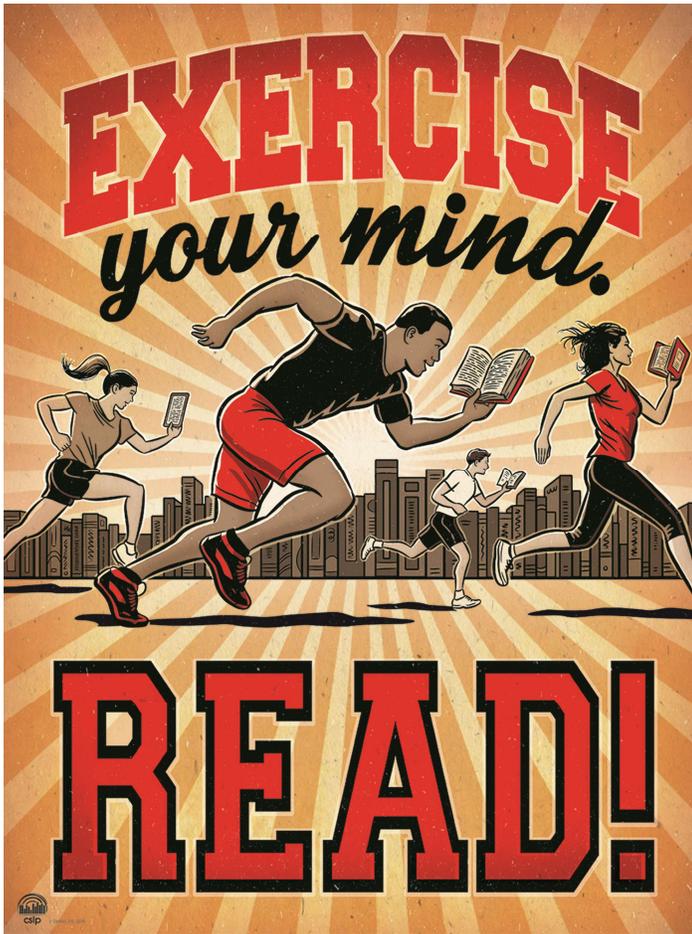


# Between the Stacks

Porter County Public Library System Newsletter  
May 2016 June [www.pcpls.org](http://www.pcpls.org)

## 2016 SUMMER READING PROGRAM



**New this Summer  
for Kids & Teens!  
Play Summer  
Reading Bingo.  
Win Prizes.**

Register online or in person at your branch during the month of June.  
After you register, print your Bingo card or pick it up at your branch.  
Prizes for each Bingo!  
June 1<sup>st</sup> - Sign up and get your bingo cards.  
June 30<sup>th</sup> - Last day to sign up.  
July 16<sup>th</sup> - Last day to log your bingo card.  
Contact your library branch for details.

**Adult Program  
June 1 - July 30**

**Children's Program  
June 1 - July 16**



Mango Languages is a great database available to Porter County Public Library System patrons from home. To get started, go to the library homepage at [pcpls.org](http://pcpls.org), click on Research and Info, choose Our Databases, and then select Mango Languages. This database offers 71 different languages you can learn—from more popular ones like Spanish and French, to more unusual ones like American Sign Language, Scottish Gaelic, or even pirate (shiver me timbers!). It is also a great resource for speakers of other languages to improve their English skills. It has options for users to learn English from 17 native languages.

From the main page, you can go in as a guest or create a free account. Signing up for an account allows you to track your progress over time and to access all the features of the database. Once in Mango, you can start with basic vocabulary and grammar, or skip to more advanced lessons. Listen to native speakers pronounce the words. If you have a microphone enabled on your computer, practice repeating the words back. Mango will then give you feedback on your pronunciation. Most of the languages also have other features such as cultural information and short instructional videos. Many of the videos are actually short interactive films with subtitles.

We also have a link to a Basic ESL website. It can be found under Research and Info, Subjects, then Education. You can register for free or as a guest with Instant Access. Signing up, though, gives you the ability to track your progress. This website offers ESL instruction for speakers of 19 languages. Lessons cover topics like basic greetings, family, and work. Most lessons have to be done in order, but they build on the previous ones. If you click on Course Map near the top left, you get a handy searchable and clickable list of individual lessons on things like verbs, punctuation, and common vocabulary.

The Basic ESL website is exactly that—very basic. If you're just starting to learn English, or need help with simple grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation this website is a good place to start. More advanced learners would probably get more use out of Mango Languages and all its great features.

There are some other good websites out there that you might want to take a look at, too. Here are a just a few:

- ESL Gold ([eslgold.com](http://eslgold.com))--extra vocabulary help for those who know basic English
- Internet Picture Dictionary ([pdictionary.com](http://pdictionary.com))--visual dictionary of 5 common foreign languages
- USA Learns ([usalearns.org](http://usalearns.org))--hundreds of video lessons & thousands of basic, intermediate, and advanced activities
- Voice of America ([learningenglish.voanews.com](http://learningenglish.voanews.com))--learn English & keep up with current events through audio vocabulary lessons, videos, & news stories given at basic, intermediate, or more advanced levels

Donna Smith, Head of Reference, Portage Library

## PCPLS Book Discussion Groups

### BOOKENDS

**South Haven @ 7:00 pm**

May 23 - *Black-Eyed Susans*

By Julia Heaberlin

June 27 - *We Were Liars*

By E. Lockhart

### BROWN BAGGERS

**Valparaiso @ 12:00 pm**

(Bring a sack lunch.)

May 10 - *Transatlantic: a novel*

By Colum McCann

June 14 - *The Good Father*

By Noah Hawley

### NOVEL IDEAS

**Hebron @ 1:30 pm**

May 12 - *A Walk in the Woods*

By Bill Bryson

June 9 - *All the Light We*

*Cannot See*

By Anthony Doerr

### PAGETURNERS

**Kouts @ 7:00 pm**

May 26 - *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*

By Erik Larson

June 23 - *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

By Anne Brontë

Call your local branch to reserve a book.

Titles are subject to change due to availability.

Now we go  
where you go



Any phone. Any network.

Want to renew a book or place one on hold? There's an app for that. Library hours or locations? There's an app for that. Check out an eBook? Find information fast? There's an app for that, too.

The Porter County Public Library System has recently launched a free mobile app to put the library at your fingertips. From any mobile phone or tablet connected to the internet you can instantly tap into library resources, anytime, anywhere. You can search the library catalog, check your account, find events, and more.

To access the library's free mobile app, search PCPLS in your mobile device's app store and download the app.

Searching the catalog with the mobile app is especially easy. Just type the first few letters of two or three words and search results will begin to appear. For example, if you're looking up Mark Twain in the catalog, just type "ma twa." Once you find the title you're looking for, you can place it on hold right from your phone.

PCPLS knows almost everyone lives on their mobile phones these days, so it's important for library resources to be easily accessible whenever and wherever people need access. The PCPLS Mobile App puts library information just one click away with much faster access than going through a browser. Take advantage of this new way to use the library by downloading PCPLS Mobile for free today.

### The Kouts Public Library held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Edible Book Festival on Saturday, April 2.

Edible Book Festivals are held throughout the world on April Fool's Day as a fun way to "eat your words" while celebrating books and the culinary arts.

This year's entries were thoroughly creative, well-crafted, and very yummy. The books included ***Pancakes for Breakfast*** by Tomie de Paola, ***The Day the Crayons Quit*** by Drew Daywalt, ***Alice in Wonderland*** by Lewis Carroll, ***The Boxcar Children*** by Gertrude Chandler Warner, ***Please Mr. Panda*** by Steve Antony, ***The Best Nest*** by P.D. Eastman, ***Captain America: Man out of Time*** by Mark Waid, ***If you give a mouse a cookie...*** by Laura Numeroff, and ***War Room*** by Chris Fabry.



# Friends of the Library News

Dear Friends,

My husband and I just returned from a two-week road trip. Now that he's retired, we have a little more flexibility in our travels. This was a trip to see our grandson in California (he's six and in kindergarten) and to do some sightseeing.

Before we left, we made sure we had plenty of books to read including ones downloaded onto my husband's tablet. We also made sure we had books for Alex (some we'd bought on our trip to Yellowstone in February and some we'd purchased at Hebron's book sale) because he loves to read almost as much as we do.

We cannot live without books—at home or on the road. Thank goodness for libraries, book sales, and book stores. How can anyone live without them?

My love affair with books started when I was younger than Alex. My mom started me early. She loved to read as did her dad. My grandpa was a farmer; Mom said he'd get up really early, light the kerosene lantern in the kitchen, and read until it was time for him to get started on his chores. Whenever he went to a farm sale, he'd always bring home a box of books which he and Mom would devour. So I guess I come by it naturally. My mom read to me when I didn't know how. It seems like whenever she went to Schultz's dime store in Rensselaer, she bought me a Little Golden Book. I also got to pick out a comic book whenever we went to Lawson's grocery store just north of town. Where would we be without our parents and grandparents to encourage us to read?

When I entered school, Mom made sure I went to the library and checked out an array of books. My elementary teachers helped foster this love affair with books, too. They read marvelous stories to us. I have very fond memories of Miss Arnott, my second grade teacher, reading us the Mary Poppins and Peter Rabbit stories. Even Miss Stoner, our gym teacher, read to us from a huge book of Uncle Wiggly (and Nurse Jane) stories when we were very, very good on a Friday. We'd gather around her on the gym floor and sit enraptured as she plied us with those tales. I remember when my sixth grade teacher Mr. DeWitt read us *Charlotte's Web*, and I cried when Charlotte died. The boy sitting next to me laughed at me and said, "It's only a stupid spider." But I lived that story and felt bereft when Charlotte died. Mr. Bevington, my eighth grade teacher, gave all of us who planned to go to college a list of books that we should read. I still have that list some 50+ years later, and I managed to read most of the books on it. Then Mr.

Jolliff, my senior English teacher, helped those of us going to college by holding a book discussion of classic novels the summer before we headed off into college English classes. All that reading certainly prepared me for becoming an English teacher.

During 30 plus years of teaching English, I taught a lot of different novels, but I also read to my students (and yes, they were high school students, but they still loved it). When one of my former students ended up teaching at the same school with me, she came up to me the first day of school and said, "You know, I still have my copy of *The Yearling*. That's my favorite book." That was music to my ears. Where would we be without teachers and librarians to inspire us and encourage us to read?

My husband encouraged Alex's mom to read in the same way my mom did—books and comic books. I was her English teacher, so she received encouragement from me, too. She's a school teacher now, so she doesn't have much time to read during the school year, but she makes up for it during the summer. Then she's never without a book. In fact, very early one morning this past summer, she texted me saying she'd just finished reading *The Storied Life of A.J. Fickry*, and I had to go to the library when it opened and check it out. It was soooo good. I did, and she was soooo right.

And now here's Alex getting encouragement to read from Gramps and Grammie, from his teacher and from his parents. It's a wonderful cycle, and he's already begun his love affair with books. While we were with him, he read to us; we read to him, and he read on his own. His mom sees that he always has books—from the library and downloaded onto her tablet. Where would we be without our libraries and librarians?

So please, remember to read. Visit our libraries. Please check out lots of books or download them. Remember to read to your kids and grandkids. Remember to come to our branch book sales throughout the year. We always have adult books and children's books. Have your own love affair with books!

*"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough book shelves."* Anna Quindlen

*"A book is like a garden carried in the pocket."* Chinese Proverb

*"The greatest gift is a passion for reading."* Elizabeth Hardwick

Until next time,

Jeri Fork President, Porter County Friends of the Library

## BETWEEN THE STACKS

Porter County Public Library System  
103 Jefferson Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

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VALPARAISO, IN  
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### **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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James Cline

#### **Assistant Director**

Phyllis Nelson

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