

READ ❖ THINK ❖ CREATE

DISCOVER

PUTNAM COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER 2018



Winter Reading Program

Local Patriot Denny

Meet Masada

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From the Director



The onset of autumn brings the beauty of the changing of the colors. Leaves of green turn to blazing reds, stunning yellows and vibrant oranges. Then there are those, of course, that simply turn brown and fall to the ground. Every tree does its own thing, depending upon its heredity, the nutrients in its soil and the environmental factors in the air.

We, as humans, are not too different from those trees. We go through changes in our lives. How we handle those changes is greatly influenced by our heredity and history, the nutrients that we have put into our bodies and minds, and the environments in which we find ourselves. Although we can do little about individuals' heredity and personal history, we, at the Putnam County Library are dedicated to providing a nourishing environment where people can nourish their minds and even, occasionally, their bodies.

Every time I step into the Imagination Portal for children downstairs, I witness the buzz of excitement for learning that children bring. From computers to video games; from toys to books and, of course, from storytimes to other programs, children are nurturing their inner soil.

When I climb the stairs to the adult and young adult area, I feel the joy and happiness that continued intellectual nutrients provide. Visitors smile as they move from books of fiction to computers full of information, from DVDs to books of nonfiction and audiobooks in the acquisition of information that helps them richen their human fiber.

Healthy learning makes us better able to adjust to change so we can show our stunning yellows, oranges and reds in the face of challenge. None of us wants to merely turn brown and fail in life.

Here are just a few ways the library can help you prepare for positive change now-

- Attend a computer class- nothing changes faster than technology. Be prepared.
- Come experience an author or other enlightening program- the library regularly hosts speakers and programs to enliven our minds.
- Read online or on paper - most people think of paper books at the library, but the library now offers thousands of titles for free via its Overdrive service. You can nourish yourself from home.
- Attend one of our regular free vegan pitch-in lunches. Experience new flavors and good friendship.

Details about all of these offerings can be found on our website at PCPL21.org.

Here's to positive change!

Brian Briscoe, Director

Upcoming Events

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY...

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY SALE

Saturday, December 8th
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Friends of the Putnam County Public Library will be holding its Used Electronics Sale on Saturday, December 8th, from 9:00 am until noon, or until supplies sell out, in the library's Kiwanis meeting room. All items for sale will cost between \$1 and \$20 and include old technology retired by the library or donated by patrons. The library will only accept cash or checks for the used equipment and everything will be sold AS-IS with no warranty and no refunds will be given. Computer professionals will be on-site to answer any questions. For sale will be desktops & laptop computers, flat screen monitors, printers, keyboards, mice, eReaders, assorted \$1 cables, wireless routers, a variety of internal computer components. All proceeds go to Friends of the Putnam County Public Library.

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI PERFORMANCE & CAROLING

Tuesday, December 11th
12:00 - 12:30 PM

The Silver Lining Players, a script-in-hand senior readers' theatre, will present "Gift of the Magi" and carol. This is a brown bag program, so feel free to bring your lunch. Water will be provided. "Gift of the Magi" will be Silver Lining's third public performance. Carols will be accompanied by the group's musician-in-residence, Lenora Bowlby. The Silver Linings Players original members include Linda Ford, Bob Jefferson, Carol Moore, Sandy Steinem, Kathy Stephan, Bill Wieland, Martha Wharton and poet Karen Smoger.

TRAVEL TALK: POLAND

Monday, December 17th
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Krista Mullinnix, PCPL's own Youth Services Manager, will give a presentation of her short trip to Poland with her family. The family stayed in Krakow just a couple blocks away from the 13th-century square at the city's heart where Krista enjoyed entirely too many pierogies. During their week-long stay, they visited Wawel Castle, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Jasna Gora Monastery, Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, and the Western Tatras.

AUTHOR TALKS

LARRY TIPPIN

Tuesday, December 4th
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Larry Tippin will speak on his newly published, limited-edition book, *The Betrayal of Pearl Bryan: Unraveling the Gilded Age Mystery That Captivated a Nation*. Larry Tippin has served as County Historian since 2008. His interest in history grew out of extensive research of his family roots and restoration of pioneer cemeteries. A semi-retired CPA, Mr. Tippin has served in a variety of civic and professional organizations.

DR. FRANK GERTCHER

Tuesday, December 11th
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Dr. Frank Gertcher will talk about his book, *The Dark Cabin Murders: A Wind Grass Hill Novel*. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Frank L. Gertcher was born and raised near Clinton, Indiana. He is a retired Senior Scientist and current storyteller. He is also an Air Force veteran, with nine years enlisted and 14 years commissioned service (1961-1984). In addition to publishing many papers in scientific journals, he co-authored two successful textbooks, as well as a novel and a book of poems. Frank and his wife Linda now live in a retirement community in Florida.

STEAM POWERED WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays, Beginning in January
2:00 - 3:00 PM
and
4:00 - 5:00 PM

Tinker, make, and create at the library on the third Wednesday of each month. Explore arts and crafts, simple circuits, chemistry and more! Each month will feature a different project but there will always be something to make, build, create, or discover!

Primarily for children 6-12 years old, but all are welcome! Children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult.



Adult Services

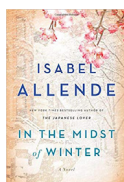
Book Clubs at PCPL

PCPL Book Club

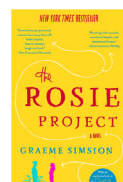
Looking for something to read during the cold winter months? Join the PCPL Book Club! Our monthly selections range from top sellers to new authors. There's something for everyone and new members are always welcome!



December 10, 2018
- *This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!* by Jonathan Evison

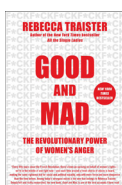


January 14, 2019 - *In the Midst of Winter* by Isabel Allende



February 11, 2019 - *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion

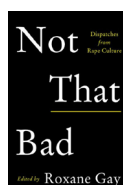
Literary Ladies



Wednesday, January 16th

7:00 PM

We'll be reading *Good and Mad* by Rebecca Traister, *Rage Becomes Her* by Soraya Chemaly, and *The Black Unicorn: Poems* by Audre Lorde.



Wednesday February 13th

7:00 PM

We'll be reading *The Beauty Myth* by Naomi Wolf, *Not That Bad* by Roxane Gay, and *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

Books will be available at the library Reference Desk. For more information, contact Masada Sparrow at msparrow@PCPL21.org or by calling 765-653-2755, ext. 115.

Meet Masada Sparrow



We are beyond happy to introduce our new Head of Adult Reference, Masada Sparrow. Masada has been working in the Adult Reference department as a Reference Assistant for the last few months, but has recently accepted the role of manager for the department.

Masada grew up in Greenwood, Indiana, and attended Center Grove schools. She comes from a big mixed family and has 19 brothers and sisters!

After graduating from Center Grove High School, she attended IUPUI where she received her undergraduate degree in United States History, as well as her Master of Library Science degree. She currently lives in Indianapolis, but is hoping to move closer soon.

Masada loves to read both science fiction and fantasy. Elizabeth Haydon and Storm Constantine are two of her favorite authors. She prefers Star Trek to Star Wars and would love to master the art of beekeeping.

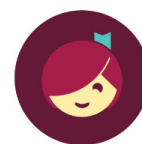
Masada officially takes her new role as Head of Adult Services on Monday, December 10th. We hope you'll join all of us in welcoming her to the library family!

Try Libby.

The one-tap reading app from your local library.

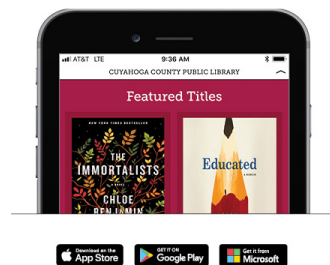


Rakuten
OverDrive



Libby.

Brought to you by your local library and built with ❤️ by OverDrive.



RECOMMENDED BOOK



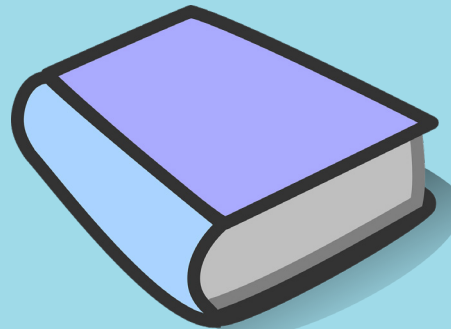
Toys Meet Snow by Emily Jenkins

While Little Girl is away on winter vacation, her toys, Lumphy, StingRay, and Plastic decide to go outside and learn more about snow. What do you think your toys are doing while you're on vacation?

Also, check out the Toys trilogy by Emily Jenkins for even more toy adventures! These short chapter books make for excellent read-alouds for all ages.

EARLY LITERACY TIP

It's great to tell and read favorite stories over and over again. Repetition helps your child learn. Each time your child hears a story, he or she notices new things. They also become more familiar with the structure and sequence of stories.



Winter Reading Program



WINTER READING PROGRAM

DECEMBER 17TH - FEBRUARY 17TH

As the weather turns colder, warm up with a good book! Readers of all ages are invited to join Putnam County Public Library's Winter Reading Program.

For kids and teens, our Winter Reading program is a fun bingo challenge. Participating in the winter reading program is a fun way to explore your library and discover new books and resources!

Adults can earn an entry into the grand prize drawing for every book they read. Read seven books and earn a special prize!

There is no need to sign up! Just stop by the library anytime on or after December 17 and pick up your bingo sheet or reading log. You have until February 17 to read or do the other activities on your sheet. Then, bring back your completed log or bingo sheet and pick up your prizes!

FOOD



FOR

FINES

December 17th through February 17th

Donate an item to the food or non-food pantry and we will take \$1.00 off your fines. Offer applies to adult cards only and may not be used for replacement costs or collection fees. Items must be full-sized; no trial sizes.

Samuel Denny, Local Patriot

Samuel Denny was born August 28, 1755, in Chester County, PA. He was the son of David and Margaret Denny from Ulster, near Londonderry, Ireland. They were the progenitors of many founding families in Indiana as well as many public servants and soldiers down to modern times. They were also the Great grandparents of Arthur Armstrong Denny who decided to move further west and was the founder of Seattle. According to the Denny Genealogy, Book 3, Samuel followed his brother Robert (another Lt. in the Rev. War), first to Mercer County, Kentucky, around 1789-90, and later to slave-free Indiana, in Washington County in 1814. Samuel was the first in his family to move to Putnam County, Indiana, in 1826 at the age of 71.

Samuel's bio and military service have been printed in a number of publications, the Denny Genealogy, Banner, Weik's History and local historian and former Washburn member, Minnetta Wright's work. Yet when members of the Washburn Chapter of the NSDAR drove all over Putnam County to put flags on the Patriots' graves, Samuel's grave marker could not be found. Like many graves from early Putnam County history, time has taken its toll. Perhaps it had completely deteriorated or was hidden under sod.

Still, it seemed odd that this Revolutionary Patriot's grave had not been memorialized by DAR members during early and mid 20th century when they replaced many of the old stones. His name is on the bronze tablet memorial located in the Putnam County Court House. But where was Samuel and his wife who are supposed to be laid to rest side by side in Deer Creek?

Upon further research, perhaps the reason Samuel's grave was overlooked is that he had no surviving children of his own (although he did help raise 13 orphans) to remember and tend his grave. Since he had no children, his lineage would never be honored in societies such as the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Sons of the American Revolution. Yet Samuel certainly served his country during its

formative years and deserves to be remembered.

In 2015, Washburn members Diana Denny Brumfield, 5th great niece of Samuel and Beverly Hurst Ross, a trustee of Deer Creek Cemetery, teamed up to order and place a memorial stone for Samuel. Since his grave was unmarked, the Veteran's Administration allowed for a tombstone at no charge, so Diana ordered one. Like a number of cemeteries in Putnam County, Deer Creek honors veterans, so Beverly set the stone at no charge.

The following is a summary of Samuel's service in the Revolutionary War.

1st Tour, Mar 6, 1777-June 20, 1777: Samuel enlisted in the Frederick County, VA militia as a rifleman volunteer. Also known as minute men, these soldiers were ready to enter upon active service whenever called up. Samuel served under Captain Peter Babb, 1st Lt. Aaron Mercer, and 2nd Lt. William Denny, his brother. Their job was patrolling and protecting the area between Pittsburgh known as Ft. Pitt and Wheeling.

2nd Tour, Late summer of 1777: Shortly after this, at Winchester, again under Aaron Mercer who was now Captain, as Captain Babb had retired due to old age. Brother William Denny had been promoted to 1st Lt. Samuel was commissioned as 2nd Lt. by Thomas Jefferson. The men marched into the eastern part of Virginia to prevent the depredations of the enemy.

3rd Tour, believed to be the latter part of August 1777: This company marched and joined the company of the Army at the Battle of Brandywine (11 Sep 1777). Samuel's group had been dispatched to check a detachment of the British Army who had crossed the Brandywine River above Chadd's Fort where the main bodies of the armies were engaged.

Samuel and some men became separated from the main army and came in contact with the British Army in the dark of night. With some difficulty, they escaped, but at first light, discovered the British

Quarterly Query

Army were chasing them. The British Army had stopped and were killing cattle. Samuel Denny's group turned the tables on their pursuers forcing them to retreat. They took possession of the slaughtered cattle and rejoined the American Army by 2 in the afternoon.

October 4, 1777, Samuel's group was in the Battle of Germantown under the ultimate direction of General Washington. After this, they returned to Winchester and were again honorably discharged.

4th Tour, 1778: Samuel and his company were again engaged in service and marched from Winchester through Pennsylvania into New Jersey in the heat of the summer. They were approaching the main body of the Army as it was engaged in the Battle of Monmouth (June 28, 1778). During this time in New Jersey as well as at Brandywine, Samuel's Company was under US Army's General Daniel Morgan (then a Colonel). Samuel remembered seeing General Israel Putnam, Brigadier General Porterfield, Col. James Wood, General Lafayette and General George Washington. Returning to Winchester, Samuel's company of Minute Men were again discharged.

5th Tour, Fall of 1778: Samuel was back in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, where he guarded British soldiers who had been taken at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered.

6th Tour, 1781: Samuel served his final 2 months of service.

The Pension

June 7, 1832: Congress established a pension that Samuel would qualify.

April 23, 1835: In his dotage, a widower with no natural children and unable to work, Samuel only reluctantly applied for a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War at the age of 79 years.

May 16, 1835: In a letter from James Whitcomb of Bloomington. "Mr. Denny's character as a citizen and Christian are unquestioned wherever he is

known"

June 22, 1836: In a letter from the Department of Pension office: "respecting the case of Samuel Denny of Indiana and have the state that upon and examination of his declaration on file in this office, it would appear that performed six times as an officer of the Virginia Militia amounting in all to one year, one month and 17 days. He can be allowed a pension for that length of service at the rate of the pay of a private." This amounted to \$45.20 per annum and went back 5 1/2 years amounting to \$248.60.

July 13, 1836: In a letter from James McAchran of Putnam County in regard to this pension offer.

"Mr. Samuel Denny directs me to inform you that he is willing to receive what his country is willing to give and that it was from his inability to labor that induced him to call on his country for any thing; as it has always been his opinion that all his exertions were due to his country without remuneration."

On April 23, 1836: Samuel Denny was allowed a pension until "his gentle spirit took leave of earth" on July 3, 1843, just missing his prediction of death, the 4th July, by one day. Described as a "venerable personage, highly respected and honored", Samuel was laid to rest beside his wife.

Samuel Denny was a Patriot and we thank him for his service.

Historically speaking,

Diana Denny Brumfield, Genealogist

TTGG

Remember, the Time Travelin' Genealogy Guild (established in February of 2015) meets the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM in the Local History and Genealogy Department.

Little Free Library

Take-A-Book, Leave-A-Book



Did you know that the library has a Little Free Library in Robe-Ann park? It's time to dust off your book shelves at home and get ready for all those new books you will receive this holiday season. Consider donating a book to the Little Free Library! Our Little Free Library receives a lot of visitors, children's books are especially in demand. Have you visited lately? Stop by and leave a book, take a book today! Questions? Concerns? Interested in building your own Little Free Library for the community? Stop by the circulation desk and talk to Conni, or email cwrightsman@pcpl21.org





Winter Reads

Cozy up with your favorite ebook!





The Current State of the Future

I've been a computer guy all my life and an important part of working with technology is keeping up with predictions of what the future will bring. I will use this space to introduce some of the most interesting, and disruptive, technology that is coming down the pike. My first topic, artificial intelligence and machine learning, is in use today and will have a very big impact on everyone's future.

Artificial intelligence is a simulation of intelligence in a computer, often achieved through machine learning. Machine learning uses techniques that give a computer the ability to "learn" from data, without being explicitly programmed. The first person to create a machine that could learn was Arthur Samuel in 1959. He was trying to program a computer to play checkers but quickly realized that programming a computer to anticipate so many combinations of moves would be a daunting task. Instead, he programmed the computer to play games against itself. By the mid-1970s his program achieved sufficient skill to challenge a respectable amateur at the game.

Today, artificial intelligence and machine learning is used to create self driving vehicles, voice recognition, robots that can win at Jeopardy, language translators, software that can search your personal photos for people or objects, and more. If you use Google photos to store your digital photos, you can search your pics for a cat simply by typing "cat" into the search box. You do not need to tag the photo with the word cat for it to be found because Google photos knows what a cat looks like. How does it know? Google programmed a computer to examine all the pictures that are on the internet to learn what a cat looks like.

How will artificial intelligence impact our future? The biggest disruption will likely be computers learning how to do your job better than you. We've all seen self-checkout lanes at the grocery (and even some libraries). Here in Indiana, I think most people assume job losses in the coal and steel industries have been due to imports and renewable energy respectively, but the majority of those jobs were lost to automation. In 2016, a self driving semi-truck made its first delivery of 50,000 Budweisers. What is going to happen when all the trucks drive themselves across the country and Amazon doesn't need people to pack and ship orders?

I remember when I was young, in the early eighties, I would read articles in science and technology magazines about robots doing our work for us in the future. Tantalizing predictions of long lazy days of little work while robots did the chores I didn't want to do. Imagine only having to work ten to fifteen hours a week! Nobody told me that a fifteen hour work week would only be the possible if I owned the robot doing the work.

Michael Acsbok

Community Help Desk

The PCPL Community Help Desk has a computer technician available four days a week to provide you with one-on-one assistance using software and electronic devices. Our technician can also help diagnose and repair problems with your computer or electronic device. Community Help Desk hours will continue at PCPL throughout the summer. You can always find a helpful hand during the following hours:

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
4:00 TO 7:30 PM

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
1:00 TO 4:00 PM



Putnam County
Public Library

103 E. Poplar St.
Greencastle, IN 46135

www.PCPL21.org

HOURS:

M 9am - 8pm
T 9am - 8pm
W 9am - 8pm
T 9am - 8pm
F 9am - 5pm
S 9am - 5pm
S CLOSED

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Library Closings

Monday, December 24
Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25
Christmas Day

Monday, December 31
Library Closes at 5:00

Tuesday, January 1
New Year's Day

Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, February 18
Presidents' Day