Between the Stacks

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Your Guide to Travel Guides

I both love and dread planning my vacations. I can't WAIT to see and do new things! But the pressure… what if I miss out on something REALLY AWESOME? Research is both calming and anxiety-producing; a web search spits out a lot of travel sites ranging from the State Tourism Board to Uncle Bub's Tours. So here's some advice, save yourself a headache and start with the experts:

Country / State / Region / City Guides

DK Eyewitness Travel guides: Don't know anything about your destination? Start here, the fabulous pictures and lists of major and minor sights are inspiring. Sites are organized by area with additional listings for hotels and travel needs. Many books include pull out maps.

Fodor's and Rough Guide: If you can only get one guide, get one of these. Geared towards family, middle aged and senior travelers this is a great 'go-to' guide. More middle-of-the-road-to-luxury options, nicer restaurants, mainstream sights, car rental details, etc.

Insider's: Not just traveling to a region but need to research it? This is the guide. Named for being chock-a-block full of 'inside' information provided by locals, theses guides go in-depth and offer the usual travel info as well as the low down on real estate, weather, annual events and more.

Lonely Planet: These guides have come a long way in 10 years. Older editions were little more than listings of

(Continued on page 2)

Amazon Purchases Help Your Library

At no cost to you, your purchases at ***Amazon.com*** help the Porter County Public Library. Here's How: ***Wowbrary*** is a services on the library's website that allows you to find out what's new at the library every week. Just visit the library's home page: www.pcpls.lib.in.us ***Wowbrary*** will be scrolling the "Newest Arrivals". Simply click "More" to see the week's top choices. Click on the red type in the upper right corner and follow the prompts to get to ***Amazon***. ***Amazon*** will donate about 7.5% of your purchases to the Friends of the Library. The Friends then use the money to help support programs and services at the library. Whenever you shop for anything at ***Amazon***, go to ***Wowbrary*** first! ***Wowbrary*** is paid for by the Friends of the Porter County Public Library. It is an easy way to help the library in these tight economic times! Thank you in advance for using this service.

Even Llamas need to have their library cards to check out! Find out more about this exciting and unusual patron on page 2.

businesses. Now these books offer more "hip" options, off-the-beaten-path finds, and provide further night-life options; good reputation, loyal traveler base and an extensive website.

Moon Travel Guides: Need to brush up on your knowledge of a country or city? Read a Moon Handbook! The most interesting of guides they typically have great sections on history, geography and culture as well as activities, restaurants and lodgings. No color pictures, but the information is so great you won't even miss them.

Specialty books

Disney World! Have you been there? Then you're probably going to go back! The average cost of a trip for a family of 4 is $500 a day (that includes hotel, food, and tickets) so you'd better do your homework:

Disney On A Dime: Money-Saving Secrets For Your Walt Disney World Vacation

Birnbaum Guides Walt Disney World: Expert Advice From The Inside Source

The Hassle-Free Walt Disney World Vacation

Walt Disney World And Orlando For Dummies

Family vacations

Make sure you don't end up like the Griswalds, read up:

Great American Vacations: 25 Affordable Family Trips to the USA's Best-Loved Destinations

Parent's Survival Guide to I-75: Over 101 Fun Family Stops Between Detroit & Orlando

The Everything Family Guide to Budget Travel: Hundreds of Fun Family Vacations to Fit Any Budget

Frommer's 500 Places to Take Your Kids Before They Grow Up

Think you're too clever for a conventional travel guide? Then check these out:

Weird Europe: A Guide to Bizarre, Macabre, and Just Plain Weird Sights

Weird U.S.: Your Travel Guide to America's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets

Eccentric America: the Bradt Guide to All That's Weird and Wacky in the USA

Food Journeys Of A Lifetime: 500 Extraordinary Places to Eat Around the Globe

MORE Travel books:

**Mobil Travel Guide: Offers brief yet thorough reviews of attractions, hotels, and food.

**Rough Guide: Better if you're spending a lot of time in one place

**Let's Go: Backpacker/budgeters on shorter trips

**Footprint Guides: Backpacker/budget option

**Frommer's

**Insight

The best guide depends on where, when, why and with whom you're traveling. Don't worry; we'll let you take more than one!

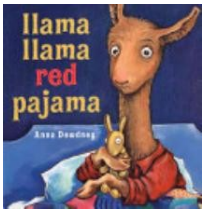
Anne Wood-
Portage Branch
Manager

Llama Llama Loves the Library!

Many thanks to Rusty and Leann Benninger, of O-Aces llama farm in Hebron, who brought their llama, Fanny, to a very special Toddler Time at the Valparaiso Library. Kate Lambert, programmer at Valparaiso Youth Services, couldn't pass up the chance to try and bring more life to Anna Dewdney's picture book, ***Llama Llama Red Pajama***. She contacted the Benningers, who are the superintendents of the 4-H llama project at the Porter County Fair. "They were more than happy to help out and make the program special," said Lambert.

On an early morning in late February, the Benningers escorted Fanny, their brown and white llama, into the library and onto the elevator. They got off on the second floor, and joined more than 25 toddlers in the Youth Services story room,

where the children learned about llamas, listened to Ms. Lambert read ***Llama Llama Red Pajama***, and then had a chance to meet Fanny up close and personal. The Benningers also displayed Fanny's competition ribbons, photos of her in the show ring, and gloves and hats made from llama wool.



For more information on story time programs, and all the other fun programming we do at the libraries, visit any branch of the Porter County Public Library System, and our website, http://www.plpls.lib.in.us

Relatively Speaking: Notes from the Genealogy Department

The 1940 United States Census was released to the public on April 2, 2012. The information first came out on the National Archives website at nara.gov but soon was available at many other sites. Ancestry.com is letting the public have free access to it until the end of 2013.

No company was allowed to search the records in advance so no index was started until the records came out. It is estimated the whole country won't searchable by name until late fall so in the meantime records can only narrowed down by location.

Rural areas are fairly easy to search as many townships have less than thirty pages to look through but in big cities, people are more difficult to find. Areas were divided by enumeration districts so researchers need to locate the number of the district in which the person they are looking for may be in and search those records.

In May, Larry Clark and Marlene Polster will be attending the National Genealogical Society annual conference in Cincinnati. This year the event will honor the two hundredth anniversary of the start of the War of 1812.

2012 also marks significant anniversaries of other events the department has been active in researching. The Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce is having its one hundredth anniversary. Several representatives of the group have been searching for local businesses that were original members.

There is a picture of Rev. James Brown in the department. He was one of the first ministers to move to Porter County and helped create the First Presbyterian Church in Valparaiso. In 1861 he agreed to be the Chaplain for the 9th Indiana Regiment and left with the troops to serve in the Civil War. He developed a sickness and died in Louisville, Kentucky in 1862.

When the war was over, local veterans created a chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic and named it the Chaplain Brown Post. The original charters and a picture of the original members of the group taken about 1900 are also on display in the Genealogy Department.

Larry Clark – Head of Genealogy Department

New this Year: SUMMER READING ONLINE!

Dreams will come true this summer at the Porter County Public Library! Our themes this year are "Dream Big, Read!" for younger students, and "Own the Night" for teens. All PCPLS library branches offer the Summer Reading program for children ages 2 through 18 (still in High School), and this year it is all online! If you have any questions, or don't have a computer at home, please contact us, or come in to the library, and we will help you register and log your books online. It is easy and fun!

Register online www.pcpls.lib.in.us for Summer Reading, starting Monday, June 4. The last day to register is Saturday, June 30. You can use your home computer, or come in to the Youth Services Department, and we will be happy to help you use a library computer to register. After you register, you can begin logging your books online. Remember, you must read library books! You have until Saturday, July 14 to log your books online. When you reach your reading goal, you are eligible for a prize from your library! Contact your library if you have questions regarding your prize.

Preschoolers and students who have completed Gr. K-8 will also receive a Read & Ride voucher for the 2012 Porter County Fair. This voucher provides a discount on the carnival ride wristband – good for any one day, Monday, July 23 through Friday, July 27.

In addition to the Summer Reading program, each PCPLS branch also offers many exciting theme-related activities and programs throughout the summer.
PLEASE NOTE: **registration for activities must be done in person at the library (it is *only* Summer Reading that is online).**

Happy Reading!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:30 AM-Creative Writing for Homeschoolers (P)	**2** 8:30 AM-*Tiny Tots Program (V) 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P) 3:30 PM-Library Lego Land (K) 6:00 PM-Craft Cafe (P) 6:30 PM-* Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 6:30 PM-Family Movie Night 6:30 PM-Learn to Knit (SH)	**3** 3:30 PM-“C YA at the Library” (K)	**4** 3:30 PM-Mother's Day Craft Class (K)	**5** 9:15 AM-* Basket Weaving Class (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S)
7 10:00 AM-Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar, BMI Screening (H) 12:00 PM-Blood pressure screening (P) 1:30 PM-Inspirational Fiction Book Discussion 6:00 PM-Internet & Catalog Training (S)	**8** 10:30 AM-Creative Writing for Homeschoolers (P) 12:00 PM-Valpo Brown Baggers Discussion Group (V)	**9** 9:30 AM-*Tiny Tots Program (V) 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P) 6:30 PM-* Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 6:30 PM-Learn to Knit (SH)	**10** 1:30 PM-Novel Ideas Book Discussion (H) 6:00 PM-Living With Alzheimer's: Alzheimer's Education Series (V)	**11**	**12** 10:00 AM-Mother's Day Craft (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 2:00 PM-Movie at the library (P)
14 6:00 PM-Internet & Catalog Training (S) 7:00 PM-Gunness Mystery Documentary Screening (H)	**15** 10:30 AM-Creative Writing for Homeschoolers (P) 3:30 PM-Library Notes (K)	**16** 9:30 AM-*Tiny Tots Program (V) 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P) 6:30 PM-* Writing Workshop for Adults (P) 6:30 PM-Learn to Knit (SH)	**17** 3:30 PM-Library Notes (K) 6:00 PM-Living With Alzheimer's: Alzheimer's Education Series (V)	**18** 3:00 PM-Yarn Club (V)	**19** 10:00 AM-* Beginning Oil Painting (P) 10:30 AM-LEGO Club (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 3:00 PM-Woodland Gnome Party (P)
21 1:00 PM-Movie Monday (P) 6:00 PM-Internet & Catalog Training (S)	**22** 12:00 PM-Movie Discussion Group (V) 3:30 PM-Amber's Anime (K) 7:00 PM-The Gunness Mystery (K)	**23** 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P) 3:30 PM-Indy 500 fun (K) 6:30 PM-Learn to Knit (SH)	**24** 4:00 PM-Read to Teddy the Dog (H) 6:00 PM-Living With Alzheimer's: Alzheimer's Education Series (V) 6:30 PM-* Portage Reading Circle (P) 7:00 PM-Kouts Pageturners (K)	**25**	**26** 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 1:30 PM-LEGO Club (S) 2:30 PM-Green Kids Grow (P)
28 **MEMORIAL DAY LIBRARY CLOSED**	**29**	**30** 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P)	**31** 7:30 PM-“C YA at the Library” (K)		

May 2012

June 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	**2** 9:15 AM-* Basket Weaving Class (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S)
4 12:00 PM-Blood pressure screening (P) 1:30 PM-Inspirational Fiction Book Discussion 6:00 PM-Internet & Catalog Training (S)	**5**	**6** 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P) 4:00 PM-Friends Summer Book Sale (P) 6:00 PM-Craft Cafe (P)	**7** 9:30 AM-Friends Summer Book Sale (P) 1:30 PM-Novel Ideas Book Discussion (H)	**8** 9:30 AM-Friends Summer Book Sale (P)	**9** 9:30 AM-Friends Summer Book Sale (P) 10:00 AM-Father's Day Craft (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S)
11 6:00 PM-Internet & Catalog Training (S)	**12** 12:00 PM-Valpo Brown Baggers Discussion Group (V)	**13** 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P)	**14**	**15**	**16** 10:00 AM-* Beginning Oil Painting (P) 10:00 AM-Baby Time (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S)
18 6:00 PM-Hunger Games Fan Party (P) 6:00 PM-Internet & Catalog Training (S)	**19**	**20** 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P)	**21**	**22**	**23** 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S) 1:30 PM-LEGO Club (S)
25 1:00 PM-Movie Monday (P) 6:00 PM-Internet & Catalog Training (S) 7:00 PM-"Bookends" Book Discussion (S)	**26** 12:00 PM-Movie Discussion Group (V)	**27** 10:00 AM-Knit-a-Longs (P)	**28** 6:30 PM-* Portage Reading Circle (P)	**29** 3:00 PM-Yarn Club (V)	**30** 10:30 AM-LEGO Club (P) 10:30 AM-Mother Goose on the Loose (S)

For detailed information about these programs, check our website:
www.pcpls.lib.in.us
Or call the branch library: Hebron(H) 996-3684 Kouts(K) 766-2271
Portage(P) 763-1508 South Haven(S) 759-4474 Valparaiso(V) 462-0524

(H) Hebron (K) Kouts (P) Portage (S) South Haven (V) Valparaiso
Note:* events require pre-registration. Contact the library branch to sign up.

Youth Services: Book Review

It's that time of year again when young and old will be watching and playing baseball for another season. Douglas Florian has a really neat book called POEM RUNS with baseball poems and paintings. All positions on the team are covered with a two page spread and the book begins with a poem called "Warm Up". This is a delightful book for anyone who enjoys baseball.

Another baseball book, ***Brothers at Bat*** by Audrey Vernick with illustrations by Steven Salerno is a story of the twelve Acerra brothers who had their own baseball team in New Jersey. The Acerra brothers played longer than any other all brothers baseball team and "According to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, from the 1860's until the 1940's, there were twenty-nine teams made up entirely of brothers." This is a fascinating story and in 1997, the Acerra brothers were honored at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic. Over the years this event has captured the interest of many people. Many books have been published about this disaster and Deborah Hopkinson, award winning author has written an outstanding book called ***Titanic: voices from the disaster***. Built in Belfast, Ireland, the Titanic was supposed to be practically unsinkable and it was built for reliability and comfort. It was also the largest ship at that time.

This book contains photographs, letters from survivors, copies of documents, a Titanic Time Line and an extensive index and bibliography. Hopkinson has done an outstanding job documenting events from the time in 1909 when they started to build the ship until the wreckage was discovered on September 1, 1985 by Dr. Robert Ballard. In 1986, Congress passed a law for guidelines for the recovery of artifacts. I would highly recommend this book for those interested in this disaster and also for those who are doing reports. Great book!

Want to learn more about Jennifer Lawrence who portrays Katniss in the Hunger Games movie? Katherine Krohn has written a biography titled ***Jennifer Lawrence: star of The Hunger Games*** about how she got started in the movie business. Jennifer was always interested in books, movies and TV shows and wanted to become an actress. Her mother thought it was a phase she was going through but did take her to New York when she was fourteen years old. This is an enjoyable read for fans of ***The Hunger Games***.

Kathy Blackburn– Head of South Haven Youth Services

Friends of the Library News

The Friends of the Library donate time and money to support such activities as literacy programs, special library events, professional development for staff, and special book sales for all. Our major fund raising projects are the book sales and book sale rooms in the Portage and Valparaiso libraries. Funds received by the Friends from annual dues, memorial gifts, donations to the Friends or special projects are all tax deductible, and used solely for library needs beyond those provided by citizens of Porter County. With the Friends continuing volunteer and financial support, the libraries have been able to offer:

Summer Reading Programs: an annual summer reading program for children, and adults. These programs are promoting the importance of reading throughout the summer months.

Special Library Purchases: There are computers, fax machines, CDs, DVDs, adult and children's materials all purchased by the Friends organization.

Volunteer Opportunities

You can help! The Friends of the Library is looking for volunteers to help with various activities such sorting books, pricing books, and working at books sales or the book dale rooms in Portage and Valparaiso.

Book Sales Sorting Work sessions are held when needed for those interested in sorting. Please call one of the branches to see when these sessions will be held.

Book Sales The main source of revenue for the Friends of the Porter County Library System is from book sales. Each year the Friends organization sponsor various book sales in each of the branches. If you are interested in helping, please call one of the branches for dates or watch for them in the library newsletter. The book sales run some part of a week with both day and evening shifts being available.

Book Store Volunteer The Portage and the Valparaiso libraries are also looking for volunteers to staff their bookstores. Volunteers assist in the daily operation of the book store and provided assistance to the public. Volunteers should be well organized and able to work effectively with patrons, staff, and other volunteers. Various shifts are available in Portage and Valparaiso, please call each building to volunteer your assistance.

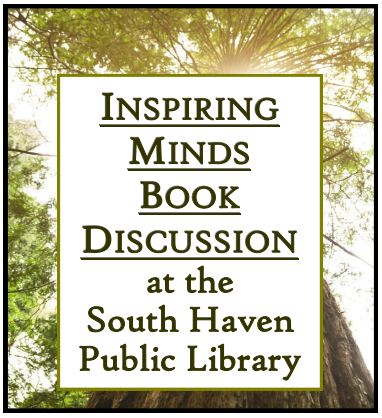
Donald C. Johnson - President, FPCPLS

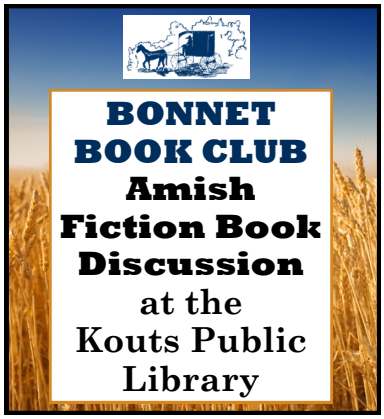
PCPLS Book Discussion Groups

Would you like to meet new people? Do you like to talk about the books you have read?
The Porter County Public Library System has a perfect solution for patrons like you!
Each branch of the Porter County Library System has its own book discussion group. The groups meet at various times during the month.
They discuss everything from non-fiction to classics to recent best-sellers. There is no cost and attendance is not required for every meeting, although registration is preferred at some branches.
So join us for a fun hour of socializing and lively book talk!
Call the libraries or visit our website at *pcpls.lib.in.us* for more information.

Valpo Brown Baggers meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Call 462-0524
The **Portage Reading Circle** meets the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Call 763-1508.
The **South Haven Bookends** meet the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Call 759-4474.
The **Kouts Page Turners** meet the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Call 766-2271
Hebron's Novel Ideas meet one Thursday each month at 1:30. Call 996-3684.

Barbara Borg-Jenkins– Head of South Haven Reference





We now have 2 new book discussion groups. Call the South Haven or Kouts Libraries for more information.

Valparaiso 12:00 pm
(Bring a sack lunch.)
May 8 - ***The Little Book***
By Selden Edwards
June 12 - ***That used to be us: how America fell behind in the world it invented and how we can come back***
By Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum

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Hebron 1:30 pm
May 10 **- *Ape House***
By Sara Gruen
June 7 - ***One Thousand White Women***
By Jim Fergus

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Kouts 7:00 pm
May 24 - ***Macbeth***
By William Shakespeare
June 28 - ***The Cat's Table***
By Michael Ondaatje

~

South Haven 7:00 pm
May 21 – ***The Postmistress***
By Sarah Blake
June 25 – ***Standing Next to History***
By Joseph Petro

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Portage 7:00 pm
May 24 - ***Room***
By Emma Donoghue
June 28 – ***Double Bind***
By Chris Bohjalian

~

Call your local branch to reserve a book.
Titles are subject to change due to availability.

Successful Youth Art Month Opening Reception at the Portage Library

A crowd of more than 400 student artists, their families, Portage Township School Art Teachers and guests attended the Youth Art Month Opening Reception at the Portage Library.

Corey, a 5th Grader from Myers Elementary enjoyed the reception saying: "Looking at my picture that I made in Adobe Photoshop on the computer, I liked it because I made it blue. It is my favorite color! My parents thought it was cool! It was great to have it in the art show!"
Alyssa, also from Myers said: "I had an amazing time at the art show! I took my family and had cookies, punch and looked at my art. I made a birch tree with watercolor paints."

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Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

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Dream Big Read!

Valparaiso Public Library, 462-0524
103 Jefferson Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383
M-Th 9-9pm; F 9-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

Portage Public Library, 763-1508
2665 Irving Street
Portage, IN 46368
M-Th 9-9pm; F 9-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

South Haven Public Library, 759-4474
403 West 700 North
Valparaiso, IN 46385
M,W 10-9pm; T,Th,F 10-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

Hebron Public Library, 996-3684
201 W. Sigler Street
Hebron, IN 46341
M,W 10-9pm; T,Th,F 10-6pm; Sat 9-5pm

Kouts Public Library, 766-2271
101 E. Daumer Road
Kouts, IN 46347
M,W,F 10-6pm; T,Th 10-9pm; Sat 9-5pm

Mission Statement

We believe that libraries can change people's lives and are a cornerstone of our democracy. The mission of the Porter County Public Library System is to provide all residents of the library district with a comprehensive collection of materials in a variety of media that records human knowledge, ideas and culture and to organize these materials for ready access. The library encourages the love of reading and the joy of learning, and offers the assistance people need to find, evaluate, and use electronic and print information resources that help them live successful and rewarding lives.

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