

Between the Bookends

By Cecelia Sadtler
Volunteer, Banks Library

Exciting events mark the April calendar at the Banks Public Library. The Banks History Lecture Series continues with another interesting program that focuses on local history, the annual plant and book sale is scheduled for late April, regular recycling occurs on the second Saturday, and a newly formed Writers' Group meets monthly in the Library Community Room on the second Monday.

The April presentation for the Banks Lecture Series is titled *Japanese Americans in Banks*. This lecture and slide show will be presented by George Katagiri, Historian of Japanese Americans in Oregon, and Ann Fulton, Adjunct Professor in History at Portland State University. The presenters will discuss the history and contributions made by the Japanese Americans to the community of Banks and surrounding areas. A general discussion will follow their presentation, historical photographs will be displayed and refreshments will be served. All history lecture programs are free and open to the public.

Funding for this particular project comes from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, the Japanese American Citizen's League, the Japanese Ancestral Society and the Friends of the Banks Public Library. The Japanese American program will take place on April 9, 1998 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Banks Public Library, 111 Market Street.

The final program in the 1998 Banks Lecture Series will be held on May 14 when Ann Fulton will discuss the interesting story of growth in Banks and surrounding communities with a slide show titled, *Banks, A Darn Good Little Town*.

Participation has been enthusiastic for the Banks Lecture Series, and those who were unable to attend earlier lectures have the opportunity to view them on public access channels courtesy of Tualatin Valley Community Access. *Hands All Around: Quilting Traditions* is scheduled for ten showings on Channels 11, 9 and 23 during April and early May. This is a fun and informative lecture using quilts to demonstrate the unique role of quilting in American folk art.

Check your local listings for specific times.

Once again, April marks the time for the Banks Annual Plant and Used Book Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Public Library. This event comes just in time for spring planting. The sale will be held at the Library on Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many varieties of annuals and perennials, vegetable starts and hundreds of books will be on sale. Plan to attend this popular affair and pick up some good bargains for a good cause. The Friends are still looking for more plant donations. If you can help, please call Ann Krutsinger at 324-2743.

The Banks Writers' Group is meeting monthly at the Library on the second Monday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. April's date is the 13th. This is a small group whose purpose is to provide a low key format for developing writing skills. Participants are invited to share their writing and to receive sensitive and honest feedback from peers. If you would like more information or would like to join this group please call Cecelia Sadtler at 324-0225.

Some new books on the Banks Library shelves are *Sooner or Later* by Elizabeth Adler and *Song of the River* by Sue Harrison. Another new book by Deepak Chopra is titled, *The Path to Love*. Dr. Chopra is known for his unique ability to blend ancient knowledge and scientific research. This recent work is no exception and it probes the reader's innate strengths, desires and spiritual insights while also offering exercises designed to overcome obstacles that often block the pursuit of satisfying relationships.

If you haven't seen the new Banks Public Library and Community Room, stop by soon to check out one of these books or to browse for other recent additions or old favorites. Pick up current flyers, fax forms and local news bulletins. Copies of *THE INDEPENDENT* are also available at the Banks Library.

Banks Library 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.;
Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: (503) 324-1382

Letters to the Editor

community Development Corporation (VCDC). They seemed to be two very different groups but, as I sat and listened, I heard a resonating harmonic between both of them: *Community*. I also felt that an important element of their desired success was missing.

FSC, specifically, is working on a building "for youth". As I looked around the table at the board of directors meeting, I noticed that this huge effort was being addressed by adults. I pointed this out and was told by a very proud father that his daughter had been involved since the beginning. This started a discussion about youth in the community. After suggesting that the youth become intricately involved in planning, in any bylaws revisions, in all the work that still needs to be done before its use by them and others, there was discussion about the youths' willingness to participate. Could this be a "win/win" scenario?

At the VCDC meeting, there was discussion about some of the goals in the strategic plan for economic development in Vernonia, specifically regarding future actions of the Quality of Life Committee. In this published plan, a picture is painted of what Vernonians want our community to be like in 10-15 years. I agreed with the statements but wanted to know how the community was going to get there. I explained that I believed the Quality of Life Committee could start addressing these goals, but that we could not go forward 10-15 years without including the youth and their community, the schools. It is they who are role modeling for the second graders today, the senior class, ten years from now.

So it has begun: *Youth in Action*. This group, an official VHS club (who chose their own title) as small as it may be now, or as large as it may become, is *choosing* by their own actions to reach out beyond their school community. To date, they have introduced themselves and given presentations to: Friends of the Scout Cabin, Vernonia Senior Center, Vernonia Pride, and Vernonia Community Development Corporation. They have also addressed the Oregon Rural Development Council. A few volunteer at the Hands On Art Center, and the Friends of the Scout Cabin have new attendees at their weekly meetings. However, they will not always be the same youth attending. As a matter of fact they are encouraged to play "Meeting Tag" and deliberately send as many different students as possible to each presentation or meeting. The Senior Class of '98 is working in partnership with Vernonia Pride, SOLV-IT, and Vernonia Senior Center via "The Senior Class Challenge" which is scheduled for April 18th, during the annual Vernonia Pride Clean-up Day.

The reception of "Youth in Action" by the groups men-

tioned has been extremely encouraging. This club is currently only at VHS, officially, but the mission I would like to encourage is inclusion of all youth in our community.

As I see it, they are already improving the quality of life here; cooperating respectfully with others, including themselves in community groups and choosing to practice random acts of kindness. Yes, they are the honor students and leadership students and students who appear to be simply hanging around, looking bored. Of course...both!

Michelle Blum
Vernonia

Slovakian family life not same as Oregon

To the Editor:

In this second part of my cultural summary of Slovakia, I will describe the differences between Family Life as I knew it in Oregon and as I find it here in Slovakia. This will include differences in schedules and attitudes, as well as differences in living conditions.

First of all, Slovakia has a much higher population density than Oregon. Oregon contains approximately five times the area of Slovakia, but Slovakia's population is twice that of Oregon. One effect of this is that in cities (including towns of 10,000 or more), the most common type of home is an apartment. This is especially true in Bratislava, one section of which, Petralka, is the largest housing estate development in the world. In the larger cities, those who live in houses are, typically, better off financially than most others.

In some Slovak families, three generations live under the same roof. Slovak families are also much closer than American families. When I say "closer," however, I do not mean that the caring is more intense; I mean that Slovak families often spend much more time with relatives who do not live in the same house. Families have gatherings at grandparents' houses approximately every three or four months. During these gatherings, there can be twenty or more people spending two or three days in one house.

Mealtime is also very different for a Slovak family. Often, the family eats a small breakfast of toast, jam, yoghurt, rolls, and so on; a small brunch is usually packed for those family members who go to school. Then, the family eats a rather large lunch meal including soup and a dessert. Another option, for those at school, is to eat lunch at the school's cafeteria. Dinner is usually a small meal, fairly similar to breakfast, but with more vegetables and meat. So, when compared to the typical American system of eating, where breakfast is passed by as often as not, lunch is not very large, and dinner is usually the main meal.

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Letters to the Editor

Youth in Action, a community resource

To the Editor:

"Youth in Action"—YA!

The simple mention of these words brings visions of youth *doing*. What are they doing? Anything requiring *action*. Why would they take action? Well, for the past two months I have been discussing this question with them. Not all of them, but not just specific groups, either. Some might think it's just honor students or leadership students. Some might think it's not the students who appear to be simply hanging around, looking bored. Why not both?

I do not know the exact number of the student body at the high school, but at last count it was 235. I have 23 names on the roster of youth who have *already* taken action. So, it starts with 10 percent in action. I know the discussions have included at least 75 students and, after April 18th, the roster may include the vast majority of the student body at VHS. That will be determined by them, not me. So, what's going on?

In January I was asked by community members to consider sitting on two boards: The Friends of the Scout Cabin (FSC) and the Vernonia Com-



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