

Today in EYE-OPENER June 20, 2016

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1) At Cherokee PL, a Fond Farewell: Northwest libraries are cordially invited to a **retirement reception for Mary Jo Ruppert at Cherokee Public Library**. The Cherokee PL board and staff are honoring Mary Jo with a retirement open house on **June 24** from **3:00-6:00PM**; she is retiring after 32 years of service.

Mary Jo worked at Sioux City PL for a few years before moving to Cherokee; once there, she started as children's librarian, becoming director upon the retirement of Pat Ellerbroek. Without question, the biggest career achievement in her tenure was overseeing the major expansion of the original Carnegie building. Cherokee PL's building project resulted in one of the most beautiful Carnegie adaptations / expansions in the state. And without question, Mary Jo's best personal achievement during her tenure was meeting and marrying her husband Ron Ruppert, whom she met at the library. That's one of my favorite connections, because that's how Ron McKewon and I met—at the Sioux City Public Library 😊

Mary Jo penned her last newspaper column last week, saying this about her many years working in libraries: *"... With the exception of few short weeks at retail, I have never worked anywhere but in a library of some kind. After a brief thought of becoming a kindergarten teacher, I never considered anything outside of the library field...I have had a fulfilling and successful career and I leave satisfied that I've been in the right place at the right time..."*

Something I'm most grateful for over the years is her genuine, steadfast support of regional and State Library services. Speaking as a friend and colleague for many years, you will be truly missed among us—congratulations, Mary Jo!



2) ARSL Conference 2016 in Fargo: This fall, the ARSL annual conference will be held in Fargo (ND) October 27-29. The letters stand for Association for Rural and Small Libraries, the group stands for meeting the education needs and interests of small libraries across the country. From the website www.arsl.org "... *The Association for Rural & Small Libraries provides resources and support that empower those in small and rural libraries to deliver excellent service for their communities. As the premier organization representing rural and small libraries, ARSL recognizes the uniqueness of small and rural libraries and is committed to providing an environment that encourages excellence within this community of practice, supporting their goals of service and speaking on behalf of this important constituency...*"

This year's conference theme is "North of Normal." From this webpage, <http://arsl.info/2016-conference-sessions/> watch an invitational video and click the SESSION DESCRIPTIONS link to learn about the many programs in the works. Among them:

- Teenagers Assemble
- Backpacks and Cache Boxes
- Pop-Up Libraries
- Trivia Night with Kahoot
- Be Your Own Graphic Designer
- Digital Storytelling

Libraries in western Iowa should be nicely positioned to take advantage of this national conference in Fargo—from Sioux City, Fargo is 325 miles, roughly 100 miles farther than Des Moines. The Fargo Holiday Inn is the conference venue. Registration information here <http://arsl.info/2016-conference/> and note that the registration fee includes 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and a Saturday brunch. Check out ARSL's 2016 annual conference and make plans to journey "North of Normal" ☺

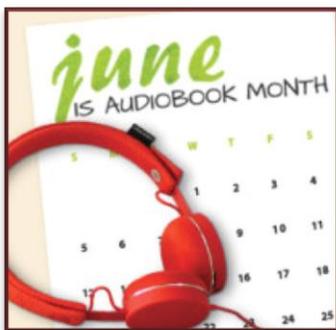


3) Finch Robot Program: This story comes courtesy of Beth Reineke, assistant director at Estherville Public Library. Beth writes that Estherville PL has 10 Finch robots on loan over the summer as part of their SRP programming. BirdBrain Technologies is the company behind the

Finch robots; the company sent one robot to the EPL to experiment with first prior to starting the loan program.

From the website <http://www.birdbraintechnologies.com/> *"... The Finch is a small robot designed to inspire and delight students learning computer science by providing them a tangible and physical representation of their code. The Finch robot has support for over a dozen programming languages, including environments appropriate for students as young as five years old. If you are looking for an engaging computer science learning experience, check out the Finch!..."*

While the next chance to apply for the library loan program is May 2017, the Finch Robots are available for purchase for \$99.00. Estherville PL was part of the loan program this year, Beth is happy to answer any questions (beth.reineke@estherville.lib.ia.us) To learn more about the library loan program, visit this FAQ page <http://www.finchrobot.com/loan-program/faq>



4) June is National Audiobook Month: OverDrive, Audiobooks.Com, Books On Tape, and ALA are just a few of the sponsors behind **National Audiobook Month** in June. With summer vacations on the rise, it's an appropriate month for this promotion—a good chance to spotlight audiobooks @ your library.

Books on Tape website has an article to help with those promotions: **"11 Ways to Celebrate 'June is Audiobook Month' @ Your Library."** From the article by Kristen Luby *"... With numerous literacy benefits and high entertainment*

value, audiobooks are heating up headphones across the country. Celebrate the art of storytelling this June by promoting the audiobook format at your library—new listeners and audiophiles alike will want to join in the fun..."

Here are just three ideas from Luby's article:

- Remind patrons to pack an audiobook for their next trip by adding audiobooks to your travel displays.
- Are the titles chosen for your summer book discussions also available in audiobook format? If so, be sure to remind patrons of that format option
- Don't underestimate the CD: according to the 2015 Audio Publishers Association consumer survey, 44% stated the CD was their primary format for listening. And 20-out-of-25 of America's most popular cars still come equipped with CD players

Read the full article here <http://www.booksontape.com/june-is-audiobook-month> ...and have fun with **Audiobook Month @ Your Library!**

5) Meetings / Events This Week: The 8th annual TICL Conference—Technology Integration for the 21st Century Learner—happens Monday-Tuesday this week; TICL is sponsored by Northwest and Prairie Lakes AEA.

An online discussion of the book 13 Ways to Kill Your Community takes place Thursday evening from 6:00-7:30PM. And a retirement reception for Mary Jo Ruppert at Cherokee PL is set for Friday June 24, 3:00-6:00PM.

A few more national webinars finish out the month; find descriptions and registration instructions <http://www.statelibraryofia.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

June 22. 11:00AM-12:00PM. *Managing Opposites: How Introverts and Extroverts Can Achieve Extraordinary Results Together* sponsored by American Management Association <http://www.amanet.org/news/events-calendar.aspx>

June 22. 12:00-1:00PM. *After the Gift: How to Build a Satisfied, Loyal Donor Base* by 4Good <https://4good.org/explore/latest/webinars>

June 22. 4:00-5:00PM. *A Year in the Life of a New Makerspace* sponsored by edWeb <http://www.edweb.net/emergingtech>

June 24. 1:00-2:00PM. *People—Difficult or Different* sponsored by Effectiveness Institute http://www.effectivenessinstitute.com/index.php?option=com_dtregister&Itemid=54



Monday Morning Eye-Opener Editor:

Bonnie McKewon

Iowa Library Services, Northwest District Office.

529 Pierce Street, Sioux City, IA 51101

866-642-7920 / bonnie.mckewon@lib.state.ia.us