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INSIDE

THIS ISSUE:

Who is a
"Friend?" 2

Did You
Know? 2

Library
Events 3

Reader's
Corner 3

Membership
Information 4

Set Your Reading Resolutions

The start of a new year ushers in the reminder for many to not only reflect upon the highs and lows of the past 12 months, but to focus on new goals and accomplishments. As you sit down to create your list of annual resolutions, don't forget to include reading.

You probably already know all about the power of the written word—its ability to take you to new worlds and teach you about unlimited topics. Return the favor, and make your reading habits a focus in 2009.

If you are at a loss as to where to begin, consider these suggestions.

- Try out a new genre. You may be pleasantly surprised with your selection and find a new interest. At the very least, you'll learn about another variety of books and probably be able to use that information in a conversation down the road.
- Pick up that classic that you've been meaning to read for years, and discover why the selection earned its reputation.
- Reread a favorite book from your childhood. You'll be amazed at the memories that come flooding back with each turn of the page.
- Seek out a new author, and make your way through the various titles.
- Start a book club. Invite a few friends or acquaintances to talk about the book selection. Since you planned the occasion, you can even pick the first book!
- Pass on the title of a favorite book to a friend, and send them to the Richardson Public Library to check it out. Share your love of books, reading and the Friends of the Library with your friends!

Friends Newsletter Going Electronic

As indicated in the last Friends of the Library newsletter, this publication is going digital. Most of you received the newsletter via email or picked up a copy in the library. If you have not yet shared your email

address, please do so today. This will ensure that you continue to be one of the first to hear about what's going on with the Friends. Send your email address to FriendsoftheRichardsonLibrary@gmail.com.

Who is a “Friend?”



“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go”

- Dr. Seuss

Everyone is familiar with the term friend. If lucky enough, they may even have a few special ones of their own. Early in life individuals group off with others of common interest or with those that possess some intriguing appeal. It does not take long for youngsters to declare a specific friend as their “best.” That label may change owners multiple times during childhood, but people continually gravitate towards the interaction and rewards that accompany friendship. And while friends may come and go, the importance of friends—whether one dear or fifty scattered—tends to remain a theme throughout our lives.

In terms of the library, “friends” can also be referred to as advocates. Not only does a friend of the library appreciate and respect the institution, a friend publicly supports and pro-

notes the interests, causes and events of that organization. Without such support, the library could suffer. With such support, the library often gains the ability to build on already successful programs and test out new ideas with a vested group of supporters.

As a friend, you have already publicly declared your appreciation of the library. Now don’t forget the advocacy portion of your commitment. Visit the library, attend special events and volunteer to help out where needed. Do you have a neighbor or acquaintance who also regularly utilizes the library or enjoys library-sponsored events? Educate that individual on how they can further support the library by officially becoming a Friend. The bigger the circle of friends, the more impact the Friends of the Library can make in this community.

Did You Know?

While you may frequent the library regularly, do you know the history of the Richardson Public Library?

- The RPL opened in 1947 as part of the Dallas County Library system.
 - The library first occupied a few crowded shelves in the back of Cash Dry Goods store, with the store proprietor also serving as librarian.
 - The initial library collection included just 400 selections.
 - Eventually a city ordinance recognized the library as an official city department.
- In 1959, citizens carried the books from the dry goods store to the RPL’s first official residence.
- After the library outgrew this space, it moved into the current location in 1970.
- Initially the RPL just occupied two floors and a portion of the third.
- Eventually all spaces were renovated and put to use.
- In 2008, the library set a new record for the number of items circulated in a fiscal year when the 1 millionth item was checked out this past fall.



READ ON, FRIENDS!

Upcoming Events at the Richardson Library

Monday, Jan. 5
Family Storytime
6:45 - 7:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 7
First Wednesday Book Club
Suite Francaise, Irene Nemirovsky
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10
Magic School for Teens & Tweens
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 14
BOOKbabble Book Discussion
Look Me in the Eye, John Elder
Robinson
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16
Job Searching on the Internet
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17
Introduction to the Internet
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 21
BOOKbabble Book Discussion
The Time Traveler's Wife,
Audrey Nittenegger
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23
Searching on the Internet
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 25

Tales for Tails
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 27
BOOKbabble at Nite
Loving Frank, Nancy Horan
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 30
Introduction to Microsoft Word
9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31
Introduction to Microsoft Excel
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7
Heart-y Arty Valentine's Day
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

For additional details, including locations and reservation information, visit www.cor.net/library or call 972.348.4350.

Reader's Corner: What Your Friends are Reading...

Kim Aaron

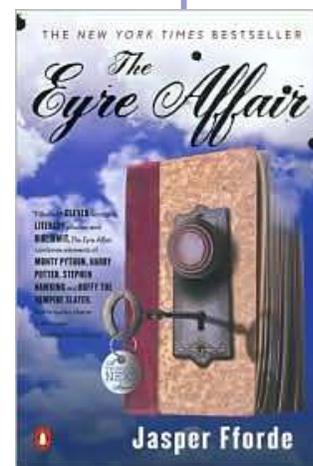
Director, Institute of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Dallas

Friends of the Library Board Member
Kim Aaron recently finished reading
The Eyre Affair by Jasper Fforde.

Set in Great Britain in the mid-1980's, this book follows the adventures of literary detective Thursday Next. In her fantasy world where literature is taken very seriously, the novel easily accepts time travel and cloning without a second thought. However, the

adventure truly begins when Jane Eyre is kidnapped from the pages of Charlotte Brontë's treasured novel. Now Thursday is faced with the challenge of a lifetime!

Between text book reading in preparation for teaching courses at UTD, Kim next plans to reread all of Jane Austen's novels.



***The Eyre Affair*
By Jasper Fforde**

Friends of the Richardson Library

Richardson Public Library
900 Civic Center Drive
Richardson, TX 75080

972.744.4350

FriendsoftheRichardsonLibrary@gmail.com

Library Hours

Sunday	2 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday - Thursday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday - Saturday	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Join Us!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Enclosed is my membership for:

Individual - \$10

Family - \$25

Please make checks payable to "Friends of the Richardson Library." Return form and payment to:

FOL Membership
900 Civic Center Dr
Richardson, TX 75080

The FOL is a 501(c)3 organization.

Friends of the Library
900 Civic Center Drive
Richardson, TX 75080

Read On, Friends!