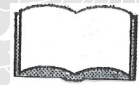




the Bookmark

A quarterly publication
of Macomb Public
Library's
Friends of the Library



SPRING 2015

Balsamo to Address Ongoing Impact of the Civil War



Dr. Larry Balsamo
Photo courtesy of Western Illinois University Visual
Production Center

The FOMPL Annual dinner meeting to be held on Thursday, April 16th will feature Dr. Larry Balsamo as its guest speaker. In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln (both in April of 1865), Dr. Balsamo will address "the impact of the Civil War 150 years later."

Dr. Balsamo was born and raised in Columbia, Missouri. He received three History degrees from the University of Missouri in Columbia, his Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD. He taught for over 40 years at Western Illinois University serving as the History Department Chair from 1999 until his retirement in 2008. He is a recognized scholar in the

areas of Civil War and reconstruction and the life of Abraham Lincoln. His courses were educational, entertaining, and S.R.O. He received the WIU Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award in 1990.

In addition to his WIU teaching and administrative duties, Dr. Balsamo is published in both the Journal of Southern History, and the Journal of the State of Illinois Historical Society. For many years, he was the organizer of the annual History Conference that was attended by historians from across the state. He has also taught popular classes in the LIFE (Learning is Forever) program.

An accomplished speaker and scholar, Dr. Balsamo's presentation promises to be an excellent way to top off the Friends' annual meeting and dinner. His program is scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and is open to the public at no charge.

The annual meeting will be held in the dining room of the Macomb Country Club. It is on the second level and is accessible from the south entrance for those with mobility concerns. Please let us know if you will require that entrance so we can provide you with assistance.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

DATE

APRIL 16, 2015

PLACE

MACOMB COUNTRY CLUB

5:00 P.M.

SOCIAL HOUR BEGINS

5:45 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING-TREASURER'S
YEARLY REPORT AND ELECTIONS

SLATE OF CANDIDATES:

LAURA EGLER

KATE JOSWICK

BECKY PARKER

KAREN PROULX

PAULA WISE

6:00 P.M.

DINNER

7:00 P.M.

LECTURE BY DR. LARRY BALSAMO

DINNER MENU

- DINNER SALAD & ROLL
- CHOICE OF DELMONICO STEAK,
CHICKEN THESSALY OR PASTA
PRIMAVERA
- ROASTED REDSKIN POTATOES
- BROCCOLI
- COFFEE, TEA, WATER
- ASSORTED CHEESE CAKE

DINNER \$25

RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER MUST
BE RECEIVED BY
APRIL 6, 2015.

2015 Summer Reading Program Promises Musical Fun

Read to the Rhythm is the theme for the 2015 Summer Reading Program. We have lots of summer fun planned for kids. Some of our guest readers for StoryTime include Sondra Mosley, Bill Maakestad, Barnyard Guitars staff, and Ukulele Macomb members. If you would like to volunteer or

know someone who is musically talented, plays an instrument, or would just like to read a story, please let Margaret know. StoryTime is every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-10:30 am. We will also be having crafts for kids for ages 2-4, 5-9, and 10-12. Summer Reading Program starts June 1 through July 31.



Friends of the Macomb Public Library

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www.macomblibraryfriends.org

President's Report

Dear Friends,

An article in the March 2015 issue of The Rotarian, the Rotary Magazine is titled, "In Praise of Libraries." Written by Joe Queenan, the article begins "The Public Library is the only civic institution in my community that is uncompromisingly successful."

Queenan states that many people are unhappy with the police department, the planning board, and the public schools in his town but no one ever says negative things about the public library.

Libraries are important community institutions. They offer knowledge in the form of books and newspapers. They provide a window to the world not only through printed materials and atlases, but also by offering the use of computers to residents. They provide story hours for preschoolers, summer reading programs for school-aged children, as well as meeting places for book clubs. Modern libraries even provide entertainment through the loaning of dvds and audio books. And I haven't even mentioned the librarians who provide so much valuable information to the public.

Queenan's article points out that the public library is truly public – open to all – and it is free. It doesn't matter how you are dressed, how much money you make, or how you get there. The library welcomes you.

This year, the Macomb Public Library has provided us all with a view of construction but it has remained open throughout. I don't know about you, but I can't wait until the renovations are completed and the remodeled library is fully functioning once again in one location!

- Paula Wise

The Great Reads Book Club Schedule

The Great Reads reading group has the following schedule for the remainder of the current season. The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Everly House, 811 S. Lafayette.

April 8	Doig, Ivan	<i>The House of Sky</i>	Nancy Coney
May 13	Morrison Toni	<i>Sula</i>	Helena Lira

Mystery Book Club Schedule

The Mystery Book Club meets in the City Hall Meeting Room from 7-8 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. These are the remaining selections for the 2013-2014 Mystery Book Club:

March 25	Mankell, Henning	<i>Faceless Killer</i>	Mel Kerr
April 22	Anthony, Michael David	<i>The Beckett Factor</i>	Bill Burton
May 27	Penny, Louise	<i>A Trick of the Light</i>	Julie Tomlianovich

An Inside Look at our Book Clubs

The **Great Reads Book Club** continues its lively discussions of notable books every second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at its temporary location at the Everly House. Between 10 and 20 members come together under a discussion leader to share views, experiences and reactions related to the book-of-the-month. Book selections are made by the members' anonymous nominations with final voting directed by Polly Upton, the Great Reads coordinator. Books for the two remaining meetings are: *This House of Sky* (April 8) and *Sula* (May 13). All are welcome for an enjoyable, stimulating evening.

The **Mystery Book Club**, founded in 1998, meets for one hour at 7:00 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. We join with the Great Reads Book Club for an annual Christmas party and for a pot-luck gathering in July. The 15 club members determine the year's reading list in a three-stage process. First, members nominate mysteries they would like for the group to read. Then a ballot listing the books and a brief description of each is distributed. Finally, members vote. Each meeting is guided by a discussion leader who distributes handouts with information on the author as well as character descriptions and questions about the book.

Behind the Scenes: Book Donations

Yes! Donations of better-conditioned books, CDs, and DVDs have continued throughout the year. Thanks to Sam

Parker, Books Donations Manager for the Friends of the Library, the challenge for storage and work space has been resolved. Once or twice a week Sam and Becky pick up donations at the two library locations and move them to Sam's

art studio, 112 E. Washington. Then, Sam goes through each item pricing sale-able items and determining what goes to the train station, recycle bin (outdated, poor conditioned books) or to another

cause such as the prison reading project. Since there is not enough space at the studio for the Friend's

regular crew of 6 to 9 volunteers to work, books have been sorted by subject area and boxed by Elisa Rasmussen and Becky Parker. Large stacks of boxes of books and media trays have taken over the front two rooms of Sam's studio leaving

him the back room for his art. The Friends of the Library appreciate his generosity and encourage continued donations of better-conditioned materials as they wait to return to the Annex.



FRIENDS OF THE MACOMB PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL DINNER APRIL 16, 2015—RESERVATION FORM

NAME(S) _____

DINNER IS BUFFET-STYLE WITH THESE ENTREES (please indicate choices):

DELMONICO STEAK—*house cut rib eye seasoned & topped with herb butter* # _____

CHICKEN THESSALY—*char-grilled breast topped with sun dried tomatoes & goat cheese* # _____

PASTA PRIMAVERA—*vegetarian option of pasta and fresh vegetables* # _____

TOTAL NUMBER DINNER RESERVATIONS _____ at \$25.00 per person = Total Amount \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES 5/1/15-4/30/16 (complete form below & enter amount here) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed for Dinner & Membership \$ _____

Please check here if anyone in your party requires use of the handicapped accessible entrance ☐

Transportation to the handicapped accessible entrance will be available.

RSVP BY APRIL 6, 2015 FOR DINNER RESERVATIONS

**Make it easy on yourself!
Write ONE check for the
annual dinner and your
membership dues!**

Please return forms with payment to:

Friends of the Macomb Public Library
c/o Macomb Public Library
235 S. Lafayette
Macomb, IL 61455

Or -

Drop off with payment at the Library

The Macomb Public Library has many important projects in the works, and the Friends want to offer as much support as possible. To save the expense of printing and mailing AND to be kind to the environment, our newsletters are generally sent out via email. Please be sure to include your email address on the Application Form. If you don't have access to email, please check the box requesting a hard copy of the newsletter. Think green and be frugal—get your newsletter by email. Thanks!

Friends of the Macomb Public Library
Membership Form for 5/1/15-4/30/16

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is the following amount:

- ☐ Individual \$10.00
- ☐ Family \$15.00
- ☐ Supporting \$25.00
- ☐ Sustaining \$50.00
- ☐ Patron \$100.00

☐ I would like to receive a hard copy newsletter.

☐ I would like to contribute \$ _____

Membership runs May 1 to April 30. Please make checks payable to :

Friends of the Macomb Public Library
235 S. Lafayette • Macomb, IL 61455

Would you like to serve on a committee?

- ☐ Finance, Endowment
- ☐ Children's Department
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Book Sale
- ☐ Adopt-a-Shelf
- ☐ Other _____

Electronic Book or Print Book: Which Has the Edge?

As the popularity of e-readers continues to grow so too does the debate over which is better, paper books or e-readers. Those who prefer e-readers cite the convenience and portability of the devices. Readers of paper books however frequently say the actual feel of a book in their hands is what keeps them loyal to paper. While the e-reader contingent would seem to have the edge in terms of which mode of reading is the superior one, recent scientific studies have come down in favor of paper. It would seem that there's more to the argument of actually holding a book in your hand than mere sentimentality.

According to an article by Rachel Grate on the website Mic.com., print reading helps with retention and comprehension. Grate cites a study conducted by researchers at Norway's Stavanger University in which participants were asked to read a short mystery using a Kindle while others read the same story in print. The readers were then asked to recall significant aspects of the story. According to Anne Mangel, the lead researcher of the study, those who used the Kindle were "significantly" less able to recall the order of events occurring in the plot of the story. A different study tested 72 Norwegian 10th graders on their comprehension when they read a text in print or in PDF format on a computer screen. Those who read the print version of the text scored significantly higher on comprehension than those who read the electronic version. Researchers in the study believe that this lack of comprehension and retention is due in part to being unable to actually turn pages as you read which cues the brain on the progress of the story.

Scientists have also discovered that relying on digital devices may actually be rewiring the circuitry of our brains, priming us to skim through the information rather than taking the time to read longer texts

or even longer sentences. According to Maryanne Wolf, a cognitive neuroscientist at Tufts University, the human brain has adapted to read over centuries and that adaptation took place in a linear fashion. Printed material helped people locate and remember key information simply by the layout of the text. Text on the Internet does not follow this sort of predictability and most often includes hyperlinks, videos, and

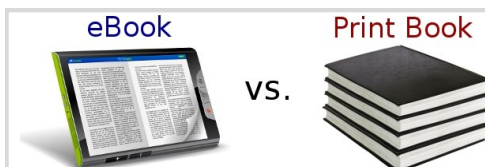
advertisements imbedded in and alongside the text which overload leads the readers to scan the text, search for keywords, and scroll up and down quickly. An article in the Washington Post cites the shorter length of online sentences as problematic for those who attempt to read print books. Wolf says that several English

department chairs from around the country have contacted her saying that their students are struggling to read such classic authors as George Eliot and Marcel Proust.

The benefits of print versus e-reading also include increased empathy and improved sleep. A recent study showed that those who read a story in print form showed more empathy for the characters than those who read the same story online. Time in front of a paper book can also improve one's nightly sleep by allowing your brain to enter a different more relaxed state than an e-reader can.

As the numbers of Americans who report reading at least one book a year continues to decline, the distinction between e-reading and paper reading seems less important than the mere fact of actually reading. However, those who put down the tablet and pick up an old fashioned book are enjoying significant mental benefits that may be lost to e-readers.

- Laura Egler



Reservation Form for
2015 Annual Meeting
Enclosed!

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c/o Macomb Public Library
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Macomb, IL 61455