



Volume 7, Issue 1: Winter

Benzonia Public Library

Library Kindles an Interest in e-books

Along with books, audio books, movies, magazines, and music, the Benzonia Library has added three Amazon Kindles to loan. "We are very excited about this addition to our collection", said Library Director Marjorie Porter. "Many of our patrons would like to try using an e-book reader, but are not certain they prefer this media instead of paper. They are not ready to invest in an e-book reader. Other users do not have money in their budgets for this type of purchase. Our mission has always been to provide our community with

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

~Richard Steele, *Tatler*, 1710

educational and cultural materials, and, by offering an opportunity to borrow the Kindle for a three week loan period, we offer everyone a chance to read an e-book. The Kindles were purchased by the Friends of the Library. The Friends also have supplied money for the startup costs of e-book titles, covers, and an adapter. The Kindles may be checked out in the same manner as other library materials. However, renewals are not permitted.

Many libraries are adding e-books to their collections. Currently the pricing structure and staffing demands of entering into an agreement with a

subscription supplier, such as Overdrive, is prohibitive for Benzonia Library and the Darcy Library of Beulah. "We're a small community library," said Darcy Associate Director, Heather Doran, "so it makes more financial sense to have a simple, direct relationship with the leader in the e-book industry, Amazon.com, rather than committing to a subscription service that cannot guarantee lasting relationships with either Amazon or the major publishing houses. Keeping in mind that many of our patrons do not have reliable home Internet access, we're currently reviewing all of our options and hope to provide some form of e-book service in the coming year."

Monday Book Chat

11 a.m. the 4th Monday of every month at the Benzonia Public Library

Enjoy books and reading?

Enjoy talking about books you have read?

Want to learn about other books you may want to read?

Wish to meet others who enjoy reading?

We may have just what you have been looking for.

Instead of all reading the same book, we share what we have been reading and get inspired to read new things.

All kinds of reading is welcome: both fiction and nonfiction; printed books, eBooks, and audio books. A list of the titles (with short descriptions) is posted on the library bulletin board each month. For more information call 882-4111.



LIBRARY HOURS:

Monday & Wednesday

11am-7pm

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

11am-5pm

Saturday

11am-3pm



Murder in the Keys - a November bright spot!

Murder at the Library. Such fun! Thanks to 47 people who made reservations so they could try to solve the interactive mystery, and thanks to 11 community members who acted the parts of suspects and detective, Friends of Benzonia Library raised over \$700 to help the library.

The "audience" was divided into six teams to ask questions, listen to clues, and make their best guess as to "Whodunit." Teams Scarlett and Mustard chose completely correctly, while Team White came very close. The refreshments were enjoyed by all, and some of the audience also won door prizes. Everyone had fun with the witty (and appropriate) names of the suspects (such as

Bubbles J. Kusie) and their various attempts to "off" the contemptible Ernie Hammyweight.

Tickets will be available next October for another interactive murder mystery on Sunday November 4th at 2:00 p.m. We have a choice of scripts with suspicious characters in places such as Maine, Las Vegas, and New Orleans. Save the date! And, if you have been waiting your chance to join the cast, contact the library.

The cast members did a wonderful job of assembling costumes, giving out clues, and making it all fun for the audience. Looking at Sue Pyne's attire, you could believe she was the star of the "Gator Gal" TV show!



Suspicious Characters (left to right)

Penelope Olson (Dr. Clora Fill)
Keith Breuker (Detective)
Don Pyne (Rex N. Plunders)
Meredith McNabb (Bubbles J. Kusie)
Steve Elrick (Pinky F. Lamenceau)
Andy Mollema (Paul Meddo)
Althea Petritz (Bea R. Ghest)
Sue Pyne (Raslyn C. Ritters)
Andrea Frost (Mrs. Marina Swagg)
Maria Wolowiec (Officer Sunny Brite)
Paul Hunt (Leif Z. Beech)



Volunteer Spotlight

Many of you have noticed the smiling face of Michelle Leines at the Library. Michelle has been volunteering for over a year and recently agreed to work as a substitute when needed.

Michelle enjoys meeting new people and helping patrons find the materials they need. Her enthusiasm shows and many have commented on her welcoming ways. For those of you who may think Michelle looks familiar, you may know her as the daughter of Marjorie and Vernon (Bud) Smeltzer.



Michelle and her husband, Brent, moved back to this area almost three years ago after spending over 30 years in Reno, Nevada. The two of them met in Benzie County while Michelle, in High School, was working at the

Hungry Tummy. Brent, here on business from Minnesota, came in for dinner. The rest, as they say, is history. They have been married 37 years! Brent and Michelle have a daughter (Heather) and three grandchildren (Alyssa, Adam and Audrey) who live in the Vernon Hills area of Chicago.

Michelle has stayed quite busy in her work over the years. Several years were spent working as a loan processor and credit analyst. She also coordinated the volunteer efforts and bereavement programs at St. Mary's Hospital in Reno. No stranger to customer service, Michelle worked in billing and customer care for the Sun Valley GID (General Improvement District) that provided water and sewer for Reno area residents.

In addition to helping out at the desk, Michelle has taken an active role in other library activities. She is the current treasurer for the Friends of Benzonia Public Library and is willing to help out wherever needed.

One might think that her library activities keep her too busy to do other things. Not the case! Michelle keeps quite active physically with Zumba, walking and yoga classes. She considers herself health conscious and thinks we tend to forget to take care of ourselves.

A good fit, Michelle and Brent find Benzonia a friendly community that lends itself to a relaxed way of life. Michelle finds this time of her life not only relaxing, but fulfilling because of all her activities. We are so pleased that she finds fulfillment in our library. Her services are greatly appreciated!

YOUTH SERVICES

Children's Room Travels to Classes

Crystal Lake Elementary class visits have resumed and grown since last year. In response to larger class sizes, the Children's Room travels to Mrs. Gould's first grade, Mrs. McClellan's third grade, and new this year, to Mrs. Braem's



kindergarten. Each class gets to borrow a tub-full of books for in-class use between library visits.

Geek Out @ your library or STEM It Up!

Team N.E.R.D. from the Frankfort Junior High School will be on hand to demo their FTC robot.

For more information on FTC (First Tech Challenge) visit their web site at <http://www.firstinmichigan.org/>

Stop in Saturday, March 3rd at 1 p.m. to join in some techie fun.

Activities Calendar

Thursdays 4 p.m.

Exciting things are happening in the Children's Room. Stop by Thursdays 4 PM-ish for an After School Story. Barbara is reading *The Willows in Winter* by A.C. Horwood. It's the sequel to *The Wind in the Willows*. It is easy to pick up the story's thread at any point in the book.

Saturday February 4 11 a.m.

If you prefer decorating to racing, the Darcy Library of Beulah will host a workbee to decorate the Benzonia/Darcy outhouse sled in preparation for Winterfest.

Saturday February 11

Volunteer racers are needed to push the Benzonia/Darcy sled in the Beulah Winterfest outhouse race on Saturday, February 11th please contact the library at 882-4111 to sign up.

Saturdays February 25–April 28 1 p.m.

Lego™ Saturday launches February 25th at 1 pm. *Lego™* enthusiasts kindergarten age and older, meet in the Children's Room to build something each month. Middle school and high school builders are welcome too. The group will meet on the fourth Saturday through April. Anyone with Basic *Lego™* sets and boards they are willing to donate, please contact the library.

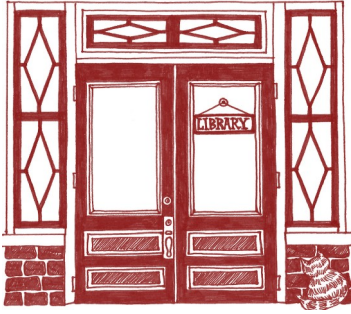
Saturday March 3 1 p.m.

Geek Out @ the Library or STEM it Up! For this year's Teen Tech Week stop in Saturday, March 3rd at 1pm to join in the techie fun.

Saturday April 14 1 p.m.

Titanic 100th Anniversary Voyage Saturday, April 14th at 1PM. Maybe it's our proximity to so many Great Lakes shipwrecks, but there seems to be an iceberg-sized interest in the Titanic. Come share your knowledge of the fascinating, but tragic event. All ages are welcome.





Benzonia Public Library

P.O. Box 445
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Phone: 231-882-4111

We're on the Web!

www.benzonia.lib.mi.us

Friends are Supportive!

The Friends of Benzonia Public Library were very active during 2011 and hope to accomplish even more in 2012. Fundraising activities brought in over \$3,700 and encompassed many fun events including: a Strawberry Social, a Used book Sale, a Used Jigsaw Puzzle Sale, and an Interactive Murder Mystery.

During 2011 the Friends gave over \$10,000 to the Benzonia Public Library. Contributions helped purchase new materials (including 3 Kindle eReaders for loaning); print the quarterly newsletter; increase the number of MeL interlibrary delivery days; and pay for a variety of other important items.

The Library is beginning to receive additional income from the Benzonia Township Library Millage. The increased revenue will help; however, funds will still be tight. Support from the Friends is essential to provide many important materials and programs.

The Friends continue to play a key role in keeping the Benzonia Public Library strong and vibrant.



Friends Make A Difference!

The Friends of Benzonia Public Library, through both financial support and volunteers' gifts of time, support many of the little (and not so little) extras at the Library. Volunteers sort books for library book sales; organize and staff fundraising events and assist with programs. Many volunteers also assist staff in the library. Some projects are ongoing while others take only a few hours.

Friends' membership dues, donations, and fundraising proceeds support programs and gifts to the Library. Your support makes that possible. Please consider offering your help by becoming a member of the Friends of Benzonia Public Library.

Volunteers are needed to assist with programs, help with fundraisers, and fill vacancies on the Friends' executive board.

Show your love of the library with a Friends membership. Visit the Friends of Benzonia Public Library online at www.benzonia.lib.mi.us or pick up an application at the Benzonia Public Library .

After all, isn't that what friends are for?

