

FY2023 Annual Report

See which books were checked out the most and other information / Page 3

Local History Programs

The Interurban, indigenous cultures & a museum of toys of the past / Page 9

What's Inside a Book?

Items left behind in donated books spark the imagination / Page 11

After a great summer filled with books, we're challenging youths to ...

Keep Reading!

When it comes to keeping books in kids' hands to avoid the "summer slide," the 2023 Summer Reading Program was another successful year for Rolling Hills Library.

While the number of total registrations was just 14 shy of last year's 2,643, there were 590 0-5-year-olds, up 120 from 2022. Overall, there were 1,262 readers who completed the summer challenge, 58 more than last year.

But the number that stands out is 43,955. That's the number of books read this summer compared to 24,291 books in 2022.

Here are the numbers of books read by youths:

18,343 for ages 0-5, 13,472 for ages 6-11, 10,200 for ages 12-14 and 1,480 for ages 15-18.

The goal for youth readers now? Don't stop, read on!

"We had a great Summer Reading Program and want to keep that momentum going with more reading challenges for school-age kids," Belt Branch manager Kelly Morris said.

Those challenges through the library's Beanstack app (rhcl.org/reading-challenge) use the 2024 award nominee lists from the Missouri Association of School Librarians – Show Me Readers Award for grades 1-3, Mark Twain Award for grades 4-6, Truman Readers Award for grades 6-8 and Gateway Readers Award for grades 9-12. For ages birth through kindergarten, the challenge is built on the 2023 Missouri Library Association's Building Block

Picture Book Award nominees.

Every year, the two associations nominate a number of books published in the last two years. Kids statewide who read a certain number of the nominees vote for their favorites to determine which books win the awards.

The library's Beanstack challenges also have requirements for how many books must be read to earn library prizes. For Building Blocks, it's all 10 books; Show Me, all 10 books; Mark Twain, eight of the 12 books; Truman, six of the 12

books; Gateway, four of the 15 books. The challenges for the youngest kids require all of the nominees because they

are shorter books that don't take as long to read as books for the older ages.

There are two deadlines for the challenges. Building Block readers have until Dec. 31, 2023, and the four other challenges run through March 31, 2024.

What makes an award-winning book?

Miss Sarah, the Belt Branch youth services librarian, served on the Building Block committee for seven years and vouches for the quality of the nominated books.

What makes the books nominees and winners are a rich vocabulary, flowing language, accurate grammar and stories that don't injure the self-esteem of a child or reinforce a biased view.



Continued on Page 4

Readers Know Better

Reading gives you wider knowledge to help make decisions

How do we know what we know? How do we stay informed and learn new things?

In libraries, we call the ability to search for and locate information “information literacy.” Like all literacies, we are talking about the ways that we add stuff into our brains and then use that information to make good choices and lead better lives. But what happens when people can’t tell the difference between fact and opinion? When all statements are treated as equally important and valuable?



Freedom of speech is a bedrock of the American way of life. We value and honor our rights to read and think and say what we want, but this does not mean there are no limits. You can’t yell “Fire!” in a crowded theater if there is no fire because you could cause a panic and people could get hurt trying to exit. But the presence or absence of fire is pretty straightforward. What happens when we move into areas where it is not so clear?

The ability to look up information on a computer is part of information literacy. Selecting a search service, typing in search terms, and examining the results are all a part of this process. Nearly everyone these days relies on looking stuff up online instead of using printed or other verified sources. What if you find a large number of results but decide you don’t believe any of them? Or if you are persuaded to believe something that is a lie? Who decides what is true?

I don’t have all the answers, but I do know one thing – readers are always better off than non-readers. Even readers of fiction are better at selecting high-quality, factual information for research and decision-making. People who read have a greater understanding of how resources are created and how content is reviewed before publication. Expanded vocabularies and broad comprehension skills help us be better consumers of information. Readers are harder to fool and have more empathy for others. They dig deeper and look at more sources before making up their minds about an issue.

The best way to fight disinformation is to be a reader and make sure your family and friends are readers too. Let the children in your life see you reading and set aside time for them to read as well. Read out loud and read together. The best skill you can teach your children to prepare them for whatever life has in store for them is to READ and enjoy reading!

Michelle Mears, Rolling Hills Library Director
mmears@rhcl.org

Other ways to reach and follow us

Text the library at **816-287-9828** using these keywords, and we’ll help with your account:


Status for account information **Renew all** to renew everything on your account

Renew due to renew overdue items **Help** for a list of available commands
or text anything else to start a conversation with a librarian.

 www.goodreads.com/group/show/397463-rolling-hills-library

 facebook.com/RollingHillsLibrary

 twitter.com/RollingHillsLib

 www.instagram.com/Rolling_Hills_Library

 www.pinterest.com/rollinghillslib

Browse

a quarterly publication from
Rolling Hills Library that is
sponsored by the Friends of
Rolling Hills Library

Rolling Hills Library

www.rhcl.org

Belt Branch

1904 N. Belt., St. Joseph
816-232-5479
HOURS: 9-8 Mon-Sat
12-6 Sun

Savannah Branch

514 W. Main, Savannah
816-324-4569
HOURS: 9-7 Mon-Fri
9-5 Sat/12-5 Sun

Business Office

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-236-2106

Bookmobile & Outreach

1912 N. Belt, St. Joseph
816-205-7100

Michelle Mears

Library Director

Alan Stolfus

Browse editor

Board of Trustees

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Mary Beth Thomas

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Deborah Birr

Easton

Keith Ferguson

Cosby

Ken Rosenauer

Savannah

Elbert Turner Jr.

St. Joseph

*The board generally meets
at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday
of each month.*

Friends of the Library

The Friends support the library through
volunteer and fund-raising efforts.
The Friends board meets monthly.

Rolling Hills Library Foundation

The Foundation strives to provide
financial support for large
endeavors and future growth of the
library by seeking substantial gifts from
patrons and supportive foundations.



First Aid Day

Staff from Mosaic Life Care will teach first aid basics and the new hands-only CPR technique on this national day recognizing the importance of providing first aid in emergency situations. Adults and teens are welcome. **11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, Belt Branch**

ROLLING HILLS LIBRARY FY2023 Annual Report

Information and statistics from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

TOP 10 | MOST CHECKED OUT TITLES



10,390

New items were added to our collection



The Lost City was the most checked out DVD



333 Active readers in 1000 Books Before Kindergarten

13 Completions

535 Events & programs were held
13,732 Attendance count



2,107 Passports Processed or Assisted



3,432 Fingerprint Sets Scanned

89,578

VIRTUAL VISITS TO OUR WEBSITE and CATALOG

2

Excel Online High School GRADUATES
10 Students Enrolled

Wi-Fi Hotspots available to check out from the library

25

MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



9,908 active cardholders with 2,170 new accounts made.



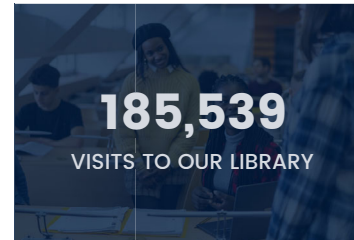
29,474 adult and child computer sessions on library stations.



Total income \$3,774,151 Local tax income \$3,383,767
Total expenditures \$2,624,198 Capital projects \$324,000

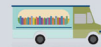


TOTAL VALUE OF FY2023 PROGRAMS & SERVICES \$6,443,018
Return on Investment: \$1 in tax collected brings \$2.80 in value to the community.



7,926

Bookmobile Miles Driven



371,258

ITEMS CHECKED OUT
This includes books, e-books, audiobooks, videos, and more!

85% of our circulation is from physical materials

39,781

E-RESOURCES AND DATABASES ACCESSED

2,345 reference questions answered



Rolling Hills
LIBRARY

Locations in St. Joseph and Savannah, MO, with Bookmobile Service
Office: St. Joseph, MO 64506 (816) 232-5479 <https://rhcl.org>



Hispanic Heritage Month

Payton Santana, a local community member active in Latinos Connect, will introduce you to the culture and people of Puerto Rico in this program celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15-Oct. 15. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, Belt Branch

Home Life

Fire safety to be topic of two events at Belt in October

In 1980, there were 734,000 reported home structure fires in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association. By 2018, that number had declined to 363,000.

The biggest single factor for the decrease in the number of fires and fire deaths has been fire and building codes that mandate the use of smoke alarms. However, occupants today are more likely to die in a house fire than they were 40 years ago because of flammable contents and more open design plans, a 2021 NFPA report states.

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and the St. Joseph Fire Department will present two events about fire safety at the Belt Branch.

At 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, in the Belt Community Room, fire inspector Rob Blizzard will discuss the need for smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, electrical safety, exit drills so families know how to leave a burning house and other safety measures.

"Most fires can be prevented with a little bit of fire safety knowledge," he said.

On Friday, Oct. 20, the fire department's mobile classroom will be in the Belt parking lot for visitors of all ages to learn fire safety lessons in a setting that replicates the inside of house. The drop-in event is set for 10 a.m. to noon.

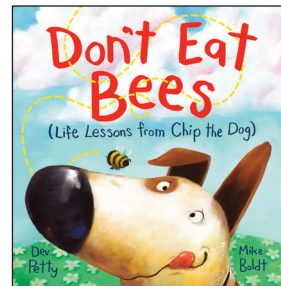
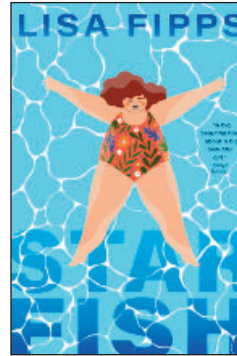
Missouri is a leader in awards for youth books

Continued from Page 1

"We are looking for titles that are interactive, exciting and easy for adults to read," she said. "If you find a Missouri Building Block Award title on our shelves, it's going to be a book your kiddos are likely to enjoy. Books that win the award have been taglined as 'sure-fire read alouds'."

To make sure the books are good for reading out loud, committee members choose the final 10 by reading them like they would in a Storytime. That meeting is attended also by two dozen outside listeners, who also vote on the top 10.

The Missouri Association of School Librarians starts building its nominee lists by having each of its award committees read about 150 books to come up with 25 preliminary nominees, said Melissa Corey, the librarian at Robidoux Middle School who was MASL president for 2022-23. Those lists are then narrowed down to 10-15 final nominees for the four awards.



Starfish is a nominee for the 2024 Truman Readers Award, and Don't Eat Bees is a nominee for the 2023 Building Block Picture Book Award.

What the committees look for are topics Missouri youths can relate to, illustration that stands out and literary quality other sources would notice.

"There are some real gems we will uncover during that process," Corey said.

Students will vote on their favorite books in the spring through their school libraries, and the winning books will be celebrated at the annual MASL conference.

While four MASL awards are featured in the library's reading challenge, there also are two newer MASL awards. Non-fiction books in all age-ranges are eligible for the Dogwood Readers Award, while the Denny O'Neil Graphic Novel Award is for books in all age-ranges.

Most school librarian associations give out at least one annual readers award, Corey said, but "we are unique in that we have six."

"Now that we've added the two others, I think we have one of the stronger readers awards programs in the country."



On July 13, the Friends of the Library met in the Belt Upper Story for their annual meeting. The organization's leaders are (left to right) secretary Cindy Kerns, vice president Teri Milbourn, treasurer Cheryl Seibert and president Cindy Soper.



The night's speaker was Kelly Smith, who talked about how being sponsored by the Friends to earn her high school diploma through the library's Excel High School program has changed her life.



Harry Potter Escape Room Sequel

You and your team of 3-6 players (including one adult) will have 25 minutes to find the key to unlock Hedwig the owl from her cage where the dastardly Dursleys have put her. Registration is required. **Belt Branch:** 4-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7. **Savannah Branch:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14.

Fall's Fun Features

'Tis the season for witches, owls, pumpkins, creepy crawlies and trick-or-treating

The weather may still be too warm in early September, but cooler temperatures are coming because fall is on the way. And along with the change in the weather comes pumpkins, colorful leaves and one of the biggest holidays of the year – Halloween.

The library has its share of events to help you prepare for and celebrate the season.

Saltshaker Kitchen Witches, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, Belt Branch – In-house crafting expert Ms. Angie will show teens and adults how to create these fun decorations. All materials provided. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/8855330.

Family Art Night, 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, Belt – In a program geared towards adults and children working together, families can make a mixed-media haunted houses using paint, book pages, yarn and Modge Podge. All supplies provided. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/8729133. Sign up all attendees so we have enough canvases for everyone.

Fall Craft Day, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, Savannah Branch – Youths of all ages can make a variety of fall crafts in this come-and-go event.

Needle Felted Pumpkins, 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, Savannah – Our favorite wool artist, Saundra Keiffer, will lead adults through this project. Bring an old towel to use as a cushion. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/8995090.

Misunderstood Critters, 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, Belt Upper Story. Creatures by Theresa will introduce families and kids to live creatures that often have a bad rap, including spiders, snakes, rats, hissing roaches and others. Theresa will have a fundraising photoshoot with some of

her creatures and families dressed in their Halloween costumes for a small fee 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15, Upper Story. The fundraiser is not a library sponsored event.)

Witchy Owl Painting Classes – Paint a cute owl in a witch's hat on canvas board with acrylic paints at the Belt. All materials provided. Adult session, 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9050493. All-ages session, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9050545.

Uncle Fester's Costume Closet – 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21; noon-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23; Belt. Once again, Uncle Fester is opening his closet doors to give away free Halloween costumes to kids in need. One costume per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult to browse the costumes.

Build a Monster, 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, Belt – Kids can use our recyclable collection of parts to build their own monsters.

Halloween Scavenger Hunts – Come haunt the library to search for spooky things lurking in the stacks. There may be some treats when you finish! 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, Savannah. All day, Saturday, Oct. 28-Monday, Oct. 31, Belt. Trick-or-treating is encouraged Oct. 31 at Savannah.

Thanksgiving Wall Hanging, 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, Belt – Make a Thankful Tree that won't take up space on your holiday table. Bring a stick or dowel rod (20-35 inches long) and all other materials will be provided. Register at events.rhcl.org/event/9088833.



READING HAPPY 2023 SUMMER

On June 1, kids and adults waded into or stayed dry watching the Belt Branch's outdoor Foam Party to kick off the Summer Reading Program. Crowd size: 275



Even Theresa of Creatures by Theresa was surprised when this boy showed off his new rat hat at the program on June 26 at the Savannah Branch. Crowd size: 120
RIGHT: Miss Jenn of Exotics R Us



had a more challenging time with Squeak, a mountain coatimundi she brought to the Upper Story on July 10.



A member of the raccoon family, coatimundies are found in South and Central America and southwestern states of the United States. Crowd size: 370



It was a summer of big crowds for many events at both the Belt Branch and the Savannah Branch. Here, science edutainer



Missouri Western biology professor Mark Mills (top left) shows off a prairie king snake during his snake program June 13 in the Upper Story. Crowd size: 127

Remington Nature Center naturalist Shelly Cox (above) brings out Tim the tortoise in



her program about turtles and tortoises on June 15 at the Upper Story. One boy (left) got an upclose look at Tim. Crowd size: 112

SUMMER NUMBERS

2,629
REGISTERED READERS

1,262
COMPLETIONS

43,955
BOOKS READ!



Mike Horner and Li'l Dumpling of What If Puppets pose for a family picture after their show June 5 in the Upper Story. Crowd size: 115

MAKES US CAMPERS READING PROGRAM



Nitro Joe talks to just a part of the audience that saw him July 24 in the Belt Upper Story. Crowd size: 188.



The fire dancers of Pyro Flow lit up the evening of June 29 outside the Belt Branch. Crowd size: 163



Brandon Draper of Drum Safari plays the handpan on July 17 at the Savannah Branch. Crowd size: 39



LEFT: Central High School graduate Ansh Gupta, now studying astronomy at the University of Arizona, spoke about the history and future of astronomy on July 18 in the Upper Story. MIDDLE: Sharon Foster of the Pony Express Prospectors Association shows kids how to pan for gold July 13 at the Belt. RIGHT: Kids had fun making their own slime concoctions July 19 at the Belt.



Bill Whinery brought the Operation Wildlife raptor program to the Upper Story on June 19. Crowd size: 199
Juggler Brian Wendling (right) lassooed himself a small herd of cute kids June 12 at Savannah. Crowd size: 114



Yvonne Burbach (above) brought her Wings of Love bird show to Savannah on June 19, which featured Swoop the Eurasian eagle-owl and her acrobatic tropical birds. Crowd size: 145
Edutainer Will Stuck closed out the Summer Reading Program with his Wacky Wildlife Show at Savannah, which featured him creating a cloud in this bottle. Crowd size: 122



Staff are helpful when she calls needing reading recommendations, and she likes the Libby app. She is "so grateful for the library."

READING MAKES US HAPPY CAMPERS

SUMMER READING PROGRAM PRIZE WINNERS

Grand prize winners of
\$100 Walmart gift cards



Belt Branch – Rebecca
Pettegrew



Savannah Branch – Branch
manager Jill Weaver hands
Wyatt his card

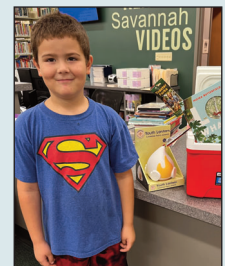
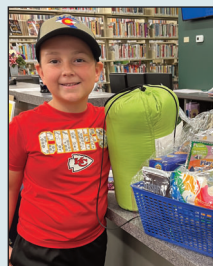


Bookmobile – Ethan and his
sister Olivia, who talked
Ethan into signing up for the
summer reading challenge.
Mom and Dad said the two
would split the prize.



Abigail (left to
right), Oliver,
Jay and Leo

Rosemary,
Ben, Conor,
Mackenzie
and Sam



Jackson, mom
Anitra Svendsen,
Lenora Miller
and Eli, who
shared his prizes
with his siblings



Joyce Raye Patterson Kitchen Band

Kazoos! Pots! Pans! Washtub bass! Washboard!
Did we mention kazoos? Don't miss a fun evening of music with this local group. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26, Belt Branch Upper Story

Book Review

Plot and characters in this Appalachian tale make a standout story

The novel **If the Creek Don't Rise** by Leah Weiss is the story of a teenage girl in 1970s Appalachia.

Newly married and pregnant, Sadie Blue is navigating an abusive husband and the harsh lifestyle of there-mote mountains, where isolation and poor economic opportunities push people to moonshining, stealing, murder, lack of interest in education and distrust of any one different. Her story is intertwined with those of her family and community, each told in first-person chapters. Those affected by Sadie's plight include her grandmother, aunt, husband, the local preacher and a new outsider come to teach at the one-room schoolhouse.

Sadie grabs your heart, leaving you anxious to know what happens next in Weiss's debut novel. The prose is tight but paints a richly detailed picture of Sadie's life and the lives of those around her. The structure of the book reminds me of Maeve Binchy novels, where everyone has a story that touches someone else, sometimes in unexpected ways, but arrives full circle at the end.

I'm looking forward to trying Weiss' second novel, **All the Little Hopes**, to see if the quality holds.

— Greer Barnard
Books Revisited assistant



3 history talks to feature toy museum, the Interurban, indigenous cultures

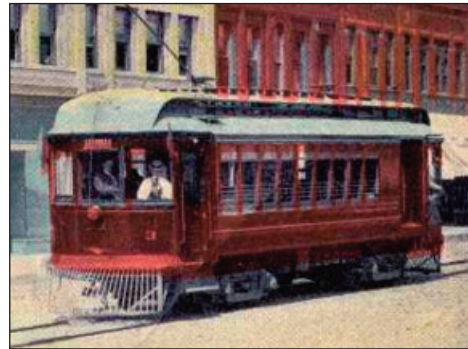
The Interurban Railway, North American indigenous cultures and a museum dedicated to toys from the past are the topics of three historical programs this fall at the Belt and Savannah branches.

"Riding the Interurban" is the title of a talk by Carole Johnson from the Andrew County Museum at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19 at the Savannah Branch. Rosendale Garden Club members also will be there to talk about their preservation project of the Interurban depot in Savannah.

The St. Joseph-Savannah Interurban Railway operated from 1911-1939, covering the 13 miles using electric power. It headed north out of St. Joseph on the St. Joseph Avenue streetcar line and ended four blocks west of the Savannah town square.

For Native American Heritage Month, St. Joseph Museums executive director Sara Wilson will speak about the indigenous cultural areas of North America at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the Belt Branch.

The talk will cover the variety of cultures and how their differences can be seen in items in the museum's extensive Native American Archives collection. Wilson will bring items to show, including pottery, beadwork, potlatch gifts and clothing. She also will



An Interurban car on the north side of the Savannah square.

cover the indigenous people of the St. Joseph area, starting with the prehistoric era and moving forward.

How two Kansas City women's passions for collecting came to create a preeminent museum is the topic at 6:30

p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the Belt.

Dr. Madeline Rislow, the senior manager of learning and engagement at The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures (and a former associate art professor at Missouri Western State University), will speak on how Mary Harris Francis and Barbara Hall Marshall created their collections and then created a museum to display them.

The two combined their passions for historical toys and fine-scale miniature art to form the museum near the Country Club Plaza. The idea to do so came about after the two returned from a trip with new purchases for their ever-expanding collections. Francis' mother exclaimed that if they got one more thing, they'd have to start a museum.

Forty years later, that museum houses more than 90,000 objects with the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of historic toys.



Credits: Interurban Railway postcard, Andrew County Museum; Tin Flyer, c. 1910, Maker Unknown; The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures; Apache Olla basket, c. 1880s with human and animal designs, St. Joseph Museums.



Ukulele Workshops

Beginner Workshop – Learn strings, notes and chords on your way to playing a complete song. Bring your own uke or use a library uke. 10:30 a.m. **Saturday, Sept. 9, Belt Upper Story.**

Intermediate Workshop – If you already play or took the Beginner Workshop, we will build on what you know, learning new chords and songs. 10:30 a.m. **Saturday, Oct. 14, Belt Community Room.**

Manga Masterpiece

Lost teen's efforts to have a normal life make for a bloody good series

For art to effortlessly exude genuineness, the creator must, almost innately, 'get it.' The 'it' stands for many things. The artist must 'get' their audiences' expectations and experiences, the medium they're working with, the story they're telling and the characters who live in that world. Japanese mangaka Tatsuki Fujimoto is one of those genuine artists.

Fujimoto has been creating manga since 2011.

Book Review

His strange, scratchy, earnest works have earned numerous awards and award nominations. His most recent ongoing series **Chainsaw Man**, which won the Harvey Award for Best Manga in 2021 and 2022, is an explosion of speeding colors, textures and sounds that can easily overwhelm the reader, but no matter how fast and chaotic the story gets, Fujimoto's sincerity can be seen on every page, with every character. (The first 10 books in the series can be found under GN CHAINSAW at the Belt Branch. The series is rated T+ for older teens and is recommended for ages 16 and older.)

The protagonist is Denji, who is not granted a normal life after his father commits suicide and he's forced to pay off his father's massive debt.

This story bursts with action, mystery and intrigue, but one of its greatest strengths is its pacing. Regardless of how many pages they contain, chapters can end before you can blink, and no important detail is left out. From crucial character moments, plot developments and mind-boggling plot twists, the details are miraculously succinct. Everything is important. Nothing drags. Before you know it, you're one volume down and revving for more.

The story of Denji/Chainsaw Man is a blast, but the story wouldn't mean anything if the characters didn't mean anything. Denji's innocent, subtly sad yet juvenile personality makes his journey for a normal life earnest

and relatable. His roommate Aki, the strait-laced straight man with an undertone of revenge, holds the cast together and reminds the reader that, devils aside, the world is populated by normal people just trying to live. Then there's Denji's buddy Power who is mayhem personified, yet her budding affection towards her new family

and her chaotic antics further the sensation of a dysfunctional, yet loving, family. The main cast, and even the antagonists and supporting characters, are exceptionally round and dynamic, and their personalities are expressed in more ways than just words.

With Fujimoto being an expert mangaka, the visuals are crucial in fleshing out the characters. Small panels drawn next to each other emphasize the subtle changes in expressions, and large double-page spreads help the action and quieter moments hit much harder. Fujimoto has a mangaka's hand and a film director's eye.

The series is fun, but there are aspects that could turn readers away.

The manga is about a boy with a chainsaw head who fights monsters, so blood and gore are ever present in the fight scenes. The story takes the characters – and the readers – on mentally draining journeys. Some readers won't be able to get past those aspects, and that's understandable, but the manga never treats the characters like toys to be thrown around.

Despite the bombastic spectacle of the fights and the skin chilling intrigue of the story, the greatest strength of the series is the care for its characters. Fujimoto has created a world where anyone could die in an instant, yet the fear of losing these lovable characters never numbs. Seeing these characters act human in a world populated with chaos and devils is the charm, and heart, of **Chainsaw Man**.

– Sheldon Smith, Rolling Hills Library
technical services library assistant





Medicare Part D Sign-Up

Staff from Young at Heart Resources will make changes to existing plans and help people 65+ enroll for the first time in this drop-in program. Bring a list of your prescriptions and dosages. No registration necessary. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, Belt

There are numerous fallacies regarding booksellers. The most common is that we spend our days reading the finest in modern literature, i.e., *I'd love to be a bookseller so I could sit and read all day*. Librarians suffer the same assumption that work among the stacks is a career of leisure. If only this were true.

Another mistaken belief is that every miserly soul hides a fortune in tattered copies of **Ivanhoe**. This fallacy is just as naïve as the former, but there may be a trace of truth in its origins.

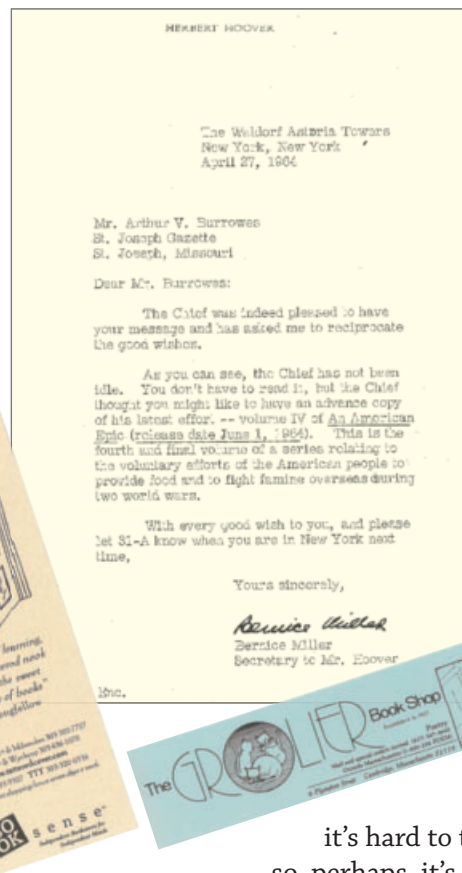
I've clerked and managed numerous bookstores throughout my career, but I've never had the luck of the Irish -- not a dollar have I discovered. I did, however, find a rare set of paper dolls in one collection of books I purchased. The profits from those books were minimal, but the paper dolls, an amazing display of Twenties fashion, sparked a bidding war on ebay. Not all bookmarks will pay a light bill, but some may.

Recently, Books Revisited received a copy of President Herbert Hoover's **An American Epic** (1964). It isn't a groundbreaking volume, or particularly memorable. In this case, it wasn't salvageable either. The covers had been wet, and mold had taken hold. We started to cast it into a trash box.

I don't remember now who noticed the slip of stationery tucked inside that turned out to be a letter from Bernice Miller, Hoover's personal secretary, to one Arthur V. Burrowes of

Some times when we need a bookmark, we use what's at hand. That can lead to items being ...

Lost & Found



the St. Joseph Gazette. An unremarkable correspondence but still unique in its own manner. Hoover was a resident then at the Waldorf Astoria Towers, Suite 31-A. His neighbor was a retired general, Douglas MacArthur.

Articles like that letter excite us at Books Revisited, because sifting through book donations can be tedious labor. It's hard on the back, hard on chapped knuckles and blurs the best of bookish vision. Stumble on a pressed rose, a county fair ribbon or a postcard from Florence, and the mundane task gains a history that often fascinates. Legitimate bookmarks will tell us where a book was purchased. Occasional notes will tell us on what occasion. Pressed leaves, the season. Maybe, a book was read on a trip to New York or Chicago because plane tickets are some of the most common bookmarks found. Topps baseball cards and concert tickets litter many a paperback. Prayer cards are wedged in most volumes of philosophy.

These items are wealth of a different sort, but don't be discouraged by their plenitude. I know a few bookmen who have found caches of bills in books. A late friend of mine, Norvell Taylor, once discovered \$700 in a library he picked out of a trash heap in urban Kansas City. It does happen. Misers do exist.

In our current economic environment, it's hard to trust the largest of banking institutions so, perhaps, it's time we all find our copies of **Ivanhoe**. Just remember to inform your families.

— Hans Bremer, Books Revisited manager



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Bundt Cake Happiness

Irish cream liqueur will have your tastebuds smiling after biting into this dessert

Bundt cakes were inspired by a traditional cake from Europe but didn't become popular in North America until the 1950s and 1960s after Nordic Ware started making Bundt pans and trademarked the name. Pillsbury promotions helped the cake become widely popular.

Irish Cream Bundt Cake

Cake ingredients

- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 3.4-ounce package instant vanilla pudding
- 4 eggs
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water (I use milk)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup vegetable oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Irish cream liqueur

Glaze ingredients

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water
- 1 cup white sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Irish cream liqueur

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a 10-inch Bundt pan then sprinkle chopped pecans over bottom of pan.

In a large bowl, combine cake mix and pudding mix. Mix in eggs, water (or milk), oil and Irish cream liqueur. Beat for 5 minutes at high speed. Pour batter over nuts in pan. Bake for one hour or until toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean.

Cool cake for 10 minutes in the pan, then invert it onto a serving plate. Prick top and sides of cake with a meat fork then spoon glaze over it and brush glaze onto its sides. Let glaze absorb into cake then repeat until all glaze is used.

To make the glaze: In a saucepan, combine butter, water and sugar. Bring to boil and continue boiling for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in liqueur.



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