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Volume 1 Issue 1

a bi-monthly publication of Bloomington Public Library

Bloomington library revitalizes newsletter

Welcome to the debut issue of *Foreword*, your source for library information and programs. This publication replaces *News and Reviews*, *Business Connection*, and *Beyond the Cover*. Look for *Foreword* to appear in your mailbox every other month.

Foreword offers new columns and features such as "Out and About," a listing of places to see and hear our librarians, and "Seen at the Library," a photo of a recent library event. "I can do what?!" is a column aimed at informing you about the wide variety of services offered by Bloomington Public Library. We'll also include book reviews, and book lists to help you find good stuff to read. The library's events calendar will be inserted in each issue of *Foreword* so you can know what great programs are happening here.

Members of *Foreword's* editorial committee are Brian Chase, Laura Kracher, Marilyn Kraft, Lisa Matthews, Brett Nafziger, and Alissa Williams. If you would like to comment on anything you read in *Foreword* please email us at newsletter@bloomingtonlibrary.org. We're looking forward to receiving your comments.

Inside

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I can do what?! Library aims for convenience

You're busy. The staff at the Bloomington Public Library recognize this and are here to help.

The library recently began allowing holds on DVDs. This means you no longer need to lurk around the library about the time the DVD you want to borrow is returned. If it's not on the shelf when you're here we can put it on hold for you and just as with other holds, call you when the DVD becomes available.

You can even save yourself a trip by logging on to www.bloomingtonlibrary.org and looking for DVDs you might want to watch. If they're checked out, just use your library card number and PIN to log in to your account and place the movies you want on hold.

Another convenient feature for our customers are new drive up book drops. If you're in a hurry or the weather is simply bad (as it is so often during this time of year), you can just drive up and place your books in the appropriate slots.

BOOK SALE

Friends of Bloomington Public Library Book Sale
Crossroads Center #A 129
310 Wylie Dr, Normal

Preview sale for members only
5 to 8 pm Thursday, Feb. 1
Friends memberships available at the door for \$10 individual and \$25 family.

Sale for public
10 am to 7 pm on Friday, Feb. 2
10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, Feb. 3

\$3 Bag sale
Noon to 4 pm on Sunday, Feb. 4

Free Day
Noon to 7 pm on Monday, Feb. 5

For more information call
(309)828-6091 ext. 252

Space provided by the
Crossroads Center.

Hours

Mon-Thur	9am-9pm
Fri & Sat	9am-5pm
Sunday	1pm-5pm

Contact Us

(309) 828-6091
www.bloomingtonlibrary.org

Out & About

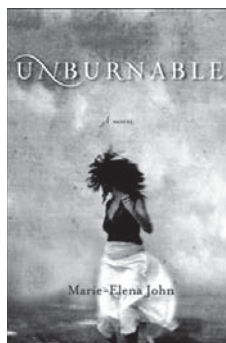
Visit the library's booth at the Heartland Community College Wellness Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Feb. 15.

Tour De Chocolat, sponsored by the Downtown Bloomington Association, will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Feb. 20. Visit the library for a sweet deal!

Hear the library talk books on WJBC at 10 a.m. Jan. 22, Feb. 5, Feb. 19 and March 5.

Watch CityVision on cable channel 5 in Feb. to learn more about what's happening @ your library.

“Unburnable” tells story of girl haunted by past



This is Marie-Elena John's first novel, and it's quite a worthy piece. It reminds the reader of Isabel Allende's *The House of the Spirits* in its scope and its timbre – and, most notably, its magic.

The novel spans continents and time – seamlessly – and quilts together African, American, and Caribbean histories and stories to reveal the disparate heritage of main character Lillian Baptiste. Her life journey is also the reader's journey – we learn about Lillian as she learns about herself – and as we grow in understanding her past, we are witness to her healing and strength.

Lillian left Dominica at 14, and she is compelled to return to the island homestead as an adult. There are hard facts to consider: her grandmother was hanged for poisoning a dozen or so men and women, and her mother – recalled by many as the most beautiful woman of the time – was scandalized into prostitution. It is the songs, however, from Lillian's childhood – the story-songs of her village that vilify her family – that haunt her in ways that she can't quite understand. She is driven to shed light on the truth.

The novel explores the fine lines between healing and witchcraft, between knowledge and ignorance; it muddies the boundaries of power and servitude. It is rich with religious iconography from multiple traditions. And it is emotionally stirring; readers will be moved by Lillian's detective work into her past; it is both sad and triumphant. Lillian and her family remain with the reader after the book is completed, a little like ghosts.

Author Marie-Elena John is a remarkably successful woman: she was the first black woman valedictorian to graduate from City College of New York; she continued her education at Columbia University, earning a Master's degree, focusing on culture and development in Africa. Her most recent work involved supporting African development.

Unburnable was named one of the best books of 2006 by Black Issues Book Review.



Seen at the library. . .

Thanks to the generosity of library visitors who donated 227 items on this year's mitten tree! Items were donated to local schools and homeless shelters.

photo by Marilyn Kraft

Tax form information

The best, cheapest, and easiest method to receive paper copies of tax forms and instructions is to call the IRS and have them mailed directly to your home. Call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

The library will have limited paper copies of tax forms available. Forms are available online at www.irs.gov (for federal forms), and www.revenue.state.il.us (for Illinois state tax forms). The Adult Services department has Internet computers available on a first-come, first-served basis. Printing costs 10 cents per page when using a print card, and 15 cents per page when using cash.

The local IRS office is at 301 S. Prospect Road, Bloomington. Their phone number is (309) 661-0032.

Please remember librarians can not legally assist you with filling out your tax forms.

Fall Reading program ends on high note

This fall, 233 adults registered to participate in the tenth year of the fall reading program. Participants read books in their choice of three sets of categories. The categories were structured to introduce and familiarize adults with various areas of the library's collection, including a variety of media, to stretch their experiences by reading materials they might normally not choose, and to enjoy reading.

This was the first year for online registration. Reading logs were able to be printed from home, obtained at the library, or on the Bookmobile.

This year's program had 26 sponsors, including the Friends of the Library. All participants who completed the program received a first aid kit. All participants completing the program were then entered into

drawings for prizes. The library staff thanks the following businesses who donated prizes to the fall adult reading program: About Books, Beningos Restaurant, Bloomington Cultural District, BroMenn Health Promotion Services, Casey's Garden Shop and Florist, The Chateau, Common Ground, Curves on Towanda, Custom Car Care, Doubletree, Fox and Hounds, Happily Ever After Florist & Gift Shop, Illinois State University College of Fine Arts, The Movie Fan, OSF St. Joseph Medical Center – Center of Healthy Lifestyles, Panera Bread, Peoria Rivermen, Bloomington Prairie Thunder, Speed Lube No. 5, Steak N Shake, Third Sister, LTD, Patricia D. Wieland, Wild Birds Unlimited, Wilson's Cycle, and YWCA of McLean County.

Black History Month Quiz: Inventors & Inventions

Match the inventor with their invention. Visit the library and use "African American Biographies," located in the Children's department, to find the answers. The March *Foreword* will also list the answers.

Inventor

Charles Richard Drew
Garrett Augustus Morgan
Frederick M. Jones
Thomas L. Jennings
Benjamin Banneker
Sarah E. Goode
Granville T. Woods
James Forten
Achibald Alexander
Norbert Rillieux

Invention

Sugar Refiner
Sail Raising Device
Whitehurst Freeway, Washington, D.C.
Blood Bank
Truck Refrigeration
Dry Cleaning Process
Folding Cabinet Bed
Traffic Signal and Gas Mask
Railroad Telegraph
Clock



Learn more at the library ...

Read more about African-American history by checking out the following titles from the Children's department:

Barack Obama: Working to Make a Difference by Marlene Targ Brill J BIO OBA
Booker T. Washington: "Character is Power" by Anne E. Schraff J BIO SCH
Juneteenth by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson 394.263 NEL
This is the Dream by Daine Zuhone Shore 811.6 SHO
Maya Angelou: "Diversity Makes for a Rich Tapestry" by Donna Brown Agins 818.5409 ANG

Enjoy picture books and other fiction featuring African-American themes:

Vive la Paris by Esmè Raji Codell
Ziggy & the Black Dinosaurs #4: The Space Mission Adventure by Sharon M. Draper
Darby by Jonathon Scott Fuqua
Satch & Me: A Baseball Card Adventure by Dan Gutman
Across the Alley by Richard Michelson
Peggyony Po: a Whale of a Tale by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Janie's Freedom: African Americans in the Aftermath of the Civil War by Callie Smith Grant

The mission of the Bloomington Public Library is to provide a helpful and friendly place for people of all ages to gain access to and enjoy the world of information; to support lifelong learning; and to be a partner for coping with change.

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Renew!

Online

Enter your library card number and PIN in the manage your account box on the library's home page.

By Phone

Call 828-6091 and select option 2 at the prompt. Be ready to give your library card number and ask us to renew all items that are due.

@ the library

Simply bring your library card to the Check-Out Desk.

Library offers graphic novels and comics for all ages



Graphic novels and comics are now available for all ages. Collections are located on the Bookmobile and in the Children's department, Adult Services department

and Teenzone area.

The Teen graphic novels and comics collection is comprised of manga, graphic novels, and comics. It primarily feeds from requests from teens for current titles, as well as classic titles with young adult appeal.

According to Teenzone librarian John Fischer, "With high circulation the graphic novels are primarily a browsing collection."

Popular titles include Tokyo Mew Mew, Fruits Basket, Love Hina, Dragon Ball, Dragon Ball Z, and Rama ½.

Popular titles in the adult collection include The Sandman Series, V for Vendetta, Sin City, and Maus.

According to Adult Services staff

member Brett Nafziger, the graphic novel is a format in which a narrative is conveyed with sequential art, which holds great appeal for reluctant and avid readers alike.

While this format has been in existence for many decades, its acceptance in the United States as an important and popular format has only recently been recognized. The graphic novel format includes a wide variety of genres and subjects. Because some or all of the action is played out visually, it is immediate in its representation, much like a film.

The graphic novel has worldwide popularity, with many foreign books being translated into English, particularly from France, Japan, and Korea. Readers should be aware that there may be cultural differences reflected in both the art and writing of the graphic novel.

Teen and Adult Services staff members are trained to assist teens and adults with choosing developmentally appropriate materials for young people, but it is the responsibility of the parents or other care-giving adults to determine which materials are appropriate for their child.