

Between the Bookends

By Susan Cackler, Library Assistant
Banks Public Library



In April, the Washington County Cooperative Library Services will feature Hearing Voices, the 2008 storytelling festival. Workshops and events will be held at libraries throughout the county. Banks Public Library will host John Dashney on Wednesday, April 16, for an evening of "Tall Tales, Tongue Twisters, and Original Spoken Ballads". Last year's festival was a big success, so be sure to check out these events. A complete list is available at the library or at wccls.org.

The Friends of the Banks Public Library annual plant and book sale is coming up Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3.

The sale will feature many types of plants, including vegetable starts and garden plants. If you have plants or books you would like to donate for the sale, please contact the library. We have very limited storage space, so if items could be held until close to the sale date, that would be appreciated.

The writing workshop held by the Friends last month was a huge success and has spawned interest in having more workshops, including some for youth. An ongoing writers' group may be formed if there is enough interest. Watch this space for updates.

Join us for Preschool Story Time Wednesdays at 10:15 am. This event is geared toward 3-6 year-olds, but younger siblings are welcome. This month Miss Kathy will read on the following themes:

- March 5: Yummy in the Tummy
- March 12: Best Friends
- March 19: Do Bunnies Lay Eggs?
- March 26: Spring break – no story time

Bring your craft projects to the community room at the Banks Public Library to enjoy this free work space sponsored by the Friends of the Banks Library. Gather ideas from other creative people and enjoy meeting people in your community. Coffee, tea and light snacks are provided. Held from 5-9:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of most months, the next craft night will be April 2.

The Friends of the Banks Public Library can always use your support. You can make a tax deductible donation, become a member, volunteer, or bring your recycling to Swatco on the **second Saturday** of each month. Money that the Friends raise helps the library purchase Cultural Passes, upgrade equipment and purchase books and movies.

New Books:

Last Night I Dreamed of Peace, by Dang Thuy Tram. This book is a diary of Tram, a Vietnamese doctor who tended civilians as well as Viet Cong soldiers. She died in 1970 at the age of 27. Written between 1968 and 1970, the diary chronicles her experiences of war, her devotion to family and friends, and her struggle to prove loyalty to her country. The diary was discovered by an American soldier soon after her death. Disobeying orders to de-

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stroy it, he kept it safe for 35 years. It then traveled to Tram's mother and was published in Vietnam, causing a sensation. This intimate and personal account tells a story that is universal in its power to celebrate and mourn the fragility of human life.

The Zookeeper's Wife, by Diane Ackerman. Jan and Antonina Zabinski were Polish Christian zookeepers who, horrified by Nazi racism, managed to save over 300 people. Drawing an Antonina's diary and other historical sources, naturalist Ackerman vividly recreates her life as "the zookeeper's wife," responsible for her own family, the zoo animals, and their guests – resistance activists and refugee Jews, many of whom Jan had smuggled from the Warsaw Ghetto. They are housed in the empty cages and code-named after the animals whose cages they occupied. Through this story, Ackerman explores the role of nature in both kindness and savagery, and unravels the obsession at the core of Nazism: both a worship of nature and its violation.

Firefly Lane by Kristin Hannah. From the author of *On Mystic Lake*, this is a novel about love, loss and the magic of friendship. Spanning more than three decades from the early 1970s, and playing out across the ever-changing face of the Pacific Northwest, *Firefly Lane* is the powerful story of two women and friendship that becomes the mainstay of their lives. The two women embody the different choices available to their generation and the different directions that those choices take them.

State of the Onion, by Julie Hyzy. White House Assistant Chef Olivia Paras is hell-bent on earning her dream job – executive chef. One thing stands in her way: her nemesis is vying for it too. And there's an assassin after her. Then she stops an intruder to the White House and witnesses a murder and there is no going back, even though the way forward means dealing with a world-class assassin. This mystery includes recipes for a complete presidential menu.

Dead Men Don't Get the Munchies by Miranda Bliss, is a cooking class mystery that also includes recipes. Annie and Eve are back, with Annie on the teacher's side of the cutting board. An eight-week class on bar food offered by Annie's boyfriend, Jim, leads to murder and Eve is the primary suspect. The whole class heard her say she wanted to kill the victim, a former boss who fired her when she spurned his advances. Now Annie and Eve must work together to prove her innocence.

Banks Public Library: 111 Market St.
Hours: Mon., Fri., Sat., 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Thurs., 11 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays,

10:15 a.m. when school is in session
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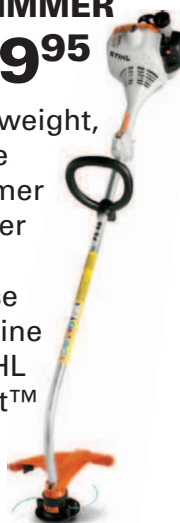
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