

The Weekly Word from Westchester Public Library

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What is Westchester Public Library?

Westchester Public Library is an independent library system which serves the towns of Chesterton, Porter, Burns Harbor and Dune Acres, all in Westchester Township. Westchester Township is located in Porter County, NW Indiana, home of the beautiful sand dunes and the Indiana Dunes State Park and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The largest industry in the district is the Arcelor Mittal Steel plant in Burns Harbor.

The Porter County Public

Library serves the remainder of Porter County. Although some services provided by the library are restricted for use by residents of the library district, the Westchester Public Library and the Porter County Public Library have entered into a reciprocal borrowing agreement allowing residents from both libraries to borrow materials from any library in the county.

Westchester Public Library has also agreed to reciprocal borrowing agreements with most of the other public

libraries in the area.

The library is comprised of four buildings. The main branch, Thomas Library, is located at 200 W. Indiana Avenue, Chesterton. Hageman Library is located at 100 W. Francis Street, Porter. The Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Avenue, Chesterton, houses the library's Technical Services department, the Adult Learning Center, and a large public meeting room. The Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Avenue, Chesterton, is an educational and cultural service of the library.

Fundraiser at Westchester Township History

Step back in time to October 15, 1889, with a visit to a living history performance at the Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Avenue, Chesterton. "The Voices of the Brown Mansion, 1889" production will take place on May 1 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Each performance will be followed by tea, coffee, and dessert.

Funds raised by the "Voices" production will be used to preserve four original Brown family photographs which the museum recently acquired.

The photographs need to be cleaned and re-backed with acid free material. Two of the photos need special attention because of acid "foxing" that has discolored the images.

Because of space limitations, only 24 tickets will be sold for each performance, for a total of 48 guests. Guests will be divided into groups of six to ease movement through the house. Tickets are \$15 and are currently on sale at the museum. Tickets will not be sold on the day of the performance.

The interactive "Voices of the Brown Mansion, 1889" performances will introduce visitors to four characters located throughout the 1885 home. Staff members and volunteers will portray the characters. Additional staff and volunteers will serve as guides and coordinate the refreshment service.

In the parlor, guests will meet Charity Brown who, with her husband, George, built the Brown Mansion into which the couple moved from their large



**George & Charity
Brown (aka Jane Walsh
-Brown and John
Canright)**

Fundraiser continued

farm in Jackson Township. Visitors will learn about the Brown family and about the role of women in Victorian domestic life.

A visit with George Brown in his study set up in the current dining room will introduce visitors to this strong-minded and successful farmer and land speculator. He will explain how he built his fortune and will discuss his views on innovations in farming technology, politics and the future of Chesterton.

Arthur Bowser, the *Chesterton Tribune's* first owner/editor,

will greet visitors on the second floor of the Brown Mansion. Although he never actually had an office in the Brown Mansion, the museum's workroom has been reconfigured to represent his 1889 office, which was then downtown. He will talk with visitors about the challenge of operating the *Chesterton Tribune*, town news, and the growth of Chesterton. Visitors who are not able to walk upstairs to the second floor will be able to view a video of Arthur Bowser's presentation downstairs.

Hilda Swenson, the Brown's

fictional Swedish cook, will entertain guests in the pump room off the kitchen, where visitors will find her cooling off after a busy morning baking. Actually standing in the "Westchester room" between the museum store and exhibit gallery, Hilda will discuss Victorian menu planning, cooking, and the Browns' favorite foods. She'll also give her own views on the family and on domestic amusements of the day.

After meeting the four characters, guests will adjourn to the exhibit gallery where they will be served coffee, tea from Molly Bea's Ingredients,

and dessert provided by Tonya's Patisserie.

Westchester Township History Museum, an educational and cultural service of Westchester Public Library, is open to the public free of charge Wednesday – Sunday and by appointment. For information, call the museum at 983-9715.

Movie Screenings at the Library

Friday Night at the Movies

Join Hollywood veteran and Emmy-award winning sound editor Ascher Yates for this free series of critically acclaimed films reflecting themes and concerns of modern life. Friday Night at the Movies takes place on the second Friday of the month from September through May at 7 p.m.

The movies are shown at the Westchester Public Library Service Center, 100 W. Indiana Avenue, Chesterton. The movie for April 8 will be *The Social Network*.

The Social Network tells the story of Mark Zuckerberg and the phenomenal success of the social network site Facebook. Zuckerberg was a student at Harvard University when he was dumped by his girlfriend. His remedy for that was to close himself in his dorm room and create a new database: Facesmash, the precursor to Facebook.

When Facebook is launched, it quickly spreads beyond Harvard and goes global. Mark drops out of school, alienates his

closest friend and Facebook's cofounder, and is sued in court.

The Social Network is rated PG-13, with a running time of 120 minutes.

Family Films at Hageman

Westchester Public Library's Family Film series takes place on the second Saturday of the month at Hageman Library, 100 Francis Street, Porter, at 2 p.m. from September through May. The library will screen *Tales from Earthsea* on April 9. Films shown by the library are free of charge and open to the public. In *Tales from Earthsea*, there is a deteriorating kingdom...people acting strangely...dragons entering the world of humans... Something bizarre is happening, and Ged, a wandering wizard, is investigating. During his journey, he meets Prince Arren, whose fears could be used to destroy Ged.

Tales from Earthsea is rated PG-13, with a running time of 115 minutes.

I Can Do That! Art

"I Can Do That! Art" will continue at Westchester Public Library each Saturday in April. All ages are welcome, but parents are asked to accompany little ones. The program will take place in the Children's department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Avenue, Chesterton, and is free of charge. Drop in any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Spring is in the air at "I Can Do That! Art." In April, attendees will create bunny crafts as well as an April showers craft.

For more information, contact the Children's department at Thomas Library, 926-7696.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Westchester Public Library will begin their 3-day book sale Friday, April 15, with the Friends Only Preview Sale from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Only current members of the Friends will be admitted, but patrons can purchase their 2011 membership to the Friends at the door for \$5.

The Public Sale will be held Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. On Sunday, all items will be sold for \$3 a bag. No electronic scanners will be allowed.

There will be thousands of books of all types sorted and spread throughout a number of rooms and hallways on the second floor of the Thomas Library, 200 West Indiana Avenue, Chesterton.

Library Director Phil Baugher reports, "We have a good selection of books this year and I encourage our patrons to stock up on titles for their summer reading."

Prices for newer and special books will be individually marked. A large number of hardcover books will be sold for \$1.00 each and paperbacks for \$.50.

Individuals donating materials for the sale are encouraged to bring their donations to the collection box in the lobby of the Thomas Library.

Proceeds from the sale are donated to the library and help fund many supplemental and special programming efforts such as film series, children's programs, book discussions, and staff recognition events.

Bits & Bytes

All Bits & Bytes computer classes take place in the Bertha Wood meeting room on the second floor of Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Avenue, Chesterton. Registration is necessary for all classes.

Social Networking

Learn more about Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, MySpace, Google Buzz, and other networking sites. Learn how they work, do's and don'ts, security issues, how to upload photos and much more. Connect online with family and friends via the social networking sites you'll learn about in the Social Networking class.

The class will take place on April 20 from 1-4 p.m. Registration is underway now.

Excel 2

Excel 2 will cover using multiple sheets in a workbook, simple macros, creating graphs from data tables, complex cell functions, and much more. Proficiency with the mouse is necessary. Excel 1 is a prerequisite for the class.

Excel 2 will take place on Tuesday, April 26. Registration will begin April 12.

To reserve your spot in the Social Networking class or the Excel 2 class, please call the Automation/Serials Department at 926-7696, ext. 25.

Tax Forms Replenished

Westchester Public Library has a fresh batch of IT-40 booklets (forms included) available, free of charge, to patrons. The library's supply of basic federal forms (1040, 1040EZ, etc.) has also been replenished. The booklets are available in the Automation/Serials department on the second floor of Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Avenue,

Chesterton.

Free tax assistance for the elderly and those taxpayers with low to middle income is also available. Reservations are necessary for those seeking aid in completing their taxes. The tax service will run through Thursday, April 14. Reserve your spot by calling 926-7696.

Food Cultures of Northwest Indiana

Purdue University Calumet professor Dr. Ezekiel Flannery will discuss his research into the history of the food cultures of the Native Americans and pre-1850 settlers of Northwest Indiana at the Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Avenue, Chesterton, on Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m.

Flannery's presentation will explore the Potawatomi Indians' knowledge of the edible plants and animals of the area, which included a sophisticated local agriculture, as well as imported ingredients and technologies. He will also talk about the early settlers' reliance on the Potawatomi in order to engage in trade, friendship, and other food-related exchanges.

Wii Fun at Hageman

All ages are invited to participate in a variety of Wii games at Hageman Library, 100 Francis Street, Porter, every Thursday afternoon from 3:30-4:30 p.m. No registration is necessary.

Before playing, participants will need to read the "Westchester Public Library Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct" if they have not already done so. The "Gaming Service Agreement" will need to be signed as well.

Mad About Mysteries

Westchester Township History Museum's mystery lovers' series, Mad About Mysteries, will continue with a presentation about author M.C. Beaton. The program, which is free of charge, will take place on Wednesday, April 13 and will be repeated on Saturday, April 16. Both sessions will begin at 2 p.m. The museum, an educational and cultural service of Westchester Public Library, is located at 700 W. Porter Avenue, Chesterton.

Joan Costello will discuss the mysteries written by the popular and prolific author M.C. Beaton, best known for her Hamish MacBeth and Agatha Raisin series. Beaton is one of the pseudonyms of Marion Chesney, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland and now lives in the Cotswold area of England.

Mad About Mysteries will continue in May when Sue Helm will present bibliomysteries – mysteries involving books, bookstores, etc.

For more information please call the museum at 983-9715.

Lego Fun at Thomas Library

Lego Game Night

The entire family is invited to Westchester Public Library, Thomas branch, 200 W. Indiana Avenue, Chesterton, on Friday, May 6 from 6:30-8 p.m. for "Lego Game Night." Registration is not necessary and there is no charge.

Relax and enjoy some family time playing a Lego game or two. Lego games available are Minotaurus, Wild Wool, Lava Dragon, Orient Bazaar, Magma Monster, Monster 4, and Pirate Code, and more.

Lego Club

Westchester Public Library's continuing Lego Club will meet Friday, May 13, at 6 p.m. Clubbers meet in the Children's department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Avenue, Chesterton. Attendance is free of charge, but registration is necessary. Sign up in the Children's Department. Lego Club is for ages 6

years and up.

Enjoy a story and then let your imagination soar!

In recent studies, it has been found that promoting play contributes to early literacy development by increasing attention span, memory, creativity, and language and vocabulary skills. It also lays the foundation for logical mathematical thinking, scientific reasoning and problem solving. Hands-on manipulatives like Legos provide tactile and kinesthetic learning which increases student understanding. There's no denying that building things with Legos is just plain fun.

For more information, contact the Children's department at Thomas Library, 926-7696.

Bookmarks at the Museum

Valparaiso University professor Gretchen Townsend Buggeln will present a power point slide show and review *At Home: A Short History of Private Life* by Bill Bryson at Bookmarks at the Museum on Thursday, April 21 at 2 p.m. Bookmarks takes place at the Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Avenue, Chesterton.

Bill Bryson and his family live in a Victorian parsonage in a part of England where nothing of any great significance has happened since the Romans left. One day, he began to consider how little he knew about the ordinary things of life that he found in his comfortable home. Bryson formed the idea of going from room to room to "write a history of the world without leaving home." His wit and prose make *At Home* an entertaining book.

Bookmarks at the Museum will meet next on Thursday, May 26 when Judith Hurdle will review *Russian Winter* by Daphne Kalotay.

It is not necessary to have read the books

in advance to enjoy the presentation. Both Thomas and Hageman Library have copies of the books reviewed in the series. For more information, call the museum at 983-9715.



Children's Programs

- **Wabi Sabi, Mondays at Thomas**
1 p.m.
- **Toddler Time, Mondays at Hageman** 10 a.m.
- **Tickle Tales, Tuesdays at Hageman** 10 a.m.
- **Play Date, Tuesdays at Hageman** 10:30 a.m.
- **Story Time, Tuesdays at Thomas** 1 p.m.
- **Tickle Tales, Wednesdays at Thomas** 10 a.m.
- **Stepping Stones, Wednesdays at Hageman** 11 a.m.
- **Toddler Time, Thursdays at Thomas** 10 a.m.
- **Story Time, Thursdays at Hageman** 1 p.m.
- **Toddler Time, Fridays at Thomas** 10 a.m.