tennessee hermit who famously threw his own rollicking funeral party -- while he was still alive!

(1 hr. 40 minutes)

March 18: *The Order of Myths (The Big Read)*

The first United States celebration of Mardi Gras began in Mobile, Alabama in 1703. Explore how the carnival has progressed since that time.

(1 hr. 37 minutes)

April 1: *MicMaes*

A man and his friends come up with an intricate and original plan to destroy two big weapons manufacturers.

(French—1 hr. 45 minutes)

April 15: *A Village Called Versailles (The Big Read)*

In Versailles, a New Orleans neighborhood, a group of Vietnamese Americans overcomes obstacles to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina.

(1 hr. 8 minutes)

May 13: *Ondine*

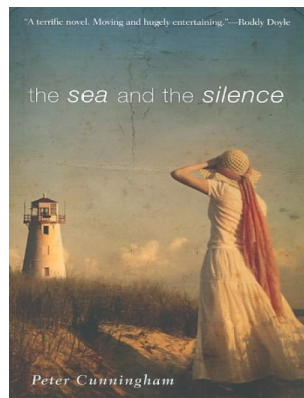
The story of an Irish fisherman who discovers a woman in his fishing net, whom he believes to be a mermaid.

(1 hr. 51 minutes)

May 27: *Babies*

This fun documentary follows four babies from around the world -- Namibia, Mongolia, Tokyo, and San Francisco -- from birth to first steps.

(1 hr. 19 minutes)



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Thomas Ford Book Discussion Group will meet in April and May before breaking for the summer.

Discussions are open to anyone who enjoys discussing good books! Book reviews and other information concerning upcoming books are available at the Reference Desk. Extra copies of the books are available at the Library approximately one month before the discussion.

The Sea and the Silence by Peter Cunningham

Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

The Sea and the Silence is an epic love story set in Ireland starting at the end of World War II, as Iz begins a life with her new husband in the town of Monument on the southeast coast. It continues over decades and tells the story of class struggles in a changing Ireland. This is a powerful novel by one of Ireland's best writers, who based the setting on his home city of Waterford.

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

This popular novel takes place in South America, and is based on a terrorist takeover of an ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru during a party in 1996. Patchett's novelization of this story explores the relationships among the hostages and between hostages and their takers, as well as what happens when people are taken out of their normal lives during a long siege. At the center of the story is one of the hostages, an opera singer whose music unites. Patchett skillfully takes the reader inside the minds of the characters as they move through this ordeal.



FRIDAY AT THE FORD

Silver Rose Trio: Barbara Silverman and Company

Friday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.
Barbara Silverman returns to Thomas Ford with mandolin champ Colby Maddox and stalwart swing fiddler Rick Veras to play a lively mixture of folk, country, and popular song. Expect tight harmony and beautiful solos.

Artemisia with Linda Smith

Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1652) was the first recognized female painter in the world of post-Renaissance art.

Linda Smith performs a song cycle based on the tragic life of the talented artist.

Friday at the Ford concerts are free, thanks to the support of the Western Springs Library Friends. Doors open at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served. No registration is necessary.

AN EVENING AT THE OPERA

First Congregational Church of Western Springs
Sunday, May 1, 7 p.m.

Janet Mensen Reynolds and members of Chicago's Lyric Opera Chorus return for a festive evening, previewing the 2011-2012 Lyric season by singing selections from upcoming productions. This marks the 15th year that the Library has sponsored this Lyric Opera preview concert, presented to the community as a gift from the Elmer and Pauline Kennedy family. Please note that this program will be held at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs.

No registration is required.

THE BIG READ PROGRAM

Mardi Gras: 300 Years of French Creole Tradition

Monday, March 14th, 7 p.m.
Dennis Stroughmatt has spent years learning to speak Illinois French Creole, play the fiddle, and sing many of the traditional songs that have permeated the region for over three hundred years. Come for this lively lecture ornamented with music! *Limit 60; Registration Required.*

BUTTON NECKLACE CRAFT

Tuesday, March 29, 7 p.m.
Learn how to create a beautiful, unique necklace with common, everyday buttons! All supplies are provided by the library. *Limit 20; Registration Required.*

LIFESTORIES: CREATING A MEMOIR THE BASICS OF WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY

Wednesday, April 13th, 7 p.m.
April 10-16 is National Library Week, and this year's theme is *Create Your Own Story @ Your Library!* Every person has a unique story. Learn how to motivate yourself and organize your stories into a written legacy for your family. *Limit 30; Registration Required.*

DECOUPAGE EGG CRAFT

Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.
Using the fun and simple technique of decoupage, create fabulous non-traditional eggs to decorate with this season! All supplies are provided by the library. *Limit 20; Registration Required.*

B.Y.O. CRAFT PARTY

Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.
Have a craft that you have been working on, but can't quite find time to finish? Need help or suggestions with something you are struggling with? Bring it on in! *Limit 20; Registration Required.*

FENG SHUI AND THE ART OF CLUTTER CLEARING

Monday, May 9th, 7 p.m.
Got clutter? Who doesn't? Getting rid of it can be a daunting task. Learn practical clutter-clearing tips and the Feng Shui secrets behind them from a Certified Practitioner of Interior Alignment. You'll be empowered to transform your space and simplify your life. *Limit 40; Registration Required.*

ELMER KENNEDY HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF WESTERN SPRINGS
Wednesday, March 16th, 7 p.m.
In honor of Western Springs' 125th anniversary, this lecture takes you on a tour of the town throughout its long history. Maps and historical pictures of Western Springs will illustrate the town, and popular styles of architecture will be discussed. Not to be missed! *Limit 50; Registration Required.*

THE BIG READ PROGRAM LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Thursday, April 14th, 7 pm
The Kennedy family sponsors this exciting The Big Read program. Join us as we follow America's great river -- its course, character, and general river life -- as experienced by a modern-day Huck Finn while canoeing solo all 2300 miles down the "Mighty Mississippi," from its source in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. *Limit 40; Registration Required.*



ADULTS

PAULINE KENNEDY GARDENING SERIES

Limit 40; Registration Required for all events in this series.

THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE

March 8, Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.
Have you ever wondered what it's like to live within a historic work of art? Cathy Maloney knows firsthand as a gardening writer, and current owner of the Gardener's Cottage on the Avery Coonley Estate, a rare joint effort by Frank Lloyd Wright and Jens Jensen. Join us to learn the cottage's beginnings, design details, and present biographical information about Riverside's key creators. Several attendees will win copies of Cathy's book, *The Gardener's Cottage in Riverside, Illinois.*

FLOWER ARRANGING WITH JANE'S BLUE IRIS

April 20, Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.
Vicki Liarakos from Jane's Blue Iris (Hinsdale) will show attendees some tricks of the trade as she arranges fresh flowers into delightful designs. Learn about proportion, color, and texture in floral arts. Gain insight into proper container selection as well as how to make your arrangements last longer. Fresh flowers are a joy any time of year and brighten a room. This class will help you execute great arrangements!

OUTSIDE THE BOX

May 10, Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.
Join Deb Cullen, The Container Nanny, as she demonstrates how to create an easy to maintain summer container garden. In this class, Deb will plant "seeds" of ideas for building your own creations that complement both your home and decorating spirit. One lucky person will get to take home the completed container that Deb designs as she instructs!