

# Between Friends

## Newsletter of the Friends of the Library

Winter 2010



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### From the Director

Sara Laughlin, *MCPL Director*

Think about the inventory challenges that a grocery or hardware store faces – thousands of items, each with a specific shelf location and price. New items are constantly arriving, requiring constant restocking so that customers can purchase them and take the items home.

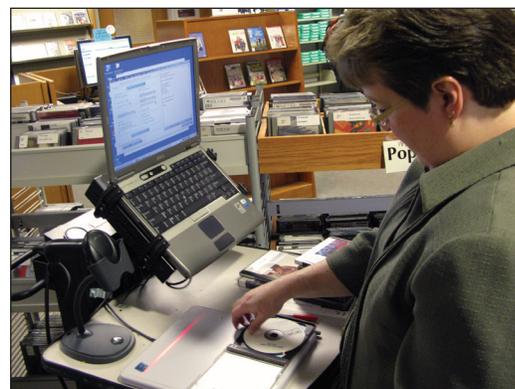
Now think about the Library's inventory challenge. Keeping up with our inventory (i.e., books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, etc.) is doubly complicated. For us, it's a two-way street. In addition to our adding new titles and patrons checking out materials every day, the materials also come back! They must be checked in and reshelved (which sometimes involves routing to another floor or another facility). Turnaround time is critical at check-in and shelving because there are frequently other patrons waiting for these same materials.

Two years ago, a Library team began investigating Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) as a means of streamlining check-out, check-in, and sorting of our 500,000 items.

Under the leadership of Collection Services manager Pam Wasmer and Circulation supervisor Mary Loro, team members took an online course, read articles about RFID technology, and talked with RFID vendors at the Public Library Association conference. They visited libraries with RFID and materials handling systems and calculated return on investment. Last spring, they requested proposals from vendors and selected Integrated Technology Group. In March, the Board of Trustees accepted the team's recommendation to switch from the Library's current barcode inventory system to an RFID-enabled system with automated materials handling.

The first step in implementing the new RFID system was to tag each item in our collection. As I write this article, we have tagged almost every book, movie, and music CD in the Main Library collection and are making a final push to complete the tagging in Ellettsville. If you have noticed pairs of library employees and volunteers with a mobile computer cart in the stacks, then you know that tagging requires handling each and every item.

The second step included installing new security gates at the Kirkwood Avenue and parking lot entrances at the Main Library and in Ellettsville during the second week of November. That week, we also added the software and equipment that made our check-out stations RFID-compatible. When the tagging is complete, we will be able to "turn on" the RFID software.



Pam Wasmer, Collection Services manager, tags audio materials in preparation for the new RFID system.

Third, in early 2011 we will install automated materials handling equipment in the circulation areas on the first and second floor of the Main Library and at the Ellettsville Branch. At that point, most items will be checked in when they go through the return slot, and the equipment will sort them for faster shelving.

This new system offers tremendous benefits for both the Library and our patrons:

- Time savings at check-out. Patrons can check out an entire stack of books, movies, or music at one time, without having to find the barcode, orient the item, and scan it.
- Instant check-in, removing the items from a patron's record and reducing the need for employees to spend time completing this routine task.
- Faster turnaround in shelving so that items are available for the next patron more quickly. With returned items pre-sorted, those on hold can be handled immediately, and others can be delivered to the appropriate floor, facility, or department for shelving.

We are excited to bring this new technology and its promised efficiencies to the Library and our patrons. Of course, our courteous and knowledgeable staff will continue to provide any assistance you need. ■



Monroe County  
Public Library  
303 E. Kirkwood Ave.  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
812-349-3050

Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul. —Joyce Carol Oates

## Identity and the Power of Words 2011: James McBride

Ellie Craig, *Friends Intern*

The Friends Author Event Committee has been hard at work selecting an author for the 2011 Power of Words event. We began by compiling lists of authors. Committee members shared their recent favorites, authors known for their speaking talents, female authors, and authors relevant to Monroe County. Together, we looked at all aspects of the authors to determine who would be the best fit for 2011. The committee wanted an author who would:

- Appeal to a wide audience
- Speak about a weighty, relevant topic
- Present powerful, stunning writing
- Engage with the audience and have great presentation skills
- Have a point of connection with the Bloomington community



American Program Bureau Photo

In addition, we wanted an author whose works were available in a wide variety of formats: large print, paperback, audio book, and perhaps even film adaptations. Last, but not least, we wanted an author whose price was within our means.

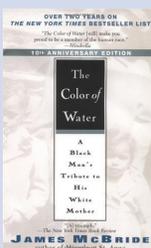
Through the summer months, we read the books of our top authors—about twelve in all. We read books that ranged from mystery and suspense to historical fiction and memoir. We researched the authors, learned that they were not just authors but food critics and jazz musicians, and even inquired how they had been received at other speaking engagements.

In early September, we narrowed the list to three authors and discussed and debated their merits and talents, what

they could bring to Bloomington, and why they were the best fit for our library. We took a vote and are pleased to announce that James McBride will be our Power of Words speaker at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater on **Saturday, November 12, 2011.**

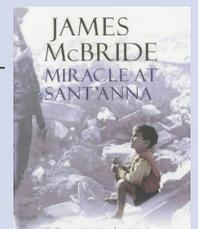
James McBride is the author of *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, *Miracle at St. Anna*, and *Song Yet Sung*. He is also a jazz musician and composer who has written several award-winning scores for musical theatre as well as songs for Grover Washington Jr., Anita Baker, and PBS's *Barney*.

The Author Event Committee will be asking Friends to help with the event. We need volunteers to help usher at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater, distribute publicity, take tickets at the reception, help with food at the reception, and more. We anticipate our best event ever and hope that you will support and volunteer in these efforts to make this one of the best gifts to our community yet. For more information, contact chairperson Patty Callison at [pattcall@yahoo.com](mailto:pattcall@yahoo.com). ■



**The Color of Water** A *New York Times* bestseller for two years...It tells the story of James McBride and his white, Jewish mother Ruth. Ruth was born in Poland and raised in Suffolk, VA, the daughter of an itinerant rabbi and a loving, disabled mother who spoke no English. At 17, Ruth fled the South, landed in Harlem, married a black man in 1941, founded a church, was twice widowed and raised 12 children in New York City...Lavishly praised by critics, embraced by millions of readers, this tribute to a remarkable woman helped set the standard for modern day memoir writing.

**Miracle at St. Anna** Set in Italy during World War II, *Miracle at St. Anna* is the story of a six-year-old Italian orphan who befriends a shy, giant Negro soldier named Sam Train of the all-black 92nd Infantry Buffalo Division. The child harbors a special gift, and leads Train and his squad into Tuscany's Serchio Valley, a land of friendship, tragedy, kindness and hope. Based on true events, *Miracle at St. Anna* will send your heart soaring. It is a hymn to the goodness of humanity and infinite possibilities that exist within the hearts of men and women.



**Song Yet Sung** In the tense days before the civil war, a slave breakout in the cryptic swamps of Maryland's Eastern shore sets loose a riveting drama of violence, hope and redemption between slave catchers, plantation owners, watermen, runaway slaves, and free blacks. Filled with rich history...and told in McBride's signature lyrical style, *Song Yet Sung* brings into full view a world long misunderstood in American fiction: Slavery's haunting choices, pressing both whites and blacks to search for relief in a world where all seemed to lose their moral compass. This is a story of tragic triumph, violent decisions, and unexpected kindness.

Excerpts courtesy of [www.jamesmcbride.com](http://www.jamesmcbride.com)

A library is not simply a repository of books, it is the symbol and center of our culture... a door and a window for those who might not otherwise have such doors and windows. —Amy Tan



## Friends of the Library CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE

focus on children

Becky Hrisomalos and Charlotte Zietlow, *Campaign for Excellence Co-Chairs*

**Y**ou did it! With your support, the Friends of the Library Campaign for Excellence raised \$26,415 for the Library and the Children's Endowment. Nearly 250 donors gave generously while hundreds more purchased stars in someone's name to add to the cause. According to your wishes, the Children's Endowment will be increased by \$4,078 with dividends going to Children's programming annually; \$7,537 will go directly to Children's Services for collections and programming in 2011; and \$14,800 will go to the Library "wherever the need is greatest." These funds will be used, among other ways, to support the VITAL program to encourage literacy in adults who can then help their children, and to fulfill patron requests for

new books, movies, and music to add to our collection.

We chaired the Campaign because we believe libraries enrich lives, create opportunities, and open a world of possibilities for everyone in our community — especially children and families. Monroe County Public Library is a special place and we are proud to have been spokespersons for the Friends of the Library 2010 Campaign for Excellence.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generosity and support. You are the community's and the library's best friends! ■

**Question: What's better than six laptop computers?**

**Answer: Eight!**

Thanks to the Campaign for Excellence, two new laptops will be added to the computer lab at the Ellettsville Branch. The lab, originally funded by a literacy grant from the Wahl Family Trust and the generosity of private donors, serves the branch's Reading and Writing Homework Help for Teens Program. Librarians also use the laptops to offer free public computing classes. At the beginning of the school year, teen librarian Chris Hosler taught classes to help RBBSC parents set up accounts to access the school corporation's new online programs. With additional computers from the Campaign, even more students, parents and community members can take advantage of these free library programs.

— Penny Gillie, *Ellettsville Librarian*

## Thank You Campaign for Excellence Donors!

James and Tomilea Allison  
Salih and Amal Altoma  
Anonymous  
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Laura Kao  
Idalene Kesner and Paul Robins  
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*Campaign Donors continued on page 4*

Our Mission: The Monroe County Library Foundation supports and advocates for the patrons and staff of the Library by enhancing Library collections and facilities, and by contributing to Library programming and professional staff development.

## Welcome New Friends!

The Board of Directors extends their heartfelt thanks to all of our current Friends of the Library members and donors who give so generously to support our mission to make our Library a vital part of our community. The board welcomes our newest Friends who have joined us since June, 2010.

### New Members

Mariana Belmonte  
 Charlie and Christie Bowman  
 Charlene and Mark Brown  
 Brittany D. Friesner  
 Paula A. Griesel  
 Elsa Marston Harik  
 Ann and Jim Heath  
 Wanda Hibbitts  
 Julia Karr  
 Charles Kennedy  
 David Keppel  
 Paul E. Lane  
 Dot and Sam Mallor  
 Mary E. McGann  
 Nazareth Pantaloni, III  
 Randy G. Paul  
 Ann and Gary Schepper

Julia Slaymaker  
 Janet C. Stavropoulos  
 Christa Stone  
 Richard and Susan Stryker  
 Paula W. Sunderman  
 Charlotte Willian  
 Michael Zieger

### Dine Out Partners

Bucceto's Smiling Teeth  
 Pizza & Pasta  
 One World Enterprises  
 Scotty's Brewhouse

### Honorary Gifts In Honor of MCPL Staff

Jim and Dana Burton  
 Lisa Champelli

### Donors

Bloomington Hospital  
 Community Health  
 Dan and Debbi Conkle  
 Harriet and Bill Fierman  
 Sophia Hauserman  
 Julia Karr  
 David Keppel  
 Michelle Martin-Colman  
 Mitchell and Judy Novit  
 Joan and Cliff Travis

### Memorial Gifts

#### In Memory of Marcia Gaar (Johnson) Lemon

Ruth Hester

#### In Memory of Katelyn Elisabeth Miller

Colin Fraizer  
 R. Gary Parker

Mique and Mike Van Vooren  
 Beverlee Vance  
 John Vint  
 Peter and Katherine Wallskog  
 Betsy S. Walsh  
 Helena Walsh  
 John and Michelle Walsh  
 Hank and Elizabeth Rubin Walter  
 Carolyn and Buck Walters  
 Sherry Watkins  
 Betsy and Jim Watson  
 Dave and Gail Weaver  
 Fran and Gene Weinberg  
 Mr. Alex Wenner  
 Basil Wentworth  
 Ron White  
 William and Mary Wiatt  
 Winifred G. Wickes  
 Barbara Wilcox  
 Cy and Nitsa Williams  
 Guadalupe Wilson  
 Bill and Victoria Witte  
 Gary and Mildred Wittlich  
 Natalie Wrubel  
 W/S Property Group  
 Charlotte and Paul Zietlow  
 Evelyn Zolan

### Honorary Gifts

#### In Honor of Janice Skinner's Birthday

Nola Hartman

#### In Honor of the Teachers at St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten

Ana Maria Pardo

#### Grant from Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award

Scott Russell Sanders

We strive for accuracy in our records. Kindly contact us via e-mail <FOL@mcpl.info> or phone 812-349-3050, ext. 1080, regarding incorrect listings.

### In Memory of Duncan Theobald Kinkead

Andrews, Harrell, Mann, Carmin &  
 Parker PC  
 John C. Haury and Jan Atkins  
 Michael Bernens  
 Marsha R. Bradford  
 Jim and Dana Burton  
 Judie Butcher  
 Dan and Debbi Conkle  
 Mimi and Marc Dollinger  
 Michael Fridkin  
 Louise Schlesinger, Ralph Gaebler,  
 Harry Gaebler  
 Dawn Hewitt  
 Maeve Kinkead and Family  
 Geraldine Koenig  
 Patricia Kostik  
 Thomas and Kate Nye  
 Bill and Phyllis Perkins  
 Dorothy Whetstone



Friends of the Library

CAMPAIGN FOR EXCELLENCE



## Campaign for Excellence Donors, continued



Joshua Wolf, Children's Department Manager, thanks Helena Walsh, Friends President, for Campaign for Excellence support.

Melissa Pogue  
 Evelyn Powers  
 Paul and Donna Purdom  
 Phil and Eva Rambo  
 Katy and Ken Ratcliff  
 Mike and Mary Jean Regoli and Family  
 William A. Corsaro and Vickie Renfrow  
 Eunyoung Rey  
 Gwyn and Barbara Richards  
 Mark Richardson  
 Thayer and Ginny Richey  
 Mary Anne Riley  
 Fred and Pegi Risinger  
 Mara Lea Rosenbarger  
 Wendy and Dick Rubin in celebration  
 of Aliya, Ben and Maya  
 Sarah Ryterband  
 Darlene J. Sadlier  
 Scott and Ruth Sanders

Chuck and Susan Sater  
 James and Eileen Schellhammer  
 Aidan and Campbell  
 Scott-Harmon  
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 Gracia Valliant

## Campaign Funds for Children

Thanks to the generous contributions of so many community members, we will be able to train Homework Center tutors to provide free literacy training and homework help for school age children.

With campaign funds, we will be able to refresh our Learn and Play Space furniture in 2011.

This year, campaign funds will provide books and pamphlets for new parents and caregivers attending our *Every Child Ready to Read* workshops. Since 85% of human brain development occurs within the first three years of life, we're grateful for the opportunity to pass on vital early literacy skills by getting books and information into the right hands at the right time. — Joshua Wolf, *Children's Department Manager*

When I got my library card, that's when my life began. —Rita Mae Brown



## Meet the Friends Board: Joe Lee

Ellie Craig, *Friends Intern*

Joe Lee is a local artist and illustrator and a Friend of the Library. You may know Joe's work from the Saturday Opinion page of the *Herald-Times*, or perhaps from the pages of *Our Brown County* which features many of his illustrations. Joe Lee has also been a student of medieval history, a clown with the Ringling Brothers, and is a member of the Friends Board of Directors. When Joe speaks about these many experiences, one common theme appears—the importance of libraries throughout his life.

Joe grew up in a family of readers. After a day of working at the lumberyard, Joe's father often took him to the Worthington library. Joe found a favorite book in Andrew Lang's *Tales of the Round Table*, which he remembers checking out "at least forty-five times." Joe started drawing after reading this book because, "it was a way that I could enter the world of knighthood growing up in Greene County." Librarian Mary Ropp began to encourage his drawing and helped to inspire Joe's lifelong love of art. She would often hang his drawings on the walls of the library and sometimes she even ordered books that she thought "well, surely somebody else will like them, but I know Joe will like them." Mrs. Ropp often let him explore the basement of Worthington's Carnegie Library, where "there were old *National Geographic* magazines from the opening of King Tut's tomb—just being down there and seeing everything was like being in King Tut's tomb to me."

Joe's path took him to Indiana University where he majored in medieval history though he knew he wanted to work in the arts. Joe's parents moved to Monroe County, and he and his father continued visiting their local library on Kirkwood because they were "used to going to libraries and spending a lot of time in libraries, and this is really the anchor, right here in the middle of town." Joe's father even began to volunteer at the library on Saturday mornings showing cartoons in the Children's Room.

After graduating from IU, Joe went to clown college and began performing with several traveling circuses. He has fond memories of setting up the big tent in the morning and finishing chores by early afternoon, because that meant the performers could visit the local library. It was a familiar place to Joe, one where you didn't feel the pressure of being in a bookstore, "where you could just see what was happening." Wanting to return to art, Joe moved to New York City working as an artist and illustrator, and there, too, he had a library card.

In 1987 Joe returned to Bloomington, and within the week had a card for Monroe County Public Library. Today, Joe still carries this "vintage" card. He visits the library almost weekly to check out the new arrivals shelves or to pick up a book related to things he's thinking about—right now that's puppetry. Knowing he was devoted to libraries, Dana Burton suggested he might be a good candidate for a seat on the Friends board—and Joe was happy to accept.

Just a few weeks ago, Joe's work was featured on bookmarks given to members at the Friends of the Library renovation reception and on two large banners that hang on the second floor. He drew his inspiration for the bookmark from the idea that libraries open our minds to so many different things, begin turning cogs and running the machinery, allowing us to see the world in a variety of ways. "But," he says, "there is also a bluebird being set free from a cage at the top... there's that freedom of imagination that gets set loose." Joe said that for him, "libraries have been a really important resource and a great place to nurture one's mind. I'm happy to be a part of this library." ■



Friends Board member, Joe Lee, with his wife Bess and son Brandon.



During the Friends tour of the renovated library, members Shirley Fitzgibbons and Nancy Lair take in the banner designed by Joe Lee hanging in the New Arrivals area.



## The Perfect Gift

Just in time for the holidays or any gift-giving occasion, the Friends now offer a Gift Membership Package. It is a perfect gift for the person in your life who is passionate about books and libraries.

### Our new Gift Membership Package includes:

- A personalized card announcing the gift and membership category
- An invitation to a new member tea and behind-the-scenes tour of the Library. As the gift donor, you will also be invited!
- Membership gifts: A special canvas tote and Friends of the Library window decal
- A year of Friends opportunities and activities: Friends and Library program announcements, invitations to volunteer or shop at the Friends Bookstore and spectacular clearance sales, *Between Friends* newsletters, dine-out dates, and the upcoming Power of Words evening with nationally acclaimed author James McBride.



We'll mail the gift package to you or directly to the new member. Add to your gift by purchasing gift items from the Friends Bookstore: Friends note cards, t-shirts, caps, backpacks, or gift certificates. In a hurry? Arrange to pick

up your gift from the Friends Office. To order Gift Membership packages, visit our webpage <mcpl.info/friends>; call the Friends office, 349-3050, ext 1080; or send us an email <fol@mcpl.info>. ■

### Bookstore Hours

Tuesdays..... 9 am–7 pm  
 Thursdays..... Noon–7 pm  
 Saturdays..... Noon–5 pm

The Friends Bookstore is located on the first floor of Monroe County Public Library, at the back of Movies and Music.

## Dine Out and Support the Friends!

Our Dine Out for the Friends nights have been a tremendous success. You have helped the Friends raise nearly \$1,000 by dining out at Bucceto's, Lennie's, and Scotty's Brewhouse. Our next Dine Out will take place at both Bucceto's locations **Tuesday, January 25th, 4 pm to 10 pm, dine in or carry out.** Bucceto's will donate 20% of what you spend to the Friends!



Download a flyer from our website <mcpl.info/friends> and share it with your friends. ■

## Bookstore Clearance Sale!

Thank you for your support of the Bookstore Clearance Sale. Thanks to our many patrons, the October sale raised more than \$3,500 which will be used to support library needs.

The next Bookstore Clearance Sale will be March 25-28, 2011. Don't miss the great bargains!

If you are interested in helping to set up or in working at the sale, please contact Barbara Wilcox at wilcox@indiana.edu ■

### Friends of the Library Bookstore Coupon

\$1 off any item



\$1 off any item

Expires January 31, 2011

# Friends of the Library

## 2011 Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print name as it should appear in our publications)*

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*(to receive special advocacy and event notices)* w10nl

- We would like to list Friends' members annually, in our newsletter. Please check the box if you **DO NOT** wish to be listed.
- I would like a free book bag with my membership donation.

### Please tell us about yourself *(Check all that apply)*

- New Member     Renewing Member
- I am MCPL staff     I am an MCPL volunteer
- Contact me about volunteer opportunities.

These are the library services that I use:     Main Library     VITAL  
 Ellettsville Branch     Bookmobile     Library Website     CATS TV

**Join or donate online!**  
[mcpl.info/friends](http://mcpl.info/friends)

### Annual Membership Type Please check one:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Benefactor \$1000
- Benefactor \$500
- Patron \$250
- Supporting \$100
- Business \$100
- Sustaining \$50
- Individual/Family \$25
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Donation

- I would like to make a donation to the Friends. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to support the Power of Words: James McBride \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to Friends of the Library and mail to:**

303 E Kirkwood Ave  
 Bloomington IN 47408

### Thank you!

The Friends of the Library is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. All membership donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.