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### Change

#### Change comes gently in spring

From the color of the delicate blossoms of Bleeding Heart  
To the smell of the earth after a warm April shower  
To the feel of cool cotton sheets, sun dried, grown softer in time -  
Each transition adding another layer of texture to our lives.

From *Country Echoes Prose and Poetry* by Jan Blankenburg

### Library Happenings

“Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.” ~ Laura Bush

Library Happenings are written and submitted by Sunny Robbins, Director of the Donnellson Public Library, unless otherwise noted.

### Preschool Story Hour

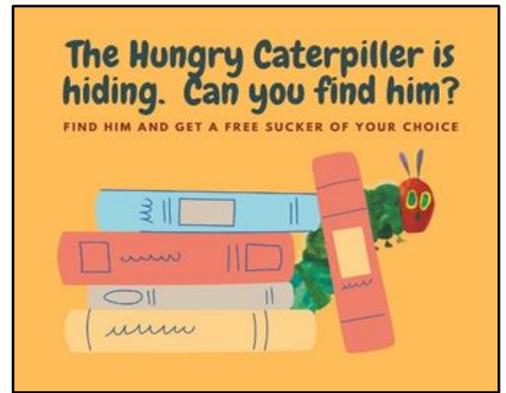


In April, we read books for Story Hour about Easter and spring, dinosaurs, mice, and bunnies. We did finger plays, sang songs, colored pictures, and made mice. The kids took home their sprouted flowers to watch them grow. A new friend joined our group of four the last story time in April!

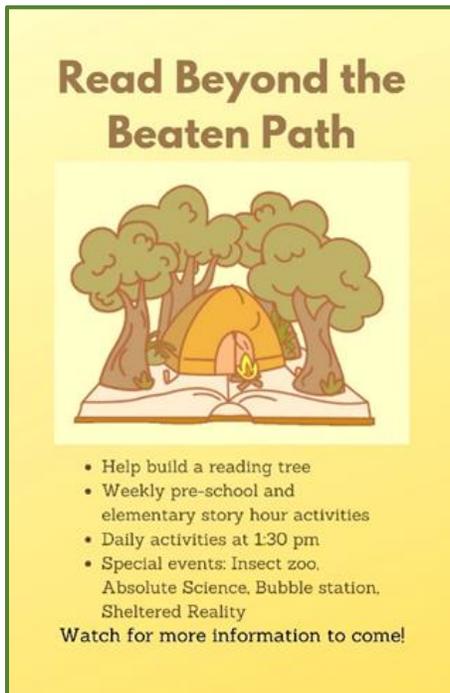
Story Hour for preschool children is a program held each Tuesday from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

## A Very Hidden Hungry Caterpillar

Mr. Hasper's hungry caterpillar continues to be lost and found. Bring your kiddos in to see if they too can find him. He is hiding in the children's section of the library. Good luck!



## Summer Reading Program: Read Beyond the Beaten Path



**Read Beyond the Beaten Path**

- Help build a reading tree
- Weekly pre-school and elementary story hour activities
- Daily activities at 1:30 pm
- Special events: Insect zoo, Absolute Science, Bubble station, Sheltered Reality

Watch for more information to come!

Pre-School-aged story hour will continue at 10 am on Tuesdays. The school aged book hour “the Book Worms” will meet each Wednesday at 10 am when the special programs are not scheduled. *Any teens or pre-teens that want to start a book club or discussion, let a librarian know.* Adults and teens can earn chances to win prizes by accepting the book challenge and by setting/reaching their own reading goals.

We decided to take the theme this year, *Read Beyond the Beaten Path*, and hold different library camps through the months of June and July. Our daily camps will be at the library at 1:30 pm and will include art camp, Lego camp, drama camp, movie showings, and chef camp. Several special programs are planned so far, including:

a Butterfly Tent on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

outdoor bubble stations from A.S. on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am

the rock music of Sheltered Reality on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm

We will have Sign-up Sheets and brochures ready by the middle of May.

## The Donnellson Book Core

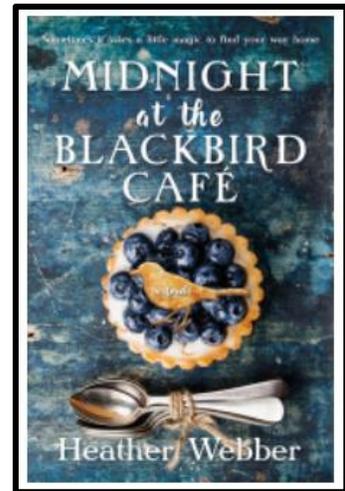
The Donnellson Book Core read and discussed **The Magdalen Girls**, a novel by V.S. Alexander.

Our book for May will give us a taste of southern charm. This romance will weave us through healing, family, and second chances. Here is what GOODREADS has to say about the book [Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe](#) by Heather Webber:

*Nestled in the mountain shadows of Alabama lies the little town of Wicklow. It is here that Anna Kate has returned to bury her beloved Granny Zee, owner of the Blackbird Café.*

*It was supposed to be a quick trip to close the café and settle her grandmother's estate, but despite her best intentions to avoid forming ties or even getting to know her father's side of the family, Anna Kate finds herself inexplicably drawn to the quirky Southern town her mother ran away from so many years ago, and the mysterious blackbird pie everybody can't stop talking about.*

*As the truth about her past slowly becomes clear, Anna Kate will need to decide if this lone blackbird will finally be able to take her broken wings and fly.*



As always, if you are intrigued by the books we are reading and want to join the Donnellson Book Core, please let the librarians know and we will order you a copy! The book club meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, in the activity room.

### **Senior Craft'ernoon**

Our Seniors met on Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> and enjoyed making mason bee houses. Our Senior Craft'ernoon meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 3:30 in the activity room and only 10 spots are available, and May's is filling up fast. The next Craft'ernoon will meet the second Tuesday of June. Call or stop in to save your seat for June's craft.

### **Writer's Block**

Have you written about your latest trip? Or your great-aunt's funny antics? Or have you made a world of your own with characters dying to be introduced to the world? Join us!

Our writer's group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 1-3 pm in the local and family history room. Share or just come listen to others as they share what they have written.

The April meeting of Writers' Bloc was held April 20 at 1 p.m. in the Local and Family History Department. Attending were Marty Miller, Jan Blankenburg, and Aaron and Diane Kruse.

Jan again shared some poems she had written years ago to be sent to "Our Iowa" – 9 in total. To name a few: *Marking Time*, *Country Auction*, *We Get a Hoot Out of Grandma's Boot*, *Words of Wisdom*, and *Prairie Tapestry*. Her next book is a work in progress and her plans to date include 39 poems, hopefully with contributions from her granddaughter Nima.

Diane's writing contribution referred to her displays she creates every month as well as editing and writing items for the library monthly newsletters.

Marty just returned from another trip to California and wrote about her experience on the flight. The flight was uneventful. To begin with, she was allowed to only carry one personal item on board which needed to fit under her seat. Plus the seating arrangement was quite cramped.

During the relayed instructions over the loudspeaker by a flight attendant, her flight over the plains and viewing what looked like a toy city below, she remained attentive but her seat mates and others around her displayed no interest in what was said. She wondered what would need to do to assist them if an incident occurred. All went well and Marty arrived home safe and sound without the need to come to anyone's aid.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. May 18 in the Local and Family History Department.  
~Written and submitted by Diane Kruse



Like nature? Like donuts? One evening that includes both! On May 18th from 4 - 5 pm, local author, Mike Krebill, will demonstrate how to make dandelion donuts at the Donnellson Library. Mike Krebill wrote *The Scout's Guide to Wild Edibles* and was a middle school teacher in Keokuk. We invite all ages of attendees. Call or stop in the library to RSVP.

## Richard L. Proenneke Museum



Across from Richard Proenneke's beach at Upper Twin Lake, a view of "Falls Mountain"  
From the new Journal "Alone At Twin Lakes - 1965" entry September 16, 1965

The lake was like a mirror as I paddled across. I would visit the \*wild potato patch and the eggplant before beaching at camp. When about halfway across I noticed something dark on the shore near the cabin and was surprised when my glasses showed it to be a bull moose standing at the water's edge. \*Potato's & eggs abandoned at a neighboring cabin.

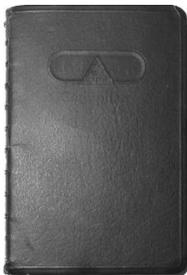
He stood a moment then waded in and started swimming towards Allen Peak directly across the lake. I paddled on until he was nearly even and 200 yards away and then went to work with the paddle. My cameras were in the cabin.

He had a good start by the time I was headed his way but I gained rapidly and soon he was turning his head to watch me. He was swimming hard and making real good time. It kept me busy paddling and working two cameras. As he neared shore I came in quite close to him and nearly abreast. He was near shore and wouldn't turn away.

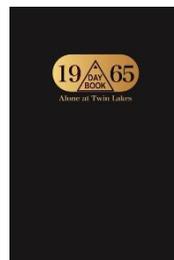
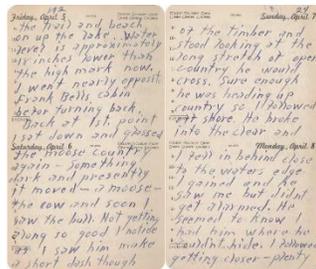
I wondered how tired he would be after the 3600 foot swim in not more than 30 min. He came to shallow water - stood belly deep for a few seconds then climbed the bank and stood broadside looking at me and shaking the water from his coat. He headed for the timber - stopped and rattled his antlers in a willow bush before moving on again.

I paddled slowly back across the lake thankful for the opportunity to have filmed such an unforgettable sight. It was getting late and I hope not too dark for pictures. Four dozen eggs and many spuds to the good - supper over and the dishes washed by 9 PM. What a half day that was.

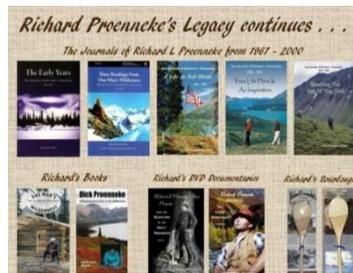
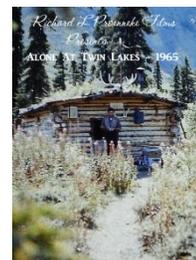
The long wait is over! – The new Richard Proenneke Journal and DVD Documentary “Alone At Twin Lakes – 1965” is here! Get your copies today!



The original 1957 Caterpillar Daybook & two pages from the Journal



New Journal and DVD Documentary “Alone At Twin Lakes -1965”



The complete set of the Journals of Richard L Proenneke and the book “One Man’s Wilderness;” the “Reflections on a man in his wilderness; DVD Documentaries, “From The

*Heartland To The Great Northwest” and “The Living Wilderness;” The Homeland and Kodiak Sourdough Starter Spoons are all available at the Donnellson Library or at our website: richardproenneke.com*

Are you a Richard Proenneke fan? Would you like to learn more about this incredible man who grew up in our backyard? Consider joining us and lending a helping hand. Drop me a line at: Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: [brie@richardproenneke.com](mailto:brie@richardproenneke.com) or contact the new Library Director Sunny Robbins: [director@donnellson.lib.ia.us](mailto:director@donnellson.lib.ia.us)

### **Friends of the Library Fundraiser and Easter Fun at the Donnellson Library**



The Easter Bunny was happy to help the Friends with their fundraiser on April 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Parents were able to seize this opportunity to use their cell phones or small cameras to take photos of their children with the Easter Bunny and with live bunnies for a free-will donation. Some of the photos of the event can be viewed on the Friends of the Library Facebook page.

Thanks go out to Mike and Toni Peterson for providing all the Easter bunnies. Thanks also to Carole Elston, Diane Kruse, Sharon Meierotto, and Victoria Matlock for providing the decorations for this first-time, very successful event and to our visitors for their generous donations to our fundraiser.



F O R



The Friends of the Donnellson Library will host their first of two book sales in 2022 on Yard Sale Day, Saturday 18 June at the American Legion (Post #474), 419 North Oak Street from 8:00-4:00. Books and other items will be sold for a free-will donation.

We are seeking donations of gently used adult and children’s books as well as DVDs and music CDs for the sale. We also ask that you bring NO magazines, old encyclopedia sets, school textbooks, or Reader’s Digest Condensed books. Books can be brought to the library during regular business hours Monday-Friday from 11:30-7:30 and on Saturday from 10:00-3:30. We kindly ask that you not pile books by our front or back door or leave them out in the weather.

Time is getting closer so mark your calendar for June 18 to attend a full day of fun.

### **An April Suggested Reading**

2022, April 28, Suggested Reading *Thomas Jefferson and the Pirates of Tripoli*

This month’s Suggested Reading may be a review for many of our readers, but in a time when crises and hardship confront our government and so many citizens, it is a refreshing reminder

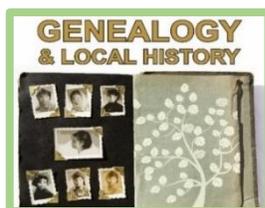
that few problems cannot be overcome with faith and leadership that is both bold and capable. This selection is written by Brian Kilmeade, a well-known investigative reporter of *Fox & Friends*, and Don Yaeger, an author of 25 books, some on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

While few Americans understand the situation of the United States at the close of the Revolutionary War, it is simple fact that the nation was deeply in debt and held in low regard as a new, poor nation setting forth on the untried concept of ‘republican democracy’ and ‘government by the people’. While the new nation was of interest to numerous nations, it was not a trusted model of business and was held to a stricter standard for loans and lenient business dealings than more-established nations such as Britain and France.

Much of the necessary trade of the new nation was conducted with southern Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. The merchantmen of all ships entering this area, via the Straits of Gibraltar, were now the prey of the Barbary Coast pirates. The Coast was made up of the shorelines of Morocco, Algiers (Algeria), Tunis (Tunisia), and Tripoli (Libya). The rulers of these four nations looked upon Christian nations as infidel, and thus their rulers were ordered by Allah to convert all such peoples to Islam or kill them. A second and more popular cause for preying upon the merchant ships was the procurement of the crews to be held as slaves, and the ransom the European nations were willing to pay for the crews.

At the time of the presidency of Thomas Jefferson at the beginning of the 1800’s the United States could not pay the exorbitant ransoms demanded by the Muslim rulers. Nor was this man of the Revolutionary War willing to bow to piracy or see his new nation humiliated. He had great sympathy for the crews held by the Muslim rulers and set about arranging better relations between the United States and these rulers. However, the attempted negotiations were met with stubborn refusals by the Muslims, accustomed to receiving rich gifts from the Europeans. The situation in the Mediterranean became rapidly worse, and it became quickly apparent to Jefferson that force of arms would be necessary to win back his countrymen and earn the respect of the rulers who had long enjoyed a free hand in the Mediterranean.

*Thomas Jefferson and the Pirates of Tripoli* details a lengthy battle of wills between Jefferson and the Pirates (and their Muslim lords) in which Navy and Marine Corps officers and men greatly distinguished themselves. This is a lengthy but spellbinding look at diplomacy and force of arms between Christian and Muslim forces in the early 1800s. It is a great insight into much of our current problems with Muslim terrorists today. ~**Written and submitted by Aaron Kruse**



## Local and Family History Department

### Remembering Norma Jean Heins

Our Local and Family History Department always had the opportunity to work with volunteers to help us through the years. Many of you may not know this but Norma Jean Heins was one of our volunteers. She volunteered in 2009 for several years to work from home and helped our

Genealogy Department tremendously despite her very busy weekly schedule. We understood why she wanted to work from home. Her family was very important, and she wanted to share as much time as she could with them on a regular basis.

In looking back through earlier monthly library newsletters, her name was mentioned throughout several years but in March 2009, a special tribute was noted: “volunteers continue to be very busy to donate their time. Norma cut, pasted, and delivered over 300 obituaries in February. In that same month, it was noted Norma along with others added over 800 to our files.” Although she decided not to continue after several years, she stopped in occasionally to say hello on her way to a very busy day. Our department was honored to have her volunteerism and enthusiasm for those years.

Recently our department was notified a memorial was established by family members in her memory for the Donnellson Library Genealogy Department. Even though condolences and a thank you were passed on to members of the Heins family, at this time Sharon and I wish to openly say to all we are very appreciative for their very generous donations as it will help us continue projects and let us begin many new department projects.

\*\*\*\*\*

~ The month of April was quite busy accepting donations of items for future displays. Volunteers Diane Kruse and Sharon Meierotto continued working from home as well as their normal Tuesday library day to keep on top of projects. Obituaries continue to be alphabetized and made ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files. The Department continues to work with volunteers to help with our huge obituary project. Joyce Francis and Jean Kruse have been regular volunteers working to support our filing system to get our Lee County, contiguous counties, and local Illinois and Missouri obituaries on file.

~ Members of the newly established Historical Association at the Dunkerton Library in northern Iowa have set up a date to visit the Donnellson Library Genealogy Department on May 14 for approximately 2 ½ hours. The association has many items in common with those we have in our department and are looking for ideas to begin their journey of design. We were recommended as a small library to view, and we look forward to the team’s visit and hope they find some ideas to help get their association off the ground.

**~ Information on White Oak Grove Rural Schoolhouse**

Additional information surfaced about this schoolhouse when Kenny and Ray Tull came across articles in the *Fort Madison Evening Democrat*, November 25, 1950. It was assumed in research found years ago after the frame school closed in 1945 and auctioned in 1947 the building was converted to a home. These articles showed the school building was converted to a kitchen and became part of the Flamingo Club on Highway 2 five miles west of Ft. Madison and was destroyed by fire in 1950. The information as previously written will be updated since this new information has surfaced.

### ~ Request for Rural Schoolhouse Information

Brie Anderson is working to update her family genealogy and reviewed information on three schoolhouses which were in her area growing up: Cherry Grove (Hickory Grove), Brush College, and White School all located in Washington Township. Some family names associated with those schools are Anderson, Hasenclever, Wenke, Hughes. Brie mentioned the information she gleaned was very helpful and will be added information to her family tree.

~ Jan and Evan Blankenburg donated two Centralian annuals, one for 1969 and the other for 1969-1970. In addition, a 1970 Yearbook for Iowa State University.

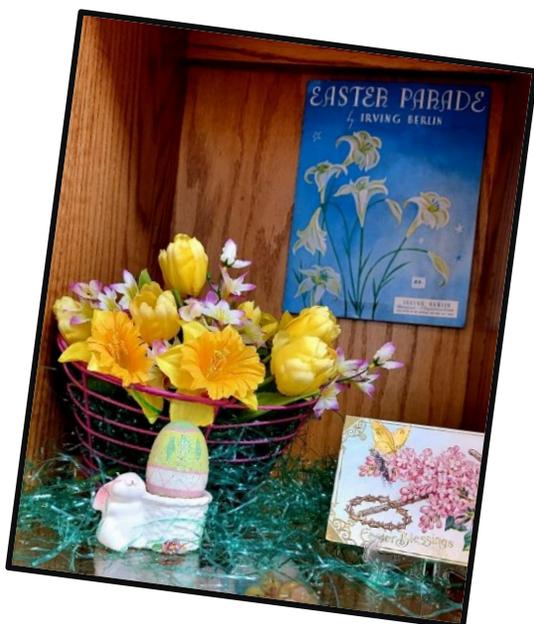
### ~ Donation of Ed Latta Collection

The Local Family and History Department has accepted the Ed Latta wood carving collection. Since the pieces were in storage for years, an inventory of all items received will be drawn up as well as cleaning and polishing the items. He retired as the Donnellson blacksmith for almost 50 years. He then turned to his band saw and circular saw and began carving from wood the rough miniatures. He began to fashion the detail which brought his creations to life. As his skill grew so did the complexity of his models. The department looks forward to completing the inventory and sharing some of his whimsical creations.

### April Local & Family History Display

Easter brought together an unlikely cadre of traditions: church, bunnies, and eggs.

While Easter is a time when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ, a few aspects of the holiday were adopted from ancient pagan rituals that celebrated the resurrection of life in the spring. Below are some photos of the Easter display courtesy of Carole Landes Elston.





### Upcoming Display for May

365 days a year, 7 days a week and 24 hours a day, members of the U.S. military are on call around the world, defending the interests and security of the nation. This May, during Military Appreciation Month, is the perfect opportunity to express gratitude to them, and their families, for all that they do every day.

National Military Appreciation Month was designated in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but the month also holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces day.

Below are some of the photographs of the upcoming display.



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